

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

# SECTOR NEWS

(Incorporating Circuit Exchange)



**JUNE 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  
Su Lockley : 01235 767048  
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 **Summer Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 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)

**House Group at Grove** Monthly

Warmed Hearts 8 pm Leader: Peter Hemmings (01235 762504)

**Grove web site** is found from [www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk/](http://www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk/)

**Wantage web site** [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

## From the Manse...

That first Pentecost saw the outpouring of God's spirit upon the disciples.

In an instant they were changed people, no longer fearful, no longer timid, and no longer locked away behind closed doors. They were now bold and fearless – bearing witness and giving testimony to the great things that God had done. Peter stood up and addressed the crowds and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Pentecost changed them as individuals.

The thing that always strikes me is how the spirit drove those disciples out into the world, out into the market places and streets, out to where the people were. Pentecost changed the world as well; it was not just for those disciples.

As once more we celebrate the great events of Pentecost, we too are reminded of how the spirit drives us out into the community. Yes of course the Spirit is with us in church, constantly shaping and moulding us into God's people, but He is also very active outside our four walls, continuing to change the world.

Part of our calling, part of our task, is to identify the workings of God's spirit in the world and to join in. There is much change in the air when it comes to being church. Nationally and locally, these are exciting times to be part of the church community as God seeks to do new things with and through us in the power of His spirit. As a denomination and ecumenically, we will be very different in the years to come and that is all very positive – for the church must change, but that is only part of the story.

The other exciting dimension is out in the big wide world. There are huge problems to be faced, as recent events have sadly reminded us, but also great opportunities to be grasped.

We are confronted by major issues and complex situations, but let us not despair, for we have good news for all and the power and presence of God's spirit. As we allow the spirit to change us within the church, let us also allow the spirit to send us out into the wider world.

For the sake of our communities and all people and in the power of the Spirit, may we bring love, light, healing, hope and peace to all.

With love and God bless,

*Keith*

## **Brenda Boyer**

We report with a sense of sadness that Brenda Boyer died suddenly on Wednesday evening (17<sup>th</sup> May.) Brenda had suffered a fall at home over the weekend and was recovering in hospital. She had been chatting away to some church visitors in the afternoon.

Brenda and her 48-year ministry as a Local Preacher, mostly in this Circuit, will be remembered with great fondness, and her family will certainly be held in many people's prayers at this time.

Brenda was a person of great faith and devotion, so as we mourn her passing, may we also rejoice in new life in heaven.

Brenda's funeral will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10:00 am at South Oxon Crematorium (Garford) followed by a thanksgiving service at Wallingford Methodist Church at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to attend both services if they wish and also all are invited to stay for a light buffet lunch in the church hall after the church service. Family flowers only please. Any donations in memory of Brenda will be given to the MHA.

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

A reminder that 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 at Wallingford on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm and the session will last two hours. This will be a large-group session and we hope most of those needing the training will have attended one of the sessions that have been on offer.

The **Creating Safer Space Foundation Module** training will also be run by Keith. The dates for these sessions are to be decided, but if you need the training, or are appointing new post-holders who will need it, please let Keith know.

### **Editor's Note**

**The Summer Edition will be printed in the afternoon of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Please do not be late with contributions. The absolute cut off for material to be included will be 9 am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Deadline for September Sector News will be Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August with printing and initial distribution from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Contributors with notices for early September should send them by 18<sup>th</sup> June for inclusion in the Summer edition.**

## **Glimpses of the Eternal**

If you like films and are interested in faith then “Glimpses of the Eternal” may well be for you!

This 9-week introductory course looking at how film can help us to look anew and afresh at theology was put together by Keith during his last Sabbatical. There were two sessions in May.

Keith is running this course at Grove Methodist Church and everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

You do not have to have committed to all 9 sessions to participate, simply come along as and when you can. **All the sessions will be held in the Meeting Room at Grove Methodist Church beginning at 7:30 pm.** If you are thinking of coming along though, it would be helpful to let Keith know, as there are handouts etc that will be available.

The themes for the remaining 7 weeks are as below.

**Monday 5th June - “The fall and temptation”**

**Monday 12th June - “What does it mean to be redeemed?”**

**Monday 19th June - “Living in community”**

**Thursday 29th June - “The importance of a shared meal”**

**Wednesday 5th July - “The Matrix”**

**Tuesday 11th July - “Jesus of Montreal”**

**Thursday 20th July - “Endings”**

If you would like any further information or have any questions, do contact Keith.

## **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>

Don't forget the **Circuit calendar**, with these and other events, can now be viewed on the **Circuit website**, [www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk](http://www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk)

## Wantage and Grove Church Partnership

### Wantage and Grove Church Partnership Election Hustings

**1<sup>st</sup> June 19:30 - 21:00 at the Old Mill Hall, Grove**

Questions to all parliamentary candidates:

Chris Carrigan (Liberal Democrat) : Rachel Eden (Labour) : David McLeod (UKIP)

Sue Roberts (Green) : Ed Vaizey (Conservative)

Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **An evening on Prayer Ministry**

Rev George Moody will be leading an evening on Prayer Ministry at Grove Parish Church.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 8:00 to 9:30 pm**

**St John's rooms, Grove Parish Church**

“An evening exploring the practice of prayer ministry: looking at some principles in how to pray for someone who asks for prayer, considering some advice on how to look after yourself when praying for another individual, and getting down to some practice by praying for each other.”

All welcome - this event is for anyone interested in prayer ministry from St John's Church or any of the members of Wantage and Grove Church Partnership.

You do not need to be involved in any kind of prayer ministry to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

The evening is free - places must be booked.

To make your booking please email [office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

Or by phone on 01235 771479. Office Hours 10-12 Mon – Fri.

**Please book your place by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

Places may be available after that but it would help to know numbers in advance.

## **Grove Extravaganza 24 June 2017**

Anyone wishing to help with the St John's Church tent at **Grove and Wantage Extravaganza 2017** is very welcome to do so. **We are very open to having any Christians from any local churches.** You will need to be free at some point on Saturday 24 June; and to get to Grove Recreation Ground. No other meetings etc will be organised.

We've invited Street Pastors and Open the Book to see if they wish to be involved. We'd also love to hear from the alcohol awareness people if they wished to do something, even if only for an hour or so.

We plan to:

Offer prayer ministry for people who want it. I've asked the prayer ministry team for help, some are free. We do need more.

Offer other activities around the theme of listening to people, listening to our local community, of which Grove Parish Church, and other churches, are a big part. We will provide flyers, leaflets and copies of a gospel for people who wish to take them home.

There will be at least one children's activity which could be craft/dressing up/games and activities and/or play dough. Ideally, different activities will be offered at different points in the afternoon, so volunteers can do what they choose to do.

We will collect some of the children's thoughts about what is good about Grove and Wantage and our community – ideas around 'Food for Thought' decorated/written on paper plates, maybe some 'art of conversations' too, which we will display in the marquee. This will be available for adults too.

Adults can record their thoughts about life in Grove and Wantage, sharing stories etc. This may be audio/video recordings, writing etc. The idea is to capture thoughts on the day, listening to people and people filling in artwork/'food for thought'. We may then use what people say to feedback to church and promote future Extravaganzas!

For children and adults there will be a tree and some prayer labels so people can leave prayer requests on these prayer 'leaves' on the tree.

We may include a musical interlude. Some musicians (maybe from worship team) could come and sing songs; or teach one to us - dependent on who volunteers for what!

Please do let me know if you would like to be involved.

Many thanks for your time and consideration, Helen  
andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk

**Centre for Reflection at Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church  
Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9EJ**

The Centre for Reflection at Aston Tirrold is used for retreats, quiet days, talks, workshops, celebrations/parties, meditation, music making, training, away days and meetings. You are invited to join in one of the Centre's workshops, quiet days, groups and talks or to organise an event for your group at the Centre by making a booking.

All are welcome at workshops, quiet days, groups and talks organized by the Centre for reflection. For more details of each event, including how you can book, please see the events page at [www.reflect.freeuk.com/events.html](http://www.reflect.freeuk.com/events.html).

Here is the summary of events coming up:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 10 am – 4 pm -- Rev Keith Green and others will lead a day with the Quiet Garden Trust** . Cost: £15 with supplied light lunch -- please book in advance by midday Wednesday 14th June (Centre contact details below)

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.30 pm -- Gerard Cousins, Classical guitarist.** Cost: £10 - tickets available on the door or in advance by midday Weds 19th July (Centre contact details below)

**Drop-in Quiet Day on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 10 – 2:30 pm.** If you so wish please bring along a reading, poem, special piece of music or article that you would like share. Bring and share lunch. Cost: Donation.

Looking towards the Autumn, the annual **Poetry and Song** evening will take place on **9<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30 pm**. Cost: Donation.

The Centre for Reflection also holds regular events: Film, Art, Writing (these are monthly) and Meditation (twice monthly). Please see the webpage for regular events.

The Centre for Reflection is run by and located at Aston Tirrold URC (United Reformed Church).

Aston Tirrold on the WorldWide Web

For the Centre for Reflection: [www.reflect.freeuk.com](http://www.reflect.freeuk.com)

Tel: 01235 850423 with answering machine, email: [coordinator@reflect.freeuk.com](mailto:coordinator@reflect.freeuk.com)

**Please note that Gentle as Silence at Douai Abbey, Berkshire planned for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June has been cancelled.**





Quarterly Newsletter  
of the  
Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit  
June - August 2017



**From the Manse in Wantage**

**Where to put your X**

The political parties of this nation have now officially launched their campaigns for the 2017 General Election. Their policies are being proclaimed and their visions for how they see the future of our country, unveiled.

In sound bites, interviews, newspaper articles, leaflets, Party Political broadcasts, Facebook postings, television programmes and tweets, there is no escaping from the unrelenting (and sometimes confusing) propaganda that surrounds us.

Each party is setting out their stall and sharing their hopes, dreams and visions for the next five years.

They vie for our attention even as they do for our vote.

Each party tries to sway us as to why it is important we exercise our democratic right and put an “X” on the ballot paper on June 8<sup>th</sup> against the name of their party’s candidate.

All of this is, of course, summed up in their party manifesto - that collection of policies and goals that they hope will enthuse people to vote for them and which will hold them accountable to the general public whilst in office if they happen to succeed next month.

The manifesto is saying in effect, this is who we are, this is what we are about, these are our values and this is what we will do.

In Luke’s Gospel chapter 4, we find Jesus doing something very similar at the beginning of his public ministry. Verses 16-20 – often referred to as the “Nazareth Manifesto” – show him setting out his stall, saying what he is about, what he sees as being important and the role that he is going to fulfil.

Unlike with many politicians, there was no discrepancy between what he said and what he did – his actions fulfilled his words and his deeds his promises.

Who we vote for is the big question and ultimately it is up to each and every one of us to make that decision as we see best.

Within our Churches and faith groups, just as in Parliament, there will be Christians aligning themselves with the various political parties.

I guess that whatever party we eventually support, it is the one who, for us, most closely aligns itself with the words Jesus proclaimed in the synagogue in Nazareth; *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

With love and God Bless,

Keith

## **Selina's Facebook page**

Deacon Selina would like everyone to be aware that she posts regularly to this Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/deaconselina.nisbett](http://www.facebook.com/deaconselina.nisbett)

If you would like to get a feel for Selina's work, her faith, and her life in general, do have a look! Meanwhile...

## **The final run-up and the Big Day**

Following Selina's Testimony service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, we assure her of our prayers, love and support as she prepares for her **Ordination** at Conference this month.

At last, Keith has been permitted to share the news that Selina passed every stage of her assessment with flying colours. Before the Conference, Selina and the other Diaconal probationers will take part in a retreat at Ampleforth Abbey from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Then she will be "Received into full Connexion", and ordained as a Deacon at a service in Darlington Street Church, Wolverhampton on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. If you are intending to go, you hopefully have already obtained a ticket – if not, you are probably too late by now!

## **Words, please!**

JPIT are currently working on a project that seeks to enable conversations about the future of the UK. This will be an opportunity for churches and communities to think beyond the divisions highlighted in the EU referendum and to explore and share their hopes and dreams for the future of our society.

Part of the resource will use words that people associate with Brexit in order to facilitate conversation. As such, we'd like your words, please! To enter words that spring to mind when you think about Brexit, please go to

<http://dmtrk.net/t/1MV9-4M17W-8VU8XP-2DFEVD-1/c.aspx>

## **Sale of Blewbury, Upton and Southmoor**

Progress continues on all three chapels. Southmoor is sold and our share of the proceeds is making its way to us through the Connexional system. Upton is on the market with Savills for sale by sealed bids - <http://search.savills.com/property-detail/gbswrssus170141>. Planning permission has been granted at Blewbury following a resolution to the boundary dispute, so this too will be on the market soon. Thanks and congratulations are due to Mary Hancock for her persistence against all opposition in this task.

## **Circuit Service 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Our next Circuit Service will be on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** at **Milton Methodist Church**, beginning at **3:00 pm**.

This will be the **commissioning service** for our two **Community Chaplains** for Great Western Park, (for more details, please see the update later in this Circuit Exchange).

This service will be a celebration of all that has happened so far and the way in which God has led us in this innovative venture. It will also allow the whole Circuit to meet Libby and Sarah, to offer them our support and to pray for them as we commit the future of this work into God's hands.

There will also be an opportunity for us to pray for and bless the motor home that is their mobile base and office.

Do come and along and be inspired!

## **Website**

A new and more effective Circuit Website is to be commissioned from ThenMedia, who successfully delivered a new website for Wantage – see

[www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

The Circuit site will share elements of the “look and feel” of the Wantage site, and we intend that other Circuit churches will be able to have a website with the same “family resemblance” which can be populated with local news and information with no need for web-design skills or advanced expertise.

Our aim is that people accessing the site from outside the Circuit can navigate it and find out about our Circuit, and that people within the Circuit can use it to find or disseminate information. Those interested will find a link for ThenMedia on the Wantage site, which might give an idea of what lies ahead.

Watch this space!

## **Vote for a Quiet Garden**

*Rosemary Perrow*

Every time you shop at a Tesco's or Tesco Express during May & June you will have the chance to help South Abingdon school-children improve their quality of life. Caldecott School's quiet garden project, designed for them by TrinityLearning, is one of Tesco's Community Matters causes.

Depending on the number of votes cast, they will get £1000 - £4000 to spend on seating, plants, a water feature and outdoor mindfulness activities. Please give them your support.

Thanks.

## **Message from the Editor of the Childrey , Grove & Wantage Sector Newsletter**

Please note that our deadline for material for the Sector Newsletter is normally the third Sunday in the month. It would help if notices being shared around the Circuit could be received by this date each month, as they will then reach a wider public and ensure publication as this cannot be guaranteed in the weekly notices.

Our email address is : [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)

## Update on Community Chaplains at Great Western Park *Katherine Pickering*

Earlier this year, our Circuit held a workshop led by Rev Robert Jones, to help us understand more about the role of a chaplain. Chaplaincy is already well established in certain fields of work and you may know of chaplains serving in the Forces, in education and young people's work, in hospitals, hospices and care homes, in agriculture, in prisons or in civic life. In more recent years there has been a growth in chaplaincy in shopping centres and businesses and in other work places. So what is a chaplain?

A chaplain offers a visible Christian presence, interacting with people in the community or in the workplace and is someone who goes out to where people are, to listen, to be alongside, to be a guest not a host. Whereas in our churches we are often seen to be a gathering community, inviting people to "join us", chaplaincy is not about "gathering in" but more about "going out". This pattern of "going out" reflects the ministry of Jesus who went out to minister wherever people were and he sent out his disciples to go and do the same.

A chaplain is available to those with faith and those who don't profess faith. Their role is not to preach but to listen and respond and if invited to do so, discuss their Christian faith.

Although workplace chaplaincy is well established, the idea of providing chaplains where people live rather than where they work seems to be new. As many of you know, our Circuit has been developing just such a vision – to offer chaplaincy in new housing areas, working collaboratively with other churches. Our focus has been on Great Western Park as this is the first and most advanced of the major developments planned in our Circuit. A small team has been working hard on the Circuit chaplaincy proposal, seeking to build relationships and complement other Christian initiatives at GWP, such as the flourishing community café and Rev Mark Bodeker's work establishing a new Anglican church, based at the UTC college.

Last month we advertised for two part-time community chaplains and we are delighted that Sarah Ifill and Libby Hawkness-Smith have been appointed to work at Great Western Park in Didcot.

Sarah is well known by many in the Circuit as she is a member and Worship Leader at Wallingford Methodist and currently the Senior Steward. Libby is an Anglican and in June will complete her training as a Lay Pioneer through the Church Mission Society. She is also a part-time School Pastor in the Reading area. She is looking forward to getting to know people in our Circuit. Sarah and Libby started work on 11<sup>th</sup> May and will use a chaplaincy "van" (a small motorhome) as their mobile base and visible presence.

We are very pleased that Tom Atkinson, a Didcot member, has designed the Community Chaplain logo which will be used on the van and elsewhere. Look out for the van and the new logo in the coming months!

Please pray for Sarah and Libby and those who will work with them as they take on their new roles. May they be assured of the prayers and encouragement of everyone in our churches as they seek to serve God in this new and exciting way. I look forward to working with them. Every blessing, *Katherine*

*Please pray for:*

- Katherine as she takes on the extra role of line-managing the chaplains
- The chaplains themselves as they seek to find out what being community chaplains on GWP involves
- The flourishing community café on GWP, and its team of enthusiastic volunteers

May all involved in this pioneering project both seek and know God's guidance, to the glory of God and the furtherance of his kingdom.

### **Circuit Steward team – imminent crisis!**

We still have not been able to replace Geoffrey Maunder as a Circuit Steward. Whilst we are very grateful to Mary de Vere for the time and energy she has given in her year in the role, her house is sold and she will be leaving the Circuit soon. Andrew is expecting to move away during 2018, and we urgently need new blood to join the team. Our vision is of someone representing each of the larger churches – with a team of six, no-one's share would be unbearably large.

To find out more, talk to your minister or to one of the current team:

Andrew Lockley (Senior)  
Mary Hancock  
Mary de Vere  
Alan Smith

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!

### **CIRCUIT MEETINGS / EVENTS**

14 <sup>th</sup> June	7:30 pm	Local Preachers Meeting Childrey Methodist Church
25 <sup>th</sup> June	4:00 pm	Selina's Ordination at Wolverhampton
27 <sup>th</sup> June	7:30 pm	Safeguarding update training Wallingford Methodist Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	3:00 pm	Circuit Service Commissioning GWP Chaplains Milton Methodist Church
16 <sup>th</sup> July	6:00 pm	District Farwell Service for Revd Peter Hancock Daventry Methodist Church
29 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00 am	CLT Away-Day, venue t.b.c.
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	7:30 pm	CLT Meeting, venue t.b.c
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2:00 pm	Welcome service for New Chair of the District Revd Helen Cameron at Christ the Cornerstone Milton Keynes

## **Rev Peter Hancock – Chair of the Northampton District**

As you will probably know, Rev Peter Hancock, Chair of the Northampton District, will be leaving us this summer. A **Service of farewell** will be held on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017** at **Daventry Methodist Church** at **6:00 pm** to which you are warmly invited. Within this service there will be a presentation of a gift for Peter and Jane.

If anyone in the Circuit would like to contribute to a gift, please pass it to your church treasurer who can then forward it to the Circuit from where we can send one cheque from the whole Circuit.

Please could **all donations be given by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017**. Thank you for your generosity and your good wishes to Peter as he leaves us to start a fresh God given ministry.

## **Bookings now open for 3Generate youth event**

Promising to be the biggest 3Generate yet, bookings have now opened for this year's children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, taking place at a new, bigger, venue, with up to 1,000 young people and leaders expected to attend.

Following massive growth and growing demand for places in recent years, this year's event will run from **24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November** at **Pontins, Southport**, for children and young people **aged 8 – 23**.

The weekend is shaped and designed by local groups made up of leaders, children and young people. There are age-appropriate sessions and activities with some sessions that will be intergenerational. 'The Well' stream for leaders will again offer dedicated sessions. In 2016, extra measures were introduced for young people with additional needs who wanted to attend and fully participate, something which the organisers intend to continue and build on this year.

Leaders will be responsible for their groups throughout the event and will be in group accommodation.

All age groups get the chance to take part in a huge variety of activities, different styles of worship, themed and issue-based workshops, exploring topics raised by the children and young people.

The 19-23 age group is designed for young people who have left school. This group follow their own programme which will be integrated with the overall programme for the event and therefore there will enjoy times together as a group as well as times with others. The group will be accommodated in its own dedicated set of chalets. Those over the age of 18 who have already left school are welcome to join this group.

During the weekend the young people also elect their own Youth President to serve for a year and represent them to the wider Methodist Church from 2018-2019.

Those who wish to attend but whose church is not organising its own group may be able to join another group from their Circuit or District. Event organisers may be able to assist with this. Full details are available on the website:

[www.methodist.org.uk/3generate](http://www.methodist.org.uk/3generate).

There is a requirement for one leader per six children aged under 18 years of age.

Tickets for delegates are £110 including food, accommodation and activities.



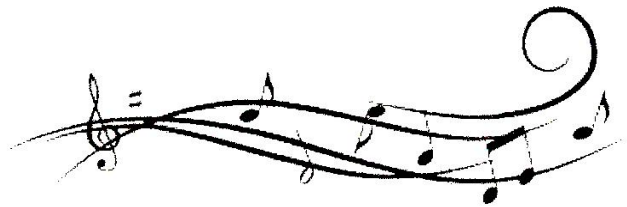
# The Didcot Divas

Present

## *Entertainment for a Summers Evening*

*An evening of musical fun for all*

### **Special Guests**



**Entrance**

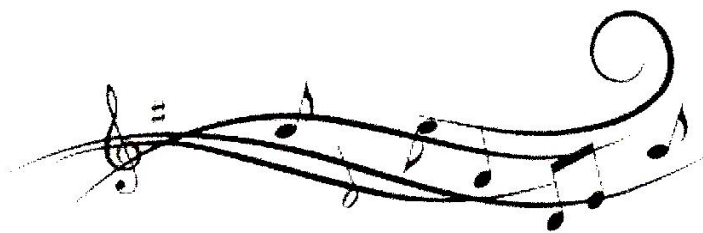
**£7 at the door**

Includes light refreshment

Children Free

**Saturday 10th June**

**Wantage Methodist Church Hall  
at 7pm**



**All Proceeds to  
Sobell House and  
Christian Aid**

an exhibition of original works & prints



# KEITH JANSZ



MEMBER ARTIST OF THE MOUTH & FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS

Thursday 8, Friday 9 & Saturday 10th June 2017 11:00am - 5:00pm

Methodist Church  
Newbury Street  
Wantage  
OX12 8DA

[www.keithjansz.com](http://www.keithjansz.com)  
[keithjansz@btinternet.com](mailto:keithjansz@btinternet.com)  
[www.mfpa.co.uk](http://www.mfpa.co.uk)  
[www.caninepartners.org.uk](http://www.caninepartners.org.uk)

15% of all sales to be  
donated to :







**The Letcombe Singers  
present a  
SUPPER CONCERT**

# **The Pirates of Penzance**



**Wantage Methodist Hall  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm**

**Letcombe Regis Village Hall  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.00 pm**

**Tickets £12 (Accompanied under 14s Free)  
from Wantage Museum,  
Bretts the Chemist, Grove,  
Letcombe Regis Village Shop  
& members of The Letcombe Singers  
In Aid of Oxford University Hospitals  
Churchill Radiotherapy Department**

# Childrey

**Tear Fund Lunch:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 12:15 pm - venue tbc

## **United Services:**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 3:00pm **Pentecost Service** on the Green  
Led by Rev Keith Underhill & Rev Leonora Hill  
Wantage Silver Band.  
Tea will be served in the Methodist Chapel after the service.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 11:30 am **Family Service** at St Mary's Church

## **Other Events:**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June **Childrey Village Fete**  
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Childrey Manor  
Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm **Local Preachers Meeting**

## **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.

+++++

June Grunwald could find a use for old birthday cards. She is particularly interested in cards with photos on or works of art, but is willing to sort through cards if you have a bundle lurking at home.

Tel: 01235 760488

## Grove

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am till 12 noon. Our hosts will be Eric and Judy Thomas. Proceeds are for "Thames Valley Air Ambulance". Your support is always appreciated.

### **Open House on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Walk around Sutton Courtenay.**

Meet at Millbrook Square, Grove at 7:15 pm and car share to Sutton Courtenay (where George Orwell and Herbert Asquith are buried) for an evening stroll. **Please note earlier start time.** As the walk may involve uneven surfaces and possibly mud / puddles, please come prepared with suitable footwear and outerwear! Those who can't or don't wish to walk can wait for us in one of the village hostelrys.

Please give Lynda an indication of whether you are hoping to come so that we can wait for you if necessary. Everyone is very welcome Contact telephone 01235 771554 or 07759085336

### **Tuesday Fellowship**

6 <sup>th</sup> June	Frances Blood will be speaking to us. It is lovely to have her again as she hasn't been too well for a while
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Keith Underhill
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Pam Martin – Holiday in Japan
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Libby Bolton

**Warmed Hearts group** will meet on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June** at 107, Mayfield Avenue, Grove at 8:00 pm. We will be continuing with the York Course "Making Room". Because the May session was postponed, we will now have Session 2, entitled "Making Room for the Stranger". The course is made up of four sessions, 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.

**Warmed Hearts group** is planning on going on the riverboat from Abingdon to Oxford on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**. Meet at Abingdon Bridge Marina at 16:15 pm for 16:45 pm boat to Folly Bridge, Oxford, arriving at 18.30 pm. Family and friends are most welcome. Please let Peter Hemmings know if you would like to go as part of the group (Tel: 01235 762504). For a party of 20 or more booking in advance is necessary and will also bring a 10% discount off the price. All are welcome.

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** at 7:30 pm. (*Please note this is the fourth Friday in June*)

We will be showing "**The time traveller's wife**" 2009 107mins PG-13

*Chicago librarian, Henry De Tamble, suffers from a rare genetic disorder that causes him to drift uncontrollably back and forth through time. On one of his sojourns he meets the love of his life and they marry. But the problems and complexities of any relationship are multiplied by Henry's inability to remain in one time and place so he and his beloved are continually out of sync.*

*Stars: Eric Bana, Rachel McAdams, Ron Livingstone.*

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)

## **Handicrafts’ Group**

We are meeting in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for a “Bring & Share” session. If you have something you feel you would like to share with others please bring enough materials for one or two more to have a go. You can take part in what is on offer or work on your own craft while having a chat and exchanging ideas. All welcome. £2 for the afternoon to cover expenses.

We are still knitting “hats for smoothies” and all contributions are welcome. We will be giving them to Age UK Oxon on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

We will meet at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove on **Mondays 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June**, to craft and chat together. £1 donation to Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink.

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

The **May / June quiz** “Things to Wear” is available from Sheila Hall, price 50p. Closing date is Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

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

The proceeds of the May coffee morning for Christian Aid will be counted in with the Christian Aid week envelopes.

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**

4 <sup>th</sup> June	Eileen Steele	18 <sup>th</sup> June	Zita Viner
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Elizabeth Trew	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Kirsty Bailey

**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.

## **Link to Hope Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal for Christmas 2017.**

If you like to start shopping early for your shoebox, leaflets for this year’s appeal are now available from Jenny Marriott, giving details of the items which are useful for the boxes (Tel: 01235 767624).

Empty shoeboxes are always welcome too and can be given in any time.

# Wantage

## FELLOWSHIP

### Wednesday Fellowship

- 31<sup>st</sup> May Chris Smith from Specsavers will tell us about the services that they offer. (Postponed from last January)
- 7<sup>th</sup> June Barbara Kershaw will give an illustrated talk about her time as a young teacher in West Africa.
- 14<sup>th</sup> June “Tea for Treloars” – come and enjoy afternoon tea to raise money for our charity, the Treloar Trust, which supports severely disabled children and young people.
- 21<sup>st</sup> June Local Preacher Libby Bolton is coming to speak to us today.
- 28<sup>th</sup> June Pam Martin will be showing pictures of the second half of her visit to China, this time covering the more touristy areas.

### Lunch Dates

Lunch dates for June are as follows:

**Friday lunch** dates for June will be 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday lunches** will be on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June.

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

## STUDY & REFLECTION

### Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In May we concluded The Vice President’s Address to Conference and revisited the first 3 sessions of this year’s Lent Course – Receiving Christ.

In June we will be studying the book of James as part of Bible Month.

The details of the June dates are as follows:

6 <sup>th</sup> June	James 1	Doers of the Word
	This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting	
13 <sup>th</sup> June	James 2	Faith and Works
20 <sup>th</sup> June	James 3:1 – 4:12	Speech and Wisdom
27 <sup>th</sup> June	James 4:13 – 5:20	Living for the Lord

We are having another **Quiet Day** on **11<sup>th</sup> July** at St. Mary’s Convent. The title for the day is “Living for the Lord”. More details are to be found in the feature article below. If you are interested in joining us talk to me (Eileen Rennie) and I will give you any further details you require.

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.

## Bible Month

As you may well be aware from the May newsletter and Wantage website, Wantage will be taking part in the Methodist Church's initiative Bible Month, that takes place during June. All Methodist churches around the country are being encouraged to participate in this. The idea being that during this month the focus will be on the book of James, through worship and study groups.

The Circuit Local Preachers are happy to be involved in this, so our **services** during June will be based on and around the book of James, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> June with "Worship through ... James".

For each week, there is a theme that helps us together explore the depths of this book:

1. Doers of the word (James 1)
2. Faith and works (James 2)
3. Speech and wisdom (James 3)
4. Living for the Lord (James 4)

Eileen's Tuesday afternoon House Group will be using the study material during the month.

Also a **study group** especially for this will meet on **Monday evenings** starting on 5<sup>th</sup> June in the church foyer from 7:30 - 9:00 pm, which will be facilitated by the Church Stewards and Keith.

If you would like any further information, please speak to Carolyn, Alison, Heather or Keith.

## Quiet Day at St. Mary's Convent, Wantage

*Eileen Rennie*

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

The Tuesday House Group are having another Quiet Day and you are invited to join us. The title for the day is "Living for the Lord". The day starts at 9:45 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Libby Bolton will again lead our thoughts for the day which will be based on the Book of James following our study during Bible Month. The morning reflection from Libby is "Listening and Hearing" and the afternoon reflection is "Speaking and Doing". Registration is from 9:30 – 9:45. The cost is £16 which includes the use of the facilities there, morning coffee, soup with bread roll, fresh fruit platter lunch and afternoon tea and cake. Eucharist is at 10:00 am. There will be quiet time after the morning and afternoon reflections. Sext is at 12:25, lunch at 12:45. You are of course free to spend the day entirely on your own if that is your wish, but please advise me if this is your intention. Nearer the day I will issue a detail of times and events to all those attending.

If you are interested in joining us please **contact me** as soon as possible either at church, by telephone 01235 224284 or mobile 07866 439442 or email [m.rennie50@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.rennie50@ntlworld.com) and I will give you any further details you require. Please may I have payment **by 25<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Space to Be** this month will be on **Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup>** in the church. There will be a meditation from 9:45 to 10:15 am, followed by prayer stations being available until 11 am. The theme will reflect the Methodist Church's Bible Month's use of the Letter of James. All are welcome.

You are welcome to come for just the meditation, just the prayer station time, or of course to both. If you are choosing to come to the prayer station time, please feel free to come at any time between 10:15 and 11 and stay for as long or short a time as you would like.

If you would like more information, or would like to suggest a different day and time, a different format, or can offer to lead a meditation, please contact Helen Carter or Jane Kent.

## **PRAYER**

### **Prayer list for June**

Loving God, in this month as we look forward to Summer days we praise you for your creation. Help us to care well for all you have provided. We come with thankful hearts too for the opportunity provided to us this month to study your word in the Book of James both in our weekly worship and also in group meetings. We pray that we will all be richly blessed by this experience and enthused to spread the good news to those we encounter in our daily lives.

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, Diana, Jenny, Emily and Andy, Harrison and Jade, Barbara, Olive Butler, Wantage Health and Well-being Centre, 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 July Newsletter or you want to add anybody please let me know by **16<sup>th</sup> June** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

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

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

In June the following people on **Julie Horton's pastoral list** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Nicky Atkinson, Ann & Pete Barber, Graham Godfrey, Pam Martin, Eileen, Luccia, Gianluca & Ali Rennie, and Pam & Roy Scholes.

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.

## Church Flowers

4<sup>th</sup> Mary Trotter  
11<sup>th</sup> Julie

18<sup>th</sup> Diane Barton  
25<sup>th</sup>

## YOUNG CHURCH

### YMOSES

Katherine Pickering (the minister from Didcot) came and led our discussion in May. We played a game created by Christian Aid all about the refugee crisis. It was fun and very thought-provoking. Next month on **June 11<sup>th</sup>** we will be meeting and going on a summer evening's walk - if you are at secondary school and would like to join us you would be more than welcome.

Please give me a ring to find out more details - Jane Kent (01235 765421)

### Kids@Church

In May we had fun exploring the theme of 'Big Big Questions' inspired by the song by Fischy Music. We encouraged the children to give their questions about faith, God... anonymously in advance and then after searching for questions hidden in the church Keith offered some answers to some of them. In the hall the children had great fun making and eating French bread pizza! A lovely atmosphere and fun morning.

If you have children or grandchildren of primary school age who would like to come along, you and they would be very welcome. Give me a call for more information or just turn up at church on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30 am! Jane Kent (01235 765421)

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Wantage Church Council will meet on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Please could reports for circulation and notice of other matters for the agenda reach Alison Brown by 11<sup>th</sup> June to allow time for distribution.



Abingdon and District Musical Society  
and Wantage Choral Society

Vaughan Williams  
A SEA SYMPHONY  
BRIDGE: THE SEA

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2017

AT 7.30 PM

ST HELEN'S CHURCH, ABINGDON, OX14 5BS

CONCERT FOR CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR ALEXANDER WALKER

LEADER KATE BAILEY

SOPRANO ANNA GORBACHYOVA

BARITONE to be confirmed

TICKETS: £12 AT THE DOOR

£10 BUY EARLY / £1 CHILDREN

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MOSTLY BOOKS, STERT STREET, ABINGDON,  
THE VALE AND DOWNLAND MUSEUM, WANTAGE  
OR BY TELEPHONE ON 01235 521392

[www.adms.org.uk](http://www.adms.org.uk)

[www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk)

## Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings for May / June

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:

Monday 5/12/19/26 June	eve	James Study Group	Chapel Foyer
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Property & Finance Committee	Parlour
Wed-Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> June	day	Art Exhibition	Chapel
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Wantage Community Church	Parlour
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	morn	Wantage Community Church	Parlour
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Didcot Divas Concert	Hall
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	aft	Oxfordshire FGC Service	Parlour
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Worship Consultation	Chapel
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	aft	Private party	Hall
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	The Letcombe Singers	Chapel
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Church Council	Chapel
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	The Letcombe Singers	All Premises

## Chapel & Hall Rooms' Regular Users

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

## JUNE

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:30 pm	Hustings at Grove Old Mill Hall	p6
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p21
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Meeting Room Grove	p19
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Pentecost Service on the Green at Childrey	p18
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	“The fall and temptation” at Grove	p5
	7:30 pm	James Study Group in Wantage Foyer	p22
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Wantage Property & Finance Committee in the Parlour	
Thursday to Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>			p16
	11:00 am - 5:00 pm	Keith Jansz Art Exhibition - Wantage	
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Childrey Village Fete	p18
	7:00 pm	Didcot Divas & Caritas Concert	p15
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p21
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	James Study Group in Wantage Foyer	p22
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm	Evening on Prayer Ministry - Grove Parish Church.	p6
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Wantage Worship Consultation in the Chapel	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p21
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage “James”	p21
*****		<b>Deadline for Summer Newsletter</b>	***** <b>p4</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	James Study Group in Wantage Foyer	p22
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm.	Grove Film Club “The time traveller’s wife” PG-13	p19
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>		Grove and Wantage Extravaganza 2017	p7
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>		Conference Sunday	
	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p21
	4:00 pm	Ordination of Deacon Selina Nisbett	p10
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	James Study Group in Wantage Foyer	p22
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council in the Chapel	p25
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p21
	7:00 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	p17
		The Letcombe Singers at <u>Wantage</u>	

## JULY

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:00pm	Circuit Service at Milton Methodist Church Commissioning GWP Chaplains	p11/13
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	District Farwell Service for Revd Peter Hancock Daventry Methodist Church	p13/14

## Sunday Services – June 2017

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> June Pentecost Bible Month 1</b>	3:00 pm United Service: Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Alan Smith  6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June Trinity Methodist Homes Bible Month 2</b>	11:00 am Peter Hemmings	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill  6:30 pm Local Arrangements	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Stephen Atkinson
<b>18<sup>th</sup> June Ordinary 11 Bible Month 3</b>	11:00 am Frederick Obeng	10:45 am Dr Paul Williams  6:30 pm Malcolm Newton	9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June Ordinary 12 Refugee Conference Bible Month 4</b>	11:30 am United Service At St Mary's	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill  6:30 pm Barbara Kershaw	10:30 am Peter Hemmings