

*St Andrew's Church Woodside
25th January 2026
Family Service*

The calling of the first Disciples

Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen

Message from Richard

Our reading is Matthew 4 vv 18-22

The passage begins, 'As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee'. I don't believe Jesus was simply out for a stroll that day. I believe he knew exactly what he was doing and who he was going to meet. He met Simon, Andrew, then James and John. He initially said three words, 'Come, follow me.'

The story goes on, 'At once they left their nets and followed him.' **At once!!** It was likely that this was not the first time that they had seen Jesus, or Jesus had seen them. They had probably heard Jesus speaking, but at this moment there came to them this challenge, 'Follow me.' A call that changed their lives for ever. This begs the question, how has my life, your life, been changed because you and I have had that call and responded. What nets do I need to leave in order to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? What obstacles, what material attachments? What comfort zones have wound themselves so tightly around me that I find it hard to get up and follow him?

The challenge goes further. 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of people. Not, I think you ought to be fishers of people, but I will **make** you fishers of people. Jesus is telling these disciples to cast their nets over others in order to catch people for the Kingdom of God. **Jesus said elsewhere**, 'go and make disciples of all nations'. He said '**you will be my witnesses**'. You may think that is too much outside your comfort zone.

Jesus said, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.' We don't cast our nets alone, we cast them in the power of the Holy Spirit. The challenge is, first to follow, then go and bring others into the Kingdom. It was ordinary men whom Jesus chose and it's ordinary folk like you and me that he chooses today.

Prayer Ministry

Julie 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.**

January 2026

Today	10:30	Epiphany 3: Family Service
Tuesday 27th	12.00-2.00	Soup 'n' Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wednesday 28th	10:30	Little Stars, Doors open at 10
Thursday 29th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom

**Sat 31st
10- Noon**



**St. Andrew's Community Coffee Morning
Drop in for Tea, Coffee & Good Company!**

February

Sunday 1st	10:0-0	Candlemas: Informal Communion
Tuesday 3rd	12.00-2.00	Soup 'n' Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wednesday 4th	10:30 7:30	Little Stars, Doors open at 10 Evening Prayer on Zoom
Thursday 5th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom

Discipleship Training

Rev Rob O'Neil from All Saints Caddington will be running a course based on the Anglican Catechism, meeting on Saturday mornings 10:30 to 12. Dates are 14th & 21st February, 14th, 21st & 28th March. If you are interested, please contact Rob at rob@vicar.org.uk.

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=dTdad291VDk2anA5aGtmdnFCN3kzQT09>

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>

It's that time of year again!

Julie is working on the church accounts.

If anyone has expenses for 2025, please pass them to her now.

Practical help for the Community



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 27th January.

So, before you leave home for church, 'Grab a Tin & bring it in!'

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

Recycle it!

**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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