

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

# SECTOR NEWS

Incorporating Circuit Exchange

March 2017



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  
Mark Sandels : 01235 224083  
Doug Legge : 01235 751463

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

**Grove**

Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624

**Wantage**

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

Contributions for the **February Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017** to [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

**Regular Weekday Meetings**

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

**House Group at Wantage**

Weekly

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

Monthly

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

Are you giving up anything for Lent this year? Sugar in your tea or cream cakes for example?

In this period of Lent, our thoughts and reflections turn towards the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness where he was tempted. We also look towards the events of the passion that we recall in Holy Week.

So as we remember the gruesomeness of Jesus' passion and the hardships, trials and tribulations of the desert, isn't it a bit tokenistic and simplistic to give up chocolate?

The immediate answer of course is yes, which is why many people now sign up to do something positive, such as supporting Christian Aid's "Count your blessings", All We Can's "All together for justice" or the "40 Acts challenge - doing Lent generously".

Let us not though be too hasty or too judgmental about giving up our favourite brand of chocolate at this time of year, for it is symbolic of something much more important.

I remember a particularly popular chorus that I sang when I was about 14 and a member of a local Crusaders group. It began, *"If any man would follow, if any man would follow, if any many would follow Jesus, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross....."*

I was reminded of this because of the word deny. In the age in which we live, where there is a craving for immediate gratification and an expectation that nobody should have to wait for anything - the notion of self-denial is an anathema.

So giving up something for Lent is a symbolic reminder that self-denial is part and parcel of our pilgrimage and journey of faith.

We recall these words from our Methodist Covenant service;

*"Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us."*

Giving up something for Lent is a reminder of a truth and daily reality that is far bigger and more encompassing than a bar of confectionary. It is a reminder that, as we seek to be faithful in our discipleship, we may well be called upon to deny ourselves at a much deeper level, and an acknowledgement that we are prepared and willing for that to happen.

Of course, there is nothing to stop us from participating in both, by giving something up and making a difference, as we count our blessings, act together for justice and do Lent generously.

With Love and God Bless,

*Keith*

## **Ash Wednesday**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service in Wantage Methodist Church at 7:30 pm, which will include the ceremony of ashing and Holy Communion – all are very welcome. This service will be led by Rev. Keith Underhill.

There will also be ashing and communion during the Wednesday morning prayers at Grove Methodist Church at 7:30 am.

### **Wantage Methodist Church**

**An opportunity to reflect, think, pray or just to be.**

## *Space to Be*

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March                      “LENT”**

**9:30 am to 10:00 am:                      a short led reflection**  
**10:00 am to 11:00 am: a time to spend at prayer stations**

**Come for the led reflection.**  
**Drop in for to spend some time at the prayer stations.**  
**Coffee is available between 10:00 and 11:00 am**  
**All welcome**



## **ECG – Equipping, Calling, Going** **Scarborough 18<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Head north to Scarborough on the Tuesday after Easter for ECG - a five day Christian Conference** of worship, fellowship, prayer, teaching and fun.

It caters for all ages providing celebrations, all age worship, bible studies, seminars, entertainments and mission activities. This year ECG will be 10 years old so there will be a special birthday celebration on the final Sunday morning. Many of the speakers and delegates are from a Methodist background but speakers from other denominations are also invited thus providing a varied and interesting family-friendly programme. It is a time to reinvigorate one's spiritual life, spend time with God and hopefully be equipped to make a difference on returning home. This year's theme is 'Infusion- Jesus in the blood stream'.

Find out more at [ecgevent.org.uk](http://ecgevent.org.uk)



Quarterly Newsletter  
of the  
Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit  
March - May 2017

**From the Manse in Wantage...**

I remember during a conversation with a former colleague of mine a year or so ago now, he remarked how Easter Day was the most important day of the year.

He was of course spot on!

Don't let us forget that right from the very beginning the Christian community celebrated Easter; those events of the first passion were remembered and recalled each year – not so with Christmas. In fact, for the first couple of centuries, the early Christian Church did not celebrate Christmas at all.

At the very heart and centre of our faith, of all that we hold dear and believe, is the miracle of Easter. At the crux of all that we are about is a wooden cross outside the city wall that through suffering, torture and death, transformed all that we know and understand.

For out of the misery of Golgotha came the good news of the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. The miracle of the incarnation (of Emmanuel, God with us) reached its climax and fruition as he came amongst and alongside us once more in our daily lives.

Unrecognised at first, until he said or did something, the reality of resurrection struck home and those first disciples shared the good news that he was alive!

For from those two wooden beams roughly joined together, God's resurrection power brought life out of death, hope out of despair, love out of hatred, light out of darkness, strength out of weakness, victory out of defeat and forgiveness out of condemnation.

As we travel together through the Sundays of Lent, as we reflect on those passages which speak of suffering, betrayal and the solemnity of this Lenten season, we do so in the sure and certain knowledge that no matter what we have to face, no matter how dark the days, no matter what our own Good Friday experiences throw at us, Easter Day is just around the corner.

Easter Day, the most important day of the year!

Happy Easter to you all, 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:

<https://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**

Selina has been working and studying hard for a long time, and this all culminates this summer. Keith and many others have been submitting reports and feedback to support her in going forward for ordination at Conference in June. Before the Conference, Selina and the other Diaconal probationers will take part in a retreat at Ampleforth Abbey from 12 to 16 June.

Then, all being well, she will be “Received into full Connexion”, and ordained as a Deacon at a service in Darlington Street Church, Wolverhampton on Sunday 25 June. Selina will be allocated 30 tickets for this service, but further tickets will be available online from Monday 27 March. We plan to be well-organised and apply for enough tickets for all who want to go, so please let Selina or Keith Underhill know if you would like a ticket, in good time and certainly before 27 March.

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

Progress continues on all three chapels. Southmoor is sold subject to contract, and the sale may be completed by the time you read this. Upton has been approved for sale and will be on the market with Savills for sale by sealed bids. Further hurdles at Blewbury are still being resolved, but we hope to apply for planning permission imminently.

Thanks and congratulations are due to Mary Hancock for her persistence against all opposition in this endeavour.

## **Website**

The subgroup to produce a new and more effective Circuit Website is focusing its attention on creating a brief for ThenMedia, who are the preferred developer of the site having successfully delivered a new website for Wantage – see [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

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 disseminate information. Those interested will find a link for ThenMedia on the Wantage site, which might give an idea of what lies ahead.

We hope to have more to report in the next issue.

## Gentle as Silence - Silent Retreats at Douai Abbey, Berkshire



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.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Cost £205)

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June (Cost £450)

Organised on behalf of "reflect" - Methodist supporting retreats and spirituality.

The weekend retreat is mainly for those fairly new to silence, with several led sessions and the opportunity for a one-one time with a spiritual guide. The longer 5 night retreat is intended for those who wish to go deeper, with one led session and a one-one with a spiritual guide each day, thus leaving plenty of opportunity for encountering God in your own way.

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)

Tel: 01235 760488 ; email: [jnurdglaw@live.co.uk](mailto:jnurdglaw@live.co.uk)

reflect  
Methodists supporting spirituality and retreats

## **Circuit Steward team**

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

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

The Refresher Course for Creating Safer Space must be done this year by anyone who was trained five years ago and is continuing in their role. Keith Underhill will be delivering this training, on 29 March, 5 May and 27 June. These will be large-group sessions and we hope most of those needing the training will be able to attend on one of these dates.

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

## **It's time to Experience Easter**

This year is TrinityLearning's eighth Experience Easter.

Over 2000 children and 500 adults have journeyed with us, helped by volunteers from 12 churches. It's become an important part of the local schools' calendar and a major part of our mission.

Have you been.....?

Have you seen .....

Have you done .....

Have you felt .....

If not, then please join us. This year there'll be three ways of doing that.

On Thursday evening, Abingdon Gospel Choir will provide a musical back-drop for visitors – or you can just drop in on Saturday morning, to have a look around. But to really know what it's all about, join the team and come when the children are here.

This year we have 350 children booked in Thursday 30th & Friday 31st March. Could you help them hear the Easter story? The storytellers are a friendly, ecumenical team. You don't need theological expertise – training is provided and fulfilment guaranteed!

If you would like to know more about visiting or helping, please contact Rosemary Perrow, [trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylearning@gmail.com)

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
JOIN ABINGDON GOSPEL CHOIR  
for A MUSICAL JOURNEY  
8:00pm - tickets from church office

# EXPERIENCE EASTER at TRINITY CHURCH

*Share in the Easter story  
through simple reflective activities  
and think what it all means to you*



Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April  
ALL-AGE  
DROP-INS  
10:00am-12:00  
Free admission

## **COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS TO GREAT WESTERN PARK**

The Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit invite applications for two part-time posts (12 hours per week each) for Community Chaplains to Great Western Park.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of an innovative and focused expression of ministry, based at the new housing development at Great Western Park in Didcot, where 3,300 new homes are being built, with about half of them now occupied. The successful applicants will be a Christian presence and act as chaplains to those who live, work and play on this growing housing development. The chaplains will be supported by the Methodist Church and will use a converted motor home as a mobile base.

The successful applicants will be undertaking pioneering work, in collaboration with ecumenical partners from churches in Didcot, to establish a chaplaincy approach and will in due course inspire others to become volunteer chaplains, to expand the work on GWP and in other new housing areas in the town and circuit.

*It is an occupational requirement for the person appointed to be a professing and practising Christian (Equality Act 2010.)*

Enhanced DBS and references will be required.

For further details (including salary, terms and conditions etc,) and an application pack please contact

either

Revd Katherine Pickering (01235) 813242

[katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk](mailto:katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk)

or Revd Keith Underhill (01235) 763321 [keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk](mailto:keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is 12 Noon 17th March 2017.

Shortlisting 22nd March 2017.

Interviews to be held on 30th March 2017.

### **Community Chaplains for Great Western Park**

Most of you reading this will know of the Circuit's initiative to respond to the huge new housing development at Great Western Park near Didcot by establishing a small team of Chaplains to work there. Good progress has been made since the last issue of the Circuit Exchange. We have been awarded a grant of £30,000 by the Methodist Church nationally, which together with similar funding from our Northampton District and support from the Circuit, means that we have a financially viable project. We also have consent from the District to advertise these posts of Community Chaplain – as we have decided to call them – hence the appearance of the above advertisement.

What we need most of all now is for as many of you as feel able, to pray that the right people will see our advertisement (which is being placed widely outside the Circuit, as well as within it) and be inspired to share our vision and apply for the posts. You may even feel inspired to apply yourself, or to suggest to someone else that they might apply! We plan to hold interviews on 30 March, with the aim of the Chaplains taking up their posts on 1 May or thereabouts.

Some of you may wish to share our vision but not be sure exactly what it looks like. We might summarise as follows:

- We wish, through our Chaplains, who will work from a base not in a Church building (where we expect people to come to us) but in a motor home which can go to where people are, to bring a visible and accessible presence for Christ to every aspect of life on Great Western Park.
- We hope – no, we expect! – that some of you will be so inspired by learning what our Chaplains do that you will wish to volunteer as a Chaplain yourself.
- We also believe that, in time, some of you will be inspired to seek to establish Community Chaplains for areas of new housing all across our Circuit, because our full vision is that what we are starting here is not just for Great western Park: it is for everywhere.

But, for now, please pray...

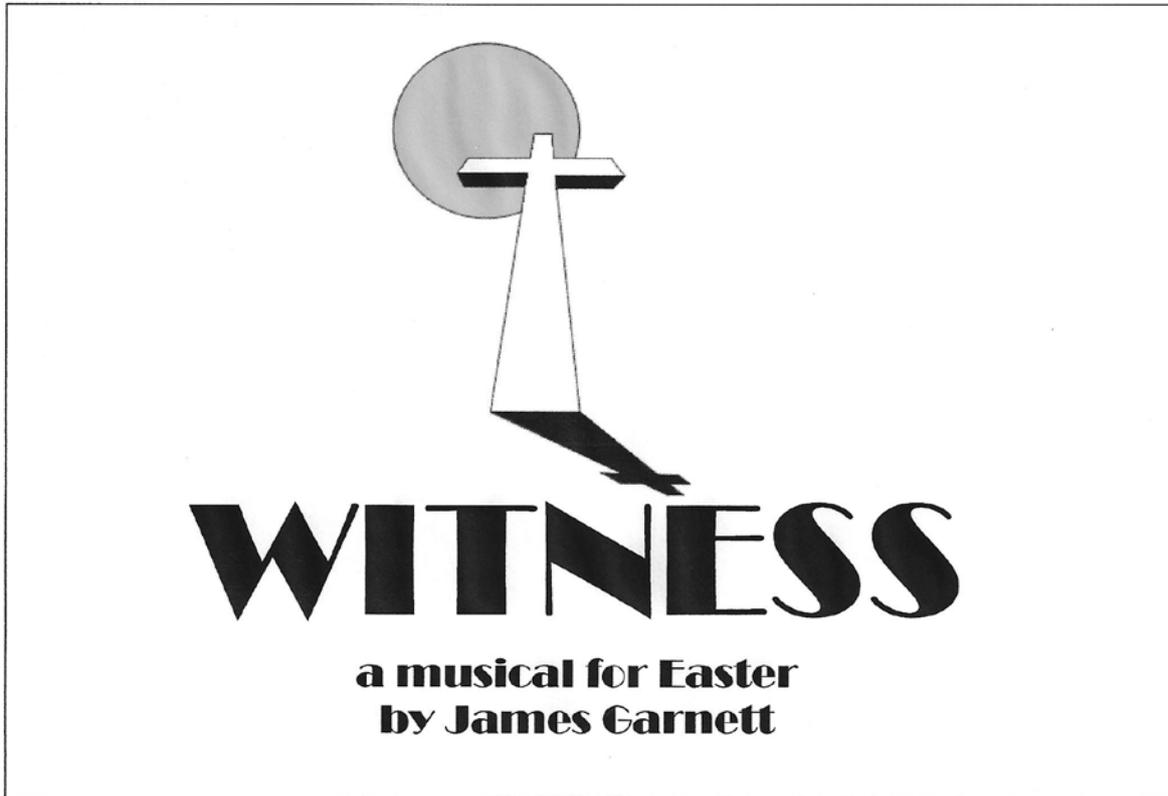
Alan Smith

*Please pray for:*

- The process of employing these two people – that the right people will be inspired to apply
- All those involved in that process – especially those who will interview and decide who to appoint
- The purchase of a suitable vehicle to act as a mobile office and visible presence
- Katherine Pickering as she takes on the extra role of line-managing the chaplains once they are appointed
- 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.

**Take part in...**



**Sunday 9 April, 4pm**

*Singing, Acting, Moving Together*

*For ages 9 upwards*

**At Trinity Church, Abingdon**

*Rehearsals: 1, 2, 7 & 8 April 2017*

*To book a free place:*

Email: [trinity.abingdon@gmail.com](mailto:trinity.abingdon@gmail.com)

Phone: 01235 520282

## **CYMG - Circuit Youth Music Group**

The normal activities of the CYMG will be replaced in March and April by rehearsals for and the performance of "Witness".

If you have any questions please email [gill.skidmore32@gmail.com](mailto:gill.skidmore32@gmail.com).

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

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

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

**Young people from the age of 9**, whether connected to one of our churches or not, will be very welcome to come and join in. CYMG will not meet in its usual fashion in March and April. Instead we will be rehearsing at Trinity Church, Abingdon at the following times:

Saturday 1 April, 2.00 – 7.30

Sunday 2 April, 2.00 – 7.30

Saturday 8 April, 10.00 – 5.00

Sunday 9 April, 10.00 – 3.30

Auditions for the **solo parts** will be held at Trinity on Sunday 5 March between 2.00 and 5.00. There will be two additional rehearsals for soloists (at Trinity), as follows:

Saturday 18 March, 2.00 – 5.00

Saturday 1 April, 10.00 – 1.00

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

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

## **3Generate 2016**



It took place from 25-27 November at the PGL Centre in Swindon and included children and young people from all over the Connexion, organised in 3 age-streams: 8-11s, 11-18s, 18-23s. We are very grateful to the churches, circuit and district for generous support for this event. A group of 8 children went from Didcot and Wallingford and all of them had a great time. They wrote about their experiences, and an article compiled by Katherine and Ian Pickering will shortly appear on the Connexional website with more of what they wrote, but here is a taster!

### ***8-11s programme – Michael Frimpong, Chris & Ryan Maponga, Irene Obeng, Edward Swift:***

“Everyone gathered and we had worship with the puppets and they did a story showing nothing can buy love... We did outdoor activities - I chose archery and it was great fun... We had an 'Engage' session. I did a session called “Making a difference” with Vice President Rachel... We all voted for youth president then had a manifesto session about being agents of change... We did worship with the gospel choir it was really good!”

“We played some games and learnt about Christianity and there were puppet shows of bible stories. We saw some magic tricks which were really epic! I made loads of friends. We met important church people. I enjoyed it!”

“We had dinner then watched a puppet show, had a reflection time before starting the SILENT DISCO!!!! We were given wireless headphones connected to 2 stations and partied for 1 hour until it was time to go to bed.”

“The songs were good and helpful because they helped us learn. I particularly liked the song about the shepherd losing one of his 100 sheep because he didn't give up in finding him.”

“Thank you for the opportunity to go to 3Generate as I have learnt lots of things that I couldn't have learnt anywhere else.”

### ***11-18s programme – Toby Caudle, Sean Maponga, Andy Obeng:***

“My outdoor activity was vertical challenge where you had 4 obstacles to climb up: a ladder, tyres, rock climbing and nets... (then) a short "Butty Break" for bacon sandwiches... We met the youth president candidates and asked them why they'd like to be voted for the position and how they'd help with the Methodist Church, especially the youth.”

“Great fun. There was lots of things to do, my favourite was the Survival activity, where we built shelters and made fires. We had an assembly each day which involved music, singing and prayer. The discussion groups about the church were very interesting. It was good to do these things with people my own age.”

“For the activities, I had chosen Giant Swing, it was extremely scary! We had so much to do on Saturday- we did worship for an hour, we had silent disco, games room and the lounge. I met so many people- very kind and interesting people!... I will never forget 3Generate 2016- truly remarkable! I wish it lasted longer.”

### ***From a taxi-driving mum:***

“It's easy to forget you're a part of something so much bigger than the church you attend... I would have loved to have had the opportunity to attend something like this when I was young.”



### **Circuit directory – corrections**

A number of corrections to the paper Directory have been flagged up, and the list has been sent to those whose email address is included. If you are in the Directory and don't use email, please obtain the corrections from your church's email contact person, and mark up your own paper copy accordingly; they will not be published widely, to preserve people's confidentiality. The online Directory has been updated with all the corrections.

### **More news from wider Methodism**

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

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

### **CIRCUIT MEETINGS / EVENTS**

Tues	7 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm	Local Preachers Meeting at Wallingford
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup> March,	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Childrey
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	John Bell LP Study Day at All Saints
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> April	4.00 pm	Witness at Trinity
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> May	4.00 pm	Testimony Service at Trinity
Wed	24 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30 pm	Circuit Leadership Team at Grove

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

# The Big Sing

With John Bell



**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Wesley Memorial  
Methodist Church,  
New Inn Hall Street,  
Oxford, OX1 2DH**

**Come and join us for an evening of singing together led by John Bell of the Iona Community and BBC 4's Thought for the Day. No musical experience needed!**

**7.30 – 9.30PM**  
INCLUDES INTERVAL

**TICKETS**

**Adults £7.50**  
**Students and under 18s £5**

Oxford Playhouse [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com) 01865 305305  
or on the door

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

## Caritas children's choir

### Inaugural concert, Friday 31 March, 7 pm, Wantage Methodist Church

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



# Mother's Day

Come and celebrate Mother's Day with us and have

## *Cream Tea or Afternoon Tea*

'Everyone is welcome'

The Cornerstone invites you to come and enjoy a Cream Tea or a Afternoon Tea to celebrate Mother's Day whether you're a mother or not.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2:30-4pm

&

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2:30-4pm

Cream Tea includes;

Unlimited Tea or Filter Coffee

Mini Sandwich Selection

Homemade Scones with Clotted Cream & Jam

A small table gift to take home with you

£9.50 per person



Afternoon Tea includes;

All above &

Glass of Sparkling Elderflower Presse

Mini Cake Selection

£13.00 per person

Bookings to be taken before the 5<sup>th</sup> March

Call 01235 772280 or e-mail [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)

*(Please advise with any allergies on bookings)*



Cornerstone Christian Centre is a Registered Charity No.1046923  
Registered Office: Grove House, Grove, Wantage. OX12 7PF Company No. 3060710 V.A.T. No.685-6254-96

Our Mission Statement says, 'The Cornerstone shall be a place where all will be welcomed and valued for who they are, not for what they can do, and where God shall be glorified in our dealings with each other.'

## Housing Justice group

The number of toiletry items donated for use by those who are homeless in Oxford was overwhelming! A huge 'THANK YOU' for all the gifts.

By the time you read this, many will have been used by men and women using the facility that was opened up by a charity using St Aldate's church. For the whole of February this church opened its doors every night for those seeking a safe space to sleep - not just on the coldest of nights. O'Hanlon House is often full at this time of year and so this has offered additional facilities for those who would otherwise be on the streets. Any surplus toiletries will be donated to the homeless projects in Oxford, of which there are several.

Rest assured that the gifts will be welcomed and not having to spend money on such essentials will help each of the projects prioritise spending their precious funds to help those they serve.



# QUIZ & SUPPER

*In Aid Of New En-suite Facilities  
at the Framland Pilgrim Home, Wantage*

**5:30pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
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](mailto:dave.a.pepler@gmail.com)  
Cheques to be made out to 'Pilgrim Homes'

Pilgrim Homes  
175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AL  
Tel: 0300 303 1400 Fax: 0300 303 1415 Email: [info@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk](mailto:info@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk)  
[www.pilgrimfriends.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimfriends.org.uk)



Pilgrim homes is a registered charity (formerly known as 'The Aged Pilgrims' Society')  
and registered social landlord. Charity No. 242266, RSL No. A0822

## The Wisdom House – Live (2017 tour)

An evening with best-selling author, Rob Parsons

**The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES 15 March, 7:30 – 10:00 pm**

Rob Parsons is a very well-known and well-regarded Christian speaker. He leads 'Care for the Family' an organisation who help families through various crises such as family break-up, death of a spouse, death of a child, adoption, caring for a handicapped child, bringing up a family as a single parent and many other issues.

Tickets are available from the Care for the Family website:

[www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wisdomhouselive](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wisdomhouselive) or call **029 2081 0800**.

**Care for the Family**

**2017 TOUR**

*the wisdom house - live*

*Because you don't always have to learn the hard way*

Tickets from **£4** each

**Join us at a venue near you:**

<b>WATFORD</b> Tuesday 14 March Hilton Watford, Hertford Suite, Elton Way, WD25 8HA.	<b>OXFORD</b> Wednesday 15 March The King's Centre, Osney Mead, OX2 0ES.	<b>BRISTOL</b> Thursday 16 March Elim Bristol City Church, 3-15 Jamaica Street, BS2 8JP.
<b>EDINBURGH</b> Tuesday 21 March Central Hall, 2 West Tollcross, EH3 9BP.	<b>YORK</b> Wednesday 22 March The Gateway Church, Front Street, YO24 3BN.	<b>MANCHESTER</b> Thursday 23 March King's House Conference Centre, King's Church, Sidney Street, M1 7HB.

**For more information and to book:**  
Visit [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wisdomhouselive](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wisdomhouselive) or call **029 2081 0800**.

All events  
**7.30 pm – 10.00 pm**  
(doors open at 6.45 pm)

WHS13-18P5T

## **Workshop on spiritual care and support during old age, at the end of life and in dementia**

**Wantage Community Church** is organising a morning workshop on spiritual care and support during old age, at the end of life and in dementia. Louise Morse from the Pilgrims Friend Society is coming to lead the morning, along with some other experts in this field. Louise is a writer and speaker and has published a number of significant books on dementia.

All of us, our friends, and our families will all die, most of us will also grow old, and every three minutes someone in the UK develops dementia.

We all need to be better equipped to walk with people through these challenging times. The world has few answers and has little hope to offer in these situations, but Jesus can make all the difference.

I do hope some of you will be able to join us as it should be a very inspiring and empowering time.

The workshop is on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, starting at 10:00 am and finishing at around 1:00 pm, at **The Kings Centre in Osney Mead, Oxford**. Parking available. (directions at [www.kingscentre.co.uk/find-us](http://www.kingscentre.co.uk/find-us)).

There is a suggested donation of £5 to attend to cover our speaker's expenses. Please pass details of the workshop on to anyone who may be interested.

Please email Liz Neve at [elizabeth@neve.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@neve.co.uk) if you would like to attend, or would like any further information.

# What does it take to change ... really change ... the way things work? Meet Greg Valerio, MBE, Fairtrade Gold Pioneer



“Few can claim to have precipitated fundamental change in the jewellery business, but Greg Valerio is one of those who can.”

Gaetano Cavalieri - Pres of The World Jewellery Confederation

“Greg Valerio unveils the ugliness of the beauty business. His truth has a sting, but he also has an unflinching, contagious hope that a better world is possible.”

Shane Claiborne - Activist and Author

MBE for his work helping artisanal miners and establishing Fairtrade gold...Greenbelt regular ... Observer Ethical Awards Global Campaigner ... award-winning jeweller - Greg Valerio is one of a kind. He'll be sharing his story and inspiring us for Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond!

**Shrove Tuesday, 28 February 7:30 pm**  
**Wesley Memorial (John Wesley Room)**  
**New Inn Hall St, Oxford**

**Registration essential: 01235 851763 or**  
**online at [www.ccow.org.uk/events](http://www.ccow.org.uk/events)**

**Pancakes with Fairtrade toppings will be served**

Sponsored by CCOW, the Diocese of Oxford, and Fair Trade at St Michael's

# **Childrey**

**Tear Fund Lunch:**                      **No lunch** in March

**United Services:**                      **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
11:30 am                      **United Service of All Age Worship at St Mary's**

Childrey is pleased to be hosting the **Circuit Meeting** on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**.

## **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.

## Grove

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March** in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am till 12 noon. Our host will be Judith Hopkins with family and friends. Handmade cards for birthdays, Easter and other occasions will be on sale. Proceeds are for "Freyja's Fund", which is a fund set up at the J.R. Hospital by Freyja's family so that Clic Sargent social workers can access money quickly and easily as needed to help children who have cancer and their families. Your support will be appreciated.

**Open House** will meet on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March** at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room for "**Railway memorabilia part 2**"

John Stead and Bob Cottrell have kindly agreed to share with us Bob's wonderful collection of railway memorabilia and he will talk about his interest in all things railway related! This should follow on nicely from John's very interesting collection, which he shared with us last September. Refreshments will be served half way through the evening. Everyone is very welcome.

Further information from Lynda Culley, telephone 01235 771554 or 07759 085336.

### **Tuesday Fellowship**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| March 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Lady coming to talk about the Letcombe Brook Project.   |
| March 14 <sup>th</sup> | Looking forward to a visit from Malcolm Newton, talking about Jean Alexander. Childrey members are invited. |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup> | Peter Hemmings will be coming to talk to us.  |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup> | Visit to Cornerstone  |

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** at 7:30 pm.

*Please note: this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in March.*

We will be showing "**Woman in Gold**" 2015 114mins 12A

*Maria Altmann, an octogenarian Jewish lady, who fled the Nazi scourge to settle in California, takes on the Austrian government to recover artwork she believes rightfully belongs to her family.*

*Stars: Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Daniel Bruhl.*

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

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

**Warmed Hearts group** will meet in March but the date and venue have still to be arranged. Details will be given in the church notices and for more information contact Peter Hemmings on 01235 762504.

## Handicrafts' Group

We are meeting in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March**, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm when we are making a "flower corsage" with Sue Parnell. *Please bring a small sewing kit; also, if wanting to match an outfit, bring your own cotton materials (10cm by 60cm). Otherwise materials will be provided.* Or you are welcome to bring along your own craft to do while having a chat and sharing ideas over tea/coffee and cake. £2 for the afternoon. All welcome.

We will meet at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove, on **Mondays, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March** to craft and chat together. £1 donation to the Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink.

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

The March / April **quiz sheet** will be available at the beginning of March, from Sheila Hall ( 01235 763135), 50p each.

**Thank you** to everyone who supports or arranges various events.  
The February coffee morning raised £154.80 for "Project Ecuador".

Peter Hemmings is looking for people to host or to share in **hosting coffee mornings** on the first Saturday of the months during 2017. Some dates have already been booked, but there are still spaces. If you are willing to help, either by sharing with someone or hosting a morning, please get in touch with Peter (telephone: 01235 762504). Thank you.

## Flower Rota

5 <sup>th</sup> March	Audrey Hogston
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Judith Hopkins
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Joyce Horton
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Lesley Hummerston

**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 Shoebox Appeal Christmas 2016.

Just to say again a big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way. We have recently heard that 43,928 shoeboxes were collected and taken to Eastern Europe. An increase of almost 4,900 on last year. Thank you.

The Shoebox Delivery diary is now on the **Link to Hope website** – [linktohope.co.uk](http://linktohope.co.uk)  
Please look at it if you can. It makes very sobering viewing when you see how some people are living, but it is also humbling to see how much the shoeboxes are appreciated.

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines and the theme of the Service is "**Am I being unfair to you?**"

At lunchtime, the service is hosted this year by Wantage Christian Fellowship. It will take place at **Wantage Baptist Church** in Mill Street.

**Soup will be served from 12:00 noon.**

**The Service begins at 1:00 pm**

In the evening, there will be a service  
at **Grove St John's Parish Church at 8.00 pm.**

All are welcome at either or both services – men, ladies and young people.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines and the theme of the Service is "**Am I being unfair to you?**" On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, the day of prayer will have already begun when the sun rose over Samoa and the first service will have already taken place.

We are now part of a great wave of prayer that will continue to go round the world until the last service is held as the sun sets over American Samoa. During this time, an estimated 3 million men, women and young people in 170 countries and islands will have prayed with and for the people of the Philippines. In the British Isles alone, some 6,000 services will have been held.

WDP began as separate days of prayer organised by individual denominations in America in the mid-1800s and has now become a truly international and ecumenical day of prayer. Just as our prayers encircle the world, so God encircles us with His love.

We thank all the people of the Philippines who have contributed in any way to the preparation of the worship service and the resource materials. Just as they began to write this service, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines and caused much destruction. The people of the Philippines earnestly need our prayers.

Life in those islands must go on despite all the natural disasters and the different living conditions. The people go in faith, knowing that God is with them.

We look forward to sharing in the service with you.

# Wantage

## **Congratulations to Rodney Deval**

Wantage Camera Club recently celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their formation and Rodney, as the sole remaining founder member, received an engraved glass Rose Bowl to mark his special association with the club over the last fifty years. The Camera Club was one of the first local organisations to rent our Church Hall for its weekly meetings, and continues to meet here every Tuesday evening. We offer Rodney and Glenys our warmest good wishes as they celebrate this unique award.

## **FELLOWSHIP, STUDY & REFLECTION**

### **Tuesday Afternoon House Group**

In February we studied the Vice President's Address to Conference and her Address to The Methodist Parliamentary Covenant Service.

In March we will be studying this year's York Lent Course, "Receiving Christ". Full details of this are in the February Newsletter.

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

7 <sup>th</sup> March	Receiving Christ as children of God - Session 1 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Receiving Christ in the stranger and the needy - Session 2
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Receiving Christ in Holy Communion - Session 3
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Receiving Christ through prayer and fellowship - Session 4

Looking ahead to Holy Week, we will again be visiting St. Mary's Convent to be accompanied round the **Stations of the Cross** by a Sister for meditation, prayer and reflection. This will be on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** at 2 pm. If you would like to join us please **let me know by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**.

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.

### **Lent Groups for 2017**

If you would like to be part of a Lent Group following the same York course as Eileen's group, Alison Phillips is happy to organise an extra house group. The dates and venue are not decided yet, but if anyone has a particular time or venue of preference Alison would take that into consideration. Please come and talk to her if you are interested. Thank you.

## Wednesday Fellowship

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Our friends John and Janet Hendy will come to bring us up-to-date with the work that they do for the communities in the Ukraine.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Richard Hummerston will be showing us a few short videos of the work and training of Guide Dogs for the blind.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Eve Newton will be showing us pictures of the holiday that she and Malcolm went on in Constable country.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> We will have a programme of readings and hymns for Lent.
- 29<sup>th</sup> We close the term with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Keith Underhill.

**Summer Term** begins on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### Lunch Dates

**Friday Drop-in lunches:** There will only be one Friday lunch in March that will be **March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March.** The first one in April is on **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Please make sure you are **signed up** for Sunday lunches by the **Wednesday** before the lunch (1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>).

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

## WORSHIP

### Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service in Wantage Methodist Church at 7:30 pm, which will include the ceremony of ashing and Holy Communion – all are very welcome. This service will be led by Rev. Keith Underhill.

There will also be the ceremony of ashing and communion during the Wednesday morning prayers at Grove Methodist Church at 7:30 am.

### Church Flowers

#### MARCH

5<sup>th</sup> Mary Trotter  
12<sup>th</sup> June Grunwald  
19<sup>th</sup> Meriel Robson  
26<sup>th</sup> Diane Barton

#### APRIL

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

## PRAYER

### Prayer list

*Loving God, from thankful hearts we praise you for the wonderful world you created. Help us to be true to you in the decisions we make for caring for your world. We thank you for the beauty of the Spring world as we see new growth appear and feel joy in the birth of new life on our farms. We pray that we allow this new life to be part of our Christian life, enabling us to grow more and more in our faith. Bless each one of us as we travel on in our faith journey through life.*

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Phoebe and family, Bethan Grant, Adrian Richens, Lois Knighton, Eileen and Alan Bunn and their family, Jade and Harrison, Rex and June Hartle, Marion Jones, Jane, Vivienne, Brian Soffe, Ken, Gloria, Zack, Jordan and Jennifer, YMOSES, kids@church, Street Pastors and all at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors. 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 April Newsletter or you want to add anybody please let me know **by 17<sup>th</sup> March** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

*Eileen Rennie (Telephone: 01235 224284; e-mail: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com)*

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

In March the following people on **Diane Barton's and Alison Brown's Pastoral Lists** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: June Coppock, Glenys and Rodney Deval, Hilary Rewcastle, Mary and Robin Trotter, June and Alan Grunwald, Jane Robinson, Joyce Sharp, Judith and Michael Skinner, and Geoffrey Stokell.

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

### **"Space to Be"**

Space to Be is a monthly time for prayer in the Chapel. Anyone is welcome .

The next Space to Be will be on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** starting at 9:30 am with a led meditation on the theme of "**Lent**" for half an hour.

The timings are now:

- A time to spend at prayer stations will be available from 10 am to 11 am and coffee will be available during this time.
- Come for the led meditation which starts at 9:30 or drop in any time between 10 am and 11 am to spend as much or as little time as you like at the prayer stations.

If you would like to know more, then please ask Helen Carter, June Grunwald or Jane Kent or email June on [jnurdglaw@live.co.uk](mailto:jnurdglaw@live.co.uk)

April's date is **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**.

## **A Spring Quiet Day to stop, reflect and pray...**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, 9:45 am - 2:30 pm at St Mary's Convent, Wantage.  
Open to everyone!

Outline of the day:

- 10 am Eucharist in St Mary's chapel, followed by coffee
- 11 am Talk given by Sr. Elizabeth Jane on imaginative prayer  
Time to enjoy the grounds, read, rest, draw, paint ...
- 12:30 pm Short service in the chapel  
Lunch – soup / rolls and a fresh fruit platter
- 2:15 pm Closing liturgy  
Optional tea and cake before heading home

The price for the day is £15 including lunch and all refreshments.  
To **book a place** or if you have any questions please email me at [janeKent@talktalk.net](mailto:janeKent@talktalk.net) or phone me 01235 765421

## **YOUNG CHURCH**

### **YMOSES**

Our next get-together will be at the Worths' home on **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:15 pm.  
If you are at secondary school and would like to come along and try our faith-based discussion group you would be more than welcome. Please give me a ring - Jane Kent (01235 765421)

### **Kids@Church**

We spent some time thinking about the story of Daniel in the lion's den. We watched a video clip called 'The scary sleepover' so we invited the children to wear onesies or pyjamas and lots did! We talked about how David felt throughout this inspiring story and as we reflected on the amazing truth that God is with us at ALL times (good and bad) we sang Doug Horley's song 'God can do anything' with lots of actions. We went through to the hall and played sleeping lions (Gosh we must have some world champions at that game!) and then made lion masks/pictures from paper plates. We adults really enjoyed the morning and hope the families did too!

**Next K@C** is on **Sunday 19 March** at **9:30** with the title '**Jesus and the children**'.  
If you have primary school aged children or grandchildren you are really welcome to come along and join this friendly congregation!  
Any questions please don't hesitate to phone me on 01235 765421 (*Jane Kent*)



OPEN HOUSE at

32 PRIORY ORCHARD, WANTAGE

SATURDAY 18 MARCH

Raising funds for MHA

COFFEE MORNING – 10am – 12noon

AFTERNOON TEA – 2pm-4pm

Raffle + Bring and Buy

Heather Wells is running the London Marathon for MHA. She is aiming to raise as much money as possible for the charity. Please come and support her hard work by joining Carolyn Roche at her house for morning coffee or afternoon tea.

### **An invitation to a Norwex Party, a healthy home party**

Norwex's mission is to radically reduce the chemicals in our homes. It will be a fun evening and refreshments will be served. On **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at 7.30 pm at Heather's home (73 Orchard Way, Wantage ) **All proceeds to MHA.**

Please **RSVP** to [heatherwells@quavas.com](mailto:heatherwells@quavas.com) or 01235 763023.

### **New Wantage Methodist Website**

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

This is our on-line presence, allowing others to find out more about us, who we are, and what is happening in the life of Wantage Methodist Church. In other words, our shop window in the digital world!

It is also for us as well. With all sorts of information, church diary, up-to-date news, publicity and details of forthcoming events, as well as reports on what has happened.

Do take a look, let us know what you think and let us have any contributions.

Thank you.

*Keith, Gordon and June*

## News from Down under

Greetings from Darwin! We are experiencing a very wet season with a monsoon trough over the north of Australia. Last Saturday saw 202mm of rain, and today it has been raining non-stop for hours. Apparently February is the wettest month of the season.

After unpacking all our belongings (and all my teapots in one piece!), we had a very relaxing and quiet Christmas and new year, just what we needed that after all the activity over the past few months. Whilst Victor started back at work early January, Daniel and I enjoyed a few lazy weeks of school holiday. Since schools break up close to Christmas, the new school year only starts late January. We visited a few local spots, like the war museum (Darwin was heavily bombed in the Second World War), the wildlife park, the Museum of Art and Natural History, and a few local nature spots. I spent my time catching up on lost sleep, watching movies, reading, having long chats with friends and family in South Africa, taking walks by the seaside and getting up to date with my photos, which I have paid very little attention to since leaving South Africa. I scanned in all my photos from negatives from the days before digital (close to 3000 photos spanning 1988-2003!), and I sorted close to 18,000 digital photos from the last 13 years.



Not long after I wrote to you in December, I was offered a full time teaching position for senior Maths at one of the best schools in Darwin. It was an absolute answer to prayer and I am happy to report that I have absolutely loved my first few weeks. I teach primarily at the senior college of the school, which is based at Charles Darwin University, away from the main school campus about 4kms away. I however have one class at the middle school, so I commute 4 out of 5 days between the two campuses. I don't really mind as it gives me the opportunity to familiarise myself with the working of both campuses, and getting to know staff in both sections of the school. The first few days of teacher orientation was a very positive experience. There are 4 other staff members from South Africa, and the teacher whom I replaced was also a South African! Students are generally well behaved and keen to learn, and all of my students except one very vulnerable boy handed in their first homework.



After much deliberation over the holidays, we decided that Daniel would join the same school, so he had to start again from scratch.... Poor thing! But he seems to be OK and slowly starting to make friends. He catches the bus to school and back as I leave early and stay late, but he is enjoying the independence.



We have settled down at the local Baptist Church and Daniel has also started attending Youth. The congregation is very welcoming and we have enjoyed attending services on Sundays.

Unfortunately, I have been suffering from a stabbing pain in the bottom of my left foot (called "plantar fasciitis") for a few months and it has been getting progressively

worse. My home treatment wasn't working and I am now on a mixture of physiotherapy, orthopaedic socks and orthopaedic shoes, and stretching exercises.

~ ~ ~

We've settled down in our little weekly routines of work, shopping, weekend barbecues, church and a dinner or two now and then with colleagues in laid-back Darwin. Greetings from Down Under..... until we speak again, mate!

## **WANTAGE**

**Church Council 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

**Please could all reports or notices of business for Church Council be sent to Alison Brown at [alison.brown18@btopenworld.com](mailto:alison.brown18@btopenworld.com) no later than March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Annual Church Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> April**

In preparation for this we prepare an Annual Report to record what has happened in our life as a Church since March last year. **Please can all reports from each group be with Gordon & Gill Skidmore by Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

Email address for the annual report is [wmcannualreport@gmail.com](mailto:wmcannualreport@gmail.com)

## Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings for March/April

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

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	eve	Ash Wednesday Service	Chapel
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	morn	Visit by Bicester Methodist Church	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	aft	Private Party	Hall
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	aft	Private Party	Hall
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	eve	Worship Consultation	Parlour
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	eve	Church Council	Chapel
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	eve	Wntg & Grove Campaign Grp AGM	Chapel
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	eve	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	morn	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	eve	Caritas Concert	Chapel
Mon - Wed 10 – 12 April	eve	Holy Week Meditations	Chapel
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	eve	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	morn	Wantage Community Church	Chapel
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	eve	Wntg & Grove Church Partnership	Chapel
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Private Party	Hall
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	aft	Annual Church Meeting	Hall

## Chapel & Hall Rooms' Regular Users

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

## DIARY

### February

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 12 noon Latin Link Coffee Morning at Wantage

### March

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 am Prayers for Ash Wednesday at Grove p4  
7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Wantage p4/28

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** p26

2:00 pm Service at Wantage Baptist Church

7:00 pm Service at St John's Church Grove

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 12 noon Coffee morning at Grove p24

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm Sunday Lunch at Wantage p28

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTS FOR WANTAGE CHURCH COUNCIL** p33

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 12:15 pm Friday Lunch at Wantage p28

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 9:45 am – 2:30 pm Quiet Day at the Convent p30

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Circuit Meeting at Childrey p15/23

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am kids@church at Wantage p30

12:30 pm Sunday Lunch at Wantage p28

**APRIL SECTOR NEWS DEADLINE** p16

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 am Space to Be at Wantage pp4/29

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 pm Wantage Church Council p33/34

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Film Club at Grove : "Woman in Gold" (12A) p24

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am John Bell LP Study Day at All Saints p15

7:30 pm The Big Sing with John Bell p16

at Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> **WANTAGE ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE** p33

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Safeguarding Refresher Course p8

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 7:00 pm Caritas Childrens' Choir Concert at Wantage p17

### April

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm "Witness" at Trinity pp12/13

## Sunday Services – March 2017

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 1</b>	11:00 am Tabitha Griffiths	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Tabitha Griffiths	10:30 am Worship through Quiet
<b>12<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 2</b>	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Malcolm Newton 6:30 pm Peter Hemmings	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Marlene Chalkley
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 3</b>	11:00 am Libby Bolton	10:45 am Michael Howlett 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Lent 4</b> <b>Mothering</b> <b>Sunday</b>	11:30 am United Service All Age Worship at St Mary's	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Marlene Chalkley	10:30 am Rev Ian Griffiths