

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

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SECTOR

NEWS



The Methodist Church



November 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
Doug Legge : 01235 751463

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

Grove

Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624

Wantage

Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 07710 214601
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Contributions for the **December/January Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 17th November 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.

Regular Weekday Meetings

Monday	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

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

Circuit web site www.wantab.org.uk

From the Manse...

As the nation's custodian of Remembrance, the Royal British Legion is committed to helping everyone understand the importance of Remembrance, so those sacrifices are never forgotten.

As we get closer to Remembrance Sunday, and prepare with the rest of our town to reflect and to remember those who paid the ultimate price and made the biggest sacrifice, we are reminded that this is a month for remembering.

We remember those who keep their vigil among the graves and tombstones in the fields of Flanders, at Tyne Cot, and the Menin Gate – people who are committed to the fact that there will always be those whose task it is to remember and not forget.

We remember all those whose names are on countless memorials and whose inscriptions represent a person who lived, and laughed, who was known and loved; a father, a son, a brother or an uncle, a mother, a daughter, a sister or an aunt, a loved one, a friend.

We remember that as we go about our daily business in safety and in freedom, as we meet and associate with those we like, as we share our views and opinions openly and disagree in debate and discussion, as we go to polling stations to register our vote free from intimidation and coercion and as we value all people, we do so and are able to, because others gave their lives that we might do just that.

In the words of Laurence Binyon;

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them”.*

We will remember them – today and each and every day!

With love and God Bless,

Keith

White Peace Poppies

Some of us choose to wear white peace poppies alongside our red poppies and as usual, Helen Carter will have some to sell (fixed price of £1 each) in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday. If you would like to know more about these white poppies (which have been around since 1933) then this link <https://www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies> will be useful. Helen will be very pleased to talk to you about why some of us wear both red and white poppies.

Pam Scholes

It is with deep sadness we record that Pam died at Framland on Thursday 17th October. Roy and the family had been with her since she became increasingly weak and unwell at the weekend. Sadly Pam had not been able to worship with us for several years since her health deteriorated. When Roy was no longer able to look after her at home, Pam became a resident at Framland Care Home. During all of that time Roy spent each afternoon with her throughout her entire stay there. We remember Pam with affection and give thanks for all of her participation in the life of our church here and at Grove over many years. Pam's funeral service will take place at Wantage Methodist Church at 1 pm on Thursday 7th November. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Roy and with all of Pam's family, and we assure them of our love at this very sad time.

Memorial Service

Our annual sectional Memorial service, where we invite those who have been bereaved to come and remember those they love but see no longer, will this year be held on Sunday 3rd November at Wantage Methodist Church at 6:00 pm.

This service will give us an opportunity to remember with thankfulness those who have died. We will be able to say some prayers, sing a few hymns, light some candles and give thanks to God for them. It will also enable us to bring our present concerns to God and together find comfort and reassurance in the message of hope that is ours.

The service also allows us to remember those who have set us an example and in so many different ways made us who we are today. This service is open to all as together we remember and give thanks for those who have meant so much to us throughout our lives. Our hope is that everyone who comes will find the occasion both meaningful and helpful.

A Christian response to Brexit

There is an important role for us as Christian people at this time in making practical expressions of love and hope to our communities and to individuals. Here are 8 steps we can take today. Don't be limited to 8 and don't under-estimate what we can achieve together.

Give extra support to your local food banks

Watch out for the lonely, the anxious and the vulnerable

Reach out to EU nationals in your work place and your community

Watch over and support other faith groups and minority ethnic communities who are experiencing increased abuse

Encourage truthful and honest debate

Pray in public worship and private prayer

Work with other churches and faith communities and charities

Invite your community to come together

Helen Cameron


The Methodist Church
Northampton District

10th October 2019

3Generate 2019

This year's 3Generate is taking place from 22th – 24th November at Pontins in Southport. A group from our church and Circuit will be attending. More details can be found on the website (www.3Generate.org.uk).

Marriage and Relationships "God in Love Unites us" *Keith Underhill*

You will be aware that the Methodist Church is at the moment in the process of discussing and debating "God in Love Unites us" - this is the report of the Marriage and Relationships task group that went to Conference this summer.

The Methodist Conference spent a great deal of time discussing the report and did so with a sense of openness, respect, graciousness, dignity and understanding, aware that within our Methodist family there are differing views.

The Methodist Conference showed that it is possible to engage with one another even where contradictory views are held and to do so in a way which models good practice to the world.

The provisional resolutions within the report will be debated at the Spring Synods across the country and the final votes taken at the Methodist Conference when it meets in the summer of 2020.

Conference agreed that this report should be commended for study and prayerful discussion.

To help start the discussions within our own Circuit, we will be holding a meeting looking at the report and study guide on **Tuesday 12th November** at 7:30 pm. This will take place at **Grove Methodist Church**.

This will be open to anyone who wishes to come along and join in the conversation. It is planned that each Church will also look at the report in the New Year for conversations and discussion at a local level.

I have ordered plenty of copies of both the report and the study guide and these will be made available.

I look forward to us sharing together over the coming months.

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

Circuit Website - 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 or Tel: 07710 214601

COMMUNITY CHAPLAIN TO GREAT WESTERN PARK

The Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit invite applications for a part-time post (12 hours per week) of Community Chaplain to Great Western Park.

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

The successful applicant will be undertaking pioneering work, in collaboration with other Community Chaplains and ecumenical partners from churches in Didcot, to develop the existing chaplaincy approach and inspire others to become volunteer chaplains, to expand the work on GWP and in other new housing areas in the town and circuit.

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

Enhanced DBS and references will be required.

For more details and an application pack, until Thursday 24 October 2019 please contact Revd Keith Underhill (01235) 763321 keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk.

From Friday 25 October 2019, please contact Mrs Helen Carter, 01235 764810 helen-carter@ntlworld.com

Closing date for applications is 12 noon, Saturday 2 November 2019

Shortlisting Tuesday 5 November 2019

Interviews to be held on Friday 15 November 2019

Why We Tell Stories

Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Conference

I heard a great African story recently. It was told in order to make sense of the arrival of White settlers, with the purpose of seeking to find a peaceful way of welcoming and living with those who arrived. Spoken out of the context of what would now be called an 'African Traditional Religion' (ATR), storytellers told the tale of a long-lost Aunt who had travelled North many years before. She had been away so long in the cold North, and her offspring and heirs had likewise lived in the North so long, that over time their skin had become paler and paler. After many generations they had now returned. But even though they looked different now, they should be welcomed because they were relatives: descendants of the long-lost Aunt.

It is a powerful story because it was clearly intended to keep peace, to forge good relations and to contribute to the building of a healthy multi-ethnic society. That it was offered at a time when White settlers were claiming land, disparaging existing religious beliefs and cultural practices, and imposing a new religion and a new (and often unjust) political and economic structure is striking. That such a story would be submerged

within the more dominant narratives (including forms of 'the Christian story') presented by White settlers is, sadly, not at all surprising.

With hindsight, of course, the story of the Aunt returning from the North is but another version of any story which reminds us that all human beings are made in the image of the one God. They are therefore to be treated equally, whatever differences between them there may be. But the issue of how such a story was to be used and received, and whether it could carry the peace hoped for, is a different matter.

This simple example reminds us that stories have different purposes. It also shows us that stories cannot always guarantee that what they are intended for can necessarily come about. In any story-telling situation, there is someone telling the story, there is the content of a story itself, and then there are those who hear. There may also be someone behind the story-teller (who wrote, or told, the story originally). The point is that there are many kinds of stories, told for many different purposes. This is true in Christianity itself. It is true of the great many stories contained in the Bible. It is also true of stories told of Christianity's history: of its sinners and saints.

In the study book we have written for our Presidential Year, *So What's the Story...?* (DLT 2019) Barbara Glasson and I have tried to explore the many ways in which story and stories work within Christian faith. Chapter 1 of that work looks at the different types of stories that we tell.

We tell stories to describe events we have witnessed. These are historical accounts of happenings as we think they actually occurred. We tell stories to make sense of things, be it our own lives, other people's lives, places, ideas. In the case of our own lives, we turn our lives into a coherent narrative which not only 'puts things in order' (chronologically), but also gives shape to what we think our own life is about and where it is heading. When we weave our story into God's story, then it becomes 'testimony' (on which more in a later month!).

We tell stories to persuade. We want to influence others and pass on narratives that we believe will help others in their decisions about how to behave. This includes telling political stories ('don't you see that this is why you should vote the same way as me!') and religious stories ('I really do want you to see why faith is so important in life'). It is not wrong to try and persuade when the purpose is to commend. Only when persuasion becomes manipulation do things become a bit dodgy.

We tell stories to entertain, too. Some of the best jokes are long, convoluted stories. Some of the most entertaining stories are captivatingly-told tales, told as much for the pleasure of the telling as the rapt attention of the hearers. Their purpose is to create the excitement, the suspense, the thrill which the 'event' of the story requires.

We tell stories to build and sustain communities. Stories link to identities, and people of different backgrounds (of ethnicity, social background, political persuasion, religious conviction, geographical origin) will tell stories to describe or explain who they are or what is important to them.

For all these reasons, then, we tell stories. And all these types of stories are found in Christian faith too. But are all Christian stories true? It may seem an odd question. One might expect the answer to be 'yes, of course!' In fact, things aren't so simple. For one thing, we have so often come to assume that 'true stories' are those which

are historically accurate. But historical accounts are not the only kind of truth which exist. And even historical narratives differ from each other. That's why historians exist and have an important job to do. Fictional accounts can be true in so far as they are truthful about human life, even if the stories are 'made up'. So even in the Bible there is a mix of history and fiction as the writers seek to be truthful about God. And simply because stories are told by Christians, that doesn't make them all true. One of the Church's job is to provide a communal context in which we can keep on checking out that what we say, in faith, remains true.

There are, then, many stories to be told. Throughout our Presidential year we shall keep on reflecting on how these work, in and for faith.

This article first appeared in the Methodist Recorder on 30 August 2019

Wantage and Grove Foodbank

Many thanks for the generous gifts of food and money received recently. All such gifts are much appreciated. The requests for food parcels continue to be at an unprecedented level, and sadly this will be yet another record year for those requests. Christmas hampers will be made up again this year to give out and there will be a request for help with making up those. Please watch the weekly notices for that request. (The request will probably be made at the beginning of December).

Little People Christmas is coming!!!

So sorry to have to remind you that the summer is over and Christmas is on the horizon.

Little People have several families who are dreading the Christmas season, because they know that their children may be very disappointed, due to financial constraints.

This year Little People are asking if some of you kind people would consider providing gift vouchers. We are suggesting low denomination vouchers, no more than £5 each, in fact Argos have £1 vouchers. Please could these be from Wantage and Grove, as most of our families do not have transport?

Of course we always welcome toys and especially family games, either new, or in very good condition with all the contents and instructions.

Many thanks and VERY many thanks for all your support throughout 2019 and previously.

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>



Christmas Tree Festival

at

Wantage Methodist Church

Raising funds for

Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Come and see the Christmas Trees in the Chapel and Hall

6th December 6-9pm - Dickensian Evening

+ refreshments and stalls

7pm - Caritas Children's Choir will be singing

7th December 10am-12 noon - Coffee Morning

8th December 10.30am - Morning Worship

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



Childrey Conversations

Engaging With Contemporary Issues



**These events are free -
simply come along.**

**7:30pm Start with
refreshments**

7:45pm Speaker

8:25pm Q&A

finish by 9:00pm

For further details please
contact:

Rev'd Leonora Hill
Rector, The Ridgeway Benefice
revd.lahill@btinternet.com
Tel: (01235) 760112
Mob: 07867 420234

Rev'd Keith Underhill
Keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk
Superintendent of the Wantage
and Abingdon Circuit
(01235) 763321
Mob 07565 051310

**Childrey Methodist Church & St. Mary's
Childrey, working together, invite you to
'Childrey Conversations' on Thursday
evenings this November.**

An opportunity to hear first class speakers address
some of the issues of our time, engage in
conversation and be part of the discussions.

- 7th November **'Thinking of you: spirituality
and dementia'**. Rev'd Canon Dr Joanne Collicut (Karl
Jaspers Lecturer in Psychology & Spirituality, Ripon College,
Cuddesdon.
- 14th November **'The challenges of rural
poverty'** Rev'd Elizabeth Clark. *National Rural Officer for the
Methodist and United Reformed Churches*
- 21st November **'Mindfulness and spirituality
- for all faiths and none'** *Tim Stead, accredited
mindfulness teacher & former vicar, Oxford Mindfulness Centre*
- 28th November **'Mustard Seed and the Art of
Change'** *Andy Turner Church Action on poverty (South of
England)*

Venue:

**Childrey Methodist Church
Chapel Way, Childrey OX12 9UU**



Childrey

Tear Fund Lunch: to be advised.

United Service: **Sunday 24th November** in the Methodist Chapel
11:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill

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

Childrey Conversations – engaging with contemporary issues.....

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These events are free and will begin at 7:30 pm – please see the posters and flyers for more information.

Thank You

Childrey thank everyone for their help and support with the Chapel Anniversary. This was a great success and raised £195 for Helen & Douglas House.

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, 2nd November** in the Meeting Room from 10 am till 12 noon. Judith's cards will be on sale. Judith Hopkins and Jean Noddle are our hosts. Proceeds from the morning are for Freyja's Fund, which is a charity set up by Freyja's family, to support young people with cancer at the J.R. hospital. We will be pleased to see you.

The **Memorial Service** this year will be at Wantage Methodist Church on **Sunday, 3rd November** at 6 pm. There will be no evening service at Grove on 3rd November.

Tuesday Fellowship 2:15 pm in the Meeting Room

- 5th Bill Fuller will give a presentation about the late Rev Ponsonby of Wantage
- 12th We are delighted that Valerie Grist is coming to speak to us at our 44th Anniversary Service in our Meeting Room. All welcome. 2:15 pm start as usual.
- 19th We welcome Keith Underhill to our meeting today.
- 26th To be announced

Warmed Hearts house group will meet on **Wednesday, 13th November** at 7:30 pm at 7, Miles Drive, Grove, for a session on "What the papers say". 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.

"Film Plus" On Remembrance Sunday, **10th November** at 4.00 pm we will be showing the film "Hacksaw Ridge", cert 15.

In this film the battle scenes are extremely graphic and realistic, and show the brutal reality of war. It is the true story of Desmond T. Doss, the conscientious objector who, at the Battle of Okinawa, was awarded the Medal of Honour for his incredible bravery and regard for his fellow soldiers. We see his upbringing and how this shaped his views, especially his religious view and anti-killing stance. We see Doss's trials and tribulations after enlisting in the US Army and trying to become a medic. Finally we see the hell on Earth that was Hacksaw Ridge.

The film will begin at 4.00 pm, followed by some discussion, tea and biscuits and then straight into a short act of worship; all in the Meeting Room.

The Film Club will be showing "**Stan and Ollie**" on **Friday, 15th November** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. 98mins PG 2019

Laurel and Hardy – the world's greatest comedy team – face an uncertain future as their golden era of Hollywood films remain long behind them. Diminished by age, the duo set out to reconnect with their adoring fans by touring variety halls in Britain in 1953. The show becomes an instant hit but Stan and Ollie can't shake off the past as long-buried tension and Hardy's failing health start to threaten their partnership.

Cast: Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Shirley Henderson

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

Handicrafts' 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.

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

Thank you to everyone who supports or arranges various events.

The October coffee morning raised £104 plus £56 on cards, for Freyja's Fund.

Thank you for your support.

Bookings are being taken for 2020. If you like to plan ahead please contact Peter Hemmings on 01235 762504 to reserve a date.

November Flower Rota at Grove

3 rd November	Lesley Hummerston
10 th November	Katie King
17 th November	Jenny Marriott
24 th November	Jean Noddle

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

Holy Habits at Wantage

As part of our 2020 celebrations here at Wantage Methodist Church we are looking to launch 'Holy Habits' next year. Holy Habits is an adventure in Christian discipleship based upon Luke's picture of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. It explores and encourages the practice of ten disciplines, or holy habits: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, sharing resources, serving, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and making more disciples.

As we begin to prepare for this exciting initiative for the whole church, we are delighted to say that Rev Andrew Roberts, himself a Methodist Minister, who developed and produced Holy Habits is coming to spend a Saturday with us on 23rd November. This will start at 10:00 am and end around 3:00 pm. More information nearer the time, but please do put the date in your diaries. You won't want to miss it!

Please do let us know if you are coming using the sign-up sheet on the church notice board.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In October we concluded our study of Christian character and started a cover-to-cover study of Acts 13-28, "To the Ends of the Earth". In November we will continue our study on Acts 13-28, "To The Ends of the Earth" and start our Advent Study .

The details for November are as follows:

- 5th Cover to Cover, Acts 13-28 Week 4: "The persecuted Church blossoms".
Acts 18:23 - 21:16; Luke 9:22 - 24,51,62.
This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
- 12th Cover to Cover, Acts 13-28 Week 5: "Faith under fire."
Acts 21:17 - 23:35; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- 19th Cover to Cover, Acts 13-28 Week 6: "Interacting with movers and shakers."
Acts 24,25,26; Colossians 4:5 - 6, 1 Peter 3:15-16.
- 26th York Course for Advent "Who are we Praying to?" Further details tba.

In Advent we will using the new York Course "Who are we praying to?" We will begin this four week course on 26th November. The course booklet is written by David Wilkinson, Principal of St John's College and Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. If you would like to join us for this Advent Study please let me know as soon as possible and I will order you a booklet.

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.

Sunday morning Bible Study at Wantage

November's Sunday morning Bible study will be at 9:00 am on **24th November**, when we will continue to look at the parables of Jesus - but which one will it be this time? Come along and find out!

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 1st**.

For further information contact Peter Preston (01235 762332)



Church Flowers

With just two months left in 2019, we have two Sundays which are currently blank on the flower rota: 17th November and 8th December. It would be good to have those filled if possible. The sign-up sheets for 2020 will appear very soon, in hopeful anticipation of them being filled as generously as this year's lists have been. Ann

November.

3rd Helen Carter
10th Eileen Rennie
17th
24th Julie Horton

December

1st Pam Leake
8th
15th
22nd Christmas Flowers
29th Christmas Flowers

PRAYER & PASTORAL

Prayer list

As the days pass through Autumn and into Winter, we bring you thanks and praise for the changing seasons and all that we can enjoy in them. We thank you for the Summer of lovely sunshine we have enjoyed which has refreshed us and awakened a new zeal for life in us. Gracious God we ask at this time that you will guide the leaders of our nation, so that they may follow the example of Jesus in compassion and gentleness. Guide them as they make decisions and may they bring peace and unity seeking to serve your will. Loving Lord, 'take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.' 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, A

lady with family problems, Graham Savill, Sue, Diane, Julie and family, Mavis Howlett and family, Doreen, Sheridan, Danielle, Robert, Roy and family, All at Bullington 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 December Newsletter, please let me know by 24th November in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie: Telephone: 01235 224284; email: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com

Pastoral - *praying for each other*

In November the following people **on Judith and Mike Skinner's Pastoral List** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Alison Brown, Faith & Damien Culshaw, Alex Mwange, Heather Wells and Graham Wells, and those **on Mary Trotter's and Mary Whittaker's lists**: Diane Barton, Mary Whittaker, June Crouch, Richard George, and Shirley & Arnold Tucker

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

We looked at the parable of the great banquet and then went through to the hall for our own mini banquet and party games!

Next month we will meet on November 17th at 9.30 am for 'An extravagant welcome!' All primary school age children and their parents/carers welcome.

YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday Evenings)

Jane Kent

In October we talked more about the plans for our Christmas youth social in December and then had fun using 'Table Talk' - a box with about a hundred different questions/controversial statements to get us thinking and sharing our ideas. We managed to discuss about 8 of them!

Next month on 10th November we will be meeting at James and Emily's house for a film 'Amazing love - the story of Hosea' and we will meet at 6:30 until 8:15 pm.

All secondary school age young people welcome to this friendly informal group.

For any more information on either of these events please give me a call on 765421 or email janevkent@icloud.com. Jane Kent

FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship

October

30th Michael Bailey's talk this time is his visit to Buenos Aires to Rio: Waterfalls and hummingbirds, visits to two cities, Iguaza Falls.

November

- 6th Local Preacher Alan Smith will be playing recordings of a selection of music.
- 13th Don Summers will be telling of the history of Grove Airfield when it was a base for American servicemen in the Second World War.
- 20th This time Michael Bailey will talk about The Pantanal: Brazil's Great Wetland featuring colourful birds, caimen, (giant alligators) giant otters etc.
- 27th Hymns and Readings for Advent.

December

- 4th Christmas Lunch
- 11th The term closes with a service of Holy Communion led by Rev Keith Underhill.

Lunch dates for November

The Sunday lunch date for November will be Sunday 10th. This will be roast lamb. Please **sign the list** in the vestibule if you intend coming. I would also be grateful if you could let me know, if at all possible, by the preceding Wednesday **if you are not able to come** so I can adjust the amount to cater for. There were several people who had signed up last month who did not turn up which means a large amount of food is wasted.

The Friday lunch will be 29th November. This is a drop-in and all are welcome.

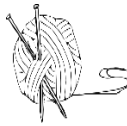
If you need to contact me to sign up or cancel my number is 07812 370796.

Firebrand

Many thanks to all the people who turned out on Saturday morning, 19th October, to hear about plans for our production of "Firebrand" next June. Thanks also to those who have let me know they want to be involved, but were not able to be there that morning. Altogether it looks as though we have about 50 volunteers to fill both on- and off-stage roles. I felt very supported by the enthusiasm displayed and look forward to a great time of preparation and performance.

Rehearsals will begin in January. I hope to be in touch with everyone in a few weeks with more details.

It is **not too late to get involved**. If you would like to perform on stage, sing in the off-stage choir or help with the hundred and one backstage roles, please email me at gill.skidmore32@gmail.com. If you are not on email, my phone number is 01235 766655.



Christmas Angels



Not many weeks now until our new host of little angels will be labelled, blessed and sent out into Wantage. As in the previous two years the knitters have enjoyed creating a huge variety of angels and once again we shall have more than 1000 to distribute.



I am currently sorting out the labels and am hoping to be tying them on the angels on the first two Mondays in December – 2nd and 9th. Hopefully, like last year, there may be **non-knitters** who would like to help with this task.

During the coming month the Knit & Chat group will be meeting in the Parlour on **Monday 4th November** and **Monday 18th November**. As well as angels we are also finishing off the blanket squares for our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival on 6 - 8 December. Come and join us if you enjoy knitting, chatting or drinking tea/coffee.



Christmas Tree Festival Wantage Methodist Church 6th - 8th December



This year our Christmas Tree Festival will be supporting **Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS**. We shall be open from **6pm** on **Dickensian Evening, Friday 6th December** for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments in the hall. Caritas Children's Choir will be singing at 7pm.

The festivities will continue with a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 7th December**, 10 am – 12 noon, and the trees will remain in place for the Sunday service.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes, biscuits and handmade Christmas gifts/goodies. Please let Eileen 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.

MISSION & SERVICE

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 have now been meeting for nearly six months and seem to be providing a needed and much appreciated service. It has been a wonderful experience and privilege to meet many new friends. Many friendships have been formed through this group. People attending can sit and enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles, an assortment of table games and colouring books. We also have a box of books from which you are welcome to pick yourself some good reading to enjoy at home. Coffee, tea or soft drinks, cake and biscuits are available between 9:00 am and 12 noon every Monday.

Donations for the Methodist affiliated Charity, Fund for Human Need, to date have raised £982.63. When June, Eileen, Sue and Gloria visited the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandhurst on 17th October, they were pleased to be able to have a chat with people from the Charity and pick up some leaflets about their work. 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 October, November and December 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.

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.

CLOTHES SWAP

Jane Kent

Faith Culshaw, Jo Harvey and I are organising a ladies' clothes swap for **Saturday 30th November** at our church. We invite you to drop off one or more items of clothing at 10.30 then stay for coffee and cake (all profits go to the fantastic local charity 'Be Free Young Carers') if you have time. The swap will be from 11 until 12:30 pm. It is free of charge, everyone is welcome! Please bring clean clothes in good condition and hopefully find something just right for you! Any left-over clothes will go to 'Helen and Douglas House' and 'Mind' charity shops in Wantage. We hope to see you there!

SUNSHINE TEA PARTY

You will all be pleased to hear that this was another successful event enjoyed by all who attended. The final result was £1,209. The total was made up of £697.50 from the sale of tickets, £227.30 raffle, £185 cake stall, £68.70 gift stall and £30.50 donations.

Thanks are due to so many people. We are particularly grateful to Pam Martin, who despite having moved from Wantage nearly a year ago, still did all the publicity and charity information for all the tables. We thank Gordon for bringing the extra tables required from Grove and returning them despite a very busy family commitment that weekend, Peter Bainbridge and Julie for moving furniture and getting tables and chairs out late Friday evening. Preparation of the room in the morning was undertaken by Mary, Rita, Sharon, Stella, Sue and Veronica. Meanwhile beavering away at home were Ann making all the sandwiches, Alison making all the scones, Margaret making cheese scones and meringues and Val making brownies and meringues. Our thanks turn to afternoon when we thank Keith for his words of welcome, for overseeing the raffle and he and his team for judging the Sunshine Bonnet Competition which incidentally was won by Jo Aldworth. Waiter/waitress service was efficiently provided by Peter Barber, Gloria, Jordan, Carolyn, Rita and Veronica. Stella and Emily managed the cake stall, Sue the gift stall and Carolyn and Diana provided the welcome and sold the raffle tickets. Cakes for the tea and cake stall were generously donated by Alison B, Carolyn, Catherine, Diana, Gill, Helen, Jane K, Jane R, Julie, June, Liz, Margaret, Mary T, Nicky, Valerie, Veronica and Vicky, Ann, Margaret, Sharon and Julie managed the kitchen and were thankfully joined by Jan Charles and Luccia at 4:30 pm to help with the clearing up. Thanks are due to Helen for providing transport. Once again there was involvement from across the Church family.

The final thank you however goes to all of you who supported this event for All We Can, we could not have done it without you.

The next meeting of Wantage Church Council will be on Wednesday 20th November in the Chapel. Reports and Notice of Business should reach Alison Brown by Wednesday 6th November please.

FINANCE, PROPERTY & USERS' NEWS

Godfrey Room

There will be periods in November and December when the Godfrey Room will be used by the Food Bank and Little People. During those periods the room will be locked.

Kitchen Discipline & Environmental Health Inspection.

Our kitchen, its equipment and our discipline when handling and serving food and drink are inspected annually by the Environmental Health Officer based at The Vale of White Horse. This inspection is very thorough. As we serve food to many people, some of whom are vulnerable, through the weeks, this is a good reminder of our duty of care to all the people that we serve.

The lunch teams undergo a training scheme in food hygiene and are tested at the end, so this is very significant and our thanks to everyone for their commitment which enables us to carry out these lunches which are appreciated by many of you.

We need to draw the attention of everyone who uses the kitchen to issues that are arising to ensure the disciplines and equipment are kept up to standard.

This year the inspection noted that

- 1 Bags were left on the work surfaces and the floor in the kitchen. We provide lockers in the vestibule where these should be stored while you are working in the kitchen.
- 2 There were witness marks in the fridge where it had been used for bottles. The fridge must be given strict attention by all users. If the fridge is used then the shelves and bottle area must be wiped out every time.
- 3 Bottles of milk must not be left in the fridge after an event. Please take these away or throw the milk away. Milk bottles left behind will be disposed of.
- 4 Some inappropriate cleaning materials were found under the sink. As a “multi-user” kitchen, we need to control and log detergents/cleaning substances which are used. This is to ensure that substances are safe to use and used for the correct purposes. These are subject to inspection. Please do not bring your own materials.
- 5 Some cloths (j-cloths) were found pre-used and not thrown out. Disposable cloths which are used must be thrown away after use. You cannot know what a cloth has been used for by a previous user. All tea towels used must be taken home and laundered before returning.

Kitchen discipline is more difficult as the kitchen is used by many people, so our own discipline must be faultless as an example to others and out of care and respect for the health of those who consume any food or drink on our premises.

We were proud to have achieved 5 star standard a few years ago and if we are to get back to this standard as a church we must all take this seriously. It is easy to be “good enough” but maintaining standards is a slippery slope and getting back to a standard is even more difficult than maintaining it.

Final Plea from the Property Team: The building is very busy. Rooms have chairs and tables appropriate to their use. If you move any furniture from one room to another, please return what you have moved back to the room you got it from at the end of your session. Ideally, do not move it in the first place. It is very difficult for the next user if the room is not equipped properly.

Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings

Please **check / book your date** with Gordon **before you commit to** your meeting.
wntgmethodistbookings@gmail.com 07710 214601

Weekly Bookings

November 2019

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	Chapel
Wednesday	aft	Wednesday Fellowship	Hall
Wednesday	eve	Wantage Stage Musical	Hall
Thursday	eve	DBands	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
Second Tuesday	eve	My Life, My Choice	Parlour
Third Thursday	mid	King Alfred's WI	Hall
Third Saturday	morn	Dads Out	Hall

The following individual bookings are in place:

October

Sunday 27 th	aft	Wantage Literary Festival	Chapel & Hall
Tuesday 29 th	aft	Art Class	Hall
Thursday 31 st	aft	Superheroes	Hall

November

Friday 1 st	aft	Wantage Literary Festival	Chapel & Hall
Tuesday 5 th	aft	Art Class	Hall
Thursday 7 th	1pm	Funeral	All
Saturday 9 th	aft	Private Party	Hall
Tuesday 12 th	aft	Art Class	Hall
Thursday 14 th	eve	Newbury Street PPG	Hall
Tuesday 19 th	aft	Art Class	Hall
Wednesday 20 th	eve	Church Council	Chapel
Tuesday 26 th	aft	Art Class	Hall
Tuesday 26 th	eve	Worship Consultation	Parlour
Saturday 23 rd	day	Holy Habits	All
Saturday 30 th	morn	Clothes Swap	Hall

December

Tuesday 3 rd	aft	Art Class	Hall
Friday 6 th	eve	Dickensian Evening	All
Saturday 7 th	morn	Coffee Morning	Hall
Fri/Sat/Sun 6 th – 8 th		Christmas Tree Festival	All
Saturday 14 th	lunch	Private Party	Hall
Saturday 14 th	tea/eve	YMOSES Event	Hall

DIARY

NOVEMBER				Page
Saturday	2 nd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	12
Sunday	3 rd	6:00 pm	Memorial Service at Wantage	4
Monday	4 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	18
Thursday	7 th	7:30 pm	Childrey Conversations	10/11
Sunday	10 th	12:15 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	17
		4:00 pm	Film Plus at Grove	12
		6:30 pm	YMOSES	16
Thursday	14 th	7:30 pm	Childrey Conversations	10/11
Friday	15 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove – “Stan & Ollie” (PG)	12
Sunday	17 th	9:30 am	Kids@church at Wantage	16
Deadline for the November Newsletter				
Monday	18 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	18
Wednesday	20 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council	20
Thursday	21 st	7:30 pm	Childrey Conversations	10/11
Saturday	23 rd	10:00 am	Holy Habits at Wantage	14
Thursday	28 th	7:30 pm	Childrey Conversations	10/11
Friday	29 th	12:15 pm	Drop in Lunch at Wantage	17
Saturday	30 th	10:00:am	NCH Action for Children Coffee Morning at Childrey	11
DECEMBER				
Monday	2 nd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	18
Friday	6 th	6:00 pm	Christmas Tree Festival Dickensian Evening in Wantage	9/18
Saturday	7 th	10:00 am	Christmas Tree Festival Coffee Morning at Wantage	9/18

Sunday Services – November 2019

	Childrey	Grove	Wantage
November 3rd Ordinary 31	11:00 am Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Peter Hemmings 6:00 pm At Wantage	10:30 am Daphne Savage Worship through 6:00 pm Memorial Service
November 10th Ordinary 32 Remembrance	11:00 am Rev Frances Blood	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 4:00 pm Film Plus Rev Keith Underhill	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:45 am At Wantage Parish Church
November 17th Ordinary 32	11:00 am Andrew Dixon	10:45 am Esther Miller 6:30 pm Peter Hemmings	9:30 am Kids@Church 10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
November 24th Sunday before Advent Violence against Women	11:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill United Service	10:45 am Ian Sturt 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Libby Hawkness-Smith