

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

SECTOR

NEWS


The Methodist Church



November 2020

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

Should you need a Minister when Keith is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below, who will put you in touch:

Alison Phillips : 01235 760335
Ian Sturt : 07426 772761
Doug Legge : 01235 751463

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 **December/January Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 23rd November 2020** to wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Sunday Services and Church Activities

All three churches in the sector are meeting for worship. Business meetings and other church activities on the premises remain suspended. See the in on page 6 for details.

There is a Zoom Service shared from Wantage at 10:30 each week:
(for access to these please contact Rev Keith Underhill)

Texts for Services at home for each Sunday are posted on the websites.

Grove web site is found from www.wantab.org.uk

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

Circuit web site www.wantab.org.uk

Circuit YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t_ZQt0w

Each week Wesley's Chapel in London will continue to live-stream worship, adapted for no physical congregation.

Service times: Wednesday 12:45, Thursday 12:45, Sunday 9:45 and 11:00.

All these services will be available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA>

More information about all of this can be found at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

From the Manse.....

Back in my Infant School days when Halloween was something that was done 'over there' in America, I can still recall singing along with my friends: "*Remember, remember, the fifth of November*" as we looked forward to the excitement of bonfire night.

At that young age I didn't know how the rest of the rhyme went "*Remember, remember, the fifth of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot! If you can't give us one, we'll take two; the better for us and the worse for you!*" nor of course appreciate that it commemorated religious intolerance and sectarian violence in the early 17th century.

As we move through the tail end of October into the month of November, we find ourselves in a period when we do indeed reflect, recall and remember.

On Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, we will, at 11:00 am, in silence and respect, remember and respond to the words of Laurence Binyon:

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

All Saints and All Hallows also give us the opportunity to remember and in more 'normal years and circumstances' we would have been holding our own services of remembrance at this time, gathering to remember and give thanks to God for those whom we still love but see no longer.

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer and darker, our thoughts naturally turn to the months that have passed and what has been as we head towards the end of the year. This year, 2020, a year that we couldn't imagine turning out as it has when it first started.

As we continue to be battered and shaken by politics and pandemic alike and we wonder when all this will end, may we find hope, help and comfort in some words of God as found in the book of Isaiah, who reminds us that God has not forgotten us and that he continually remembers us, for he has written our names on the palm of his hand. (Isaiah 49:16)

May we remember that God is always with us and in that eternal truth, find strength not only for this day but for all days.

With love and God Bless

Keith

Ministerial Stationing

We are delighted to be able to inform you that at the recent Circuit Meeting the following actions were taken:

1. The Meeting accepted the recommendation of the Invitations Committee that Revd. Keith Underhill be re-invited to serve as our Superintendent Minister for a further period of four years, to the end of the Connexional year 2024/2025 (August 2025).

2. The Meeting also accepted the recommendation of the Invitations Committee that Revd. Ian Griffiths be re-invited to serve in our Circuit for a further period of three years, to the end of the Connexional year 2023/2024 (August 2024).

Both Ministers have accepted these re-invitations and so, subject only to confirmation by the Methodist Conference, we have the privilege of their service and leadership for some years to come. In a time of great uncertainty and trouble such as we are experiencing at present, this is a great blessing on our Circuit and its churches.

Anne Matthews, Geoffrey Maunder, Carolyn Roche, Alan Smith (Circuit Stewards)
16 October 2020

The Northampton District Prayer Diary is available on the district website :

<https://www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/worship/district-prayer-diary/>

Acts of Remembrance in Wantage

There will be acts of remembrance at the Charlton War Memorial at 9:00 am and at the Wantage War Memorial at 11:00 am. However, these will use the minimum number of people and members of the public are being asked not to attend. The acts of remembrance will be streamed on the Town Council's FB page. There will be no civic service this year.

Peace poppies

(More information about these on the Peace Pledge Union web site

<https://www.ppu.org.uk/>)

Helen Carter once more has white peace poppies to sell. They cost £1 (fixed price). She is happy to deliver them to anyone who would like one. Please phone her on 764810 or 07881 504623 to order one.

Christmas Cards 2020

Please note that because of CV19 issues there will not be a Scout Post delivery service this year. The issue revolves about the concentration and sorting of the cards.

WGCP (Wantage & Grove Church Partnership) Christmas Project 2020

The video will aim to bring the Christmas Story to people in Wantage and Grove (and further afield) through local churches working together. The Action Group was keen to join together to share the story of Christmas in a way that communicated our unity around Jesus and told the story to all who watched, churched or unchurched.

The video will be advertised on the web pages and posters which will be produced this year instead of the WGCP Christmas card, which cannot be sent as there will be no scout delivery service.

The video will comprise:

- An introduction.
- A segment contributed by each of the participating churches.
- A short homily on the significance of Jesus' birth.
- A closing prayer.

Each church contribution will tell part of the Christmas story and will comprise a "reading" and a Christmas song.

The segments will be edited together and released onto the WGCP website and participating church websites at 6 pm on 13th December 2020 under the tiytle "The Christmas Story – a carol service for the local community from the churches of Wantage & Grove."

Childrey

Childrey are planning to meet for worship on the second and fourth Sundays in each month.

Please contact Keith if you wish to attend as there is a strict limit on the numbers that can be present.

Prayers:

Prayers are asked for Amy Rose Legge and her family, Keith & Leonora, David, Barbara, Shirley, Jean and all those unknown to us who are in need of our help.

Christian Love to all.

Grove

We intend (COVID rules permitting) to **open the church for worship on Sunday 25th October at our usual time of 10:45 am** and each week thereafter. However, things will be rather different from before. We will have to maintain 2m distance from each other and this dramatically reduces our seating capacity, which makes booking a place essential. To book your place, please contact Judith Hopkins on 07887 995530 or judith.hopkins@ntlworld.com **by Friday lunch time** prior to the Sunday. We will also need to wear masks and use hand sanitiser as we arrive and wait to be shown to a seat. This will be a learning process for all involved but also we hope it will be a great blessing to be able to worship God again together in the flesh.

Cards for Freyja's Fund. Judith has been busy making cards and now has Christmas cards ready for sale. Because our regular coffee mornings can't take place at the moment, she plans to hold an Open Afternoon when the cards will be on display in her conservatory and you are invited to visit on a one in and one out basis. It is on **Friday, 6th November** from 2 to 4 pm at 121, Mayfield Avenue. Grove. If you would prefer to visit at a different time, then please contact Judith on 07887 995530 to arrange a suitable day and time for you both.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of **Sheila Hall**, peacefully at home, in the early hours of Friday morning, 16th October. Stan and Sheila have both been members of Grove Methodist Church since they moved to Grove in the early 1960's. They have welcomed and encouraged us all over the years and we give thanks for all they have done and meant to us. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynda and Nicky and all Sheila's family.

The funeral service for Sheila Hall will be at 12 noon on Friday 13th November at Wantage Methodist Church. Attendance will be by invitation only (CV19 regs).

We continue to remember those of our church family who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems compounded by the coronavirus situation. Especially our thoughts are with Jim and Cathy Voller, David and Mirella Phillips and Katie and Alex King. Eric and Paul Thomas both continue to make steady progress.

The **Wednesday Zoom Coffee mornings** are a good chance to keep in touch and if you would like to 'come along' please let Keith know and he will arrange for you to be included. You will then receive a weekly 'invitation' by email and can join in as and when you are able to.

The next **Church Council** meeting is on **Zoom** on **Thursday, 29th October** at 8:00 pm. All interested in the continued life and work of our Church are invited to attend.

Alan and June Grunwald have offered to run another **Zoom Quiz**, with the help of Ian Sturt. The quiz will be held on **Friday, 20 November at 7.30 pm**. The quiz will be low brow with some short rounds with some time to break out in groups and have a zoom chat. If you would like to quiz, please email June so that she can send a zoom invitation out. jnurdglaw@live.co.uk



Wantage

Keeping in Contact

We are trying to maintain various ways of keeping in touch.

There is always our internet website, and our Facebook presence, but it is understood that many of us cannot access the internet easily, if at all.

We will continue to publish a monthly newsletter and weekly notices and post those on the website. We will also do our best to distribute copies to those who would wish to receive them.

Sunday Worship

We have started to use the chapel for worship each Sunday at 10:30 am. These will only last for around 30/40 minutes.

The planned services are shown in the feature on page 14/15.

- Please book ahead each week to attend worship by telephoning or emailing Clive & Alison Phillips on 01235 760335 or by email to candaphillips@gmail.com by Friday lunch time before the Sunday. Clive and Alison will reply to answer machine messages or emails to confirm that the place has been reserved
- Please observe social distancing.
- Please sanitise your hands on entry.
- Please scan the Wantage Methodist Church QR code for the NHS-Covid19 app displayed at the entrances if you have the app.
- If you wish to use a Bible and hymn book, we encourage you to bring your own wherever possible.
- Please bring your own cushion and bottled water with you if you need them.
- You will need to keep your coats etc. with you.
- You should wear a face covering whilst in church. Some people are exempt from wearing a face covering for various reasons and will not be required to do so while attending worship.
- Sadly we may not sing.
- There will be no creche, Junior Church or Kids@Church for the time being.
- Should you require to use the toilet at any time, please speak to the "Link" door steward.
- You should sanitise your hands as you leave.
- There will be a basket for any offering you wish to be make either on your way in or way out.
- When the service has ended, please leave promptly in an orderly fashion so as to maintain social distancing.

Coming to a service will always involve an element of risk, although we are committed to making sure that the risk is as small as we can make it. You must decide for yourself whether this is a risk you wish to take and the decision will be different for different people. If you don't want to physically come to a church service that is fine, we are all still one Church.

We are committed to ensure that there will be a Zoom service each week either from the service held in church or alongside the service held in church.

To share the Zoom services please contact Keith for the links.

Initially there will not be break out groups after Zoom service when it comes live from the Chapel but we will develop things so that this is possible.

Also other material for worship at home that has been available since lockdown will continue to be supplied.

Worship on Wednesdays.

On the first Wednesday of the month, June Grunwald is projecting a short (30 - 40 min) Powerpoint with prayers, bible reading, hymn(s) and images at 2:00 pm in the Chapel. During these continued strange times, it will be another opportunity to meet in our Chapel (with all the social distancing etc in place) for those who would like to attend.

The first one was on Wednesday 7th October on the theme of Harvest .

The next one will be on **Wednesday 4th November** when the focus will be "Remembrance". After that it will be on **Wednesday 2nd December** on Advent.

YMOSES

Jane Kent

YMOSES (Youth meeting on Sunday evenings) will be meeting again in person in the church hall on **Sunday 8th November** between 7 and 7:40 pm. Anyone of secondary school age is really welcome - please give me a ring if you have any questions. Jane Kent, 01235 765421

Regular Zooms:

Tea@Three at 3:00 pm every Tuesday - a chance to see people for a chat. Please contact Keith for the links.

Knit & Chat at 2:30 pm on the first and third Monday each month.

Please contact Helen Carter for the links.

Please watch for the latest information which will be posted on the website.

<https://wantagemethodist.org.uk>

Winter Walkers

A few people have mentioned that they would appreciate a walking companion, particularly in the winter when it takes more of an effort to get out. As the weather is so changeable one idea might be to have a group email so anyone who fancies a walk can email the rest with a suggested day, time and length and others respond and join in. (Obviously keeping to the Covid regulations - currently groups of 6.) If you would like to join a group of winter walkers, please email June Grunwald jnurdglaw@live.co.uk 01235 760488 giving your permission for your email to be shared with other potential walkers. If you don't have an email and like to walk, please give your permission to share your phone number with the rest of the walkers.

Pastoral

Ann Barber

In November the people listed below, who are on Judith and Mike Skinner's and Kelvin Rose's pastoral list, will be included in the ***Praying for each other*** prayer time during which all of the members of Eileen's house-group, join together to pray in their individual homes: Alison Brown, Faith and Damien Culshaw, Alex Mwange, Graham Wells, Heather Wells, Andrew Barber, Ian Campbell, Francis and Margaret McAlpin, Carolyn Roche and Gordon Scott.

In addition to the names listed above, those in our church family, who through frailty or ill health would no longer be able to worship with us at our usual Sunday morning Services, will also be prayed for by name by the members of Eileen's house-group.

We also hold in our thoughts several members of our church family who have had problems of ill health, and admissions to hospital during the last month. We assure them of our shared concern for each one of them, and of our prayers for their recovery and return to good health.

Diane Barton is currently recovering from a fall in which her hip and eight ribs were broken. Having spent a week in the JR Hospital, she is now in a Nursing Home near Abingdon and is receiving rehabilitative treatment to strengthen her leg and aid her mobility. As in most similar establishments, unfortunately no visiting is currently permitted, but Diane has expressed her appreciation for the 'Get Well' messages she has received. She sends her love to everyone at Church, and we in turn assure her of our continuing prayers for her progress towards being well enough to return home.

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God in the changing seasons we praise you and give you thanks for the wonder of creation. Help us to take better care of your world and so restore some of what we have destroyed. Recent times have taught us what is really important so help us never to forget what we have learnt and really move forward positively in your name with a resounding aim to transform the lives of those most in need. Guide us to share more generously, to pray more regularly and open our eyes to the needs of others. Together we can build a better world to your glory. Amen

Please pray for:

Jean M, Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Carl, Carol Mackinder, Anne, Emma Wright and family, Alex and Brian, Gordon & Marina, Betty, Caroline, Adrian, Jenny, Linda, Kathy, June Coppock, Margaret Watts, Sarah Holt, Jinnie Brown and her sons, Margaret McAlpin, Diane Barton, Alastair Wright, the family of Derek Morris (Gill Skidmore's brother), Sharon and her family. Give thanks for Sheila Hall's life and pray for her daughters Lynda, Nicky and their families as they mourn her passing. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, YMOSES, kids@church and Street Pastors. 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 Eileen know by Friday 23rd November in order for her to meet the newsletter deadline.

Telephone: 01235 224284; email: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com

Order for Bible reading Notes [IBRA]

This year's notes are entitled "Fresh From The World" with a foreword by Pam Rhodes. They are priced at £9.90. If we have the same number of copies as last year, there will be a 10% discount, making the price £9.00.

This year please telephone Peter Preston on 01235 762332 no later than **Sunday 29th November** to order your copy.

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

Eileen Rennie

Sadly yet another month has passed in which we have not been able to meet as a group. Unfortunately at the time of writing it is still not possible to predict when that is likely to happen. However on a positive note the Church has been open on three occasions to date. June Grunwald kindly produced an overhead projection for World Peace Day on 21st September and a Harvest Reflection on Wednesday 7th October and the Church was open for Sunday Worship on 18th October. We must continue to pray for the current situation and that we will all act responsibly and so look forward to a brighter future ahead.

Although we have missed meeting as a group, we do give thanks for the few opportunities we have had to meet in a small group of four to catch up with each other and share our experiences over this prolonged break. We have been keeping in touch by email and telephone and pass on news of each other.

I will continue to email the group each Monday with details for our prayertime that week when each Tuesday, although apart, we have united in prayer at 3 pm. It is good to know that Zoom Sunday Services will continue, even though those who wish to attend in Church are now able to, albeit in smaller numbers. It is always a joy to see smiling faces after we have enjoyed worship together each Sunday. People have really appreciated these times as well as the opportunity for "Tea @ Three" on Tuesdays and all the material on the Church website and on you tube.

We will all have to keep careful watch on updates from our government to know how we can continue to plan.

In the meantime as we get out a little we hope that we will meet up with some familiar faces to catch up whilst still socially distancing.

We do all look forward to the time when we can all meet together again. In the meantime pleased be assured that you are all held in prayer.

If you have any queries you can contact me (Eileen Rennie) by telephone on 01235 224284 or e-mail: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com

Community Drop In Café

Eileen Rennie

We are sad to relate with the passing of yet another month we are still unable to open the Cafe and to date have no idea when that is likely to be due to the current Coronavirus situation. However our Church has now been open on several occasions. June Grunwald kindly prepared an overhead reflection for World Peace Day on 21st September and a Harvest Reflection on 7th October and our Church opened for worship on Sunday 18th October. There will be details elsewhere in this Newsletter of future times the Church will be open and how to arrange to be able to attend.

We are pleased to have been able to keep in touch with some of you through phone calls and also meeting up in town by chance whilst socially distancing. It has also been possible for individuals to arrange to meet for a coffee somewhere within the current size groups allowed. We know from these contacts that many people are missing the joy of their Monday morning weekly visits. Please be assured that as soon as we have some definite news on re-opening we will be letting you know.

We continue to look forward in faith to when we are able to meet again and enjoy each other's company. Meanwhile you are being held in prayer. When we are able to meet again the donations will be going to Clean Slate, a low cost, long term listening and support service for all victims of abuse and mental illness. Our sincere thanks to our 22 willing volunteers who have served us so well. They too have missed seeing your friendly faces and hearing your news. When normal service is resumed we look forward to welcoming you all back. For further information contact either Eileen Rennie or June Grunwald.



Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

It has been good to find out how many angels have been knitted and the pleasure this has given the knitters. We have about 1,200 to date but if you enjoy knitting them don't feel you have to stop. So far I have spoken to the Wantage care homes who are all very keen to have them again. They will also be going out to Richmond Village. I am currently speaking with Ray Collins and hopefully angels will be put in the Christmas Hampers. This will also be linked with Foodbank. Finally we will put some around the town as usual.

I will let you know when I have the labels. We shall not be able to have our tying on sessions as in previous years. Some people have volunteered to tie the labels on at home. Otherwise I will collect the angels in good time so that I can get them ready.

Don't forget that you can join us on the first and third Mondays of the month for Zoom Knit & Chat. Just let Helen Carter know so that she can send you the link. There is also the opportunity to be part of our Facebook group. Please let June Grunwald know if you wish to join this. June also puts information and photos on the church website. Plenty of opportunities to keep in touch and see what we are making. Please call me if you have any queries or just fancy a chat.

HMP Bullingdon Christmas card appeal (from Helen Carter)

For several years now we have sent over 100 signed Christmas cards for the men in Bullingdon who have attended the services in the chaplaincy. This year things have to be different. We have therefore been asked to supply Christmas cards for the men to send to their families. I am hoping that quite a number of us will feel able to purchase packs of Christmas cards that can be sent, unopened, to Bullingdon. I will make up a parcel of all our cards and send them as requested. (I am not allowed to deliver them in person this year and hand them over as in previous years - a shame, but totally understandable). I am very happy to collect up the cards from anyone who contacts me on 01235 764810 or 07881 504623. Thank you.

In total, there are about 1,400 prisoners in Bullingdon, of which about 420 are registered under the umbrella of "Christian faith". I have no idea how many of those 420 attend church services, but I thought that was an interesting statistic to report.

Thank you from Luccia

Thank you all for the prayerful support and donations that you offered me for my London Marathon 2020, which eventually took place on 4th October having been postponed from April. I cannot express how much it means to me, my family and the Royal Marine Charity that you have once again been there for me. I completed the 26.2 miles locally, as only the Elite Runners were allowed to run in London. It took me 6 hours and 4 minutes. It was a wonderful but very challenging and indeed different experience this year. I have almost reached my £2,500 target so thank you again for supporting me. I hope one day to catch up with you all personally.

Thank you from Jane Robinson

Thank you all for all your greetings for my 80th birthday. Thank you especially for the beautiful flowers which Ann brought me. It has been a good occasion despite the times we are living in! It has been a time of surprises - balloons and bunting on my drive when I got up, new places to eat out, delicious cake from an unknown wellwisher. I have been grateful for Zoom. I have met up with friends and family by Zoom. It's good to see you all at Sunday services. Thank you for your friendship and fellowship.

Zoom Quiz

Alan and June Grunwald have offered to run another **Zoom Quiz**, with the help of Ian Sturt from Grove, The quiz will be held on **Friday, 20 November at 7.30 pm**. The quiz will be low brow with some short rounds with some time to break out in groups and have a zoom chat. If you would like to quiz, please email June so that she can send a zoom invitation out. jnurdglaw@live.co.uk

Worship in November

Sunday 25th October

Zoom Service	10:30	led by Rev Keith Underhill with Rev Heather Leake-Date preaching
Wantage	10:30	Service in Chapel - Zoom service projected led by Rev Keith Underhill from home with Rev Heather Leake-Date preaching from Brighton
Grove	10:45	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Ian Sturt
Childrey	11:00	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Helen Carter

Sunday 1st November

Zoom Service	09:30	led by Rev Keith Underhill.
Wantage	10:30	Service in Chapel – Local Arrangements
Grove	10:45	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Rev Keith Underhill

Wednesday 4th November

Wantage	14:00	Worship on Wednesdays - Remembrance
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Sunday 8th November

Zoom Service	10:30	from Wantage – see below
Wantage	10:30	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Rev Keith Underhill
Grove	10:45	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Peter Hemmings
Childrey	11:00	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Carol Sturt

Sunday 15th November

Zoom Service	10:30	from Wantage – see below
Wantage	10:30	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Helen Carter
Grove	10:45	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 22nd November

Zoom Service	10:30	from Wantage – see below
Wantage	10:30	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Deacon Selina Nisbett
Grove	10:45	Service in Chapel – Local Arrangements
Childrey	11:00	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 29th November

Zoom Service	10:30	from Wantage – see below
Wantage	10:30	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Ian Sturt
Grove	10:45	Morning Worship in the chapel led by Frederick Obeng

Wednesday 2nd December

Wantage	14:00	Worship on Wednesdays - Advent
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DIARY

OCTOBER

24th – 30th Good Money Week

Thursday 29th 20:00 Grove Church Council (Zoom)

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th 14:00 Worship on Wednesdays @ Wantage

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday
19:00 YMOSES @ Wantage

8th -15th Interfaith Week

Friday 13th 12:00 Funeral for Sheila Hall @ Wantage

Sunday 15th International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians

Friday 20th 19:30 Zoom Quiz

Sunday 22nd Women against Violence Sunday

Sunday 29th Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st World Aids Day

Wednesday 2nd 14:00 Worship on Wednesdays @ Wantage

Sunday 13th 18:00 WGCP Christmas Video release
19:00 YMOSES