

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR

  
The **Methodist** Church

# CGW NEWS



MAY 2024

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

When Keith is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below, who will put you in touch:

Helen Carter : 01235 764810  
Ian Sturt : 07426 772761

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

**Grove** Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624  
**Wantage** Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 07710 214601  
email : [wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com](mailto:wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com)

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (June) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

e-mail : [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)

Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

## **Sunday Services and Church Activities**

**Wantage Morning Worship is shared each week on Zoom at 10:30**  
(for access to this please contact Gordon Skidmore)

**Grove web site** is found from [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)  
**Wantage web site** [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)  
**Circuit web site** [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

## **CGW News Contribution deadline dates – 2024**

June	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer (July/August)	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
September	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August
October	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
November	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October

## From the Manse.....

This month sees us celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit – that transforming moment when those frightened and timid disciples experienced God’s power as wind and fire.

Malcolm Guite, the poet/priest who I have often used before in my letters, offers us this sonnet for this most important of celebrations.

*“Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.”*

It is a sonnet that gives us hope for the days in which we live – for when we are surrounded by the angry and violent words of clashing nations, of different ideologies and the polemic of those we disagree with, it is the notion of love flowing from the Prince of Peace that we hold on to. We recall the plea of the hymn writer Fred Kaan:

*“Unite us all to live as sisters, brothers,  
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!”*

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

**Please come and join the Local Preachers and  
Worship Leaders for a circuit service at 4:30 pm  
on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May at Milton Methodist Church**

## **Circuit Meeting Plus #3 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

The Circuit Leadership Team invite you to the third and final Circuit Meeting Plus event at All Saints Methodist Church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May – from 9:30am – 12 noon.

The focus on this gathering will be on “What should Presbyters be doing?” as together we seek to discern what their priorities should be.

Keith, Bruce, Ian and Selina are currently working on a paper that will be circulated beforehand. In the meantime, you might like to consider that when Methodist Presbyters are ordained they hear the following words as the congregation stands to affirm their calling;

*“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I declare that you have been ordained as Presbyters of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Christ.*

*Remember your call.*

*Declare the good news*

*Celebrate the sacraments*

*Serve the needy*

*Minister to the sick*

*Welcome the stranger*

*Seek the lost.*

*Be shepherds to the flock of Christ*

*As you exercise mercy, do not forget justice*

*As you minister discipline, do not forget mercy;*

*That when Christ the Chief shepherd comes in glory He may count you among his faithful servants.”*

But how does this work in practice and what do these words have to say about the reality of what Presbyters should be doing.

It is important that we have good representation from all the churches in the Circuit to help us identify priorities for the future.- so please do come along if you are able.

## **Stepping out with Noah in May**

There will only be one walk this month which will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 2:30pm

The actual route will be emailed to all those who are interested during the week leading up to the walk, to take into account conditions underfoot as well as the weather etc. If you'd like to be notified of the details, then please do let Keith know.

This walk will start **in the car park at Wantage Methodist Church**

## **Printing at Wantage Methodist Church**

We are the proud keepers of a new photocopier. This edition will be the first serious print run on it.

It is not the same as the previous one, being from a different maker (Canon rather than Sharp) so if you need to use it, please talk to Gordon Skidmore or John Carter before you do so for the first time.

## The Methodist Church – Learning and Development Newsletter

### Message from Richard Armiger

One of the things that I enjoy doing when I am not working is walking in the countryside or by the coast. I was recently able to spend some time on the south coast at Southbourne. I had taken my son down to Southampton University for him to attend a placement conference as he is currently in his third year at university and coming towards the end of his placement year. I dropped him off at Southampton University in the morning and knew that I had 3-4 hours to occupy before he would be finished for our journey back home. I chose to head to the coast and spent a couple of hours walking along the seafront from Southbourne to Mundeford Spit. The walk takes you along the promenade and then up to Hengistbury Head walking through the nature reserve before reaching the beach huts that line Mundeford Spit.



I am not sure about you but I am aware that whenever I am able to be by the sea I instantly notice that I feel more relaxed and calm. It offers me an instant de-stress that only takes a matter of minutes to notice. It doesn't matter what the weather is doing, if it is sunny, windy, raining or dry, in all weather there is something special about being by the sea and the beach. Along the way I was able to pause and enjoy the views, the wildlife and the sea as the waves rolled onto the beach. It offered an opportunity to take the time to notice some

of the wonders and beauty of God's creation. It was an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, a chance to reset and recharge. There was also the opportunity for lunch at the Café at Mundeford Spit too! It was also enough time for the car to be fully re-charged ready for the return journey to collect Jacob from Southampton and then back home.

Whilst it was only a relatively brief time I recognise the need to make the most of the opportunities that are available to spend time in nature, time by the sea, time to replenish my energy levels.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to make time and space to engage in whatever offer you with an opportunity to relax, re-energise and notice the world around you.





Flourishing is the theme for this month and so it seems appropriate to encourage opportunities to engage with nature and God's creation as this often reminds and prompts us to reflect on how we are called to consider our individual and collective response in being called to care for creation and all God's gifts. You can find out more about this station on the discipleship journey [here](#).

The 'Pause for thought' prompt encourages us to reflect on the question:

### **What would you do about caring for creation if you knew you couldn't fail?**

There is also a reminder that if you are interested in having conversations like this with your friends, neighbours and community, you can buy [Conversations Against Mundanity](#) now.

As you will already be aware The Methodist Church, as part of our commitment to care for God's creation, has set an aspirational target of becoming a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030. Many districts, circuits and churches have already begun to work towards net zero goals, an Eco District award, or other aims in caring for creation. You can find out more about the Action for Hope project, which provides more information on how we are working towards this target by 2030 [here](#).

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.  
(traditional gaelic blessing)

*Richard Armiger*

*Head of Ministries and Learning*



### **Social justice and evangelism webinar: Finding Jesus on the streets. 10 June, 7pm**

This webinar is for anyone interested in exploring the most sustainable and impactful ways to do mission. God invites all of us to join in with the work of Kingdom building in our local communities, what does that mean for us? Come along and hear stories, share stories, and explore how 'love in action' is at the intersection of justice work and evangelism. [Book your ticket](#).



**3GENERATE** 2024  
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October  
NEC Birmingham

Join one of these  
three fabulous  
volunteer teams

Bring your gifts and help make 3Generate 2024 happen. With roles to suit all skillsets, join a fabulous volunteer team and have a weekend to remember.

Find out more about different roles and sign up below:  
[www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols](http://www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols)

Care Help Engage

"Witnessing the entry of those children with their leaders and the caring way the team welcomed and prepared them was completely amazing."  
2023 Volunteer

Volunteering for 3Generate is now open! There are plenty of different ways to join the team and help make the event happen. [Here's Jude](#) sharing why volunteering matters.

There is a powerpoint slide show and A5 postcards available to help promote volunteering. If you'd value these resources to encourage people to consider joining the team please send us an [email](#).

Let's share the news far and wide and encourage the church to get involved. And why not consider the opportunity yourself too? Check out this link: [Join the Delivery Team](#) for further information.

### 3Gen 24 ticket launch!

Tickets for 3Generate 2024 are now on sale! The Children and Youth Assembly is back at the NEC in Birmingham from 4 – 6 October.

Watch the brand-new [promo video](#)

Do be spreading the word and encouraging churches and circuits to make plans together so that as many children and young people from across the life of the Church can participate.

Click [here](#) to book tickets and further information.



**3GENERATE** 2024  
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October  
NEC Birmingham

Tickets on  
sale 16<sup>th</sup> April

A weekend to remember for children and young people! Start making plans to bring a group to 3Generate 2024.

If you need help in planning your group, contact us at:  
[3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Tune in What is God Saying What is next?

"I kept describing the weekend as a calming balm. I was so encouraged by the wide range of different young people and their views. And that the focus was on helping them tune-in with God."  
2023 Volunteer

Do explore the revised Methodist Church web-site: [methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk)

It has been totally updated and there is much there to explore.

## Cornerstone News – May 2024

### Join the team

We are blessed with a very friendly team made up of a small team of paid staff and a large team of volunteers. We currently have one paid cook vacancy for 9.15-2.30pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Our volunteer shifts are just two hours long and we are looking to cover a number of regular gaps on our rota for serving in the café, washing up and helping in our Christian Bookshop. If you are interested in any of these roles, either call or email our Manager Sarah (details below) or why not drop in and meet our team?

### Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** at 12.30pm – please do book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

### Outside catering

We are able to supply outside catering for your events – please contact us for more information.

### Meal vouchers

We did our Free Breakfasts slightly differently in the Easter School Holidays, handing our vouchers to be redeemed from our marble jar. These vouchers are valid till the end of the summer so if you know a family who would benefit, let us know. If you want to contribute – ask at the till about buying some marbles.

### Fathers Day – 15<sup>th</sup> June

Looking ahead we have cards and items suitable as gifts for Fathers such as mugs, pens and socks.

### AGM

Our AGM will be held on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm – more details to follow but please make a note of the date.

### Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** at 8.30am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Blessings

Sarah Shewring

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Tel.01235 772280 email: [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)





# Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

## Quarterly News – April 2024



I love Spring! Every year I make a note of the day that I first see snowdrops in bloom - and then daffodils - and then bluebells. Spring is such a hopeful time. Hope for warmer weather, more daylight and an expectation of new life literally springing forth out of cold, hard ground. We've been

patrolling in Wantage and Grove for nearly 15 years, which is a massive achievement - but God is doing a new thing in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors - something new is springing forth! Later this year we will start patrols on Friday afternoons. This is something we have hoped for for a long time. Just like snowdrops breaking through winter's landscape, this new aspect of our ministry is springing forth. It's not too late to join us and be part of this new work of God. The more people we have, the more Fridays we can cover each month. Check out our website for more information ([bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons](https://bit.ly/wgsp-afternoons)), give us a call or send us an email.



*Nigel Watt Coordinator*

### How we helped on the streets

Street Pastors enjoyed fairly peaceful patrols in February and March – in part due to cold or wet weather, which usually encourages people to head home fairly quickly.

One night Street Pastors heard a thud followed by laughter and went to investigate. A lady had fallen down between the pavement and a parked car. Our team went to help get her up and check that she was ok.

One of our teams cleared up a lot of broken glass (mostly vodka or wine bottles) from the Undercroft car park, from outside Sainsbury's and from the corner of Grove Street and the Market Place.

Another team met a young man who was struggling to walk having injured himself on a skateboard earlier in the

day. We helped him get to the bus stop and made sure he headed home safely.

We met a young man who recalled a time when he met Street Pastors while he was drinking in Wantage park underage. He was proud to tell us that he has a job now and doesn't drink as much, he doesn't stay out late and even walks away from fights. He then told us we should bring back Vimto lollies. We are please to say that Vimto lollies are now back!

We spent a lot of time chatting to different people. One young man we had met some months previously and who had shared some of his mental health struggles with us, and another young man who had been injured in a fight.

We helped one man by charging his mobile phone so that he could call his brother.

Street Pastor teams now carry StopTopps for anyone who is concerned about drinks being spiked. StopTopps are foil labels that can be placed over a glass to help prevent anyone putting something into your drink.



For more information visit [stoptopps.com](http://stoptopps.com)

### **Do you know Pete Beckley?**



“Do you know Pete Beckley”? This has been a regular question asked of fellow Street Pastors on patrol. It seems that everyone knows Pete!

Sadly it's time for us to say farewell to Pete, as he's moving to Plymouth later this year.

Pete joined as a Prayer Support Volunteer way back in June 2011. But in 2014 he trained as a Street Pastor before becoming a Senior Street Pastor in 2017.

We are also grateful to Pete for his service as Chair of the Committee between 2017 and 2018. So, big thanks go to you Pete, for all your caring, listening and helping in our town. We will miss you ...as will many of the people we meet on the streets! I am sure we'll be answering that same question for a long time to come!

### **Congratulations to Reading 15 Years!**

Congratulations to Reading Street Pastors who are a few months older than we are. They celebrate 15 years of patrols on Saturday 11 May from 5 pm at Greyfriars Church, Reading. They'll be commissioning new Street Pastors from 7.30 pm. If you would like to attend, please email their coordinator, Sally Leonard, on [reading@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:reading@streetpastors.org.uk)

## Committee Goals 2024/25

Each year our Management Committee sets goals to help focus our efforts and to ensure that we continue to serve our community well. We centre our goals around the key areas of delivering patrols and online presence, finances and relationships.

Here is a summary of our 2024/25 Committee Goals:

### ► **Delivering Patrols and Online Presence:**

- ✧ Increase numbers of volunteers, Street Pastors & Prayer Support Volunteers
- ✧ Online Networker to continue to grow our social media presence including Street Pastor messages and Bible verses
- ✧ Pursue Daytime Patrols to start on Friday afternoons

### ► **Finance:**

- ✧ Secure funding to cover our costs £15k - £20k target for this year
- ✧ Hold at least one fundraiser and one awareness event in the year

### ► **Relationships:**

- ✧ Complete the transition of WGSP into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- ✧ Recruit two new Trustees, especially for the Secretary role.
- ✧ Work with statutory and third sector agencies to help people in the night time economy

For more information about our goals, please do talk to a Trustee or send us an email.

Website: [www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk)

Email: [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)

Mobile: 07554 655 594

Facebook: [facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors](https://facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors)

Instagram: [wantage\\_grove\\_pastors](https://www.instagram.com/wantage_grove_pastors)

TikTok: [wantage\\_grove\\_pastors](https://www.tiktok.com/@wantage_grove_pastors)

Registered Charity: 1134429

Supported by grants from

Oxfordshire County Council

Wantage Town Council

TVP PCC Community Fund

Grove Parish Council

Thank you to all our supporters!

Street Pastors is an initiative of Ascension Trust, a Christian, inter-denominational organisation with a passion to empower individuals to work together within their local community and nation.



# Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS



## Afternoon tea

...and Commissioning Street Pastor  
and Prayer Support Recruits

*Everyone Welcome!*

You are warmly invited to our afternoon tea and  
commissioning of new Street Pastors  
and Prayer Support Volunteers

**3 pm, Sunday 19 May 2024**

**Wantage Baptist Church**

Mill Street, Wantage. OX12 9AQ

**Tea - Coffee - Fruit Juice - Cakes - Scones - Jam - Cream**

From 4 pm we will be commissioning  
our new Street Pastors and  
Prayer Support Volunteers

**Please RSVP by Thursday 9 May**

**Online form:** [www.bit.ly/wgsp-19may](http://www.bit.ly/wgsp-19may)

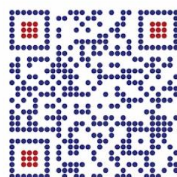
**Phone:** 07554 655 594

**RSVP**



Refreshments by  
**Cornerstone**

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors  
Registered Charity 1134429



## A Caring Community for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Established in 2013, the [Trinity Centre in Cardiff](#) coordinates several charities who support refugees and asylum seekers, enabling them to care for some of the most vulnerable people in their community.

Trinity Methodist Church is just minutes away from the busy city centre of Cardiff, perfectly located close to the Home Office and the refugee centre. With its impressive steeple, the church is an iconic building on the skyline of the Welsh capital.

In 2013 the Methodist congregation who met at Trinity decided that they could no longer afford to maintain the building. The Methodist Church in Cardiff and Caerphilly stepped in and reopened the building as the Trinity Centre which is now known as a safe place for refugees and asylum seekers. “They wanted to sell the building, but we suggested creating a refugee centre instead; a place where they would feel safe,” says Revd Irfan John, Methodist minister and Synod Enabler for the [Wales Synod](#).

The charity Space4U gives clothes and toiletries to those in need, the Welsh Refugee Council and Displaced People in Action support children and families, while Blend is a community café for refugees and asylum seekers to hang out with warm drinks and cakes to have a chat.

On Fridays, the whole building is a women-only space so that women can feel comfortable enough to remove their headscarves if they wish so.

The Trinity Centre is currently closed for a long-awaited refurbishment until the summer 2024. For the moment, all the charities are housed in nearby churches. After the reopening of the centre there will be much better toilet and kitchen facilities, heating, lighting and a lift so the first floor is more accessible. The refurbishment is possible thanks to grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and funding from the circuit and district. “When they all move back it should be a much brighter, much better space and we hope to be able to engage more actively with the local community,” explains Heather Cox, treasurer of the Trinity Centre, “We did think about buying a new building but decided against, Trinity Church is where we need to be.”

Despite the busy time, the Trinity Centre staff are resolutely looking towards the future and what they can achieve. They want to engage with local schools and have an exhibition at the Cardiff Museum. “We want to make the whole of the community aware of the building, what it is used for and engage them in what's happening here,” confirms Heather. They have set themselves a target of more than 40,000 people coming through the building annually once it is reopened, compared to 18,000 now.

The Trinity Centre welcome is so warm that former asylum seekers, whose asylum claim has been successful, often stay around and volunteer to help and care for the refugees and asylum seekers who come behind them.

## **CHILDREY**

Please note that there will NOT be a service on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** as planned.

On **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, the Chapel will support the Pentecost service at St. Mary's Parish Church (which will be a united service) at 10:15 am and look forward to worshipping with our Anglican friends and neighbours on this special day.

The service on 26<sup>th</sup> May at the chapel will go ahead as planned.

**26<sup>th</sup> May**

**Trinity Sunday**

**11:00 am Morning Worship** led by Stephen Atkinson

### **Prayers**

We remember in our prayers:

Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren. John Cliffe. Keith, and all members and supporters of Childrey Methodist Chapel.

The congregation at St Mary's, Childrey and the people of the village.

All those unknown to us who are in need of our help and prayers.

## **GROVE**

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for Christian Aid** on **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May** from 10 am till noon in the church. Peter and Noreen are our hosts for the morning. Martin and Judith Smithson hope to join us too as they will be in Grove for the weekend. Martin is leading our Anniversary worship tomorrow. We hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Help with providing cakes and also on the morning would be appreciated. Please speak to Noreen if you are able to help.

We celebrate our **Church Anniversary** on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**.

Rev Martin Smithson is leading our morning worship at 10.30 am and this will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Linda Jones has a sign up sheet for all those who are interested in coming to the lunch. She is also gathering offers of contributions, savoury and sweet, towards the Shared Lunch. Please talk to Linda or one of the other stewards if you are interested.

**Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival”** is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May** at 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

**Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing “Surprised by Oxford”.

*Emotionally guarded Caro Drake arrives in Oxford with the singular goal of attaining her Ph.D., but through a turbulent friendship with a charming young man, Caro begins to open herself up to mystery, vulnerability and love.*

*Cast: Rose Reid, Ruairi O’Connor, Phyllis Logan, Emma Naomi, Simon Callow, Mark Williams*

All are welcome. Admission is free; a small donation helps to cover the cost of licences and DVDs. Masks are optional.

**Please note: There is a change of date for Film Club in June.** It will be on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June** – the fourth Friday. We will be showing “The Great Escaper”. Hope you can join us.

**Tuesday Fellowship for April** will meet on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April** at 2.15 pm. We are having afternoon tea at the Cornerstone. Do join us if you can. All are welcome.

**Tuesday Fellowship for May** on **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May** at 2.15 pm. Brenda Groves and her granddaughter Chloe are coming to talk to us. The venue will be decided nearer the time and published in the weekly notices. All welcome.

**Craft Group** meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm. All are welcome. Bring your own craft to do and enjoy a chat and exchange of ideas with other crafters while you work. We each give a donation of £1 to Cornerstone and buy a drink of our choice.

**Thank you** for your support for the Wateraid Coffee Morning in April. The sum of £204 was donated on the morning and there is a further £50.49 from the tax rebate to add to this. So a total of £254.49 is being sent to Wateraid. Thank you to everyone.

Thank you also to all those who generously continue to support the Foodbank by putting contributions in the box in the entrance hall week by week. **Thank you.**

All your contributions are very much appreciated. The need is still great.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems. We trust that, with care, life has opened up again for you.

**Little People & Wantage and Grove Children's Clothes Bank**

'Thankyou very much for all your recent donations of clothes, food and Easter eggs. All very much appreciated. (Especially the eggs!)

Currently we are short of clothes for 3-5yr old girls, any donations would be gratefully received.

Tessa - Little People

Helen - Wantage and Grove Children's Clothes Bank

email - w.g.clothesbank@gmail.com '



# **WANTAGE**

## **Wantage Methodist Church - looking to the future**

On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** from 9:30 to 12 noon we will be holding our second special open meeting as we continue to look to the opportunities as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

This meeting will build on last year's and will continue to deal with the sustainability of the Circuit and how this will impact on us as a church here in Wantage as we plan for the future when the Circuit reduces to two Presbyters who will be based in Abingdon and Didcot.

In all of this, we look to the future in a spirit of faith and trust knowing that God will continue to bless us.

It is important that as many people as possible from across the Church community come along so that together in our listening and our conversation we can begin to discern the way forward.

The Church Leadership Team looks forward to seeing you there - in the meantime, if you have any questions, queries, concerns, or suggestions please do let either Keith or the Church Stewards know.

## **Holy Habits**

The next Holy Habit theme "Fellowship" will cover the months of June, July and August. We will follow the pattern of previous themes with one Sunday per month focussing on fellowship.

We will be watching the film "Paddington" date t.b.c. and the suggested books for this period are still being finalised and will be announced shortly.

## **Christian Aid Lunch - May 12<sup>th</sup>**

As part of the Holy Habit of Eating Together, we will be sitting down to lunch together after the service on Christian Aid Sunday. The menu is to be quiche, new potatoes and salad. If you are able to offer to make a quiche or salad, please talk to Carolyn Roche or Helen Carter. If you have dietary requirements which would exclude you from eating the suggested foods, please speak to us. Please don't be excluded - we are sure we will be able to accommodate your needs.

## **Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home**

*June Grunwald*

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30-45 mins. In April we looked at John 20:11-18 (Jesus appears to Mary) and on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**, which is near Pentecost Sunday we will look at Acts 2:1-13. Keith will also join us in May and will lead Holy Communion. Residents really appreciate people from our church joining in their study and we often enjoy fellowship with a cup of coffee in the Elmbrook lounge afterwards.

## Prayer list

### A prayer that we will seek for God

Holy God, you are our greatest treasure, may we search you out in the darkness of our pain and in our light-filled joy, and in the everyday ordinariness of our lives.

When we do not, or cannot, or do so without enthusiasm, touch us again with the flame of your love and enliven us.

You made us to be like you, to bear your love and to be your faithful witnesses, may all that we are, and do and long to be, give you glory and praise. Amen.

*Helen Cameron, District Chair, Northampton District*

### **Please pray for**

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright & family, Caroline, Geoff, Doug & Anne Hatto, Richard in York, Edwina, Adrian, Louise, Diane, Meriel, Maggie, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, June Hartle, Jane Robinson, Richard & Anne, Peter, John & Jo, Jane & Harry Rudd, Mary Spalding, Jane & Emma Softe & family, Trudy, Jade, Sue, Gordon, Findley, Ann & family, Norma. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors. Our Ministers, Deacon, Community Chaplains, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders, kids@church and Street Pastors, Cornerstone and 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 June newsletter, please let Carolyn know by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May** in order to meet the newsletter deadline.

Carolyn Roche: telephone: 01235 764310      email: [ciroche48@hotmail.com](mailto:ciroche48@hotmail.com)

**Lunchtime prayers** - We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1 pm for 30 minutes to pray for those on our prayer list, and also include other prayer requests placed in the outside box and on the prayer tree. All are welcome to join us in the vestry for that time of prayer.

If you would like to know more, please speak to Helen Carter.

### **Knit & Chat**

*Carolyn Roche*

This month Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** and **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May** at 2 pm in the Hall. Come and share in an afternoon of companionship, chat and knitting – or whatever other craft you are currently doing.

If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

For those of us who ventured to the Millennium Stones early on Easter Day, the emergence of the pale sun above the horizon after sharing Holy Communion together, was the perfect setting in which we could once again make our joyful proclamation, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah".

Whilst we celebrate together at this happiest time in the Christian calendar, we are mindful of the continuing difficulties for some of our church family. In our thoughts and our prayers we remember the family of **Joan Kidd**, who has died aged 102. She transferred her membership to us after moving into Fleur de Lis soon after it opened, and worshipped with us whilst she was well enough to do so. Joan's Thanksgiving Service will be at the Parish Church, to fulfil her wish for it to be enhanced by the presence of the Church Choir.

We are sorry to learn that **Jane Rudd** is unable to receive further treatment, and is now receiving palliative care. She has recently been transferred to Elmbrook Court, where nursing care will continue. We assure Jane of our prayers for her and for Harry at this difficult time.

This time last year **Joan Clipsham** was recovering from an accident which confined her to home for many weeks. Unfortunately, she had a fall recently which resulted in a broken pelvis. Joan is aware of the love surrounding her from her many friends at Church. She is, of course, longing for the time when she will be well enough to worship with us in church once again.

It is currently an anxious time for **Eileen Rennie**, who is experiencing a number of health difficulties. Her presence in church on Sunday mornings, and in the hall on Mondays for Community Café, and at the Tuesday Bible Study group is being missed. Eileen's intensive involvement in both of these groups has been a key feature of their impact as outreach church activities. We pray for Eileen, hoping that her health and wellbeing will greatly improve soon.

It was a pleasure to see **Trevor and Sheila Johnson** at our Morning Service on Easter Day. Mobility is a struggle for them both, but a message from Trevor afterwards confirmed that it had brought them both great joy being in Church, also enjoying the fellowship in the hall afterwards.

In the coming weeks two members of our Church family will be receiving treatment at the Churchill Hospital. To say that we will miss them during their absence is a big understatement. **Gordon Skidmore** and **Sue Haithwaite** both contribute so much to the smooth running of our Sunday Services. Gordon also fulfils roles within the Circuit Leadership Team, as the Circuit Treasurer, plus many other duties within our Church, including Chair of Property Committee, Newsletter Editor and Weekly Notices production, and Bookings Secretary. We hope that Sue's and Gordon's treatment will go smoothly and effectively, and we assure them of our prayers and our love.

**Praying for each other:** In May the people listed below will be included in the Tuesday Bible Study Group's prayer time. On **Sue Haithwaite's list:** Celia Roser, Gloria Smith, Ken Smith, Frances De'ath, Chris Froud and Margaret Watts and on **Julie Horton's list:** Liz Underhill, Ann Barber and Pete Barber.

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 the Tuesday Group.

### **Kids@Church**

*Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith*

What a joy it was to meet together in April and explore some of the resurrection accounts! We heard from the perspective of Mary, Thomas, Cleopas and some other disciples. The children had fun searching for clues for the stories in the church and then drawing round their feet and decorating the picture remembering that wherever we go, the risen Jesus goes with us. As the disciples shared breakfast on the beach prepared by Jesus so we shared breakfast together kindly prepared by Liz, Zack and Jordan! We look forward to meeting again at 9.30 am on **May 19<sup>th</sup>** and **June 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Kids@Church is an informal service for children and their families and new people and always welcome!

For more information please phone Keith Underhill on 01235 763321.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group**

*Carolyn Roche*

In April we completed the first four studies in our Holy Habits Worship book. Keith also led a session when we thought about 'digital church'.

During May we will be completing the Holy Habits Worship studies 5-8.

We meet in the Parlour each Tuesday at 2 pm. This is an open and friendly group who meet to study and pray each week so please feel free to come along and join us any week. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Please be assured if you cannot meet with us that you are remembered in prayer.

Prayer is an important part of our meeting and we spend time each week praying for situations near and far. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

Dates for May are as follows:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Habits, Worship Week 5: Offering our gifts  
Reading: Matthew 2:9-12 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Holy Habits, Worship Week 6: Extravagant Dedication  
Reading: Matthew 26:6-11
- 21<sup>st</sup> Holy Habits, Worship Week 7: Living Sacrifices  
Reading: Romans 12: 1-2
- 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Habits, Worship Week 8: Living wisely  
Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

If you have any queries you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 01235 764310 or email: [ciroche48@hotmail.com](mailto:ciroche48@hotmail.com)

## **Community Café**

*June Grunwald*

The Community Café was busy in April. Once again we opened on the Easter Bank Holiday Monday and had 29 visitors, which included one young man who had seen the A frame outside church. On another Monday Morgan brought in some hand-made cards to sell in aid of Frejya's Fund and raised £11. On **29<sup>th</sup> April** it is the café's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and we will celebrate with a special cake.

We will be open on the Bank Holidays in May. On the early Bank Holiday the Smithsons (former Minister and wife) will be visiting for the Grove Church Anniversary. They hope to visit the café on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May** and would like to meet up and chat with anyone. All are welcome.

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have "piggy banks" for donations to a charity. Our charity for March, April and May is Christian Aid.

The cafe is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. Our thanks to all the volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place and to those who provide such delicious cakes. If you cannot commit regularly but would be willing to be called upon at short notice it would be helpful. Our thanks to those who have helped when Eileen and I have been unable to attend. Although we can operate the café with less people having 2 coffee makers and 2 welcomers each Monday is ideal. If you would like to learn more about the cafe please see June Grunwald.

## **Wantage & Grove Food Bank**

*Helen Carter*

In the first four months of the year nearly 300 requests have been received, and responded to, by the food bank volunteers. That is an unprecedented number of requests from individuals and families. There is currently a special need for tinned meat and money. The money is used to top up different items that are needed in any one week, and can be given in a number of ways. If you are unsure what, or how, to donate then just have a word with Helen Carter who will hopefully be able to direct you to the right person within Wantage & Grove Food Bank. Thank you to all those who continue to donate both food and money to this necessary provision.

## **Printing at Church**

We are the proud keepers of a new photocopier. This edition will be the first serious print run on it.

It is not the same as the previous one, being from a different maker (Canon rather than Sharp) so if you need to use it, please talk to Gordon Skidmore or John Carter before you do so for the first time.

## What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Kids@Church Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Hall	Weekly See article
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group	in the Parlour	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs		Weekly in term
<b>Users</b>	All in the Hall			
Monday	Evening	Slimming World CA Meeting		Weekly Weekly
Tuesday	Morning Evening	MIND Wantage Camera Club		Weekly Weekly
Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	My Life My Choice Wantage Sings		Last Wednesday Weekly
Thursday	Midday	KAWI		3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers		Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out		1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday
<b>May</b>				
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Local Elections – Polling Station	Hall Building
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mid Day Afternoon	Funeral Referral Panel	Chapel Parlour
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Private event	Hall
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Music Makers	Hall
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Private event	Hall
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Wantage Literary Festival	Chapel
<b>June</b>				
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	Wantage Futures	Hall
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Kennet Opera	All

## DIARY for May/June

### APRIL

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 2:15 pm **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** p15

### MAY

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am **Christian Aid Coffee Morning** at Grove p15

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** 10:30 am **Grove Chapel Anniversary** p15

6:30 pm **Prayer for Revival** at Grove p15

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p18

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am **Stepping out with Noah** p4

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm **Lunchtime Prayers** at Wantage p18

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** 12:00 pm **Christian Aid Lunch** at Wantage p17

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm **Bible Study** at Elmbrook Care Home p17

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm **Music Makers** at Wantage

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm **Film Club** at Grove p15

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am **Circuit Meeting Plus #3** at All Saints Abingdon p4

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 am **Kids@Church** at Wantage p20

### DEADLINE for June CGW NEWS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p18

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** 4:30 pm **Circuit Service at Milton** p16

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 2:15 pm **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** p15

### JUNE

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 am **Wantage Methodist Church - looking to the future**

p17

## **SUNDAY SERVICES during May**

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **Vocations Sunday**

### **Easter 6**

Lectionary: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Ian Griffiths

10:30 am Grove

### **Chapel Anniversary**

Rev Martin Smithson

6:30 pm Grove

Prayer for Revival

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christian Aid**

### **Sunday after Ascension Day**

Lectionary: Acts 1:15-17,21-16; Psalm 1; 1John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

10:30 am Wantage

Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove

Libby Bolton

Childrey

No Service

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Pentecost**

Lectionary: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; Romans 8:22-27;

John 15:26,27,16:4b-?

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Libby Hawkness-Smith

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Aldersgate Sunday**

### **Trinity Sunday**

Lectionary: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

10:30 am Wantage

Tabitha Griffiths

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

11:00 am Childrey

Stephen Atkinson

**4:30 pm Circuit Service at Milton**