

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

**SECTOR**

**NEWS**

  
**The Methodist Church**



December 2019

January 2020

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:

Alison Phillips : 01235 760335  
Ian Sturt :  
Doug Legge : 01235 751463

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 **February Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020** to  
[wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

Don't forget the Circuit Calendar can now be viewed on the Circuit website.

**Regular Weekday Meetings**

Monday	9 am	Drop in Community Café at Wantage
	2 pm	Handicraft Group at the Cornerstone, Grove
Tuesday	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship
Wednesday	7:30 am	Morning Prayers at Grove
	2 pm	Wantage Wednesday Fellowship

**House Group at Wantage** Weekly

Tuesday 1:30 pm Leader: Eileen Rennie (01235 224284)

**House Group at Grove** Monthly

Warmed Hearts 7:30 pm Leader: Peter Hemmings (01235 762504)

**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)

## From the Manse...

I saw my first decorated and lit Christmas tree in the window of someone's house on 13<sup>th</sup> November whilst driving through town – is that too early I wonder?

When do you put your decorations up? When does the Christmas period begin for you?

I guess that will depend on many different factors, not least family traditions.

For some, looking forward to Christmas begins in earnest as soon as the John Lewis Christmas advert appears on television for the first time. For others, when they see the Christmas Coca-Cola advert come around once more.

The first of December and the opening of the first window on the Advent calendar might be the cue for some, whilst the arrival of the first Christmas card through the post, or the playing of Christmas music in the shops could well be the signal for others.

Purists might argue that we rush with too much unseemly haste to get to Christmas and in doing so, fail to make the most of Advent. Surely Christmas starts as we keep our vigil waiting for midnight on Christmas Eve?

If we ask when we put our decorations up? When does the Christmas period begin for us, then there is an obvious second question to address – when does it stop and when do we take it all down? Tradition tells us that Twelfth Night marks the end of Christmas but what of the tradition of Candlemas?

In many ways and without wanting to sound too controversial, does it really matter if you start too early and end too late?!

The truth, as has been said many times before, is that Christmas (whenever it begins and ends for you) is a period of time when we focus on what is in effect a daily reality.

There is a very real sense in which every single day is shot through with the reality of God's incarnation, just as every day is a day of resurrection and the mystery that is Easter.

The good news of "Immanuel, God with us" is as true and brings us as much strength and comfort on a rainy August Bank Holiday Monday, as it does on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Christmas is not just for Christmas!

So whenever Christmas begins for you, may you know the peace, love and joy of the Christ child born in our midst.

With love and God Bless,

*Keith*

## **From the Editors**

*Gordon & Gill Skidmore*

Another calendar year draws to a close and Gill and I will be taking a deep breath in December before we start another year, collating, adjusting and editing all your contributions for the monthly Newsletter.

First let us say a big thank you to all who send in content and who arrange and lead all the variety of things that happen in this section of the Circuit. We are very grateful that there is very little content that arrives late. It is not always easy to obtain the information you need to get the material to us on time.

As well as this content, we do try to get together articles from the rest of the Church which we hope you find interesting. If we had a wish, it would be to try to develop the Newsletter to be more than a diary of what is to come. We would welcome articles that either share what has happened in the sector or comment on matters of church or faith.

Please let us know if there are topics you would like to hear more about. Equally comments and suggestions that would make the Newsletter more readable or legible.

Gill and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

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## **Saints Alive at All Saints Abingdon**

We met with people from across the District at All Saints Abingdon in October for a day with Rev Trey Hall exploring evangelism in our local context. It proved an inspiring day exploring how to share our faith stories and effectively communicate with our neighbourhood.

We are having a work session to share our experiences of the day on the day after this Newsletter is printed. We will prepare some thoughts in the February Newsletter.

## **Marriage and Relationships**

An introductory meeting for the Circuit was held at Grove on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It is planned to have discussions in the individual churches in the New Year to explore this important report further and allow a sharing of views on it. Keith has plenty of copies of the report and if you are interested in sharing your views on this topic, please read the report over the next weeks before we have the conversations to explore our response to the proposals that Conference will make decisions about in the summer.

## From “The Buzz” – Sharing Good News across the Connexion

### Trinity Learning

Trinity Church, Abingdon



Over seventy supporters of Trinity Learning gathered at Trinity Church, Abingdon in September to mark ten years of supporting well-being in local schools. Trinity Learning began in October 2009, when Trinity Church, Abingdon, appointed Rosemary Perrow as their education development officer. Her remit was to explore ways in which the church could use its time, talents and space to enhance the quality of life for those working in local schools, both students and staff.

Trinity Learning has provided small group workshops free of charge to over 3,500 students from 22 local schools. Projects have included “Putting Yourself First” INSET sessions for staff and supported work experience. Trinity Church is regularly used as an outside classroom and they have developed a partnership with the local primary school, helping it to become a Beacon School for the Peaceful Schools Movement.

During the event, Rosemary, the original and now retiring education development officer who worked so hard to establish the scheme, was presented with gifts and cards by the Revd Ian Griffiths. Rosemary is succeeded by the new education development officer, Nicola Williams.

**The Circuit Calendar** can be viewed at <https://www.wantab.org.uk/calendar.html>.

**Circuit Website** - [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

The **website** exists to link all parts of our Circuit together – let us know what’s happening at your church. Send items for inclusion on the website at any time.

Email: [wacctxchange@gmail.com](mailto:wacctxchange@gmail.com) or Tel: 07710 214601

## Wantage & Grove Church Partnership

A united act of worship is being planned for 4:00 pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at St John's Parish Church, Grove in the week of prayer for Christian Unity

### Little People                      Christmas is coming!!!

We are now posting requests from Little People as soon as possible after they are received on the Wantage web site as "Little People Requests" on the page.

<https://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk/mission/little-people.html>



## We have vacancies for **Part Time Cooks**

Join our small friendly team and become part of the Cornerstone family.

You must have some experience working in catering and pass **Food Hygiene Level 2**

The hours are negotiable but must include

**Thursday** or **Saturday** or both. Ideally you will start immediately.

You will be paid monthly at the Living Wage Foundation Rate which is currently £9 per hour. Annual leave is worked out pro rata and will include all bank holidays.

Get in touch for more information.


Tel 01235 772280

or email [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)

Submit a CV or get in touch by the end of November to be considered.

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

**WEAR IT  
LOVE IT  
SHARE IT!**




**Why shop when you can swap?**

**On Sat 30th Nov At Methodist Church Hall (Newbury Street,  
Wantage, OX12 8DA)**

Bring clothes, shoes and accessories you no longer wear and swap them for something you'll love!  
(No underwear, swimwear, nightwear or earrings please)  
To take part, bring at least 1 clean and presentable item to swap.  
You can take away as many items as you bring in,  
extras can be bought for £1 per item.

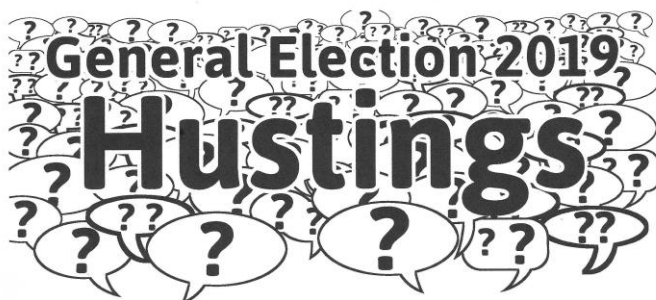
**Drop off your items:  
10- 10.30am  
Select new items:  
11am-12.30pm**

**Refreshments available in  
aid of Be Free Young Carers **BE FREE YC****



**SUSTAINABLE WANTAGE**

Items that are leftover will be donated or recycled.  
Any questions? Contact Jane: [janevkent@icloud.com](mailto:janevkent@icloud.com) / 01235 765421



Meeting to hear all the Wantage candidates, open to everyone

**Sunday 1st December 19:30-21:00**

doors open 19:15

**Old Mill Hall, Grove**

School Lane, Grove OX12 7LB (behind Millbrook Square)

**Send in your questions . . .**

Richard Benwell (Liberal Democrat)

. . . to be put to  
the candidates:

Mark Gray (Independent)

David Johnston (Conservative)

Jonny Roberts (Labour)

**Questions by Wednesday 27th November**

**email:** [wgcphustings@gmail.com](mailto:wgcphustings@gmail.com)

**post:** WGCP Hustings

30 Witan Way, Wantage OX12 9HD



*The meeting Chair will choose representative questions from those received in advance, may invite you to read your question, and may take other questions on the night if time permits.*



arranged by:  
Wantage and Grove  
Church Partnership

20191214

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY

**'DETTINGEN'**

**TE DEUM**

**HANDEL**

**MASS IN C**

**BEETHOVEN**

SOPRANO: Lisa Howarth

MEZZO-SOPRANO: Freya

Jacklin-Edward

TENOR: Alistair Walker

BASS: Michael Hickman

CONDUCTOR: Paul Burke

**SATURDAY**

**14 DECEMBER 2019**

**7.30PM**

**WANTAGE PARISH**

**CHURCH**

**All Tickets £12**

(£10 if purchased in advance: under 16  
Free)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE VALE AND  
DOWNLAND

MUSEUM, MEMBERS OF WCS OR ON  
THE DOOR

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

Charity No 265227



# **Childrey**

## **United Services:**

8<sup>th</sup> December 4:00 pm United Christingle Service at St Mary's

22<sup>nd</sup> December 3:00 pm United Carol Service at St Mary's

**Covenant Service** with St. Mary's & followed by lunch  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 am – 12 noon**  
**Coffee Morning with stalls in aid of NCH Action for Children**  
All contributions welcome.

## **Prayers:**

Prayers are asked for Amy Rose Legge and her family, 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 7<sup>th</sup> December** in the Meeting Room from 10 am till 12 noon. Our hosts are Noreen and Peter Hemmings. Proceeds from the morning are for CRISIS. We will be pleased to see you.

The **first Coffee morning of the New Year** is on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020**, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. Hope you can be there.

### **Tuesday Fellowship Grove**

December

3<sup>rd</sup> We welcome Liz Wood to speak to us

10<sup>th</sup> To Cornerstone, Grove, for our Christmas meal together - 12:15 pm

17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> No meeting.

January 2020

7<sup>th</sup> Tea and chat at the church

14<sup>th</sup> We welcome Geoff Caudle to our meeting.

21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> To be announced.

**Warmed Hearts house group** will meet on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at 7:30 pm at 38, Truelocks Way, Wantage, for the final session (6) of Life on the Frontline "The Frontline Commitment". We have a time of fellowship and discussion together and new faces are always welcome to join us. Contact Peter Hemmings (01235 762504) for more information.

**Warmed Hearts house group** start the new year with a new York Course "Superstar". Our first meeting is on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** starting at 7:30 pm at 4 Mayfield Avenue, Grove. Session 1 is entitled "Who is Jesus?". We will be pleased to see you. Enquiries to Peter Hemmings (01235 762504).

**"Film Plus"** There is no Film Plus service in December.

The next Film Plus service is on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**, starting at 4 pm.

**No Film Club** meeting in December.

**Film Club** will be showing "**Selma**" on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. 128mins 12a 2014

*A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.*

*Cast: David Oyelowo, Tim Roth, Carmen Ejago, Jr. Tom Wilkinson, Oprah Winfrey*

**Voting** to choose films for the 6 months April to September, from a list of suggestions made so far, will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Admission is free. Tea/coffee & biscuits served at the end of the film.

If you would like to receive a reminder of the Film Club meetings please send your email address to Jenny at [alans.marriott@talktalk.net](mailto:alans.marriott@talktalk.net)

**Morning Prayers:** There will be no Morning Prayers in Church on either 25<sup>th</sup> December or 1<sup>st</sup> January. All other Wednesdays, 7:30 am, as usual. You are very welcome to come and join us for a quiet time of prayer to start the day.

### **Handicrafts' Group**

This group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove on **Monday afternoons** from 2.00 to 4:00 pm to craft and chat together. £1 donation each to Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink.

On **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** we are having Christmas lunch and this has to be pre-booked. We will meet on Mondays, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December as normal, but not on either 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> December, even though the Cornerstone will be open.

Our first meeting of the new year is on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January**.

*Contact Jenny Marriott, for further details.*

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

The November coffee morning, also for Freyja's Fund, raised £128.49 plus £130 on cards. Judith and her family thank everyone for all their support.

**Bookings** are being taken for 2020 and dates are filling up. If you like to plan ahead please contact Peter Hemmings to reserve a date.

### **December and January Flower Rota**

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Veronica Richards	5 <sup>th</sup> January	Linda Jones
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Sue Stead	12 <sup>th</sup> January	Carol Sturt
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Margaret Bett + windows	19 <sup>th</sup> January	Judy Thomas
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	CHRISTMAS	26 <sup>th</sup> January	Elizabeth Trew
29 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS		

***Newsletter distribution:*** We would like to thank everyone who has distributed copies of our church newsletter month by month, over so many years. Instead of relying on a few people to take them round each month, your newsletter will now be labelled with your name and available for you to pick up in church, usually on the last Sunday of the month. Please take your copy and any you feel you can take to someone who is not there on that Sunday. The ones not taken will be put in a box on the table by the front door ready for collection. There will be spare copies (not named) as usual on the table. Please leave these for visitors to the church and take your named copy. Thank you.

**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.

# Wantage

## **2020 Anniversaries      Wantage 175 and Vale 200**

2020 is a very special year for our Church. We are 175 years old and it is also 200 years of Methodism in the Vale of White Horse.

Margaret Fordham, Ann Barber and Eileen Rennie were tasked at the last Movers and Shakers meeting with getting ideas together to celebrate this. There are lots of ideas in the pipeline and you will be hearing about them all soon.

Arrangements have been made for special preachers on the last Sunday of each month. Not every month has yet been filled but so far the following have accepted our invitation to come:

### **Wantage 175 Guest preachers:**

January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Andrew Hollins
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev Janet Evans
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Martin
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Helen Cameron
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Michael Chester
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Heather Walker
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Martin Smithson
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Heather Leake Date
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	

### **Wantage 175 Events**

25 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns Supper followed by a light hearted quiz.
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Mark Topping "An evening with John Wesley"
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Firebrand

### **First Celebratory Wantage 175 Event**

The first social event for 2020 will be a **"Burns" Supper on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 6:30 pm** followed by a light-hearted quiz, "Name that Tune".

We are delighted that Andrew Hollins has accepted our invitation to this supper. He is our guest preacher on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Andrew is looking forward to catching up with friends and we know there are lots of people who will welcome this opportunity to talk with him. Please put the supper date in your diaries now.

Tickets, £10 each, will be on sale after Christmas from Eileen Rennie.

## **Firebrand**

### **First “Firebrand” choir rehearsals**

Thank you to all who have signed up to be in “Firebrand”. This notice is particularly for the on- or off-stage singers. In order to accommodate everyone’s complex diaries, and to allow everyone to attend as many rehearsals as possible, the day and time will vary from week to week. The January rehearsals will be:

**Saturday 11 January, 2 – 4 pm**

**Saturday 18 January, 10 am – 12 noon**

**Friday 24 January, 7 – 9 pm**

Further choir rehearsals and acting rehearsals will be announced in the New Year after further consultation with participants.

### **200 years of Methodism in the Vale on White Horse Hill**

It is intended to hold an outdoor celebration of **200 years of Methodism in the Vale on White Horse Hill** on a Sunday afternoon in the summer months. Keith has spoken to Rev Rose Westwood, the Superintendent of the Witney and Faringdon Circuit, and it will be a joint event/service. Keith has also made contact with the relevant National Trust Ranger who has said that this can take place and that they may be able to help steward. Some indication of numbers will be needed. Keith would be pleased to receive any ideas for this celebration.

## **WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY**

### **Bible Reading Notes (IBRA)**

Each year the International Bible Reading Association produces notes to help people read the Bible on a regular basis.

This year the title is **Fresh From The Word for 2020** with foreword by Rt Rev David Wilbourne. Please **order your copy now** on the form on the notice board in the Hall vestibule. The last day for doing this is **Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

For further information contact Peter Preston (01235 762332)

## Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In November we continued our study of Acts 13-28 (To the ends of the Earth) and in the final week we started our Advent study, Who are we praying to?

In December we will continue our Advent Study and in January we will take time to look at things a little differently as well as finishing the final session on Acts 13-28

The details for December/January are as follows:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec York Advent Course, Who are we praying to?  
Session 2: Praying in the face of unanswered prayer. John 11:1-57.  
This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Session 3: Praying for the marginalised. Job 1:1-12 and Job 11:1-20.  
Keith will lead this session.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Session 4: Prayer and Covenant. Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 19:3-8,  
Deuteronomy 29:1-15, Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Luke 22:14-23.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec No meeting – School holiday.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec No meeting – School holiday.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan We share our highlights of Advent and/or Christmas over a cup of  
tea/coffee and cake.  
This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.  
Revelation 22:7-12
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan We share a favourite, hymn, verse or reading and explain why it is special.  
Psalm 47
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jan Acts 13-28 Session 7 God's in charge!  
Acts 27&28, Philippians 1:12-14, 2 Timothy 4:7
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jan Those we pray for – James 5:13-19.

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

## Church Flowers



### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pam Leake  
8<sup>th</sup> Eileen Rennie  
15<sup>th</sup> Heather Wells  
22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Flowers  
29<sup>th</sup> Christmas Flowers

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> Julie Horton  
19<sup>th</sup> Gordon & Gill Skidmore  
26<sup>th</sup>

## PRAYER & PASTORAL

### Prayer list

Loving God we come to you with praise in our hearts and we thank you for your generosity in bestowing so many different gifts among us. We pray that you will guide us in using our particular gift wisely for the glory and growth of your Kingdom on earth. Lord Jesus through your Spirit you work in your Churches all across the world, help us to be open to your gentle nudges of life-giving grace. In this special season of Advent, Christmas and a forthcoming New Year we pray that you will help each one of us to share the good news of your love and forgiveness so that others may enjoy your peace and fellowship. Through your Spirit may we pray without ceasing and give thanks always. Amen

Please pray for:

Jean M, Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan and Eileen Bunn and family, Doug, Carl, Jean Gill, Carol Mackinder, Anne, Pam Rose, Emma Wright and family, Jean Plastow, Alex, Brian, A lady with family problems, Graham Savill, Sue, Diane, Julie and family, Doreen, Sheridan, Danielle, Robert, Roy and family, Trudy, Gordon, All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, YMOSES, kids@church and Street Pastors. Those members of our church family who, through frailty or ill health, can no longer worship with us.

If you or the person/people you have put on the prayer list would still like to be in the February Newsletter, please let me know by 18<sup>th</sup> January in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

*Eileen Rennie*

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

In December we will be praying for the following people on the lists of our newly appointed Pastoral Visitors, **Sue Haithwaite, Carole Robbins, Celia Roser, Jane Kent and Catherine Worth:** Edwina Loftus, Celia Roser, Gloria and Ken Smith, Margaret Wilson, Joan Kidd, Pam Paine, Irmgard Roberts, Margaret Watts, Maureen and Audrey Osei-Akowuah, Jordan and Zack Smith, and Charlotte Worth. We will begin 2020 by praying in January for the people on **Nicky Atkinson's list:** Linda & Alan Chipperfield, Diane & Peter Preston and Maureen Webber

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

## YOUNG CHURCH

### Kids@Church

*Jane Kent*

'The Extravagant Welcome!'

Cath beautifully retold the story of the prodigal son using 7 very different pairs of shoes. The story came alive for me in a new way - so I hope it did for the children too! In the hall the children decorated cakes to look like pigs and then finished decorating tree decorations for the tree for the Christmas tree festival! A creative morning!

On **15<sup>th</sup> December**, Kids@church will be joining with the 10:30 am congregation to celebrate Christmas together. Everyone welcome!

We will be meeting again on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January** at 9:30 am - all primary school-aged children and their families welcome!

### YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday EveningS)

*Jane Kent*

In November YMOSES enjoyed watching the thought-provoking film 'Amazing Love' accompanied by a lovely selection of drinks and snacks!

At the end of November, seven members of YMOSES will be heading up to Southport for 3Generate - we look forward to sharing more with you after the event!

The young people are busy planning for their **charity fundraising event** (all profits to the wonderful local charity 'Be Free Young Carers') on **14<sup>th</sup> December** when they are inviting friends along to our church in the evening to play games, have tea and watch a Christmas film.

In **January** we will be meeting again at Charlotte's house on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**, 7:15 – 8:15 pm.

All secondary school age young people are really welcome to this informal, friendly faith-based discussion group.

For any more information on either of these events please give me a call on 765421.

## FELLOWSHIP

### Wednesday Fellowship

#### December

4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch

11<sup>th</sup> The term closes with a service of Holy Communion led by Rev Keith Underhill.

#### JANUARY

8<sup>th</sup> We start the term with a service of Holy Communion led by our minister, Rev Keith Underhill.

15<sup>th</sup> This is our New Year social afternoon, with entertainment and refreshments.

22<sup>nd</sup> David Koch will speak to us about safety in the home and on the phone.

29<sup>th</sup> To be arranged



## Lunch dates for December/January

**Sunday lunches** for the next 2 months will be **December 8<sup>th</sup>** and **January 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please remember to sign up on the list in the vestibule.

**Friday lunches: 20<sup>th</sup> December** which will be a **Christmas lunch** and by **ticket only**. Tickets will cost £10 and are available from Eileen or myself. The **January** lunch will be **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January** and the usual drop-in .

If you need to contact me to sign up or cancel my number is 07812 370796.

## Knit & Chat

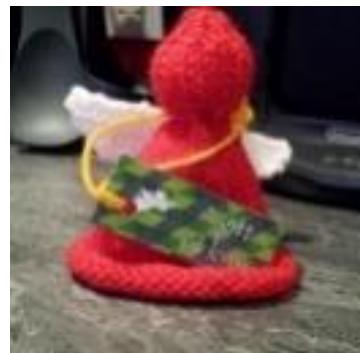
## Christmas Angels

*Carolyn Roche (01235 764310)*

### Our angels are almost ready to fly!



We shall be tying on their labels on the first two Mondays in December – **2 December + 9 December** at 2 pm in the Parlour. Any non-knitters are welcome to come and help with this. Once again we will have more than 1000 angels and we would like to spread them further than just the centre of town – any



suggestions? About 200 angels are being taken to the various Wantage care homes.

As we move into 2020, Knit & Chat will meet as usual on the first and third Mondays (**6 + 20 January**) at 2 pm in the Parlour. Come and join us if you enjoy knitting, chatting or drinking tea/coffee. Please feel free to do any sort of knitting or maybe bring some other handicraft that you like doing.

## Christmas Tree Festival

*Carolyn Roche (01235 764310)*

### Wantage Methodist Church

**6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> December**



Come and enjoy the Christmas tree festival which is held on the weekend of Wantage Dickensian evening.



This year we are raising funds in support of **Wantage and Grove Street Pastors** and will be open from **6 pm** on **Dickensian Evening, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments in the hall. There will be a **coffee morning** on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** and the trees will remain for the Sunday service.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes, biscuits and handmade Christmas gifts/goodies. Please let Eileen, Carole or Carolyn know if you would be able to contribute something for this. Many thanks in advance for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all that weekend.

If anyone is able to help steward by sitting in the Church for about half an hour on the Friday evening, please let Carolyn Roche know.

## **Help Needed For Church Coffee**

*Alison Phillips*

Coffee time after morning service has become increasingly popular as people like to have a chance to catch up with each other. However, the other side of the coin is that the volunteers who serve and clear up the coffee have been steadily decreasing in number.

The present team on the rota are able to cover most weeks, but I am at least two weeks short of help this quarter, so if you think you could lend a hand, it would be much appreciated.

I would be able to put you with an experienced partner who can show you what is involved, so you don't need to worry if you have not helped in the kitchen before.

All that is needed is to come to the kitchen about 20 minutes before the service to lay out the mugs and put the coffee pot and water heater on. One person brings the milk (a 2 litre container is usually needed), sugar, coffee, tea and biscuits are provided by the church. You will need to be ready to leave the church service during the last hymn to make the tea, and the rest is serving and clearing up.

It would be a great help if you could spare a couple of Sundays to join this team, or even if you could just come into the kitchen to help serve and wash up during coffee time it would mean that the coffee sessions can continue. Please let Alison Phillips know when you would be available as soon as you can, so that the new rota can be completed. Many thanks to all those who have helped on the rota, past and present.

## **MISSION & SERVICE**

**Christmas Cards for HMP Bullingdon** - as in previous years, Christmas cards will be available to sign during November. They will be taken to Bullingdon prison at the start of December and will be given to prisoners on appropriate occasions over the Christmas period. We no longer have Andrew Foran as a contact as he retired over a year ago now. We are now in contact with the Quaker chaplain to arrange delivery. Helen Carter will be pleased to give more information.

### **Amnesty International - Write for Rights**

For a number of years, Wantage Methodist Church have taken part in the Write For Rights campaign. For a couple of weeks in December we encourage you to write messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice, and show you how to support their campaigns for justice. Booklets and information will be available during coffee after the services on Sunday 8 and 15 December. This year there will also be an Amnesty International tree at the Christmas tree festival with information on how to Write for Rights on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and also at the coffee morning on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Information can also be found on the Amnesty International web-site:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights>

## **Community Drop In Café**



**Every Monday 9 am -12 noon**

**All are welcome and invited to drop in anytime  
between 9 am and 12 noon - a warm welcome to everyone.**

**Come and enjoy a coffee and chat.**

We are reaching the end of 2019 and are pleased to report that this venture continues to provide a needed and much appreciated service. People attending can sit and enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles, an assortment of table games and colouring books. We also have a box of books which you are welcome to pick yourself some good reading from to enjoy at home. Coffee, tea or soft drinks, cake and biscuits are available between 9 am and 12 noon every Monday. Donations for the Methodist affiliated charity, Fund for Human Need, to date have raised £1,164.35. We are busy now organising our Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at Dickensian weekend and looking forward to the upcoming Christmas events and services at Church. Please note we will be open on **23<sup>rd</sup>** and **30<sup>th</sup> December**. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, we will spend some time singing carols. Do come and join us. We thank our 21 volunteers for their continued support in signing up for duties. If you are interested in becoming involved as a volunteer, please ask us about what is involved. The rotas for November, December and January are on the notice board outside the Parlour. Why not come along and join us? We look forward to welcoming you.

For further information please see either Eileen Rennie or June Grunwald.

## FINANCE, PROPERTY & USERS' NEWS

### Godfrey Room

In December, the Godfrey Room will be used by the Food Bank and Little People. During this period the room will be locked.

### Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings

Please **check / book your date** with Gordon **before you commit to** your meeting.  
[wntgmethodistbookings@gmail.com](mailto:wntgmethodistbookings@gmail.com) 07710 214601

### Weekly Bookings

### December 2019

Monday		morn Community Drop-in Café	Hall
Monday		eve Slimming World	Hall
Tuesday		morn MIND (not 24 <sup>th</sup> or 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Hall
Tuesday		eve Wantage Camera Club (not 24 <sup>th</sup> or 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Hall

The following other bookings are in place:

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	aft	Food Bank	Hall
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	aft	Knit & Chat	Parlour
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	eve	Advent Reflections	Chapel
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	aft	Art Class	Hall
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	morn	Babes & Toddlers	Hall
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Caritas Choir	Hall
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Dickensian Evening	All
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	morn	Coffee Morning	Hall
<b>Fri/Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Christmas Tree Festival</b>	<b>All</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Knit & Chat	Parlour
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Age UK Oxfordshire	Hall
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Advent Reflections	Chapel
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Male Voice Choir	Chapel
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Wednesday Fellowship	Hall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	lunch	KAWI	Hall
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	morn	Babes & Toddlers	Hall
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Caritas Choir	Hall
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Cheek2Cheek	Hall
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	lunch	Private Party	Hall
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	tea/eve	YMOSES Event	Hall
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	noon	Memorial Service	All
Monday	eve	Advent Reflections	Chapel
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	lunch	Friday Lunch	All
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	lunch	Private Party	Hall

**Weekly Bookings****January 2020**

Monday	morn	Community Drop-in Café	Hall
Monday	eve	Slimming World	Hall
Tuesday	morn	MIND	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Wantage Camera Club	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Rock Choir (from 14 <sup>th</sup> )	Chapel
Wednesday	aft	Wednesday Fellowship	Hall
Friday	morn	Babes & Toddlers (from 10 <sup>th</sup> )	Hall
Friday	aft	Caritas Choir (from 10 <sup>th</sup> )	Hall
Friday	eve	Cheek2Cheek	Hall

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1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	aft	Knit & Chat	Parlour
Second Monday	aft	Age UK Oxfordshire	Parlour/Hall
Second Tuesday	eve	My Life, My Choice	Parlour
Third Saturday	morn	Dads Out	Hall

**January**

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	aft	Firebrand	Hall
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	morn	Firebrand	Chapel
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Firebrand	Chapel
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	aft/eve	Burns Supper	All
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	eve	Music Group	Chapel

## DIARY

<b>NOVEMBER</b>				Page
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Worship Consultation at Wantage	
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	NCH Action for Children Coffee Morning at Childrey	9
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	17
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	10
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	17
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	17
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	YMOSES event	16
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Christmas Lunch at Wantage (ticket only)	17
<b>Advent &amp; Christmas Events and Covenant Services See Advent and Christmas insert</b>				
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	10
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	17
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Firebrand rehearsal at Wantage	13
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	12:15 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	17
		4:00 pm	Film Plus at Grove	10
		Evening	YMOSES event	16
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove – “Selma” (12a)	10
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Firebrand rehearsal at Wantage	13
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	16
		4:00 pm	Wantage & Grove Church Partnership Service at St John’s Church Grove.	6
<b>DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER</b>				2
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	18
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Firebrand rehearsal at Wantage	13
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Wantage 175 – “Burns” Supper	12
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage 175 Service – Rev Andrew Hollins	12
Friday	31 <sup>st</sup>	12:15 pm	Friday Drop-in Lunch at Wantage	17

## Sunday Services – December 2019

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Advent Sunday</b>	11:00 am Barbara Kershaw	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill Street Pastors  6:30 pm Peter Hemmings	10:30 am Esther Miller Worship through stories
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Advent 2</b>	4:00 pm Christingle Service United at St Mary's	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill  6:30 pm Alan Dixon	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Geoffrey Caudle
<b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Advent 3</b>	11:00 am Ian Sturt	10:45 am Stephen Atkinson  6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill with Kids@Church
<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>Advent 4</b>	3:00 pm Carol Service United at St Mary's	10:45 am Carol Sturt  6:30 pm Rev Keith Underhill Carol Service	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill  6:00 pm Carol Service
<b>December 29<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Sunday after Christmas</b>	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Ian Griffiths	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill  6:30 pm Ian Sturt	10:30 am Helen Carter

## Sunday Services – January 2020

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>January 5<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Christmas 2</b> <b>Covenant</b>	11:00 am Peter Hemmings	10:45 am Peter Hemmings  6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill Covenant
<b>January 12<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Ordinary 1</b>  <b>Baptism of Christ</b>	11:00 am Libby Bolton	10:45 am Marlene Chalkley  4:00 pm Film Plus Rev Keith Underhill	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Alan Grist  10:30 am Valerie Grist
<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Ordinary 2</b>  <b>Christian Unity</b>	11:00 am Geoffrey Caudle	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill Covenant  4:00 pm United at St John's Grove	9:30 am Kids@Church  10:30 am Barbara Kershaw  4:00 pm United at St John's Grove
<b>January 26<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Ordinary 3</b>  <b>Holocaust</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	11:30 am Rev Keith Underhill Covenant United Service	10:45 am Frederick Obeng  6:30 pm Rev Jocelyn Bennett	10:30 am Rev Andrew Hollins