

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

SECTOR

NEWS

 The Methodist Church



Summer 2019

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Contributions for the **September Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18th August 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 (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...

As we walked the last 118 kilometres of the Camino de Santiago from Sarria during the May half term holiday, the phrase “Buen Camino” (translating as ‘have a good journey’ or ‘have a good Camino’) could be heard all around us. We said it to those we passed and others greeted us in a similar fashion.

The Camino de Santiago known as the Way of Saint James, is a network of pilgrims routes leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in north-western Spain. Legend has it that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain, where he was buried in what was to become the city of Santiago de Compostela.

During the Middle Ages, the route was highly travelled and was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages that could be undertaken, together with those to Rome and Jerusalem. However, the Black Death, the Protestant Reformation, and political unrest in 16th century Europe led to its decline.

Today, the Camino attracts a growing number of modern-day pilgrims from around the world. In 2016, 277,854 travellers completed the pilgrimage and received their Compostela certificates.

Our experience surpassed what we were expecting, and we are still reflecting on what we learnt as we walked. It has also whetted my appetite as I look forward to my Sabbatical next autumn, when I will undertake the whole of the Camino Francés from St. Jean Pied de Port in France, a total of some 800 kilometres.

One of the questions that is often asked is how long does it take to walk the Camino? Well, most of the guidebooks break the journey from St. Jean Pied de Port down into 33 sections, but of course, you could do it quicker than that if you wanted.

Perhaps the danger of seeing how quickly you can complete the Camino is that it then simply turns into a long walk. Part of the secret of any pilgrimage is that you take the time to experience all that is has to offer and be reminded of that age old saying that how you travel is just as important as reaching your final destination.

Walking the Camino at the end of May slowed us down and gave us both space and time in this frenetic and instantaneous world in which we now live.

Of course, there is a very real sense in which we are all on pilgrimages and for us, as well as for the sake of the world and others, how we travel, is as important as where we are going.

“Buen Camino” may be the greeting of those on the Way of St. James, but surely it is also our greeting and refrain as we encourage one another in our journey of faith as we follow in His footsteps.

Love and God Bless

Keith

Baptism

We welcome Elliott and Jonah Browning-Lee (Janet and Richard Browning's grandchildren) to our morning worship on 7th July and remember them and all the family in our prayers as they prepare for their baptism and their special day.

Circuit Service

A reminder that there will be a Circuit Service on Sunday 7th July at Trinity Church Abingdon, starting at 6:30pm.

As part of the service, we will be presenting Mrs Ruth Dams with a certificate acknowledging her 60 years of preaching as a Methodist Local Preacher – quite an achievement indeed. Congratulations and thank you Ruth!

Keith's London to Brighton bike ride for the British Heart Foundation

A 5:30 am departure from Wantage saw us arrive at Clapham Common in good time for my 8:00 am start. From 6:00 am onwards, just over 15,000 riders were taking part in this iconic event on Sunday 16th June, being sent on their way every half an hour.

Liz, Amy and Becca cheered me and Deji, a long-standing friend from Essex, on our way, Liz being disappointed that she wasn't able to join in after all. Still, it meant that she could enjoy a day out in Brighton with our girls!

The cloudy start in London soon gave way to rain which accompanied us through the outskirts of the city into the countryside (some of it very heavy indeed) — but then after 31 miles or so, not only did it stop raining but the sun came out and by the time we arrived in Brighton, via a very windy Ditchling Beacon, the weather was perfect.

Ditchling is 46 miles or so into the ride and looms on the horizon as you get towards the South Downs. Last time I did this ride, four years ago, I managed to get $\frac{3}{4}$ up it before having to get up and walk. This year... the same. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up, I was off and pushing my bike towards the summit. Still, there's always next time!

As we approached the seafront and the finish, the sea sparkled, the sun was hot and the sky blue and there was a packed crowd to cheer us and all the other riders over the line.

It took us 4 hours 56 minutes to cycle the 54 miles and we enjoyed every minute of it.

A big thank you to everyone who so generously sponsored me, either pledging money on the sponsorship forms or using my justgiving page online. As soon as all the money is in, the final total will be announced.

Thank you for all the kind wishes and prayers.

Keith

Grove on 4th August

A special service will take place at Grove Methodist Church for our Local Arrangement on 4th August in the evening (6:30 pm). Paula Hunt, Superintendent of a Circuit in Leicester, will be leading the service. All are welcome.

Dare to be you!

Young people from age 10 to 18 gathered to learn how God calls us to be ourselves, not feeling that we have to “fit in with the crowd”. We began with lunch and finding out about each other – a nice start to the afternoon. We explored the theme of “Dare to be you” through art, games, making bread, film, thought-provoking bible study and discussion. We looked at Psalm 139 which describes God’s unending presence wherever we are and that we are all wonderfully made.

Methodist Youth President, Jasmine Yeboah, talked about being the people God wants us to be; sharing and celebrating our individual values and talents. We finished with lively and fun worship involving drama, music, readings and prayer led by the young people, as well as Communion with bread made earlier in the day. It was a really encouraging afternoon.

Chris Worth

We had loads of fun today at ‘Dare to be you!’

When we arrived we had lunch together and then watched a film clip from ‘Mean Girls’ and discussed it in groups of jelly baby flavours! I found the film clip sad. We looked at and discussed a text about everyone being welcome in church then we had a choice of activities from an interactive prayer space, making bread, painting pebbles or playing games. I chose to paint pebbles. Then we could choose a workshop - either a reflective, artistic one or a bible study on psalm 139. I chose the artistic one and we made pastel drawings and / or clay models. Jasmine arrived and joined in before speaking to us all in the church. She spoke passionately about her faith and encouraged us to live out God’s will for us.

Then we ate lots of cake and quizzed Jasmine about her life and faith. We planned the closing worship together - some of us played instruments, some made up a drama sketch and some people prepared prayers and a bible reading. I really enjoyed the worship. In the communion we shared the bread we’d made. It was a really fun afternoon.

Alice Kent

Wantage and Grove Foodbank

Helen Carter

The food bank has a new home. The need for a more accessible storage area has been evident for a while now and the move away from the Beacon has happened. With the continuing unprecedented call on the food bank for food, the need for donations of goods and money is sadly still great. Many thanks to all those who support the food bank through such donations. These donations are much appreciated.

There has also been a request from the current organiser for the food bank for volunteers to man the phone, carry out the deliveries and keep an eye on the stock levels. If you wish to volunteer, please get in touch with Liz Swallow on the food bank email address (wantageandgrovefoodbank@gmail.com) or talk to Helen Carter who can give you more information. Thank you.



Open the book - Bringing the Bible to life



Open the Book team at Grove C of E, North Drive, Palm Sunday 2014

About Open the Book

Children love stories - especially Bible stories when they're interactive, engaging and fun. That's what Open the Book is all about. Teams of between four and eight storytellers tell Bible stories in primary schools - using drama, props and costumes - to bring the stories to life.

Open the Book is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year and serves 3,000 schools in the UK.

Format

There are teams for each of the Church of England schools in the Vale Benefice - Grove, Hanney and Challow but not Denchworth yet. Teams visit the school once a week during term time prior to the assembly.

Volunteers are needed for the teams. Please consider getting involved in this wonderful ministry. St John's will facilitate a DBS check which will cost £14.

A typical session at Grove C of E

- Meet at school at 2pm
- Prepare for the session by dressing up and setting up the props
- Go through the story for today
- Organise the children and then enact the story
- End with a song together
- Children leave (session typically takes an hour)

Sue Catterall tel. 01235 769656 Susan.Catterall1@ntlworld.com

Margaret Fell (team co-coordinator for Grove C of E, North Drive) 01235 760298

Supported by



Volunteering at Cornerstone

Cornerstone are looking for new volunteers -- might that be you?

Currently Cornerstone have regular vacancies as follows:

Wednesday 10 am – 12 noon covering the counter -- taking orders, making drinks and taking orders to the tables.

Wednesday 12 – 2 pm covering the counter as above or washing up in the utility room, which includes operating the simple steriliser machine.

Wednesday 2 – 4 pm washing up in the utility room as above.

Monday 12 – 2 pm on the cash till -- taking money, receiving deliveries, taking down book orders and restocking the shop.

Tuesday 12 – 2 pm on the cash till as above.

Wednesday 10 am – 12 noon on the cash till as above.

Saturdays, on a once-every-5-week basis, they have vacancies on the till throughout the day on some teams, in the utility 10 – 12 or 12 – 2 and on the counter 12 – 2 pm.

Other shifts regularly come up to cover other volunteers' absence. If you do sign up for a regular weekly shift, you are not obligated to do every single week, if you are going away or have another commitment, although they do like a week's notice ideally.

All of the shifts are 2 hours, the 10 – 12 shift includes a break and drink, at 11 am usually, the 12 – 2 pm shift includes a lunch at 2 pm and the 2 – 4 pm shift includes a break and a drink at 3 pm.

The Saturday rota consists of 5 teams, so each shift is once every 5 weeks and you are provided with a rota for the entire year in January, or whenever you join the rota.

If you are interested in this or would like to know more, please contact Sarah, tel: 01235 772280.

www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

A date for your diaries: On Saturday September 21st, in the evening, there will be a curry and quiz night in aid of the Street Pastors in Wantage Methodist church hall. This will be a fun night (and don't worry if you don't like curry, an alternative will be on offer). More details to come...

Community Chaplains - A new type of chaplaincy

Earlier this year, our Circuit held a workshop led by Rev Robert Jones, to help us understand more about the role of a chaplain. Chaplaincy is already well established in the Forces, in education and young people's work, in hospitals, hospices and care homes, in agriculture, in prisons or in civic life. In more recent years there has been a growth in chaplaincy in shopping centres and businesses and in other work places.

So what is a chaplain?

A chaplain offers a visible Christian presence, interacting with people in the community or in the workplace and is someone who goes out to where people are, to listen, to be alongside, to be a guest not a host. Chaplaincy is not about "gathering in" — inviting people to "join us" — but more about "going out", reflecting the ministry of Jesus who went out to minister wherever people were and he sent out his disciples to go and do the same.

A chaplain is available to those with faith and those who don't profess faith. Their role is not to preach but to listen and respond and if invited to do so, discuss their Christian faith.

Our vision — of providing chaplains where people live rather than where they work — seems to be new. Working collaboratively with other churches, we seek to offer chaplaincy in new housing areas. Our focus has been on Great Western Park (GWP), the first and most advanced of the major developments planned in our Circuit.

FOLLOW the Chaplains' work on Facebook

A while ago, Libby wrote:

Sharing the stories of faith

Recently, Sarah and I completed our Chaplaincy Essentials training with Katherine (Pickering) — one of the things we ask all chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers to have done. We found it challenging, engaging and stimulating. It's always interesting when theoretical training is undertaken alongside practical experience.

One of the things that sticks in my mind from our final session is what chaplaincy is. We often get asked when we're out and about "who are you? What do you do? Why are you here?". Each a conversation in itself, and some of our favourite questions to ask people when we're plodding the pavements or going to a new group at GWP. So it was interesting to hear what the author of the training course said.

Chaplaincy is prophetic, pastoral and present. We permeate the culture at GWP — by being present in community groups, in public places and at special events, we ask people to think differently. We occasionally have a calming influence in challenging situations, inviting people to be gracious to each other, to feel empowered and to have a safe space in which they can emotionally flop.

By being present in schools and community groups, we invite young people to shine, being themselves and engaging with the world around, their peers and regular teachers or leaders.

Chaplains are prophetic (so the Chaplaincy Essentials course goes). We took that to mean two things — we have the freedom to try out new ways of doing things, to experiment with ways of expressing our faith, to look at ways that — with other Christians in the area — we can invite faith to be brought to the proverbial table. Stories of Jesus inspire. The Holy Spirit empowers.

Prophecy can also mean speaking the words of faith in courage where needed. This is such a hard one. Chaplains across the country are spiritually reactive, pastorally proactive. People know we're Christian, safe, trustworthy, dependable and can keep confidence, but quoting scripture to people or even offering to pray can have such a negative impact depending on where the other is coming from.

We need to know how to share God's peace and love with people who are hurting in the most appropriate way. Coming from a rich background of personal and corporate faith ourselves, we need to be able to quickly sense what level of challenge and "religious talk" is appropriate at any given moment.

And we are pastoral. A lot of our work is about encouraging people, sharing the hope, peace and love that comes from knowing Jesus. We notice. We care for all equally — no matter how important they feel personally. We take time for everyone who needs a 'spiritual hug'. We're there for all people, of all ages, professions, faiths, ethnicities, sub-cultures and life experiences.

You can imagine that with such a wide remit, we're becoming ever increasingly deeply embedded into the culture at GWP. We're invited to go to an ever-growing range of places. We're finding doors, both physical and proverbial, opening to us all the time all over the place.

And we need you — your prayers, your support, your encouragement and your smiles. Anytime you're at GWP, look out for us, see what we do, come for a walk and talk. Or join us on Facebook, Instagram, twitter or email.

Saints Alive

The Circuit initiative for each church to consider its future strategy led All Saints 'Mission Action' group to decide to have a Local Mission Weekend under the strap-line Saints Alive to consider its mission to the people who live on its doorstep. We have secured Methodism's newly appointed Connexional Director of Evangelism and Growth, Rev Trey Hall, to be the keynote speaker. Our initiative came to the attention of Rev Jill Marsh, District Mission Enabler, who many of you will know, and Saints Alive has now grown into a high-profile District event.

The event will be held at All Saints on **Saturday 5th October** from 10 am to 4 pm. Because this is now a District event and All Saints can only seat 130/140 people, attendance may need to be limited and will have to be pre-booked. There will be no cost but you should put the date in your diaries if you wish to attend. We have reserved 30 to 40 places for All Saints and the Circuit, the remainder will be bookable on an on-line booking site. If Local Preachers and other members of our Circuit want to attend, you need to **book a place** with Paul Williams. Paul urges you to reserve a place soon as they may quickly be snapped up.

His contact details: phone 01235 524654 or email, williamspaul819@gmail.com.

Rev Trey Hall will be the preacher at the morning service at All Saints on the 6th October, the Sunday following the meeting.

The Circuit Calendar can now 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

A brief response to social loneliness

A short theological reflection from Deacon Selina Nisbett.

"It is not good for man to be alone. Hitherto all things in Genesis that have been named, were approved of God to be very good: loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good." wrote John Milton in 1645, at a time of great personal loneliness.

However we approach the book of Genesis theologically, the profound truth of the message is, that for humankind, loneliness hinders personal and communal flourishing. We see a bountiful creation emerging, in both creation stories, but in Genesis 2, when it comes to humanity, God declares that there is something missing, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2 v 18.

In the creation account in Chapter 1, the notion of community / fellowship is disclosed when God declares "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness." Therefore, if we believe we are made in the image of God, we must recognize the importance of that inbuilt need for fellowship with one another in order to thrive.

The deep truth in the story of Adam and Eve illustrates that God intends for us to share our lives with others, and the value of personal relationships in God's eyes is emphasised by the amount of space devoted to them and to fellowship in scripture. We have an innate desire to be loved and to belong as full members of society and loneliness denies people this intrinsic human need.

The gospels are full of examples of hospitality, a fundamental feature of Judaism, and there are many examples too, of Jesus overstepping the conventions of the day to engage and minister to those on the margins of society, to bring them back into fellowship with their communities.

These are just a few examples:

Luke 5:12 -16	The man with leprosy
John 4: 5 - 42	The woman at the well
Luke 7:11 - 17	The widow of Nain
Mark 5: 1 - 20	Jesus heals a demon-possessed man
Luke 19:1 - 10	Jesus meets with Zacchaeus
Matthew 12: 9 -14	Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath

Even as Jesus hangs upon the cross, there is a recognition of a deep human need that must be met: John 19 says this:

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said, "Woman here is your son," and to the disciple "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

At the foot of the cross we find a new spiritual family being formed and a new means of belonging affirmed. Jesus demonstrates that as members of transformed communities, we are to incorporate new relationships with each other, and to become as family, caring and supporting one another.

Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields in London reflects upon this scene- "Jesus is recognizing that the conventional family cannot always provide all the security, stability and endurance we each need, and in the face of tragedy, something

beautiful can emerge that turns the love of these two people for Jesus into a new kind of love and care for one another."

The early church, set at its heart, the duty to care for the poor and marginalised. Such was the importance of this ministry, that in Acts 6, seven people were appointed to focus their attention on caring for and transforming the plight of "widows." (In this passage, the word "widows" could be seen today as those who are marginalized and those who are having a difficult time. This characteristic of the early church is in the pattern of Christ's manifesto set out in Luke 4.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,"

Contemplating the exile of loneliness, CS Lewis wrote, "I am convinced that no experience or emotion more closely resembles hell than loneliness"

Contemporary studies as well as psychological experiments, have provided rich insights into the impact of loneliness upon people. Infants and children who have been unable to form close attachments, will often fail to thrive and flourish, (Bowlby) and the same can be said of adults (Cacioppo) who become captive and oppressed by isolation and loneliness.

Through our relationships with family, friends, and others, we form our sense of personhood and find our place in the tapestry of life. When that need for fellowship goes unfulfilled, we are diminished, in body, mind and spirit and struggle to aspire to the fulness of life that Christ promised to all.

In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us through a parable, how we should view our ministry to one another with these words, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

On the night before he died, Jesus asked his friends to keep company with him in the garden of Gethsemane at his most desperate hour. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Three times they fell asleep and failed him in his time of need and three times he was denied.

Are we ready to see Christ in those we meet and "keep watch" with them?

Childrey

Tear Fund Lunch: to be advised.

United Services:

July 28 th	11:30 am at the Methodist Chapel – Tabitha Griffiths
August 25 th	11:30 am at St Mary's

Thank you for all the support we received with the Easter evening service and the outdoor service at Pentecost.

25th Anniversary of Childrey New Chapel on the 17th October. We will be welcoming the Chair of the District, Rev. Canon Helen Cameron, to preach and Rev Leonora Hill in the Chair. The Village Choir will be singing and Diana & Guy Woodhouse will provide the music. Tea to follow.

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

Grove Church Council, Thursday, 4th July at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room. All interested in the life and work of our church are invited to come and share in this meeting.

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 6th July** in the Meeting Room from 10 am till 12 noon. Roger and Margaret Bett are our hosts. Proceeds from the morning are for the Methodist Homes for the Aged. We will be pleased to see you.

The **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 3rd August** will be from 10 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room and Lesley Hummerston and Jenny Marriott are our hosts. Proceeds are for Link to Hope, for their "Future Changed" project. This project is based in Dallas, Iasi, Romania. It is a very poor area of Iasi, where the people have limited and sometimes no access to water or electricity and limited life opportunities or ways of escaping from poverty. The Future Changed Team run a number of education and social care projects there, including the Little Rainbows Kindergarten for 4 - 6 year olds and a Homework Club for 7 - 12 year olds as well as offering practical support to the families.

Grove Tuesday Fellowship

2 nd July	Keith will be visiting us
9 th July	John and Sue Stead have again kindly invited us to their garden for afternoon tea
16 th July	Tea and Chat
23 rd July	An invitation to Linda and Mark Jones' garden – thank you Linda
30 th July	Visit Cornerstone
6 th August	To be announced
13 th August	Visit to Kath and Jock's garden
20 th August	Keith to visit us
27 th August	No meeting

A **barbeque** on **Wednesday, 17th July** at 7 pm at 7 Miles Drive, Grove, is being arranged by the Warmed Hearts group. The evening is open to everyone in the church. We will be pleased to see you. Salads, bread, sauces, desserts, hot drinks and crockery and cutlery will be provided. Please bring your own meat / fish to barbeque plus cold drinks.

For catering purposes, please let Judy or Eric Thomas know by **Sunday, 14th July** if you hope to come (01235 762723). All are welcome.

There is **no Warmed Hearts** group meeting in August.

The **Film Club** will be showing “**The light between the oceans**” on **Friday, 19th July** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. 133mins PG-13 2016

Tom is a World War 1 veteran who maintains a lighthouse off the shore of Australia with his wife Isabel, a woman desperate to have a baby. Her prayers are answered when an infant washes up on shore in a rowboat. Tom thinks they should notify the authorities but ultimately gives in to Isabel’s wish to keep the girl. Fate strikes again when the couple meet the child’s biological mother on the mainland. Now Tom and Isabel must make a decision that will forever affect the lives of four people.

Cast: Alicia Vikander, Michael Fassbender, Rachel Weisz, Jack Thompson

The **Film Club** will be showing “**Lion**” on **Friday, 16th August** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. 118 mins PG 2016

Five year old Saroo gets lost on a train which takes him thousands of miles across India, away from home and family. Saroo must learn to survive alone in Kolkata, before ultimately being adopted by an Australian couple. Twenty-five years later, armed with only a handful of memories, his unwavering determination, and a revolutionary technology known as Google Earth, he sets out to find his lost family and finally return to his first home. (An astonishing true story from the book “A Long Way Home”).

Stars: Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, David Wenham, Rooney Mara.

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 proceeds of the June coffee morning for Cornerstone was £101.95.

If you are willing to help, either by sharing with someone or hosting a coffee morning, please get in touch with Peter (telephone 762504). There are still a couple of gaps to fill for 2019. If you could help by taking on one of these dates it would be appreciated. Thank you.

Flower Rota

7 th July	Katie King	4 th August	Jean Noddle
14 th July	Jenny Marriott	11 th August	Veronica Richards
21 st July	Margaret Merryweather	18 th August	Carol Sturt
28 th July	Rachel Niblett	25 th August	Judy Thomas
		1 st September	Elizabeth Trew

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.

Church Clean Up Day

Judy Thomas, Property Committee

This year the annual Church Cleaning Up will be held over 2 days, **Friday 16th August** and **Saturday 17th August** from 9:30 am – 12 noon each day. There will be jobs for both outside (do bring gardening gloves etc.) and inside. Please put these dates in your diary; the more people come, even for an hour, the quicker we shall be! A list will be put up on the Church notice board, please indicate which day you can make. A checklist of jobs to do will be left in the kitchen, please tick when a job has been completed. Thank you.

Cream Tea

Judy and Eric Thomas invite everyone for a cream tea on **Sunday 25th August** from 3 – 4:30 pm to be held in their garden at 7 Miles Drive Grove. Let us hope we do not have a repeat of last year when we all squeezed into our lounge as the rain poured down!

All donations for the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Wantage

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In **June** Keith came to the group on the first Tuesday to answer our questions. It was an afternoon enjoyed by us all and various interesting questions were answered. Thereafter we continued our study of Christian character.

In **July** in the first week we will continue studying Christian character then we will be studying Colossians in line with Bible Month in Wantage. The second week we will have our annual visit to St. Mary's Convent for a day of quiet reflection looking at Colossians as a whole with a concentrated session on Week 1. Those attending this day will be given full details of the day's programme.

We meet in the first week of **August** for our monthly prayer meeting and afternoon tea and to discuss our programme for September 2019 to August 2020. For the remainder of August we take a short summer break and resume again on **3rd September**.

The dates for July and August are as follows:

- 2nd July Christian Character - Session 8: Serving Others. Reading: Phillipians 2. This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
- 9th July Day for Quiet Reflection at St. Mary's Convent: Getting the Big Picture - Colossians 1:1-23
- 16th July Meditating on Colossians – Colossians 1:24 - 2:15
- 23rd July Spotting the Contrasts - Colossians 2:16 - 3:17
- 30th July The Gospel at Home - Colossians 3:18 - 4:18
- 6th August Monthly Prayer Meeting and Afternoon Tea and time to plan studies for the future.

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

Church Flowers



Thank you to everyone who has already provided flowers for the first half of this year, or who has signed up for one or more Sundays still to come. We have a complete list for July, but there are lots of spaces from 11th August onwards. If you can help, please sign up on the rota list in the hall corridor, or let me know if you are able to cover any of the blank weeks. Please remember that flowering pot plants are fully acceptable, so don't be daunted by the thought of having to arrange cut flowers if that isn't your forte!

With many thanks, Ann

July

7th Janet Browning
14th Eileen Rennie
21st Gill and Gordon Skidmore
28th Helen Carter

August

4th Kelvin Rose
11th Carole Robbins
18th Carolyn Roche
25th Margaret Fordham

YOUNG CHURCH

Kids@Church

Jane Kent

In June the children did some wonderful baking together before we heard the story of the first church from Acts. The people then prayed together, ate together and shared what they had so, with that in mind, we prayed, ate and then took cakes to share with others! The children also were busy making a new display for the board in the hall - it will appear in time!

We are next meeting on **Sunday 21st July** at **Manor Road Park** in Wantage for summer fun in the park - usual time 9:30 – 10:15 am. We will have a break in August and then meet at church on **Sunday 15th September** 9:30 – 10:15 am.

K@c is a monthly, informal service and craft activity / game for primary school aged children and their families. New people always welcome!

YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday Evenings)

Jane Kent

In **June** I invited YMOSES to come along to church and experience a labyrinth. I gave them a handout explaining what a labyrinth is and with some suggestions for walking one. We had about an hour of quiet reflection and thinking and praying and then gathered together to share food and our thoughts on the experience.

In **July** we will be meeting at the Phillips' home for our summer social.

We will have a break in August and then I look forward to seeing you all on **Sunday 8th September**, 7 – 8:15 pm.

YMOSES is an informal, friendly, faith-based youth discussion group. New young people always welcome.

For more information on either of these groups please give me a call or send me an email. Jane Kent 01235 765421 (janevkent@icloud.com)

PRAYER & PASTORAL

Prayer list

Lord God, you are the creator of all, mighty beyond imagination and so loving. We offer you our praise and thanks for your presence in our lives. Thank you for the Bible and help us to learn how to pray as we read it so that we may feel your promises true in our lives today. Teach us how to trust you even when things do not go as we had hoped. Guide us to have the courage to live for you and witness in your name. Fill us with your Holy Spirit today and every day. Amen.

Please pray for:

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan and Eileen Bunn and family, Doug, Carl, Jean Gill, Carol Mackinder, Anne, Pam Rose, Emma Wright and family, give thanks for Fran's life and remember Doug, Joanne, Nicky, Alex, Beth and George in your prayers, 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 September Newsletter, please let me know by 16th August 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 July the following people on **Rita Lawrence's Pastoral List** will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's house-group: Kay Goodwin, Pam & John Leake, Carole & Keith Robbins, Sheila Penney, and Meriel & Trevor Robson

In August the following people on **Eileen Rennie's Pastoral List** will be included in the special Prayer meeting held during August for Eileen's group: Charlotte, Janet & Richard Browning, Joan & Ed Clipsham, Sharon Hayford, Jean Manners, Gill Morton, Gill & Gordon Skidmore, also those without a Pastoral Visitor: Britzaida de Lozado, Barbara Porter, Marjorie, Doug and Colin White, Mary Spalding, Margaret Watts, Irmgard Roberts, Pam Paine, Celia Roser and Peter Bainbridge. 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.

FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship

July

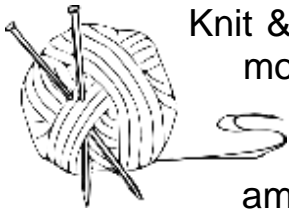
- 3rd We are having a "holy" Beetle drive – using a church building instead of a Beetle. Please come and join in the fun.
- 10th This is our A.G.M. which Keith will chair for us. This is an opportunity for you to have your say on the distribution of accrued funds and plans for the future.
- 17th The term closes with a service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Keith Underhill.

There will be **tea and chat** in the Parlour during the summer break on Wednesday afternoons from 24th July to 28th August inclusive.

The Wednesday Fellowship programme will start again on **11th September 2019**.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche (01235 764310)



Knit & Chat will continue to meet throughout the summer months. Please come and join us if you are not away on holiday. We are now half way through the year and the knitted angels are progressing well. The amount that I have a stored away is steadily growing.



Arnold Tucker has now designed and built the Christmas tree for the blanket squares project. This will be displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival at Dickensian evening. Many thanks to Arnold for all his enthusiasm and hard work for this.

We look forward to seeing you over the summer and sharing a chat, a cup of tea/coffee, biscuit/cake and a little knitting.

**Summer Knit & Chat - Monday 1st July and Monday 15th July
Monday 5th August and Monday 19th August**

Lunch dates for July and August

Sunday lunch in **July** will be on **14th**. It will be roast pork. Please **sign up** by Wednesday 10th July or let Julie or Ann know.

There will be **no Sunday lunch** in **August**.

Friday lunch in **July** will be **26th**. This is a drop-in and all are welcome.

There will be a lunch in **August** on **30th**. We look forward to seeing you.

MISSION & SERVICE

Community Drop In Cafe

We have now been meeting for eight weeks at the time of writing with an average of 31 people attending each week. We have had lots of lively chat, jigsaw puzzles being completed while chatting and some people enjoying 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. Donations for the Methodist affiliated charity, Fund for Human Need, in this period have raised £273.75. Why not come and join us? We look forward to welcoming you. Just to remind you we are open every Monday and this includes Bank Holidays so if you have no plans for August Bank Holiday 26th August we would be delighted to see you. For further information please see either Eileen Rennie or June Grunwald.



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.

WORLD MISSION

Ann Barber

On Sundays 30th June and 7th July, World Mission envelopes will be on seats, and it is hoped that donations towards our mission overseas will be received during those two weeks. In addition, I would be grateful to receive the collecting boxes from those who donate to World Mission via these boxes. If there's any problem about bringing them to church, please let me know and I will come to collect your box from you.

FINANCE, PROPERTY & USERS' NEWS

We are pleased to be able to say that the following **charitable donations** have been made.

All We Can: The church has just sent a cheque for £350 to All We Can, its 7th Partnership Church donation in this year. Our total so far this year to All We Can is £3,389 of which £1,856 was gift aided (adding £464 to the total)

Cancer Research UK: The church has just sent a cheque for £300 to Cancer Research UK.

Fund for Human Need: The church has just sent a cheque for £200 to the Methodist Charity "Fund for Human Need", money donated at the Monday morning coffee mornings.

PROPERTY

July 13th: Ground Clearance – Please come with your favourite weeding tools and spend a happy morning in good company fighting Convolvulus and other energetic plants as we try to reduce the growth around the chapel, hall and carpark / yard.

August 12 - 16th there will be some internal work to do. We are fitting shelving in the hall store, so there will be the store to empty, shelves / racking to assemble and reload. Similarly in the Link alcove. A little paint touching will be done. Do come in when you can to either help with the work or minister to the workers!

Hall refurbishment

Church Council has approved that we put together a project to update some aging parts of the hall which is now some 27 years old. Things to be addressed are:

Hall ceiling tiles throughout: These are getting untidy and damaged and have done good service.

Hall and meeting room lighting: Convert as far as possible to diode lighting to improve light levels and flexibility and reduce our energy and maintenance costs.

Hall convector radiators: These are now noisy and untidy. Renewal offers better performance all round.

Hall boiler and zone valves: Looking for improved energy efficiency and better control.

Chairs: Replacement of all chairs in the hall building.

It is expected that this work will cost between £20,000 and £25,000. We have contract costs for the ceiling and lighting work, and radiator parts costs. Some fundraising will be needed as our reserves will not be sufficient to cover the costs.

Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings

Weekly Bookings July/August 2019

Monday	morn	Community Drop in Cafe	Hall
Monday	eve	Slimming World	Hall
Monday	eve	Poets (July 1 & 8 only)	Parlour
Tuesday	morn	MIND	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Wantage Camera Club	Hall
Tuesday	eve	Rock Choir (July 2 & 9 only)	Chapel
Wednesday	aft	Wednesday Fellowship (3/10/17 July)	Hall
Wednesday	aft	WF Tea & Chat (24/31 July, August)	Parlour
Wednesday	eve	Wantage Stage Musical	Hall
Friday	morn	Babes & Toddlers (until 19 July)	Hall
Friday	aft	Caritas Choir (until 19 July)	Hall
Friday	eve	Cheek2Cheek (Not 16,23,30 Aug)	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 (Not August)	Hall
Third Saturday	morn	Dads Out (Not August)	Hall

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

The following individual bookings are in place:

July

Monday 1 st	eve	Christian Aid Committee	Godfrey
Thursday 4 th	morn	Disciple	Chapel
Saturday 6 th	aft	Private Party	Hall
Wednesday 10 th	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Thursday 11 th	morn	Bible Study	Parlour
Thursday 11 th	even	Wantage & Grove Church Partnership	Parlour
Thursday 18 th	morn	Bible Study	Parlour
Thursday 25 th	morn	Bible Study	Parlour
Wednesday 31 st	eve	Music Group	Chapel

August

Thursday 1 st	morn	Bible Study	Parlour
Wednesday 14 th	morn	Boogie Beat Music & Movement	Hall
Wednesday 20 th	eve	Music Group	Chapel

September

Wednesday 11 th	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Thursday 12 th	aft	Guideposts Trust	Hall
Saturday 14 th	day	Wantage Christian Fellowship	Hall
Thursday 19 th	even	Worship Consultation	Parlour
Saturday 21 st	even	WGSP Curry & Quiz	Hall
Saturday 28 th	day	Tea Party for All We Can	Hall

DIARY

JULY

Monday 1 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p18
Thursday 4 th	7:30 pm	Grove Church Council	p13
Saturday 6 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p13
Sunday 7 th	6:30 pm	Circuit Service at Trinity Abingdon	p4
Tuesday 9 th	9:30 am	Day of Quiet Reflection at St Mary's Convent	p16
Wednesday 10 th	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	
Thursday 11 th	7:45 pm	Wantage & Grove Church Partnership Action Group at Wantage Methodist	
Sunday 14 th	12:30 pm	Sunday Lunch at Wantage	p18
Monday 15 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in Wantage Parlour	p18
Friday 19 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove – "The Light between the Oceans" (PG-13)	p14
Sunday 21 st	9:30 am	Kids@church at Manor Park, Wantage	p17
Friday 26 th	12:15 pm	Drop in Lunch at Wantage	p18
Wednesday 31 st	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	

AUGUST

Saturday 3 rd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p13
Friday 16 th	9:30 am	Grove Clean up Day	p15
	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove – "Lion" (PG)	p14
Saturday 17 th	9:30 am	Grove Clean up Day	p15
Sunday 18 th		Deadline for the September Newsletter	p2
Wednesday 20 th	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	
Friday 30 th	12:15 pm	Drop in Lunch at Wantage	p18

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 10 th	7:30 pm	Movers & Shakers for Mission & Service (Wantage)	
Wednesday 11 th	8:00 pm	Music Group at Wantage	
Thursday 12 th	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Trinity	
Saturday 14 th	All day	District Synod at Milton Keynes	
Thursday 19 th	7:30 pm	Worship Consultation at Wantage	
Saturday 21 st	7:30 pm	Street Pastors – Quiz & Curry at Wantage	p7
Sunday 22 nd		Deadline for the October Newsletter	
Sunday 29 th	10:30 am	Wantage Harvest Festival	

Sunday Services – July 2019

	Childrey	Grove	Wantage
July 7th Ordinary 14	11:00 am Geoff Caudle	10:45 am Peter Hemmings 6:30 pm Cct Service at Trinity	10:30 am Rev Keith Underhill Worship through Colossians 6:30 pm Cct Service at Trinity
July 14th Ordinary 15	11:00 am Alan Smith	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 6:30 pm Rev Keith Underhill	09:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill 10:30 am Ruth Dams
July 21st Ordinary 16 Trinity Sunday	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Carol Sturt 6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	09:30 am Kids@Church 10:30 am Tabitha Griffiths
July 28th Ordinary 17	11:30 am Tabitha Griffiths United Service	10:45 am Frederick Obeng 6:30 pm Rev John Anderson	10:30 am Helen Carter

Sunday Services – August 2019

	Childrey	Grove		Wantage
August 4th Ordinary 18	11:00 am Stephen Atkinson	10:45 am 6:30 pm	Holy Communion: Rev John Rowland Rev Paula Hunt	10:30 am Local Arrangements Worship through Taizé
August 11th Ordinary 19	11:00 am Carol Sturt	10:45 am 6:30 pm	Barbara Kershaw Ian Sturt	10:30 am Malcolm Newton
August 18th Ordinary 20	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev John Rowland	10:45 am 6:30 pm	Rev Alan Grist Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
August 25th Ordinary 21	11:30 am United Service at St Mary's	10:45 am 6:30 pm	Rev Keith Underhill Baptism Malcolm Newton	10:30 am Geoff Caudle