

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The **Methodist** Church

CGW NEWS

Connexional

New

Year



September 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** (October) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 22nd September 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

October	Sunday 22 nd September
November	Sunday 20 th October
December/January	Sunday 17 th November

From the Manse.....

Many of you will know that Liz and I are great Bruce Springsteen fans – at the end of July this year we, along with around 90,000 other people, watched him perform another non-stop, heart pumping, adrenaline filled three-and-a-half-hour extravaganza of a concert at Wembley.

Not bad for someone who will soon be celebrating his 75th birthday!

His music has always been influenced by social justice and his Catholic upbringing and can be readily seen in his lyrics and the theme of his songs.

As he has gotten older, he has become more reflective regarding his mortality and at the end of a documentary that follows the making of the album “Letter to you” he speaks eloquently about this.

What struck me the other day whilst re-reading this is that it is also a rallying cry about making the most of the here and now, of each day and every moment.

Sometimes and for very good reasons, we find ourselves in church either looking back to what was or trying to grasp the vision of the future which is tantalisingly close and failing to live in the present.

So, at the beginning of a new Methodist year with all the changes and challenges that lie ahead, I offer these words of Bruce Springsteen as a reminder to make the most of every day, to be grateful for the blessings we have and to ensure that we also live in the moment.

“Age

Age brings perspective

And the fine clarity one gets at midnight

On the tracks looking into the lights of an oncoming train

It dawns on you rather quickly, there's only so much time left

Only so many star filled nights, snow falls, brisk fall afternoons,

Rainy midsummer days,

So how you conduct yourself and do your work matters

How you treat your friends, your family, your lover,

On good days, a blessing falls over you,

It wraps its arms around you and you are free

And deeply of and in this world

And that's your reward, being here

That's what gets you up the next morning

A new chance to receive that benediction

While you're buttering your toast, getting dressed

Or driving home from work, you stumble into those moments

When you can feel the hand of God gently resting on your shoulder

And you realize how lucky you are.

Lucky to be alive, lucky to be breathing in this world of beauty, horror, and hope

Because this is what there is, a chance,

A world where its lucky to love, lucky to be loved

So you go, until it fills you

*Until the sweat, blood, and tears make sense
You go until the light from the fading distant stars
Fall at your feet
Go
And may God bless you."*

With much love and God bless

Keith

Circuit Service and Commissioning of June Grunwald as a Community Chaplain

We are delighted that we will be hosting the **Circuit Service** at Wantage on **Sunday evening 8th September at 6:30pm.**

The focus of the service will be on Chaplaincy and will include the commissioning of June Grunwald as a Community Chaplain, recognising the excellent work that she does at Elmbrook Care Home.

Childrey Methodist Chapel

Many of you will already be aware that, following the recent Church Council meeting at Wantage and the additional Circuit meeting, it has been agreed that worship will cease at Childrey following the anniversary service on **October 13th** at which our new Chair of District, the Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, will be preaching.

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 and for which we are very grateful.

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

It is right that we give thanks to God for the faithful witness of the chapel which this year celebrates 30 years of the opening of the new building, 175 years of Methodism on this site and 215 years of Methodism within the village

The remaining services at the chapel will be held on

11:00 am **September 8th** led by Rev Keith Underhill .

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

4:00 pm **October 13th**, Chapel Anniversary

To help with the preparations for the service on 13th October and especially catering arrangements etc, please would you let Keith know if you are planning on coming to the Anniversary Service by Monday 23rd September - thank you.

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

Welcome

On **Saturday 31st August at All Saint's Methodist Church at 3:00 pm**, we will be **welcoming the Rev'd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson and her husband Leslie** as they come to share with us in God's work in our Circuit. The preacher on this occasion will be Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, our new Chair of District.

Rev Bruce Thompson

We are delighted to be able to inform you that at the recent Circuit Meeting the recommendation of the Invitations Committee that Rev Bruce Thompson be re-invited to serve in our Circuit for a further period of three years, to the end of the Connexional year 2027/2028 (August 2028) was accepted.

Bruce has accepted this re-invitation and so, subject only to confirmation by the Methodist Conference, we have the privilege of his service and leadership for some years to come.

World Peace Day – 21 September

June Grunwald

In 2022 Wantage marked World Peace Day with a simple projection of images, words and music in the chapel for a couple of hours. In 2024 World Peace Day falls on a Saturday.

Earlier in the year, June volunteered to mark the day somehow on Wantage premises. She is pleased to announce that Lisa Doscher (a local natural voice choir leader and song writer) and Lea Morris (a singer/songwriter) have agreed to lead a singing workshop in Wantage hall on the afternoon of **Saturday, 21st September** on the theme of peace. More details available in due course. Please put the date in your diary as places will be limited.

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. In July we looked at a passage on Mark where Jesus sent out his disciples. As the general election had just been held we found some similarities with new MPs being elected for the first time. In August we looked at a passage from Ephesians which talks about kindness and controlling anger. This was very relevant again as the riots in Southport and other areas of the country had recently occurred.

The dates for the next few months are: **9th September** – more of a Harvest service with extra festival hymns; **14th October** – John 21:1-8; **11th November** – 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. In August we joined a visit from ZooLab and were invited to hold a variety of animals including a giant snail and a snake.

President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference 2024

The Methodist Conference 2024 elected the Rev Helen Cameron to serve as President and Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office on Saturday 29th June 2024.

The texts of their respective addresses to conference are available on the Methodist Church web site and also on the Circuit web site. Printed copies can be made available on request from Gordon Skidmore.

Messy Church

From Jane Butler, Messy Church Training & Development Lead at BRF Ministries

You may have heard of Messy Church Goes Wild, the movement within Messy Church which aims to encourage Messy Churches to meet God outdoors, love the natural world and to be more eco-aware in all we do.

Over the past couple of years we have been working on some new session material called the 'Messy Adventures' which is now available and free to download from our website or buy as a book.

To enable Messy Church leaders and those interested in forest/outdoor church, to get hands on with the Messy Adventures, we are hosting a number of Roadshows. Thanks to a grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council, the next one of these will be at St. Swithun's Church, Kennington, Oxfordshire on **Sunday 29th September**, 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

For further information and to book your free place, check out the event listing here

<https://www.messychurch.brf.org.uk/latest/events/messy-church-goes-wild-roadshow/>

There is a Facebook event which might be easier to share here

<https://www.facebook.com/events/506987931748496/?ref=newsfeed>



Come and be part of our
vibrant Christian community at...

Framland Care Home, Wantage

Call us on **0300 303 1470** or email
wantage@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

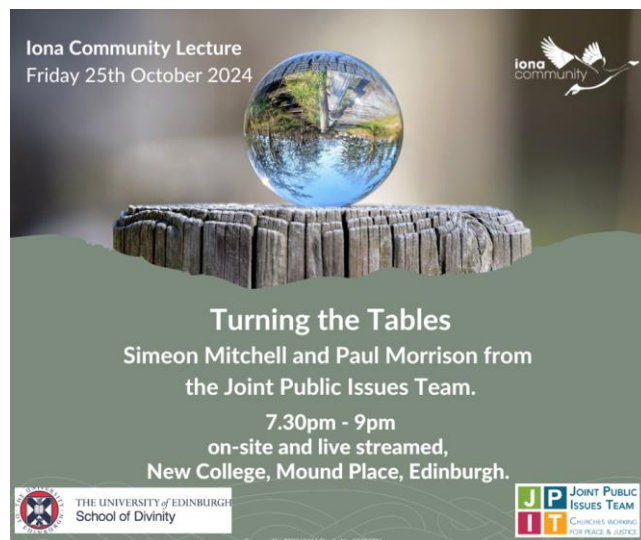
 www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/framland

PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY

From JPIT News no 168

Leaders of the Baptist Union, Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church issued a joint statement following the General Election and the appointment of the new government.

"We offer our prayers for the Prime Minister, for the new government and for all elected MPs. We will pray for God's blessing to be on all endeavours to seek peace, justice and the wellbeing of this nation – and where we can embody that blessing, we will."



In light of the riots taking place across the country at the moment, we have issued a JPIT statement.

"Our church partners have expressed alarm and concern following the violence that we have witnessed on our streets in several towns and cities. We stand with those who are being subjected to violence and hatred in our communities."

Homelessness Sunday

Christian homelessness charity [Housing Justice](#) is organising Homelessness Sunday once again on **Sunday, 6th October** – the Sunday before World Homeless Day. The theme for this year is 'Homelessness ends with Communities' and the charity is sharing a range of resources for churches wishing to hold their own Homelessness Sunday service including readings, prayers, hymns and junior church resources, as well as information on how churches can help to alleviate homelessness in their own communities.



Join JPIT on the 25th October, 7:30 – 9pm for the Iona Community annual lecture.

Our team members, Simeon and Paul, will explore the theme 'Turning the Tables' – how we can all play a part in building an economy that enables the flourishing of all life.

The event will be both in person in Edinburgh and live streamed online, with a donation of £10 for those attending on site and a suggested donation of £5 for those viewing the lecture online.

For links to more information on any of the above items, go to the JPIT web site.

Cornerstone News – September 2024



Marble Jar

We have been using the marble jar fund over the summer, to pay for free meals for those families whose children are entitled to free school meals.

Lots of families have taken this up and we have also had lots of donations into the marble jar, so thank you all very much for your support, I know the families who used it are very grateful.

Make and Bake

Our Make and Bake sessions for Under 5s start again on **Tuesday 10th September**, 9.30-11 am. £2 per child includes activities and drink – no need to book, just come along.

Take Note

There is a new promotion running until the end of September which includes brand new Bible commentaries. Do come and browse the shelves or take a leaflet with more information.

Monthly hot meal special

This month's meal is Roast Beef and will be served on **Wednesday 25th September** at 12.30 pm – please do book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Second hand books

We have a bookshelf of second hand books with prices from 50p upwards – all profits from the sale of these books goes to Cornerstone. We are not looking for any more donations currently but if you have good quality Christian books you would like to donate, do talk to us, we may be looking for more in the future.



Christmas lunches

We will be serving Christmas lunches on **Wednesday 4th, Friday 6th, Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Monday 16th December**. Menus will be available shortly. Do book well in advance if you are able to as dates fill up quickly.

Christmas Gifts

We now have Hannah Dunnett 2025 calendars in stock – more Christmas items will be arriving during this month.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 14th September** 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

Things a Church Can Do to be More Inclusive for Neurodivergent People

- Create quieter spaces in the church by having an area in the worship space where speakers are not directed at
- Name tags and/or role tags for stewards
- To have the last row (or area by the entrance to the worship space) that is reserved for those who come in late
- Coloured overlays (of different colours) available (especially if there are hymn books/service sheets/etc.)
- Fidget toys to be available
- Area in the building to go for quiet time
- Training on impulsivity/inattentiveness of congregation for key people (e.g. stewards, ministers, etc.) as to help others to understand these behaviours
- Break the sermon/talk up into smaller chunks – 5 minutes at a time
- Give clear and concise instructions and have these written down (if possible)
- To follow a similar routine each service (if possible); if it is not followed, to have an explanation as to why
- Try not to use phrases like ‘break a leg’ that has a metaphorical meaning – be literal
- To be aware of sensory stimulation: smells, light, sound, touch, etc. to not be overwhelming
- If at something like a Bible study, not expecting everyone to read and making this clear
- Important dates listed on a board, in clear font and not too visually cluttered
- Fix flickering lights – either by not having them on or replacing bulb/starting motor
- For tea and coffee after church, have mug options and not only cups and saucers
- Have the audio at the lowest level possible, whilst still be audible for others – i.e. not to have the speakers, etc. noisy for the sake of it
- To make it clear that when sharing the peace, physical contact is not compulsory (easier post-Covid)
- Transitioning from the service to the social isn’t always instant – give people time and space if they need it; signs may be remaining seated after a service, going to the loo shortly after, etc.
- When advertising services, be clear about what you will be doing; e.g. if there are periods of silence, say so.

In Conversation

with leading Rabbi, broadcaster, and prolific writer

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg

Wallingford Methodist Church

St Leonard's Square, OX10 0AS

Tuesday 17 September 12 noon till 1.00pm



'I believe in a Judaism that has preserved and deepened the search for God and for the sacred in every human being and every living thing.'

Jonathan Wittenberg was born in Glasgow in 1957, to a family of German Jewish origin with rabbinic ancestors on both sides.

He is Senior Rabbi of New North London Synagogue, one of the largest in the UK, and also Senior Rabbi of the Masorti movement in the UK, a traditional though non fundamentalist form of Judaism.

His many books include:

- **My Dear Ones**—*One Family and the Final Solution*
- **Things My Dog has Taught Me**—*about being a better human*
- **The Silence of Dark Water**—*An Inner Journey*

And his latest work:

- **Listening for God in Torah and Creation**—*a Weekly Encounter with Conscience and Soul*

For further details contact 01235 813242

Or revbrucet@tahoo.co.uk

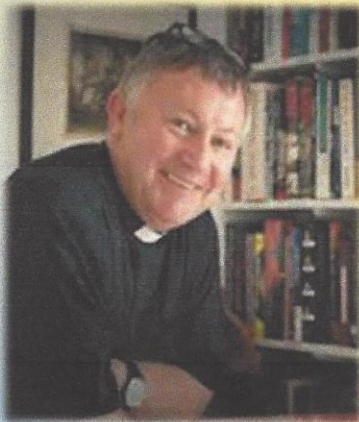


The Council of Christians and Jews
(Leeds Branch)

The Reverend Bruce Thompson

Antisemitism and the Christian Church

Wednesday 11th September 2024



Reverend Bruce Thompson is a Methodist Minister in the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit. He is also an author and historian with a strong interest in inter faith studies with particular emphasis on Judaism. He is deeply concerned about the complicity of the Church in antisemitism and the Holocaust.

His commitment is to raise awareness of the hostility Christians have often had toward Jews.

Commencing 8.00pm on Zoom

To register to attend this meeting online, please click on the link below

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9417176044868/
WN_mwUocXvERYuMwG4uy_i4Hw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9417176044868/WN_mwUocXvERYuMwG4uy_i4Hw)

ALL WELCOME

ADMISSION FREE

CHILDREY

Many of you will already be aware that following the recent Church Council meeting at Wantage and the additional Circuit meeting, it has been agreed that worship will cease at Childrey following the anniversary service on October 13th at which our new Chair of District, the Rev Dr Sonia Hicks, will be preaching.

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September 8th at 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

October 13th at 4:00 pm, Chapel Anniversary

Preacher: Chair of District, the Rev Dr Sonia Hicks

To help with the preparations for the service on 13th October and especially catering arrangements etc, please would you let Keith know if you are planning on coming to the Anniversary Service by **Monday 23rd September** - thank you.

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 “Cancer Research UK” Saturday, 7th September** from 10 am till 12 noon in the church. Rachel and Morgan 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, 1st September** at 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship for August will be on **Tuesday, 27th August** at 2.15 pm. We are meeting at Cornerstone to chat over tea/coffee and cake. Do hope you are able to join us there.

Tuesday Fellowship in September will be on **Tuesday, 24th September** at 2.15 pm. Details of the meeting will be given in the notices nearer the time.

Film Club will meet on **Friday, 20th September** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing **“Storm Boy”**. *Australian drama family film based on the 1964 novella by Colin Thiele. When Michael Kingley, a successful retired businessman, starts to see images from his past that he can't explain, he's forced to remember his childhood and how, as a boy, he rescued and raised an extraordinary orphaned pelican, Mr. Percival.*

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.

Date for your diary: We will be celebrating **Harvest** on **Sunday, 6th October**. Morning worship will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch. Details will be in the notices nearer the time.

Thank you for your support for the July Coffee Morning, which raised £255 for Helen & Douglas House Hospice. The Coffee morning in August for Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) raised £269.20 in donations to which is added £39.97 gift aid money in hand from last year. Thank you for all 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.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride – Saturday, 14th September

As many of you know, Grove Methodists have been taking part for over 25 years. This year Kit and Lynda hope to take part once again and would welcome any other “riders or striders” who would like to participate in any way either by joining them or under their own steam. Lynda does have a sponsorship form on hand if you would like to support her and Kit.

We also plan to open our Church again on 14th September between 10 am and 6 pm in order to greet participants from other churches, sign their sheets and offer light refreshments (squash, water and biscuits) or the use of our toilet facilities. Usually a welcomer sits in the church on Ride & Stride day and signs off the sponsorship forms for the Riders and Striders. Welcomers can do their own fundraising if they wish by asking for sponsorship for each hour they are on duty and people can also make donations in person or online (please contact Lynda Culley for details). 50% of any money raised will be returned to our church for use as we see fit.

If anyone is happy to meet and greet for an hour or so, or ride or stride on 14th September, Lynda will be happy to hear from you. Also please talk to Lynda if you would like to know more about the event.

Film Club *Peter Hemmings*

Here is a provisional selection which will take us beyond Christmas
At the moment the list is subject to availability so there may be changes.

Friday 20 September	Storm Boy	(2019 99m)
Friday 18 October	The Banshees of Inisherin	(2022 114m)
Friday 15 November	What's Eating Gilbert Grape	(1993 118m)
Friday 13 December (2nd Friday)	Nativity	(2009 105m)
Friday 17 January	Pinocchio	(2022 114m)
Friday 15 February	The Beautiful Game	(2024 125m)

WANTAGE

Circuit Service and Commissioning of June Grunwald as a Community Chaplain

We are delighted that we will be hosting the **Circuit Service** at Wantage on **Sunday evening 8th September at 6:30pm.**

The focus of the service will be on Chaplaincy and will include the commissioning of June Grunwald as a Community Chaplain, recognising the excellent work that she does at Elmbrook Care home.

Holy Habits (lite) September – November

Our next theme will be “Breaking Bread” with this being the focus of our Sunday services on **September 1st, October 13th 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?' – date and time t.b.c.

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 a joy to see so many of you in the park in July and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

The next few dates for Kids@Church are **September 15th, October 20th and November 17th.**

Kids@Church is an informal service and activity for children and their families and we usually start in the church at 9.30 and finish in the hall with breakfast about 10.15 am. New friends always warmly welcome!

For more information please call Keith Underhill on 01235 763321.

Harvest

Alison Phillips / Cath Worth

Our Harvest Festival will be at 10:30 am on **Sunday September 29th**

This year we will be focussing on the continuing needs of the Wantage Foodbank. Therefore gifts of groceries such as long life milk, juice, fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, tea, coffee, etc will be much appreciated, and please make sure there will be a sell by date of at least a month on these items. Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables will be given to the cafe at the Old Stables.

Any monetary donations are also very welcome as this enables the Foodbank team to buy specific goods where necessary.

On **Saturday September 28th** Jan Abrahall will be at the chapel from 9.00 am until 11.00 am to decorate the chapel, so if you would bring any gifts then of flowers, fruit or vegetables to her she will be pleased to receive them, although there will be an opportunity to bring them to church as part of our service on Sunday if you prefer.

Harvest Lunch - After the Harvest service on **Sunday 29th September**, we will be having a ploughman's lunch. Please sign up on the list on the notice board in the hall foyer **by Thursday 26th September** if you would like to join us.

Donations for lunch will go to support All We Can and Wantage Food Bank.

Request for puddings! - If you are able to provide a cold dessert please contact Cath Worth : cdccworth@gmail.com / 01235 770151

We are hoping for lots of different puddings to celebrate the variety of the harvest so please make whatever you like! We are deliberately asking for cold desserts though so that everyone can enjoy the harvest lunch together without the need for any cooks in the kitchen! Thank you.

World Peace Day – 21st September

June Grunwald

In 2022 we marked World Peace Day with a simple projection of images, words and music in our chapel for a couple of hours. In 2024 World Peace Day falls on a Saturday.

The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared **September 21st** as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. Peace Day has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate the day.

Earlier in the year, I volunteered to mark the day somehow on our premises. I am pleased to announce that Lisa Doscher (a local natural voice choir leader and song writer) and Lea Morris (a singer/songwriter) have agreed to lead a **singing workshop** in our hall on the **afternoon of Saturday, 21st September** on the theme of peace. More details available in due course. Please put the date in your diary as places will be limited.

There will also be a **Local Arrangement service** on **Sunday, 22nd September** on the theme of peace.

Our long awaited summer weather was welcomed during August, and the warm sunshine, in moderation, has enabled us to spend time outdoors. Whether in our gardens, the countryside, in parks or at the seaside, the glory of God's creation has been so obvious to us. We are thankful for our holidays, days out, family visits and all the various ways in which we can relax and refresh ourselves physically and emotionally. Perhaps the most reassuring thought of all though, is the spiritual one - the certainty of knowing that, whilst we have taken a break from some of our term time activities, God hasn't taken a moment's break in his care, protection and love for each one of us. In all that lies ahead in the coming year, we can be totally sure of being surrounded with that love every day, and we pray for the grace to accept these blessings, and allow them to inspire and guide us in all that we undertake.

The wellbeing of our church family members will always be in our minds, and a special part of our prayers. Following two operations earlier in the summer, Sue Haithwaite's treatment is continuing at the Churchill Hospital. We hold Sue in our thoughts as she embarks on weekly sessions of chemotherapy for three months, and continue to pray for her.

Jane Robinson recently suffered an accident in which her leg was badly cut and put her out of action. We hope she will recover quickly, and soon be well enough to be in church with us again .

It is always a joy to celebrate happy news, and in that context we offer warmest congratulations to June Grunwald on her appointment as a Lay Chaplain to Elmbrook Court Care Home. June has become well known and well loved by the residents and the staff there since it opened two years ago. She leads a service there each month, followed by a cup of tea and shared conversation, all of which are greatly appreciated by the elderly residents who participate. June's commissioning service will be at 6.30 on **Sunday 8th September**, with refreshments afterwards.

It has been an exciting summer for the Kent family. Jane, Iain, James, Emily and Alice have spent the whole of the month of August exploring Japan and then moving on to Australia to visit relatives in different parts of that country. Hopefully it has been an exciting adventure for them all.

Praying for each other: In September the people listed below, who are on Eileen Rennie's pastoral list, will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study: Janet and Richard Browning, Charlotte Browning, Joan and Ed Clipsham, Sue Haithwaite, Jean Manners, Gill Morton, Gill and Gordon Skidmore and Jenny Whymark.

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 that we might be a blessing to others

Lord of all, by your amazing grace you gift us with all that we need. We seek to depend on you, knowing your love is constant and new each and every day. We give you thanks this day for the surprising gifts that will meet us in the kindness of others. And, as your Spirit leads us, may we be an unexpected blessing – sharing Christ's love with others in our actions, thoughts and words. For the coming of your kingdom we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

Stephen Lindridge, District Chair, Newcastle Upon Tyne District

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, 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 - **Friday 13th September** at 1 pm for half an hour.

We will pray for those on our prayer list, those who have requested prayers through the prayer tree or via the outside box. We will also pray for anyone else or any situation that sits on our hearts and in our minds. All are welcome.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

September, Autumn and the start of another Methodist year. Not so very many weeks before it will be time to count how many angels we have and to order new labels.

We have continued to meet throughout the summer, enjoying chatting over tea and biscuits as well as fitting in some knitting when the hot weather has allowed. We will carry on with angel and hat knitting (or working on your own projects) on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, so please come and join us in the Church hall on **Monday 2nd September** and **Monday 16th September** at 2 pm.

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

Community Café

June Grunwald

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

It seems a long time since our July newsletter. Since then we have welcomed a variety of people at the café. One couple saw our sign and dropped in whilst on holiday. We offered coffee and cake to part of a funeral party who had travelled from Staffordshire. A homeless person also dropped into the café and we were able to signpost him to some local support as well as top up his mobile phone with money from the benevolent fund. We also offered prayers to another occasional café visitor who was diagnosed with cancer.

On **30th September**, **Age UK** will be coming to the café as part of the International Day of Older Persons. They will have a stall with a variety of information and about the services they offer in Oxfordshire.

I am very grateful for all those who so willingly make cakes. I regularly visit The Mix to source sliced bread for the café as part of our eco church work. The café does not charge for coffee, cake or toast but any donations go to a charity. In June, July and August donations will go to our own church funds. At the time of writing we will have raised over £310. At the June Church Council meeting it was agreed that the following charities would be supported in the next Connexional year: Freyja's fund (a local charity based at the JR which provides grants to children with cancer); Siyabonga (a small charity providing support to children in Uganda); Parkinsons Me (a local charity who run the garden in Ardington and also run movement classes for people with Parkinsons) and Church funds.

Many thanks to all who volunteer at the café. 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 continue to miss Eileen's presence at the café and hope she will be able to visit the café soon.

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. In July we looked at a passage on Mark where Jesus sent out his disciples. As the general election had just been held we found some similarities with new MPs being elected for the first time. In August we looked at a passage from Ephesians which talks about kindness and controlling anger. This was very relevant again as the riots in Southport and other areas of the country had recently occurred.

The dates for the next few months are: **9th September** – more of a Harvest service with extra festival hymns; **14th October** – John 21:1-8; **11th November** – 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. In August we joined a visit from ZooLab and were invited to hold a variety of animals including a giant snail and a snake.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

Having had a break during August, the group will reconvene on **Tuesday 3rd September**. It will be great to get back together as we support one another in Bible Study and as we pray together for the world, our community, our circuit, our church and each other.

This is an open and friendly group who meet to study and pray each week so please feel free to come along and join us. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Please be assured if you cannot meet with us that you are remembered in prayer. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

During September we will be finishing the Holy Habits study guide on Fellowship before moving on the Holy Habit of Breaking Bread in October.

Dates for September are as follows:

- 3rd Holy Habits, Fellowship Week 5: Grow up into Christ
Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.
- 10th Holy Habits, Fellowship Week 6: Everyone mature in Christ
Reading: Colossians 1:24-29
- 17th Holy Habits, Fellowship Week 7: Multisensory fellowship
Reading: John 1: 1-4
- 24th Holy Habits, Fellowship Week 8: Home at Last
Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

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

Riders & Striders

Clive & Alison Phillips

The Oxfordshire Historical Churches annual fundraising event will be held this year on **Saturday September 14th**.

Our church will be open to visitors as usual from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. In the past we have always had a good number of volunteers to welcome the "riders & striders" who will have been sponsored to raise money for the OHCT and their own churches. It will be great if we have an adequate number of volunteers this year. Volunteers are required to sit at the entrance to the church to sign visitor's sponsorship forms and to register the visitors' names on a list. We like to have two church sitters at any one time (for company!), who can volunteer for one or two hours. If you can help, please let us know when you will be available.

If anyone wants to participate as a rider or strider, to obtain sponsorship and visit churches, we can provide more information. This is always a very enjoyable day for both church-sitters and "riders & striders" and the money raised is important for the upkeep of Oxfordshire churches.

Breakfast Run, Walk or just Eat

for MND Association and MND Scotland

Heather Wells

On Saturday 28th September

at 8:30 am for run or walk

and breakfast at 9:30am in the Church Hall.

Cost: donations please.

Including a raffle.

My charity run for this year is the Glasgow Half Marathon on 6th October for Motor Neurone Disease - The MND Association focuses on improving access to care, research and campaigning for those living with or affected by MND which is a debilitating terminal disease.

I'm running for MND because:

Last year a friend, Becky and I set ourselves a challenge to celebrate our 60th Birthdays - we aimed to run a marathon in each nation of the UK. Becky succeeded and I failed (by just one marathon) due to unexpected surgery. We ran in Northumberland; The Giant's Causeway, South Uist and Becky ran in Snowdon.

But that is not why I am running for MND. When we ran our marathon in South Uist it was unsupported and was very close to Becky's birthday. Becky values her medals but being an unsupported marathon there were not going to be any medals, except I contacted a lovely, very, very positive lady, Ani, on the Islands and despite her MND she involved a friend and made the medals. Not only that but Ani would not hear of me paying her. We have become friends and I look forward to seeing her every time I'm on the islands.

This is part of our training and fundraising. Becky is supporting me, training with me and running with me in Glasgow. We will then fly over to the islands to meet up with Ani.

There will be a signup sheet on the notice board in the church hall in September or please email (heatherwells@quavas.com) – please do let me know of any dietary requirements. Many thanks.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Wantage & Grove Food Bank

Helen Carter

Food bank - with getting on for 700 food parcels having been delivered already this year there is as much need as ever for our contributions of food, hygiene items, and money. Everything on the list is welcomed and needed. Grateful thanks are given to those who contribute through our church collection, or via the shops and Cornerstone.

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 10:30 am	Kids@Church Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	3 rd Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café 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 Evening	MIND Wantage Camera Club		Weekly Weekly
Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	My Life My Choice Wantage Sings		Last Wednesday Weekly
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	3 rd Thursday	(not September)
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers		Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out		1 st Saturday

September

Thursday 12 th	Evening	Circuit Meeting	Hall
Thursday 26 th	Evening	Church Leadership Team	Parlour

DIARY for September

AUGUST

Tuesday 27 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p13
Saturday 31 st	3:00 pm	Welcome service for Rev Georgina Bonzi-Simpson at All Saints, Abingdon	p5

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p13
Monday 2 nd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p18
Saturday 7 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p13
Sunday 8th	6:30 pm	Circuit Service at Wantage	pp4/15
Monday 9 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	pp5/19
Thursday 12 th	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Wantage	
Friday 13 th	1:00pm	Lunchtime Prayers at Wantage	p18
Saturday 14 th		Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride	pp14/19
Sunday 15th	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p16
Monday 16 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p18
Friday, 20 th	7.30pm	Grove Film Club	pp13/14
Saturday 21 st	afternoon	World Peace Day Singing Workshop at Wantage	pp5/15
Sunday 22nd		Deadline for October CGW NEWS	p2
Tuesday 24 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p13
Thursday 26 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Leadership Team	
Saturday 28 th		Breakfast run, walk or just eat for MND	p21
	8:30 am	Run or Walk	
	9:30 am	Breakfast in Wantage Hall	
	9:00 am to 11:00 am	Wantage Harvest Preparation	p16
Sunday 29th	10:30 am	Wantage Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch	p16

OCTOBER

Sunday, 6th	10:30 am	Grove Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch	p13
Sunday 13th	4:00pm	Childrey Chapel Anniversary	pp4/12

SUNDAY SERVICES during September

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 1st

Ordinary 22

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

10:30 am Wantage Holy Habits Helen Carter

10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

6:30 pm Grove Prayer for Revival

Sunday 8th

Education Sunday

Ordinary 23

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

10:30 am Wantage Daphne Savage

10:30 am Grove Libby Bolton

11:00 am Childrey Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

6:30 pm Wantage Circuit Service Chaplaincy

Sunday 15th

Ordinary 24

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

9:30 am Wantage Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage Stephen Atkinson

10:30 am Grove Local Arrangements

Sunday 22nd

Peace Sunday

Ordinary 25

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13- 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

10:30 am Wantage Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove Peter Hemmings

Sunday 29th

Ordinary 26

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

10:30 am Wantage **Harvest Festival** Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove Ian Sturt