Woodstock Baptist Church
Minister: Andy Mills ☎01993 810949
E: andy.mills.wbc@gmail.com
www.woodstockbaptistchurch.org.uk/

December 2026



Welcome to our services!

Why not come in and join us, or if you would like to find out some more about the church visit the website or get in touch with Andy Mills.

Services in December

Sunday 6th Dec	10:30am	**As the deer longs** *Psalm 42* *Including communion* Service led by Andy Mills
Sunday 13th Dec	10:30am	**All-Age Christmas Drama** Service led by Andy Mills
Sunday 20th Dec	10:30am	**All-Age Carol Service** Service led by Andy Mills
Sunday 25th Dec	10:00am	**Christmas Day Celebration** Service led by Andy Mills
Sunday 27th Dec		**No Service**

Musings from the Manse

The run up to Christmas is a season of anticipation. For those who are young, and not so young. There is a tingle of excitement that builds as we proceed through December and is not fully satisfied until we arrive at the celebration of our feast with friends and family.

Our sense of longing for the arrival of Christmas is though a mere trifle (possibly sherry at this time of year!) compared to the sense of longing experienced by God's people before Jesus was born. The people of ancient Israel had waited centuries, not only for God to act but for God to even speak to them once again. There had been silence and seemingly endless waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

The prophet Isaiah around seven hundred years BC wrote these words:

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

These words often shared in our Christmas services, interspersing the carols. These words speak of this longing. These are words that brought hope to their waiting. These were words that were eventually born out as Jesus.

Could the longing for our Christmas celebrations be a resonance of a deeper longing within us for the coming of Jesus in our lives? Or do we simply consider it an excuse to overeat and overspend? Perhaps consider this Christmas whether this deeper longing within us can be fully born out in our lives through the one that gives this season its name.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Your Minister

Andy

Noah's Ark, the Wednesday morning toddler group



9:45-11:15 am.

Every Wednesday in term time. Please contact Andy if you are able to help in running this valuable and much appreciated ministry/community service.

North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank

You can donate to the foodbank in two ways.

Donations of food can be placed in the box in the church foyer, put in the collection bin in Woodstock Co-Op, or you can contact Andy.

If you wish to give financially, please go to the following link:
www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/#/donations/4542603964

Your support for the foodbank is much appreciated.

Dec	Refreshments	Flowers	Cleaning
6th	TBD	None	Anna & Pete
13th	Bruce & Annabelle	During Advent	
20th	Alan & Pat		
25th	No refreshments		
27th	No service		

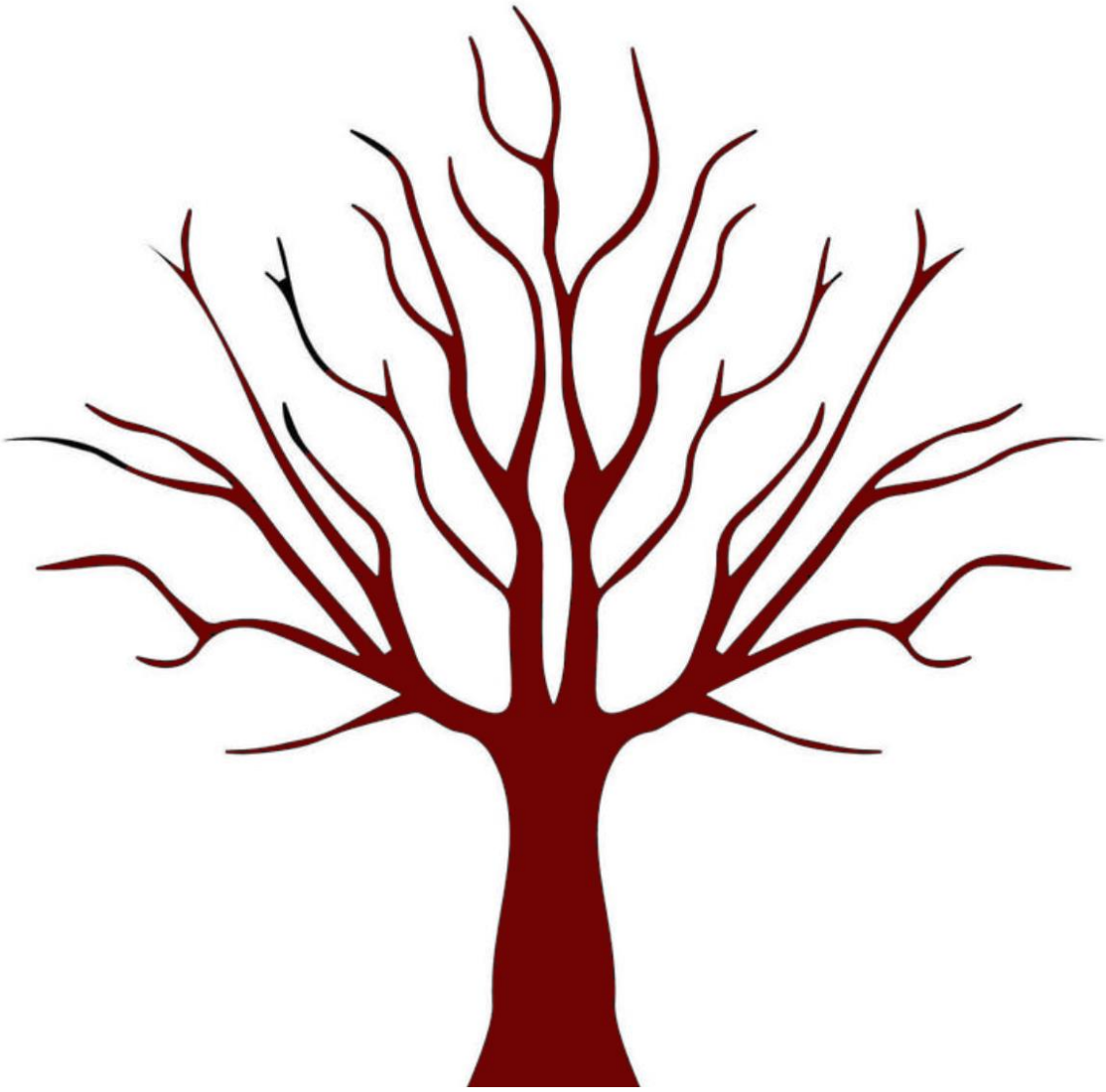
Please have a word with Pat if you can help with refreshments. Serving refreshments after church is a valuable practice for building community, fostering relationships, and extending hospitality to newcomers. It creates a welcoming atmosphere where people can connect, support one another, and experience church as a caring family.

Advent Prayer Space

The Jesse Tree

Wednesday 9th December 2026
7.30 to 9pm

all welcome



mince pies and more ...



come and join us for
free mince pies and drinks

Saturday 19th December – 10.30 am to 12 noon

at Woodstock Baptist Church
all welcome

Events in other Woodstock churches

Woodstock Methodist church

Knit for Peace Monday 7th December

£2 towards refreshments.

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

December 1st "Advent"- Rev. Katie Jones
December 15th Christmas Celebration-Old Gold
2:30pm-4pm



Woodstock Methodist Church will be holding its annual Mini Christmas Tree Festival Afternoon Tea on Saturday 12th December 2026 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm, and we hope you can join us.

There will be more than 20 decorated mini Christmas trees, a free Nativity Trail for children telling the Christmas story, and plenty of delicious cake and mince pies to enjoy. This year, for the first time, we will also be launching a special display of nativity sets. Featuring sets of all shapes, sizes and origins, each one has its own story and reason for being treasured. The nativity set display and trail nativity will only be available during the launch afternoon.

The festival raises funds for our church charities, All We Can and Brideswell Organic Gardens, as well as supporting the work of the church.
If you are unable to attend the launch afternoon, the Christmas Tree display will be open at weekends during daylight hours in the run-up to Christmas, and daily between 21st December and 2nd January.

Bumps to One

We're starting a new group for parents and carers with babies under One and those who are pregnant. This will be a soft start, so come and be part of deciding how the group will take shape and what equipment we'll need. Please note that the group will begin gently while we listen to what families would find most useful.

For more information - phone 07971529242 or email curate@woodstockandbladon.com

Friday 2 October, then weekly every Friday

9–10.30am

The Upper Room, St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock

Buggies can be left in the Church

Refreshments provided

£1 per session



Come along and help shape the group

Everyone welcome.

Prayers

Father God, we pray for our world, our church, our community, our families and friends.

We continue to pray for Andy, Pat & Alan, Nick, Ruth, & Hannah, Julie, June & Brad. Joanne, Trevor and family

Loving God, we bring our world before you today. Bring peace where there is conflict, comfort where there is grief, and hope where there is despair. Protect displaced families, provide for those facing hunger and poverty, and heal communities affected by disaster and injustice. Give leaders wisdom, humility, and compassion to seek justice and care for the vulnerable. Help us notice our neighbours and live with generosity and peace.

We continue to pray in unity for peace on earth and in particular upon the Ukraine-Russia borderlands.

God of justice, move the hearts of world leaders.
Turn them away from hatred and pride toward dialogue, diplomacy, and a lasting peace. Amen

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3v12

Please send items for the newsletter to: Andy Mills