



Minister:

Rev. Bruce Thompson

Tel: 01235 813242

<https://wantagemethodist.org.uk>

## **Welcome to Wantage Methodist Church**

### **We are sharing Sunday services on Zoom.**

The Church Stewards introduce worship, then there is a period of quiet in which we prepare for worship and pray for those leading worship. There are times in the service when most people will stand, such as for singing. However, please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

There is a crèche room for small children.

**The Chapel is fitted with an induction loop;** Hearing aid users are advised to sit away from the edges of the room and please switch hearing aids to the "T" setting.

**Glasses of water** are available.

**Please join us in the Hall** after the service for tea, coffee and fellowship.

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Advent Sunday**

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

**10:30 am Morning Worship** led by Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

### **Focus for Reflection : 1 John 4:7-8**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

**Give thanks** for Advent and the opportunity to reflect and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

### **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, Hannah Morton. Hunter, Jade, Jane Robinson, John & Jo, June G, John Broadbent, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, June Hartle, Ken & Grace Wright, Lucas & family, Marc Hewson's family, Mary Spalding, Meriel, Mick Glover, Norma, Peter, Richard, Richard in York, Sharon, Sue, Sonia, Tony G, Trudy, William Chadwick, Vicky, Robin & Becky Legge & all the Legge family.

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.

## **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**9:00 am**    **Community Drop-in Café** in the Hall

**2:00 pm**    **Knit & Chat** in the Hall

## **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**12 noon**    **In Conversation with Rev Dr Sonia Hicks at Wallingford**  
*see below for more detail*

**2:00 pm**    **Tuesday Prayer & Study Group** in the Parlour  
Advent study 2

## **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in Wantage Parish Church**

**7:00 pm**    **Annual Mayor's Carols** at Wantage Parish Church

## **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**10:00 am**    **Advent Study Group** at 1, Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis

## **5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December    Christmas Tree Festival**

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

## **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

We shall be open from **6 – 9 pm** on **Dickensian Evening**, , 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 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**.

## **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December,**

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

There is something that everyone of any age can do, and we would love to raise as much as possible for **Alzheimer's Society**. Please volunteer.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes, biscuits and handmade Christmas gifts/goodies (no bric-a-brac please).

Can you ...

1) ... bake cakes/biscuits/mince pies etc for sale on the cake stall?

**Contact Ann Barber**

2) ... bake mince pies/biscuits to serve at the Dickensian evening and the Saturday coffee morning?

**Contact Gill Skidmore**

**Contact Helen Carter in person, by email or telephone to ...**

3) ... help serve on the stall or in the kitchen on Friday evening?

4) ... Chapel-sit on Friday evening (live Christmas music 6.30 to 7.30) or Saturday morning (recorded music only)?

5) ... help with set-up (Friday afternoon) and/or clearing away and putting angels in church (Saturday lunchtime)?

Many thanks in advance for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all that weekend.  
Carolyn Roche 07906 518323 ciroche48@hotmail.com

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December****Advent 2**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18,19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**9:45 am “A Time for Reflection”** in the Parlour

**10:30 am Morning Worship** led by Rev John Anderson

This service will include the blessing of this year's Knitted Angels

6:30 pm Grove Prayer for Revival

**“A Time for Reflection”** Everyone is welcome to come along to the parlour next Sunday morning from 9.45-10.15am for time to reflect, think and pray. There will be music, words and some silence as we reflect on the annunciation together.

**IBRA**

IBRA notes “Fresh from the Word” for 2026 will be ordered at the end of November. If you want to use these notes please sign up on the sheet on the notice board in the hall vestibule or contact Helen Carter or Gordon Skidmore. The cost this year will be £16.

**Use of the Church Car Park for Sunday Morning Services**

The reality of our church's parking facilities is that they are inadequate for our needs. A car park to meet those needs would require a bigger piece of land, to provide a greater number of wider parking spaces, set within a sufficiently large area of land that would make manoeuvring easier.

Unfortunately, we cannot meet any of those requirements, nor can we build a new car park, but the parking needs amongst our congregation continue to increase, out-pacing our ability to meet them.

This has necessitated a rethink of how we can continue to assist those with serious mobility needs and do all we can to enable them to attend Sunday Morning Services safely.

After careful consideration of how best to resolve this problem, the system proposed and agreed by the Church Leadership Team, with immediate implementation, is as follows:

- On Sunday mornings, the entire car park, except the space reserved for the Minister or Worship Leader, will be restricted for use only by those whose disability necessitates arrival by car onto the church site.
- Parking spaces will no longer be reserved with a named chair in a specific parking space.
- Permits have been given to each qualifying disabled regular worshipper, and to drivers who regularly give lifts to any of these people.
- Anyone who needs a permit in the future should make their request to one of the Church Stewards.
- Please remember that the slope leading to Church Street must be kept clear for pedestrian access, especially those who use a walking aid or need to hold onto the arm of a helper.

## Food Bank at Christmas time

To help make Christmas special for those receiving food parcels at Christmas it would be great if there were a good number of special items in those parcels such as tins of ham, box of chocolates and other luxury goodies. Please consider donating something special in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

## Financial Crisis

At the last Church Council it was clear from last year's financial statement that we have a financial crisis. A small working party has been addressing the issue and reported to the Church Leadership Team.

Last year we had a deficit of about £7000 and the church's total balances at the year end – August- were just under 24 thousand pounds. **The first call on our finances is the Circuit assessment** which is our contribution to the work of the Methodist Church in our circuit, district and the connexion. This is £12400 / quarter this year. **At church council it was clear that there is not enough money in the current accounts to pay this, this quarter. This is a serious issue.**

Some costs can be reduced and proposals are being progressed to action these. However we must increase our income as well.

**There will be an extra Church Council on Thursday 15 January 2026.**

This announcement is to share the situation with you all.

Up to this time the donations for **after-church tea/coffee** have been given to the **Benevolent fund**. However, **due to the church's difficult financial situation, that money will now go into the church general fund**. The responsibility for a Benevolent fund will be taken by the circuit.

As a continuing effort to restore our financial situation, we invite the congregation **not to exchange Christmas cards, but to make a donation to the church instead**. This does not prevent you from exchanging cards with your friends, but just to say that the pigeonholes will not be put out as in previous years.

There will be a meeting of the **Property & Finance group on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** in the Parlour. Anyone with an interest in this area of our Church work is welcome to attend.

**ZOOM** Please contact Gordon Skidmore (07710 214601) for joining details if you wish to join the Sunday Morning Worship Zoom broadcast.

**Notices for next week** should reach **Gordon Skidmore** by the end of Thursday please.  
wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com      Tel: 07710 214601

## 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 our Church's Safeguarding Officer  
Ken Smith      01235 767545 or Revd Bruce on 01235 813242  
You must not speak to others about your concerns or investigate them yourself.