

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

**GROVE
&
WANTAGE
METHODIST
NEWS**

The **Methodist** Church

Connexional
New Year



September 2025

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (October 2025) should be sent to the editor
by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 21st September**

email : 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

October	Sunday 21 st September
November	Sunday 19 th October
December / January	Sunday 23 th November

Lord, teach us to pray... (Luke 11:1)

Happy New Church Year!

Until a few months ago, I did not realise that a couple of prayer initiatives take place so close together in September. There is The Global Week of 24-7 Prayer which takes place from 1-7 September. During this time, the global church is encouraged to pray non-stop for every nation on earth and the event invites communities worldwide to unite in prayer. There is also the National Week of Prayer (NWoP), which runs from 6-14 September. This movement invites the Body of Christ, across the British Isles, to pray for each other, our leaders, our nation and the nations. In that week, we are encouraged to remember and discover the good things that God has done and continues to do in this country, with thanksgiving, worship and praise. I believe the timing of these prayer events is no coincidence and is significant. What a proper and effective way to begin the new church year – with, in and by prayer!

Why? Because prayer underpins everything we do as Christians. The old hymn by James Montgomery describes prayer as the “Christian’s vital breath” and “the Christian’s native air” and Martin Luther, the seminal figure of the Protestant Reformation said, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” These two quotes capture the essence of the indispensable role prayer plays in our lives. We step out not knowing what lies ahead but knowing full well that God promises to be with us as he leads us through the plans he has for us.

The new church year offers us a fresh start, a chance to recommit the challenges of the previous year to God, trusting that God will continue to be with us. It also offers a chance to embrace the opportunities that God has in store for us. One of the best ways to prepare ourselves for the coming year is through deepening prayer – seeking God’s wisdom, guidance, direction, blessings and peace as we enter a new chapter.

As Christians, prayer is one of our greatest weapons – “the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:16b) So, I urge us to take time to pray – to really pray. Let us begin this new year with prayer, “praying without ceasing” and “giving thanks in all circumstances,” for this is the will of Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5: 17-18)

As we enter a new church year, I pray that prayer will be our passion and prayer our practice. Even when you are unsure of how to pray or what to pray, the Holy Spirit, our help and guide, will intercede on your behalf and align your prayers with God’s will. (Romans 8: 26-27)

O you, by whom we come to God,
the life, the truth, the Way!
The path of prayer yourself have trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!

(StF 529)

Every blessing,

Georgina



For those unfamiliar with the concept we are inviting people to sign up for 1 hour (or more if you'd like to) slots – in pairs or in small groups – get your friends involved! 😊 We will be praying at St John's Church for 48 hours non-stop prayer from 7am on Friday **5th September to 7am on Sunday 7th September.**

Use the online sign-up tool unique to our prayer room which you can use to book time in the prayer room:

<https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/6d2229>

This September from 1st - 7th is the Global Week of 24-7 Prayer and the vision is simple but powerful: to see non-stop prayer in every nation on earth, lifting up the name of Jesus and asking God to move across the world. Non-stop prayer in every nation on earth.

Other events over the week:

Monday 1st September: 8 pm - 9.30 pm an evening of prayer and worship to start the week of prayer.

Wednesday 3rd September: we are hoping to hold an evening of worship at King Alfred's (TBC)

During the 48 hours of prayer we will be having some themed slots:

Friday 5th September: 6 pm – 8 pm for all our young people aged 11-18: an hour of prayer followed by pizza – please book online and let D or Rachel know if you're coming. Under 18s must be accompanied by their youth leader or responsible adult.

Saturday 6th September: 2 pm – 4 pm: a special time for pre-school and primary aged children (NB: this 2 hour slot maybe slightly noisier) – please book online and let D or Rachel know if you're coming. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

D - denise@wantagecc.org.uk - Rachel - r.e.hutchin@gmail.com>;

Denise Townsend is from the Wantage Community Church and Rachel Hutchins is from St John's in Grove

Circuit Meeting will meet at 7:30 pm on **Thursday 18th September** at Wantage in the Chapel.

Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop

The next session will be held on **Saturday 27th September**, arrive 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start. It will be in Wantage Methodist Church Hall.

Schools Prayer Group 2025-2026

Schools Prayer Group 4 - 5 pm 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 4 pm to 5 pm in the St John's Rooms, Grove.

- 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

SUSTAINABLE WANTAGE

The Community Larder is yet another part of this amazing organization.

The Larder is there to reduce food waste and create a community hub. It is based on a model developed by SOFEA whose work transforms people's lives by giving young people a purpose and by providing the support they need to flourish. (<https://www.sofea.uk.com/contact/>)

Anyone can join as an Individual for a £14 monthly subscription. This allows a member to collect up to 14 items each week. It is also possible to join as a family for a £28 monthly subscription. This allows a family to collect up to 28 items each week. There is also an initial joining fee of £10.

To sign up for Wantage Community Larder you need to go to the SOFEA website - <https://www.tfaforms.com/5002010>

From time to time there is a waiting list for the larder. If this is the case when you sign up you will be advised of this, please be assured members are added regularly so you will hopefully not be waiting long.

In Conversation
with
Sharon Booth

Executive Director and Founder of
Solutions Not Sides

Discussing Israel Palestine in schools
without resorting to conflict

Wallingford Methodist Church

12 noon—1.00pm

30 September 2025

Free Entry

Further details revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk



Wallingford Methodist Church In Conversation (future dates)

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.



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

REPORT OF OUR JUNE & JULY 2025 ACTIVITIES

In June one of our teams heard glass breaking on the street and found two large bottles on the road. Our team didn't see where they came from but spent 15 minutes clearing up the debris. Another night we cleared up glass near Betjeman Park and warned a dogwalker about it as they approached us. Several of our teams met a homeless man and his friend who was helping him. There is no provision for homeless people in Wantage and a place in Oxford suddenly became unavailable to him. We have some basic supplies for homeless people and were able to provide him with water, hot drinks and some food on several occasions. The man was able to stay with his friend on one occasion. We heard recently that he now has somewhere to live.

At midnight one night two young women asked our Street Pastors to walk a short distance home with them. We are always happy to provide that reassurance to those who need it.

On Saturday 21st June we put a gazebo up in the west end of the Market Place and handed out hot pasties to anyone who wanted one (we are affectionately known as Street Pasties by some people). We had first done this in celebration of our 15th anniversary in October 2024. It was so well received and such a good night that we wanted to do it again. Street Pastors from across our teams were joined by some of our Prayer volunteers and Trustees as we handed out 60 delicious pasties kindly donated by Sainsbury's.

Our afternoon team patrolled on 18th July - last day of term - to support young people making their way home as they start their school summer holidays.

Unusually, we gave a pair of flip-flops to a man whose wife had bought him a new pair of trainers that were absolutely killing him!

	June 2025	July 2025
Patrols	5	4
Hours	20	14
Flip-flops	0	3
Lollies	320	150
Water	42*	5

* Includes water given out with pasties on Saturday 21 June.

Coordinator: Nigel Watt

Mobile: 07554 655 594

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Website: wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Cornerstone News

August Newsletter

Lots to tell you this month. There are a number of events in the autumn to celebrate 30 years of Cornerstone and a special offer in the bookshop, keep reading...

Volunteer Dinner

We are very blessed to have so many brilliant volunteers. In July we put on a two course dinner followed by cake as a "Thank You" for all their hard work. It was a fun evening and more thanks go to Matt Morgan who made a delicious dinner!



Pay it forward

This summer we have handed out over 100 vouchers to local families so they can come in for a meal funded by our marble jar. If you want to contribute to this fund, go to our Stewardship online account:

www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/cornerstonecafeagroove

and choose "Marble Jar" in the project fund drop-down or ask at the till when you pay.

Saying Goodbye

I know our staff, volunteers and customers will be very sad to see James go next week. He'll be moving on to a new full-time job in Abingdon.

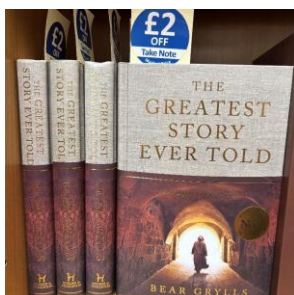
An evening with Patrick Regan OBE

We are thrilled be hosting Patrick Regan OBE at St John's Church on the evening of 20th September. Patrick is very passionate about mental health and has written a number of books drawing on his own experiences including "Honesty over Silence" and "Brighter Days". Patrick was awarded an OBE for service to young people.



Repairs to the Café Front

Finally we have got a date for the repairs, they started on Monday 18th August. We will have been shut for up to 5 days and will re-open on Saturday 3rd at the latest. Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates during the week.



Sunday Times No.1

Bear Grylls' book "The Greatest Story Ever Told" made the number one slot on the Sunday Times Bestseller list in July. If you've not picked up a copy yet, we have just restocked and they are now on offer at £12.99 (RRP £14.99)

30 Years of Cornerstone

It's been over thirty years now since John Barlow was given the keys to Cornerstone.

In November this year, 30 years after we opened, we will be holding a service to celebrate and thank God for his provision to us all these years. Everyone is welcome. If you have any memories or anecdotes from the 30 years, we would love to hear from you.

Prayer Breakfast

8.30 am on 13th September

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

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



The 2025 Methodist Conference, held at Telford International Centre:

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nations and the world.

Induction of the President and Vice-President for 2025/2026

The Revd Richard Andrew was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Mr Matthew Forsyth as Vice-President. They shared their theme of 'Our Story, Our Song' in their addresses to the Conference.

You can read both addresses in full here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/presidency/president-and-vice-president-2025-26/>

A digest of the business of Conference can be found at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/the-conference-2025-business-digest/>

and complete sessions at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/>

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference call on the UK Government to recognise Palestine as an Independent State

From the Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, President and Vice-President of the Conference.

We have been appalled and horrified by the pictures and first-hand witness accounts of the dire situation in Gaza, particularly around access to food for those existing there.

No-one could fail to be moved by the images of emaciated children and we have a moral duty to heed and act on the warnings from countless aid agencies of mass starvation and malnutrition.

We welcome the pause in military activity, but this is not enough. Red lines in international law have been crossed by the Israeli Government and they and Hamas must provide explicit acceptance of the right to peace, security and prosperity for all Israelis and Palestinians.

The Methodist Conference this year accepted a memorial (motion) from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Synod asking the Conference to write to the UK government urging it to recognise the independent state of Palestine, a position the Methodist Church has long held.

The motion stated that over the last twelve months, “the Israeli government has accelerated the seizure and annexation of Palestinian land, in violation of international law. This has implications not only for Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza who are forcibly displaced but also for any prospect of a future peace.”

The time is now right for the Government to take decisive action to recognise the state of Palestine, its right to self-determination, and to ensure safety for all its citizens across the West Bank and we urge them to do this without delay.

We ask the Methodist people to continue to pray for those caught up in the violence in Gaza who don’t know where their next meal is coming from. We also continue to pray for those in the West Bank who are living in constant fear of indiscriminate border closures and settler violence against them.

Prayer

Creator God, you breathed life into this world and us all. We long for an end to suffering in Gaza and pray for freedom for all your creation.
Give to those in authority wisdom to act decisively for the good of all, so that we may see a just and peaceful resolution in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel
In the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen.

New funerary methods as alternatives to burial and cremation

There is a consultation by the Law Commission relating to new funerary methods as alternatives to burial and cremation, for example alkaline hydrolysis or human composting: <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/new-funerary-methods/>

We are free to respond to the consultation individually.

The consultation closes on 4th September 2025. Due to summer holidays, the Methodist Church’s response will have been submitted sometime in mid-August.

GROVE

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The meeting on **Sunday, 7th September** from 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 6th September** from 10.00 am till 12 noon in the church. Proceeds are for Cancer Research U.K.. Our hosts for the morning are Rachel and Morgan. 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.

Film Club is on **Friday, 19th September** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing “The King’s Speech”.

This is a 2010 historical drama film directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler. Colin Firth plays the future King George VI who, to cope with a stammer, sees Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist played by Geoffrey Rush. The men become friends as they work together, and after his brother abdicates the throne, the new king relies on Logue to help him make his first wartime radio broadcast upon Britain’s declaration of war on Germany in 1939.

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

Tuesday Fellowship is on **Tuesday, 30th September** at 2.15 pm. Details of speaker and venue will be in the weekly notice sheet nearer the time. Do join us if you can. All are welcome.

Schools Prayer Group 2025/26: 4 – 5 pm at St John’s Rooms, Parish Church, Grove. First Meeting is on 24th September. They 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 at johnmwilson2012@gmail.com or Helen Harwood at andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk (see also p8)

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 July Coffee Morning for “Helen & Douglas House” in Oxford. Donations amounted to £239. Thank you.

Unfortunately the August Coffee Morning had to be cancelled at the last minute. Instead, a collection *in lieu* of the cancelled August Coffee raised £170 for MHA. Thank you for contributing so generously. Roger and Margaret Bett.

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.

Film Club - suggested films for showing

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

Comments are welcome.

Friday 17th October Bend It Like Beckham (2022, 112 min)

is a 2002 sports comedy-drama film directed by Gurinder Chadha from a screenplay by Chadha, Paul Mayeda Berges, and Guljit Bindra. The film stars Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightly, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Anupam Kher, Juliet Stevenson, Shaznay Lewis and Archie Panjabi. In *Bend It Like Beckham*, Jesminder Bhamra (Nagra) and Jules Paxton (Knightley) chase careers in professional football despite their parents' wishes.

Friday 21st November Deep in My Heart (1999, 90 min)

is an American drama television film directed by Anita W. Addison. It stars Anne Bancroft and Lynn Whitfield. It is based on a true story. The film was broadcast on CBS on February 14th, 1999. Bancroft received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or Movie for her role at the 51st Primetime Emmy Awards.

Friday 12th December Nativity! 2: Danger in the Manger! (2012, 105 min)

is a 2012 British Christmas comedy film written and directed by Debbie Isitt, an improvised Christmas comedy and the second instalment in the *Nativity* film series. The film focuses on Donald Peterson, an anxious primary school teacher, who embarks on a wild and heartwarming adventure with his class and teaching assistant, the childlike Mr Poppy, as they travel to Wales to perform in a Christmas singing competition.

Friday 16th January The Courier (2020, 111min)

is a historical spy film directed by Dominic Cooke and written by Tom O'Connor. The film stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Greville Wynne, and is based on the true story of a British businessman who was recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service to be a message conduit with Russian spy source Oleg Penkovsky (played by Merab Ninidze) in the 1960s. Rachel Brosnahan, Jessie Buckley, and Angus Wright also star.

Friday 20th February Phantom of the Open (2021, 12A, 102 min)

The heart-warming true story of Maurice Flitcroft, who entered the 1976 Open despite never playing a round of golf before. The extraordinary story of an ordinary man, The Phantom Of The Open is an uplifting and moving comedy drama about pursuing your dreams and shooting for the stars, no matter what hand you're dealt. In June 2020, Mark Rylance joined the cast of the film. In October 2020, Sally Hawkins, Rhys Ifans, Jake Davies, Christian Lees, Jonah Lees, Mark Lewis Jones and Johann Myers, joined the cast of the film

Friday 20th March Bugsy Malone (1976, 116 min)

is a gangster musical comedy film written and directed by Alan Parker (in his feature film directorial debut). A co-production of the United States and United Kingdom, it features an ensemble cast, comprising only child actors playing adult roles, with Jodie Foster, Scott Baio, and John Cassisi in major roles. The film tells the story of the rise of "Bugsy Malone" and the battle for power between "Fat Sam" and "Dandy Dan".

Friday 17th April 23 Walks (2020, 102 min)

is a complex, tender and heart-warming comedy drama about finding love later in life. Dave (Dave Johns) and Fern (Alison Steadman), two older strangers, have been bruised by their individual circumstance. They meet walking their dogs in a North London park, and over the course of twenty-three walks together the romance begins to blossom. But Dave and Fern haven't been completely honest with one another and their future together may be threatened by the secrets they have withheld.

Friday 15th May The Good Lie (2014, 12a, 110 min)

A group of Sudanese refugees, given the chance to resettle in the U.S., arrive in Kansas City, Missouri, where their encounter with an employment agency counselor forever changes all of their lives.

Friday 19th June Yesterday (2018, 105 min)

is a jukebox musical romantic comedy film directed by Danny Boyle and written by Richard Curtis based on a story by Jack Barth and Curtis. Himesh Patel stars as struggling musician Jack Malik, who suddenly finds himself as the only person who remembers the Beatles and becomes famous for performing their songs. The film also stars Lily James, Joel Fry, Ed Sheeran, and Kate McKinnon.

Friday 17th July One Life (2023, 110 min)

is a 2023 biographical drama film directed by James Hawes. Based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton, the film alternates between following Anthony Hopkins as a 79-year old Winton reminiscing on his past, and Johnny Flynn as a 29-year old Winton who successfully helps 669 predominantly Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938–39, just before the beginning of World War II. Helena Bonham Carter, Lena Olin, Romola Garai, Alex Sharp and Jonathan Pryce co-star in supporting roles.

- **OTHER SUGGESTIONS**

- **Ford v Ferrari** (2018 152 min)

is a 2019 American biographical sports drama film directed by James Mangold and written by Jez Butterworth. The plot follows a determined team of American and English engineers and designers to build a race car to defeat the perennially dominant Italian racing team

- **The Queen** (2006, 98 min)

is a 2006 docudrama film directed by Stephen Frears and written by Peter Morgan. The film depicts the death of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997. The royal family regards Diana's death as a private affair and thus not to be treated as an official royal death, in contrast with the views of Prime Minister Tony Blair and Diana's ex-husband, Prince Charles, who favour the general public's desire for an official expression of grief. Matters are further complicated by the media, royal protocol regarding Diana's official status, and wider issues about republicanism.

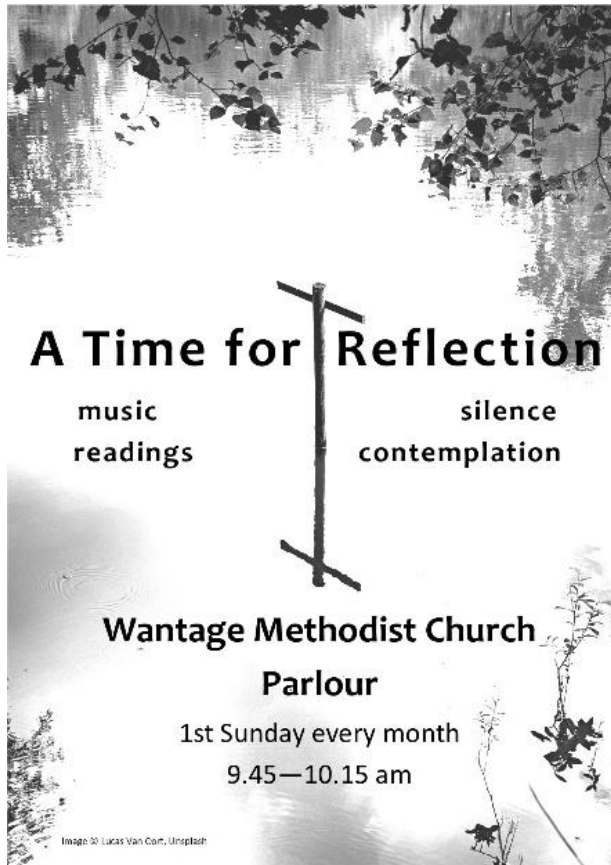
- **Dark Waters** (2019, 126 min)

is a 2019 American legal thriller film directed by Todd Haynes and written by Mario Correa and Matthew Michael Carnahan. The story dramatizes Robert Bilott's case against the chemical manufacturing corporation DuPont after they contaminated a town with unregulated chemicals. It stars Mark Ruffalo as Bilott, along with Anne Hathaway, Tim Robbins, Bill Camp, Victor Garber, Mare Winningham, William Jackson Harper, and Bill Pullman.

WANTAGE

A Time for Reflection

Jane Kent and Helen Carter



From September on the first Sunday of the month we will 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.

Dates - **September 7th, October 5th, November 2nd and December 7th.**

Everyone welcome!

A prayer that God's message dwell within us

Loving God,
May all that we learn
from you and alongside one another,
challenge and transform our thoughts, words and deeds.

May your message dwell richly in our hearts.

May it be treasured.

May it pour out from us in expressions of praise, proclamation and protest.

Help us to listen to all who have been marginalised
to hear what cannot be spoken.

Prepare us for the times when your message will pierce and break our hearts.

Change us as we join in your work as your body here on earth.

In the name of the One who came as Teacher, Justice Seeker and Defender of the Oppressed. Amen.

Julie Coates, Deputy District Chair, Sheffield District

With memories of the two special Sundays, on which we celebrated with much gratitude, Liz and Keith's nine years with us, we now move into the new Methodist year ahead. The same warmth with which we expressed our thanks, good wishes and love to Keith and Liz, we now offer in welcome to Bruce and Karen at the beginning of their important role within our church family.

We hope, with confident assurance, that the three years in which Bruce will lead us as our minister, we can joyfully continue our Christian journey together. We pray that God will bless this time, and all that we share in worship and service within our church, our community and wider afield.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in our church family's celebratory lunch on 6th July. It was an occasion of great joy, lovely food, much fun and the handover of very generous gifts to Keith and Liz, - £1000 to help Keith upgrade his golf equipment, and £200 of Theatre tokens to Liz, plus a rosebush for the new garden - maybe something by which they will remember us if it flourishes!

One of our much earlier ministers, Peter Jarvis, died within a few weeks of his 100th birthday. Those of us who remember Peter, appreciated the opportunity of participating in his funeral service via Zoom. We learned so much about Peter's life and ministry from the current minister of the church in Exeter, where he and Irene lived for many years. Perhaps the best comment amongst the record of his many achievements, was that Peter epitomised all the revered characteristics of being "one of Mr Wesley's preachers".

During our newsletter summer break in which we would usually record current pastoral concerns amongst our church family, Gloria Smith experienced a worrying period health-wise. We pray that Gloria will grow stronger as she recovers from her heart attack in early July, and assure her of our thoughts and love.

There's much good news of our young people to share. Audrey Osei Akowuah has gained excellent A-level grades which meet the requirement sent by the university of Cambridge. So as she heads there this month, we offer Audrey our congratulations, and every good wish for her time as an undergraduate. Jane Kent's three children are all at exciting points in their education. Having done very well in her GCSE exams, Alice begins A-level courses in Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Didcot sixth form. Having achieved a distinction in her Art and Design Diploma at Oxford College, Emily is about to begin a course in Costume Design for Film and Television at Falmouth University. James enters his final year at Bristol UWE studying Filmmaking, after spending some of the summer vacation walking solo the 770 kilometre French route of the Camino across Northern Spain. Our congratulations and prayers for all of them as they undertake new stages of their educational journeys.

Earlier in the year we recorded with sadness that Diane Barton has left Wantage to live in a Care Home near to her daughter Claire in Taunton. At Claire's request, we have received the beautiful framed cross stitch picture which Diane spent very many hours creating at the time of the new millennium. We will, for a period, display this in the front vestibule, before offering it to Wantage Museum, and we remember with

affection all of Diane's and Mervyn's devoted service to our church over many decades.

Sometimes, people who would like to worship with us are deterred from attending because their mobility problems make it too difficult. Please make anyone in this position aware of there being two wheelchairs available for their use.

Bruce is currently leading a series of training sessions to help everyone in the Circuit who is willing to participate in the preparation of local arrangement services. Our reduction to just two Presbyters within the Circuit from this September necessitates more L A Services each quarter for churches across the Circuit. Not everyone may wish to be part of the delivery of these services, but may feel drawn to helping in their preparation. Be assured that when such planning meetings are set up, everyone is welcome to attend and to feel part of the group involved with the service. There is a similar invitation regarding the training sessions which Bruce is leading.

.....and finally, in our efforts to facilitate contact between all of us, and to know the best person to approach about specific areas of church activities, we have produced the 2025 edition of the Church Directory. In addition, the Who's Who board in the Link Corridor has been updated. Hopefully, the photos make it easier to put faces to names, and who to contact about all aspects of our church life. We'll try to keep the light on in this passageway as it isn't very well lit. Some directories have been delivered already, and everyone will receive their copy very soon. We cannot leave them available for picking up yourself because of the confidential information they contain, so every family will have a named copy. Please remember to let me know if your home or email address, or your landline or mobile phone number changes, so that we can keep the directory updated.

Please pray for

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Caroline, Carol Mackinder,
Doug & Anne Hatto, Edwina, Eileen, Emma Wright & family, Findley,
Geoff, Gill, Gloria Smith, Hunter, Jade, Jane Robinson,
Jane & Emma Soffe & family, John & Jo, June G, June Hartle,
Ken and Grace Wright, Lucas & family, Mary Spalding, Meriel, Norma, Peter,
Richard & Anne, Richard in York, Sharon, Sue, Terry & Deborah, Sonia, Tony G,
Trudy, Val Broadbent, Vic Press, the Rowe family, 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

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.

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.

Thank you

We (June and Alan Grunwald) would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and support we have received over the last year. It has been a difficult year waiting for a diagnosis. In October I was finally diagnosed with secondary breast cancer and was informed that although the cancer was not curable it would become manageable. I am now pleased to say that the worst side effects to the cancer and the treatment have abated. Although not back to "normal" I am gradually able to manage some of the activities I enjoyed a year ago. It has been a testing year and having support and prayers from our church family and friends has been hugely important to us. We are very grateful.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

Following a summer break, this open and friendly group will recommence meeting for Prayer and Bible Study on each Tuesday at 2 pm in the Parlour.

During September we will be beginning one of the Life-builder Bible Studies entitled Women of the Old Testament.

Dates for September are as follows:

2 nd	The First Woman – A Far-reaching Choice	Reading: Genesis 3:1-13
9 th	Sarah & Hagar – Waiting for God to Act	Reading: Genesis 16; 18:1-15
16 th	Miriam – A Critical Spirit	Reading: Numbers 12
23 rd	Rahab – A Woman of Faith	Reading: Joshua 2; 6:15-25
30 th	Ruth – The Cost of Loyalty	Reading: Ruth:1-2

Please feel free to join us. 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

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 July our theme was Luke 10:38-41 (Martha and Mary). I am very grateful to Helen and John Carter who led this session at very short notice as I was unwell. In August our theme was Luke 5:1-11 (The calling of the first disciples). In September our theme will be Harvest. In October we will look at Psalm 66. In November we will have more of a service to mark Remembrance.

I am pleased to say that my energy levels are gradually returning and I have been able to visit residents on an ad hoc basis once again. I drop in to see those who come to bible study and also others who might appreciate a chat.

Kids@church

Jane, Dave, Cath

In **September** we will meet on **21st** at 9.30 am in the hall.

New children (and their parents/ carers) are always welcome at this monthly informal service on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 9.30 to 10.15 am.

For more information about Kids@Church please give Jane a call on 07443 420205.

Harvest Festival

Our harvest festival this year is on **September 28th** at 10:30 am and will be led by Rev Bruce Thompson. The chapel will be decorated in the morning of 27th September.

Please see the weekly notices for more details.

Community Café

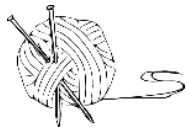
Carolyn Roche

Despite some very hot weather, we have enjoyed welcoming regular and new visitors to the café throughout the summer. Many thanks to all the volunteers and cake makers who have made this possible. Thank you to our new volunteer but we would love to hear from anyone else who feels they would like to help us occasionally as tea/coffee makers, or chatting with visitors or making the occasional cake. As autumn begins, we will be open as usual each Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. There is no charge for refreshments, but people are welcome to make a donation to the current charity that we are supporting. From September we will be collecting for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Do come and join us (and bring a friend) for coffee, cake, cheese scones and conversation.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche



It has been a glorious summer but rather warm for knitting. As autumn begins, and the weather cools a little, I am hoping that my output of angels will increase. We continue to meet in the hall on the first and third Mondays of the month. The dates are **Monday 1st September** and

Monday 15th September.

As usual we will have a break for tea and biscuits (sometimes cake!). 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.

Food Bank

Helen Carter

As ever, many thanks to all those who donate to the food bank through the many outlets where there are collection boxes - including the surgeries now. The box at church is available for items of course. The latest request from the food bank is for items that they are currently needing to purchase the most - namely, soup, jam, sugar (small bags), and any vegetables (except no peas please). There seems to be a good stock currently of cereals and hygiene items. Money can be donated too as there are some volunteers who regularly need to buy foods that are needed to make up appropriate food parcels to be taken out to those in need. Please could you give the church treasurer any money that you wish to donate to the food bank. Thank you.

Riders & Striders

Clive & Alison Phillips

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust annual fundraising event "Riders & Striders" will this year be on **Saturday September 13th**, when most of the churches in Oxfordshire including in Oxford will be open to greet visitors. This is a good opportunity for church members to look around other churches and, if they are sponsored, to raise money for their church and the OHCT. The OHCT provides grants for repair and refurbishment of churches and Wantage Methodist Church has benefitted from this in the past. Our church will be open and we hope members will volunteer to "mind" the church and sign-in visitors. Church-sitters too can be sponsored and thus raise money. If you would like to know more, or want to "Ride & Stride", or to church-sit, please speak to one of us.

Care for the Buildings

There will be a meeting for all interested in the care of the premises on **Thursday 25th September** at 7:30 pm.

Please come along and help us look after the chapel (now 10 years after restoration) and the hall (now 33 years old!!).

Christmas Tree Festival – a date for your diary

Carolyn Roche

Once again we will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival to coincide with Dickensian Evening. The dates this year are **Friday 5th to Sunday 7th December**. Please can you put the dates in your diary and be thinking if you can help in anyway. There are many ways to help including setting up in chapel and hall, making and/or serving refreshments, church sitting, organising the cake stall. The charity we are supporting this year is the Alzheimer's Society. Please get in touch with me if you need more information or are available to help. (07906518323 ciroche48@hotmail.com)

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 Choirs		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	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

Other Bookings in September

18 th	Circuit Meeting	evening	Chapel
25 th	Property Consultation	evening	Parlour
27 th	Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop	morning	Hall
27 th	Harvest Preparation	morning	Chapel

SERVICES during SEPTEMBER

September

Sunday 7th September

Ordinary 23

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Stephen Atkinson

6:30 pm Grove

Praying for Revival

Sunday 14th September Education Sunday

Ordinary 24

Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

10:30 am Wantage

Libby Bolton

10:30 am Grove

Ian Sturt

Sunday 21st September Peace Sunday

Ordinary 25

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Libby Hawkness-Smith

10:30 am Grove

Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 28th September

Ordinary 26

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; 1 Timothy 6:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

10:30 am Wantage

Harvest Festival

Rev Bruce Thompson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Rev John Anderson

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Saturday 6 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p4
Sunday 7th	9:45 am	Time for Reflection	p15
	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p11
Monday 8 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p19
Monday 15 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Thursday 18 th	12 noon	In Conversation at Wallingford	p6
	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Wantage	p5
Friday 19 th	7:30 pm	Grove Film Club	p11
Sunday 21st	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p19

Deadline for October Newsletter

Wednesday 24 th	4:00 pm	School Prayer Group at St John's Rooms, Grove	p5
Saturday 27 th	9:30/10 am	Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop at Wantage	p5
Sunday 28th	10:30 am	Wantage Harvest Festival	p20
Tuesday 30 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p11