



# Woodley Baptist Church

[www.woodleybc.org](http://www.woodleybc.org)

***'United in knowing Jesus and making Him known'.***



**21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 & 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

## **TODAY'S SERVICES – 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**

**10.15am:** Service with Grace Hope leading and Howard Ballard preaching  
Advent 4 - 'Small Wonder -Wonderful to meet you'

**Refreshments:** Becky and Aaron Sumbler

**Prayer team:** Jane van Es and Ann Royston

**4.00pm:** Carol Service followed by refreshments

## **WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**3.30pm–5.00pm** **Family Fun** - Free Christmas Crafts, Games and Refreshments  
- All welcome

## **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

**10.15am** All-Age Christmas Service led by Graham Sumbler  
- Wonder Unwrapped

**SUNDAY – 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

**10.15am** Testimony Service with Becky Sumbler leading

**Refreshments:** Howard and Anne Ballard

**Prayer Team:** John and Sylvia Saunders

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**10.15am** Service with Grace Hope preaching  
Introduction - Be Transformed

**Refreshments:** Howard and Anne Ballard

**Prayer Team:** Carol Runnalls and Anne Ballard

**6.30pm** Informal Service of Worship and Praise

**THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**8:00-9:30pm** **World Out There Prayer meeting for Mission**

All welcome to join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84363860623?pwd=NFBYK2RwV0FKbXJ0dFMwVHpvcDZZUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 6386 0623

Passcode: 218514

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**10.15am** Service with All-Age Communion  
- Daniel 1 - Be Transformed

**Refreshments:** Shirley Pearce and Anne Ballard

**Prayer Ministry:** Grace Hope and Grahame White

**6.30pm** Sunday Evening Prayer Hour

Everyone is welcome to join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87827308029?pwd=Vi9wTldoejV0bjNwd2xnc3pwK3NyUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 2730 8029

Passcode: 503411

218514

## PRAYER MEETINGS

Our normal Monday morning and Thursday evening prayer meetings will not be taking place over the holiday period. The next opportunity to pray together will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm

## GENERAL NOTICES

### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Offerings taken over the next week (Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) will be given to the Tear Fund Christmas Appeal for Central African Republic.

Anyone wishing to make a donation towards church funds will need to identify their gift accordingly.

### CLOSURE OF CHURCH BUILDING

Please be aware that the Church building will be locked and alarmed after the Family Fun Event on 24<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The Church will be open for normal Sunday services over this period.

Please contact the Food Bank directly during this time on 07806 658995 if you are in need of a parcel.

### CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY FUN

**3:30-5pm**

We are running Family Fun on Christmas Eve again this year and I need some help as a few of the usual team aren't available.

I need some help with preparing and setting up the room, crafts, welcoming people into the church, chatting with people, helping with the various activities, and then packing away at the end.

If you are around on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at this time, then please speak to or email me at

[graham.sumbler@woodleybc.org](mailto:graham.sumbler@woodleybc.org).

Timings:

2:45-3:30pm to help set up,

3:30-5pm for the event,

4:45-5:30pm to help pack away.

Thanks in advance, **Graham Sumbler**

### TESTIMONY SERVICE

#### SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

Becky will be asking people to share testimonies for the year on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December. Please think about what you could share in a 2-minute slot. Thank you.

### PIGEON HOLES

Please take time to check your pigeon hole as there are a lot of cards building up for folk.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

In the New Year we will be reviewing the Church Directory, adding new people, removing people who are no longer part of the fellowship and making sure that the information we have for everyone is still current.

Those who are already in the Directory will be asked to confirm that we have the correct information. Those new to the church should take a copy of our Privacy Policy and complete the Consent Form. This gives us your details, while keeping us in line with GDPR.

Please ask a steward for a Consent Form if you haven't previously completed one.

Thank you,

**Jane van Es**

The **December Newsletter for Yeldall Manor** is now available from the rack to the right of the office door.

## ADVANCE NOTICES

### PRAYER WALK

By God's grace we will be meeting again on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30-10.30am at the front of the Church for our Prayer Walk around the roads near the church. For those who will be able to join, please put this in your diary. If you would like to find out more, please speak to **Mary Osho**.

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Graham has organised a Safeguarding Training Course for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026, as most of our volunteers need to renew their certificates. Please add this date to your diary.



**Please pray for** the conflicts in the Middle East, the ongoing situation in Ukraine and Syria.

**Please pray for Chris and Jane van Es** following the death of Chris' father on Thursday, **Gavin Runnalls, John and Julie Russell, Val Lee and family, the family of Gordon Crowdy, Audrey Goulding, Jonathan Edwards, Rosemary Allen, Peter Kerr, John Tidmarsh, Jean Prince and Mandy & Allan Dodd.**

### UPDATE FROM PRAYER MEETING

Proverbs ch.3 v 5-6. We considered this very well-known proverb and thought about how much do we really trust in God, is it with ALL our heart?

Do we acknowledge Him in ALL our ways, our thoughts, our speech, our behaviour, in all situations, in all our problems, in every season?

We humans are always wanting to be in control of every part of our lives, (which has been the problem since the beginning!)

but as Christians, we must learn to let go so that God will really be in control of our lives. Consider Moses, the reluctant hero, who learned to listen and follow God's plan for him. Consider Joshua, who followed God and led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Consider Jehoshaphat, who when faced with a mighty enemy simply prayed, 'O God, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.'

We might make plans, for ourselves or for our church, but we need to listen to God, for He might have different plans. But His plans, His timing and His purposes are perfect, for He sees, He knows and He understands all things.

We prayed for all the events happening over the Christmas period, for the future of WBC and for us all, that we will listen, trust and be obedient to all that our wonderful God has in store for us. May we all continue to pray the same, remembering that His plans for us are only good, because of His great love for us.



## OUR CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This Christmas we will be supporting **Tearfund's Christmas Appeal for Central African Republic**. The Central African Republic (CAR) ranks among the most impoverished nations globally. It has suffered from decades of conflict and instability, which has severely hindered its development. Will and Judith Sawers, missionaries from our church, who have lived there, can testify to the poverty which is to be seen all around. They work with Wycliffe Bible translators, to provide the Scriptures to people groups in their own languages and have seen how Christians, living according to those Scriptures, can make a real difference in their communities.



The lady in the photo is Melanie, who lives in Bangui (CAR). When she first got married, her husband had no work. In a country where approximately 70 per cent of the population lives in extreme poverty, Melanie has experienced firsthand the distress of not having enough for her basic needs. 'I know how seeing your child hungry feels. I know what it is to feel helpless. I gave my suffering to God, and He made a path,' she says. These experiences gave her a deep longing to help other women escape poverty.

About 75 per cent of women in CAR lack access to education, denying them many of the opportunities they need to earn an income. This often means they then can't afford to send their children to school either. It's a vicious cycle, keeping whole families trapped in situations of extreme poverty.

So, Melanie became involved in Tearfund's Communities training course which uses biblical concepts to help people identify practical solutions to the problems they, their families and their communities are facing. She learnt how to read and write and through this training course she and her friend Esther brought together a group of women, who are learning practical skills to help them improve their own earning opportunities. When someone has an issue, we talk, pray, and read the Bible to find insights that help us make good decisions and improve our lives,' she says. The training and support of Tearfund has enabled them not only to escape dire poverty, but also to help others in the same way.



Now Melanie, who has 7 children and a number of grandchildren, supports her family through her small business selling various goods. Her husband takes on available jobs and between them, over time, they have managed to buy land and build a home. She thanks God for giving them a hope and a future.

**The money we give this Christmas will enable more women to get involved in the Tearfund Communities Training programme and find freedom in Christ and a way out of poverty.**



## WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

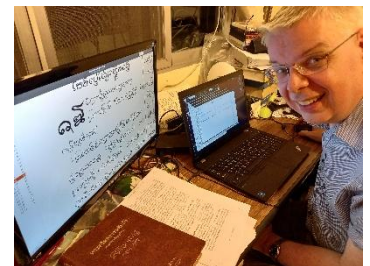
**Do you know how we can make a difference?** Prayer is powerful and we know that nothing is impossible for God. Our prayers can bring changes in ourselves, our family, our neighbourhood, our country and our world.

***Thank you to all of you who pray regularly for those whom we support in mission. (We are of course all missionaries wherever God has put us.)***



Through our support of Will and Judith, several more groups of people in Central African Republic have the New Testament in their own heart language! Also, some CAR translators are being trained to become consultants. Such a blessing!

Through our support of Martin and Debbi Hosken, millions of people can now read or listen to the word of God in their heart language on their phones and potential and current missionaries are being cared for and supported by Debbi and her team.



Through our support of our sister church in Hidiselu de Sus, Romania, children in the village have the opportunity of a Christian Kindergarten. Parents too will hear Gospel truths as the children take part from time to time in special services in the church.

Because of our support of Yeldall, ISAAC and Kingdom Compassion - through Samy and Tref - men whose lives have been broken can find hope and new life in Christ.

Through Kerry's work in the UK potential missionaries are being identified and then supported on the mission field, and churches are being taught how to share their faith with Muslims.

Through your generosity to Tearfund, women who have been taught how to read can find work and are being empowered to help their families out of poverty

***Thank you - members and friends of Woodley Baptist Church for your prayer support and financial help to make all these things possible. Please keep praying!! God bless you.***



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Praying for

- Schools drawing their terms to a close. For a refreshing rest for all staff
- Pupils who heard the Christmas story for the first time
- Wonderful welcome from staff and pupils in our schools
- Fantastic team of volunteers (want to join us???)



We'd love you to join us at  
**Woodley Baptist Church's**

# *Christmas Family Events & Services*

## **SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER**

**5.30pm to 7pm - The Chosen 'Holy Night' Film**

A Christmas film with free drinks, snacks, popcorn & pick-n-mix.

## **SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

**10.00am to 11.30am - Café Church including Instant Nativity - (Family Friendly)**

Please come along and join in with our Nativity. You can get dressed up if you wish, either bring your own outfit or use one of ours.

## **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

**10:15am to 11:30am - Sunday Service with Kids Church**

**4.00pm to 5.30pm - Carol Service**

Followed by refreshments

## **WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER**

**3.30pm to 5pm - Family Fun with Christmas Crafts, Games & Refreshments**

## **THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER**

**10.15am to 11.15am - Christmas Day Service**

Come and celebrate Jesus' Birth.

## **SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER**

**10.15am to 11.30am - Testimony Service with Kids Church**

Come and find out what God is doing among us. Be ready if you have something you would like to share.



*ALL FREE • ALL WELCOME • NO NEED TO BOOK*

**WOODLEY  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

United in knowing Jesus and making Him known

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