

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY

GROVE

WANTAGE

Greetings Supplement

The Methodist Church



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Christmas 2020

From my Bubble

A Covid meditation 9 months on

Seconds out, Round 2, Tier 2,

Déjà vu.

This time we know what's coming and the heart sinks.

No Spring to lift our mood, no sun-filled days to divert us;

Autumn is daunting enough in the best of times

As the harbinger of greyness and decay to come,

But now already each day brings its losses –

Fewer flowers, shorter days and all too little to distract us.

Even in anticipation our mood spirals downwards.

Too much time, too little motivation.

We settle into a type of torpor

As the flatness of undifferentiated days takes its toll.

Only the rules change – daily it seems

As politicians weigh health against finances,

Scientists against economists,

Consensus against revolt.

Even Solomon in all his wisdom would be daunted.

The promise of a vaccine offers hope,

But not now, not yet.

So what now? Do we write off Christmas?

Or is there a better way?

It was never meant to be about self-indulgence,

About eating and drinking, comfort and prosperity.

It all started in a draughty stable,

With no family around, no hospital care,

Only a decree to comply with and taxes to pay.

So let's get back to basics; strip away all accretions,

See it for what it really is – a true cause for celebration.

A birth, a child, a promise, a Saviour.

Emmanuel – God with us. One born to suffer for us.

And suddenly a light penetrates the darkness.

A true sense of proportion returns.

Sue M. Cleave

November 2020

Liz and I would like to say a huge thank you for the love, prayers, support and encouragement we have received from you all this year.

May we all know the peace and presence of the Christ child this Christmas and always.

Love and God Bless

Liz and Keith

Nicky and I would like to thank our wonderful church family for all the love, prayers and support that we have received in this most difficult of years.

We send our love and Christmas greetings
and pray especially for those who like us, have lost loved ones
and who are at this special time experiencing ill health, uncertainty and fear.
God Bless you all and bring you peace.

Lynda Culley and Nicky Frost.



*Sending our love and warmest good wishes
for a peaceful and joyous Christmas to everyone
Ann and Pete xx*

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas
and a brighter 2021!
with love from June and Alan Grunwald

Hilary Rewcastle sends love and
good wishes to everyone in the
Church family for a peaceful and
happy Christmas followed by a
brighter and hopeful New Year.



Sending peace and blessings
to you all this Christmas
With much love from Julie xx

To all church members
Happy Christmas
Love from Richard George

Wishing all Methodist Church friends a safe Christmas and New Year.
Andrew x

To everyone at Wantage, Grove & Childrey Methodist Churches
Blessings for Christmas and the coming year.
With best wishes and love from Carolyn x

With my love to our Church family this Christmas time
& best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year
Margaret F.

Christmas greetings to everyone
at Wantage Methodist Church
from Carole and Keith

Greetings from Noreen & Peter

Peace and Joy to you all,
May the star in the east bring hope to the world.
Even though we cannot travel to Bethlehem or anywhere
else
Let us bow down and kneel before our Lord and maker.

Clive and Alison send their warmest greetings to our church family
as we celebrate an unusual Christmas this year.
We keep you in our thoughts and prayers,
and look forward to getting together again in 2021.
Happy Christmas!

***To all at Wantage, Grove & Childrey Methodist Churches.
Whatever your Christmas celebrations are, and whoever
you are celebrating Christmas with - with God only or with
others as well as with God - we pray you will have a
blessed time.***

With much love from Helen & John C



To all our friends at
Wantage Methodist Church

Merry Christmas

wishing you all every blessing.

Stay safe!

100 Janet. Rogers

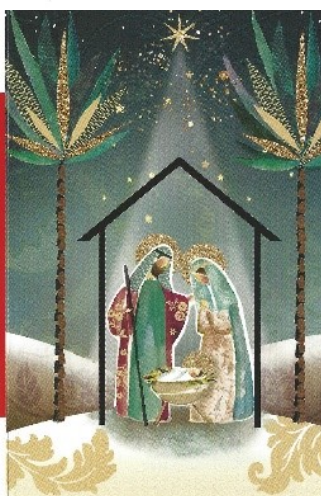
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Audrey, John, David, Rachel and Graham thank all our friends for their friendship through the year and send our greetings for a blessed Christmas and New Year. Even though living in Northern Ireland Rachel and Graham feel very much part of the Wantage and Abingdon Church family.

With warm and peaceful Christmas greetings
to all at Wantage Methodist Church.

Looking forward to sharing fellowship with you all in 2021.
Every blessing Jan Abrahall



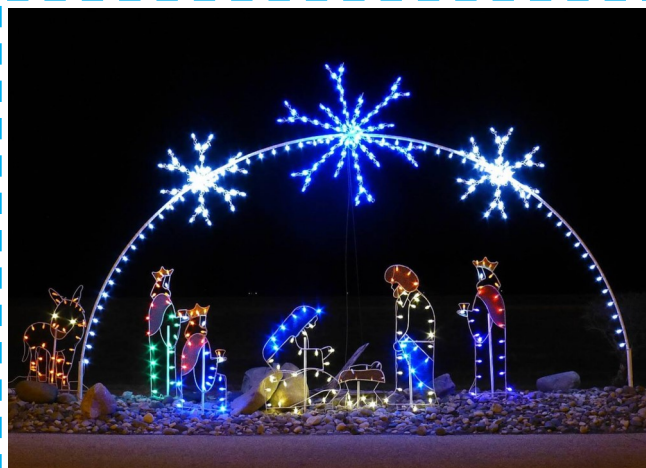
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To All our Church
Friends

With
Christmas Greetings
and Best Wishes
for the
New Year

Have a Peaceful
Christmas and may
we all meet again in
our Church.

Anne + Doug Hatto



Merry Christmas to all at Grove, Wantage and Childrey Methodist churches, and all the churches of the circuit.

I hope your festive season will be peaceful and that 2021 will bring many blessings.

Love from Lois Greenhalgh & family.

Christmas Greetings to all in the Church Family for a happy peaceful time however we may be spending it this year.

Help us to think on the real meaning for our celebrations.
God gave us his Son Jesus as a gift of love for every one as He would show us what God was really like and teach us how to live our lives by showing concern for those around us and to help others we hear about who we do not know to feel that someone loves and cares for them.

Best Wishes from Celia Rosen



I send love and good wishes to all our Church family and may 2021 keep you safe.

"A very Happy Christmas"

Roll on the vaccine!

Margaret Wilson.

Thank you all for your support through 2020.
We wish you all every Christmas blessing and a happy and trouble free New Year.
Gill and Gordon

Many thanks to Ann and Andrew Barber and all the Pastoral team for their dedication to caring for us and distributing the Cards and Newsletters this Christmas.

Christmas Services

20th December

Wantage 10:30 am

Morning service led by Peter Hemmings
In Church & broadcast on Zoom.

Grove 10:45 am

Morning Service in Chapel
led by Rev Keith Underhill

Zoom 6:30pm

Carol service

A mixture of 'live' music and some YouTube carols as well as all the usual readings.

This will be on **Zoom from the Manse.**

24th December

Zoom 4:00pm

"Getting ready for Christmas"

An all age service.

This will be on **Zoom from the Manse.**

Zoom 11:30pm

Christmas Eve Watch-night service

including a love feast as we wait once more for His birth amongst us.

This will be on **Zoom from the Manse.**

25th December

Zoom 10:00am

Christmas morning celebration:

An all age service

This will be on **Zoom from the Manse.**

27th December

No service at church and no Zoom service.

There will however, be a **pre-recorded act of worship on the Circuit YouTube channel** that you will be able to easily access at a time that suits you.

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

The full orders of service for the Zoom services along with the invitations will be sent out in due course, along with the link to the YouTube act of worship for the 27th December.

Follow the Star : A Christmas children's trail around Wantage

Are you looking for activities to occupy your family over the Christmas holidays? Visit the 17 locations around the town which form our **Follow the Star** Christmas quiz trail. Each location illustrates part of the Christmas story or a Christmas tradition, and asks some questions.

Locations can be visited in any order from 19 December to 2 January. Pick up a map/quiz sheet from the Parish Church or the Museum, or download one from our website at wantageparish.com.

In Christ, Philip

Fr Philip Wells
Vicar of Wantage
01235 762214

Worship in January 2021

With the restrictions of Tier 4 now in place, along with the rapid increase in Covid infections, particularly those linked to the new variant, we have taken the decision to suspend worship in the churches for the time being.

Recognising our duty of care, the need to do all that we can to help keep the wider community safe and play our part in trying to minimise the spread of the virus, we feel that this is the right thing to do.

The Church Stewards, Church Councils and I continue in our commitment to ensure that we keep everyone as connected and as in touch as we possibly can, through emails, texts, WhatsApp, letters and phone calls.

We will continue to send out weekly Orders of service to use at home, have a weekly Zoom service each Sunday at 10:30am and put acts of worship on the Circuit YouTube Channel. Please contact me directly for further details.

keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk

Next Newsletter Deadline Sunday 10th January