

St Andrew's Church Woodside

28th December 2025

Morning Praise

Today we welcome our neighbours from St Paul's

Collect for the first Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Message from Richard

Today's Gospel Reading is Matthew 2 verses 13-23

The flight to Egypt

The angel in today's passage tells Joseph, "Take the young child and his mother and escape to Egypt" Why? Because Herod was going to try and kill the Christ Child. Notice that the angel tells Joseph to 'take the young child.' The angel doesn't say 'take your son'. And notice too how seriously he takes his parental responsibilities.

Herod is going to try and kill the young child so Joseph, Mary and Jesus leave behind what semblance of life they had begun to build in Bethlehem and set out for Egypt. But it isn't long before the angel appears to Joseph again, "Get up, take the child and go to the land of Israel for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

The problem was that Herod's son Archlause, was reigning in Judea and he was as bad as his father! Eventually, the family ended up in Nazareth. We have a message here about divine detours. You may feel like you are in the middle of a divine detour in your life. You wonder what's going on. You thought your life was heading in one direction when suddenly you find yourself heading somewhere else.

A divine detour perhaps. I can't tell you what God is doing in your particular situation, but based on the word of God I can tell you that God knows what he is doing. So try not to be impatient with God as he works out his plan in your life.

Prayer Ministry

Sylvia will be at the front after the service for those wishing private prayer.
Prayers offered will include all those named in this News Sheet.

**We are here as God's family to draw closer to God,
to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.**

December 2025		
Today	10:30	Morning Praise, jointly with St Paul's
January 2026		
Sun 4th	10:30	Epiphany Family Service,
Wed 7th	10:30 7pm	Little Stars, doors open at 10 Monthly evening prayers on Zoom
Thu 8th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom

Discipleship Training

Rev Rob O'Neil from All Saints Caddington is looking to run a course from February based on the Anglican Catechism. This will meet on Saturday mornings 10:30 to 12, with the exception of first Saturdays. If you are interested, please contact Rob at rob@vicar.uk.

Church Council Special Meeting Monday January 5th

The PCC will be preparing questions for the interview of Rev Lindsey Moss for the post of our vicar. Please think about qualities you would like in a vicar and your thoughts about priorities for serving our community.

Please give feedback to Joyce or Tony or any member of the PCC.

Access St Andrew's Sunday Services on Zoom!

Enter the number 878 5926 2657 passcode 664663 or by linking to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?pwd=dTdada291VDk2anA5aGtmdnFCN3kzQT09>

The link will remain open after Sunday services so those on Zoom can chat!

Thursday Bible Studies may be accessed on Zoom too!

Enter the number 589 233 412 passcode 090636 or link to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/589233412?pwd=d1LL0E2Y0w4dDdpUXlTR0pHcGdSQT09>

Practical help for the Community

Wanted!

*Please pass your old
 Birthday & Christmas Cards
 to Angela (via Julie)
 for Crafty purposes!*



Azalea thanks us for food, toiletries, cash, gift aided donations, etc.
 They regularly collect our items, all gratefully received, particularly the warm gloves and mittens we have given them at this chilly time!

We drop off food to the Foodbank monthly.



They express gratitude for our deliveries and our financial & Gift Aided donations: needs are greater than ever. Next drop off 26th January.

So, before you leave home for church, 'Grab a Tin & bring i'tin!'

NB: If you wish to contribute, pick up a copy of the Food Bank Calendar from the back of church, which lists seasonal items to donate throughout the year.

Recycle

Please drop your Medication Blister Packs at the back of church for Sue Lyons to take for recycling.

Contacts @ St Andrew's	Lay Readers	Julie Taylor 07841 482119 Richard Palmer 07904 152674	Church Warden	Tony Smith 07976 830906
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