

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The **Methodist** Church

CGW NEWS



October 2024

Minister : Rev Keith Underhill – Tel: 01235 763321
keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk

When Keith is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below, who will put you in touch:

Helen Carter : 01235 764810
Ian Sturt : 07426 772761

Please send material for the **Weekly Notices** to :

Grove Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624
Wantage Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 07710 214601
email : wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (November) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 20th October 2024**

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

Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

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

November Sunday 20th October
December/January Sunday 17th November

From the Manse.....

It is interesting that my Circuit Ministry began amidst the shadows of Sellafeld and it comes to an end in close proximity to Harwell and the scientific establishments around our Circuit and beyond. For fourteen years, my Ministry will have been lived out with and among those who have dedicated their working lives to science whilst being women and men of great faith and devotion.

Some of you will recall having read 'The Essex Serpent' by Sarah Perry as part of our Holy Habits series. In this novel set in the Victorian era, faith and theology vie for the attention of those living on the Essex marshes as they grapple with superstition and folk lore on the one hand and the discoveries of modern science on the other.

In Sarah's most recent novel 'Enlightenment' published a few months ago, the issues around the roles of faith and science and whether they are compatible and what each can learn from the other, is once again, explored in a contemporary setting (albeit with many a nod to her earlier book).

Having just finished reading 'Enlightenment' I was struck by these words;

"Now: I've heard it said that at the first sip from the glass of the natural sciences you will become an atheist – then at the bottom of the glass, God will be waiting for you."

Whilst there are those scientists who loudly profess that they have no faith and who consequently put their trust solely in the scientific, it has been a privilege to share in the lives of those who see in the beauty and wonder of numbers, patterns and molecules signs of God and that which is other.

Reflecting on this, I was reminded of the hymn written by the late Revd Ricard G Jones, Methodist Minister and former Chair of the East Anglia District.

*God of concrete, God of steel
God of piston and of wheel
God of pylon, God of steam
God of girder and of beam
God of atom, God of mine
All the world of power is Thine*

*Lord of science, Lord of art
God of map and graph and chart
Lord of physics and research
Word of Bible, faith of church
Lord of sequence and design
All the world of truth is Thine*

With much love and God bless

Keith

Childrey Methodist Chapel - Thanksgiving

A reminder that our final service in the chapel will be the Anniversary service on **Sunday 13th October** at **4:00 pm** with the preacher being **Rev Dr Sonia Hicks**, the Chair of our District.

We will be giving thanks to God for the faithful witness of the chapel as we celebrate 30 years of the opening of the new building, 175 years of Methodism on this site and 215 years of Methodism within the village.

We are in the process of producing a booklet of memories (incorporating the order of service) which will be available on the day.

Please do continue to pray for all those connected with the chapel as we seek to discern the next chapter in its life in the village and the wider community and what the future holds.

Many of you will already be aware that, it has been agreed that worship will cease at Childrey following the anniversary service.

This decision was not taken lightly, but nonetheless it was the right one, reflecting the wishes of those who have helped the chapel to keep going these past few years. We are very grateful to them for all they have done.

Please note that this is not the same as closing and selling the building. It is hoped that we will find new ways, in conjunction with St. Mary's, of enabling the Methodist name and presence to continue in a new way on the site. In doing this we will be faithful to the wishes of those stalwarts from the chapel who have died in recent years. We have already begun some discussions about this with the District Mission Team.

We assure all those at the chapel of our love, thoughts and prayers at this time.

Peter Hill, who has been in a care home for the last few months, contracted Covid and deteriorated rapidly.

Peter died peacefully on Monday morning, 23 September surrounded by his loving family.

We hold Leonora and the family in our prayers.

Stepping Out with Noah

Our Sunday afternoon walks being again this month and October's Walk will be on **Sunday 20th October at 2:30 pm.**

We will meet at the Christopher's Wood Car Park, just along from the Parkinsons.Me gardens and take a circular route of 3 miles along the fields and past the church.

Please make sure that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather and conditions underfoot.

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

10th November 2024 at 2:30 pm

12th January 2025 at 2:00 pm

23rd March at 2:30 pm

25th May at 2:30 pm

9th February at 2:00 pm

27th April at 2:30 pm

15th June at 2:30 pm

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 September we had a Harvest themed bible study with harvest images and seasonal hymns. On **14th October** our reading will be John 21:1-8. On **11th November** there will be a Remembrance style service, as this also proved popular with other residents at Elmbrook last year.

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.

District Prayer Diary – 2024/25

The new District Prayer Diary is now available on the Northampton District, our Circuit and Wantage websites, and you can access it for free by clicking [here](#).

We hope the District Prayer Diary is helpful in your prayer life. Contributions have been kindly given from around the District.



'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



Toby Adamson
PHOTOGRAPHER / CAMERAMAN



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.

**A message from Rev Dr Sonia Hicks,
District Chair of the Northampton Methodist District**

I have been warmly welcomed – thank you! I have now undertaken all seven Welcome Services in Leicester West, Leicester Trinity, Nene Valley (which I now know how to pronounce!), East Mercia, Wantage & Abingdon and West Oxfordshire Circuits, met most of the District Teams and held Stationing Conversations.



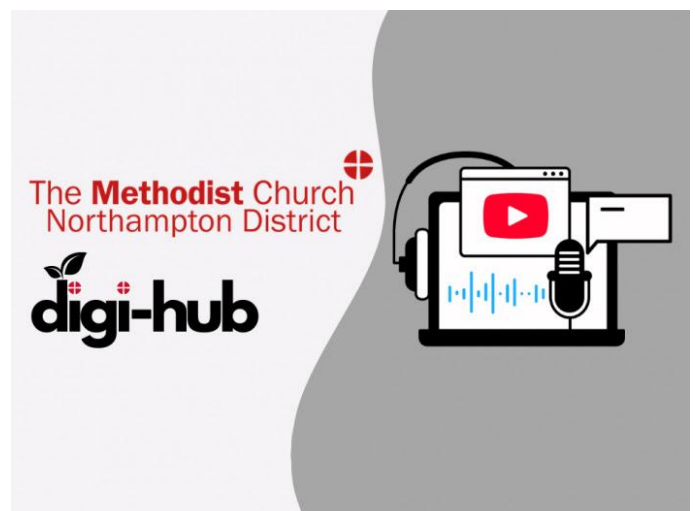
I want to help to foster good and strong relationships between individuals and between Circuits. I do not believe God wants any of us to be 'stand-a-lone' Christians. Jesus called the Twelve to be a community. We, the Northampton District, are being called to work for and alongside one another. I will seek to do this through building positive relationships with each of you, but I will not be afraid to

challenge poor discipleship whether in colleagues or in Circuit Leadership Teams. I will seek to do this by supporting new ways of being church so that we continue to be outward facing. And I will do it by loving each place, each circuit, each individual. Not the sentimental love with cupid arrows and hearts but love rooted in the love that Christ has for us. Let us, in the Northampton District, strive to be the very best version of ourselves.

District YouTube channel

We're excited to let you know that the District's YouTube channel is up and running, and our Digital Enabler, Naomi Ensor, is beginning a set of new series to equip you and your churches to use digital platforms (e.g. Facebook, Canva, Instagram) more effectively.

To access the first few videos in the Facebook Page training series, click [here](#).



The urgency of now and the need to speak of and be loved

Rev Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, wrote a message for the New Connexional Year.

In August 1963 as part of his great, "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial the Rev Dr Martin Luther King spoke of the "fierce urgency" of the present moment the world faced. He said,

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

The violent racist disorder orchestrated by the far Right in UK towns and cities based on lies and misinformation this summer suggest we face a key moment in our own national life. It suggests that years of hate speech, persistent misinformation and lying, the promotion of hostility and the denigration of the humanity of others can create a climate in which some feel they can act with impunity.

In the "Steeler Lecture," one of five lectures that King delivered in November 1967 at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama King said,

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

It has been encouraging to see communities resisting racism, reaching out to their neighbours of all faiths (and none), offering food, clearing up debris, escorting anxious people to their work. The group of faith leaders in Normanton, Derby who sat and drank tea together on the street and spoke with each other for the first time in the face of a far-right protest which never materialised having "found" each other after a threat of violence were keen to keep meeting and to build relationships.

The parable of the Good Samaritan (as we call that story Jesus told) contrasts the inaction of the religious leaders who walk past an injured man with the actions of a Samaritan who stops and helps the injured man, carrying him to help, paying for his recovery. We often assume that the Good Samaritan is the Christ figure and we are being invited to behave as he does. A more radical reading of that portion of scripture is to grasp that the wounded man, our neighbour, is Christ and we are being invited to see our neighbours, all of them, those who look like us and those who don't, as those made in the image and likeness of God.

Inter-faith engagement was once an urgent priority for the Church. It received generous funding and it received skilled resourcing. It remains a key priority for ministerial formation but I wonder how many of our preachers have engaged at depth with the history of, and the need for care in avoiding antisemitism, for example, in engaging with key scriptural texts.

We must not wait for far-right threats of violence to discover our neighbours of all faiths, and none. We meet Christ as we meet the needs of the world. People all around us in our communities don't just need us when the far-right threaten. They need us now, they need our interest, our support and encouragement, and they need our love.

The beautiful film and excellent resources produced by the Connexional team "See the Love" in the aftermath of the violence are superb. I was sitting in the pews on a holiday Sunday when the film was played within worship leading to moving prayers of intercession.

[Play](#)

Silence, the failure to speak the truth and inaction in the face of racism and aggression towards people of colour and people of other faiths is a great temptation for many white people. We can tend to protect our privilege, walk by, stay silent, be glad we don't experience this ourselves. What do we do to counter clearly untrue rhetoric about migration, asylum seekers, Islam, Judaism and more?

I am led to ask what might we do in this next connexional year as Methodists to actively pursue paths of peace and reconciliation as people of faith?

1. Speak to your neighbours, those who live next to you and those who live in your community. Meet and talk, eat and plan together with your neighbours.
2. Educate yourself about another faith, about migration, about asylum and being a refugee from a variety of sources not just one. Be willing to change your mind. JPIT offers excellent resources.
3. Be brave and speak out when you hear prejudice and discrimination spoken even by those closest to you. Remember the Liverpool grandmother pictured with her "Nans not Nazis T" shirt. See, and be the love.

Cornerstone News – October 2024



Staffing

Thank you for all your prayers, as of the end of September we are fully staffed. Our new part-time cook Lee has now started. Please continue to pray he settles in well in plenty of time for the busy Christmas period.

Marble Jar

We were able to use our Marble Jar to give vouchers out during the summer for those families whose children are eligible for free school meals. We had a really good take up and we plan to do the same for the half-term. If you are able we would appreciate further donations towards this as our balance has become low. Please ask at the till if you would like to donate in this way.

Bookshop Day

Saturday 13th October is National Bookshop Day. You may have heard our Manager, Sarah talking on Premier Christian Radio on 13th September to promote Christian booksellers.

We currently have a 'Take Note' promotion running and in November there will be a new promotion including the category winners from the Booksellers Conference and some Christmas and Advent books.

Make and Bake

Our Make and Bake sessions for Under 5s start again on 1st October and 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.

Monthly hot meal special

This month's meal will be served on Wednesday 30th October at 12.30 pm – please do **book in advance** so that we know how many to cater for.

Christmas

We now have in stock a selection of Christmas cards, calendars, advent calendars and diaries, including the ever popular Hannah Dunnnett calendars.

We will also shortly have in stock Fairtrade chocolate 'Real Advent Calendars'.

Christmas lunches

We will again be serving delicious Christmas lunches on Wednesday 4th, Friday 6th, Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Monday 16th December and menus are now available. We can cater for parties of up to 26 but you will need to book well in advance as dates fill up quickly.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on Saturday 12th October 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

THE METHODIST CHURCH

A PLAN TO HELP US CHANGE AND WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

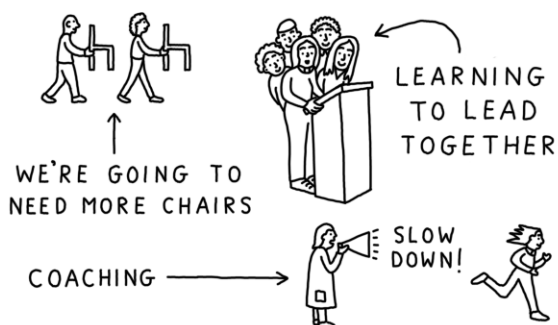
1 A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE



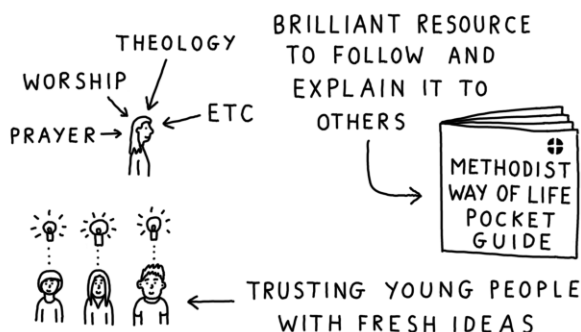
2 TELLING OUR STORY



3 PUTTING MISSION FIRST



4 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS



QUESTION: WHERE DOES GOD WANT YOU TO START?

AS FOUND IN THE
IT'S A GOOD DOC
GOD FOR ALL
STRATEGY

- 1 NEW PLACES FOR NEW PEOPLE/ CHURCH AT THE MARGINS
- 3 MISSIONAL GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP

- 2 EVANGELISM
- 4 DISCIPLESHIP/ METHODIST WAY OF LIFE

The **Methodist Church**

davewalker.com

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 Chapel – thanksgiving

A reminder that our final service in the chapel will be the Anniversary service on **Sunday 13th October** at 4:00 pm with the preacher being Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, the Chair of our District.

We will be giving thanks to God for the faithful witness of the chapel as we celebrate 30 years of the opening of the new building, 175 years of Methodism on this site and 215 years of Methodism within the village.

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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.

Peter Hill died peacefully on Monday morning, 23 September surrounded by his loving family. We hold Leonora and the family in our prayers.

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

GROVE

Annual Service Of Remembrance

Our annual united section service of remembrance will be held at Wantage Methodist Church on **Sunday 27th October** at 3:00 pm.

During this service we will remember with thankfulness those who have died. We will say some prayers, sing a few hymns, light candles and give thanks for those who we still love but see no longer.

It will also enable us to bring our present concerns to God and together find comfort and reassurance in the message of hope that is ours.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for “The Brain Tumour Charity” on Saturday, 5th October** from 10 am till 12 noon in the church. Mirella 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.

We are celebrating **Harvest** on **Sunday, 6th October** at 10.30 am. Our minister, Keith Underhill, will be leading our worship. Gifts received for Harvest will be given to the Wantage & Grove Food Bank, so please could they be dried, packet or tinned foods, with a reasonable shelf life ahead of them. Thank you.

Morning worship will be followed by a **Bring & Share Lunch. All are welcome.** If you would like to share in lunch with us please give your name to Helen or one of the other stewards. It would be helpful also if you are able to give them some idea of what you would be able to bring towards the lunch.

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 6th October** 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 will be Malcolm Newton. Venue will be in the October weekly notices.

Film Club will meet on **Friday, 18th October** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing “The Banshees of Inisherin”. *Set on a remote fictional island off the west coast of Ireland in the 1920s, the film stars Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as two lifelong friends who find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends their relationship, with severe consequences for both of them. Also starring Kerry Condon and Barry Keoghan.*

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

Church Council will meet on **Thursday, 24th October** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. All interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and share in this meeting.

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.

“Cribfest”

Advanced notice – **“Cribfest”** is coming to Grove Methodist Church on **Saturday morning 14th December** - tell your friends and neighbours, put the date in your diaries and dust down your nativity sets! More details next month.

Thank you for your support for the Coffee morning in September for Cancer Research UK. A total of £180 was raised, to which was added £52.51 in hand from previous Gift Aid, so the total transferred to Cancer Research UK was £232.51. Thank you all for your 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.

WANTAGE

Annual Service Of Remembrance

Our annual united section service of remembrance will be held at Wantage Methodist Church on **Sunday 27th October** at 3:00 pm.

During this service we will remember with thankfulness those who have died. We will say some prayers, sing a few hymns, light candles and give thanks for those who we still love but see no longer.

It will also enable us to bring our present concerns to God and together find comfort and reassurance in the message of hope that is ours.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Baptism at Wantage

We are looking forward to the baptism of Martha Beatrice Heaver during our morning service on **Sunday 27th October**.

We remember Martha in our prayers along with her parents Rory and Jo and all her family as they prepare for this special day.

Holy Habits (lite) September – November

Our current theme which began in September is “Breaking Bread” and will be the focus of our Sunday services on **October 13th** (including Holy Communion), and **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**.

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

It was great to meet once again in September and to think together about God's promise that He will always be with us and never leave us. We enjoyed the story about the Very Worried Sparrow before we shared breakfast together in the hall.

Future dates - **October 20th** and **November 17th**, 9.30-10.15 am. Children and their families are really welcome!

Any questions, please phone Keith Underhill, 01235 763321.

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.

Reflecting on my first impressions of Methodism on moving to Wantage in 1980, the concept of its formally structured pastoral care system was beyond anything experienced in other churches of other denominations. 44 years on from what was completely new then, it seems the same now as when I first encountered it. I expect that may be a view shared by all those who have been part of our church for even longer. It is the means by which everyone can feel part of a caring and supportive church family.

Those of us who have accepted the commission to serve us pastoral visitors have done so knowing that it is both a privilege and a responsibility. Part of our calling is to foster that sense of being held together in a way which enables each one of us to feel welcomed, valued and supported. Hopefully, none of those essential elements will be diminished as we now have to consider the best way forward for the future. We know that some changes will have taken place by this time next year. Restructuring our pastoral system is included in the necessary changes for our church and the circuit.

We are currently working carefully and prayerfully to ensure that our adapted structure confirms and continues that sense of being part of a family held together in God's love. Our aim is to preserve all the special aspects of care for each other which we hold so dear. We are aware that, regrettably, several people within our church family are having a difficult time because of health problems. For those who prefer these to remain private, we pray collectively, but with certainty that their anxieties are known to God who cares about them and is providing strength and reassurance to them all.

Two members of our small team of Church Stewards are currently having to take some time out from that role whilst they receive treatment at the Churchill Hospital. We hold in our thoughts and our prayers Sue Haithwaite who is midway through a three months course of chemotherapy, and Helen Carter who is having surgery at the beginning of October. When fit and well, they both work hard in many areas of our church life, for which we are grateful. We hope that our prayers for them both will strengthen and reassure them during their treatment and while, hopefully, they are restored to better health.

Eileen Rennie's presence is missed on Sundays and at the mid-week activities for which she has worked so hard. We hope she will continue to grow stronger as her recovery continues, and we know that she appreciates the prayers, visits and practical support from church friends.

Adrian Richens became ill whilst at work a few weeks ago, and spent some time in the JR hospital. He is now in Didcot Community Hospital receiving physiotherapy and rehabilitative treatment. This will, hopefully, lead him to being well enough to return home soon. We assure Adrian of our prayers for his recovery.

Praying for each other

In October the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study Group: on **Carolyn Roche's list**: Linda & Rodney Tillotson, Andrew Holley, and Catherine & David Worth, and on **Kelvin Rose's list**: Peter Bainbridge, Andrew Barber, Margaret & Francis McAlpin and Carolyn Roche.

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 Bible Study Group.

Prayer list

A prayer for God's guidance

In pilgrimage, O Lord, show us the path to be taken;
in commitment, the will to be obeyed;
in service, the cost to be borne;
and in faithfulness, the crown to be won.

Ann Mason, Bible Christian minister (1797-1826)

Please pray for

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright & family, Caroline, Geoff, Doug & Anne Hatto, Richard in York, Edwina, Adrian, Louise, Diane, Meriel, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, June Hartle, Jane Robinson, Louise, Richard & Anne, Peter, John & Jo, Mary Spalding, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, Trudy, Jade, Sue, Helen C, June G, Findley, Eileen, Alison C & family, Norma, Hunter, Angela. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors. Our Ministers, Deacon, Community Chaplains, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders, kids@church, 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 September newsletter, please let Carolyn know by **Friday 20th September** 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 October.

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.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

This open and friendly group continue to meet for prayer and study each Tuesday at 2 pm in the Godfrey room. Please feel free to come along and join us. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

During October we will be starting the Holy Habits study guide on Breaking Bread.

Dates for October are as follows:

1st Holy Habits, Breaking Bread: The Power of Hospitality
Reading: Genesis 18:1-6
The meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.

8th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread:
The Splendour of Heaven Touching the Earth
Reading: Exodus 25:23-30

15th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread: led by Rev Keith Underhill

22nd Holy Habits, Breaking Bread: God's Environmental Policy
Reading: Psalm 104:10-14

29th Holy Habits, Breaking Bread: Life-giving bread
Reading: Isaiah 55:1-2

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

Stepping Out with Noah

Our Sunday afternoon walks being again this month and October's Walk will be on **Sunday 20th October at 2:30 pm.**

We will meet at the Christopher's Wood Car Park, just along from the Parkinsons.Me gardens and take a circular route of 3 miles along the fields and past the church.

Please make sure that you wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather and conditions underfoot.

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

10th November 2024 at 2:30 pm

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 café is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome.

Once again we were open on the August Bank Holiday Monday and we were very pleased to see some regular faces, which included Satu and Keith, back at the café. 35 people dropped in on the Bank Holiday. The Old Stables café also donated us some lovely cake, so once again the café is being part of our eco-church initiative.

In June, July and August donations went to our own church funds. The total for the 3 months was £414.39. Our charity for September, October and November is Freyja's fund (a local charity based at JR which provides grants to children with cancer). At the end of September, Age UK came to the café as part of the International Day of Older Persons.

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. We were delighted to see Eileen back at the café in September and hope she will be able to visit the café again.

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 September we had a Harvest themed bible study with harvest images and seasonal hymns. On **14th October** our reading will be John 21:1-8. On **11th November** there will be a Remembrance style service, as this also proved popular with other residents at Elmbrook last year.

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

We are now well into autumn and as the evenings get longer there is a little more time for knitting. This month I will be ordering and collecting the angel labels from the printer.

In October the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month are on **Monday 7th October** and **Monday 21st October**. Do come and join us in the hall at 2 pm. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlework, etc. and enjoy time relaxing and chatting with others – there is a tea and ‘nice’ biscuit break. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

Wantage & Grove Food Bank

Helen Carter

Thank you to those who support the food bank in any way. Any support is much appreciated. All the non perishable food that has been given via our harvest festival will be donated to the food bank and will be much appreciated as it will swell the reserves and will ensure those in need will receive. Money can be donated too and that assists with purchasing those items that are not usually donated - e.g. tins of meat, long life milk and fruit juice.

‘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!



Riders & Striders

Alison & Clive Phillips

Saturday September 14th was a lovely day for visiting churches around Oxfordshire. We took the opportunity to catch the S9 bus to Osney Bridge and then spent much of the day visiting ten churches in the centre of Oxford, including Christchurch Cathedral. It really is a lovely experience as all the churches are uniquely attractive, ranging from the simplicity of the Friends' Meeting House in St Giles to the Grandeur of the Roman Catholic Oratory and with much in between, including the Methodist 'Wesley Memorial' in New Inn Hall Street. Several had music rehearsals or performances, which added to the occasion. Most we had visited before but on this occasion we were able to enter the private college gardens of Christchurch College, which were entrancing. We are grateful to our own church members who minded our church and welcomed visitors. Unfortunately, this year the number of people participating was lower than in the past with only thirteen visiting our church, which was similar at the other Wantage churches. Before 2020 we usually had at least thirty visitors. However, from our own experience, it is far nicer to visit a church with someone to welcome you than to find just a note on the front door. Also, for various reasons, we were the only members from our church "Riding & Striding". Perhaps next year others reading this will take advantage of the day to look around churches, local or afar. It really is a good day out and should raise significant funds for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and our own church. This year sponsorship raised £50 which will be divided equally between OHCT and WMC. Our thanks to our sponsors and, again, our 'welcomers'.

The Mix

The Mix wish to reduce the quantity of those things we use every day going to landfill and are able to recycle a good variety of items. They have fairly recently added old candles and laptops/tablets/iPads to that list. You can drop things off directly to the Mix or pop them into the box in the church foyer. The full list of what they can accept is displayed on that box. Thank you for recycling as much as you can.

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	Afternoon My Life My Choice Evening Wantage Sings		Last Wednesday Weekly
Thursday	Midday KAWI		3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning Mothers & Toddlers		Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning Dads Out		1 st Saturday

October

Thursday 3 rd	Evening	Pastoral Committee	Hall/Parlour
Saturday 5 th	Morning/Late Evening	WGSP	Kitchen
Saturday 19 th	Morning	Clothes Swap	Hall
Thursday 24 th	Evening	Music Makers	Hall / Chapel

November

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

DIARY for October

OCTOBER

Saturday 5 th	10:00 am Coffee Morning at Grove	p15
Sunday, 6th	10:30 am Grove Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch	p15
	6:30 pm Prayer for Revival at Grove	p15
Monday 7 th	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p23
Sunday 13th	4:00pm Childrey Chapel Anniversary	pp4/14
Monday 14 th	2:30 pm Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	pp5/23
Friday 18 th	7.30 pm Grove Film Club	p16
Sunday 20th	9:30 am Kids@Church at Wantage	p18
	2:30 pm Stepping out with Noah	pp5/22
	Deadline for November CGW NEWS	p2
Monday 21 st	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p23
Thursday 24 th	7:30 pm Grove Church Council	p16
Sunday, 27th	10:30 am Baptism of Martha Beatrice Heaver at Wantage	p17
	3:00 pm Annual Service of Remembrance at Wantage	pp15/17
Tuesday 29 th	2:15 pm Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p15

NOVEMBER

Thursday 7 th	7:30 pm Holy Habits Film at Wantage	p17
Saturday 9 th	10:00 am Holy Habits Book Group at Cornerstone	p17
Thursday 21 st	7:30 pm Wantage Church Council	
Saturday 23 rd / Sunday 24th	“For a Time”	pp6/7,24

SUNDAY SERVICES during October

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 6th

Ordinary 27

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4,2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

10:30 am Wantage Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

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

6:30 pm Grove Prayer for Revival

Sunday 13th

Homeless Sunday

Prisons Week

Ordinary 28

Amos 5 :6-7,10-15; Psalm 90 :12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

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

10:30 am Grove Andrew Dixon

4:00 pm Childrey Church Anniversary
Rev Keith Underhill Preacher: Rev Dr Sonia Hicks

Sunday 20th

Freedom Sunday

One World Week

Ordinary 29

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:3-45

9:30 am Wantage Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage Liz Wood

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 27th

Bible Sunday

Ordinary 30

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

10:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove Liz Wood

3:00 pm Wantage Service of Remembrance Rev Keith Underhill