

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

**GROVE
&
WANTAGE
SECTOR
NEWS**


The Methodist Church

JUNE 2025

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (July/August 2025) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 22nd June**

e-mail : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com

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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

Sector Newsletter Contribution deadline dates – 2025

July/August	Sunday 22 nd June
September	Sunday 24 th August
October	Sunday 21 st September
November	Sunday 19 th October
December / January	Sunday 23 th November

From the Manse.....

By the time you read this newsletter, the result of the Europa League Cup Final played between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur in the San Mames Stadium on 21st May in Bilbao will be known.

Both teams saw this final as being a way in which they could salvage something out of what, by their standards, has been a very poor and disappointing season. To lift the trophy as winners would mark some kind of success for them as well as achieving the prize of being able to play in the Champions League next season.

This prompted me to ponder and reflect as to how we mark or judge success. Is it simply about being the best, being the winner, or having the most?

Can success be measured by using either qualitative or quantitative methods?

In the run up to our half marathon, numerous posts of the LLHM Facebook page reminded those taking part that it doesn't matter what time you finish in, whether under two hours or four hours, for when you cross that finishing line, you will still have done it!

There has been much discussion and debate as to how effective OFSTED inspections are when it comes to judging the performances of Schools and as to whether they are successful or not. Can league tables ever give a true picture of what is happening or going on?

I've often wondered what would happen if there were church versions of OFSTED inspections?! How do you think we would fare if they came and spent some time with us and what kind of judgement would they give?

What criteria would you have to meet in order to be seen or described as being a successful church anyhow? Would it be the size of a congregation, the church's impact in the local community, how much is given each week, or the number of activities taking place?

Of course, no church can ever be perfect, because we are not. We seek to do our best as God's people, but we are fallible, flawed and prone to getting it wrong, but I don't think that God is asking us to perfect, to be the best at everything, to be successful in that sense but rather God is simply asking us to be faithful.

With love and God bless

Keith

Trinity Church celebrates 150 years!

This year sees the 150th anniversary of Trinity Church in Abingdon - as you will be aware this is an ecumenical partnership between the Methodist and United Reformed Church.

There will be a **special Circuit service at Trinity on Sunday the 1st of June at 3:00 pm** to mark this milestone in the life of the church and to give thanks for God's faithfulness for the past 150 years even as they look to the future and all that is to come. Everyone is warmly invited to join with them on this important day.

The Wantage and Grove Church Partnership

This year's AGM is taking place on **Sunday the 8th of June at 4:00 pm** at the church of Saint John Vianney in Wantage. Everyone is very welcome.

CIRCUIT SERVICE

July 27th 3:00 pm at Wantage Farewell Service
Farewell to Rev Keith Underhill and Deacon Selina Nisbett

Stepping out with Noah

Our walk for June will take place on Sunday the 15th at 2:30 PM meeting outside the Wantage Manse. As always everyone is welcome. This will be the last walk that Keith will be organizing... but do watch this space for further news about possible church walks later in the year.

Amsterdam: Anne Frank, Art, and Tulips

4 nights in April 2026

If you would like to know more, please let Rev Bruce know
on revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk

Should there be sufficient interest he will approach a travel agent to estimate costs.



Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit
Local Arrangement Leaders' Workshops

The Gospels

Why are there differences?

Open to everyone interested in finding out more
about the Gospels

You don't have to be a Local Arrangement Leader
or to have attended previous sessions

Wantage Methodist Church

20 Newbury Street, Wantage OX12 8DA

Saturday 14 June 2025

9.30am arrival, 10.00am start till 1.00pm

More details Rev Bruce on revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk or 01235 813242

Schools Prayer Group 2025-2026

Schools Prayer Group 4-5pm at St John's Rooms, Grove

- We really welcome new people to join us, 4 pm – 5 pm, in the St John's Rooms at Grove Parish Church
- We start by socializing over a cuppa and a cake
- We have a brief time of reflection together
- We pray for local schools, pupils, teachers & other school staff

We plan to meet three times each academic year, all from 4pm to 5pm in the St John's Rooms, Grove.

Upcoming dates:

- Wednesday 24th September 2025
- Wednesday 28th January 2026
- Wednesday 23rd April 2026

We are glad to welcome anyone who wishes to pray for our local schools.

Please send prayer requests or requests for more information to:

John Wilson: johnmwilson2012@gmail.com

Helen Harwood: andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk

Wallingford Methodist Church In Conversation

Looking ahead in 2025

June 17th – Rt Hon Lord Graham Brady – former and longest serving Chair of the 1922 Committee, speaking about the last 5 Conservative Prime Ministers and his role in coordinating the leadership contests – Ticket Only

September 30th – Sharon Booth – Executive Director and Founder of Solutions Not Sides – an educational charity that promotes dialogue in schools and universities around the Israel-Palestine conflict

October 21th – Rev Sir Ralph Waller – former Principal of [Harris Manchester College, Oxford](#) (1988-2018) and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford (2010-2018)

November 25th – Rev Sonia Hicks – Chair of the Northampton Methodist District and a past President of the Methodist Conference

KINGMAKER

Secrets, Lies and the Truth about Five Prime Ministers

The memoir of

GRAHAM BRADY

**Graham was responsible for overseeing Conservative Leadership elections
from 2010 to 2024**

one of the most turbulent periods in British political history

In Conversation

Wallingford Methodist Church

St Leonard's Square, OX10 0AR

Tuesday 17 June

12 noon

Entry by ticket only £10

**in aid of Stockdales, supporting
children, young people, and adults
with learning difficulties**



Tickets (cash only) from Wallingford Bookshop 9A St. Martins Street

01491 834383

The Methodist Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV's election, and we offer our prayers for his papacy.

Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.

The Methodist Church and Hope Together launch Try Pilgrimage

Try Pilgrimage is a website that offers resources for individuals and churches to host local pilgrimages. It was inspired by the catholic year of Jubilee theme for 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope".

Try Pilgrimage and its resources are designed for individuals who may not have experienced pilgrimage before and are looking for a gentle introduction. There are two main pathways available on the site: one for churches and Christians interested in hosting a pilgrimage, and another for those who want to try a pilgrimage for themselves. All resources are available for free download.

Try Pilgrimage encourages Christians and non-Christians to embark on a unique journey to discover people, make new experiences and engage with their community. The website shares existing pilgrimage routes but also enables members of the public to step out of their comfort zone, create their own pilgrimages and share them on the website.

Interest in spiritual walking is at an all-time high, largely due to the BBC series "Pilgrimage" which encouraged many individuals to explore famous routes like the Camino, also known as the Way of St James going to Santiago de Compostella. However, Great Britain also offers numerous local pilgrimages that allow for a deeper engagement with the community.

Try Pilgrimage incorporates the 2023 BBC series as part of its "fuel for the journey." It offers a free downloadable discussion resource based on the program, which is suitable for both groups and individuals. Eryl Parry, the Pioneer Priest from the Diocese of Bangor, who appears in the first episode, shared her insights with us and created a series of short videos to help people understand and fully appreciate the experience of pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage can be on foot, by bike, by bus and even in a chair! Inclusion and accessibility are key to the project. Try Pilgrimage steps outside traditional pilgrimages and invites people to create transformative experiences with their community, online with a virtual prayer walk or with special activities to engage children.



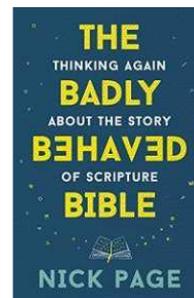
Cornerstone News

June 2025

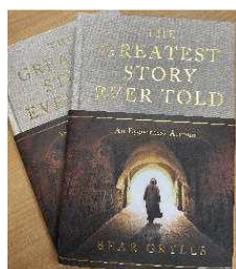


AGM

Our AGM will be held on Monday 16th June at 7pm. Do come along and hear about what's been happening over the past year and our plans for the future, including our 30th birthday celebrations. It would be good to see many of our supporters there. Nick Page will be our guest speaker and will have his books for sale to buy or order on the night.



Independent Bookshop Week – 16th-21st June



Do continue to support your local bookshop. A new book coming out on 19th June is 'The Greatest Story ever told' by Bear Grylls, priced £14.99 – you can pre-order copies with us now.

National Book Tokens

I am pleased to say that we are now able to sell and redeem National Book Tokens. They can be spent at any bookshop and you can redeem a token bought elsewhere. Ideal for gifts!



Father's Day – 15th June

We have cards and items suitable as gifts for Fathers such as mugs, pens, book tokens and socks. Alternatively, bring your Dad in for a full cooked breakfast!

St John's Church Fete – Saturday 21st June – 2-4pm

We are hoping to have a stall at St John's Fete – if you are able to help with this at all please let me know.

Outside catering

A reminder that we are able to supply outside catering for your events, up to 100 people, at a very competitive price – please contact us for more information.

Teacher's Gifts

We have a selection of cards and gifts suitable to give teachers as a thank you at the end of term.

Food Bank and Clothes Bank

Don't forget that we are a drop-off point for the Wantage and Grove food bank and the children's clothes bank.

Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on **Wednesday 25th June at 12.30pm** – please book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 14th June at 8.30am** and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship

Sustainable Wantage – more...

We are continuing to give a focus on Sustainable Wantage and this time focusing on the Market Garden.

Set in the grounds of [The Wantage Community Support Service](#) (previously The Charlton Centre), the Market Garden is a partnership between Sustainable Wantage, [Style Acre](#) & Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

Style Acre and OCC are providing opportunities for people with learning disabilities from across South Oxfordshire to develop new skills and enjoy gardening. The garden is a closed site giving it a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. It has wide paths which are accessible for people with reduced mobility and it has an accessible compost toilet.

The Market Garden is a tranquil and beautiful place where members of the community are able to learn how to grow fruit and vegetables in a sustainable and attractive way. We have 2 polytunnels, a greenhouse and cold frame, an orchard area, low and raised beds, and the 'World of mint' which shows off almost 30 different varieties of this wonderful plant. A primary objective is to increase the biodiversity of the garden. To this end we maintain a small pond, a pallet bug house, multiple bird feeders and a large area of pollinator friendly flowers. Regular visitors are hedgehogs, frogs, bats, moths, butterflies, and bees.

The Market Garden is a fantastic place just to slow down and connect with nature. It is also a great space for community activities; look out for our Spring and Autumn Open Days! If you would like to help, Sustainable Wantage work parties usually meet at the garden on Sundays 2-4pm.

Our gardening volunteers enjoy the rewards of surplus veg, good conversation and excellent cake! Please contact us if you are interested in helping out and visit our [Facebook page](#) for the latest news.

A personal note from Helen Carter. I went to the garden for a Tai Chi session recently, and it was such a peaceful experience. I can thoroughly recommend taking any opportunity to visit there – and if you feel able to offer your time as a volunteer.

Spring is the season to declutter and support a good cause

Gill Skidmore

If you don't know what to do with all those items lurking in drawers and cupboards, and listed in the flyer, please consider donating them to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Alison Brown, Janine and I have accepted a new challenge, the Macmillan Mighty Hike. We wanted to support all our family members and friends who are currently fighting cancer, and challenge ourselves to get moving again.

We have to raise a minimum of £250 each this time, but we can help that along by collecting items to recycle. Hopefully some of you are like us and have lots of odds and ends lying around because you don't know how to get rid of them ethically. The items don't have to be in working order and currency can be from any country even if out of circulation. The stamps option really is as stated – you can just take the stamps off any post you receive and donate them, as long as you make sure the stamp itself is not damaged. I have checked with the organization and Kindles count as tablet computers for the purpose of recycling. Otherwise, only listed items can be accepted.

There will be a large white collection sack to put them in, or you can just give them to Alison Brown or myself. All contributions will be gratefully received.



Poem

Look for the good in everyone
No matter how it be,
Scan every erring, human son
With eyes of charity

No matter what his mask may be;
Search for the good – Behind
It may at first be hard to see;
But “Seek and ye shall find!”

‘tis by this means that discord mends
And enmities grow less.
It is the way to make true friends;
And friends bring - happiness.

Peer with the eyes of love on man!
Beneath his cloak and hood
Of faults and whims, you always can
Find something that is good!

Judge not in hate or haste undue;
Be neither proud nor cold.
Each kindly thought comes back to
you,
And pays you many fold!

‘Tis by this means that hatred ends,
And joys pour in to bless,
It is the way to make true friends
And friends bring real success.

Anon



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Quarterly News April 2025

Firstly, congratulations to Karen Smith - whom you may know from the Loyd Lyndsay Rooms. Karen is the new Landlord of King Alfred's Head in Wantage. And what a lovely job she's done on refurbishing the pub, both inside and out - looking really good! Welcome to Wantage Karen - we hope you're really successful.

As a teenager, I remember a couple in my church who got baptised. There was lots of joy and celebration as they emerged out of the water. They went off to get changed out of their wet clothes and came back wearing T-shirts that said, "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT" - Brilliant! Three words that so simply convey what it is to be a Christian - "my life is now under Christ's new management".

As Christians, this 'new management' also leads to 'refurbishments' in our lives. Firstly on the inside, as we surrender our lives to Jesus' Lordship. And then on the outside as people begin to notice the changes that have taken place on the inside. Part of these 'outward refurbishments' are the acts of service and good deeds that are integral to Christian Faith. Galatians Ch 2 v 20 says,

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me".

And Matthew Ch 5 v 6 says,

"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

We have over 40 people volunteering in different ways - all with the purpose of helping people, serving God and ultimately glorifying our Father God. Keep up the good work / Why not join us?

How we helped on the streets

Many of our patrols at the beginning of the year have been quiet and peaceful - and this we expect, in part due to cold and wet weather, some people reigning in the excesses of Christmas and New Year celebrations, or perhaps not having enough money to go out.

One cold night, a man approached us who wasn't wearing any shoes! He said that he had come out without shoes so he could feel more connected to the earth but was somewhat regretting his decision. Of course, we gave him a pair of flip-flops - for which he was extremely grateful.

One of our afternoon patrols helped to disperse a large group of youngsters who had gathered outside Sainsbury's. The Street Pastors chatted to the young people and were able to encourage them to slowly move on.

In April our afternoon patrol was joined by Daniel Courteney, Community Safety Problem Solving Officer for Oxford City Council. Oxford City Council recently granted us some funding and were keen to see what we do to see if similar patrols might be

useful in parts of Oxford. If you would like to join us as an observer sometime – do send us an email.

For more information about how we helped on the streets, visit our Reports page on our website.

Thank You Su

Thank you to Su Wilkinson who offered to knit us some woolly hats and gloves for us to give out to anyone who needs them on the streets. In fact, we handed out one of Su's hats the very first weekend she gave them to us. We met a man in Wantage on a cold night. He just straight out asked if we had a hat that he could have.

Perfect timing!

Mission Accomplished!

...and it was a mission!

Way back at our AGM in October 2020, our members agreed to go ahead with changing our charitable status to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Three years later, on 6 November 2023, Wantage and Grove Street Pastors was registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission (Charity Number 1205598).

Since that time the Trustees have set about transferring assets and employees, and updating documents, resources and publicity materials.

Special thanks go to Steve West and Michael Elliott, our Treasurer, who have undertaken much of this work.

The final step will be to close the old charity (number1134429). We expect this to take place later this year.

Previously, as an Association of Members we had a membership who had voting rights. As a CIO, the members are the Trustees, but we don't want to lose touch with our previous members - but what will we call them!!!? Supporters? Friends? Partners? Well, we've chosen to call them 'Friends'. Hello friend! ♥

Prayer Support Needed

Our afternoon patrols are progressing nicely. We now have a team of 2 or 3 Street Pastors patrolling once a month. However, this is our Only Street Pastor team that doesn't have any dedicated Prayer Support Volunteers - and we'd love to have a few people praying while we patrol.

Here's the deal:

- ▶ Join us at our Wantage base or pray from home
- ▶ 1 afternoon each month - that's only 12 times in a year!
- ▶ Usually from 2.45 pm to 5.30 pm
- ▶ Sometimes from 11.45 am to 3.30 pm
- ▶ Answer the base phone, pray, read, chat
- ▶ Bring your knitting (or whatever) and have a coffee!

If you think you could help us, send us an email or give us a call for more information!

Thank you!

Trustee Goals for 2025

Each year our Management Committee sets goals to help focus our efforts and to ensure that we continue to serve our community well.

Here is a summary of our 2025 Committee Goals:

- ▶ Increase the number of volunteers, Street Pastors and Prayer Support Volunteers.
- ▶ Recruit Church Reps where we need them and re-empower those currently serving as Church Reps.
- ▶ Continue to grow our social media presence inc Street Pastor messages and Bible verses. Including adverts for recruitment of Street Pastors and Prayer Support Volunteers.
- ▶ Continue to develop daytime patrols.
- ▶ Secure £15 – 20k funding to cover our costs.
- ▶ Recruit a volunteer to help support fundraising efforts.
- ▶ Hold at least one fundraising event and one awareness-raising event in the Year.
- ▶ Complete the transition of WGSP to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- ▶ Recruit a Trustee to help with Governance.
- ▶ Work with Statutory and Third Sector Agencies to help and support people in the Night Time Economy.

For more information about our goals, please do talk to a Trustee or send us an email.

Save the date!

Save the date? "What manner of exciting event is being planned?", I hear you cry!

Well, it's our 2025 AGM of course! But it's not just our AGM and we don't want you to miss out!

2025 AGM Tuesday 1 July, 7.30 pm
Venue and further details to be announced!

GROVE

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 1st June from 6.30pm till 8pm.** You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 7th June** from 10.00am till 12noon in the church. Our hosts for the morning are Jenny Marriott and family. Proceeds from the morning are for “Tools With A Mission”. This is a UK charity which collects unwanted/unused tools of all kinds to refurbish and it gives them a new life. This work enables people who are not be able to afford tools for themselves, to have training and earn a living. It also saves many tonnes of tools from being put into landfill here in the UK.

We are looking forward to welcoming Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson to our Coffee Morning. Georgina will be our minister when Keith retires at the end of July. She is coming along on 7th June to meet and get to know us at Grove. 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 and help on the day are always appreciated.

Church Council will meet on **Thursday, 19th June at 7.30pm** in the Meeting Room. All who are interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and share in this meeting.

Film Club is on **Friday, 20th June** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing **“Rain Man”**.

1988 American road comedy drama film directed by Barry Levinson.

It tells the story of abrasive, selfish young Charlie Babbitt, who discovers that his estranged father has died and bequeathed virtually all of his multimillion-dollar estate to his other son, Raymond.

Stars: Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino, Jake Hoffman, Bonnie Hunt.

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

Tuesday Fellowship in May is on **Tuesday, 27th May** at 2.15pm. We are meeting at the Cornerstone for tea/coffee and cakes to chat and enjoy fellowship together. Do join us if you can. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship in June will be on **Tuesday, 24th June** at 2.15pm.

More information will be in the notices nearer the time.

Craft Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm. 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 May Coffee Morning for “Christian Aid”. Donations amounted to £246, to which will be added £61.99 from previous Gift Aid rebates, making a total of £307.99. **Thank you.**

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.

WANTAGE

Getting to know the Rev Bruce Thompson

Whilst a few of us within the church know Bruce well, there are many who would not recognise him if he were to walk into the church on a Sunday morning. He will be our minister as of the beginning of September and so we are keen that the church has the opportunity to start to get to know him and vice versa. Hence, the first opportunity for this will be on **Thursday 29th May at 7.30 pm** in the church hall. This will be a very informal occasion and we hope many will be able to attend on that evening. We will ensure there is another opportunity to meet, with the acknowledgement that daytime is a better time of day for many. Watch this space!

Holy Habits

June marks the beginning of our next holy habit “**Making more disciples**” and as is our usual practice there will be 1 service per month during June, July and August where “Making more disciples” will be the theme of the day. The first of these will be led by Keith on Sunday 1st of June and details regarding books that can be read and the film we will watch will be shared in due course. We look forward to learning more about what it means to make more disciples and how this holy habit ties in with those that we have already shared.

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

What a lovely morning we had in May! We learnt about Peter’s role in the early church then got crafty! We all brought something to share for breakfast (attempting to imitate the sharing which was clearly a key feature of the early church!) and enjoyed chatting and catching up over the table.

In June we will meet on 15th at 9.30am in the hall to discover what happened to Paul!

In July we will meet on 13th.

New families always welcome!

For more information about Kids@Church please contact Jane on 07443420205.

Church Council

Church Council will meet at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11th of June in the Hall. Reports or notice of items of business should reach Gill Skidmore by 4th June.

Result of Silent Auction for 2 charities in Guatemala (held on 10th May).

A huge, huge thank you to everyone who helped, donated or attended and bought items, £788.86 was raised. An incredible total and one I am so grateful for and I know that this will make a big impact on the two charities that I visited earlier in the year.

The month of June, preceded this year by the warm sunshine in May, usually provides us with so much to enjoy and celebrate within God's creation. Flora and fauna are flourishing, birdsong is at its sweetest during long midsummer days, and it seems that nature is presenting itself for our delight and appreciation. Alongside this, though, we are also aware of so much suffering in our world, generating both sadness and anxiety. The joys of creation are affirming and comforting. Being thankful for the natural beauty surrounding us is one way of reassuring ourselves that every one of us is precious in God's sight, and his love and care for us will last throughout every season and forever.

During our service on 11th May, Keith explained and launched our restructured pastoral system. Hopefully, everyone within our church family will feel cared for within a small group headed up by a member of the enlarged pastoral team. The new name for the people we used to call Pastoral Visitors is Pastoral Links. Whilst the emphasis will now concentrate less on visiting, the priority will continue to be that of care and support for each other. We hope that, as Pastoral Links, we will be sensitive to the absence from Church on Sundays of people in our group - not to check on their attendance judgementally, but to react with concern and kindness. If the absences are the consequences of ill health or other problems or difficulties, the role of the Pastoral Links will be, as always, to offer help. Prayer support immediately, alongside practical assistance, where appropriate and possible, will continue to be part of the response to most situations. We hope that the new system will be valued as much as the one it replaces, and that with God's help we will go on living out our faith in the way that we care for each other.

Since their retirement, Judith and Mike Skinner have been spending increasing amounts of time in Falmouth. They regularly attend the Baptist Church there, in which they now feel spiritually at home. They consider the time has come to transfer their membership to that church. They will be missed by us where their presence and service has been valued over many years. It was also a joy to have their daughters, Verena and Natalie, as part of our church family from babyhood to young adults. Our love and prayers go with them all, as we offer our thanks for their work and service with us.

We are delighted to have Joseph Zeesham worshipping with us. Joseph lives and works at St Katherine's Care Home. We welcome him into our church family and look forward to getting to know him better.

Concern, love and prayers continue for those whose health problems are making life difficult at present. Adrian Richens, Gill Morton and Pam Johnson have all spent much time at the JR and Churchill hospitals in recent weeks. Sue Haithwaite's and Val Broadbent's treatment is ongoing there too. We hold them in our thoughts, together with those who prefer not to be named, praying that God's strength, comfort and love will surround them all.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

This is an open and friendly group who meet for Prayer and Bible Study and each Tuesday at 2pm 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.

During June we will be looking at the Gospel of John as this is the book of the Bible that is being studied for Bible Month. We will begin this with a Quiet Day at the Convent, which will be led for us by Libby Bolton.

Dates for May are as follows:

3rd Holy Habits: – Week 4 – A divine commission Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

10th Bible Month – The Gospel of John - Introduction + Week 1 Embracing God and all reality (John 1) QUIET DAY at the Convent

17th Bible Month – The Gospel of John - Week 2 (John 2-12) Signs Conversations and Controversy. Reading – John 2:1-12, John 6:1-14, John 5

24th Bible Month – The Gospel of John - Week 3 (John 13-17) Jesus' Discipleship Course. Reading – John 14:16-17 and 16:13-15, John 15:13-15, John 14:12-15, 15:7, 16:23-24, John 13:1-20

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

A Prayer for peace

Creator God, today in a fractured world we pray for peace and justice. Your peace, not built on our broken promises and failing courage, but your deep peace, through your creative power and embodied in the service and sacrifice of Jesus.

May we follow Christ, seeking your justice, acting in solidarity and hope, even when the way seems unclear and the powers of our world don't reflect Your Kingdom,

Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Kingdom, Your world, in Jesus name.
Amen.

Please pray for

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Angela, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Caroline, Diane, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, Doug & Anne Hatto, Edwina, Eileen, Emma Wright & family, Findley, Geoff, Gill, Hunter, Jade, Jane Robinson, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, John & Jo, June G, June Hartle, Lucas & family,

Mary Spalding, Meriel, Norma, Peter, Richard & Anne, Richard in York, Sue, Sharon, Terry & Sue, Sonia, Tony G, Trudy, Val Broadbent, Vic Press, Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren,

All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, our Ministers, Deacon, 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 e-mail: ciroche48@hotmail.com

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 2.30pm, lasting between 30-45 mins. In May our theme was Psalm 23 (The good shepherd), a well loved Psalm in the group. On June 9 our theme will be Psalm 8 (How majestic is your name) ; on July 14 our theme will be Luke 10:38-41 (Martha and Mary); on August 11 our theme will be Luke 5:1-11 (The calling of the first disciples).

We have a core group from the care home who regularly attend and others drop in from time to time. Residents really appreciate people from our church joining in their study and we often enjoy fellowship with a cup of coffee in the Elmbrook lounge afterwards. My thanks to the regulars from our church who attend and to those who have been ferrying our church members to the sessions. In between bible studies I pop into Elmbrook on an irregular basis and have a chat with some of the Bible Study group and any other residents who would like a chat.

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.

Church Flowers

Ann Barber

With thanks to those who have already kindly provided flowers this year, and in anticipation of offers for the remaining weeks, some explanation of the newly formatted signing up list will, hopefully, be helpful. A reduced number of volunteers necessitates a matching extension to the time the flowers remain in Church. We will aim for them to stay for two Sundays, which is a safe expectation during the colder parts of the year. When the weather is exceptionally warm, this may not be possible, and we will respond appropriately.

Thank you to everyone in the Flowers Team!

Prayer initiative by the Parish Church

On the **first Thursday of each month** at 8 pm, via Zoom, there will be a contemplative prayer time of up to an hour. Anyone is welcome to join in with this time and if you would like to know more, then please get in touch with Helen Carter who will put you in touch with the person organising these sessions. If you would prefer a face to face contemplative prayer time based on Julian of Norwich, then please let Helen Carter know.

Wantage Parish Bible Reading Book Club has come to an end.

Community Café

Carolyn Roche

Although May had two Bank Holidays, we were able to open every Monday. Many thanks to all the volunteers and cake makers who made this possible. We reach early summer and the month of June. We will be open from 9am to 12 noon each Monday and look forward to welcoming our regulars and occasional new visitors. There is no charge for refreshments, but people are welcome to make a donation which goes to a different charity each quarter. This month we will begin collecting for Wantage Methodist Church. We are very thankful for the hospitality and fellowship that it offers throughout the year.

Do come and join us for coffee, cake, cheese scones and conversation.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

Our meetings in June continue on the first and third Mondays of the month and will be on Monday 2nd June and Monday 16th June at 2pm in the Hall.

At this time of year, if the weather is very warm, we tend to end up with more chatting than knitting but it is good to get together. Looking forward to seeing you and your current project at our next meeting. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

"Dear brothers and sisters, friends,

I am very grateful for your kindness remembering my 90th birthday through messages sent via Gloria and the warmly lovely video with some of you singing Feliz Cumpleaños, including Rev Keith! Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. God bless you all"

Britzaida Lozada

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church	3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship	Weekly
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 Choirs	Weekly in term
Users	All in the Hall Rooms		
Monday	Evening	Slimming World	Weekly
		CA Meeting	Weekly
Tuesday	Morning	MIND	Weekly
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	Weekly
	Evening	My Life My Choice	3 rd Tuesday
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Sings	Weekly (from 18/6)
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	1 st Saturday

Other Bookings in June

Wednesday 11 th June	evening	Wantage Church Council
Thursday 12 th June	Afternoon	Oliver & James Funeral Directors
Saturday 14 th June	Morning	Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop
	Morning	Wantage Community Church Craft Morning
Monday 23 June	Evening	CLT
Saturday 28 th June	Evening	Concert – "Flanders & Swann"

SERVICES during JUNE

June

Sunday 1st

Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-21; John 17:20-26

10:30 am Wantage Holy Habits Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

3:00 pm Circuit Service at Trinity Church Abingdon celebrating 150 years

6:30 pm Grove Praying for Revival

Sunday 8th

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14: 8-17

10:30 am Wantage Carolyn Luscombe

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill

4:00 pm Wantage & Grove Church Partnership at St John Vianney

Sunday 15th

Methodist Homes

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

9:30 am Wantage Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove Daphne Savage

Sunday 22nd

Refugee Week

Ordinary 12

Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galations 3:23 – 29; Luke 8:26-39

10:30 am Wantage Libby Bolton

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 29th

Ordinary 13

1Kings 19:15,16,19-21 ; Psalm 16; Galations 5:1,13 – 25; Luke 8:26-39

10:30 am Wantage Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove Graham Luscombe

DIARY FOR JUNE

MAY

Tuesday 27 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p15
Thursday 29 th	7:30 pm	Getting to know you – Rev Bruce Thompson @ Wantage	p17

JUNE

Sunday 1st	3:00 pm	Circuit Service at Trinity Church Abingdon 150 th Anniversary Service	p3
	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p15
Monday 2 nd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Saturday 7 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p15
Monday 9 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p20
Wednesday 11 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council	
Saturday 14 th	9:30 am	Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop at Wantage	p5
Sunday 15th	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p17
Monday 16 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Tuesday 17 th	12 noon	In Conversation at Wallingford	p6/7
Thursday 19 th	7:30 pm	Grove Church Council	p15
Friday 20 th	7.30 pm	Grove Film Club	p15
Sunday 22nd		Deadline for Summer (July/August) Sector Newsletter	p2
Tuesday 24 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p15