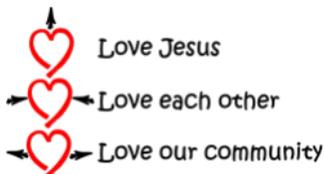




adeyfield free church

www.adeyfieldfree.org.uk
01442 260175 admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk



Minister

Rev. Paul Stein

✉ pastor@adeyfieldfree.org.uk

Church Secretary

✉ secretary@adeyfieldfree.org.uk

Church Office

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Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sheree Blastock

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Adeyfield Free Church Centre
Maylands Avenue. HP2 4GZ

www.adeyfieldfree.org.uk



In Touch

22nd December 2024

Preacher: Revd Paul Stein

Duty Elder: Penny Stuart

All Age Christingle



A member Church of the
United Reformed Church



Christmas Message from the Manse



When we read the scriptures, I think we tend to see Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem as pretty straight forward. We often imagine it went smoothly for them. Their story, the Christmas story, is a story filled with many unexpected events and bumps in the road.

After Caesar Augustus had declared a census, they had to journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, about 80 miles, probably 7-8 days to complete.

Mary and Joseph were pledged to be married – but Mary is pregnant, and this would have been disastrous in Ancient Near East culture. Rather than disgrace Mary and go public and everyone know that she is pregnant, he quietly offers to divorce her.

After eventually arriving in Bethlehem from the tiresome journey, there was no place for them to stay. Joseph forgot to make the reservations, Mary gave him the silent treatment and they probably didn't have their passports with them... All in all, a deeply challenging journey for them.

And we find ourselves in a similar deeply challenging situation, with an uncertain future as we look towards 2025, with countries at war with each other, poverty and homelessness on the increase. The cost of living escalating all the time... And yet into the midst of this God invites us to find the Christ Child.

I would like to invite us again this Christmas to look at the words from Romans:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13)

Christmas Message from the Manse



The word hope here refers to “joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation”

The combination of hope, joy, and peace forms a spiritual trinity that sustains and empowers us as believers.

Hope inspires us that this is not the way it was meant to be, but confidence in the goodness and sovereignty of God. This hope produces joy and peace as believers find rest in the unconditional love and eternal promises of God.

Jesus brings joy and hope amidst the bumps, amidst the dangers, difficulties and detours.

Jesus is born and enters our world, with its bumps and detours, that we would look to God, the provider of our hope, joy and peace for our future

Wherever you find yourselves this Christmas, will you allow the Christ child to be born again in your hearts, and allow Christ to enter your journey, that we may be carriers of God’s joy, hope, peace and love this Christmas

Wishing you a joyous and peace-filled Christmas, and an abundantly blessed 2025

God bless.

Paul



Weekly Message from the Elders: Pam



Hello Everyone.

What an amazing congregation you are. Thank you, all of you for taking part in the Nativity Service last Sunday and many thanks to all who were on the rota for your service. This week we have our Christingle in the morning and at 6pm Carols, prayers and readings around the Crib.

Always a wonderfully peaceful way of entering the days before Christmas Day.

- Friday meditation and Friday prayers have their last meetings on 20th December and then resume on Friday 3rd January. These are times when we come right into God's presence, first for ourselves then on behalf of the whole work of AFC.
- The small groups will take a break over Christmas and resume in the New Year. Look to the new 'Events at AFC' publication for dates.
- The Mag has seen its last edition and is replaced by 'Events at AFC'. The first monthly edition will come out towards the end of December and relate to January. Many thanks to those who have contributed to The Mag over the years.
- Our Christmas Day service and the Service on Sunday 29th December are at St George's. Pastor Paul is on leave towards the end of December and will resume his work among us in early January.
- Have a lovely week. Pam



Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd
December
10am

Coming up

	Church Information	Other activities
Wednesday 25th	Joint Christmas service at St George's 10am	
Sunday 29th	Joint Sunday Service at St George's 1030am	
Friday 3rd	Meditation 11.30am, Prayers 12.15pm	
Sunday 5th	Sunday Service at AFC 10am	
Monday 6th	Weekly activities begin to resume: See next newsletter for details	Fingerprints 9:00—3:00pm

Office Hours will vary over the holidays, emails and phone messages will be checked daily – please contact us before travelling to the church
Please note there is no Meet & Eat until Wednesday 8th January

You are invited to join us

**On Christmas Day
10am Family service
at St George's URC**

Long Chaulden, HP1 2HX



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Weekly Prayers



“The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I’ll never be lonely,
for you are near.” Psalms 23:4 TPT

Many thanks to all of you who use this prayer page during your regular prayer times. Let’s engage our faith in God’s power and mercy. As we lift names and situations in faith, God deals with the details.

We thank you Lord.....

For the improvement in our Moderator, George Watt

For all the celebrations we are enjoying together

For Immanuel

We lift those who need healing, support or guidance to God and thank Him for His action as we pray

For Shirley as she recovers from her procedure last week

For June P, Mark, June R

For those who are missing loved ones especially at this time

For those who will be alone at Christmas

For those who are in hospital at Christmas time

Help us if we are to be an answer to these prayers.

We also bring to the Lord our prayers for.....

Community Action

Our local council

Our County Council

Please continue to pray for all who have been on the list recently. Bless you.

We pray for these up-coming events at AFC

Our services on 22nd, 25th and 29th December

Our small groups as they begin again in January

The planning for worship and service in 2025

**Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace**

Information



A huge THANK YOU to our church family for the very generous garden gift voucher and beautiful flowers you presented us with on our last Sunday with you all. We were totally overwhelmed by your love and very kind words spoken to us and will miss you all so much.

We have been so grateful for all the love and support we have received over the 36 years and it has been a privilege to have served God in this family for so long.

We continue to pray that God will bless you all under Paul's leadership as you seek Him first in everything.

Love to you all Dave & Liz Kerry



Carols around the Crib

Sunday 22nd December
6pm

The elders appreciate your prayers for them. The days set aside for each elder:
Everyday: Rev Paul Stein **Sunday:** Sue **Monday:** Yvonne **Tuesday:** Shirley
Wednesday: Heather **Thursday:** All Elders **Friday:** Pam **Saturday:** Penny

Coming up after Christmas...



BIBLE *journalling*

Tuesday 28th January, 7:30-8:30 Pm

Adeyfield Free Church,
Maylands Avenue, HP2 4GZ



£8 Per Person

includes all art supplies and refreshments

Booking essential:

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