

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

SECTOR NEWS

February

2018



The Methodist Church

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

Contributions for the **March Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18th February 2018** to wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Items for March 2018 Circuit Exchange to a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk by 11th February 2018 please.

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.wantab.org.uk

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

From the Manse...

During this month, where for various reasons we often think of love, let us remind ourselves that love is far more than a heart shaped card or the gift of a red rose, for it is a God given force for good and change, that binds us together and has the power to turn things upside down and transform everything.

So as February 14th approaches, let us commit ourselves to love in action. May our words and deeds, our lips and our hands, our attitudes and our thinking be that which challenges the selfishness, insularity and status quo of our world and demonstrates God's love for all.

We could do far worse than take to heart the powerful and clever poem "Refugees", by Brian Bilston, which itself, is a clarion call to love in action.

*They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way*

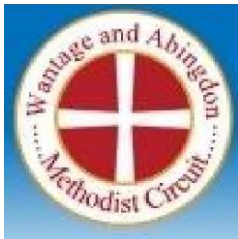
(now read from bottom to top)

With love and God Bless,

Keith

We are sad to announce that Rev Tom Smith died rather suddenly in Lutterworth, where he and his wife were living. Many of you will remember Tom, as he served as Superintendent in this circuit until 2000, when he moved to Leicester until his retirement. He was minister of Didcot, Milton, Blewbury and Upton.

The funeral will be a private one for family only, followed by a thanksgiving service to which all are invited. The thanksgiving service will be held at Lutterworth Methodist Church at 12noon on Friday 2nd February.



- Group singing
- Play instruments
- Drama
- Bring your friends
- Eat pizza
- It's free!

Circuit Youth Music and Drama Group

Sunday 28th January
Wallingford Methodist Church

Sunday 18th February
Didcot Methodist Church

3.45 Arrival

4.00 Rehearsal

5.30 Pizza

6.30 Help lead evening service

7.30 Finish

The CYMDG meets once a month at different churches in the circuit.

It is led by Esther Miller and Abigail Perrow.

For more information please e-mail abi.perrow@gmail.com

Sensing God



Silent retreat at Douai Abbey

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th April 2018

*Organised and led by Becky Fisher and Katherine Bloomer on behalf of 'reflect'
(Methodists supporting retreats and spirituality).*

Set in tranquil countryside between Reading and Newbury, the Benedictine Community at Douai offers hospitality, peace, good food, sung Offices and plenty of opportunities to encounter God.

In this post Easter retreat we will use all our senses in prayer. We will walk with Jesus and hear His story. We will sit with Jesus and tell our story and we will travel the Emmaus Road together.

There will be several led sessions with the time between sessions intended for you to continue with your own thoughts and prayers, so we offer each other the gift of silence – uninterrupted by mobile phones, e-mails . . .

(Cost of retreat £205).



There are local country walks, self-service meals, single bedrooms, led prayers, the opportunity to join with the Community for some of their sung Offices, the chances to "play" with arty/crafty materials, time to sit and ponder or just to be open to encounter....

For more information or a booking form or poster to put up in your church, please contact June Grunwald (from Wantage Methodist Church) 01235 760488 jnurdglaw@live.co.uk

Impossible God

The Passion Play

Written by Frank Topping

Performed by Mark Topping

One-man passion play coming to Wantage

A play re-enacting the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, performed by just one actor, is coming to Wantage.

Actor, Mark Topping is staging Impossible God **at Wantage Methodist Church on Wednesday 28th March at 7:30 pm.**



In the drama numerous characters: servants, soldiers and disciples, relive their experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

“The drama is a powerful exploration of events at the heart of Christianity,” says Mark Topping. “You are taken on an imaginative journey and challenged to look again at Jesus of Nazareth and reflect on what it means.”

Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from: 01235 760335 or 07710 214601

Mark Topping is a professional actor. He has toured England, Wales and Ireland for many years performing Impossible God and other one-man plays. He has appeared as John Wesley on BBC TV. Theatre work includes *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Yes Prime Minister*, *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Travesties*. He is the narrator of numerous audiobooks.

The devotional book ‘An Impossible God’ was written and adapted for the stage by author, actor, broadcaster and Methodist minister, Frank Topping.

Wantage & Grove Church Partnership

We join Wantage Parish in giving thanks for 25 years of ministry of Fr John Salter amongst the people of Wantage.

Christian Aid

CHRISTIAN AID LOCAL GROUP - HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

The need to fill vacancies for chairperson and secretary due to moves from the district is having an impact on setting up this year's 'house to house' fundraising in CA Week. 'H to H' produces the major part of our yearly effort which raised £7000 last year. A decision must be taken NOW on whether we can keep this vital scheme alive while the future is planned.

Anyone who has an interest in keeping CA alive locally is invited to an Open meeting on 5 February 7.30pm in the Chapel vestibule.

CIRCUIT MEETINGS / EVENTS

Wednesday 14 March, 7:30 pm at Milton : Circuit Meeting

Sunday 22 April, 4 pm at a venue tba : Circuit Service

to include dedication of Easter offering

Don't forget the Circuit Calendar, with these and other events, can now be viewed on the Circuit website at <http://www.wantab.org.uk/calendar.html>. Send items for inclusion to Andrew as below, at any time.

Circuit Exchange is here to link all parts of our Circuit together – let us know what's happening at your church.

Items for March 2018 Circuit Exchange to a.lockley@tiscali.co.uk by 11th February 2018 please.

Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit Churches are

All Saints (Abingdon), Childrey, Didcot, Grove, Milton, Peachcroft Christian Centre (Abingdon), Trinity (Abingdon), Wallingford, Wantage

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>

Northampton Methodist District presents



saturday 24th february 2018

2:30pm - 8:30pm £5 per person

(arrivals start from 2pm)

(pay on the day but bookings must be made in advance)

**park avenue methodist church,
park avenue north, northampton, NN3 2HT**

for 8 - 23 year olds

for further information and booking
contact Margaret on 01509 828020
or visit the District website at:

www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/mission/acts-29-2988.php

**BOOKING
ESSENTIAL!**

TrinityLearning



Working to improve the quality of life in local schools

Job Vacancy: A Project-Manager for TrinityLearning

A part-time post: 0.2, equivalent to one day a week

Initially for 6 months: starting date to be agreed

Salary: £25,000 p.a. pro rata (approx.£2,500)

Telephone and travel expenses will be paid



TrinityLearning, an exciting initiative of Trinity Church, Abingdon, is now in its eighth year.

The Church is committed to continuing and developing the work TrinityLearning has been undertaking.

TrinityLearning's work benefits from many volunteers who come from 10 other local churches.

The Project Manager will have a role in planning the future development of this successful community project with schools.

As part of TrinityLearning, the Project Manager will be:

- engaging in market research, especially with school leaders
- preparing and submitting fund-raising applications
- taking responsibility for drawing up a business plan
- taking part in shaping the future of TrinityLearning

For further information about TrinityLearning please visit www.trinitylearning.org.uk

Applications: An application form and a job description are available from Trinity Church Office, Conduit Centre, Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB

Please send your completed application to Trinity Church Office or by email to trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Friday February 16th

Interviews will take place during the week beginning Monday 19th February 2018

This appointment will be made subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

All applicants must have the right to live and work in the UK and must hold a current NI number, UK bank account and valid proof of ID (passport or British birth certificate, please go to www.gov.uk/check-an-employees-right-to-work-documents for more information).

Trinity Church is a joint Methodist and United Reformed Church, a member of the Church in Abingdon Trinity Church Office, Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB. Tel: 01235 520282



Wantage and Grove Street Pastors invite you to



at

**Wantage Baptist Church at 7.30pm
on Wednesday 7th February 2018**

This exciting event is part of the UK launch of a brand new album and book called '**Stand**' by artist **Sharon Tedford**. Come and share an evening of songs and stories by Sharon who is a Christian song writer, singer and author.

She will be singing songs from her new album and reading extracts from her book, which accompanies the album.

Entry is free and **refreshments** will be provided; there will be the opportunity to give to **Wantage and Grove Street Pastors** during the evening.

Sharon is a Dorset woman who now lives in Dallas, Texas with her family. You can find more information about Sharon and her ministry at:

<https://www.61-things.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/61things>

"These songs and the stories that accompany them, resonate with ... deep spirituality. The words and music will inspire prayer and praise, leading to wholeness and increasing discipleship." Stephen Gaukroger, Pastor, Author, Director – Clarion Trust International. www.clariontrust.org.uk



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors REPORT OF OUR DECEMBER 2017 ACTIVITIES

During December there were:

- 2 Friday night patrols, 3 Saturday night patrols and a New Year's Eve patrol
- 6 Patrols totalling 26 hours of cover involving 17 Street Pastors
- 18 pairs of flip-flops given, 29 bottles of water and 2 space blankets
- 380 lollies and Love Hearts

Surprisingly, December can be a fairly quiet time for our Street Pastors with many people presumably spending money on Christmas rather than on a night out. At the beginning of December we noticed a lot more men out in Wantage than women. Many had had lots to drink, so the party spirit wasn't completely gone!

We're pleased to say that we didn't have to deal with any serious incidents in Wantage or Grove, although we were on hand to help calm a few heated discussions and of course we found plenty of ladies in need of footwear in the early hours.

One of our teams spent time with a distressed lady that we had first met several years ago. We spent time listening and encouraging her, and ensured that she was able to get home safely.

New Year's Eve was a very busy night with over 600 hundred people out in Wantage celebrating the new year. The evening was very good-natured and passed without major incident. We joined in with lots of people around King Alfred's statue at midnight and cleared up where a few glasses had got broken. At the end of the night, two men engaged in a heated discussion but were swiftly separated by each of their friends and the situation didn't escalate any further.

Thanks to everyone who supported our stall at the Dickensian Evening at the beginning of December and especially to all those that worked so hard to make the event so successful!

Best wishes for 2018 from all of us at Wantage & Grove Street Pastors.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 26 February — 11 March this year.

This is an opportunity to showcase your support for those producing food in the global south. Visit the Fairtrade Foundation website to download resources and learn more.

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight?utm_source=JPIT&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=9063323_January%20Praxis&dm_i=1MV9,5E9AZ,KYUW4K,KVNB4,1

Childrey

United Services:

February 21st at 11:30 am : Rev Keith Underhill at the Methodist Church

Church Council:

Thursday 1st March at 2:30 pm


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.

11th Wantage Come and Sing Messiah

Sunday 4th February 2018
St John Vianney Church,
Charlton Road, Wantage,
OX12 8ER



George Frederick Handel,
1685 - 1759

Doors open	2:00 pm
Rehearsal	2:30pm
Public Performance	3:30 pm

Musical Director :
Paul Hedley
Continuo :
Steve Bowey

Tickets:
Singers : £12 (concessions for under-18s)
Audience : £12
by phone / email or on the door
01235 763756 or wantage.messiah@gmail.com

Net proceeds to
Wantage Community First Responders

Grove

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 3rd February** in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am till 12 noon. Katie and Alex King are our hosts. Proceeds from the morning will be given to Project Ecuador, a small charity registered in Scotland, which works to sponsor children, especially girls, in some of the poorer areas of Ecuador to give them opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have. All are welcome.

Open House will meet on **Monday, 5th February** at 8:00 pm for a **Pancake Evening** at the Church.

Veronica has kindly agreed to cook pancakes for our annual evening, to be held at the Church again. Everything will be provided and will be £2 to £3 a head. Please let Lynda (01235 771554) know if you hope to come so that we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes!

Tuesday Fellowship Programme for February

- 6th Katherine Pickering
- 13th Tea and Chat at Church
- 20th Geoff Caudle
- 27th Michael Bailey, showing the second half of his film of South Africa

This month **Warmed Hearts group** will be looking at "What the papers say", on **Wednesday 21st February** at 8:00 pm at 12 Rosebay Crescent, Grove.

We enjoy a time of fellowship and discussion together and new faces are always welcome. We will be pleased to see you.

Further information from Peter Hemmings on 01235 762504.

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 16th February** at 7:30 pm.

We will be showing "**Still Alice**". 2014 12A 101mins

Dr Alice Howland is a renowned linguistics professor at Columbia University. When words begin to escape her and she starts to become lost on her daily jogs, Alice must come face-to-face with a devastating diagnosis: early-onset Alzheimer's disease. As the once vibrant woman struggles to hang on to her sense of self for as long as possible, Alice's three grown children must watch helplessly as their mother disappears more and more with each passing day.

Stars: Julianne Moore, Kirsten Stewart, Alec Baldwin, Kate Bosworth, Hunter Parrish

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

Handicrafts' Group

Come along for a "crafty" afternoon in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday 5th February** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Bring some craft work to do while having a chat and sharing ideas together. Tea/coffee and cake (gluten free also) included. £2 for the afternoon. All welcome.

We will be meeting at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove on **Mondays 12th, 19th and 26th February** to craft and chat together. £1 donation to Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink. All welcome.

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

Copies of the January/February quiz "**The London Quiz**" are still available from Sheila Hall (763135) at 50p. Closing date is **Sunday 18th February**.

Thank you to everyone who supports or arranges various events.

Proceeds of the December coffee morning for World Cancer Research Fund (Wantage area) amounted to £100.

The January coffee morning "to help roof the Preachers' Training Facility in Malawi" raised £90.10.

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 th February	Noreen Hemmings
11 th February	Audrey Hogston
18 th February	Judith Hopkins
25 th February	Joyce Horton

Transport to Church: If you are in need of transport to get to church, then please contact Peter Hemmings (01235 762504), who has a list of people willing to give lifts. He will do his best to arrange transport for you.

Grove Methodist Church

18th February 2018 : Evening Service at 6.30 pm

Local Arrangement

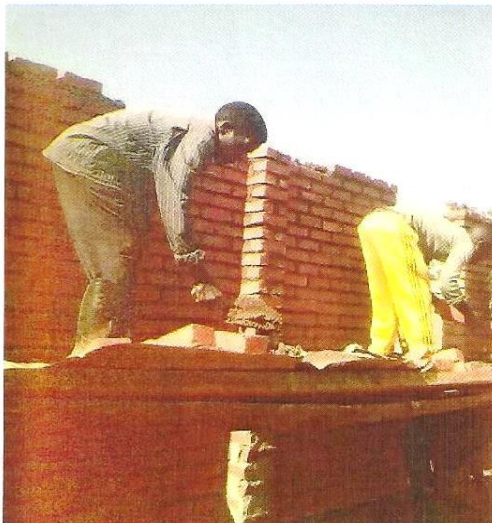
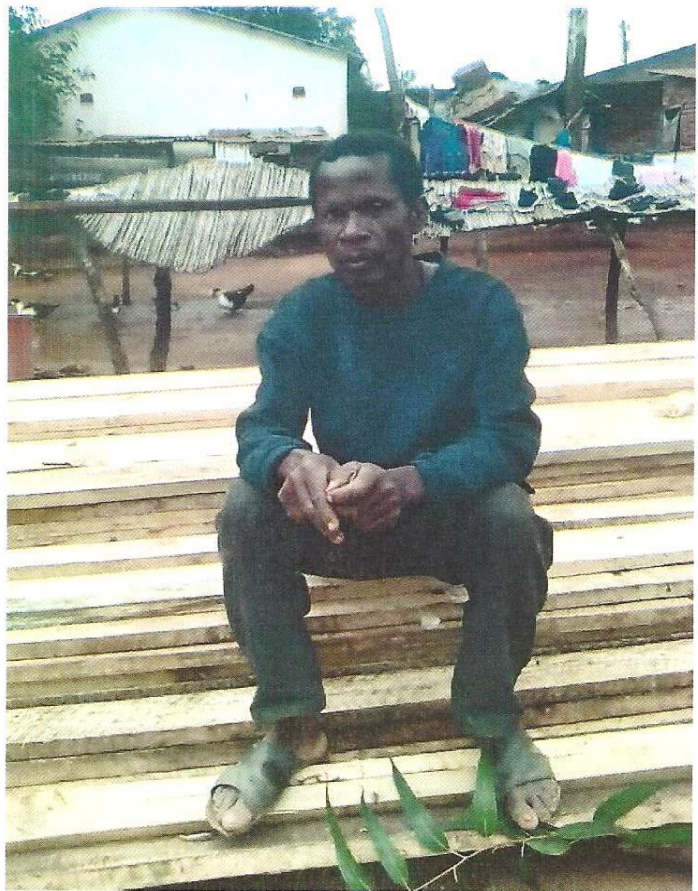
Speaker: Trevor Grant - Regional Manager, The Leprosy Mission

Tea and Coffee will be served afterwards

**Preacher Training Facility
Malawi 2017/18**

**Yotam Theu is building
a Preacher's training facility
in Mzuzu.**

**Yotam's Church (called Christian Church) have mobilised
to build a facility in Mzuzu where Christians can be trained to Preach
And lead the growing Church - about 15 Congregations strong now.**



The fabric of the buildings are mostly complete but funds are needed to roof the buildings which will be done with corrugated iron sheets.

Please help Yotam and his Church complete this vital project.

The target is to raise £1,000 by the Summer this year.

**Contact details - Mark Sandels, Grove Methodist Church,
Tel. 07788 712702, 27 Princess Gardens, Grove, Wantage,
OX12 0QN, email: msandels@ntlworld.com**

SERVICES FOR WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2nd March 2018 at Wantage Baptist Church at 1:15 pm
You are invited to a Soup Lunch at 12:45 before the Service.

Friday 2nd March at Grove Methodist Church at 8 pm


This year's service has been prepared by the women of Suriname. Suriname is on the north coast of South America. 90% of the population live in coastal areas (more than half in the capital Paramaribo. 10% live in the vast forests of the interior.

The official language is Dutch, but Sranan (Creole language) is also spoken.

Science & Faith: Big Questions in Faringdon Com Exchange

Thursday 8th February 7:30 pm
" *God or the Big Bang?*"

The Revd Dr Rodney Holder is a mathematician and astrophysicist, who has written and spoken extensively on cosmology and theology.



QUIZ & SUPPER


In Aid Of The Framland Pilgrim Home, Wantage

5:30pm Saturday 3rd March 2018
at Hanney Chapel,
Main St., East Hanney, OXON. OX12 0HX


***Supper includes; jacket potato & filling,
dessert and tea /coffee***

£8 per Adult £4 per Child (up to age 10 years)
£20 per Family (2 adults & 2 children)

Tickets available on the night but to aid catering, please reserve in advance
from: Dave Pepler, 9 Hunters Close, Grove, OXON. OX12 0PX
01235 766863 dave.a.pepler@gmail.com
Cheques to be made out to 'Pilgrim Homes'



Pilgrim Homes
175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE7 2JG
Tel: 0203 592 5400 Fax: 02030 802 1475 Email: info@pilgrimfriends.org.uk
www.pilgrimfriends.org.uk
Pilgrim Homes is a registered charity (company name: The Apost Pilgrims' Society)
and registered social landlord. Charity No. 242298. CIC No. A0422



Wantage

WORSHIP, PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

During January we watched the final DVD from the Bible Study Sessions led by Paul Smith at ECG this year, "Jesus in the Bloodstream" and made a start to a study of the President's Address to Conference. We also enjoyed an afternoon in discussion with Keith.

On **20th February** we will begin our **Lent Study** using this year's York Lent Course which is entitled "On the Third Day". If you would like to join us for this study, please let me know if you would like me to order you a copy of the booklet.

The details of the **February dates** are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 6 th | We continue our study of the President's Address to Conference.
This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting. |
| 13 th | No meeting - School holiday |
| 20 th | Lent Study: Session 1: Have I got news for you! |
| 27 th | Lent Study: Session 2: So what? The implications of the Resurrection |

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 email: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com or talk to me at Church.

Rota for Church Flowers

February

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4 th | Pam and Kelvin Rose |
| 11 th | Margaret Fordham |
| 18 th | Alison Phillips |
| 25 th | Eileen Rennie |

March

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 4 th | June Grunwald |
| 11 th | Margaret Fordham |
| 18 th | Meriel Robson |
| 25 th | Diane Barton |

Quiet Day

Would you like to spend some time up at St Mary's convent with time to wander in the grounds, attend the services if you wish, paint, draw, read, pray or reflect? With all this in mind I have booked the convent for **Saturday 17th March**, 9:30 to 3 pm and you would be really welcome to join me! Sister Elizabeth Jane will be giving a talk before lunch but apart from that, the day is yours to spend as you wish. The cost is £15 for the day including lunch - no deposit required but please email me or phone me before **Friday 9th March** to say you are able to come and if you have any special dietary requirements. Jane Kent (janekent@talktalk.net or 01235 765421)

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the many blessings we have already received in this New Year and for your presence with us in times of sorrow and trouble as well as times of joy. Encourage us now as we approach Lent to spend time in reflecting on the events of the final days of your son's life here on earth and of the great messages of your love for us that he left with us. It is so easy to take things for granted and to forget your great love for each one of us and your son's great sacrifice to set us free from sin. Filled with your grace and endeavouring to share your love with all those we meet day by day guide us to be good messengers of your love for all. We ask that you will bless us and those we share your message with and we pray that you will give us the words to reach through to them. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer list

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Bethan Grant, Lois Knighton, Jane, Sylvia,
Alan and Eileen Bunn and family, Alex and family, Barbara Phillips,
All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors,
YMOSES, kids@church and Street Pastors

Those members of our church family who, through frailty or 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 March Newsletter or you want to add anybody please let me know by **16th February** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie (Telephone: 01235 224284, email: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com)

Pastoral - *praying for each other*

In February the following people on **Ann Barber's Pastoral List** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Margaret and John Fordham, Lizzy Horton, Julie Horton, Alison and Clive Phillips, Gloria, Ken, Jordan and Zack Smith, Pam and Kelvin Rose, Liz Underhill and Amy Lancaster,

In addition to the names listed above, those in our church family, who through frailty or ill health can no longer worship with us on Sundays, will also be prayed for by name at Eileen's house-group.

Count Your Blessings in Lent

Leaflets from Christian Aid are available in the Chapel. They include a reflection for each day of Lent and practical opportunities to help poor communities round the world in thanksgiving for the blessings in our own lives. Please take one home with you.

The Bible in a Year - Keith's challenge to us all

We started on 1st September, and are challenged to join in reading the whole of the Bible in a year. There is an Old Testament passage, a New Testament passage and a Psalm / Proverbs passage for each day.

February's calendar readings are available on the website, as cards in the church vestibule and below.

The Bible in a Year - Month 6: February

Day	Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms
154	01-Feb-18	2 Samuel 3:22-5:5	Acts 1:1-22	Psalm 69:13-28
155	02-Feb-18	2 Samuel 5:6-6:23	Acts 1:23-2:21	Psalm 69:29-36
156	03-Feb-18	2 Samuel 7:1-8:18	Acts 2:22-47	Proverbs 14:5-14
157	04-Feb-18	2 Samuel 9:1-10:19	Acts 3:1-26	Psalm 70:1-5
158	05-Feb-18	2 Samuel 11:1-12:31	Acts 4:1-22	Psalm 71:1-8
159	06-Feb-18	2 Samuel 13:1-39	Acts 4:23-5:11	Psalm 71:9-18
160	07-Feb-18	2 Samuel 14:1-15:12	Acts 5:12-42	Proverbs 14:15-24
161	08-Feb-18	2 Samuel 15:13-16:14	Acts 6:1-7:19	Psalm 71:19-24
162	09-Feb-18	2 Samuel 16:15-18:18	Acts 7:20-43	Psalm 72:1-20
163	10-Feb-18	2 Samuel 18:19-19:43	Acts 7:44-8:3	Psalm 73:1-14
164	11-Feb-18	2 Samuel 20:1-21:22	Acts 8:4-40	Proverbs 14:25-35
165	12-Feb-18	2 Samuel 22:1-23:7	Acts 9:1-31	Psalm 73:15-28
166	13-Feb-18	2 Samuel 23:8-24:25	Acts 9:32-10:23	Psalm 74:1-9
167	14-Feb-18	1 Kings 1:1-2:12	Acts 10:23-11:18	Psalm 74:10-17
168	15-Feb-18	1 Kings 2:13-3:15	Acts 11:19-12:19a	Proverbs 15:1-10
169	16-Feb-18	1 Kings 3:16-5:18	Acts 12:19b-13:12	Psalm 74:18-23
170	17-Feb-18	1 Kings 6:1-7:22	Acts 13:13-41	Psalm 75:1-10
171	18-Feb-18	1 Kings 7:23-8:21	Acts 13:42-14:7	Psalm 76:1-12
172	19-Feb-18	1 Kings 8:22-9:9	Acts 14:8-28	Proverbs 15:11-20
173	20-Feb-18	1 Kings 9:10-11:13	Acts 15:1-21	Psalm 77:1-9
174	21-Feb-18	1 Kings 11:14-12:24	Acts 15:22-41	Psalm 77:10-20
175	22-Feb-18	1 Kings 12:25-14:20	Acts 16:1-15	Psalm 78:1-8
176	23-Feb-18	1 Kings 14:21-16:7	Acts 16:16-40	Proverbs 15:21-30
177	24-Feb-18	1 Kings 16:8-18:15	Acts 17:1-21	Psalm 78:9-16
178	25-Feb-18	1 Kings 18:16-19:21	Acts 17:22-18:8	Psalm 78:17-31
179	26-Feb-18	1 Kings 20:1-21:29	Acts 18:9-19:13	Psalm 78:32-39
180	27-Feb-18	1 Kings 22:1-53	Acts 19:14-41	Proverbs 15:31-16:7
181	28-Feb-18	2 Kings 1:1-2:25	Acts 20:1-38	Psalm 78:40-55

YOUNG CHURCH

YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday EveningS!)

It was great to meet up again in January and we really enjoyed our delicious biscuits, which had been very kindly donated! Thank you!

We had a great time playing a game which two of our members, Reuben and Evie, had designed. It was a role play game based on Bible stories and we all really enjoyed it.

We will be meeting next on **February 4th** at Chris and Charlotte's at 7:15 pm and we are looking forward to welcoming Luccia, who is joining us to share about her adventure walking from John O' Groats to Land's End.

YMOSES is a friendly discussion-based group for young people at secondary school and beyond! If you would like to join us, you'd be really welcome - please give me a call on 765421. *Jane*

Kids@Church

It was great to be back together again in January after the Christmas break. Keith told us the story of the exodus from Egypt in the Godly Play style, which kept the children captivated and then we sang 'We are marching in the light of God' accompanied by a multitude of instruments. After a prayer we listened to the Fischy Music song 'Bad times won't last', remembering that however hard things may seem 'Bad times won't last, nothing lasts forever, good times will come, things will get better'. We had lots of fun in the hall with the parachute before our drinks and snacks.

We will next be meeting on **Sunday 18th February** at 9:30 am in the church as we think about 'A Long Journey', our final part of Moses' story. If you have children, grandchildren, friends who are at primary school you would be really welcome to come and join in the fun! For more information please phone me on 765421. *Jane*

FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship

January

31st Malcolm Newton will be talking about Coronation Street star, Jean Alexander.

February

7th Shelley Edwards from Trading Standards will tell us how to avoid being scammed, e.g. doorstep, phone, etc.

14th Edward Fitzgibbon will talk about his lute and theorbo and will then play for us.

21st Reverend Keith Underhill will give us a talk entitled :
"Can You Taste the Story?"

28th Nathan Rooke from the Wantage and Didcot Fire Service will be talking about Fire Safety in the home and elsewhere.

Lunch Dates in February:

Friday lunch dates in February will be 2nd and 16th.

Sunday lunches will be 11th and 25th.

It is encouraging to see the numbers increasing over the last few weeks. The Sunday lunch money raised from Harvest to the end of 2017 has been pledged to All We Can, a total of £793. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you during February.

Please remember to **sign up** for Sundays by the preceding Wednesday or telephone Ann on 01235 767152 or Julie on 07812 370796 to book in or cancel, to help with catering.

MISSION & SERVICE

All We Can....Bring an egg-cup!

Cath Worth

Come for breakfast in the church hall before the service, from 9:30 am on **Sunday 4th March**.

We will be serving boiled eggs, toast & jam (or marmalade, if you prefer!) tea, coffee & fruit juice. There will be no set charge for breakfast, but donations to our All We Can Zimbabwe project will be welcome.

If you'd like to join us please sign up on the sheet on the notice board. And please do bring your own egg-cup!

A Message from Luccia

For those who did not see my thank you note in the Weekly Notices in December I would like to thank everyone for the support I received in prayer and giving to the charity, Rock2Recovery, whose mission is to support veterans and servicing personnel suffering from PTSD.

I finished my long trek from John O'Groats to Land's End on 7th December and raised £5212.84 for the charity. Rock2Recovery wish me to pass their sincere thanks to all who supported me as they continue Saving Lives and Changing Lives. I will be talking to YMOSES on 4th February about my walk and if anyone else is interested in hearing about my experience please talk to me. I would love to share it with you. In time I hope to catch up with you all personally.

Much love, Luccia Rennie.



Christmas Angels



Thank you to everyone who helped to make the knitted Christmas Angels project such a success. We certainly succeeded in our aim of sharing God's love and blessing the community with our little angels and their attached Christmas messages. It was a wonderful sight to see all 750 of them around the church when they were blessed at the service on 17 December. Little did we realise as we put them out at 5 am on Monday 18 December how quickly they would be picked up and what pleasure they would bring. By 9:30 am there was not an angel to be seen!

The Knit & Chat group which met to knit angels is continuing to meet in the Parlour at Wantage. At present we are knitting items to be sent to various charities who will send them on to help disadvantaged communities around the world. We are intending to knit angels for Christmas 2018 and will start in earnest later in the year.

Knit & Chat – **Monday 5 February** and **Monday 19 February**
Monday 5 March and **Monday 19 March**

Carolyn Roche (01235 764310)

Christmas Charities and Others

Church members and friends may be interested to know the results of our charitable collections at Christmas. They were:

Nativity Service, December 17th: Crisis £232 (with Gift Aid approx. £273)

Carol service, December 17th, and Christmas morning:

Homeless Oxfordshire £358 (with GA approx. £405)

Action for Children £290 (with GA approx. £324)

In addition, we have just sent off our third 'Partner Church' contribution to All We Can for £264, mainly money raised at the two Sunday lunches in December but also individual donations by two members. Our total of donations to All We Can as a Partner Church, since we started in October, is approximately £901. We have also just sent off a donation of £63 to Toilet Twinning to acquire our 10th 'Twinned Toilet'. Thank you to all who have contributed to this charitable giving total of over £1,200. Not a bad way to start the new year!!

Notes on Wantage “Awayday@Home”

Our “awayday” occurred on our own premises last Saturday 20th January. About fifty of us gathered and had a good day sharing together our hopes and dreams about the future of Wantage Methodists.

We started with a short act of worship in the Chapel.

In Isaiah 43 we read: “Stop dwelling on past events and brooding over days gone by. I am about to do something new....” This was very much the bidding of the day. We sang hymns 409 (Let us build a house whereAll are welcome) 660 (Called by Christ to be disciples every day in every place) and 658 (A charge to keep I have; a God to glorify) and shared time in prayer.

Then we reflected in small groups on what we valued about Wantage as a church community. What were the strengths of the church? Entitled “What’s in the pot?” it was a chance to reflect on the positive things about our church. Individually we put on a card what we saw as the good things and we put these “in the pot”.

After refreshment we resumed in the hall. Now we considered what we would write on a postcard to friends or family who had moved away in about 3 years’ time about positive changes to us in Wantage. What were our dreams of what good things could happen in the next few years? This was a chance to reflect on what we should be doing in the near future. Each of us wrote our own postcard and these were gathered together.

Thanks are due to the team that prepared a simple but wholesome lunch for us all of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. There was even a box of chocolates!!

Lunch complete and the adults reassembled in the Chapel for a final session. Now we were reminded of some questions to ponder:

What are our priorities? What should we maintain?
What do we do better than others? What could we be a centre of excellence for?
What new things should be doing? What should we stop doing?
What does it mean to be the Church in the world today?

Next we were reminded of five characteristics of fruitful congregations:

- Welcoming / hospitality / caring
- Responsive and actively inclusive
- Intentional spiritual development
- Participatory and collaborative leadership
- Enabling change – removing barriers

Then we reflected on these together again in small groups and comments were gathered on a flipchart.

Meanwhile the children had their own activity with Rosemary Perrow and two other friends from Abingdon where they built a house with different rooms with notes on the walls reflecting good and not so good things about church as they saw it. This was presented at the end of the afternoon and remained in the chapel for Sunday.

Keith and the stewards will be reviewing the input of the day and will be sharing this in due course. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to a useful and, we hope, stimulating day.

Property Matters

Lighting in the Chapel

Following the incident on Christmas Eve, we have had the contractors back to address the issues of the pelmet lighting. After a visit in January, the Architect has issued a report on the probable cause of the problem and negotiations are underway within those involved to reinstall the units in a way which will remove the problem and provide secondary restraint on the units.

For the time being chairs should not be set on the red lines in the carpet or closer to the walls.

Acoustics in the Chapel

It is proposed to install acoustic panels to the ceiling as this is expected to contribute the most immediate improvement. It will also limit the visual intrusion into the space. If necessary extra panels can be added to the walls at a later date. We are currently trying to determine the best product to use for this job.

Toilets

The toilets in the hall are being decorated and this should be complete by the end of January.

Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings

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:

Users' News

We welcome Cheek2Cheek on Friday evenings and Rock Choir on Tuesday evenings who started using our premises in January. From February, Age UK Oxfordshire who will be meeting on the second Monday afternoon of the month.

Weekly Bookings February 2018

Tuesday morn	MIND	Hall
Tuesday eve	Wantage Camera Club	Hall
Tuesday eve	Rock Choir	Chapel
Wednesday aft	Wednesday Fellowship	Hall
Wednesday eve	Wantage Stage Musical	Hall
Friday morn	Babes & Toddlers	Hall (not 16/2)
Friday aft	Caritas	Hall (not 16/2)
Friday eve	Cheek2Cheek	Hall
Second Monday aft	Age UK Oxfordshire	Parlour/Hall
Alternate Monday eve	Dietitian	Godfrey Room
Second Tuesday	My Life My Choice	Parlour
Last Tuesday	Rethink	Godfrey Room
Third Thursday	King Alfred's WI	Hall
Third Saturday	Dads Out	Hall

JANUARY

Saturday 27th day Holocaust Memorial Day Chapel

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st morn Youth Justice Godfrey
 Friday 2nd lunch Lunch Hall
 Monday 5th aft Knit & Chat Parlour
 Monday 5th eve Christian Aid Chapel
 Tuesday 6th eve Property & Finance Parlour
 Sunday 11th lunch Lunch Hall
 Friday 16th lunch Lunch Hall
 Monday 19th aft Knit & Chat Parlour
 Wednesday 21st eve Music Group Chapel
 Sunday 25th lunch Lunch Hall
 Wednesday 28th eve Worship Consultation Godfrey

MARCH

Monday 5th aft Knit & Chat Parlour
 Wednesday 7th eve Church Council Chapel
 Monday 19th aft Knit & Chat Parlour
 Monday 26th eve Holy Week Meditation Chapel
 Tuesday 27th eve Holy Week Meditation Parlour
 Wednesday 28th eve Impossible God All

2018 Publication Deadlines

March	18 th February	September	19 th August
April	18 th March	October	16 th September
May	22 nd April	November	21 st October
June	20 th May	Dec/Jan	18 th November
July/August	17 th June		

Wantage Annual Report March 11th

DIARY

FEBRUARY

Friday 2 nd	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p21
Saturday 3 rd	10 am – noon	Coffee morning at Grove	p13
Sunday 4 th	7:15 pm	YMOSES	p20
Tuesday 6 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Property & Finance Committee	
Thursday 8 th	2.30 pm	Grove Pastoral Visitors' meeting in the Meeting Room.	
Sunday 11 th	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p21
		Deadline for March Circuit Exchange	
Friday 16 th	12:15 pm	Friday Lunch at Wantage	p21
	7:30 pm	Grove Film Club “ Still Alice ”. 2014 12A	p13
Sunday 18 th	9:30 am	Kids@Church	p20
		Deadline for March Newsletter	
Wednesday 21 st	7:30 pm	Wantage Movers & Shakers for Mission & Service (at 63 Foliat Drive)	
Thursday 22 nd	8.00 pm	Grove Church Council in the Meeting Room.	
Sunday 25 th	9:00 am	Bible Study at Wantage	
	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p21
Wednesday 28 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Worship Consultation	

MARCH

Thursday 1 st	2:30 pm	Childrey Church Council	
Friday 2 nd		Women's World Day of Prayer	p16
	1:15 pm	at Wantage Baptist Church	
	8:00 pm	at Grove Methodist Church	
Sunday 4 th	9:30 am	All We Can....Bring an egg-cup! At Wantage	p21
Wednesday 7 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council	
Sunday 11 th		Deadline for Reports for Wantage Annual Report	
Wednesday 28 th	7:30 pm	“Impossible God” at Wantage	p6

Sunday Services – February 2018

	Childrey	Grove	Wantage
February 4th Ordinary 5	11:00 am Alan Smith	10:45 am Helen Carter 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill Worship through
February 11th Sunday before Lent Racial Justice	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Alan Grist	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 4:00 pm Andrew Lockley Film Plus	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Gill Morton
February 18th Lent 1	11:30 am Rev Frances Blood	10:45 am Dr Paul Williams 6:30 pm Local Arrangements	9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
February 25th Lent 2	11:30 am United Service Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Peter Hemmings 6:30 pm Stephen Atkinson	9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Geoff Caudle

