

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

**SECTOR
& CIRCUIT
NEWS**



The Methodist Church



December 2018
& January 2019

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
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

Contributions for the **February Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 20th January 2019** to
wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

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

Email: wacctxchange@gmail.com

Tel: 07710 214601

Compilers: Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Regular Weekday Meetings

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

House Group at Wantage

Weekly

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

House Group at Grove

Monthly

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

Grove web site is found from www.wantab.org.uk

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

Circuit web site www.wantab.org.uk

From the Manse...

Christmas for many can be a difficult time with mixed emotions and feelings that are starkly at odds with all the expectations that abound. There are so many pressures at this time of year – perhaps the greatest being that much elusive perfect Christmas. To enjoy a Christmas where everything is just right, as it should be - a textbook experience.

To help try achieve that goal, an army of celebrities and commentators, from chefs to fashion gurus, tell us how to make our roast potatoes even crispier and our turkey's more moist and flavoursome, what we should wear and how to make sure that our Christmas goes without a hitch, planning every second and every moment of this special day. Each year it seems that they up the ante and expectations become increasingly unrealistic.

The irony, of course, is that if everything were perfect then there would have been no need for Christmas in the first place. The fact that God in the form of a helpless baby was born amongst us was because we are not perfect, that we get it wrong and that we mess it up.

That first Christmas God quietly and silently slipped in among us, born into the messiness of our lives. He came as one of us so that in the end, we may be more like him.

From the Victorians to the modern-day advertising companies, there have always been those who try to sell us a perfect, make-believe Christmas and all that goes with it. However, in the real world in which we live, things go wrong, we muck it up, the unexpected happens, we are disappointed, things are not as we would want, tragedies take place and lives are turned upside down.

It is to and in these situations that the birth of Jesus speaks – that in our imperfection, in the maelstrom of life and with whatever we are grappling, he comes to us anew – bringing peace, love and hope and above all, the knowledge that we have not be abandoned.

Immanuel – God with us!

With much love and God bless this Christmas time,

Keith

Advent 2018.

This year, we are trying to do things slightly differently and to make the most of the season of Advent. Advent is, of course, a time for watching and waiting, a time for preparation and getting ready.

As a Circuit and as churches we will not be holding any business meetings during Advent. Instead, we will be encouraging one another to meet, pray, meditate and study. To make the most of this time, to try and help one another find space in the busyness and stillness amidst all the frenetic preparations that this season brings.

Our Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting agreed to write and compile a devotional booklet, based on the daily readings found within the current Methodist Prayer Handbook, "A world transformed"

Each day you will find within, the given Bible reading for you to follow in your Bible, a short reflection upon the passage and a prayer.

The **devotional is now on the Church and Circuit websites** and can be downloaded from there.

Paper copies will also be available in the churches ready for the beginning of December.

Please note that unfortunately when Keith was editing the contribution for **24th December** he accidentally missed off half the last sentence. The last sentence should read, "That is a wonderful thought to hold close as we approach Christmas Day."

In addition, Keith will be leading a weekly Advent study/meditation/reflection for the first three weeks of Advent under the title "Advent – a time for watching and waiting". There will be both morning and evening options lasting around an hour or so.

Week 1 - Advent - watching & waiting in the darkness

Wednesday 5th December 10:30am at Grove Methodist Church or

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Thursday 13th December 7:30pm at Wantage Methodist Church

Week 3 - Advent - watching & waiting in the in-between times

Wednesday 19th December 10:30am at Grove Methodist Church or

Thursday 20th December 7:30pm at Wantage Methodist Church

Sunday, 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day

This international day remembers the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions killed under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. As usual, our Chapel at Wantage will be open for a period for quiet reflection and as the day falls on a Sunday, the Holocaust will be the theme for the morning's service which will be led by Deacon Selina Nisbett. Further details will be in the weekly notices in January.

Visit of Rev Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference

At our last Circuit Meeting in September, it was decided that we should hold an additional Circuit Meeting every year. Not, I hasten to add one that was for or about business, but rather an inspirational evening, where we invite someone to come along to speak to us.

We are delighted to be able to inform you that Rev Gareth Powell, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, has readily agreed to come and be the inaugural speaker at our first additional and inspirational Circuit Meeting.

Gareth will be coming to inspire, challenge and encourage us as a Circuit, Churches and individuals as he helps us to look again and re-examine "Our Calling" and what it means and represents in the life of the Methodist Church today.

This meeting will be held at Wantage Methodist Church on **Wednesday 9th January 2019** at 7:30 pm. This is an **open meeting** and not just for Circuit Meeting members, everyone is very welcome. So do come along to hear Gareth and here's to a great evening!

CribFest

All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive, Abingdon.

December 14th – 17th

All Saints plan to hold the CribFest over the weekend of December 14th-17th and it should be a scintillating display of Nativity Scenes from all over the world. Local schools have been invited on Friday 14th and Monday 17th. The CribFest will be open to everyone to see and enjoy on **Saturday 15th December** from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm. There will be refreshments including mince pies. No charge.

On Sunday evening **16th December**, there will be a traditional Carol Service round the illuminated cribs at 6:00 pm.

If anyone has a nativity set that they would like to lend please get in touch with rhcoward@gmail.com . We will make sure that you have them back for Christmas.

Food Hygiene Training

The Circuit is organising a refresher course and anyone engaged in catering is welcome to attend. If you are involved in church catering, and have had a food hygiene certificate from more than three years ago, you perhaps need to do a refresher course. This can be done online, or by attending a refresher course. Angela Rees will run the refresher course on **Saturday 26th January 2019** at Milton Methodist Church, starting 9:30 am, about 3.5 hours with a multiple choice test at the end. I've talked to Environmental Health about this as the certificates are issued by Angela herself- and they say that will be fine. We had a course run by Angela three years ago and were very pleased with it. She manages to make a fairly dull subject interesting!

The cost will be £22 per head to include refreshments (we need about 20 people). The circuit will pay half and usually your local church the other half. If you would like to attend this course please contact Mary Hancock imhancock@gmail.com to book a place.

Opening on 4th December in Hinton Waldrist Village Hall

The Cedar Community Club (for the young at heart)

A new community club for the over 60s

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:30 — 3:00

The Club can cater for those with mild to moderate dementia providing respite for carers.

Cooked two-course meal

Music, crafts & games

Seated exercise

Or just come and chat!

For more information ring: 01865 820952

Or email : thecedarcommunityclub@gmail.com

A new Community Club for the elderly is opening in Hinton Waldrist next month to replace the Kingsmoor Club which closed last March. This club was regularly attended by the late Greta Broughton and was a great support to her in her later years especially after her husband Gerald died. Greta's sister, the late **Brenda Izzard** was also a member at times before she was unable to get to the club. The new club has been **named The Cedar Community Club in remembrance of her** as her bungalow where she lived all her married life was called Cedar Glen.

Talking as Christians to People who use Church Premises

Rev Jill Marsh, District Mission Enabler, is offering an evening session in the New Year to churches in our Circuit to enable us 'to find ways of developing intentional faith interaction with people who use church community centres'.

She says: 'Many of us have large numbers of people who use our buildings every week through playgroups, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, keep fit and dance classes, music rehearsals, uniformed organizations and so on. We need to find ways of developing, or improving, meaningful interaction with them'.

Everyone is invited to this session. It will take place at **Trinity Church**, Conduit Road, Abingdon, starting at 7:30 pm. **Date to be confirmed**, but one of the Wednesday or Thursday of 23th – 24th January, or the Tuesday - Thursday of 26th – 28th February.

If there are people who would like to come along, please let me know a **preferred day** of the week from among the dates mentioned above.

Malcolm Newton em.newton@waitrose.com

Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection

Saturday 1st December, 10 – 4 pm, Rev Keith Green and others will lead another day of quiet and advent reflections – *"Our Lord is coming by the light of the blue moon"*. Cost: £15 including light lunch. Please book through the Centre or Keith, rkeith1037@gmail.com.

Saturday 8th December, 10 – 2:30 pm, Wreath Making and Advent Reflections. Please join us for our annual wreath making and advent reflections. Please bring

along secateurs, apron and any other special decorations of your choice. Basic materials provided. Bring and share lunch. Cost £20. Book through the Centre.

Saturday 12th January 2019, 10 – 2 pm, Presenting Richard Rohr CD, “The Spiritual Family and the Natural Family”. We will listen to part 1 of the CD and then reflect and discuss. Refreshments available. Cost: Donation.

Friday 18th January 2019, 7:30 pm, “Almost Closing The Circle”. Professor Martin Parsons will give a talk about immigrant children in Europe. Refreshments available. Cost: Donation.

Saturday 16th February 2019 – Moonrakers In Concert will perform from the classical and folk tradition. Their love of contemporary and traditional tunes and songs creates varied textures. Their material is largely from Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English composers. Tickets: £12 through the Centre or on the door.

Saturday 9th March, 10 – 4 pm, Rev Keith Green and others will lead us into Spring for reflections and quiet time. Cost: £15 including light lunch. Please book through the Centre or Keith, rkeith1037@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Childrey and Childrey Methodist Church **Our journey – serving together.**

As part of looking to the future Childrey Methodist Church and St. Mary's the Virgin are committing themselves to continuing their journey of co-operation and working together more closely.

A special service was held on Sunday 18th November in the Parish Church to celebrate that fact and to formally recognise these hopes and dreams.

During the service, we committed ourselves to each other and affirmed our way forward by saying these words together;

We, Childrey Methodist Church and St. Mary the Virgin, continue to commit ourselves to:

Make visible the unity of God's people

Uphold one another in love and in prayer

Explore all possibilities of working together and supporting each other

Share in worship, mission and witness

in order that we can serve better our community and the world.

As followers of Christ, we seek to journey together looking to God's guidance, as by faith and in confidence, we share in this pilgrimage together.”

Revd Helen Cameron, the Chair of our District was the preacher, and the Archdeacon of Dorchester, The Venerable Judy French presided at Holy Communion. Their presence was an important and symbolic reminder not just of what is happening locally but also of the national Anglican Methodist Covenant that exists between our two denominations.

With over 30 people present, with support from the Circuit and other churches, it was a great occasion and we look forward with a sense of expectancy as to what the future will hold.

Prayer Points from the World Church

Pray for the Church in Cameroon and those affected by the recent attacks on Christian pastors and teachers. Pray for an end to the senseless violence against innocent people and for the Government to step in to protect these people.

Pray for the Church in North Korea and particularly for those who suffer for their faith. Pray for the reunification of North and South Korea.

Pray for the Tettey family to be healthy in mind, body and spirit and for their daughters, Joelle and Janelle, in their new school.

Pray for the work of Mediterranean Hope and all the vulnerable people they seek to help.

Pray for the World Church Relationships Team.

Pray for them as they seek new ways to engage the Church in Britain and Ireland with what is happening around the World Church.

Chaplains Libby & Sarah with “Hope”

The Great Western Park community chaplaincy initiative has been recognised by a significant article in the Methodist Recorder complete with a picture of Libby & Sarah with the motorhome which is the base for their work .

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

The website and Circuit Exchange exist 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.

Circuit Website - www.wantab.org.uk

Please remember we are always looking for up-to-date stories, even of relatively small-scale events, to ensure the site gives a fresh and up-to-date impression. Anyone can send a paragraph, long or short, ideally with a photo (from your phone?). Don't worry about your prowess as an author – an editorial eye can be cast over your work if you wish.

Biblical Songs?

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"

Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"

Esther: "I Feel Pretty"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Moses: "The Wanderer"

Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"

Samson: "Hair"

Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"

Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"

Joshua: "Good Vibrations"

Peter: "I'm Sorry"

Esau: "Born To Be Wild"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"

The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"

Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"

Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"

Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

With thanks to Aston Tirrold URC.



Christmas Tree Festival

at

Wantage Methodist Church

Raising funds for '**Little People**'

A local support group for children and families in need

Come and see the Christmas Trees in the Chapel and Hall

7th December 6-9pm - Dickensian Evening
+ refreshments and stalls

6.30pm - Caritas Children's Choir will be singing

8th December 10am-12 noon - Coffee Morning

9th December 10.30am - Morning Worship

**We hope Christmas and the New Year
will bring you many blessings.**



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Saturday 8th December 2018

Framland Pilgrim Home, Naldertown,
Wantage, OXON. OX12 9DL

Cakes Cards Christmas Hampers
Crafts Gifts Choir Refreshments



All proceeds in aid of the Framland Pilgrim Home
Registered Charity Number 242266



Pilgrim Homes
175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AL
Tel: 0300 303 1400 Fax: 0300 303 1415 Email: info@pilgrimfriend.org.uk
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

REACT HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

Dine & Dance for Disability



08/12/18



6pm - 10pm



Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Bassett Road, Wantage, OX12 9Lj



Guest:

His Excellencies
(Ghana - UK High Commissioner)
Hon. Papa Owusu Ankomah

The Mayors of Oxford & Wantage
and many more

Further info contact 07949915547, website: www.rhncharity.org

The Cornerstone Coffee Shop *John Hogston, Cornerstone board member*

Come and celebrate Christmas with a **pre-Christmas lunch**. There's a festive menu on the days we are not serving Christmas dinner. Please note the shop will not be serving dinners on these days.

There are **Christmas cards and presents** to buy as well as special Fair trade Christmas hampers.

The shop will be **closed** 25th, 26th, 31st December and 1st January 2019. Thanks for your support though out the year.

Wantage & Grove Foodbank

The continuing support by way of goods and money is hugely appreciated.

Donations of female sanitary products and animal food may be something that you might consider in addition to current list.

Thank you. Please do talk to Helen Carter if you want to know more.



The Wantage and Grove Foodbank is a practical, community based project, organised by local churches, which provides food parcels to those in our area who find themselves temporarily in difficult circumstances.

wantageandgrovefoodbank@gmail.com

Sector Newsletter Publication Dates 2019

	Deadline	Print		Deadline	Print
February	20/1	23/1	July/August	23/6	26/6
March	17/2	20/2	September	18/8	21/8
April	17/3	20/3	October	22/9	25/9
May	21/4	24/4	November	20/10	23/10
June	19/5	22/5	Dec/Jan	24/11	27/11



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

REPORT OF OUR SEPTEMBER 2018 ACTIVITIES

During September there were:

- 2 Friday night patrols and 3 Saturday night patrols
- 5 Patrols totalling 25 hours of cover involving 16 Street Pastors
- 11 pairs of flip-flops given and 14 bottles of water
- 380 lollies and Love Hearts

Here are some of the ways Street Pastors cared, listened and helped in September:

- Walked a distressed young man home
- Checked on the welfare of three girls in Grove
- Visited Sweatbox on the opening of their new building

One of our teams spent a long time in Grove with a man and two young people that were causing a disturbance. Together with staff from a nearby shop, we tried to mediate between the two sides but unfortunately, as the situation became more aggressive, it was necessary to call the police. Things soon dissipated upon the arrival of two police officers and we were then able to spend time with the man to help calm him down. We offered to walk home with him, which he accepted saying that he felt safe with us.

We found three girls in Grove that had been drinking and were sitting on the pavement together. We checked that they were ok, gave them lollies and encouraged them to make their way home, which they did.

As well as giving away flip-flops to several ladies that were not wearing shoes, we spent time with a man who told us about his life following the loss of his wife several years ago and we also looked after a young man that had drunk too much and had got separated from his friends.

Each month two of our teams patrol at slightly earlier times from the rest of our teams; from 8 pm to midnight. This allows them to regularly visit Sweatbox youth centre who moved in to their new building on King Alfred's Academy Centre Site in September. One of our teams called in to the opening night, chatted to young people and staff and gave away

Coordinator: Nigel Watt

Contact: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Mobile: 07554 655 594

Website: wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Childrey

Tear Fund Lunch:

Friday 7th December, 12:15 pm at the home of Sue & Julian Worth

United Services:

9 th December	4:00 pm	Christingle Service at St Mary's
23 rd December	3:00 pm	Carol Service at the Methodist Church
		This will include singing by the Village Choir
27 th January	11:30 am	Annual United Covenant Service at the Methodist Church

NCH Coffee Morning & Sale

Saturday 8th December 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

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.



Childrey Methodist Church



Christmas Coffee



Morning & Sale



Saturday 8th December

10.30am - 12.30 (ish)



**Stalls: Cakes, Toys & General Goods, Books,
Festive Games, Jewellery, Cornerstone Cafe,
Hamper Raffle and more!**



Plus Hot & Cold Drinks, Cakes & Mince Pies

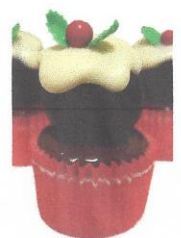
Most stalls in aid of: 'Action for Children'

Everyone's welcome! :-)



www.thelonebaker.com

**Donations to stalls welcomed:
See Doug Legge or leave at venue**



www.thelonebaker.com

Grove

Advent Meditation/Reflection

Keith will be leading a weekly Advent study/meditation/reflection for the first three weeks of Advent under the title "Advent – a time for watching and waiting". There will be both morning and evening options lasting around an hour or so.

Week 1 - Advent - watching & waiting in the darkness

Wednesday 5th December, 10:30 am at Grove Methodist Church or

Thursday 6th December, 7:30 pm at Wantage Methodist Church

Week 2 - Advent - watching & waiting through colour and symbols

Wednesday 12th December, 10:30 am at Grove Methodist Church or

Thursday 13th December, 7:30 pm at Wantage Methodist Church

Week 3 - Advent - watching & waiting in the in-between times

Wednesday 19th December, 10:30 am at Grove Methodist Church or

Thursday 20th December, 7:30 pm at Wantage Methodist Church

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 1st December** from 10 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. Our hosts are Jock and Kath Gourlay. Proceeds are for church funds. We look forward to seeing you.

The **first Coffee Morning of the New Year** will be on **Saturday, 5th January**, 10 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. Mark and Linda Sandels are our hosts. Proceeds are for Yotam's Truck Fund.

Open House is having a Christmas social evening on **Monday 10th December**, at 7.30pm, at the home of Margaret and Roger Bett, Downside, East Hanney. Festive fare will be provided for a small contribution. All are welcome.

If you hope to be there, please let Margaret know (telephone 01235 868286) for catering purposes.

Tuesday Fellowship

4th December Tea and Chat – Church

11th December TBA

18th December Christmas Lunch at Cornerstone, 12 noon

2019

1st January No meeting

8th January New Year Party – Childrey invited

15th January Geoff Caudle will be visiting us

22nd January Keith is coming to speak to us

29th January Tea and Chat - Church

The **Warmed Hearts group** will meet on **Wednesday, 5th December** at 8 pm at 107 Mayfield Avenue, Grove for session four “Receiving Christ: through prayer and fellowship”.

Warmed Hearts group will meet in January for session five “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1.27). The date and venue will be given nearer the time in the weekly notices.

It is always good to see new faces. All are welcome. Further information from Peter Hemmings (01235 762504)

Film Plus on Sunday, 16th December at 4.00pm in the Meeting Room.

The film is “The Holiday”, starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Jack Black. *Cert 12 “Contains infrequent strong language and moderate sex references”*. It will be followed by refreshments and a short act of worship at 6:30 pm led by our minister, Rev Keith Underhill, based on themes from the film.

There is **no Film Plus in January**.

No Film Club in December.

Next Film Club is on **Friday, 18th January** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room and the choice is “**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**”

2018 2hr 4mins

In 1946 a London-based writer begins exchanging letters with residents on the island of Guernsey, which was German-occupied during WWII. Feeling compelled to visit the island, she starts to get a picture of what it was like during the occupation.

Cast: Lily James, Glen Powell, Michiel Huisman, Jessica Brown Findlay.

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

Handicrafts Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove on **Monday afternoons** from 2 to 4 pm to craft and chat together.

The meeting on 3rd December is **Christmas lunch** and this has to be **pre-booked**.

We meet as usual on Mondays, 10th and 17th, but **no meeting** on 24th or 31st December. **Restart** in the New Year on Monday, 7th January.

£1 donation to Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink. All welcome.

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

The “Flowers, Fruit & Veg” quiz for November/December is available from Sheila Hall, (763135) price 50p. Closing date is Sunday, 16th December.

Thank you to everyone who supports or arranges various events.

The November coffee morning raised £335 for Freyja’s Fund.

If you are willing to help, either by sharing with someone or hosting a coffee morning, please get in touch with Peter Hemmings (tel: 762504). Thank you.

Flower Rota at Grove for December/January.

2 nd December	Noreen Hemmings	6 th January	Linda Jones
9 th December	Margaret Bett	13 th January	Audrey Hogston
16 th December	Christmas	20 th January	Judith Hopkins
23 rd December	Christmas	27 th January	Joyce Horton
30 th December	Christmas		

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.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions for the **shoeboxes**. 573 boxes were gathered from in and around Grove. The boxes were collected on 5th November, taken to Worthing and then by lorry to Eastern Europe.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity united service

The Wantage and Grove Church Partnership will be marking this week with a special ecumenical service on Sunday 20th January 2019 at 4:00pm. The theme for this year's service will be education and will include input from "Open the Book" and The "Prayer Space" initiative plus others. More details will be available soon, but in the meantime, please put this date in your diary!

Wantage

Dementia Friendly Church - resources for us to use

As we have signed up to be a Dementia Friendly Church, we now have access to some excellent on-line material from Dementia Friends, an Alzheimer's Society initiative.

These short video clips are very informative and give helpful tips and suggestions of ways in which we can help in ordinary and everyday situations.

If you'd like to watch these either on your own, or with a friend or two, please contact Keith for the code that you will need in order to access this material.

You can access the Dementia Friends website from the Wantage Methodist Church website under the heading "Our Church"

From there you will see a heading "Get Involved", click on this and go to "organisations". On the left hand side of the page you will see the heading "organisations" and within that "watch our videos for organisations". When you click on this, a form will pop up asking you to enter the code and the number of people watching the video clip with you etc. When you have done this, click on "submit" and you will have access to these excellent video clips.

We hope you will find them helpful and useful. If you have any questions, please contact Keith, who will be only too happy to help you.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Advent Meditation/Reflection

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Tuesday Afternoon House Group

During November we concluded our study "Heaven, Finding our True Home", studied two parables and started our Advent Study for this year, "Life to the Full?" In December we will continue our Advent study and in January we will return to studying some more parables. The details of the December and January dates are as follows:

4 th December	Advent 2	Murdstone or Peggotty? John 12:1- 8 Keith will lead this session for us. This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
11 th December	Advent 3	Rotten or ripe? Luke 22:39-46
18 th December	Advent 4	Desert or Oasis? John 4:4-30 and 39-42
25 th December	No Meeting	
1 st January	No Meeting	
8 th January		The Treasure and the Pearl – Matthew 13: 44-46
15 th January		The Lost Son – Luke 15:11-32
22 nd January		The Midnight Visitor – Luke 11:5-13 and Matthew 7:7-11
29 th January		The Dinner – Luke 14:1-23

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.

Advent House Group

From **Thursday November 29th** there will be an Advent group studying the York Course 'Life to the Full?' for four weeks. It will be held at the home of Clive and Alison Phillips (1, Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis) on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 3:00pm.

It is the same course that will be followed by Eileen Rennie's house group on Tuesday afternoons. Please let Alison know if you would like to come, in which case she will order you a booklet for the course which costs £3.50. Tel: 01235 760335

Calling all "Christmas choristers"

We hope to have a "Christmas choir" again at the carol service at 6 pm on Sunday 23th December. After Sunday morning services seems to be the most popular time for rehearsals, so we will meet on the Sundays in December.

All ages welcome! We will choose songs to fit the singers.

Please email gill.skidmore32@gmail.com if you are interested, or phone 01235 766655 if you are not on email.

Sunday Morning Bible Study.

We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be at 9:00 am on **Sunday 27th January** in the Hall.

PRAYER & PASTORAL

Prayer list

Loving God as we approach Christmas, guide us to spend time in Advent concentrating on the real reason for Christmas celebrations. We pray that we will take advantage of preparations for our thinking that are planned within our churches. May we rejoice together in celebrating your birth in Bethlehem and give thanks for how you have changed our lives. Help us within this season to help to change the lives of those less fortunate than we are. As this year draws to a close and we welcome 2019 may we recommit to follow your way in all that we do. So bless us all, we pray, as we journey on. Amen

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan and Eileen Bunn and family, Doug, Emily, Carl, Findley, Harrison, Jean Gill, Carol Mackinder, Ken and Grace Wright, Daniel O'Sullivan, Caroline, Cyril, 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 or you want to add anybody, please let me know by 18th January 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 December the following people **on Mary Trotter's and Mary Whittaker's Pastoral Lists** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Diane Barton, Mary Whittaker, June Crouch, Richard George, Mary & Robin Trotter and Shirley & Arnold Tucker.

We will begin 2019 by praying 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.

Flower Rota for November & December

December	2 nd	Helen Carter	January	6 th	Meriel Robson
	9 th	Alison Phillips		13 th	
	16 th	Celia Roser		20 th	Gill & Gordon
	23 rd /30 th	Christmas Flowers		27 th	

Rota for Church Flowers 2019



Thank you to everyone who has provided flowers for church during 2018. The sign-up sheet for the first half of 2019 is on the wall in the corridor near the Parlour door – but it is currently looking very blank! Please have a look at it in the next few weeks and sign up for the dates of your choice, to make sure we have some names on the rota at least for January and February. We invite everyone to be part of the flower rota on a date or dates in the year which are of special significance. Perhaps there are birthdays or anniversaries of people who mean a lot to you, or whose memory you wish to celebrate. You can also choose where the flowers go afterwards – either by taking them to someone yourself or by nominating the person to receive them and they can be delivered on your behalf. Otherwise, just leave that column blank and the flowers will be taken to someone for whom it's pastorally appropriate. Finally, even if you don't consider yourself as a skilled flower arranger, it's not a problem. Flowering plants in pots are perfectly acceptable alternatives to cut flowers, or we can find someone else to arrange your flowers for you. If you have any queries about the Church flowers rota and arrangements, please let Diane B. or me know.

Many thanks, Ann

Christmas card board

We invite you, once again, to add a card to the board in the hall wishing friends in the church a happy Christmas. You may like to put the money this saves you into a charity pot over the Christmas period. The board will be up and ready to add to from the first Sunday in December.

YOUNG CHURCH

Kids@Church

Jane Kent

In November we prepared a little for the all-age **Christmas service** on Sunday 16th December by thinking and talking about angels - what do they look like? What would it have been like for Mary? How would we respond if God sent an angel to us and asked us to do something extraordinary?

In the hall we were very busy making lots of shortbread biscuits to share with everyone after the service on 16th (don't worry they are now in the freezer!).

Everyone is warmly invited to the service on **16th December** at 10:30 as we explore the Christmas story together - feel free to dress up as an angel or a shepherd if you wish to do so!

Kids@Church is an informal service for primary-school aged children and their families and we meet monthly (the 3rd Sunday of the month) at 9:30 am for about 45 minutes including some time in the hall playing games, doing craft or cooking - new friends always welcome!

Kids@Church will next meet on **Sunday 20th January** at 9:30 am in the church.

Sunday 16th December 2018
10:30 am
Wantage Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE



**A service for all ages exploring
the Christmas story**

Dressing up as an angel or shepherd is optional!
Everyone welcome!

YMOSES

Jane Kent

We met at our house last month and squeezed into our front room! After sharing birthday cake and making plans for the service on 16th December and our YMOSES Christmas social we watched a clip from 'The Nativity' DVD and discussed what it would have been like for Mary to be visited by Angel Gabriel. This led onto a discussion about Nazareth, pre-destination and angels today!

We will meet again on **9th December** for our **Christmas games and pizza evening** and then back to normal at Chris and Charlotte's on **January 13th 2019!**

YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday EveningS) is an informal, faith-based discussion group for secondary-school age (and beyond) young people, which meets for an hour every second Sunday of the month, 7:15 – 8:15 pm. New friends always welcome! - just give me a call (01235 765421) or email:

Janevkent@icloud.com

MISSION & EVANGELISM

All We Can

In October the church began its second year as a Partner Church with All We Can. Our first fund-raising event was connected with our Harvest Festival. Over that period our envelope fund-raising and some members other donations raised a total of £737.90p of which £605 was gift aided. This means that All We Can will receive a total of approximately £890 from our first contribution in this second year.



Christmas Tree Festival Wantage Methodist Church 7th- 9th December

Once again we are holding a Christmas tree festival on the weekend of Wantage Dickensian evening. This year we will be supporting **Little People**.



We shall be open from **6 pm on Dickensian Evening, Friday 7th December** for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments in the hall. There will be a **coffee morning on Saturday 8th 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 myself 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.

Carolyn Roche

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche (01235 764310)

Christmas Angels

Almost time for our angels to fly!



We shall be tying on their labels on the first two Mondays in December – **3rd and 10th December at 2 pm** in the Parlour. Any non-knitters are welcome to come and help with this. Also we have more angels this year so we hope to spread them further than just the centre of town – any suggestions?



If we are not too busy the Knit & Chat group will also meet on its regular third Monday of the month – **17th December**. Then as we look forward to 2019, Knit & Chat will meet as usual on the first and third Mondays (**7th and 21st 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 enjoy doing.

Amnesty International - Write for Rights 2018

The Write for Rights campaign this year encourages us to write to 12 women who have taken extraordinary risks to defend humanity or/and to write to those in authority in different parts of the world to improve human rights. You can write a simple card to one person or take action on all 12 cases. This year June Grunwald has booklets and information about how you can become involved. Booklets, which give information on the 12 women and guidance on how to write cards or letters, will be on the table in the chapel vestibule and available after coffee on the mornings of 9th and 16th December. Our thanks to Pam Martin for bringing this campaign to our notice in previous years. You can find further information on [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write).

FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 5 th | This is our Christmas Lunch at the Fox at Denchworth. |
| December 12 th | Our term ends with a Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Keith Underhill. |
| January 9 th | We begin the term with a service of Holy Communion led by our Minister, Rev Keith Underhill. |
| January 16 th | This is our New Year social afternoon and we are pleased to welcome a group of ladies from "Singing for Fun" to entertain us. There will also be refreshments. |
| January 23 rd | Robin Radley from Chiks Children's Homes in Kerala State, India, will give an illustrated talk on their work, also the recent disastrous flood damage which cost many lives. |
| January 30 th | Barbara Kershaw will give an illustrated talk about her train journey to Vienna. |

Lunches in December & January

From all the lunch team we wish you a very Happy Christmas

Friday Drop-in Lunch



Christmas Lunch will be on **Friday 21st December**. This will be a roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings with a vegetarian alternative. This will be **by ticket only** and will cost £10. If you would like one please see Eileen Rennie or Julie Horton.

In January, Friday lunch will be on **25th January**.

Sunday lunches will be **December 9th** and **January 13th**.

Please remember to **sign up for Sunday lunch**.

WANTAGE METHODISTS in 2020

We are starting to plan to celebrate our 175th anniversary in 2020.

This will be a celebration of the past but also a refreshment of our Mission for today. A few ideas for that year were identified at the recent meeting of Movers & Shakers-

- + Special preacher each month
- + Specific mission for the year
- + Series of events to raise money for the year's chosen charity
- + Hymns through the decades
- + Stage musical (as done in the past)
- + Memories of people in the church

I am sure that you will have more. As you can see, there is plenty of scope for more ideas, practical thinking and committed contributions.

If you are interested in getting involved please talk to Keith, or one of the stewards.

A very exciting opportunity to celebrate our 175th anniversary

A significant number of people have suggested that to celebrate our special year in 2020 we should revive the musical "**Firebrand**". For those of you with very long memories, in 1987 two of our then-members, Janet Evans and Huw Morgan, wrote a wonderful musical about the life of John Wesley, which we performed as a fully staged production to raise money for building our church hall, replacing the old Victorian school that then occupied that part of our site. Our very own Graham Godfrey was an amazing and very moving John Wesley in the 1988 world premier!

We had a great deal of fun, we all got to know each other a lot better, which was good for the life of our church, we put ourselves on the local map and we got to know other people from outside our own church who came along as "strengthening".

To do something like this we need **all ages**, literally from birth to old age. We can adapt it to suit resources, but there are openings for

- Actors
- Narrator(s)
- Singers (solo/chorus/acting or non-acting)
- Dancers
- Orchestral players
- Costume designers and seamstresses
- Make-up artists
- Set builders
- Lighting and sound engineers
- Front-of-house staff
- Refreshment providers
-

It is a big commitment, BUT it will be worthwhile and very satisfying if we can pull it off. We need church members to form the core but we will open it up to the community as well, which is an opportunity for mission.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO OFFER THIS COMMITMENT?

There is a sign-up sheet on the hall noticeboard. We appreciate that circumstances can change for any of us in a year, but at this stage we need to have confidence that it's worth starting on the undertaking. Please indicate **now** if you (your Nearest and Dearest as well!) are interested in helping us put this together. If we don't get enough names on the lists we may have to think again.

Property Points

Installation of acoustic panels in the Chapel

Acoustic Panels will be installed on the ceiling during w/c 26th November.

Routine Reminders

All rooms are now in regular use. Please leave rooms tidy at the end of every use. There is no one but you to do this. We are self maintained with a limited amount of support from an industrial cleaner who is on site on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Their job is to clean, not tidy up.

If you use chairs or tables from the smaller rooms in the Hall, please return them at the end of your meeting/activity. Please leave furniture tidily stacked.

Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings

Please **check / book your date** with Gordon **before you commit to** your meeting.

wntgmethodistbookings@gmail.com

07710 214601

The following bookings are in place:

NOVEMBER

Monday 26 th >> Friday 30 th		Ceiling Panel Installation	Chapel
Tuesday 27 th	Evening	Worship Consultation	Parlour
Wednesday 28 th	Evening	Music Group	tba

DECEMBER

Sunday 2 nd	Afternoon	Foodbank	Hall
Thursday 6 th	Evening	Advent Reflection	Chapel
Friday 7 th	Evening	Dickensian Evening	Hall
Saturday 8 th	Morning	Coffee Morning	Hall
Fri/Sat/Sun 7 th – 9 th		Christmas Tree Festival	Chapel
Sunday 9 th	Evening	YMOSES	Hall
Tuesday 11 th	Evening	Wantage Male Voice Choir	Chapel
Thursday 13 th	Evening	Advent Reflection	Chapel
Saturday 15 th	Morning	Stable Build	Chapel
Saturday 15 th	Afternoon	Kids@Church	Parlour
Sunday 16 th	Afternoon	Private Party	Hall
Thursday 20 th	Evening	Advent Reflection	Chapel
Tuesday 25 th	11:00	Wantage Community Church	Chapel

JANUARY

Wednesday 9 th	Evening	Circuit Meeting	Chapel
Sunday 27 th	All Day	Holocaust Memorial	Chapel

Weekly Bookings		December 2018/January 2019	
Monday	eve	Slimming World	Hall
Tuesday	morn	MIND	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Wantage Camera Club	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Rock Choir (January only)	Chapel
Wednesday	aft	Wednesday Fellowship	Hall
Wednesday	eve	Wantage Stage Musical	Hall
Thursday	morn	Disciple	Parlour
Thursday	eve	Yoga	Hall
Friday	morn	Babes & Toddlers	Hall
Friday	aft	Caritas Choir	Hall
Friday	eve	Cheek2Cheek	Hall
+++++			
1 st & 3 rd Monday	aft	Knit & Chat	Parlour
Second Monday	aft	Age UK Oxfordshire	Parlour/Hall
Alternate Monday	eve	Dietitian	Godfrey Room
Second Tuesday	eve	My Life, My Choice	Parlour
Last Tuesday	eve	Rethink	Godfrey Room
Third Thursday	mid	King Alfred's WI	Hall
Third Saturday	morn	Dads Out	Hall

DIARY

For Christmas Services and Covenant Services see next page

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 27 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Worship Consultation	
Friday 30 rd	12:15 pm	Friday Drop-in Lunch at Wantage	p26

DECEMBER

Saturday 1 st	10 am to Noon	Coffee Morning at Grove	p16
Monday 3 rd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p25
Wednesday 5 th	10:30 am	Advent 1 at Grove	pp4/16/20
Thursday 6 th	7:30 pm	Advent 1 at Wantage	pp4/16/20
Friday to Sunday 7 th – 9 th		Wantage Christmas Tree Festival	pp10/25
Saturday 8 th	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	NCH Coffee Morning at Childrey	pp14/15
Sunday 9 th	12:15 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p26
	7:15 pm	YMOSES	p24
Monday 10 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p25
Wednesday 12 th	10:30 am	Advent 2 at Grove	pp4/16/20
Thursday 13 th	7:30 pm	Advent 2 at Wantage	pp4/16/20
Sunday 16 th	4:00 pm	Film Plus at Grove	p17
	7:15 pm	YMOSES	p24
Monday 17 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p25
Wednesday 19 th	10:30 am	Advent 3 at Grove	pp4/16/20
Thursday 20 th	7:30 pm	Advent 3 at Wantage	pp4/16/20
Friday 21 st	12:15 pm	Friday Drop-in Christmas Lunch at Wantage	p26

JANUARY 2019

Saturday 5 th	10 am to Noon	Coffee Morning at Grove	p16
Monday 7 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p25
Wednesday 9 th	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Wantage	p5
Sunday 13 th	12:15 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p26
	7:15 pm	YMOSES	p24
Friday 18 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove	p17
Sunday 20 th	9:30 am	Kids@Church	p13
	4:00 pm	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
		Location to be determined	

Deadline for the February Newsletter

Monday 21 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p25
Friday 25 th	12:15 pm	Friday Drop-in Lunch at Wantage	p26

Sunday 27th

Holocaust Memorial Day

p4

FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd

2:00 pm

“Come & Sing” Messiah at St John Vianney

p18

Christmas Services

December 9th

4:00 pm Christingles at Childrey – St Mary’s

December 16th

10:30 am kids@church Christmas Service (Wantage)

December 23rd

3:00 pm Childrey United Carol Service

6:00 pm Wantage Carol Service

6:30 pm Grove Carol Service

December 24th

11:30 pm Christmas Night Communion at Wantage

December 25th

9:30 am Christmas Day Worship at Wantage

10:45 am Christmas Day Worship at Grove

Covenant Services

Our annual Covenant Services will be held as below

Wantage Methodist Church (to include the annual re-dedication of pastoral visitors) 6th January at 10:30 am

Grove Methodist Church (to include the annual re-dedication of pastoral visitors) 13th January at 10:45 am

Childrey at 11:30 am, 27th January united with St. Mary’s at Childrey Methodist Church followed by lunch

Sunday Services – December 2018

	Childrey	Grove	Wantage
December 2nd Advent 1	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Helen Carter 6:30 pm Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Elizabeth Wood Worship through pain
December 9th Advent 2	4:00 pm Christingle Service at St Mary's	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Esther Miller	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Andrew Dixon
December 16th Advent 3	11:00 am Peter Hemmings	10:45 am Ian Sturt 4:00 pm Film Plus Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill with kids@church
December 23rd Advent 4	3:00 pm Rev Keith Underhill United Carol Service	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Carols Peter Hemmings	10:30 am Daphne Savage 6:00 pm Carols Rev Keith Underhill
December 30th Sunday after Christmas	11:00 am Stephen Atkinson	10:45 am Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Ian Sturt

Sunday Services – January 2019

	Childrey	Grove	Wantage
January 6th Epiphany Covenant	11:0 am Geoffrey Caudle	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Elizabeth Wood	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill Worship through Covenant
January 13th Ordinary 1 Baptism of Christ	11:00 am Alan Smith	10:45 am Covenant Service Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Malcom Newton	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Libby Bolton
January 20th Ordinary 2 Christian Unity	11:00 am Elizabeth Wood	10:45 am Carol Sturt 4:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service	9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill 4:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
January 27th Ordinary 3 Holocaust Memorial Day	11:30 am United Covenant Service Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Ruth Coward 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Deacon Selina Nisbett