

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



November 2024

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (December/January) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 17th November 2024**

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

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Sunday Services and Church Activities

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

CGW News Contribution deadline dates – 2024

December/January Sunday 17th November

CGW News Contribution deadline dates – 2025

February Sunday 19th January
March Sunday 16th February
April Sunday 23rd March
May Sunday 27th April
June Sunday 18th May
July/August Sunday 22nd June

From the Manse.....

One of the most moving and powerful novels I have read this year is "In Memorium" by Alice Winn. It is set during the horrors and brutality of the First World War and follows the lives of several young men (no more than boys really) from a public school who sign up and how they fair in the randomness and lottery of warfare. It is beautifully written and even in the midst of the incessant violence, there are moments of beauty, love, honour, sacrifice and care.

As this month we prepare to remember those who made that ultimate sacrifice and together declare that "we will remember them", I came across these words from Malcolm Guite who I have, from time to time, quoted before.

"As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I am reposting this sonnet about the two minutes silence..... So here is how it came to be written. On Remembrance Day I was at home listening to the radio and when the time came for the Two Minutes Silence, suddenly the radio itself went quiet. I had not moved to turn the dial or adjust the volume. There was something extraordinarily powerful about that deep silence from a 'live' radio, a sense that, alone in my kitchen, I was sharing the silence with millions. I stood for the two minutes, and then, suddenly, swiftly, almost involuntarily, wrote this sonnet."

Silence

*November pierces with its bleak remembrance
Of all the bitterness and waste of war.
Our silence tries but fails to make a semblance
Of that lost peace they thought worth fighting for.
Our silence seethes instead with wraiths and whispers,
And all the restless rumour of new wars,
The shells are falling all around our vespers,
No moment is unscarred, there is no pause,
In every instant bloodied innocence
Falls to the weary earth, and whilst we stand
Quiescence ends again in acquiescence,
And Abel's blood still cries in every land
One silence only might redeem that blood
Only the silence of a dying God."*

May we never forget and always remember.

With much love and God bless

Keith

Childrey Methodist Chapel Final service at Childrey.

There was a great turn out for the final and closing service at Childrey Methodist Church on Sunday 13th October, with past ministers and worshippers coming back to join with those from around the Circuit alongside our friends from St Mary's Parish Church to celebrate over 200 years of Methodist presence in the village.

It is right that we say a special and more personal thank you to Angie, Collin, Fran and Kevin for all their hard work, commitment and dedication in keeping the chapel going for so long.

As has been said all along, this is not to be the end of the Chapel as we look to the future and seek to discern how this building might be used within the life of the community as a sign of God's grace, love and mercy. This is what we will be asking over the coming weeks and months in order that we might discover God's will for the future.

It is our intention to ask this question not only amongst ourselves but also within the wider community of Childrey itself. So, if you have ideas as to what the next chapter might be or a vision as to how this building could be utilised, then please let us know. To this end we are in consultation with the Northampton Methodist District and its mission enabling team as together we listen and seek guidance from God as to what new thing he is seeking to do.

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. In October our reading was John 21:1-8. On 11th November there will be a Remembrance style service, as it proved popular with other residents at Elmbrook last year. Sad to say one of the regular bible study members, Isabella, passed away in October. Isabella and her family appreciated the bible study and are going to see if they can gift a prayer table, cross and bible to the care home.

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. I wore my Community Chaplain jacket for the first time, which was admired by the group and has also already proved useful as a talking point to relatives who visit.

Stepping Out with Noah

The dates for the rest of the walks for this Connexional year are

12th January 2025 at 2:00 pm 9th February at 2:00 pm

23rd March at 2:30 pm 27th April at 2:30 pm

25th May at 2:30 pm 15th June at 2:30 pm

Can you help lead Sunday worship?

Your local church
needs those who will lead the congregation
in prayer, song and reflection



If you think you might help

**or if you just want to know what
this might involve**

**Join Rev Bruce on a Zoom call
on
Thursday 21 November at 7.30pm
The meeting will end at 8.30pm**

**Contact Bruce on
revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk
for more details**

There is an increasing number of Local Arrangements on Sunday mornings because fewer Local Preachers and Ministers are available for all the acts of worship across the Wantage & Abingdon Circuit. Therefore, we are inviting members to consider if they might feel able to help out. The requirement would be to engage in a workshop or two in the new year to help explore the possibility of joining others in leading an occasional Sunday morning service. However, it would be really helpful to know something of what is required. With this in mind Bruce Thompson is holding an hour-long Zoom on Thursday 21st November at 7.30pm. Anyone who feels they might want to hear more of what this might entail is invited to join in. There is no commitment to this, other than interest at this stage.

For the Zoom passcode please email Bruce on revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk

Grove and Wantage Schools Prayer Group September 2024

General Prayer Points

- Open the Book: taking Bible stories to children in schools. Please pray for the existing teams and schools where this works well, and for the ability (people, time and energy!) to reach more schools. One of the Open the book team was taken ill and taken to hospital. He is doing better; please pray for his recovery. Please also pray for more volunteers to do Open the Book. It's a quite early start but not a large commitment, it's 8.30 am on selected dates.
- Prayer Spaces: for the continuation of the permanent Prayer Space in King Alfred's, especially now Jane is no longer there. Praise God for a brilliant Prayer Space in St James, East Hanney in June.
- Schools Chaplaincy, the ability to continue the good relationships that have been built up with school leaders.
- Strength and encouragement for Christian teachers and governors.
- Wisdom for school leadership balancing budgets between staffing and buildings.
- Children with mental health problems or SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). Please pray for them, and for the schools as they work to give good provision for each child.
- The growth of links between churches and schools in the area. Links between individual Christians who are concerned for schools; for the growth of prayer and the discernment of God's will.
- Please pray for the proposed merger between Faringdon Learning Trust (FLT) and Vale Academy Trust (VAT).
- Please pray for us as we continue this group this academic year, and for us to be able to develop personal links with our local schools. John is not with us today but has committed to pray for schools. Others who cannot attend the group are welcome to pray at this, or at any time, for schools.

Millbrook Primary School in Grove

Kate Newcomb

- Our Premises Team – dealing with the issues caused by the heavy rainfall we keep getting
- All staff – as we deal with this busy time of the school year!
- Our new children settling in to school and nursery
- Last year's Year 6 settling in to their secondary schools
- One of our Year 6 children who lost her mum at the end of Term 6

Chaplaincy Partnership

Sarah Shackleton

- The original proposal to have a Christian chaplain to the local schools is currently on hold: an application for funding from the District Council ("Section 106" money coming from the Wellington Gate developers) was turned down earlier this year.
- Funds may be available from the Diocese of Oxford, but that needs a new application, and it looks like we need much wider funding input. I am awaiting some feedback and guidance from the diocesan development fund, but though personally I am reluctant to abandon the project, I am wondering whether we need to get some wider community buy-in, and whether that needs more on the ground work, and more critically whether that will move it further away from the chaplaincy idea and closer to stand-alone youth work.
- So, prayers for wisdom and discernment over the next month or so would be greatly appreciated.

St Blaise CE (Milton Heights)

Jane Robinson

- Thanks for good start to new term with the new head settling in
- New "rules", refreshed "vision" – Be kind: Be safe: Be ready
- Several staff with difficult home situations
- Balancing the budget with the fall in numbers
- Several long serving staff who are hoping to move away in the near future

St James School, Hanney

Alec Gill

- Please pray for St James as a new school year starts
- Pray for the new beginnings and for good relationships

Grove CE

Colin Moulds

- Grove C of E Primary School has been informed that it will have an OFSTED inspection 24th–25th September
- Please pray for the head, staff and governors that they will not get stressed but be able to show all the good things the school does
- Please pray for the inspectors that they will treat everyone with kindness and respect and see the good the school is doing
- Lastly please pray that the outcome will be positive and helpful as the school continues its recovery and development after COVID

- Please pray for all those who are currently having issues or school refusing
- And for all staff who work so hard to ensure children are included and helped even when school-refusing

Next Meeting

4 pm – 5 pm, Wednesday, 22nd January 2025, in the St John's Rooms, Grove Parish Church.

Feel free to share this summary of prayer points with your churches and fellowships. We welcome anyone who feels moved to pray for our schools.

We would love to build up more links with people who are involved in the local schools as parents, staff, or governors, so that we can pray in an informed way. If you could be involved in this way, or know someone who could, please do let us know.

For more information, please contact one of us using the email addresses below.

John Wilson *johnmwilson2012@gmail.com*

Helen Harwood *andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk*

From Peter Hemmings

My granddaughters recently visited the military cemetery where their great-great-grandfather is buried. They used the following prayer:

A Prayer for an ancestor buried in a military cemetery

I thank you for this opportunity to visit this place so close to a field of battle. I thank you for the gift of life which we have received through our family. Today I stand before the grave of my great-great grandfather _____ who was killed near here a long time ago so far away from home and his family.

Whether we are alive or dead you are the God who created us and loves us all.

I thank you that this is now a place of peace and ask that wherever there is fighting, peace may come.

Amen.

White Poppies

Some of us wear white poppies along with our red ones as we lead up to Remembrance Day. These poppies were first introduced in the 1930s by women who felt that there was a better way forward than going to war. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is much more than that and needs to be worked for. The Peace Pledge Union today seeks to work for a lasting peace. If you would like to do more, just search for the Peace Pledge Union online or ask Helen Carter to give you more information. If you would like to wear a white poppy, Helen has some to sell at the fixed price of £1 each. Please be in touch if you would like one.

Cornerstone News – November 2024



Advent

Advent Sunday is December 1st and we have a selection of



books suitable for study during the Advent period. We also have a large selection of advent calendars – traditional and chocolate. Advent candles continue to be a very popular way to mark the count down and we have the traditional dinner candles with the names of Jesus on them in Red or Ivory and freestanding pyramid shaped candles also in Red or Ivory.

Christmas

We now have in stock a good selection of Christmas cards, calendars, and diaries, including the ever-popular Hannah Dunnett range of cards and calendars

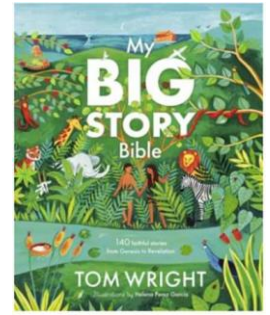
We also have items suitable for gifts as well as decorations for the tree or table. In the bookshop we have lots of children's books of the Christmas story including some activity books and board books.

Christmas lunches

Christmas lunches are booking up fast and if you have a specific date in mind do contact us to book – a £10 per person deposit is required on booking. Christmas lunches will be served on Wednesday 4th, Friday 6th, Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Monday 16th December. **The last day for bookings and menu choices is 15th November.** On other dates in December, we will have our Christmas specials menu running alongside our normal menu. It is a good idea to book a table if you intend to come to lunch in December as it does get very busy.

Take Note

We have a new Take Note promotion running until the end of November, it includes the winning books from the Christian Booksellers and Suppliers Conference in September so do come along and browse the shelves.



Make and Bake



Our Make and Bake sessions for Under 5s continues to run every Tuesday in term time – 9.30 to 11 am. £2 per child includes activities and drink – no need to book, just come along. We now also have a selection of surplus food items on offer to families that has been organized by Grow – the local charity who run baby groups around the area. A new selection of food arrives each week on Tuesday, so do

pick some up when you come to Make & Bake.

Monthly hot meal special

This month's meal will be served on Wednesday 27th November at 12.30 pm – please do 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 9th November** at 8.30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

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

Sustainable Wantage

Jo Harvey

A huge thank you for letting Sustainable Wantage use your Church Halls in Wantage and Grove on Saturday. They are both fantastic venues and we very much enjoyed having our events there, here's how we got on:

Clothes Swaps, Wantage:

61 people attended the swaps, with a few extras coming just to drop off items (thank you Keith!)

Overall we swapped 68.5 kgs of clothes and 35 kgs of books / toys / equipment and passed on a further 95 kgs of clothes and 38 kgs of books / toys / equipment to charity shops.

Giving us a total of 236 kgs of stuff put back into circulation.

International Repair Day event, Grove:

We looked at 26 items from 19 people

9 got fixed on the day

6 are still in progress (needing parts or further investigation)

7 had advice given on how to proceed

2 were not fixable

1 item we weren't able to investigate as it didn't have all its parts and 1 Hoover switched on first time and didn't need any help!



Additionally 10 tools, from knives to garden loppers, were sharpened.

Some photos from the Repair afternoon. South and Vale Climate and Biodiversity communications team


came over to do a video at the Clothes Swap so you might spot that somewhere sometime!



It was particularly lovely to meet some of the Grove congregation at the Repair Cafe, I hope they enjoyed coming along.

Jo Harvey, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Wantage


'For a Time' exhibition and film




FOR A TIME

An exhibition of photographs exploring the story of North Devon's response and welcome to sanctuary seekers placed into Ilfracombe' for a time'.

MADE IN PARTNERSHIP BY

 Pickwell Foundation
FOR PEOPLE & PLANET

Toby Adamson
PHOTOGRAPHER / CAMERAMAN

 THE SALVATION ARMY North Devon

For a time between the late winter of 2022 and early summer 2023 the Dilkhusa Grand Hotel, on Ilfracombe's sea-front was used by the Home Office as part of the Asylum Dispersal initiative to lessen the impact on the towns and cities of the south-east of England.

Realising this would bear some impact on the town, the local authority engaged The Pickwell Foundation to coordinate a response to support the guests placed into the hotel. Along the way many local organisations, community groups and individuals responded by offering time and space and resources to make that support possible.

One of these generous individuals was Toby Adamson, a photographer with years of experience documenting events and stories from all around the world. He gave his time to capture some of the story, and the images included in this exhibition are the results of these months of work. Toby is a skilled craftsman and so the images you see are entirely authentic – nothing staged or set up but rather genuine insights into moments of joy and grief, pain and connection.

The reasons for putting together the exhibition are two-fold. Firstly, to celebrate and remember a moment in our community's history that exemplified compassion, welcome and kindness. But perhaps more important is the second – to demonstrate that this sort of response is possible in other communities. That they too may discover the assets and resources that are already present to enable a meaningful response and consequently be enriched by the experience.

In Conversation

with

Professor Beverley Clack

Wallingford Methodist Church

St Leonard's Square, OX10 0AS

12 noon—1.00 pm, 19 November 2024

Bev Clack is Professor Emerita in Philosophy of Religion at Oxford Brookes University and senior Research Fellow at the Farmington Institute, Harris Manchester College, Oxford.



In consumer economies, success has increasingly been defined in terms of material attainment and the achievement of status. This model of 'the good life' and its formulas for success ignore the haunting possibility that one may not succeed and as a result be deemed 'a failure'. *How to be a Failure and Still Live Well* explores that often neglected theme of failure, not just as the opposite of achievement, but also, and more importantly, how it has been conflated with loss: that which haunts all transient, mortal human experience.

Further details from revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk or 01235 813242

Copies of Bev's books will be on sale in partnership with Wallingford Bookshop

CHILDREY

Childrey Methodist Chapel - A collection of memories

The record of the Centenary celebrations of 1949

The centenary celebrations of Childrey Methodist Church were held on Thursday, October 20, 1949. The visiting preacher was the Reverend W Russell Shearer MA, the Chairman of the Stoke-on-Trent and Macklesfield District.

A large company from the Circuit and visitors from Faringdon gathered for the afternoon service when a fine exposition of the parable of the good Samaritan was given by the preacher.

A generous tea was served in the room to many friends during which an old scholar Mr A E Rolland of Upton gave a deeply moving account of his early life at Childrey telling of his spiritual conversion to the Christian faith and membership of Childrey Methodist Church.

More friends gathered for the evening rally to hear the Rev. W Russell Shearer who delivered a challenging message on the subject 'What it means to be a Methodist'. Prayer was offered by the Rev J Leslie Hall of Didcot. The Superintendent Minister, the Rev Norman A Priestley, welcomed the visitors and expressed greetings from the Circuit and all who contributed to the success of the celebrations. The chairman, Mr A E Roland spoke of the great debt he owed to Childrey Methodism and urged the company to be loyal to Christ and his church.

As a practical token of his indebtedness Mr Roland gave to the offertory a magnificent gift of £100. One pound for each year of Christian witness and work. During the evening Miss M. M. A. Moon, B.A., a descendent of a pioneer Methodist of Childrey and herself an old scholar, gave the following account of early Methodism in Childrey: -

Methodism was introduced here by Squire Thomas Bush whose parents had both been born in the village. Thomas Bush who is living at Lambourn had become an ardent Methodist. Childrey was one of the first places where he attempted to introduce Methodism. Accordingly in 1809 he brought Mr Mitchell an earnest preacher to the village. They asked the use of Mr. Bunce's yard to hold a service and approached William Kent the baker for the use of his wagon to serve as the pulpit. Kent replied that if he become a Methodist he would offend all the farmers in the Parish, also that he baked on Sundays, gaining more that day than any other day in the week. However, he listened, was converted, gave up Sunday baking and became a loyal supporter. Mr. Bush read the rules of Methodism and formed the Society which he often referred to later as one of the most steady and consistent he knew.

Persecution soon arose. On occasion Mr Bunce and Mr Mitchell were summoned the one for permitting, the other for conducting Divine Worship in a

place unlicensed by law. That was remedied and in September 1810 an empty cottage belonging to Kent was licensed. On Sunday, October 14 the Rector sent the Parish Constable to demand the license. Kent replied that if the clergyman would call next day, he should see it. He did so and found it in order. The house was licensed perhaps the preacher was licensed but were the people licensed to pray? Ordinarily the Sunday worship consisted of a service with a sermon in the afternoon, and a public prayer meeting in the evening.

On Sunday evening October 21, 1810 Lawrence Belcher and Margaret Partridge (the Rector's servant) and the Constable presented themselves at the prayer meeting and later on were witnesses for the prosecution. William Kent, William Franklin and others prayed. Those two were indicted under an act of 1670 which said "All who should preach or teach otherwise than according to the liturgy of the Church of England in any company of more than five persons should be fined £20 and all attending five shillings. In later years the Act had been modified for all who are licensed to preach. The case was heard in October 27 and went against the Methodists. Kent refused to pay his fine and one of his horses was taken and sold for that purpose. Kent was distressed because it was the "Gospel Horse" which had earned that name because he regularly sent it to meet the appointed preachers. However, the horse was bought by a well-wisher, returned to Kent and carried on the good work as the "Gospel Horse". Kent was not satisfied with a verdict and appealed to the Sessions but, getting no redress there, carried the case to the Court of the King's Bench where the early proceedings were quashed and the fine returned, also the Act was speedily amended. Thomas Bush was greatly interested in the trial and spent both time and money to help.

On one occasion the clergyman's house caught fire. Kent and his family were foremost in helping to put it out. The Rector said to Kent "I know thou art a Christian for them doest good to thine enemies."

In 1810 Jonathan Legg left Childrey for Letcombe Bassett and helped to introduce Methodism there. At first, they met in the stable on Sunday mornings for prayer coming to Childrey for the afternoon service.

The cause grew at Childrey, and two cottages had been converted into a Chapel by Kent but they were still his property. In 1831 Thomas Bush bought them, settled the property on the Trustees and they continued to be used for worship until the present Chapel was opened. Then they were sold and once more used as dwelling houses until the row near the church was pulled down.

Thomas Bush died in 1847. His cousin and co-worker William Shipperry found in his desk a sketch of a plan for a new chapel. Knowing his cousin's wish, he promptly fulfilled it, the present Chapel being open for Divine Worship on Friday, the 21st of December 1849, when sermons were preached by the Reverend Joseph Wood of Bristol, and on the following Sunday the preacher was the Rev. James Cook of Abingdon."

Memories from Rev'd Brenda Woods - Minister 1999 – 2005

The WALK to EMMAUS

We journeyed together from Jerusalem to Emmaus,
from confusion to recognition,
from sorrow to joy,
from Grove & Wantage to Childrey!

In 2002 we began the *Walk to Emmaus* on Easter Sunday evening. We gathered at Wantage at 6 pm for a short introduction and the invitation to walk in two's and three's and talk about the events of Easter Sunday morning and how we felt about the stories we'd heard of an empty tomb or Jesus – alive!

Some cycled and some went by car, and others walked to Childrey. Meanwhile the team at Childrey prepared the food and welcomed the travellers in. Seated at tables we ate and drank and shared our stories of how we had come to meet the risen Christ, when we had felt our 'hearts burn within us', when our despair had turned to hope. We shared too in bread and wine, remembering that the 2 travellers had recognised Jesus 'in the breaking of bread'. All of this made possible by the generous hospitality of the people of Childrey. Hopefully the *Walk to Emmaus* will be able to continue.

The UPPER ROOM – a symbol of togetherness

On a Sunday morning it was great to hear the sound of children's voices coming from the room upstairs. Here, local children enjoyed their Junior Church, led by people from the Parish Church. It was also an example of how Anglicans and Methodists can work together sharing their resources – whether of people or buildings.

We shared joint services with our Anglican friends and I have great memories of Harvest festivals, with adults and children together counting the number of seeds in a tomato or apple and wondering at the sheer abundance of creation. And memories too of chilly Carol services!!

It is sad, of course, for the chapel to close, but hopefully new life will come in the building.

Memories from Revd Martin Smithson – Minister 2005-2016

I have fond memories of my time as Minister of Childrey Methodist Church (2005 – 2016). Sadly, many of those whom I got to know so well over those eleven years have now gone before us, but I send my greetings to current members and friends.

You don't need me to tell you that Childrey is a beautiful village in a beautiful setting, and I can remember often thinking, as I drove there from Wantage and down into the village again, how blessed I was to be there if only for a time. And the Methodist Church in Childrey has a good story to tell of years of faithful worship and service.

While I was there, I valued the extent to which we worked and worshipped together with St. Mary's. That co-operation has been very important to the Methodist Church for a long time, and I believe we brought our contribution too – and not just through the use of our lovely modern chapel!

Looking back, of course, I remember people most clearly and gratefully. I won't mention individuals, but I am thankful to have known each one and value the fellowship we had together over those years.

If I were to pick one word to summarise my experience at Childrey it would be 'hospitality' – and that often-involved food!

Every year we enjoyed a cooked lunch after the annual Covenant Service. Every Easter we met for tea in the afternoon after some had walked from Wantage (as if from Jerusalem to Emmaus) as Childrey provided tea for all who came from around the Section, before we broke bread together in Communion. Every Harvest Festival we joined with St. Mary's (and, it felt like, the rest of the village) for Harvest Supper.

In my first year, as the supper came to an end, we wondered why people were getting their torches out. We didn't know there were no streetlights! We remembered after that! And then there was another supper each year after the Church Anniversary Service which people came to from around the circuit.

But food was only one aspect of the hospitality of Childrey Methodist Church. I experienced it for myself. I like to think that I wasn't a guest for 11 years but truly part of the fellowship and I'm sure that's how many others will have felt. As a church we are called to be hospitable in every possible way to all people, and that was my experience at Childrey.

I remember reflecting with those who made up the church in 2016, as I was about to leave, that none of us knew the future – other than I was about to go and serve in another place and that Keith was about to arrive.

I went on to serve in the Grantham and Vale of Belvoir Circuit, in Nottinghamshire, for 6 years until I retired (or 'sat down') in 2022. Childrey Methodist Church has gone on to enjoy another eight years of worship and

fellowship together and with others. I give thanks to God for all the years of Methodism in Childrey, which God has used to bless many people. My prayers are for those who will be worshipping elsewhere, for Childrey, for St. Mary's and for the Circuit.

Memories from Doreen Roberts

I moved to Childrey in 1982 and went along to the Methodist chapel. As a stranger and somewhat of an outsider in the village (which was then quite parochial) I was welcomed by Charlie Fleetwood at the door and instantly felt comfortable. Mr Fleetwood, Charlie, lived in Chapel Cottage, the thatched cottage which was behind the chapel.

Olive Burson played the organ and lived next door to the chapel at Hazeldene. Historically, the Burson family had been strong Methodists although, I suspect at sometime they must have been Anglicans because the family had lived at Cantorist House before moving to Manor Farm in West Challow and, on the death of her father, Olive moved to Hazledene.

Other than Charlie Fleetwood and Olive, I remember a few other people from that time; Michael Stanley and his mother, Mr and Mrs Pottinger, "old" Mr Froud from Letcombe Bassett, John and Jean Cliffe, and the Legge family. There were, of course, others, but these are the people that stick in my mind from those early days.

I'm sure Robin won't mind me saying how he and Vicky used to climb on the pews in the centre aisle and run up and down and generally get up to mischief during services. Most people didn't mind because it was lovely to see youngsters in the chapel but I think it did upset some.

I don't remember any other chapel activities apart from the Sunday services except Jean Cliffe did run a young people's group in the schoolroom. Jean, being a teacher at Childrey school, knew all the youngsters. When Jean decided to give it up I carried on firstly, with Beryl Doman and then with Shirley Haines, by which time we had moved to the village hall. When Shirley left, Doug Legge and I ran the youth club. I continued until my father came to live with me, became ill and subsequently died. Doug battled on alone but eventually it became too much for him and the club closed.

When the old chapel fell down, the congregation at first met in the schoolroom, which was pretty basic and I remember one Sunday morning seeing a mouse run across the floor. Thankfully, the chapel council decided to take up the kind offer from St. Mary's to use their side chapel. It was lovely meeting there and created a good atmosphere.

The new chapel was built after a lot of controversy and legal battles. Basically, the verge outside the chapel had been designated registered village green

which meant that future vehicular access would not be permitted if new building(s) were erected. However, the chapel was able to prove that Mr Fleetwood (I think) had, prior to village green registration, taken a motor bike across the grass verge. The Parish Council lost its case and the new chapel with housing behind was built.

The new chapel had every modern facility and was greatly appreciated after the primitive facilities of the old one. A stained-glass window and communion rail from the old chapel were incorporated. I remember how comfortable I felt the first time I went into the new chapel and that feeling has stayed with me since. My daughter was married there, and my two granddaughters baptised. So, chapel holds special memories for my family.

There were always events being held; the annual National Childrens' Homes Christmas market, harvest suppers where Doug Legge baked the bread, Whit Sunday services on the village green with the Salvation Army band from Oxford and, of course, shared services with St, Mary's. There was also an active Sunday school. Possibly the highlight of the year was the Chapel Anniversary service always with an interesting speaker, sometimes with music other than the organ or keyboard, and always with a good spread after. Childrey Chapel was known for its extraordinary refreshments.

For some time, I served as Secretary to the Church Council. Although never a member of the Methodist Church I think I was regarded as what was called an adherent. It was a privilege to understand the behind-the-scenes activities that a chapel needed to undertake to fulfil its obligations to the community and the Methodist association.

I left the village in 2019 and have only been back for special events and lately for funerals, but I wanted to put down my thoughts of what the chapel meant and still means to me. My heartfelt thanks go out to those that have kept the chapel open, they all deserve a medal.

It would be wonderful if the building could be used for good in the wider community benefiting those who most need support but, as with all things, it's in the hands of God.

Memories from Robin Legge

At the time my dad attended the Chapel Sunday School it was the only Sunday school in the village, and it was a really booming Sunday school with children from the Parish Church and the other Methodist Chapel's attending. It stayed that way until the 1960s.

The chapel Sunday school was restarted in the early eighties by a King Alfred's teacher who lived in the village attracting up to 25 children at 9 am each Sunday (he attended the community church in Oxford, so had to leave at 10 to get there

for 11 hence the early start time).

My sister and I were christened in the old chapel and my first two children dedicated in the new chapel.

In terms of the Chapel Anniversary my Dad mentioned that Gladys Aylward came to lead one of them in the late forties/early fifties. Hedley Feast from the then BBC Radio Oxford's spirit level programme came to lead one in the new chapel.

Remembering particular contributions from Ministers of the past:

Michael Chester - who was instrumental in terms of building the new chapel without ever actually preaching in it!

Andrew Hollins - who opened the new chapel and started the family services

Brenda Woods - who started the Easter Sunday evening services

Memories from Revd John Rowland

The Rowland Family go back in Sparsholt for centuries but there are and have been Rowlands in Childrey. I think the Family connection with Wesleyan Methodism largely came about by reason of my grandfather Albert Ephraim Rowland (1877 to 1962) going to work for the local Baker Joseph Legge (1845 to 1910). Grandfather on leaving school was due to work at Challow Foundry but for some reason that fell through, and he went to work at the bakery.

He later married Alice Maria Legge (1880 to 1931) daughter of Joseph. Later he set up his own family bakery in Upton near Didcot. He was a local preacher and a central figure in in the life of Upton Chapel.

I know Alice Maria had a number of brothers and sisters one of whom, Albert Edward Legge, was killed in the Great War. He had run a Scout troop in Childrey before the war. In 1913 he married Martha Clara Richens (another common name locally) in the Wesleyan Chapel at Childrey.

Ephraim and Alice had seven children of whom my father, Albert Edward Rowland, was one. Alice died in 1931 and Ephraim in 1962.

My earliest memories of Childrey are of going there with my Dad when he was planned there to preach, Miss Olive Burson was the organist and the other three names I recall were Edgar Pottinger, Charlie Fleet and Bert Broad.

I was at the mid-week service celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the chapel and grandfather was the chairman.

Sometime after the front wall fell down, I preached at an anniversary service held in the building just across the way from the chapel. I also preached at the 160th Anniversary

One of my grandfather's sisters lived next door to the chapel and another sister

Ede, lived at Denchworth.

My dad, was of the same generation as Doug's father Donald, and he had a great affection for Childrey.

Prayers

We remember in our prayers:

Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren. Keith, and all members and supporters of Childrey Methodist Chapel.

The congregation at St Mary's, Childrey and the people of the village.

All those unknown to us who are in need of our help and prayers.

GROVE

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for “Freyja’s Fund”** on **Saturday, 2nd November** from 10 am till 12noon in the church. Handmade cards (for Christmas and other occasions) will be on sale. Judith and her family are our hosts for the morning. Do hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you. Offers of help with cakes or on the day are appreciated.

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 3rd November** at 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship in October will be on **Tuesday, 29th October** at 2.15 pm. Our speaker is Malcolm Newton.

We are meeting at 8, Vicarage Close, Grove, home of Peter and Noreen Hemmings. You are invited to come and share in the afternoon with us.

Tuesday Fellowship in November will be on **Tuesday, 26th November** at 2.15 pm. Ian Sturt will be our speaker for the afternoon. The venue to be arranged nearer the time. Details will be put in the weekly notices.

Film Club will meet on **Friday, 15th November** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing **“What’s Eating Gilbert Grape”**.

American coming-of-age comedy-drama film directed by Lasse Hallstrom. The film follows the story of Gilbert, a 25-year-old grocery store clerk who is caring for his morbidly obese mother, and his mentally disabled younger brother, Arnie.

Starring Johnny Depp, Juliette Lewis, Mary Steenburgen, Leonardo DiCaprio and John C. Reilly.

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

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 for your support for the Coffee morning in October for The Brain Tumour Charity. A total of £456.70 was raised, to which was added £80.63 in hand from previous Gift Aid, so the total transferred to The Brain Tumour Charity was £537.33. Thank you all for your very generous support. Thank you also 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 contributions are very much appreciated. The need is still great.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems. We trust that, with care, life has opened up again for you.

A date for your diary:

“Cribfest” at Grove - Saturday, 14th December.

We are looking forward to holding our first “Cribfest” on Saturday 14th December from 10 am - 12 noon.

We are encouraging everyone at church, as well as friends, neighbours and all those who use our church premises, to bring along their nativity sets so that we can have a celebration of the Christmas story.

Along with the nativity scenes to view, there will be refreshments available as we invite our Grove community to come and join us.

Exact timings for the dropping off the nativity scenes/cribs on Friday 13th December will be confirmed shortly.

WANTAGE

Wantage Methodist Church – Bronze Eco Church award!

As mentioned during our Harvest Service, we are now officially a bronze Eco Church having been given our award by A Rocha UK.

This is in recognition of our efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas;

Worship and Teaching

Management of Buildings and Land

Community and Global Engagement

Lifestyle

Many thanks to Rodney Tillitson and Linda for all their hard work in instigating our application and doing so much towards this award.

Of course, this is not the end but a beginning as we continue to strive towards looking after and caring for God's world, of living more simply and sustainably, improving what we do and aim towards getting a silver then, gold award.

If you would be interested in helping us in this aspect of our church life, please would you let Keith know in the first instance.



Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

At Kids@Church in October we were thinking about God as our rock through the story of the wise and foolish builders. We acted out the story using sandcastles and a lego house and enjoyed watching the sand wash away as we made it rain! The children decorated stones with the words "God is my Rock".

Next date for Kids@Church November 17th .

Kids@Church is an informal service, activity and breakfast for children and their families from 9.30am. New friends always warmly welcomed!

Any questions, please phone Keith Underhill, 01235 763321.

Holy Habits (lite) September – November

Our current theme which began in September is “Breaking Bread” and will be the focus of our Sunday service on **November 3rd**.

The **film** we will be watching is "**Of Gods and Men**" (Cert 15, 2010, 2h 2m in length) - with the question 'what part does Breaking Bread play in sustaining the monks in faithful discipleship?' – This will be shown in church on **Thursday 7th November** at 7:30 pm.

There are **two books** that folk can choose to read, one or both if they so wish:

The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene – 1940

The moving story of a priest who, though deeply anxious that he has been a failure, continues to administer the Mass at a time and in a place where the practice has been banned.

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams - 1922.

The story of a stuffed rabbit who is on a mission to become real, or known, through the love of his owner - How do we discover the reality of Christ's presence in the act of breaking bread?

The book group will be meeting at Cornerstone at 10:00 am on **Saturday 9th November**.

WANTED... If you might be interested in being involved in the planning and/or delivery of Local Arrangement services - as described by Ann Barber in her welcome to the Peace Sunday Local Arrangement act of worship led by June Grunwald - then please be in touch with Helen Carter, Sue Haithwaite or David Worth.

We are thinking of setting up a WhatsApp group to help with the organisation of such acts of worship. But even if you don't want to join such a group, or if you don't have the technology to do that, then please don't let that put you off... We will not exclude anyone who wants to offer to be part of this group of willing folk.

It will be really good to have a meeting of those interested once we know what Local Arrangements will need to be covered in the December to February Plan.

Watch this space!! Thank you.

In the opening lines of her poem, "The Consolation", Anne Brontë paints an evocative picture of the sadness we may feel when everything around us epitomises autumn:

*"Though bleak these woods, and damp the ground, with fallen leaves so thickly strewn,
And cold the wind that wanders round with wild and melancholy moan."*

As we enter November, and the enjoyment of long summer days melts into a fading memory, it would be easy for the joys of that season to give way to feelings of sadness which accompany the approach of winter. The words of a later verse have, I believe, a resonance of what is at the heart of the pastoral care we share within our church family.

*"Warm hands are there, that, clasped in mine, the warmer heart will not belie;
While mirth, and truth, and friendship shine in smiling lip and earnest eye."*

All through the year, we are mindful of each other's situations, but especially so during difficult periods. We cannot resolve the problems or take away each other's fears, but our support, practically if appropriate, perhaps emotionally, and always spiritually through prayer, can convey hope, encouragement and the certainty of God's care and protection. Our pastoral care, sincerely offered, enabling "*truth and friendship to shine in smiling lip and earnest eye*", can be a means by which we can reflect the love in which we know each one of us is held by God.

We are continuing the task of reforming the system through which our pastoral care is offered, as alluded to in last month's Newsletter. There is often a sense of regret when we can no longer hold onto practices with which we have felt familiar and comfortable for so long. Change can feel synonymous with loss, and a reluctance to embrace what is offered as a replacement, unless we receive it in faith. Hopefully, the new arrangements will be as reassuring, comforting and acceptable as the old – with God's help we will go on providing a circle of support for the whole of our church family.

Derek Morton has just undergone surgery at the Horton Hospital in Banbury. We pray for his swift recovery and relief from the longstanding pain he has had to manage whilst awaiting this operation. We are pleased to know that Adrian Richens has been discharged from Didcot Community Hospital. During an accompanied visit, he was assessed as being capable of returning home with some support, including much appreciated help from Stella Belcher who got to know Adrian well whilst she was staying at Elmbrook Court.

Our thoughts, our prayers and our love continue to surround June Grunwald, Sue Haithwaite and Helen Carter. We miss them from our Services on Sunday mornings and hope that the treatments they have undergone, are currently

receiving and for which they are waiting will restore them to much better health, and a welcome return to worship and the activities which they have had to lay aside temporarily.

To all those members of our church family for whom health issues are making life difficult at present, please know that you are held in our thoughts as we pray for God's love to strengthen and sustain you.

Praying for each other: In November the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study Group: on Judith and Mike Skinner's list: Alison Brown, Faith & Damien Culshaw, Derek & Felicity Morton, Heather Wells and Graham Wells.

In addition to the names listed above, those in our church family, who through frailty or ill health can no longer worship with us on Sundays, will also be prayed for by name at the Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study group.

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 list

A prayer for the triumph of God's will

God of grace and hope,

Where the warmth of a smile eclipses the sinister sneer –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Where an act of kindness undermines an evil deed –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Where a word of peace silences the terrorist's threat –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Where difference is diversity in place of disunity –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Where youth is innocent and age is wisdom –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Where love is real and faith is kindled –

Let hope stand triumphant.

Praying that praise and protest would be partners in our living and in our praying, that your kingdom may come among us.

Amen.

Andy Fyall, District Chair, Nottingham and Derby District

Please pray for

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright & family, Caroline, Doug & Anne Hatto, Richard in York, Edwina, Adrian, Geoff, Diane, Meriel, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, June Hartle, Jane Robinson, Louise, Richard & Anne, Peter, John & Jo, Mary Spalding, Trudy, Jade, Sue, Findley, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, Eileen, Norma, Alison C & family, Helen C, June G, Hunter, Angela, Vic Press, Terry & Sue, 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 or the person/people you have put on the prayer list would still like to be in the December/January newsletter, please let Carolyn know by **Friday 15th November** in order to meet the newsletter deadline.

Carolyn Roche: telephone: 01235 764310 email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

Lunchtime prayers - this prayer session will not take place in November.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Please feel free to come along and join this open and friendly group. We meet for Bible Study and prayer each Tuesday at 2 pm in the Parlour. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

During November we will be completing the Holy Habits study guide on Breaking Bread and then beginning our Advent Study course.

Dates for November are as follows:

- 5th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread 5: Praying like Jesus
Reading: Luke 11:1-4 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.

- 12th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread 6: Don't just look - touch
Reading: Luke 24:36b-39, 41-43

- 19th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread 7: 'Come and have breakfast'
Reading: John 21:8-13

- 26th Advent Study 1: Strange Wait
Reading: Psalm 37:1-40

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

Stepping Out with Noah

The dates for the rest of the walks for this Connexional year are

12th January 2025 at 2:00 pm

9th February at 2:00 pm

23rd March at 2:30 pm

27th April at 2:30 pm

25th May at 2:30 pm

15th June at 2:30 pm

Community Café

June Grunwald

The cafe is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. Numbers varied greatly at the end of September and in October with 19 people turning up on a very wet Monday. Our average number is 30. On 30th September Age UK joined us as part of the International Day of Older People.

Our café is open to everyone and there is no charge for refreshments, but people are welcome to make a donation which goes to a different charity each month. Our charity for September, October and November is Freyja's fund (a local charity based at JR which provides grants to children with cancer).

Many thanks to all who volunteer at the café and to all the cake makers. It is much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have volunteered to be back ups in case we need someone at the last minute. With both Eileen and June out of action the teamwork has been much appreciated.

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

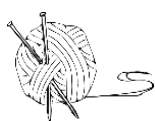
June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. In October our reading was John 21:1-8. On **11th November** there will be a Remembrance style service, as it proved popular with other residents at Elmbrook last year. Sad to say one of the regular bible study members, Isabella, passed away in October. Isabella and her family appreciated the bible study and are going to see if they can gift a prayer table, cross and bible to the care home.

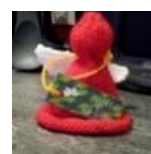
Residents really appreciate people from our church joining in their study and we often enjoy fellowship with a cup of coffee in the Elmbrook lounge afterwards. I wore my Community Chaplain jacket for the first time, which was admired by the group and has also already proved useful as a talking point to relatives who visit.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche



Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 4th November** and **Monday 18th November** at 2 pm in the Hall with the usual tea and biscuits break. The labels have arrived from the printers and will soon be ready to attach to the angels. This year the angels will be blessed on **Sunday 8th December** which will also be the weekend



of the Christmas Tree Festival. This means that we will begin tying on labels on 18th November. We will have our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and this will be decorated with some of the hats and angels that everyone is so busy knitting.

If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

White Poppies

Some of us wear white poppies along with our red ones as we lead up to Remembrance Day. These poppies were first introduced in the 1930s by women who felt that there was a better way forward than going to war. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is much more than that and needs to be worked for. The Peace Pledge Union today seeks to work for a lasting peace. If you would like to do more, just search for the Peace Pledge Union online or ask Helen Carter to give you more information. If you would like to wear a white poppy, Helen has some to sell at the fixed price of £1 each. Please be in touch if you would like one.



Christmas Tree Festival

Wantage Methodist Church

6th – 8th December



This year our Christmas Tree Festival will be supporting Wantage and Grove Street Pastors. We shall be open from 6 pm – 9 pm on Dickensian Evening, Friday 6th December, for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments and stalls in the hall. Greengage, a local folk band, will be performing Christmas carols and festive tunes in the chapel from 7 pm to 8 pm.

The festivities will continue with a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th December, 10 am - 12 noon and the trees will remain in place for the Sunday service when the angels will also be blessed.

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

Carolyn Roche

‘For a Time’ exhibition and film

‘For a time between the late winter of 2022 and early summer 2023 the Grand Hotel, on Ilfracombe’s seafront was used by the Home Office as part of the Asylum Dispersal initiative. The Local Authority engaged the ‘Pickwell Foundation’, to coordinate a response to support the guests placed into the hotel. Along the way many local organisations, community groups and individuals responded by offering time and space and resources to make that support possible.’

Wantage Methodist Church is delighted to be hosting an inspirational exhibition that tells this story of what happened, along with an accompanying short film (on the hour and half hour) on **Saturday 23rd November** between 10 and 12 o’clock. Refreshments will be available. Please feel free to drop in anytime!

On **Sunday 24th November** the morning service (10:30 am) and afternoon Circuit Service at Wantage (4:00 pm) will also include the film and the opportunity to look at the photos and explore the themes of the exhibition.

This exhibition and film firstly, celebrate and remember a moment in the community’s history that exemplified compassion, welcome and kindness and secondly, demonstrate that this sort of response is possible in other communities.

Everyone welcome!



Wantage & Grove Food Bank

Helen Carter

As ever there is a great need to donations of both food and money. The box in the church vestibule is available for your donations or you can deposit food into the boxes in several supermarkets. A very sincere thank you to all who donate in any way to help those who are in need of the food parcels delivered by Food Bank volunteers.

Recycling at the Mix

Helen Carter

The mix is reviewing what can and cannot be recycled through them. Please watch this space for up to date information once that becomes clear. I have not checked very recently and I am told the website it not totally up to date at the moment. Please check weekly notices for up to date information as to what can be placed in the box in the church vestibule. Thank you.

Advent Study

Alison Phillips is offering a group for seasonal thought, prayer and discussion using material from the series 'Cover to Cover', which looks at some biblical encounters with Jesus, and how different individuals responded to His unexpected presence and love. Each day there is a Bible reading, daily focus, a question and closing prayer which hopefully you will have time to read, so we can think about some of them together each week.

The group is invited to meet at 1, Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis, most likely on Thursday evenings beginning Thursday November 28th, but this is to be confirmed.

It is helpful but not essential to have a copy of the book 'Unexpected Jesus' by Anna Robbins, cost £6.99 and Alison can order a copy for you from Cornerstone if you would let her know as soon as possible..

If transport is a problem, please let her know and she can try and organize lifts or car shares.

Whether you join our group or are part of the group who will be studying different material on Tuesday afternoons, or just want to have some quiet time for reflection on your own this Advent, it is a blessing to put some time aside in this busy season to feel the presence of God and be ready to meet Him in unexpected ways.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am Kids@Church 10:30 am Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	3 rd Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Drop-in Café Afternoon Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Hall	Weekly 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 CA Meeting		Weekly Weekly
Tuesday	Morning MIND Evening Wantage Camera Club		Weekly Weekly
Wednesday	Evening Wantage Sings		Weekly
Thursday	Midday KAWI		3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning Mothers & Toddlers		Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning Dads Out		1 st Saturday (2 nd in Dec)

November

Monday 4 th	Evening	Church Leadership Team	Parlour
Thursday 7 th	Evening	Holy Habits Film	Chapel
Thursday 21 st	Evening	Church Council	Hall
Saturday 23 rd	Daytime	For A Time	Hall/Chapel
	Evening	WGSP	Hall

December

Weekend 6th-8th Dickensian Evening and Christmas Trees

DIARY for NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

Tuesday 29th 2:15 pm **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** p23

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd 10:00 am **Coffee Morning** at Grove p23

Sunday, 3rd 6:30 pm **Prayer for Revival** at Grove p23

Monday 4th 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p30

Thursday 7th 7:30 pm **Holy Habits Film** at Wantage p26

Saturday 9th 10:00 am **Holy Habits Book Group** at Cornerstone p26

Sunday 10th 9:30 am **Morning Worship** at Wantage

Monday 11th 2:30 pm **Bible Study** at Elmbrook Care Home pp4/30

Friday 15th 7.30 pm **Grove Film Club** p23

Sunday 17th 9:30 am **Kids@Church** at Wantage p25

Deadline for December/January CGW NEWS p2

Monday 18th 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p30

Thursday 21st 7:30 pm **Wantage Church Council**

Saturday 23rd / **Sunday 24th** **“For a Time”** pp12/13,32

Includes **Circuit Service** at Wantage at 4pm on 24th November

Tuesday 25th 2:15 pm **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** p23

DECEMBER

Weekend 6th - 8th **Christmas Tree Festival** at Wantage p31

Saturday 14th 10 am - 12 noon **“Cribfest”** at Grove p24

SUNDAY SERVICES during November

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 3rd

Ordinary 31

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

10:30 am Wantage Holy Habits Libby Hawkness-Smith

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill

6:30 pm Grove Prayer for Revival

Sunday 10th

Remembrance Interfaith Week

Ordinary 32

1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

9:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove Rev John Anderson

Sunday 17th

Ordinary 33

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

9:30 am Wantage Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage Helen Carter

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 24th

Women against Violence

Last Sunday before Advent

Daniel 7:9,10,13,14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

10:30 am Wantage For a Time Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove Daphne Savage

4:00 pm Wantage Circuit Service For a Time Rev Keith Underhill