

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

GROVE & WANTAGE METHODIST NEWS

 The **Methodist** Church



November 2025

Ministers

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g.bondzi-simpson@methodist.org.uk

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revbrucet@yahoo.com

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (December / January) should be sent to the
editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 23rd November**

email : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com

Tel : 07710 214601

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 – 2025/26

December / January	Sunday 23 rd November
February	Sunday 18 th January
March	Sunday 15 th February
April	Sunday 22 nd March
May	Sunday 19 th April
June	Sunday 24 th May
July/August	Sunday 21 st June

My Soul Waits for the Lord!

Waiting in line for tickets, waiting for test or exam results, waiting for the birth of a first grandchild, waiting for the death of a loved one...

Last week, keen stargazers waited for the appearance of the first supermoon of the year – the hunter's moon, also referred to as the harvest moon. Ecumenical groups across the world waited for ten whole months before the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury was announced and the whole world waits for just and civil relationships between people and among communities and nations.

Waiting is woven into salvation history. God's people, Israel, waited forty years before they could enter the Promised Land. Centuries later, they waited nearly seventy years to be freed from exile; and after that, they waited another five hundred years for the Messiah to come! On a more individual level, Hannah and Elkanah (parents of Samuel) and Elizabeth and Zechariah (parents of John the Baptist) waited years for answers to prayer. All that waiting is summed up beautifully in the Psalmist's prayer, "Surely, I wait for the Lord; who bends down to me and hears my cry" (Ps 40:2).

The four weeks before Christmas, the season of Advent, is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory." "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." During this season, the lectionary readings point us to the birth of Christ and also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement. As Christians, we are encouraged to actively recommit ourselves to bringing the Kingdom of God into our lives and that of our communities.

Advent is a time of waiting on the Lord and for the Lord, but in Advent we wait in a special way. To quote Henri Nouwen, "Waiting is not a passive thing. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full, in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for." (The Path of Waiting). So, in scripture, we are invited to stay awake and be ready. Jesus tells us that we are to be on guard, "alert at all times, praying that [we] may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

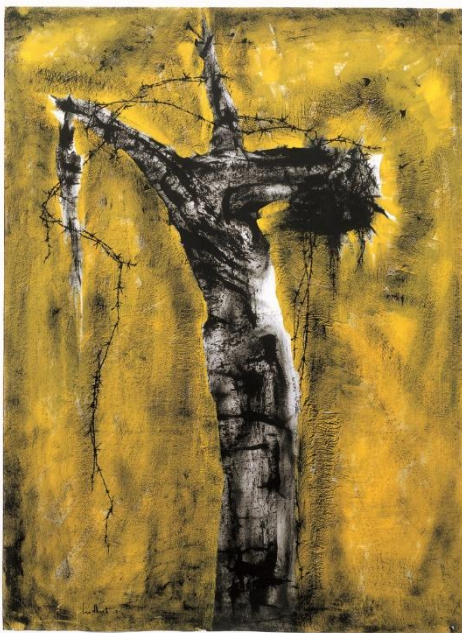
So, we wait. We wait at bus stops, in supermarket queues, in waiting rooms and in schools. During the forthcoming season of Advent,

- let us wait expectantly for the birth of Jesus who is also the one on whom we have been waiting to bring peace and justice on earth.
- let us make space to wait - slow down from the busyness of life and technology, to prepare our hearts and minds for what is to come: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." (Isaiah 2:3)
- let us wait with unwavering hope – with the assured certainty that the Kingdom of God will come to execute justice and righteousness.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, Keep watch, take heart. (Taizé)

Every blessing, *Georgina*

This month's choice is one that often recalls the brutality of warfare in the minds of those who view it. They're Lee-Elliott's *Crucified tree form – the agony* is an exceptional work of art. Lee-Elliott was the son of an Anglican priest but, according to his sister, he was an agnostic and may well have been an atheist. Yet after recovering from a very serious illness, possibly acute food poisoning, in the Netherlands in 1959 at the age of 56, Lee-Elliott embarked on a series of religious works. These especially included a number of sketches and paintings on the crucifixion, most of them with the cross and body of Christ as an interwoven tree trunk. These are far starker versions of the medieval works that depict the crucified Christ on a living tree that signalled death is not victorious but that resurrection comes next. The agony of Christ is portrayed graphically by Lee-Elliott, especially so in the work owned by the Methodist Church.



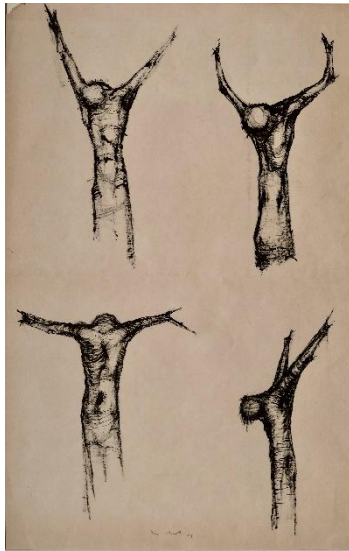
Crucified tree form - the agony depicts a broken Jesus, emaciated-like in appearance, tortured and disfigured. His head hanging down on an extended neck appears to indicate the length of time Jesus has been suffering, deforming his natural anatomy. Even in a small reproduced image the viewer might shudder at the pain it conveys; however, standing before the canvas itself is to feel the anguish of the painter himself.

What many see in the painting is a shattered tree trunk of No Man's Land from the First World War. Lee-Elliott adds to this perception by including strands of barbed wire on the trunk/cross/crucified Christ. The halo around the head of Christ found in traditional works seems to have been replaced by a ring of smoke and

evokes a battle scene.

As we commemorate once more the Armistice and remember the sacrifice of so many in defending these island nations from tyrannical regimes, the Lee-Elliott is a worthy consideration for the Christ who suffers with the suffering, dies with the dying, in order that all may live. This sense of solidarity is expressly captured by Jurgen Moltmann, twentieth century German theologian who grew up under the Nazi regime, in his book *The Crucified God*:

"When God becomes man in Jesus of Nazareth, he not only enters into the finitude of man, but in his death on the cross also enters into the situation of man's godforsakenness. In Jesus he does not die the natural death of a finite being, but the violent death of the criminal on the cross, the death of complete abandonment by God. The suffering in the passion of Jesus is abandonment, rejection by God, his Father. He humbles himself and takes upon himself the eternal death of the godless and the godforsaken, so that all the godless and the godforsaken can experience communion with him."



During the Covid lockdown I was searching the internet and came across four of the preparatory sketches for Lee-Elliott's work on a single sheet. They express the raw emotion of Lee-Elliott in the early days after he recovered from the illness that almost took his life. The preparatory sketches are now safely in my possession after the art dealer who had acquired them was somewhat kind to me, knowing how important the *Crucified Tree Form* is to Methodists. It is hoped that they will be exhibited alongside the finished work should Wallingford Methodist Church hosts some of the Methodist Church Collection in May 2027. It will be the first time they have come together in the same place for over 60 years.

If you would like to be of help in bringing part of the collection to our area or want to know more then please contact me on revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk.

Every blessing

Bruce

In Conversation
with
The Revd Sonia Hicks
Past President of the Methodist Conference
And Chair of the Northampton Methodist District

Wallingford Methodist Church

Tuesday 25 November 2025

12 noon – 1.00pm

Further details from revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk



Cornerstone News



30th birthday celebrations

As we celebrate 30 years of Cornerstone we look forward to welcoming you to our Thanksgiving Service to be held on **Sunday 16th November** at 3 pm at St John's.

We are hoping to make this a joyful celebration of all 30 years, so if you have any pictures or special memories to share of Cornerstone, do get in touch.

On **Saturday 22nd November** we welcome Olivia Warburton as she shares some tips from her new book 'Dreaming of a Green Christmas'. This will be at 3.30 pm and we will have hot mulled punch on offer along with other festive treats.

Advent

Advent Sunday is November 30th, and we have a selection of books suitable for study during the Advent period.

Christmas lunches

We will be serving Christmas lunches on **Friday 5th, Tuesday 9th, Thursday 11th, Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th December**. There are just a few spaces left on 9th, 15th & 17th Dec. The last date for bookings, notification of menu choices and any dietary requirements is **17th November**.

On other dates in December, we will have our Christmas specials menu running alongside our normal menu.

Christmas

We now have in stock a good selection of Christmas cards, calendars, advent calendars (including the Real Advent Calendar) and diaries, including the ever popular Hannah Dunnnett range of cards and calendars.

We also have items suitable for gifts as well as decorations for the tree or table.

Prayer resources

We have a number of new items including a wooden prayer labyrinth, as well as the ever-popular wooden holding crosses in various sizes – do come and look at the display.

In the bookshop

We have a new "Take Note" promotion running throughout November. If you were in during independent bookshop week or on bookshop day, you will have collected a £5 book token, don't forget to claim it online. Now would be a great time to redeem it, with so much new stock in the bookshop.

Christmas Events

We will be having a stall at St John's Fete on **Saturday 29th November** and at the Dickensian Evening on **5th December**. If anyone is able to help at either of these events please let me know.

Monthly hot meal special

There is no special hot meal in November.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 8th November** at 8.30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Tel: 01235 772280, email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk

Wantage and Grove
STREET PASTORS

BIGGER
not necessarily
BETTER

Curry & Quiz Night!



Now in a bigger venue!

7 pm, Saturday 8 November 2025

Old Mill Hall, Grove

Doors open 6.45 pm

£15 per person - includes a meal and a soft drink

Maximum 6 people on a team

Book your team in now...

email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk



Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors
Registered Charity 1205598

Family Fun for Everyone!

...unless you don't like quizzes. Or curry!



From 'All We Can'

Is it still too early to talk about **Christmas**?

Christmas is a time of celebration, love, and compassion. It reminds us of the significance of giving and the impact that **small acts of kindness** can have on the lives of others.

Extraordinary Gifts is a chance for you to buy **thoughtful gifts** for your loved ones while supporting communities experiencing poverty and injustice.



The gifts in the catalogue are not just presents. They are powerful tools that can **transform lives** and **bring hope to communities** around the world. By choosing to purchase these gifts now, you can ensure that your contribution has an even greater impact.

Buy your Extraordinary Gifts now from “allwecan.org.uk”

All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691

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 your minister Revd Georgina on 01235 219070

Wantage :

Ken Smith 01235 767545 or Revd Bruce on 01235 813242

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

COME & SING FAURÉ REQUIEM

Cantique de Jean Racine • Panis Angelicus

15TH NOV 6.30PM CONCERT
3.30PM START FOR PERFORMERS

PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, WANTAGE

Get your tickets online by scanning the QR code



Concert tickets £10

Free glass of wine on arrival
(Under 18s free)

Performers £20

scores will be provided if needed
(Under 18s free)

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 Orchestra
Saturday 22nd November
at 7:30 pm
at Wantage Parish Church
Butterworth
A Shropshire Lad
Elgar
Cello Concerto
Saint-Saëns
Symphony no 3 Organ

Tickets

Adults in advance £10
Seniors in advance £8
Schoolchildren free
Tickets £1 more on the door

Wantage Choral Society

Saturday 29th November at 7:30 pm

at Wantage Parish Church

A Celebration of Christmas

Gerald Finzi In Terra Pax

Giovanni Pergolesi Magnificat

Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio

Soprano – Catherine Hooper

Mezzo-Sop – Milette Gillow

Alto – Mia Serracino-Inglott

Tenor – Toshi Ogita

Bass - Jack Redman

Organ – Gabriele Damiani

with Orchestra

Conductor Hannah Zaki

Tickets - £18 under 16 free

Available from wantagechoralsociety.co.uk

Wantage Bookshop, members of WCS or on the door

GROVE

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 1st November** from 10.00 am till 12 noon in the church. There will be handmade cards on sale and hopefully a stall with earrings, small paintings and handmade Christmas tree decorations by Ellen. Our hosts for the morning are Judith and her family. Proceeds are for Freyja's Fund, which provides support for children, and their families, who are undergoing treatment for cancer at the J.R. Hospital. We hope you are able to join us for a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Offers of cakes would be appreciated.

Ecumenical "Prayer for Revival" is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The meeting is on **Sunday, 2nd November** from 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Film Club is on **Friday, 21st November** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing "Deep in my Heart". *This is an American drama television film directed by Anita W. Addison. It is based on a true story. A black woman is reunited with her white birth mother 34 years after being given up for adoption.*

Stars: Anne Bancroft, Lynn Whitfield.

All are welcome. Admission is free. A small donation helps to cover costs.

Tuesday Fellowship is on **Tuesday, 28th October** at 2.15 pm. We are meeting at 4, Mayfield Avenue, Grove when Kath plans to make up for the August meeting which had to be cancelled because of her fall. She will be giving a talk entitled "A day in the life of Kath". Do join us if you can. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship is on **Tuesday, 25th November** at 2.15 pm. We are meeting at the home of Peter and Noreen Hemmings, 8, Vicarage Close, Grove. Our speaker for the afternoon will be Malcolm Newton. You are very welcome to come along. We will be pleased to see you.

Tuesday Fellowship Christmas Lunch is on **Friday, 5th December** at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop. If you would like to join us for lunch please see Kath who is now collecting names and deposits (£10 each). She also has the menu so that you are able to see what is on offer.

Craft Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 pm 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 October Coffee Morning for "The Brain Tumour Charity. Donations amounted to £378 to which has been added Gift Aid rebate from last year £106.05, so a total of £484.05 has been forwarded to the Brain Tumour Charity. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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 your 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 support is very much appreciated.

Christmas Services

A consequence of the more limited resources available in the circuit is that there will be no services on Christmas Eve at the Methodist Churches in Grove and Wantage.

Please join our Church Partnership friends at their services. Wantage and Grove Church Partnership will be publishing a complete list of acts of worship at each of its member churches over Christmas and distributing them to the households of Wantage & Grove. Please join our Church Partnership friends at their services on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Day

At Grove at 10:00 am, there will be a service led by Belinda Kaur.

At Wantage at 9:15 am, there will be a service led by Rev Bruce Thompson

Local Arrangement Leaders

Our next and perhaps final session for a while will again be at Wantage Methodist Church.

Saturday 22 November

arrivals from 9:30 am,

session start at 10:00 am,

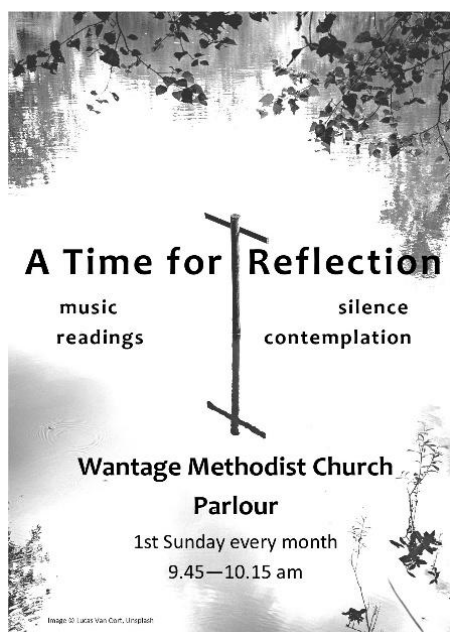
finish by 1:00 pm.

On this occasion we will be looking at the themes of Advent, the Bible readings and putting together an Advent Service.

WANTAGE

A Time for Reflection

Jane Kent and Helen Carter



On **November 2nd**, the first Sunday of the month, we have a 'Time for Reflection' in the Parlour from 9.45 - 10.15 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!

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

This is an open and friendly group who meet for Bible Study and prayer each Tuesday at 2pm in the Parlour. Please feel free to join us.

During November we will be continuing with one of the Life-builder Bible Studies entitled Women of the Old Testament and will begin an Advent Study. This may be subject to change as I am having a knee operation at the beginning of the month but will put any changes to the programme below in the weekly notices.

Dates for November are as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 rd | The Shunamite Woman – Taking the Initiative | Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 10 th | Esther – Captive in a Strange Land | Reading: Esther chaps 2 - 4 |
| 17 th | Esther – Courage to Act | Reading: Esther 5:1-8; chaps 7- 8 |
| 24 th | Advent Study – to be arranged | |

If you have any queries or someone or a situation you would like us to pray for you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 07906 518323 or email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

WMC Prayer WhatsApp group

We have set up a prayer WhatsApp group so that we can share requests for prayers that can't wait until they appear in the weekly notices or the monthly newsletter. It would be so good if we could add others to this group which currently has 7 of us in it. 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. No tags are taken off the tree unless circumstances for the person or situation being prayed for change or the tree is full. 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.

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes.

In October we looked at Psalm 66 and were reminded of God's steadfast love. On **Monday 10th November** we will have more of a service to mark Remembrance Day. On **8th December** our theme will be Advent. On **12th January** our theme will be the Baptism of Jesus.

I am thankful for the folk at church who regularly come to the bible study. Attendance from residents at the care home can be patchy and if there is only one resident present it makes a great deal of difference to have a few people from church to join in the discussion.

Advent Study Group

Alison Phillips

Advent can be a time of mixed feelings. There is a sense of anticipation as the season of Christmas beckons, but for some this may not be an easy time if it increases a sense of loss or isolation that they may be feeling. There is also consumer pressure as shelves fill up with Christmas goods in October, and with it a sense of having to buy items that we don't really need or that are more than families are able to afford.

However, Advent can be an opportunity to put some time aside each week, to straighten our winding path towards God through Scripture and our own experiences. It can be a time when we look again at the Christmas story, and reflect on its relevance today, especially with so many people and places suffering around the world. So I invite you to once more set out on the yearly road to Bethlehem and journey with me to explore what helps and what hinders us in our relationship with God.

We will meet on **Thursday mornings** from 10 am to midday, starting with coffee, at the home of Clive and Alison Phillips, 1 Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis. (01235 760335).

We will meet for 4 weeks, starting on **Thursday November 27th**.

Please let either of us know if you are interested in joining us (we do understand if you are not able to make every date) so that I am able to order the necessary number of books. Thank you.

Autumn's falling leaves and rapidly reducing hours of daylight, lead us to appreciate the infrequent bursts of warm sunshine at this time of year. Shakespeare describes that scene at the beginning of one of his sonnets;

“when yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
But ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang”

Until the inevitable frosts arrive, the glorious richness seen in autumn leaves and berries still provide outdoor scenes of colour that only nature can offer us. We give thanks to God for such beauty in his creation. Even more precious is the certainty of his love and protection of everyone within his creation. For that we are thankful. It gives us much needed reassurance in facing the ever-increasing anxieties over worldwide issues such as military conflicts, natural disasters, climate change and social prejudices. At a more personal level, we also have to acknowledge the ways in which ageing brings challenges to our daily lives. As our Pastoral Links go on seeking to fulfil the calling to support everyone pastorally in the best ways possible, we are mindful that some within our Pastoral Team took on their role as Pastoral Visitors over half a century ago. Commitment to fulfilling the task has not waned, but the impact of diminishing physical energy and mobility, eroded by the passing years, cannot be halted. Hopefully, there is an acceptance within our whole church family that, with God's help, pastoral care will be offered and received with understanding, and with all of us graciously accepting that God's care for each one of us is constant and will never fail.

Halving the number of Presbyters in the Circuit has inevitably led to a big increase in the workload for our two fulltime leaders. Both Bruce and Georgina are working valiantly to fulfil their calling to care for the congregations belonging to all of the seven churches over which they share pastoral responsibility. For a while now, much has been written and discussed about ways in which it may be possible to involve more people in many aspects of church life. If this could be achieved, it would have the double benefit of lightening the load a little for Bruce and Georgina, as well as deepening our Christian commitment to serving others. When we are able to match appropriately what we learn during our sessions of worship with our efforts to offer practical service and support to others, we are putting our faith into action exactly as the Gospels urge us to do. In encouraging the congregations in his other churches to respond to this challenge, Bruce described the idea in the following way:

“We are an open and receptive faith community, eager to ensure everyone feels welcome and included. We are keen to develop and grow in all aspects of our ministry and mission. If you are wondering how you might help by offering some of your time to the church, please have a word with me, [Bruce], on 01235813242, or revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk. We have many things we would like to do more effectively and the more volunteers we have, the more we can achieve through the power and presence of the Spirit.”

On the 2nd November our annual Service of Remembrance will take place at 4 pm and will be led by Revd Georgina, our Circuit Superintendent. During this short service

the lives of those who have died will be remembered. As well as prayers and some hymns, there will also be an opportunity to light candles and give thanks for those who are loved but seen no longer. Afterwards, there will be refreshments in the hall, offering a time for fellowship together. Everyone is welcome.

Several of our church family continue to struggle with health problems, including some for whom worshipping in person is no longer possible. We assure them that they are in our thoughts, and we will continue to pray for them, asking for God's love to surround, protect and bless them.

Finally, we have some happy news for which to give thanks to God. Emma and Mark Sarpong, who regularly come to Kids @ Church with their son Ezra, have recently had their second son, Eli Kweku Sarpong. He was born at the JR on 17th September, weighing 7lbs 9oz. The message adds; "Ezra is being a wonderful big brother! "We offer our congratulations and our love to all of the family.

A prayer that we may walk in love

Lord God, may we walk in love.

May we walk slowly, step by step, so that we can be still in your presence.

May we walk sometimes in silence, so that we can know rest and peace.

May we walk with a spring in our step, and go forward with joy.

May we walk gazing outwards, seeing the beauty of the world around us.

May we walk looking more widely, conscious of other people and their needs.

May we walk in faith, knowing that you are beside us on every path that we take.

May we walk in love. Amen.

Catherine James, local preacher, Derby Circuit

Please pray for

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Caroline, Carol Mackinder,
Doug & Anne Hatto, Edwina, Eileen, Emma Wright & family, Findley,
Mark, Angela & family, Geoff, Gloria Smith, Hunter, Jade, Jane Robinson,
Marc Hewson's family, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, John & Jo, June G, June
Hartle, Ken and Grace Wright, Lucas & family, Mary Spalding, Meriel, Norma, Peter,
Richard, Richard in York, Sharon, Sue, Terry & Deborah, Sonia, Tony G, Trudy,
John Broadbent, Geoffrey & Marianne Maunder,
Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren.
All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors,
Our Ministers, Community Chaplains, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders,
kids@church and 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

Kids@church

Jane, Dave, Cath

In October we had fun thinking about the story of Moses and the burning bush and all the children made their own burning bush! We thought about the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and learnt actions to go with each phrase which will now be part of our regular time together. It was a joy to welcome our newest member of the K@C 'family' - Eli Kweku Sarpong, little brother to Ezra! Congratulations Emma and Mark!

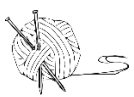
We look forward to meeting again on **November 16th**, 9.30 am in the hall.

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)

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche



In November, the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month are on **Monday 3rd November** and **Monday 17th November**. The angel labels are now ordered and will be ready for angel labelling at these two sessions. I am hoping to join in the second session, depending on how well I can move about after my knee op. Do come and join us in the hall at **2 pm** and enjoy time relaxing and chatting with others while tying on the labels. There may be time for knitting etc. too so bring it with you. There will definitely be time for a tea and 'nice' biscuit break. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

Community Café

Carolyn Roche

We will be open as usual each Monday from 9 am to 12 noon, providing a warm and welcoming space. Toast, cake and cheese scones continue to be much enjoyed by the 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 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, especially as this month due to holidays and medical reasons we may be a little short-handed. This is the final month when donations will be for Macmillan Cancer Support. Do come and join us and bring a friend.

White poppies - some of us choose to wear both red and white poppies, the white poppies being supplied by The Peace Pledge Union and have been around since 1933. If you would like to know more and/or obtain a white poppy for the fixed cost of £1, please talk to Helen Carter.

IBRA – Fresh from the Word 2026

Daily Bible Reading Notes -



Christmas Tree Festival Wantage Methodist Church 5th – 7th December



This year our Christmas Tree Festival will be supporting the **Alzheimer's Society**.

We shall be open from **6 – 9 pm** on **Dickensian**

Evening, Friday 5th December, for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments and stalls in the hall. Greengage, a local folk band, will be performing Christmas carols and festive tunes in the chapel from 7 pm to 8 pm.

The festivities will continue with a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 6th December**, 10 am-12 noon and the trees will remain in place for the Sunday service. when the angels will also be blessed.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes, biscuits and handmade Christmas gifts/goodies (no bric-a-brac please). Please let me know if you would be able to contribute something for this. There are other jobs to be done in order for the festival to take place so please let me know if you can help – this ranges from setting out bases for the trees to taking a turn sitting in church when people are looking round. Many thanks in advance for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all that weekend.

Carolyn Roche 07906 518323 ciroche48@hotmail.com

Food Bank

Helen Carter

Food Bank - with Christmas coming up and the need for items for the hampers that are given out near Christmas it would be great if we could add to these items to give recipients of the hampers a real treat. Please consider donating items if possible through your weekly shopping in the supermarkets or put in the box in the chapel vestry. It is also possible to gift money if that is easier. Please put such gifts in a sealed envelope marked 'Food Bank' on the collection plates. Thank you very much for anything you are able to gift.

Sustainable Wantage

Helen Carter

Many of us use 'The Mix' to get refills for many household items. They have a really good selection to choose from. It is best if you can take your own bottles to use this facility. Please consider using 'The Mix' as much as possible.

Refill Pricing	
HAND SOAP	£4.80/L
WASHING UP LIQUID	£2.80/L
RINSE AID	£4.00/L
NON-BIO LAUNDRY LIQUID	£3.80/L
BIO LAUNDRY LIQUID	£4.80/L
FABRIC CONDITIONER	£2.40/L
ALL PURPOSE CLEANER	£2.80/L
TOILET CLEANER	£2.60/L
WHITE VINEGAR (for cleaning)	£1.80/L
WINDOW & GLASS CLEANER	£2.10/L
SHAMPOO	£9.00/L
CONDITIONER	£9.00/L
BODYWASH	£9.00/L
WASHING UP BRUSH	£3.75
LOOFAH WASHING UP PAD	£2.79

Our Prices Explained

Our prices are set to be as low as possible to encourage people to use our refills. We have a range of products to choose from and we want to make sure that our prices are as low as possible. We have a range of products to choose from and we want to make sure that our prices are as low as possible. We have a range of products to choose from and we want to make sure that our prices are as low as possible.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church		3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	Weekly
	5:00 pm	WCC Prayer Fellowship	in the Chapel/Hall	Last Sunday
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café	in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat	in the Hall	1 st & 3 rd Monday
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group	in the Parlour	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Children's Choir		Weekly in term

Users

Sunday	5:00 pm	WCC Prayer Fellowship	Chapel/Hall	Last Sunday
Monday	Evening	Slimming World	Hall	Weekly
		CA Meeting	Parlour	Weekly
Tuesday	Morning	MIND	Hall	Weekly
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	Hall	Weekly
	Evening	My Life My Choice	Parlour	3 rd Tuesday
Wednesday	Midday	OCC Family Support Group	Hall	Weekly
	Evening	Wantage Sings	Hall	Weekly
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	Hall	3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	Hall & Parlour	Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	Hall & Parlour	1 st Saturday
	Midday	NA Meeting	Parlour	Weekly

Other Bookings

November

Sunday 2 nd	4:00 pm	Annual Memorial Service in the Chapel
Thursday 6 th	7:30 pm	Music Makers
Saturday 8 th		WCC Crafts Matters morning in the Hall - morning
Thursday 13 th		SUDEP all day
Saturday 22 nd		Local Arrangements Leaders in the Chapel - morning
t.b.c.		Music Makers – 7:30 pm

December

Friday 5 th		Dickensian Evening / Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 6 th		Coffee Morning / Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 13 th		Dads Out

SERVICES during NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd November

Ordinary 31

Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11,12; Luke 19:1-10

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Local Arrangements

4:00 pm Wantage Wantage & Grove Remembrance Service

6:30 pm Grove Praying for Revival

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Ordinary 32

Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17; Luke 20:27-38

9:30 am Wantage

Graham Luscombe

10:30 am Grove

Andrew Dixon

Sunday 16th November

Interfaith Week

Ordinary 33

Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Rev John Anderson

10:30 am Grove

Carolyn Luscombe

Sunday 23rd November

Women against Violence

Sunday before Advent

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

10:30 am Wantage

Peter Hemmings

10:30 am Grove

Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 30th November

Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44 Luke 18:9-14

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Peter Hemmings

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1 st	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p10
Sunday 2nd	9:45 am	Time for Reflection	p12
	4:00 pm	Service of Remembrance at Wantage	p14
	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p10
Monday 3 rd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p16
Sunday 9th	9:30 am	Morning Service at Wantage (Note the time)	p19
Monday 10 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p13
Sunday 16th	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p16
Monday 17 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p16
Friday 21 st	7:30 pm	Grove Film Club	p10
Saturday 22 nd	9:30 for 10 am	Local Arrangements Leaders at Wantage	p11
Sunday 23rd	Deadline for December/January Newsletter		
Tuesday 25 th	12 noon	In Conversation at Wallingford	p 5
	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p10
Thursday 27 th	10:00 am	Advent Study Group at 1 Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis	p13
Sunday 30th	ADVENT SUNDAY		

DECEMBER

Friday 5 th	from 6:00 pm	Christmas Tree Festival at Wantage	p17
Saturday 6 th	10:00 am	Christmas Tree Festival / Coffee Morning at Wantage	
Sunday 7 th	10:30 am	Blessing of Knitted Angels	
Saturday 13 th / Sunday 14 th	Cribfest at Grove		
Sunday 21 st	10:30 am	Family Carol Service at Wantage	
	10:30 am	Carol service at Grove	
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day		p11
	9:25 am	Family Service at Wantage	
	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service at Grove	