

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit



**The Methodist Church**

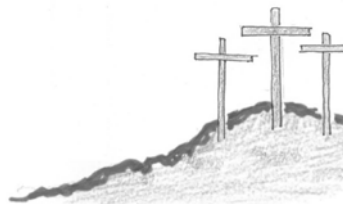
**CHILDREY**

**GROVE**

**WANTAGE**

# **SECTOR NEWS**

**April 2017**



Minister : Rev Keith Underhill – Tel: 01235 763321  
keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk

Should you need a Minister when Keith is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below, who will put you in touch:

Carolyn Roche : 01235 764310  
Mark Sandels : 01235 224083  
Doug Legge : 01235 751463

Please send material for the **Weekly Notices** to :

**Grove**

Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624

**Wantage**

Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
email : [wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com](mailto:wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com)

Contributions for the **May Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017** to  
[wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

**Regular Weekday Meetings**

Monday	2 pm	Handicraft Group at the Cornerstone, Grove
Tuesday	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship (in the church)
Wednesday	7:30 am	Morning Prayers at Grove
	2 pm	Wantage Wednesday Fellowship

**House Group at Wantage**

Weekly

Tuesday	1:30 pm	Leader: Eileen Rennie (01235 224284)
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**House Group at Grove**

Monthly

Warmed Hearts	8 pm	Leader: Peter Hemmings (01235 762504)
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## **From the Manse....**

During an Easter morning service a few years ago, I asked a member of the congregation to come and join me at the front of the church. This I hasten to add had all been planned and pre-arranged.

As he stood alongside me, I produced a pair of sharp scissors from behind the pulpit and cut off his tie just below the knot and then asked him to return to his seat.

Needles to say, the congregation were somewhat taken aback and shocked by what happened. Partly, because they had never seen Chris wear a tie to church before, but more importantly, they hadn't expected me to do what I did!

We then sang a hymn, had some prayers and continued with the service, before I returned to the subject of the mutilated tie.

The point I wanted to make was really quite simple.

Suppose later that day, a member of the congregation who had witnessed my assault on that piece of paisley fabric, bumped into someone from church who hadn't been able to be at the service that morning and they went on to tell them all that had taken place.

What would the reaction of the other person be? Would they think that they were being fooled or wound up? Would they think it was a joke, or that perhaps somehow the person telling the story had got it wrong and was mistaken?

Then later on, that same person who had been absent that morning spoke to others who had been there and heard the same tale regarding the tie. It wouldn't take long before they began to believe that the incident was both true and had been factually reported.

The initial reaction of many who heard the story that Jesus was alive; that he was risen from the dead, was disbelief and confusion - they thought it was a fanciful tale. (Mark 16:8, Luke 24:11, 22-24, John 20:24-25).

However, as more and more people testified to the fact that they had seen him, so the reality and the enormity of what God had done began to sink in.

The message of the "Good News" which begun as lone voices, soon became a tumultuous cacophony proclaiming, He is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We will be adding our own voices to that same message on Easter Sunday and I will, I promise, leave my scissors at home!

Happy Easter to you all.

With love and God bless,

*Keith*

## Stations of the Cross – St. Mary’s Convent

A visit to be accompanied round the Stations of the Cross for meditation, prayer and reflection has been arranged for **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 2 pm.**

If you would like to attend please let Eileen Rennie know by **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.** (Telephone 01235 224284 or email [m.rennie50@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.rennie50@ntlworld.com))

## REACT HUMANITARIAN NETWORK PROJECT UPDATE

Since our launch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2016 thanks to the kind courtesy of the Wantage Methodist Church, REACT has been working tirelessly to achieve its primary aim to “Turn Disability into Ability Through Education” by making education accessible to disabled children in the most vulnerable communities in Ghana. Our recent pathfinding mission to Ghana provided not only an insight into the humanitarian sector in Ghana but also an opportunity to undertake a needs assessment of some children we have identified for support. The journey into REACT’s world of humanity has begun in earnest and with the unflinching backing the church continues to give REACT we continue to believe in our cause. We therefore kindly request any support at this stage as we prepare to raise the support packages for these children.

Please remember that we will also appreciate individual donations of anything useful to these children in their quest to seek education, thus from books, clothes, shoes, wheel chairs, walking sticks, braille books, hearing aids, hygiene stuff, items for the visually impaired and many more.

Please contact us to arrange for collection of anything you may want to donate  
Tel. 01235244801 Mobile: 07949915547

Email: [rhnonline.org@gmail.com](mailto:rhnonline.org@gmail.com) or visit us on [www.rhnonline.org](http://www.rhnonline.org)



**RICHARD DENU**



**ISAAC MENSAH**



**BENARD NYARKO**



**KWEJATEY BETA**



**EMMANUELA SARPONG**



**TOTIMA RICHARD**



**a musical for Easter  
by James Garnett**

**Sunday 9 April,  
4.00, Trinity Church, Abingdon**

## **“Witness” – a new musical for Easter by James Garnett**

This is an exciting, new, semi-staged musical that tells the story of Easter through the eyes of those who witness it – then and now.

**WITNESS will be performed at Trinity Church, Abingdon, on Sunday 9 April, starting at 4:00 pm** and will last about an hour. All are welcome, and there will be no charge for admission. There will be a retiring collection for a charity that the young people taking part will be invited to choose. Tea and cake will be provided for everyone after the performance.

**People of all ages**, whether connected to one of our churches or not, will be very welcome to come and join in. We will be rehearsing at Trinity Church, Abingdon at the following times:

<b>Saturday 1 April, 2.00 – 6.00</b>	<b>Sunday 2 April, 2.00 – 6.00</b>
<b>Saturday 8 April, 10.00 – 5.00</b>	<b>Sunday 9 April, 1.00 – 3.30</b>

This is an exciting new venture. We hope to involve lots of people of all ages, and actively involve our Junior Churches in helping prepare props and costumes.

If you have **any expertise** you would like to offer – staging, lighting, props, costumes – or if you would like to take part, please talk to Gill Skidmore at church or email James Garnett at [james.garnett@tesco.net](mailto:james.garnett@tesco.net).

## **Safeguarding – dates for the diary**

The **Refresher Course** for Creating Safer Space must be done this year by anyone who was trained five years ago and is continuing in their role. Keith Underhill will be delivering this training, on

**29<sup>th</sup> March** at All Saints Abingdon

**4<sup>th</sup> May** at Wantage

and **27<sup>th</sup> June** at Wallingford.

These will be large-group sessions and we hope most of those needing the training will be able to attend on one of these dates.

The **full Creating Safer Space** training will be run by Ian and Tabitha Griffiths. The dates for these sessions are to be decided, but if you need the training, or are appointing new postholders who will need it, please let Ian know.

## **Circuit Steward team**

We still have not been able to replace Geoffrey Maunder as a Circuit Steward, and others are nearing the end of their term of office for various reasons. We urgently need to strengthen the remaining team. A brief job description is being prepared, but to find out more meanwhile, talk to your minister or Andrew Lockley (currently Senior)

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be part of the Circuit Leadership Team, and those who undertake it generally say it is enormously fulfilling. Please pray about this situation, and don't assume someone more suitable will step forward!

## **More news from wider Methodism**

If you use email, you can sign-up to a number of **newsletters**, some more frequent than others, which will keep you up-to-date on other parts of the Connexion.

Go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters>

## **Circuit Meetings / Events**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 4:00 pm Testimony Service at Trinity

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May 7:30 pm Circuit Leadership Team at Grove

Don't forget the **Circuit calendar**, with these and other events, can now be viewed on the **Circuit website**.

**Deadline for material for June 2017 Circuit Exchange: 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
Please send material to Andrew Lockley at [a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk)



## Caritas children's choir

### Inaugural concert, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7 pm, Wantage Methodist Church

Caritas, for children from age 7, was founded in September 2016 by Sheenagh Dornie to raise money for Christian Aid. They rehearse from 4 to 5 pm on Fridays in term time in the Wantage Methodist Church Hall.

The choir performed as the "gingerbread chorus" in "Hansel and Gretel" for Opera Unmasked in December, but the concert on 31<sup>st</sup> March will be their first on their own. It will include some solos and some instrumental items from members of the choir, as well as a varied programme from the choir as a whole.

Be prepared to be charmed and impressed. Please support these talented children, and give them the encouragement they need to become a first class choir whilst raising funds for Christian Aid.



Caritas Children's Choir will make their debut in a Spring concert in aid of Christian Aid. Come and hear songs about spooks, falling stars and Ol' Dan Tucker - together with a grand medley from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**  
**Wantage Methodist Church, 7pm**

**Tickets on the door £7 (kids free)**  
For enquiries email: [sheenagh.dornie@btinternet.com](mailto:sheenagh.dornie@btinternet.com)  
**[www.caritas-choir.co.uk](http://www.caritas-choir.co.uk)**

Conductor: Sheenagh Dornie  
Accompanist: Gill Skidmore  
Deputy Accompanist: Jenny Smith



## WE'VE BEEN THERE FOR REFUGEES SINCE 1945

It's better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war - to risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy - to leave everything you know behind. When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better. This terrible choice faces tens of millions of people worldwide

Nejebbar fled Afghanistan with her family when the Taliban after first blinding, then murdering, a member of their family, threatened to kill her husband, Noor, a teacher. When the family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece, they thought they would only stay for 10 days. But they've been living there in a tent for six months now and there's no end in sight.

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. We won't turn our backs now. **Christian Aid Week 14 - 20 May** is an opportunity to support this work. Here are some ways Wantage and Grove Christian Aid Group suggest **you** might get involved:

- **Volunteer to help with delivering or and/or collecting envelopes house-house** – anyone can deliver envelopes, but you have to be over sixteen to collect them in. The more help we have the more streets we can cover and the more money we raise! Please contact **Alison Phillips (760335)**, **Jane Kent (765421)** or **Pam Martin (764754)** if you can help in this way.
- **Come to the Christian Aid Week service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at Holy Trinity Church Charlton 6:00 pm**, preceded by tea at 5:15 pm, and learn how refugees like Nejebbar and Noor are being helped.
- **Sign the campaign petition to the Prime Minister**
- **Make your own contribution to Christian Aid's funds**

Thank you in advance for the support we know you will give. Last year you helped the Wantage and Grove Group raise over £7,100



# Childrey

**Tear Fund Lunch:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 12:15 pm  
at the home of Linda & Rob Soames in West Street

**Easter Services:** Good Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 9:00 am  
Easter Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 6:00 pm:  
“Emmaus” tea and communion service, led by Rev Keith Underhill

**United Service:** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
11:30 am United Service of All Age Worship at St Mary’s

## **Prayers:**

Prayers are asked for Amy Rose Legge and her family, Sylvia Rowland, Keith & Leonora, David, Barbara, Shirley, Jean and all those unknown to us who are in need of our help.

We also pray for the continued success of the “Open the Book” Project where the teachings and stories of the Bible are taken into the Ridgeway C of E School in Childrey on a weekly assembly basis by a dedicated band of leaders from local churches using our premises as a base.

Christian Love to all.

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**We warmly invite you to:**

## **A Thanksgiving Service**

to celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the ‘Framland’ Pilgrim Home, Wantage

### **6:00 pm Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

To be held at

## **Hanney Chapel**

**Main Street, East Hanney, OXON. OX12 0HX**

**Speaker:- Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey** (Rector of Harwell & Chilton)

**All donations will go towards the En-suites Project at the Framland Pilgrim Home**

Registered Charity No. 242266

**Tea and cakes to follow the service**

Pilgrim Homes  
125, Avenue Road, London, SE7 2JL  
Tel: 0200 303 1430 / Fax: 0200 303 1415 Email: info@pilgrimshomes.org.uk  
www.pilgrimshomes.org.uk  
Pilgrim Homes is a registered charity forming part of The Age Concern Society  
and registered in all countries. Charity No. 142266 (UK) No. 44837



# Grove

We invite you to our **Annual Church Meeting** on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April** at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room. We hope you can come along to be part of this annual meeting as we look back over the past year together and look forward to new challenges ahead. You should each be receiving a copy of the Annual Report booklet, giving information about the various activities which have taken place during the past year. If you don't receive a copy and you would like one, please let us know. There will be some spare copies in the entrance hall.

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April** in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am till 12 noon. Our hosts will be Mark and Linda Jones. Proceeds are for "Wateraid". Your support is always appreciated.

**Open House** will meet on **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room for **Railway Memorabilia Part 3**.

Due to Bob Cottrell being unable to bring his collection after all to our March meeting, we are hoping that he will be with us with his collection on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April instead. John Stead did an excellent job of presenting more of his own memorabilia last month and will be helping to present Bob's stuff and tell us a bit about Bob's interesting career as an engine driver.

Refreshments will be served during the evening.

Everyone is very welcome.

Further information from Lynda Culley, telephone 01235 771554 or 07759085336.

## **Tuesday Fellowship**

- 4<sup>th</sup> April Alan Charlett will be bringing his 'Owls' to show to us and will be telling us all about them.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April We are delighted to welcome Deacon Selina Nesbitt to talk to us.
- 18<sup>th</sup> April Tea and chat at the Church
- 25<sup>th</sup> April A presentation by Pam Martin from our Wantage Church about Japan

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April** at 7.30pm.

We will be showing "**Kind Hearts and Coronets**" 1949 106mins *Approved U*  
*When his mother eloped with an Italian opera singer, Louis Mazzini (Dennis Price) was cut off from her aristocratic family. After the family refused to let her be buried in the family mausoleum, Louis avenges his mother's death by attempting to murder every family member (all played by Alec Guinness) until he becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke.*  
*Stars: Dennis Price, Alec Guinness, Valerie Hobson, Joan Greenwood.*

Admission is free. Tea / coffee and biscuits at end of the film for a small donation.

There is an email "alert" service for anyone who is interested in receiving an email reminder before each film, about a week beforehand. If you would like to be on the list to receive an "alert" message please would you let Su know, giving her your email address, at [su.lockley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:su.lockley@tiscali.co.uk)

**Warmed Hearts group** will meet on **Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April** at 4 Mayfield Avenue, Grove at 8:00 pm. We will be commencing a York Course using New Testament stories to help us consider why and how we make room for what really does matter. "Making Room" session 1 is entitled "Making Room for the Newcomer". There are four sessions of the course, but you are welcome to come to any of the individual meetings if you can't manage all four.

For more information contact Peter Hemmings on 01235 762504.

### **Handicrafts' Group**

We are meeting in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We will be knitting "Hats for Smoothies". Innocent Smoothies are donating 25p for each hat made to Age UK Oxfordshire, so do come and join our "Knit In" and see how many hats we can produce in the afternoon. Please bring knitting needles size 9 or 8 (3.75mm or 4mm) and spare DK wool if you have some. Wool will also be provided. Or you are welcome to bring along your own craft to do while having a chat and sharing ideas over tea / coffee and cake. £2 for the afternoon. All welcome. We will meet at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove, on **Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April** and **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, to craft and chat together. £1 donation to the Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink.

Contact Jenny Marriott, tel: 01235 767624 for further details.

The March / April "Fish and Ships" **quiz sheet** is still available from Sheila Hall (01235 763135) at a cost of 50p. Closing date is 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**Thank you** to everyone who supports or arranges various events.

The March coffee morning raised £160 in donations and £55 on the stall, making a total of £215 for "Freyja's Fund".

If you are willing to help, either by sharing with someone or hosting a coffee morning, please get in touch with Peter (telephone 762504). Thank you.

### **Flower Rota**

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Katie King	
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Jenny Marriott	
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Margaret Merryweather	EASTER : extra vases welcome.
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Rachel Niblett	

**Transport to Church** If you are in need of transport to get to church, then please contact Peter Hemmings on 762504, who has a list of people willing to give lifts. He will do his best to arrange transport for you.

**Empty shoeboxes:** Do you have any empty shoeboxes cluttering up your cupboards? If so, Jenny Marriott will be pleased to receive them. They will be passed on to a lady who covers the boxes in Christmas paper ready for Shoebox appeals later in the year. Last year she covered over 13,000 boxes, which were then collected from her for a number of different appeals! We used some of them in Grove for the shoebox packing day.

## **CHRISTIAN AID MEETING**

Wantage and Grove Christian Aid Group have planned a meeting with a speaker for 7:30 pm on **20<sup>th</sup> April** in the Chapel at Wantage.

This will be a good opportunity to ask questions and hear about Christian Aid's work, especially with refugees, prior to Christian Aid Week.



**The Letcombe Singers present**

**Arthur Somervell's oratorio**

**The Passion of Christ**

**St Andrew's Church, Letcombe Regis**  
**Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30**

**Retiring Collection**  
**Refreshments**

**Music also sung in the evening service at**  
**St John's Church, Grove**  
**Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.00**



## Holy Week & Easter Services

### **Palm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**Palm Sunday Procession April 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Wantage & Grove Church Partnership annual Palm Sunday Act of Christian Witness will take place again this year. The procession will **gather at Holy Trinity Church, Charlton for a blessing at 9:45am** and will then set off to walk to the Market Place, accompanied by Wantage Silver Band and a well-behaved (?) donkey. In recent years the number of walkers seems to have fallen. It would be good if more people could participate. If you don't think you can manage the whole distance you could join anywhere along the main road or even just line the road and Market Place. This is an important act of witness and the more who participate the better. We would be pleased to see our friends from Grove. The expected arrival in the Market Place for final words and a hymn around 10:20am

**10:45 am Morning Worship** at Wantage

**10:45 am Morning Worship** at Grove

**4:00 pm Witness** – Circuit Service at Trinity Abingdon

The world premier of an Easter cantata written and organized by James Garnett.

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April ; Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April ; Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**8:30 pm Holy Week Reflection** at Wantage

### **Maundy Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**8:00 pm United service for Maundy Thursday** at Grove

### **Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**9:00 am Good Friday Service** at Childrey

**11:00 am Open Air Good Friday Witness** at the top of Vale Avenue, Grove, followed by hot cross buns and tea / coffee in the Methodist Church

**2:00 pm Good Friday Reflective Service** at Wantage

### **Easter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**7:00 am Early morning Holy Communion**

at the Millennium Stones

**9:30 am Kids@church** at Wantage

**10:30 am Easter Morning Worship with Holy Communion**

at Wantage

**10:45 am Easter Morning Worship with Holy Communion**

at Grove

Afternoon "walk to Emmaus (Childrey) in time for tea and

**6:00 pm Evening "Emmaus" Communion Service** at Childrey



# Wantage

## FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & REFLECTION

### Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In March we studied this year's York Lent Course Receiving Christ. The group found this a very rewarding study and much discussion took place. We will be taking a further look at this study later.

The details of the April dates are as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> April York Lent Course Session 5 "Christ in you, the hope of glory"  
Colossians 1:27. This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Convent
- 18<sup>th</sup> April No meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> April Keith will talk to us on The Jack Reacher method of Evangelism.

We are having another **Quiet Day** on **11<sup>th</sup> July** at St. Mary's Convent. Full details will be in next month's newsletter. In the meantime if you are interested please talk to me (Eileen Rennie) who will be able to give you an insight into the day's detail.

As always we can assure you of a very warm welcome if you would like to join us for any of our meetings. I would be delighted to talk to you if you would like to find out more about this group. We meet at 50 Warmans Close from 1:30 to 3:15 pm. You can contact me (Eileen Rennie) by telephone on 01235 224284 or e-mail: [m.rennie50@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.rennie50@ntlworld.com) or talk to me at Church.

As always we can assure you of a very warm welcome if you would like to join us for any of our meetings. Eileen would be delighted to talk to you if you would like to find out more about this group. We meet at 50 Warmans Close from 1:30 pm to 3:15 pm. You can contact Eileen Rennie by telephone on 01235 224284 or email: [m.rennie50@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.rennie50@ntlworld.com) or talk to her at Church.

### Wednesday Fellowship

- 26<sup>th</sup> April We begin with a service of Holy Communion led by our Minister, Rev Keith Underhill.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May Michael and Gillian Taylor will give an illustrated talk on bees and bee-keeping.

### Toilet Twinning

The church toilets have just been twinned with their eighth counterpart – our first in Afghanistan. The other "twins" are in Africa (2), India (2) and Bangladesh (3). We started twinning in late 2014. Each costs about £63, and we seem to have run out of places to display the new certificates! Consequently I am filing them but will, from time to time, change them over. The Afghanistan picture is quite dramatic! *Clive*

## Lunch Dates

Lunch dates for April are as follows:

**Sunday lunches** will be 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a lunch on Easter Sunday, but the 30<sup>th</sup> will be the date of the Annual Church Meeting. Anyone wishing to stay after the service for the meeting is welcome to stay for lunch. Please **sign up** on the notice board stating roast or vegetarian option. This will need to be done by **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**.

**Friday lunches** will be 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on any or all of the dates.

## WORSHIP

### Church Flowers

#### APRIL

2<sup>nd</sup> Eileen Rennie  
9<sup>th</sup> Nicky Atkinson  
16<sup>th</sup> Easter flowers  
23<sup>rd</sup> Easter flowers  
30<sup>th</sup> Heather Wells

#### MAY

7<sup>th</sup>  
14<sup>th</sup> Margaret McAlpin  
21<sup>st</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup> Ann Barber

## PRAYER

### Prayer list for April

*Loving God, this month as we travel with you through Lent, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday and Holy Week may we take time to meditate, pray and reflect on your Son's last days on earth and on his ultimate sacrifice for our sins. We give you thanks and praise that we have the opportunity on Easter Day to celebrate and rejoice with shouts of Alleluia, Christ is risen! We further rejoice as we look forward to sharing that wonderful good news. Bless each one of us as we travel on in faith.*

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Phoebe and family, Bethan Grant, Adrian Richens, Lois Knighton, Eileen and Alan Bunn and their family, Rex and June Hartle, Jane, The Wright-Clark family, All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, YMOSES, kids@church and Street Pastors.

Those members of our church family who, through frailty and ill health, can no longer worship with us.

If you or the person / people you have put on the prayer list would still like to be in the May Newsletter or you want to add anybody please let me know by **23<sup>rd</sup> April** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie: telephone: 01235 224284; e-mail: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com.



## **Pastoral - *praying for each other.***

In April the following people **on Helen Carter's Pastoral List** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Jo & Simon Aldworth, Diana Gawlas, Trevor & Sheila Johnson, Adrian Richens, and Jane & Harry Rudd, and those on **Faith Culshaw's** list: June & Rex Hartle, Jane & Iain Kent and Rita Lawrence.

In addition to the names listed above, the members of our church family who, through frailty and poor health, cannot worship with us any longer are also mentioned by name at Eileen's group.

## **"Space to Be"**

Please check the weekly notices for news of Space to Be. After 18 months we are reviewing of this activity. Helen Carter, June Grunwald and Jane Kent would love to hear from anyone who has attended. They are keen to know what has been the most helpful part(s) of the morning as they review the format. If you have any comments about Space to Be, Helen Carter, June Grunwald and Jane Kent would love to hear from you.

## **YOUNG CHURCH**

### **YMOSES**

We had the pleasure of Keith's company in March! He offered to be 'grilled' so we kindly obliged! It was great to have the opportunity to ask his opinion on all manner of subjects including atheism, other religions, the Bible, how he came to faith in Jesus, which he thinks is the most powerful Bible story, where the 'method' in Methodism came from, times of personal doubt and questioning. Thank you Keith for your honesty.

Our next get-together will be at 7:15 pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at Chris and Charlotte's, when we look forward to welcoming Rev Katherine Pickering from Didcot.

If you are at secondary school and would like to come along and join us for a faith-based discussion group we'd love to see you!

## **Kids@Church**

'Jesus and the little children' - thank you to all those adults (and James) who took part in our re-enactment of the story of Jesus welcoming the children - despite the officious disciples who thought He was too busy! We talked about the importance of children to Jesus then invited the children to make a concertina crowd of people. Lovely to see everyone!

Next month will be Easter Sunday so we are inviting the K@C families to a special morning, usual time (9:30 – 10:15 am), including a shared breakfast, special Easter crafts and a treasure hunt! We hope as many families as possible will be able to stay on for a special all-age Easter celebration at 10:30 am in church.

For **more information on any of these activities** please don't hesitate to call me on 01235 765421.

*Jane Kent*

## Annual Report and Annual Church Meeting

Our Annual Church Meeting will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 1:30 pm after Church Lunch. In preparation for this we are compiling our annual booklet and Gordon & Gill need contributions as soon as possible. The deadline was set as 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The meeting will appoint the Church Stewards for the next year and representatives of the membership to Church Council. Keith will share some of his thoughts and observations from his first 8 months with us as he helps us to take stock and look to the future. Keith will also lead our thinking and facilitate discussions on our "Exploring worship through....." series on the first Sunday of each month. Do come and share in what should be a stimulating early afternoon.

### The Signpost

What is the name on the signpost  
that Travellers want to see?

They hurtle by and they hasten on  
without a look at the outstretched arm  
that wants to speak of Thee.

We look for health, we look for wealth  
to find a comfortable seat  
while brother and friend together contend  
trying to make ends meet.

Life is a game that has no aim  
claims James to his young son.  
There is no test, forget the rest.  
Just think of number one.

The way is broad with knife and sword  
where hearts are bored and hatred stored.  
Show us again that narrow lane  
and keep your dear world sane.

## Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings for March/April

Please **check / book your date** with Gordon **before you commit to** your meeting. In addition to the regular users, the following bookings are in place:

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Private Party	Hall
Mon - Wed 10 – 12 April	eve	Holy Week Meditations	Chapel
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Good Friday Service	Chapel
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	eve	Christian Aid	CHapel
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	eve	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	morn	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	eve	Wntg & Grove Church Partnership	Chapel
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Private Party	Hall
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Annual Church Meeting	Hall
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	eve	Language Group	Chapel
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	all day	Private Party	All Hall
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	eve	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	morn	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Wed- Sat 7-10 June	day	Art Exhibition	Chapel
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Didcot Divas Concert	Hall

## Chapel & Hall Rooms' Regular Users

Monday	Kitchen	Mrs Bun the Baker, 09:00 – 14:00
	Hall	Pilates from 18:45
	Godfrey Room	Dietician (alternate weeks)
Tuesday	All Hall rooms	MIND, 09:30 – 13:00
	Chapel	Space 2 Be – 3 <sup>rd</sup> week monthly, 09:00 – 12:00
	Hall	Wantage Camera Club from 18:45
	Parlour	My Life, My Choice, 2 <sup>nd</sup> evening in the month
Wednesday	Hall	Open Access – 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks of the month, 09:00 – 12:30
	Hall	Wednesday Fellowship, 13:00 – 16:00
	Hall	Wantage Stage Musical, 19:00 – 22:00
Thursday	Hall	King Alfred WI - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in the month, 12:00 -15:00
	Hall	Regain Fitness, 18:45 – 20:30
Friday	All Hall rooms	Wantage Toddlers, 9:30 – 11:45
	Hall	Friday Lunches, alternate weeks, 11:45 – 15:00
	Hall	Caritas Children's Choir, 16:00 – 17:00
	Hall	Yoga for the Pregnant, 19:00 – 20:00
Saturday	All Hall rooms	Dads Out - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in the month, 9:30 – Noon
Sunday	All premises	Worship, Junior Church & Crèche, 8:30 – 13:00
		Sunday Lunches, alternate weeks, 11:45 – 14:00

## DIARY

### March

Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Safeguarding Refresher Course at All Saints Abingdon	p6
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Caritas Childrens' Choir Concert at Wantage	p7

### April

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am to 12 noon	Coffee morning at Grove	p10
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p15
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Grove Annual Church Meeting	p10
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p15

### Holy Week & Easter Day - see feature on page 13

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	"Witness" at Trinity	p5
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Convent	p4
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	kids@church at Wantage	p16

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Wantage & Grove Christian Aid Group Meeting at Wantage	p12
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p15
	7:30 pm	Grove Film Club – "Kind Hearts & Coronets"	p10

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> **DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER**

Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p15
	1:30 pm	Wantage Annual Church Meeting	p17

### May

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Safeguarding Refresher Course at Wantage	p6
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## Sunday Services – April 2017

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>Lent 5</b> <b>Passion Sunday</b>	11:00 am Rev Alan Grist	10:45 am Helen Carter 6:30 pm Malcolm Newton	10:30 am Worship through Music Libby Bolton
<b>9<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	11:00 am Barbara Sexton	10:45 am Local Arrangements 4:00 pm Circuit Service at Trinity	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill 4:00 pm Circuit Service at Trinity
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter Day</b>	6:00 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	7:00 am at Millenium Stones, Ardington  10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev John Rowland 6:00 pm at Childrey	7:00 am at Millenium Stones, Ardington  9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 6:00 pm at Childrey
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>Easter 2</b> <b>Local Preachers</b>	11:30 am United Service All Age Worship at St Mary's	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Rev Katherine Pickering	10:30 am Barbara Kershaw
<b>30<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter 3</b>	11:00 am Peter Hemmings	10:45 am Stephen Atkinson 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill

