

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

GROVE & WANTAGE METHODIST NEWS

The Methodist Church



October 2026

Ministers

Grove - Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson – Tel: 01235 219070

g.bondzi-simpson@methodist.org.uk

Wantage - Rev Bruce Thompson – Tel: 01235 813242

revbrucet@yahoo.com

When a minister is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below,
who will put you in touch:

Helen Carter : 01235 764810

Linda Culley 07759 085336

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

Grove Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624

Wantage Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 07710 214601

email : wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (November) should be sent to the editor by
email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18th October**

email : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com

Tel : 07710 214601

Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Wantage Morning Worship is shared each week on Zoom at 10:30

(for access to this please contact Gordon Skidmore)

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

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

Circuit web site www.wantab.org.uk

Newsletter Contribution deadline dates – 2026

November	Sunday 18 th October
Winter (December/January)	Sunday 22 nd November

For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:6)

One of my most memorable experiences as a teacher came each autumn during the harvest assembly. Young children would proudly process to the front clutching a tin or two of baked beans or canned soup, occasionally so close to its expiry date that one wondered whether it was really intended as a gift! With great seriousness and pride, they would add their contributions to a growing collection of groceries, which a chosen class would later deliver to a local care home before the end of the school day.

It is that time of year again, when churches and schools across the UK fill tables and baskets with tins, fruit and vegetables, sing about sowing, reaping and gathering, and give thanks for God's provision. Harvest Festival, with all its beauty and bounty, remains one of the few church traditions that still connects our everyday lives with the land and with God. While most of us no longer work the soil ourselves, many of us still find something deeply meaningful in this annual moment of pause and celebration: a chance to express our gratitude to the One through whom all things come into being; a chance to share with others, and to mark the changing seasons.

As we journey through Creationtide and prepare to celebrate Harvest, the words of Colossians 1:16 offer a helpful reminder: "for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created... all things have been created through him and for him." Creationtide invites us to pause and notice the beauty, wonder and diversity of God's creation. The changing colours of autumn, the abundance of gardens and fields, and the intricate web of life around us, all speak of our Creator's handiwork.

The Colossians passage, alongside the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2, teaches us that caring for creation is at the heart of Christian discipleship and mission. Creation belongs to Christ, in whom all things hold together and through him all creation continues to be renewed and sustained. Recognising this calls us to respond to God's love and care with gratitude, responsibility and a renewed commitment to care for the earth and its resources. In the words of Pope Francis, "As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family."

As we celebrate Harvest this year, may our thankfulness deepen our commitment to care for creation and to use its gifts wisely and generously, for the glory of God and the good of our neighbours.

May this season of Creationtide and Harvest renew our sense of wonder, gratitude and responsibility as we seek to care for God's world and share God's gifts with all.

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
from leaders and people who struggle and serve
for patience and kindness, that all may be led
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed. *Brian Wren*

Every blessing, Georgina

It is only right that in the month my book is published on the twenty-year relationship I had with one of the last surviving members of the SS I should focus this article on someone who was on the opposite side of the Channel to that upon which Erwin was waiting for the Allied invasion in June 1944.

Over the course of my ministry, I had the immense privilege of knowing many veterans of the Second World War. This article is too brief for me to list them all. However, as the focus is on one woman who had an amazing role in D-Day I shall just record a few. There was Jim who was in a two-man submarine on the far-left flank of the invasion which surfaced early on the morning of the 6th June to set up a beacon and guide the forces to shore. Then there was Egerton who commanded six landing craft and took a 'stroll' (his words) along an uncharacteristically quiet beach that morning. I will never forget Percy who was in the very first wave of infantry that hit the beaches and who attended almost every anniversary of D-Day until his death in the late 1990s. However, the person I want to focus on is Elizabeth.

When I first visited Elizabeth and Harold I noticed a photograph of a dashing young Harold in his Royal Naval uniform. I asked him about his service, to which he replied that it was not his story I needed to hear but Elizabeth's. 'Oh Harold, the minister doesn't want to hear about the war.' Oh yes I did, especially now that Harold had tantalisingly hinted at something that may be of great interest.

'Elizabeth was the first Wren to be a PA to the Chief of Naval Staff.'

'Oh Harold, you don't need to tell him this.'

Harold clearly picked up my sense of intrigue.

Harold then went on to say that, sometime after they first began courting, Elizabeth informed him that her commanding officer would like to invite him to tea. On his arrival he discovered that Elizabeth's boss was none other than the Chief of Naval Staff. It was clear that the tea and biscuits was more than just a kindly act of hospitality; the Admiral was checking out the young naval lieutenant whom his PA was spending time with. After all, Elizabeth was privy to all the top-secret plans for the forthcoming invasion of France and the Admiral needed to know that Harold was a good man. Having passed the test, the relationship was permitted to continue.

On Thursday 1st June 1944 both Elizabeth and Harold, now engaged to be married, had a pass for a night off from duties at their respective bases in Portsmouth. They went to the cinema. At the end of the evening as they parted, Harold said that he would be able to get another pass the following Thursday, could they go to the cinema again? Elizabeth was one of the very few people who knew the exact date of the invasion which was going to be before the following Thursday. Despite knowing this and in the full knowledge that she might never see Harold again, Elizabeth replied 'That would be lovely, darling.' Satisfied with the response and looking forward to what he believed would be their next meeting Harold returned to base. Unbeknown to him at the time, all bases were to be locked down within a few hours and all leave

cancelled. Elizabeth had kept her knowledge of this from her fiancé and love of her life.

On the morning of the 6th June, D-Day, the Chief of Naval Staff led his team from their bunker onto a hill top overlooking the Channel. At the precise moment the men hit the Normandy beaches the group held silence for a while. The Admiral then indicated that the team had work to do and led them back into their bunker.

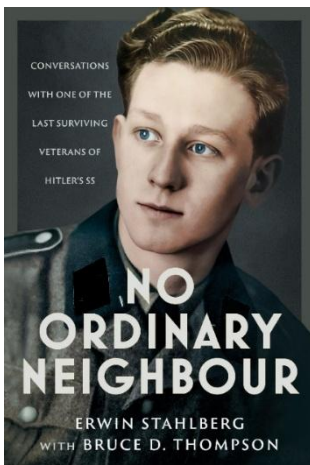
Having heard this extraordinary story, I managed to persuade Elizabeth to let Harold recount it to the congregation on the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Elizabeth sat quietly as members of the church heard the story for the first time. Perhaps she was herself unwilling to break her promise to uphold the Official Secrets Act, even so many years on, but was prepared to let her husband tell the story instead; I cannot be sure. What I clearly recall is Elizabeth, by then a very frail, elderly lady, nursing her precious Wren cap. I asked her if she could put it on for us. She declined with a degree of incredulity, saying that she could not do that because she wasn't wearing her full uniform and that was against the rules.

I hoped those who had sat alongside Elizabeth in the church for many years, and previously unaware of her story, were as moved as I was by it. I hoped they were inspired by the extraordinary integrity of Elizabeth holding a confidence at such a critical moment in the nation's history. I hoped it enabled some of the younger members to appreciate their elders and the sacrifices they had made in the past.

My hopes remain the same today as they were twenty years ago when Harold first relayed Elizabeth's story to an amazed congregation.

In honour of all those who sacrificed much for our freedom,

Bruce



Book Launch at Wallingford Methodist Church

In partnership with The Wallingford Bookshop

Tuesday 20 October 12 noon

Free Admission

NO ORDINARY NEIGHBOUR – Conversations with one of the last surviving veterans of Hitler's SS

By Bruce Thompson Frontline Books 2026

This account will shock and disturb, but not necessarily in the way many would expect or imagine.

This is no conventional memoir, it is a deep examination of how one young man could so readily become immersed in a brutal military unit, one of the most feared of the Nazi regime, and explores the lessons we must learn afresh today.

Skilfully written and with great personal insight, this is a courageous and disturbingly relevant book. Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi Masorti Judaism UK



Black History Month Celebration

Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit

You are warmly invited to join us for a special Black History Month event

**Saturday 17 October, from 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm,
at Trinity Church, Conduit Rd, Abingdon OX14 1DB**

This afternoon event brings together voices from across the Methodist family and beyond, offering reflection, learning, worship, and shared fellowship:

- **Talk:** *The History of Black History Month* **Mr Bevan Powell MBE**
- **Act of Worship:** **Dr Sonia Hicks**,
Chair of the Northampton Methodist District
- **Storytelling:** **Mr Joseph Kingsley Nyinah**
- The Methodist Zimbabwe Fellowship Choir

In Conversation

A twenty minute dialogue with **The Rt Hon. the Lord Boateng**

We will conclude with a **shared faith meal**, celebrating the rich culinary heritage of the African and Caribbean diaspora.

To assist us in finalising arrangements, we would be most grateful if you could kindly indicate your availability for the event

We look forward to welcoming you.

RSVP: wantageabingdoncircuit@outlook.com

COME & SING CHORAL EVENSONG

LOVE CHORAL SINGING, OR FANCY GIVING IT A TRY?
COME AND SING CHORAL EVENSONG WITH US!

SUN 18TH OCT

PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, WANTAGE

5PM SERVICE Attendance at the service is free

2:30PM START FOR SINGERS

Price for singers: £5.

If you'd like to
come and sing,
please email Simon at
wpmgchair@gmail.com

Payment can be made on the day
by cash or card.



in aid of the
WANTAGE PARISH MUSIC GUILD
supporting the provision and education
of church music in the
parish of Wantage.

Charity Number 1101896



wantage parish
church choir

GROVE

In Memory of Ian Sturt

As most of you will know, Ian was a much-loved and valued member of Grove Methodist church, our Circuit and our local community. A man of deep and unwavering faith, he served faithfully as a local preacher, sharing the love and hope of God with modesty and sincerity.

Ian was known for his kindness, gentleness and wisdom. Ian had a wonderfully calming presence; he listened, encouraged and offered thoughtful words when they were needed. His quiet faith was evident not only in what he said, but in the way he lived his life and cared for others.

The loss of his beloved wife Carol three years ago brought great sadness to Ian and indeed to all who knew her. Those who knew him understood how deeply he loved and missed her, yet his faith remained a source of strength and comfort and gave him great joy.

His sudden death, far too soon, has left us with a profound sense of loss. Yet we give thanks to God for Ian's life, for his faithful service, his friendship, and the many lives he touched.

We pray that Ian is now at peace in the loving presence of God and reunited with the one he loved so dearly.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Grove stewards

Ian's service will be held at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium, Garford, at 2.00 pm **on Monday, 12th October.** There will be no service in church, but ahead of the service at the Crematorium, a group of Ian's biker fellowship will gather in front of the church together with the hearse and from there, escort Ian to the Crematorium.

We continue to hold Stuart, the rest of the family and us all in prayer.

You are invited to a **Coffee morning** on **Saturday, 3rd October** from 10.00 am till 12 noon in the church. The charity benefitting will be The Brain Tumour Charity.

Mirella and her family are our hosts for the morning and they would appreciate offers of help with cakes. We hope you are able to join us for a chat and tea/coffee and cake. It is really good to see you all. Thank you to all who support us so well and to those who help by providing cakes and/or help on the day. It is all much appreciated.

Our Harvest celebrations are on **Sunday, 4th October.** Morning worship will be led by our minister, Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, to be followed by a ploughman's lunch. Please give your name to the stewards if you would like to stay for lunch, to help with catering. There will be a basket for donations at the lunch for "All We Can" (the Methodist Relief & Development Fund).

Decorating the church for the Harvest – we hope you will all share in decorating the church by bringing along some flowers/greenery. Gifts for the Harvest should be dried or tinned goods please, to be given to the Wantage & Grove Foodbank.

Ecumenical Prayer for Revival will be on **Sunday 4th October** from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Film Club is meeting on **Friday, 23rd October** (4th Friday again) at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing “The Hunt for Red October”, a 1990 American submarine spy thriller film directed by John McTiernan. The film is an adaptation of Tom Clancy’s 1984 bestselling novel of the same name.

Starring: Sean Connery, Alec Baldwin, Scott Glenn, James Earl Jones and Sam Neill.
Admission is free. All are welcome. A small donation helps with expenses.

Tuesday Fellowship in September is on **Tuesday, 29th September** at 2.15 pm. We have been invited by Veronica and Graham to their home, 17 Cowslip Road, Wantage, OX12 7FX for a “Visit to Japan”. They will be showing pictures and telling us about their recent trip. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship Information about our meeting in October will be given in the notices nearer the time (Tuesday, 27th October).

Craft Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome. Bring your own craft to do and enjoy a chat and exchange of ideas with other crafters while you work. We each give a donation of £1 to Cornerstone and buy a drink of our choice.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in September for Cancer Research U.K. Donations amounted to £210.50. To this has been added £53.26 Gift Aid money in hand, making the total transferred to Cancer Research U.K. £263.76.

Thank you to all those who generously continue to support the Foodbank by putting contributions in the box in the entrance hall week by week. Thank you.

All donations are very much appreciated. The need is still great.

There is a list above the box of the things that are most useful to them at the moment.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems. Thank you to everyone who helps in whatever way they are able to. Your prayers and support are very much appreciated.

Date for your diary: Church Council will meet on **Monday, 9th November** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. All interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and share in this meeting.



The poster features a central illustration of a man in a lab coat and safety glasses working on a circuit board, and a woman in overalls using a sewing machine. The man is holding a soldering iron. The woman is sitting at a table. The background is a light blue sky with a stylized orange sunburst logo at the top. The text 'SUSTAINABLE WANTAGE' is written in orange below the logo. Below this, the text 'HOUSEHOLD / ELECTRICAL ITEMS | TOOL SHARPENING | CLOTHING / TEXTILE' is written in black. The main title 'REPAIR DAY' is in large, bold, black letters, flanked by a needle and thread icon on the left and two screws on the right. Below the illustration, the text 'NO BOOKING NEEDED' is in a yellow starburst, and 'DONATIONS FOR REPAIRS' is in an orange starburst. At the bottom, the date and time are listed: '17TH OCTOBER 2026 | 2-5PM'. Below this, the location is given: 'GROVE METHODIST CHURCH, MAIN ST'. At the very bottom, there is a paragraph of text: 'Not sure what you can bring? Our volunteer fixers can help repair: Household / Electricals such as kettles, toasters, coffee makers, radios, etc Clothing / Textiles such as seams and holes in jumpers, trousers, bags, etc and do Tool sharpening for items such as knives, secateurs, shears'.

SUSTAINABLE WANTAGE

HOUSEHOLD / ELECTRICAL ITEMS | TOOL SHARPENING | CLOTHING / TEXTILE

REPAIR DAY

NO BOOKING NEEDED

DONATIONS FOR REPAIRS

DATE | HOURS
17TH OCTOBER 2026 | 2-5PM

📍 GROVE METHODIST CHURCH, MAIN ST

Not sure what you can bring? Our volunteer fixers can help repair:
Household / Electricals such as kettles, toasters, coffee makers, radios, etc
Clothing / Textiles such as seams and holes in jumpers, trousers, bags, etc
and do **Tool sharpening** for items such as knives, secateurs, shears

No booking needed. Donations made for repairs are appreciated.

Film Club -suggested films for showing this year.

At the moment the list is subject to availability so there may be changes.

Comments are welcome. **Please note the need of suggestions for later on.**

Friday 20 November ***Captain Corelli's Mandolin*** (124m) is a 2001 war film directed by John Madden. It is based on the 1994 novel by Louis de Bernières. The film pays homage to the thousands of Italian soldiers executed at the Massacre of the Acqui Division by German forces in Cephalonia in September 1943, and to the people of Cephalonia who were killed in the 1953 Ionian earthquake. The novel's protagonists are portrayed by actors Nicolas Cage and Penélope Cruz.

Friday 11 December ***Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?!*** (109m) is a 2014 British Christmas comedy film which serves as the third instalment of the *Nativity* film series and was directed by Debbie Isitt. It stars Martin Clunes, Marc Wootton and Catherine Tate with Celia Imrie and Jason Watkins.

Friday 15 January ***Conclave*** (120m) is a 2024 political thriller film directed by Edward Berger and written by Peter Straughan, based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris. The film stars Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Sergio Castellitto, and Isabella Rossellini. In the film, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Fiennes) organizes a conclave to elect the next pope and finds himself investigating secrets and scandals about the major candidates.

Friday 19 February ***The Incredible Journey*** (80m) is a 1963 adventure film directed by Fletcher Markle and produced by Walt Disney Productions. Based on the 1961 novel of the same name by Scottish writer Sheila Burnford, the film follows the adventure of Luath the Labrador Retriever, Bodger the Bull Terrier, and Tao the Siamese cat as they journey 300 miles (480 km) through the Canadian wilderness to return to their home. The film's human cast consists of Émile Genest, John Drainie, Tommy Tweed, and Sandra Scott, with Rex Allen providing narration.

Friday 19 March ***The Jazz Singer*** (116m) is a 1980 American musical drama film directed by Richard Fleischer and produced by Jerry Leider. The film stars Neil Diamond (in his acting debut), Laurence Olivier and Lucie Arnaz, and tells the story of Yussel Rabinovitch, a young singer who is torn between tradition and pursuing his dreams as a pop singer. Based on the 1925 play of the same title it is the fourth film adaptation.

Friday 18 June ***Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*** (98m) is a 1954 American musical film, directed by Stanley Donen, with music by Gene de Paul, lyrics by Johnny Mercer, and choreography by Michael Kidd. The screenplay, by Albert Hackett, Frances Goodrich, and Dorothy Kingsley, is based on the short story "The Sobbin' Women" by Stephen Vincent Benét, which was based in turn on the ancient Roman legend of the Rape of the Sabine women. *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, stars Jane Powell, Howard Keel, Jeff Richards, Russ Tamblyn, Tommy Hall and others.

Friday 16 April, Friday 21 May, Friday 16 July A suggestion is required

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry.

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused

If you have, or become aware of any concern, you must contact your Church's Safeguarding Officer :-

Grove :

Lynda Culley 07759 085336 or Rev Georgina on 01235 219070

Wantage :

Ken Smith 01235 767545 or Rev Bruce on 01235 813242

You must not speak to others about your concerns or investigate them yourself.

Wantage Parish Church

AETHELFLAED - A New Opera: To celebrate AlfredFest, the Parish Church is hosting a recital version of a new opera inspired by the legendary queen of Mercia - Aethelflaed on Sunday 25th October at 5 pm.

Tickets are on sale now, via the link [HERE](#).

The opera company will also be running a **FREE interactive children's workshop** on Saturday 24th October. See the Parish Church Notices for more details. [Sign up](#) to be sure of a place.

Click [HERE](#) for previews of the opera and an interview with the composer.

WANTAGE

A Time for Reflection

Jane Kent and Helen Carter

On the first Sunday of the month, we have a 'Time for Reflection' in the Godfrey Room from 9:30 - 10 am. There will be some music, a reading from the lectionary for that day, some questions to ponder individually and the opportunity to share any thoughts briefly if you wish before finishing with some music.

Everyone welcome!

Community Café

Carolyn Roche

We will be open as usual each Monday from 9 am to 12 noon, providing a warm and welcoming space. Coffee/tea, cake and cheese scones continue to be much enjoyed by visitors to Community Café. Thank you to all those who help to prepare and provide these. Our welcome team are also greatly appreciated, making sure that all have visitors have someone to chat with if that is what they wish. Please let me know if you feel you could occasionally take a turn on the rota. Thank you to a new volunteer who is joining us this month. Our donations in October will continue to be for Changing Lives – a local charity who donate the proceeds from their charity shops to a range of people referred to them by a social worker or a care worker. They can include groups such as the homeless, people suffering from domestic abuse and children with special needs.

Kids@church

Jane, Dave, Cath

It was great to be back together in September and catch up on what everyone had been up to over the summer! We walked down to Betjeman Park and stopped and listened, made a thank you cairn, looked at part of God's beautiful creation and had a go at sketching it, blew bubbles and offered people and situations in our world to God. After using all those senses we employed the sense of taste as we tucked into cake and juice! **We will next meet on October 18th in the hall.**

Kids@Church is an informal, monthly get-together for children and their families, where we explore a Bible story, engage in an activity and finish with a shared breakfast. New friends always welcome!

(For more information, please feel free to give Jane a call /text on 07443 420205)

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

In July we looked at the Parable of the Sower and enjoyed a short film of the parable. In August our theme was Jesus walking on the water. The studies for the next few months are: October 12th (Psalm 23); November 9th (Remembrance).

Elmbrook Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road, on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. After the bible study we usually have a drink in the Bistro area in the care home which is appreciated by residents.

As well as the bible study I visit the care home at other times. During the summer a couple of our Monday café regulars have spent some respite care at Elmbrook and it has been good to have a chat with them during their stay.

The BRF Ministries' current Newsletter introduces a book it is about to publish. The title of the book is "Give me Strength!" No doubt we have all been driven to express that phrase in a variety of different situations. Perhaps literally when we're desperate to complete a physically demanding task, or figuratively when we're frustrated by someone or something that seems to be thwarting or hampering our efforts.

Reflecting on that comment in a pastoral context, it seems to have relevance for us all. It can be a prayer by those of us who offer care in our role as Pastoral Links, and it can apply in equal measure when we are receivers of that care. Under the title *Give me Strength* are the words: "***Finding all we need in God***". In any situation we face, what greater reassurance do we need?

We learned with deep sadness that Ian Sturt died very suddenly at the end of August – just a few weeks after leading a service for us. When Ian and Carol moved to Grove, we welcomed them warmly. We observed Carol's journey from being a Local Preacher on Note to her full accreditation. We record the death of them both as a great loss to the Circuit, to our church and especially our friends at Grove. We pray that God will comfort and sustain their families and friends, especially Carol's son, Stuart, and the Christian Bikers Group with whom Ian shared fellowship. Wantage and Grove Church Partnership will also miss Ian's enthusiastic contribution to all of its activities. We give thanks to God for Ian's and Carol's short but meaningful ministry amongst us.

Elizabeth Smith has recently moved from Fleur de Lis to a Care Home nearer to where her son lives. We were pleased that she was part of our church family whilst in Wantage, and hope that she will settle happily in her new location. Hopefully, she may be welcomed into the church family of one of our other churches in the Circuit which is nearer to her new home. Jane Soffe has been a patient in the JR for several weeks. We remember her in our prayers, hoping that she will soon be well enough to return home with a Care Package to support her recovery. Sonia and Victor have been missed over several Sundays, but hopefully they will soon be well enough to worship with us again.

We were pleased that Jennie Sapsford began worshipping with us when she came to live in Wantage. How affirming it is to record Jennie's thoughts on how she was welcomed on arrival, and how she feels now, having been with us for a relatively short time: "*Our Wantage Church is a community steeped in love, kindness, care and a respect for diversity*". It is a joy for us all that Jennie rightly feels such a welcomed and valued member of church family.

There is double good news, which came too late for the September Newsletter, celebrating the arrival of new grandchildren. On 19th August, Bruce and Karen's younger son Robert, and his wife Katie, welcomed the arrival of their first baby, Benjamin David.

A day later, on 20th August, Heather Wells's son Christopher, whom we remember as part of our Junior Church throughout his childhood, became a father for the 4th time. His wife Becca gave birth to Benjamin Peter in Belfast. Heather included the words of Deuteronomy 33:12 in relation to the chosen name: "*Of Benjamin he said, "The*

beloved of the Lord dwells in safety. The High God surrounds him all day long, and dwells between his shoulders”

We offer both families our love and warmest congratulations on these two precious occasions.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

This is an open and friendly group who meet for Prayer and Bible Study each Tuesday at 2 pm in the Parlour. Please feel free to join us. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

In October, we will be continuing with the Fruit of the Spirit Study. This is one of the Life Builder Study Guides.

Dates for October are as follows:

6 th October	Fruit of the Spirit – Study 3 - Peace (Isaiah 43:1-7)
13 th October	Fruit of the Spirit – Study 4 – Patience (Matthew 18:21-35)
20 th October	NO BIBLE STUDY
27 th October	Fruit of the Spirit – Study 5 – Kindness (2 Samuel: chapter 9)

If you have any queries or prayer requests you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 07906 518323 or email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

Please pray for:

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Caroline, Carol M, Carole R,
Dave, Doug & Anne Hatto, Edwina, Emma Wright & family, Findley,
Mark, Angela & family, Gary R, Geoff, Gillian B, Gill & Gordon S, Gloria S,
Greta Thornbury, Jane Robinson, Jo, June G, Jane & Emma S & family, Jo A,
Jordan, June H, Ken & Grace W, Mary S, Meriel, Peter, Rachel & her family,
Sharon, Tony G, Trudy, Val & John B

Our Ministers, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders,
kids@church, Street Pastors, Cornerstone
and those members of our church family
who, through frailty or ill health, can no longer worship with us.

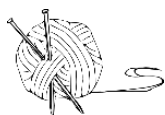
If you have any queries or prayer requests you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 01235 764310 or email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

WMC Prayer WhatsApp group

Please let Helen Carter know if you would like to be involved in responding to urgent prayer requests. Thank you.

Prayer tree

Anyone can leave a prayer request on the tree. It is appreciated if a date is written on the tag somewhere. Please take time to check the tree and choose someone or a situation to pray for or about. Also, if any of the prayer cards on the table feel relevant to you please do take one.



Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

We are now well into autumn and as the evenings get longer there is a little more time for knitting. Hopefully some of us are knitting/crocheting yellow and/or white stars or angels for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. This month I will also be collecting and preparing the angel labels.

In October the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month are **Monday 5th October** and **Monday 19th October**. Do come and join us in the hall at 2 pm. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlework, etc. and enjoy time relaxing and chatting with others – there is a tea and cake/biscuit break. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

Who's Who

Helen Carter

Recently it has become obvious that not everyone is aware of the Who's Who board in the corridor leading from the chapel to the hall. This board is on the left as you go towards the hall, just after the Godfrey Room and gives you everything you need to know. Please do check it out if you want to know who does what within the church.

If you can't find the information you are looking for, please let one of the stewards know. The stewards are currently Jan Abrahall, Helen Carter, Rodney Tillotson and David Worth.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – A date for your diary

We will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival to coincide with Dickensian Evening. The dates this year are Friday 4th – Sunday 6th December. Please can you put the dates in your diary and be thinking if you can help in anyway. Next month I will be looking to fill in rotas for Friday evening and Saturday morning. I am contacting possible groups to provide a tree for the display or have a stall in the hall. Please let me know if you have heard of anyone who would be interested in participating. The charity we are supporting this year is the Cancer research UK. Please get in touch with me if you need more information or are available to help.

Carolyn Roche 07906 518323 ciroche48@hotmail.com

Harvest

Helen Carter

Many thanks are due to all involved in such a memorable day on 20th September. Jan decorated the church beautifully. There were many gifts laid out and they have been given appropriately to the Community Fridge at the Mix and Wantage & Grove Food Bank. Bruce led an inspiring and challenging act of worship.

The hall had been set out by Alison P, Ann, Clive and Margaret for us to then join together in fellowship for lunch after the service. Thanks be for all the wonderful contributions brought to the bring and share buffet lunch - such a variety of foods on display for us to choose from. Alison B and Gill S made sure there was a plentiful supply of tea and coffee. All in all a lovely occasion. There was quite a lot of washing up to do and the usual team, with the addition of Libby, got to work with that - thank you all.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride

Clive & Alison Phillips

THANK YOU to all those who welcomed visitors to our church for the annual Ride and Stride event on September 12th. Our church was open from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm and there was a warm welcome for visitors throughout that time. Sadly the number of visitors was down on past years, which was the same for all churches, but for those who came, to be welcomed in person makes a visit all the more worthwhile and it seemed like the welcomers enjoyed it too.

We have currently raised £110 in sponsorship money, so thank you too to all those who generously donated to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust fund. Half will go to our church and is much appreciated. There is still time to donate if you wish until early October. If you do please speak to Alison or Clive.

This year Clive and I divided our time between welcoming and visiting a few local churches which meant we could enjoy the countryside and catch up with what's going on locally. Hopefully this event will continue despite the reduced interest, and maybe next year we might organise a walking group and boost the numbers! (Alison walked 8 miles and visited seven churches. Clive accompanied her but only in part.)

Prior to Covid the church regularly welcomed over 30 visitors on Riders & Striders Day. Numbers fell drastically after Covid to 10 in 2020 and then fluctuated around 13 to 19. Last year, the number increased unexpectedly to 22 but this year fell back to 13. This is reflected perhaps in the number of Riders & Striders from our church. This year only one person volunteered (accompanied in part by her husband). This seems to be in line with elsewhere and may be due to the fact that very few new (younger) people now participate. We need to wait to see what the county figures show. Last year there was satisfaction within OHCT with the funds raised. It will be good if there is this year too. This is truly a fun event.

Sustainable Wantage (<https://sustainablewantage.org.uk/>)

Helen Carter

In the September edition of the newsletter put on by Sustainable Wantage, the free screening of "People's Emergency Briefing" is on the first page. That is happening on **Thursday October 1st** at the **Beacon**. I believe a number of us are going, and hopefully we will be able to report on the session. It would appear that it is a 'sell out' with every seat taken. That indicates that this community has a definite interest in climate change issues.

There is also a screening on **Sunday 11th October**, 3pm at St John's Church, Grove. Click [HERE](#) to book a free place.

Another thing to highlight is the Market Garden Open Afternoon on **Sunday 4th October**. That is free to attend but there is a booking system as there is a maximum of 50 people that can be accommodated. You can book by going to <https://book.plinth.org.uk/e/r9lrgU9CpyZJL94nriix>, phoning 07918 148828, or emailing josustainablewantage@gmail.com. The garden is well worth visiting and can be found behind the Wantage Community Support Service building, Charlton Village Road, Wantage, OX12 7HG.

Food Bank

Helen Carter

As ever, many thanks are given for all the contributions to the food bank. Currently there is a request that we don't contribute any more cereal please as the store has been rather taken over with bulky boxes of cereal! There is currently a need for tins of meat and jars of coffee in particular. Money is always accepted as this enables food needed for the parcels that is in short supply to be purchased. The weekly notices will update the need.

IBRA Daily Bible Study – Fresh from the Word

The 2027 edition is now available and Helen Carter is collecting orders so that a “bulk” order can be placed. There is a notice on the Hall notice board to sign up on. Please sign up by mid October.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Monday	Morning	Community Café	Hall	1 st /3 rd Weeks
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat	Hall	
	Evening	CA	Hall	
Tuesday	Morning	MIND	Hall	
	Afternoon	Tuesday Prayer & Bible Study	Parlour	
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	Hall	
Wednesday				
	Evening	Wantage Sings	Hall	
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	Hall	3 rd Week
Friday	Morning	WCC Mother & Toddlers	All	Term time
Saturday	Morning	WCC Dads Out	All	1 st Week
	Midday	NA	Parlour	

One off Bookings

October

Thursday 8th Evening Music Makers

SERVICES during OCTOBER

Sunday 4th October

Homeless Sunday

Ordinary 27

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

10:30 am Wantage

Sarah Ifill

10:30 am Grove Harvest Festival Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

6:30 pm Prayer for Revival at Grove

Sunday 11th October

Prisons Sunday

Ordinary 28

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

10:30 am Wantage

Daphne Savage

10:30 am Grove

Local Arrangements

Sunday 18th October

Freedom Sunday

Ordinary 29

Church Action on Poverty

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 25:15-22

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

Sunday 25th October

Bible Sunday

Ordinary 30

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

10:30 am Wantage

Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove

Rev Carol Hamilton-Foyrn

DIARY FOR OCTOBER

October

Saturday 3 rd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p8
Sunday, 4th	9:30 am	A Time for Reflection	p13
	10:30 am	Grove Harvest Festival	p8
	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p9
Monday 12 th	2:00 pm	Funeral of Ian Sturt	p8
	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p13
Saturday, 17 th	2.00 to 5.00pm	International Repair Day at Grove	p10
	2:30 to 6:30 pm	Black History Month Celebration at Trinity, Abingdon	p6
Sunday 18th	9:30 am	Kids@Church	p17
	Deadline for November Newsletter		
Monday 19 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council	
Friday 23 rd	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove	p9
Tuesday 27 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p9

November

Monday, 9 th	7.30pm	Grove Church Council	p10
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