

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

# SECTOR NEWS



**Summer 2017**

**July/August**

Minister : Rev Keith Underhill – Tel: 01235 763321  
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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:

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Contributions for the **September Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 27 August 2017** to [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

**Regular Weekday Meetings**

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

**House Group at Wantage**

Weekly

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

**House Group at Grove**

Monthly

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

**Grove web site** is found from [www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk/](http://www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk/)

**Wantage web site** [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

## **From the Manse...**

Much has happened in our country in these past months, and indeed, days that has caused us to cry out “Why?” and to wonder what is going on, to wonder where God is, to hold those who suffer in our prayers and to seek for answers in the midst of all the confusion and fear.

We know only too well what our Queen meant when she said that it was "difficult to escape a very sombre national mood" in her recent birthday address.

As our televisions and newspapers continually update us on the unfolding events following acts of terrorism, violence and tragedy, (often accompanied by dramatic and graphic images), we wonder what on earth is going on?

How do we respond to this new era in which we find ourselves, one where the landscape has changed and we feel both uncertain and unsure?

We need to pray. We pray for all those caught up in the horror and devastation of it all. When our language lets us down and we do not know what to say, we still pray, allowing the silent cries of our hearts to articulate what it is that we feel. We pray for ourselves as well, that God might show us how we can best respond to what is going on around us.

Prayer alone though, is not enough. We need to re-discover our prophetic voice and speak out, we also need to be pro-active and to act.

We need to speak out against what is wrong. To speak out against profit and greed at the cost of human lives and to correct those who stir up hatred and anger by playing on people’s fears by using lies, untruths, misinformation and distorted facts.

We need to stand up for justice and fairness and to be alongside those who are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities and to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

We need to stand with and alongside all those who reject the ways of violence and extremism and to celebrate all that we have in common and to learn from and respect that which makes us different. We need to proclaim the ways of peace and unity.

At the heart of our Methodist D.N.A., these things are to be found – faith, lived out through a life of prayer, but also through social action and challenging all that is unjust and unfair, or as the prophet Micah reminds us: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

With love and God bless,

*Keith*

## **Anna Chaplaincy**

Since his move to Wantage last August, many of you have been asking Keith about Anna Chaplaincy and wondering what it might look like here in our churches and Circuit.

We are delighted to be able to invite you to a special event to be held in **Wantage Methodist Church** on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September** from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The day will be led by former broadcaster Debbie Thrower, the very first Anna Chaplain who now leads the BRF initiative, 'The Gift of Years - resourcing ministry among those rich in age and experience'

Changing demographics mean there are growing numbers of people living in to their 80s, 90s and beyond. Responding to the phenomenon of longer life is a challenge for the ageing individual, for churches, and the towns and villages they serve.

This day unpacks the practical Anna Chaplaincy\* approach to supporting older people and promoting well-being in old age.

It opens eyes to the possibilities of forging partnerships within communities, inspiring and equipping volunteers, creating 'church' where people are – whether they live alone, in sheltered homes, care homes or retirement complexes.

### **'Older People Matter'**

'It's about embodying the love of God for people at every age and stage of their lives; countering anxieties about ageing and the prevailing attitude that getting old is almost a crime, and definitely 'downhill all the way'" says Debbie. 'Far from becoming invisible as we age we should be cherishing our older generations. Anna Chaplaincy is like planting a flag in town that reads 'older people matter.'

Debbie leads The Gift of Years programme to 'resource the spiritual journey of older people' for The Bible Reading Fellowship, BRF. She outlines a variety of community-based ways of building mission and ministry among older people and explores strategies to celebrate the contributions of people in the second half of life, while never under-estimating the reality of growing older in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the fears associated with dementia.

This is a day to help lay people and ministers alike see valuing age as a desirable necessity, to give them tools to respond to the unprecedented changes. In twenty years there will be double the number of people over the age of 85, in thirty years nearly treble the number there are now.

Looking after 'orphans and widows' is a Biblical imperative, so the day includes some gentle reflection on the missional impetus for working among older women and men - whether they have strong, little, or no faith at all - as well as offering plenty of practical advice.

\*The name Anna is taken from the widow Anna who appears with Simeon in St Luke's gospel.

***Debbie Thrower** helped pioneer the ecumenical Anna Chaplaincy model from 2010 in Alton, Hampshire with Circuit Superintendent the Revd Keith Underhill. Together they've seen the network of Anna Chaplains and those engaged in similar ministry stretch across the UK. Debbie remains an Anna Chaplain in Alton, part-time, and is a licensed lay minister, a lay canon and was, for many years, broadcasting for the BBC and ITV. You may remember her reading the news and presenting 'Songs of Praise', but before you ask... she's NOT related to Percy Thrower!*



To help us in our planning, please book your free place and register with [keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk](mailto:keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk)

## **Deacon Selina**

Deacon Selina will be “Received into full Connexion”, and ordained as a Deacon at a service in Darlington Street Church, Wolverhampton on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. Please remember her and all Deacons and Presbyters ordained that day in your prayers.

## **Circuit Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Our next Circuit Service will be on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** at **Milton Methodist Church**, beginning at **3:00 pm**.

This will be the **commissioning service** for our two **Community Chaplains** for Great Western Park, (for more details, please see the update below, reprinted from the Circuit Exchange).

This service will be a celebration of all that has happened so far and the way in which God has led us in this innovative venture. It will also allow the whole Circuit to meet Libby and Sarah, to offer them our support and to pray for them as we commit the future of this work into God's hands.

There will also be an opportunity for us to pray for and bless the motor home that is their mobile base and office.

Do come and along and be inspired!



## Update on Community Chaplains at Great Western Park *Katherine Pickering*

We are delighted that Sarah Ifill and Libby Hawkness-Smith have been appointed to work at Great Western Park in Didcot.

Sarah is well known by many in the Circuit as she is a member and Worship Leader at Wallingford Methodist and currently the Senior Steward. Libby is an Anglican and in June will complete her training as a Lay Pioneer through the Church Mission Society. She is also a part-time School Pastor in the Reading area. She is looking forward to getting to know people in our Circuit. Sarah and Libby started work on 11<sup>th</sup> May and will use a chaplaincy “van” (a small motorhome) as their mobile base and visible presence.

We are very pleased that Tom Atkinson, a Didcot member, has designed the Community Chaplain logo which will be used on the van and elsewhere. Look out for the van and the new logo in the coming months!

Please pray for Sarah and Libby and those who will work with them as they take on their new roles. May they be assured of the prayers and encouragement of everyone in our churches as they seek to serve God in this new and exciting way. I look forward to working with them.

Every blessing, *Katherine*

*Please pray for:*

- Katherine as she takes on the extra role of line-managing the chaplains
- The chaplains themselves as they seek to find out what being community chaplains on GWP involves
- The flourishing community café on GWP, and its team of enthusiastic volunteers

May all involved in this pioneering project both seek and know God's guidance, to the glory of God and the furtherance of his kingdom.



## **CIRCUIT / DISTRICT EVENTS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> July 3:00 pm Circuit Service Commissioning GWP Chaplains  
Milton Methodist Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> July 6:00 pm District Farwell Service for Rev Peter Hancock  
Daventry Methodist Church
- 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2:00 pm Welcome service for New Chair of the District  
Rev Helen Cameron at Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes

### **Rev Peter Hancock – Chair of the Northampton District**

As you will probably know, Rev Peter Hancock, Chair of the Northampton District, will be leaving us this summer. A **Service of farewell** will be held on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017** at **Daventry Methodist Church** at **6:00 pm** to which you are warmly invited. Within this service there will be a presentation of a gift for Peter and Jane.

### **Bookings now open for 3Generate youth event**

Promising to be the biggest 3Generate yet, bookings have now opened for this year's children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, taking place at a new, bigger, venue, with up to 1,000 young people and leaders expected to attend.

Following massive growth and growing demand for places in recent years, this year's event will run from **24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November** at **Pontins, Southport**, for children and young people **aged 8 – 23**.

Please contact Rev Katherine Pickering if you are interested in attending as she is co-ordinating the Circuit group.

Full details are available on the website:

[www.methodist.org.uk/3generate](http://www.methodist.org.uk/3generate).

There is a requirement for one leader per six children aged under 18 years of age.

Tickets for delegates are £110 including food, accommodation and activities.

### **Glimpses of the Eternal**

If you like films and are interested in faith then "Glimpses of the Eternal" may well be for you!

You do not have to have committed to all 9 sessions to participate, simply come along as and when you can. All the sessions will be held in the **Meeting Room at Grove Methodist Church** beginning at **7:30 pm**. If you are thinking of coming along though, it would be helpful to let Keith know, as there are handouts etc that are available.

The themes for the remaining 4 weeks are as below.

**Thursday 29th June - "The importance of a shared meal"**

**Wednesday 5th July - "The Matrix"**

**Tuesday 11th July - "Jesus of Montreal"**

**Thursday 20th July - "Endings"**

If you would like any further information or have any questions, do contact Keith.

## A Prayer from World Church News

Lord, we thank you for peace.

Peace that results from the absence from war,

peace that results from perseverance and forgiveness,

peace that stems from purpose,

peace that buds from interconnectivity and partnership,

and above all, for shalom;

Peace that brings wholeness, finding its beginning and end in you.

Amen.

## News from wider Methodism

If you use email, you can sign-up to a number of **newsletters**, some more frequent than others, which will keep you up-to-date on other parts of the Connexion.

Go to <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters>

Don't forget the **Circuit calendar**, with these and other events, can now be viewed on the **Circuit website**, [www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk](http://www.wantageandabingdoncircuit.org.uk)

## Wantage & Grove Church Partnership

### Wantage & Grove Food Bank

*Elaine Day*

Helen Margett who has been our main contact for many years has now relinquished her role.

A mobile phone will be manned to take calls for food parcel requests in the Wantage, Grove and surrounding villages

THE NEW NUMBER IS 07543 852939

The email address remains the same and can also be used to contact us.

[WANTAGEANDGROVEFOODBANK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WANTAGEANDGROVEFOODBANK@GMAIL.COM)

If you come across someone who would benefit from a food parcel then please do not hesitate in referring their situation to us. It is our policy not to accept requests for food directly from members of the public, in order hopefully to have some degree of informed discretion about those accessing our service.

Finally, it has been an extremely busy year, delivering over 100 parcels since January. This has depleted our stock of food considerably.

We would be grateful for any contributions of food or money, especially at Harvest Festival time.



**The Letcombe Singers  
present a  
SUPPER CONCERT**

# **The Pirates of Penzance**



**Wantage Methodist Hall  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm**

**Letcombe Regis Village Hall  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.00 pm**

**Tickets £12 (Accompanied under 14s Free)  
from Wantage Museum,  
Bretts the Chemist, Grove,  
Letcombe Regis Village Shop  
& members of The Letcombe Singers  
In Aid of Oxford University Hospitals  
Churchill Radiotherapy Department**

# Childrey

## United Services:

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**, 11:30 am      Preacher: Helen Carter  
at the Methodist Chapel

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August**, 11:30 am      at St Mary's Church

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August:**    Evening worship with Grove at 6:00 pm at Childrey.

## Prayers:

Prayers are asked for Amy Rose Legge and her family, Sylvia Rowland, 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.

+++++

June Grunwald could find a use for old birthday cards. She is particularly interested in cards with photos on or works of art, but is willing to sort through cards if you have a bundle lurking at home.

Tel: 01235 760488

# Grove

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July** in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am till 12 noon. There will be a book stall, and contributions of books would be most welcome. Our hosts will be Andrew and Su Lockley (tel: 01235 767048). Proceeds are for church funds.

There will be a “**Coffee morning for Cornerstone**” on **Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August** from 10:00 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. Proceeds are in support of the Cornerstone Christian Centre and Coffee Shop in Grove.

The **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September** is for the “Link to Hope” Christmas Shoebox Appeal, in the Meeting Room from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Our hosts will be Lesley Hummerston and Jenny Marriott. John Willemsen will have his Bring & Buy Stall. We look forward to seeing you.

**Open House on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7:30 pm: Barbeque.**

We are planning once again to have a ‘summer’ barbeque at the home of Judy and Eric, 7 Miles Drive, Grove (thank you both). **Everyone should bring their own meat / fish to barbeque plus cold drinks.** Crockery, cutlery, salads, bread, sauces, hot drinks and desserts will be provided. Offers of salads and desserts would be appreciated. Please let Judy know if you can oblige. Everyone is very welcome.

Please note **earlier start time** and tell **Judy (762723) by 1<sup>st</sup> July** if you plan to come, as Lynda will be away.

There is **no Open House meeting** planned for **August**.

**Open House on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** at 8:00 pm in the **Meeting Room**.

Our minister, Rev Keith Underhill, is coming to talk to us on a topic of his choice. Refreshments will be served. All welcome.

## **Tuesday Fellowship**

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tea and chat – church
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tea and chat – church
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sue and John Stead have invited us for afternoon tea at their home – 17 Woodgate Close, Grove
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tea in Linda and Mark’s garden – 50A Charlton Village Road
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	To be announced
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Wood – speaking about her visit to Zimbabwe. Childrey members are invited.
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	To be announced
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Strawberry tea at the Cornerstone
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Visiting Katie at 2 Bridle Crescent, Wantage
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	To be announced

**Warmed Hearts group** are planning on going on the riverboat from Abingdon to Oxford on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**. Meet at Abingdon Bridge Marina at 4:15 pm for 4:45 pm boat to Folly Bridge, Oxford, arriving at 6:30 pm. Family and friends are most welcome. Please let Peter Hemmings know if you would like to go as part of the group (telephone: 762504). For a party of 20 or more **booking in advance** is necessary and will also bring a 10% discount off the price. All are welcome.

**Warmed Hearts group** are having a **Barbeque** on **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August** at 7 Miles Drive, Grove from 7:00 pm. **Everyone should bring their own meat / fish to barbeque plus cold drinks**. Crockery, cutlery, salads, bread, sauces, hot drinks and desserts will be provided. Offers of salads and desserts would be appreciated. Please let Judy know if you can oblige. Everyone is very welcome. Please note the **earlier start time** and tell **Judy by Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> August** if you plan to come (01235 762723).

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> July** at 7:30 pm. (*Second Friday*)

We will be showing "**BFG**". 2016 117mins *PG*

*An orphan little girl befriends a benevolent giant who takes her to Giant Country, where they attempt to stop the man-eating giants that are invading the human world.*

*Stars: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton.*

The **Film Club** will meet on **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> August** at 7:30 pm. (*Second Friday*)

We will be showing "**A street cat named Bob**". 2016 103mins *U*

*The true feel good story of how James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict, has his life transformed when he met a stray ginger cat.*

*Stars: Luke Treadaway, Bob the cat, Ruta Gedmintas, Joanna Froggatt, Anthony Head*

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

There is an email "alert" service for anyone who is interested in receiving an email reminder before each film, about a week beforehand. If you would like to be on the list to receive an "alert" message please would you let Su know, giving her your email address, at [su.lockley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:su.lockley@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Handicrafts' Group**

We are meeting in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for a 'Card making' session. If you have ideas for cards you feel you could share with others please bring them along with you and perhaps materials for one or two more to have a go. You can take part in what is on offer or work on your own craft while having a chat and exchanging ideas. All welcome. £2 for the afternoon to cover expenses.

We will be in Grove Methodist Church again on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> August**, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm when "Making a needlecase, which also keeps your scissors to hand" will be on offer. *You will need a small sewing kit for this*. All welcome. £2 for the afternoon.

Then in **September** we will meet in Grove Methodist Church on **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Ideas for an activity welcomed.

In **July** we will meet at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Savile Way, Grove on **Mondays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July**, to craft and chat together.

In **August** we will meet at Cornerstone on **Mondays, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** and on **Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August**. £1 donation to Cornerstone and pay for your choice of drink.

Contact Jenny Marriott (Tel: 01235 767624) for further details.

The **July / August quiz** will be available at the beginning of July.

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

The proceeds of the June coffee morning for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance amounted to £122. Thank you.

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

#### **Flower Rota**

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Margaret Bett	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Noreen Hemmings
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Lynda Culley	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Audrey Hogston
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Kath Gourlay	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Judith Hopkins
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Lois Greenhalgh	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Joyce Horton
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Sheila Hall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept.	Lesley Hummerston

#### **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.

#### **Link to Hope Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal for Christmas 2017.**

Leaflets for this year's appeal are now available from Jenny Marriott, giving details of the items which are most useful (telephone 01235 767624).

The closing date for giving in completed shoeboxes will be 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Empty shoeboxes are always welcome too and can be given in any time.

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**Grove Church Council** meets on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July** at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room.

**Infant Baptism** of Montgomery Alan Ruhback on **Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> July** at 10:45 am at Grove. Parents: Roz and Mark Ruhback; Grandad: Geoff Harries.

# Wantage

## FELLOWSHIP

### Tuesday Afternoon House Group

In June we studied the Letter of James as part of the Methodist Church initiative of Bible Month.

The details of the July and August dates are as follows:

4 <sup>th</sup> July	Receiving Christ: Through Prayer and Fellowship – 1 Peter 5:1-11 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting.
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Quiet Day – St. Mary's Convent 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Keith will talk to us.
25 <sup>th</sup> July	No meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Monthly Prayer Meeting with afternoon tea.

There are no further meetings in August; we begin again on **5<sup>th</sup> September**.

As always 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 pm 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.

### Wednesday Fellowship

#### JUNE

28<sup>th</sup> Pam Martin will be showing pictures of the second half of her visit to China, this time covering the more touristy areas.

#### JULY

5<sup>th</sup> This is our AGM, which Keith Underhill has agreed to chair for us. This is an opportunity to have your say in the distribution of funds and the way the meetings are run. Suggestions for speakers are always very welcome.

12<sup>th</sup> Lindsay White from the Blue Cross Animal Welfare Charity will give an illustrated talk about their work.

19<sup>th</sup> We end the term with a service of Holy Communion led by the Revd. Keith Underhill.

Nicky and Joan Clipsham are going to do as in the last few years and meet in the Parlour for **tea and chat each Wednesday in August (starting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

Wednesday Fellowship begins again on **13<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **Lunch Dates**

Lunch dates for the Summer are as follows:

**Friday lunch** in **July** be on 14<sup>th</sup> then we break for the summer.

**Sunday lunches** will be 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We will commence in **September** on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**.

We look forward to seeing you on any or all of the dates.

Can I please remind you that any **changes to the list** after the Wednesday before the Sunday lunch whether adding your name or deleting it to let Ann or myself know by telephone.

May I thank everyone for their continued support over the last year and a big thank you to all those who help in anyway with the preparation and delivery of these meals.

*Julie*

## **YOUNG CHURCH**

### **YMOSES**

In June YMOSES met at Letcombe Bassett and went for a beautiful evening walk up to the Ridgeway and back down through some very steep fields. We enjoyed drinks and snacks at the top with a wonderful view over the Vale.

Next month we will be meeting on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July** and cooking and eating pizzas together. If you are at secondary school and you'd like to join us you would be very welcome. Please don't hesitate to call for more information - Jane (01235 765421). We will not be meeting in August but back again on **10<sup>th</sup> September**.

### **Kids@Church**

In June we met on Father's Day so acknowledged that, but also joined the 10:30 congregation in looking at James chapter 3. We talked about how we use our tongues for good including praising God! In the hall the children made some wonderful creations from air dry clay.

On **July 16<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 am we will be meeting in **Manor Road memorial park** for summer fun! Please join us if you can.

Our first get together of the new academic year will be on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. For more information please ring Jane Kent (01235 765421).

## **PRAYER**

### **Prayer list for July/August 2017**

Loving God we praise you for the opportunity we have in the holiday season to find relaxation and time to enjoy breaks and time with family and friends. We thank you for this and ask that in your continued presence with us you will focus our minds through the relaxation and pleasures enjoyed, to never miss out on the time we can share with you in prayer and reading your word. Help us to share the good news with others when opportunity arises in our daily lives.

Jean M, Pam Scholes, Phoebe and family, Bethan Grant, Lois Knighton, The Wright-Clark Family, Jane, Alan and Eileen Bunn and family, Emily and Andy, Harrison and Jade, Olive Butler, Jennifer Culshaw, Jenny, Wantage Health and Well-being Centre, All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, YMOSES, kids@church and Street Pastors.

Those members of our church family who, through frailty and 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 or you want to add anybody please let me know by 18<sup>th</sup> August in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie: Tel: 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** and those without a Pastoral Visitor will be included in the special Prayer meeting held during August: Charlotte, Janet & Richard Browning, Joan & Ed Clipsham, Sharon Hayford, Jean Manners, Gill Morton, Gill & Gordon Skidmore, Britzaida de Lozado, Barbara Porter and Colin, Marjorie & Doug White

In addition to the names listed above, the members of our church family who through frailty and poor health cannot worship with us any longer, are also mentioned by name at Eileen's group.

**Space to Be** will be meeting on **Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9:45 am for 30 minutes of led meditation and then 45 minutes of personal reflection using the prayer stations. All are welcome to come for 9:45 and then any time between 10:15 and 11:00 am. Please watch the weekly notices nearer to time for more detail.

We will not be meeting in August. Those of us who are using this time find it very valuable space within our busy lives. If you would like to know more, please talk to Jane Kent or Helen Carter.

## **WORSHIP**

### **Worship through.....**

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire regarding our “Worship through....” services over the last few weeks following our General Church Meeting.

A total of 22 questionnaires were returned.

To the question, “Given the reasoning behind having these “Worship through.....” services, do you feel that:

- a) they should continue as they are in their current format
- b) they should continue but with some changes
- c) they have served their purpose and should now be replaced with something else. If so, what?

1 person thought they should remain as is, 13 thought that they should continue but with some changes and 3 that they should be replaced.

Other comments included;

- The themes should be widened from just looking at worship through art, music and quiet.
- These services do not seem to have brought any new people in.
- People living on their own spend time on their own and find worship through quiet more difficult.
- It all depends on who is leading the service.
- How about some kind of themed preaching over a number of weeks?
- There were some comments about not being comfortable with sitting around tables and discussing with others.
- The Christingle service was greatly appreciated
- To relate worship to life’s experiences.

Other possible themes that were suggested for “Worship through.....” included history, poetry, education, technology, nature, prayer, work, science, stories, dance, film and environmental concerns.

At our recent Worship Consultation, we looked at the issue of “Worship through....” and decided to widen the themes over the coming months and to continue to discuss how we can best help our worship life here at church.

### **Church Flowers**

The flower rota is rather incomplete. Dates are as follows:

#### **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> Carolyn Roche  
9<sup>th</sup> Diane Barton  
16<sup>th</sup> Eileen Rennie  
23<sup>rd</sup> Gordon & Gill Skidmore

#### **August**

6<sup>th</sup> Margaret Fordham  
13<sup>th</sup> Gordon & Gill Skidmore



## **Rota for Church Flowers\_**

...Thank you to everyone who has already provided flowers for church during the first half of this year. There are several gaps in the list of Sundays during the second half. If you are able to cover any of those dates, please let me know, or sign rota in the corridor, and hopefully we will be able to fill all of the spaces for the rest of 2017. The flowers are distributed each week, so if you are aware of anyone to whom it is appropriate for me to take them, please let me know. Alternatively, if you would like to take them yourself to someone, on behalf of our whole church family, that's fine, just let me know.

Many thanks, Ann

## **Sound and acoustics in Church**

Since the refurbishment of the worship space we have been aware that the space is more resonant than it was and that this is a problem which needs addressing.

A small group has been set up by the Property and Finance Committee tasked with identifying the on-going problems we are having with the acoustics and sound in church in order that we can rectify things.

The first step is to look at the acoustics of the building and we will be getting professional help and advice on this.

We are very grateful to Rodney Tillotson who has agreed to take the lead on this.

We will keep you posted as to how things are going.

## MISSION & SERVICE

Movers & Shakers for Mission & Service will meet on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm at 63 Foliat Drive. This is the meeting deferred from June 8<sup>th</sup>

### World Mission

There will be envelopes in church on **16<sup>th</sup>** and **23<sup>rd</sup> July** and you are invited to make a donation towards the work undertaken through World Mission on either of those Sundays.

I have taken over responsibility for collecting in the boxes and counting the money contributed for World Mission. Please could all of the **box holders** bring them to church during the next two weeks, or let me know if they would prefer me to pick them up from their homes.

Thank you, **Ann**

## Christmas Angels

This year we would like to share God's love and to bless the community in public places and community spaces with a Christmas message. To



do this we will need to knit many, many little angels. These will have a tag attached to them with a Christmas message. The angels will be blessed in Church just before Christmas and will then be left around the town for others to find. I know that Christmas is a long way off and that the summer is not the best time to do



knitting but some of you may like to make a start. You can get the knitting pattern from me or go to the website [www.christmasangel.net](http://www.christmasangel.net). Knitting can be fun to do while chatting with a friend or as part of group. In September I hope to set up a knitting group. If you need any more information please get in touch with me.

*Carolyn Roche (01235764310)*

## Wantage Chapel & Hall Bookings for July / August / September

Please **check / book your date** with Gordon **before you commit to** your meeting. In addition to the regular users, the following bookings are in place:

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	The Letcombe Singers	Chapel
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	Church Council	Chapel
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	morn	Wantage Toddlers	All Hall
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	eve	The Letcombe Singers	All Premises
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	aft	Wantage Christian Fellowship	All Hall
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	morn	Wantage Toddlers	All Hall
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	lunch	Sunday Lunch	Hall
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	eve	My Life, My Choice	Parlour
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	morn	Wantage Toddlers	All Hall
	lunch	Friday Lunch	Hall
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	morn	Dads Out	All Hall
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	morn	Space2Be	Chapel
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	lunch	Sunday Lunch	Hall
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	eve	Music Group	Chapel
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	aft	Private Party	Hall
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	aft	Caritas Workshop	Hall
<b>Term time regulars restart</b>			
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	eve	Circuit Meeting	Chapel
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	day	Street Pastors' Training	Chapel
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	morn	Dads Out	All Hall
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	eve	My Life , My Choice	Parlour
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	eve	Street Pastors Quiz & Curry Night	Hall
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	eve	WMC Pastoral Committee	Chapel
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	day	Anna Chaplaincy	All Premises
Sunday October 1 <sup>st</sup>	aft	Private Lunch / Meeting	Godfrey Rm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	aft	Eileen Tea Event	All Hall

## Chapel & Hall Rooms' Regular Users July/August

Monday (July)	Hall	Pilates from 18:45
(July)	Godfrey Room	Dietician (alternate weeks)
Tuesday	All Hall rooms	MIND, 09:30 – 13:00
	Hall	Wantage Camera Club from 18:45
Wednesday	Hall	Open Access – 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks of the month, 09:00 – 12:30
(not 26/7)	Hall /Parlour	Wednesday Fellowship, 13:00 – 16:00
(not 5/7 or 12/7)	Hall	Wantage Stage Musical, 19:00 – 22:00
Thursday	Hall	King Alfred WI - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in the month, 12:00 -15:00
	Hall	Regain Fitness, 18:45 – 20:30
Sunday	All premises	Worship, Junior Church & Crèche, 8:30 – 13:00

## Chapel & Hall Rooms' Regular Users September

Monday	Kitchen	Mrs Bun the Baker
	Hall	Pilates from 18:45
	Godfrey Room	Dietician (alternate weeks)
Tuesday	All Hall rooms	MIND, 09:30 – 13:00
	Hall	Wantage Camera Club from 18:45
Wednesday	Hall	Open Access – 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks of the month, 09:00 – 12:30
	Hall	Wednesday Fellowship, 13:00 – 16:00
	Hall	Wantage Stage Musical, 19:00 – 22:00
Thursday	Hall	King Alfred WI - 3 <sup>rd</sup> week in the month, 12:00 -15:00
	Hall	Regain Fitness, 18:45 – 20:30
Friday	All Hall Rooms	Babes & Toddlers / Wantage Toddlers 09:00 – 11:30
	Hall	Friday Lunches (alternate weeks)
	Hall	Caritas Children's Choir 15:45 – 17:30
Saturday	All Hall Rooms	Wantage Toddlers Dads Out (3 <sup>rd</sup> week) 09:00 – 11:30
Sunday	All premises	Worship, Junior Church & Crèche, 8:30 – 13:00



## Sunday Services – July 2017

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July Ordinary 13</b>	11:00 am Michael Howlett 3:00 pm At Milton	10:45 am Elizabeth Wood  3:00 pm At Milton	10:30 am Worship through Quiet Rev Katherine Pickering  3:00 pm At Milton
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July Ordinary 14 Action for Children</b>	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:45 am Ruth Dams  6:30 pm Stephen Atkinson	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill  10:30 am Rev Alan Grist
<b>16<sup>th</sup> July Ordinary 15</b>	11:00 am Marlene Chalkley	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill  6:30 pm Libby Bolton	9:30 am kids@church 10:30 am Esther Woollgar
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July Ordinary 16</b>	11:30 am Helen Carter United Service	10:45 am Barbara Sexton  6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
<b>30<sup>th</sup> July Ordinary 17</b>	11:00 am Tabitha Griffiths	10:45 am Holy Communion: Rev John Rowland  6:30 pm Rev Keith Underhill	10:30 am Local Arrangements

## Sunday Services – August 2017

	<b>Childrey</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> August Ordinary 18</b>	6:00 pm Dr Paul Williams	10:45 am Andrew Lockley  6:00 pm At Childrey	10:30 am Holy Communion: Rev Keith Underhill
<b>11<sup>th</sup> August Ordinary 19</b>	11:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Alan Grist	10:45 am Helen Carter  6:30 pm Holy Communion: Rev Ian Griffiths	9:00 am Holy Communion: Rev Ian Griffiths  10:30 am Tabitha Griffiths
<b>18<sup>th</sup> August Ordinary 20</b>	11:00 am Barbara Kershaw	10:45 am Tabitha Griffiths  6:30 pm Dr Paul Williams	10:30 am Dr Paul Williams
<b>25<sup>th</sup> August Ordinary 21</b>	11:30 am United Service At St Mary's	10:45 am Malcolm Newton  6:30 pm Michael Howlett	10:30 am Geoffrey Caudle