



Woodstock Baptist Church
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December 2021



Welcome to our services!

We are pleased to announce our Sunday services are now taking place in church (and are on Zoom at the same time)

Meetings take place in church & via Zoom.

You may contact the Minister Andy Mills by phone or email, details above.

Services in December

Sunday 5th	10:30am	Waiting with Malachi – Malachi 3:1-4 – led by Andy Mills Communion service
Sunday 12th	10:30am	Waiting with Micah – Micah 5:2-5– led by Andy Mills
Sunday 19th	3pm	Christmas Family Celebration – followed by refreshments
Saturday 25th	10:00am	Christmas Day Celebration – led by Andy Mills
Sunday 26th	10:30am	Reflective Service on Zoom

Musings from the manse

We probably think that the history of the Advent wreath is lost in the past but compared to many the traditions of the church it is a relatively recent introduction. It originated with Lutherans in the 16th century, who used twenty red candles and four white placed on an old cartwheel. It became a more widely spread tradition in the early 20th century but didn't really take off until Blue Peter popularised it in 1964 with their Advent crown made out of coat hangers!

But today we have our Advent wreath with its 5 candles, and they mark our passage through this season towards the festival of Christmas. They are more than an opportunity to allow children to play with fire in church, they are symbols and signposts on our journey towards the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The lighting of each candle can be a simple peg that we can hang a different meaning, a different word, that we focus on as we remember the first coming of Jesus and anticipate his second coming. Hope, faith, joy, peace and love. From the story of the Bible leading to Jesus, the patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist Mary, Jesus.

So, as we light our markers on the way to Christmas let them be more than flickering lights and a quaint, if recent tradition, but instead may they be signposts on your way to encountering the God who was born among us, as one of us, Jesus Christ.

Your minister, Andy

December Flower Rota /Cleaning/ Coffee

	Flowers	Cleaning	Coffee
5th	Sue M	Jenny & Gregor	Pat & Alan
12th			Joanne
19th			Pat, Alan & Everyone. Refreshments served.

Mondays	7:45pm for approx. 90 minutes.	<p><u>Woodstock House group</u> We continue to meet using Zoom If anyone would like to join they would be warmly welcomed. We do the studies fortnightly. If you are interested in joining then please speak to Bruce.</p>
Every Tuesday	10:30am	<p>The Men's ARC has started back at the Buttery, meet outside church at 10:29! Contact Andy for details</p>
Every Tuesday	7:30pm	<p>Revival prayer meeting on zoom. For more information contact, Carolyn</p>

Every Wednesday	7:30pm	Fellowship meeting by Zoom. An informal on-line meeting for sharing, discussion and prayer. A valuable 30 or so minutes to chat and pray.
Every Thursday	10:00 am	Prayer for renewal/revival Contact Carolyn for further details
Thursday 2 nd Dec	4:30pm	Ladies Prayer meeting on Zoom. Contact Carolyn for more details.
Saturday 4 th Dec	8:30am	Men's prayer breakfast at Woodstock Baptist Church
Tuesday 14 th Dec	8pm	Freeland Fellowship Group



Noah's Ark, the Wednesday morning toddler group

9:45-11:15 am.

Every Wednesday in term time.

Please contact either Pat Band or Andy if you may be able to help in running this valuable and much appreciated ministry/community service.

To talk to Pat or Andy does not commit you to joining the team.

Foodbank: if you wish to give whilst the church building is closed, you can donate money on line: <http://www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/#/donations/4542603964> .

You may also leave donations of food or other items in the porch of 20 Flemings Road, ideally in a bag and they will be dropped over to the Foodbank or contact us to collect. Alternatively Woodstock Co-Operative shop has a drop off point too.

Client numbers are up by 200% since lockdown.



Sunday Craft Café 5^h December

The Craft Café meet in the Church at 3pm. Please join us for a relaxed and informal time together to share in craft activities whilst also enjoying a catch up. If you have your own craft project, please feel free to bring it along - we are also able to provide activities and resources for anyone needing them (contact Gill) everyone is welcome even if you would prefer to just come along for a chat!

The Sunday Craft Café Team

No meeting in January.



Nicola Onions

Prayers

We remember in our prayers Nick Harris, Tori, Kevin, & Martha's family.

We pray for the work of the WYWT and all that Matt does within school & the community. We pray that a new Secretary will be found shortly. Is God calling you to fulfil this role?

At the end of another year of upheaval and uncertainty for many, we pray for all those working to end this pandemic: Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Merciful God, we pray for families and individuals who have left or fled their homes, seeking safer and better lives. We lift up to you their hopes, fears, and needs, that they may be protected on their journeys, their dignity and rights may be honoured and upheld, and they may be welcomed with open arms into generous and compassionate communities. Amen.

We pray for those who will be on their own this Christmas. The families who are struggling to make ends meet. We pray for the charities who are reaching out to help those in need.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Amen.

*Please send items for the newsletter to:
Andy Mills or Joanne Onions*