

NEXT WEEK, 10th January

10.00 am	A. Tonkin
Worship Leader	J. Gardner
Communion Leader	C. Beasy Prayer Leader W. Whitehead
Singers	D. Shields, M. Cox, K. Whitehead
Band	K. Foxx, R. Fox, C. Waters
Lights/Project./Sound	E. Phillips / J. Cole / C. Cole
Officer on Duty	A. Munro
Welcome/Reception	P. Midgley / M. Butler
Helpers	N. Dean, G. Diggle, W. Duke, M. Haigh, E. Straub, M. Straub, F. Duke (reader), L. Bean
Crèche	J. Kelly
Children's Church	S-A. Henderson
Cuppa	G. Beruldsen
Communion Prep.	P. Leng
Flowers / Cleaning	A. Munro / R. Hawtin, R. Jackson
Grounds	W. Duke
6.00 pm	BBQ Fellowship Night
Worship Leader	B. Moritz
Communion Leader	P. Midgley
Singers	M. Gardner, R. Hawke
Band	N. Morrall, N. Christian, C. Gardner, C. Beasy, C. Waters
Project./Sound	A. Fox / A. Fox
Reception	R. Hawtin
Helpers	I. Cross, G. Muller
Crèche	M. Whitehead

A pastor went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the church yard. He telephoned the police. Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the pastor to the Health department. They explained, "Since there was no health threat, you'll need to call the Sanitation Department." When the pastor called the sanitation department, the Manager said, "I can't pick up that dead mule without authorization from the mayor." The pastor was not at all eager to call the mayor, who possessed a very bad temper and was always extremely unpleasant and hard to deal with, but eventually, he called him anyway. The mayor did not disappoint the Pastor. He immediately began to rant and rave. After his continued rant, the mayor finally asked, "Why did you call me anyway? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?" The pastor paused for a brief prayer before giving his response. "Yes Mayor, it is my job to bury the dead, but I always like to notify the next of kin first."



Mainstream

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Minister:
Andrew Tonkin

3rd January, 2010

A new year often presents us with the opportunity for a fresh start. You may look back over the last year, see the trials you faced, the mistakes you made and the temptations you gave in to and start to feel relieved that a new year can present to you the fresh start you are hoping for. You may have set a number of New Year Resolutions. You may be planning to change some destructive habits. You may be just hoping that things will get better in 2010.

I really don't know what this New Year holds for any of us. But the good news is that God is a God of fresh starts, of new beginnings, of wiping the slate clean and starting afresh.

ZEPHENIAH 3:5 says, "*Morning by morning the Lord dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail.*"

The Lord will not fail you in 2010. In fact, he never failed you in 2009. Through every trial and temptation he has been there. He has sustained you, he has protected you and he has lead you to this day in which he again continue to bless you a his blessed child.

Our God overflows with love, grace and mercy. **EPHESIANS 4: 23-24** tells us that we have been, "*made new in the attitude of your minds*" and that we are to, "*put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*" That is how you can approach this new year, filled with faith, filled with hope, knowing the Lord has given you a brand new start because he loves you.

ANDREW

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee following the morning service.

Today, Sunday 3rd January

10.00 am Rachael Morey
FINDING LIFE
Worship Leader Michael Waters
Communion Leader Robyn Hawtin
Reading Matthew 15: 21-28

NO EVENING SERVICE

Next Week, 10th January

10.00 am Andrew Tonkin
FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS
Matthew the Tax Collector

6.00 pm Andrew Tonkin
Barbecue Fellowship
LET'S DO CHURCH

COCOA

An offering for Churches of Christ Overseas Aid was taken up at the service on Christmas Day. If you did not get an opportunity to give last Friday, there are more offering envelopes in the foyer for you to make a donation at any time in the next few weeks. Your support is

January is named after the Roman God Janus, which means "door" in Latin. Janus had two faces that allowed him to look backward into the old year and forward into the new.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to all those who helped in some way for Christmas Lunch, Although we didn't have a lot turn up, I know it made a difference to those who came.

It has been a starting point, and community support was overwhelming.

I am hopeful that this will only grow in the future.

Thanks,
Natalie.

This Week

Sunday 8.30 am Prayer
9.00 pm Ray on Radio 106.7 FM



JANUARY

* Congratulations to Ralph Firth who is celebrating his 80th Birthday on Tuesday 5th January. If you haven't met Ralph yet, now is the time as you wish him a happy birthday. Ralph and Jean have come to live in The Vines. Welcome to you both.

THE MAGI

You've probably seen them on Christmas cards, in nativity scenes, and Christmas pageants. You can read about them in Matthew 2. Who are they? That's a little tougher to answer.

The Greek New Testament refers to them as magi, from which we get the word 'magic'. This same Greek word has been used for sorcerer or diviner, and seems to speak of those who read the signs of the times in stars and the natural world. Some call them 'wise men' and still others call them kings.

How many were there? We don't know. They brought three gifts, but there could have been more magi. Where did they come from? We don't know that either, other than that they came from 'the East' according to Matthew; most scholars think Persia.

Lots of legends have arisen around them. They have received names although they differ—Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar in English; Hor, Karusdan, and Barantar in Ethiopian; and Larvandad, Gushmaph, and Hormisdas in Syrian.

They brought symbolic gifts: gold, symbolizing priesthood; and myrrh, an embalming fluid, indicating that Jesus would die to show God's love. They were mistakenly named kings because they brought rather wealthy gifts, although it is quite doubtful that they were royalty. Some even question the factuality of the entire story.

What we do know, however, is that for Matthew this was a very important story. It was his way of telling us that even foreigners—strangers from far away—recognized the presence of the divine in the newborn Christ child and came to worship him.

Beyond that, they went home 'by a different road'.

How can any of us encounter the newborn Christ and not be called to change our direction, too?



Family News & Prayer



youth Update

Friday,

IGNITION

XLR8

Empty rectangular box for family news and prayer.

Mission Update



Large empty rectangular box with a blue border for mission update.