

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



April 2021

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 25th April 2021** to
wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Sunday Services and Church Activities

Worship services, business meetings and church activities have been suspended for the time being. Please see page 16 for the arrangements this month.

There is a Circuit Zoom Service usually 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.....

As I am writing the sun is shining, the sky is blue, the flowers are coming out, the grass has been cut and a starling is gathering twigs for its nest and playing tug-of-war with a solitary piece of string attached to the fence. The view from the study window proclaims that spring is here and vividly bears testimony to that fact.

Spring heralds the promise of all that is to come. It turns its back on winter and taunts the barrenness and desolation of the season that has just passed with signs of new life, new beginnings and resurrection.

That which had been dormant for so long and looked devoid of life is now transfigured and transformed with “buds of earth and flowers of heaven”.

This spring more than any other for a long time, has been much sought after and longed for as we seek some respite from the all-encompassing pandemic that has physically and emotionally locked us down and forced us inside.

With warmer weather and spirits lifted by the bright skies, it feels as if we are now able to raise our collective faces towards the sun and in doing so, find some solace, space and freedom, albeit within the limitations placed upon us. The promise of better times to come and the feeling that this too will pass now seems more real, more believable.

The miracle of resurrection that is so clearly visible in our gardens, parks and fields, is a harbinger of that which is at the heart of our faith. It reminds us that out of death comes life, out darkness comes light, out of despair comes hope and out of captivity comes freedom.

Resurrection turns the old order upside down and inside out. It discards what was and turns it into something new.

Like Easter day itself, resurrection is not solely tied down to a specific time of year or date, for it is a reality that continually breaks into the world. We might recall, proclaim and focus on the resurrection story on one particular day of the year, (4th April in 2021) but it is about every moment of every day.

Whether we are talking about resurrection writ large with a capital R in matters of life and death, or resurrection in the more ordinary things that surround us - there are signs of its truth all around us.

Long after the Easter eggs have all been eaten, the flowers on the Lenten Cross taken down and the Easter cards recycled, we proclaim Christ is risen!

For when the warmth breaks through the cold and light comes to the dark places,
Christ is risen!

When sadness turns to joy and fear turns to rejoicing,
Christ is risen!

When we take courage and share the good news,
Christ is risen!

When the shroud is left behind and the banner of Christ is unfurled,
Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed - Alleluia!

With love and God Bless

Keith

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 28th March

All age service on line - courtesy of Junior church leaders from Trinity and All Saints available to watch at any time from 06:00 on 28th March via the Circuit YouTube Channel - please go to

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

10:30 am	Circuit Zoom Service	Host	Rev Keith Underhill
		Preacher	Rev Jocelyn Bennett
6:00 pm	Circuit Zoom Service	Passion narrative	Rev Jocelyn Bennett

Wantage & Grove Church Partnership Family Walk for Easter
The Path of the Cross via QR codes goes live

Tuesday 30th March

7:30 pm Zoom Circuit Lent Study : week 6 - Rev Keith Underhill

Wednesday 31st March

7:30 pm Zoom Circuit Evening Reflection - Rev Jocelyn Bennett

Maundy Thursday 1st April

Maundy Thursday on line courtesy of All Saints available to watch at any time via Circuit YouTube Channel please go to

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

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Circuit Zoom Service - Rev Keith Underhill

Good Friday 2nd April

Good Friday on line courtesy of All Saints available to watch at any time via Circuit YouTube Channel - please go to

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

10:30 am Good Friday Circuit Zoom Service - Rev Keith Underhill

Easter Day

Easter Day on line courtesy of All Saints available to watch at any time via Circuit YouTube Channel - please go to

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

10:30 am Circuit Zoom Service - Rev Keith Underhill

The following churches will be open for worship on Easter Day, but please note Covid-19 protocols and restrictions will exist, including pre-booking, the wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitiser, sitting in designated seats and no singing etc.

Trinity	10:30 am	Rev Ian Griffiths
Milton	10:30 am	Rev Jocelyn Bennett
Wallingford	11:30 am	Rev Jocelyn Bennett
Didcot	10:30 am	Barbara Sexton
Childrey	11:00 am	Helen Carter

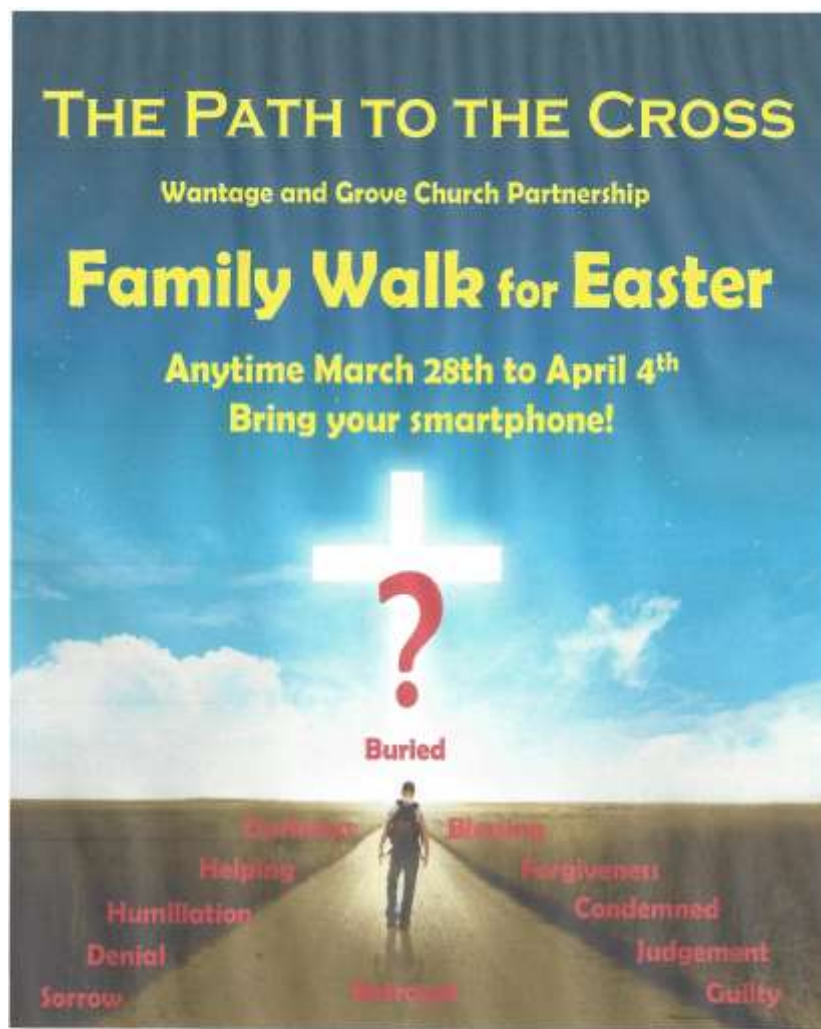
WGCP Family Walk for Easter

A “Stations of the Cross” walk through Wantage and Grove has been prepared. There will be 12 “stations” in the form of laminated posters in two loops in Wantage and Grove. On each station will display a QR code which will give access to a recording of a short bible reading and comment. It will tell you where the next station is and where the previous one was located.

Collect code words for the Real Easter Egg Draw!

Stations 1 to 6 are in Grove starting at the Old Mill Hall and Stations 7 to 12 are in Wantage starting at Wantage Methodist Church.

On Easter Day there will be a 13th Station in Wantage Market Place.



A story walk around 13 video points in Grove and Wantage

Walk when it suits you. Scan QR codes for the story, the route and code words for the

Real Easter Egg Draw!

Start with the Grove loop from Old Mill Hall (park in Old Mill Hall car park) – c.2.5 km

Wantage loop starts at Wantage Methodist Church (use The Beacon car park) – c.2.7km

www.wgcp.org.uk

A Methodist Way of Life

You may well be asking, what is A Methodist Way of Life?

Well, a Methodist Way of Life is a way of living. It is how we try to live our lives in response to God's love, made known to us in Jesus. Like the early Christians (**Acts 2.42-47**), we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

In this sense, A Methodist Way of Life is both new and old. It is new, in that Methodists first discussed such a way at the 2018 Conference, although it is based on **Our Calling**, agreed in 2000. That, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, in trying to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith – just as those first followers in Acts did.

The **commitments** of A Methodist Way of Life remind us of, and provide a compass for, Christian living.

There will be an open Zoom meeting for anyone in the Circuit on **Wednesday 14th April** at 7:30 pm to find out more about this exciting new venture. The event will be led for us by Michael Wadsworth from the Methodist learning network.

Please **let Keith know** if you'd like to join in so that he can send you the Zoom link.

Guided meditations

Rev Eileen Appleyard is a retired Methodist minister recently moved to live in Abingdon.

She is interested in Spirituality, and in the first lockdown she qualified to lead a meditation group under the auspices of a group called TakeTime (taketime.org.uk). It is what is described as a 'Fresh Expression' of the Methodist Church. This particular group itself is sponsored by All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon.

A first Introductory meditation Course has now come to an end and a follow-up has been arranged for the after Easter period. It will be using some of the Easter stories as the focus of what we do. There will be **five or six meetings** in this series beginning on the **15th April** at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

The meditation lasts about 40 minutes. The style of the group is centred around a time of quiet Ignatian style meditation in which we each have chance to imagine being with Jesus, based on a Gospel reading, and to have time in his presence to simply 'be' there.

Prior to the meditation itself there is a time of approach in which we are invited to relax and many find that also serves to quieten our minds of some of the clutter and worry we carry especially in these strange times. Each evening is complete in itself so it's OK to miss an occasional one if necessary.

To register please contact Rev Eileen Appleyard by email:

eileenappleyard13@gmail.com .

If you can do that **as soon as possible** we shall know that the group will be viable.

Closure

At the time of writing it seems that the earliest we shall be able to open the café is 17th May but we are considering whether it will be possible to open just the bookshop from 12th April and will keep you posted. In the meantime we are able to take orders by email.

Traidcraft

We still have a good deal of Traidcraft items on our shelves and I can also do a Traidcraft order for other items. "Decaff" coffee is now available again.

Toilet refurbishment

The toilet refurbishment is currently going ahead and should be finished within the next week – this will give us a much enlarged disabled toilet with baby changing facilities and readjustment of the utility area and store room. We are grateful to all who have made donations towards this work – any further donations would be most welcome.

Community Fridge

This initiative, in conjunction with The Mix, continues to be a success with between 45-50 bags of food being given out each week. It has brought new people to us and we hope to continue these relationships by carrying on this initiative once we have re-opened, but just at a slightly later time.

A Thanksgiving Service

celebrating

the **35th Anniversary of the Framland Pilgrim Home**, Wantage.

The service will be at **4 pm on Saturday 24th April** with Jim Sayers (Pastor of Grace Church Didcot) preaching. As communal worship is permitted under current coronavirus restrictions, this service will be held physically at Hanney Chapel, East Hanney, OX12 0HX.

Please note however, that socially-distanced seating will be limited and **places will need to be reserved in advance** by contacting Dave Pepler on 01235 766863 or dave.a.peple@gmail.com. All attendees must wear face covering (unless exempt). See [Hanney Chapel's COVID19 Policies](http://hanney-chapel.org.uk/policies/policies.asp)

<http://hanney-chapel.org.uk/policies/policies.asp>

The service will also be live-streamed online via **Hanney Chapel's YouTube LIVE-STREAM channel** and the link will be made available on the Chapel's website www.hanney-chapel.org.uk.

For those unable to attend the Service but who wish to make a donation towards the work of Framland, please make cheques payable to "Pilgrim Homes" and send them to:- Miss R. Pocock, 16 Hardwell Close, Grove, OXON, OX12 0BH.

Reflecting on the pandemic a year on

The Rev Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have issued this message ahead of the anniversary of the first lockdown:

“The past year has asked much of us as individuals, families and communities. For many hundreds of thousands of us it has been a time of immense grief for the loss of loved ones. For others the economic uncertainty and restrictions on our day to day activities have taken a huge toll on mental wellbeing. Others may be living with the effects of long Covid not knowing how long it will last. We pray that this anniversary will be a time of deep reflection, prayer and a time to process all that has passed. We also mark a solemn time in Lent just ahead of Holy Week. As we begin the journey to the cross, let us take comfort in the knowledge that we are never alone, that Jesus is walking with us and that our hope lies in Him.”

Statement from Church leaders on the UK Government announcement on warhead numbers

Church leaders across 7 denominations, including the Methodist Church, have today made the following statement following the publication of the Government’s integrated review of foreign and defence policies:

“The Government’s decision in the integrated review of defence, security and foreign policy to increase the number of Trident nuclear warheads the UK can stockpile by more than 40 percent is a retrograde step that will not make any of us safer.

“Our Trident submarines already carry warheads that in total have an explosive yield equivalent to hundreds of the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima. It is immoral that the UK government is committing resources, which could be spent on the common good of our society, to stockpiling even more.

“Over the last 50 years, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has restricted the increase in the number of nuclear weapons worldwide as well as the number of new nuclear-armed states. This announcement puts those gains in jeopardy and weakens collective action on non-proliferation. Progress on reducing the threat from nuclear weapons will come through dialogue, diplomacy and principled action. The Government’s announcement today will complicate rather than aid this process.

“The entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an encouraging development. As people of faith, we join with millions across the world who are working towards the elimination of nuclear arsenals. Living up to our responsibilities under the Non Proliferation Treaty would be a step towards realising that vision. We believe that ‘Global Britain’ should strive for peaceful and cooperative international relationships, and joint endeavour on climate change, global poverty and other challenges. This announcement takes us in a worrying and wholly wrong direction.”

Childrey

Childrey will be open for Worship on **Easter Day** at 11:00 am led by Helen Carter. Morning Worship **Sunday 25th April** at 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill.

It is planned to hold services on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** in the month **after 25th April**.

Prayers:

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

Christian Love to all.

Grove

Grove will re-open for worship on the **18th April** at 10:45 am and then there will be weekly morning services.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems compounded by the coronavirus situation. We think of all who have been missing the close contact of their family and special friends during this past year and we all look forward to this gradually becoming possible again as restrictions are eased.

Grove prayer letterbox - We have recently installed a letterbox at the front of the church beside the poster frames alongside a poster inviting people who would like us to pray for them to leave their prayer requests with us. It will be emptied regularly and we will pray.

We hope this will be a great way of connecting with the community and we hope for many answered prayers on their behalf.

Church Council

There will be a meeting of Church Council on **Wednesday 28th April** at 8:00 pm on Zoom. All interested in the life of Grove Methodist Church are invited to be part of this meeting.

If you do not already receive invitations to Church Council meetings and would like to do so, please let Keith know so that he can send you the link for it.

Annual Report

At the last Church Council meeting it was agreed that it would be good to produce an Annual Report for the past year, as is our normal practice. Contributions for the report need to be sent to Veronica **by Wednesday 14th April** at the latest please.

Wednesday Zoom Coffee mornings

You are invited to be part of the weekly Zoom Coffee mornings which Keith arranges. They are a good opportunity to keep in touch, find out news, share your thoughts and listen to what other people have to say. If you would like to join us on Wednesday mornings (usually 10:30 am) please let Keith know. You will then receive a weekly invitation by email and can join in as and when you are able to.

Grove Saturday coffee morning - Saturday 13th March saw our first fundraising coffee morning for over a year. While we could not meet in person, we were at least able to meet via Zoom and some of us even had coffee and cake.

A good deal of money has been raised for Yotam but It's difficult to say how much is directly attributable to the coffee morning. However currently we have raised £400 of which £275 was donated in advance and £125 was transferred directly or left with the Sturts. Gifts are still being received so the total will continue to rise.

Wouldn't it be great if we could continue to give towards Yotam so that by December we could have enough for him to get a new(ish) truck?

The next of our **Zoom fundraising Saturday coffee mornings** is on **April 10th** in aid of Freya's fund. Please let Ian Sturt know if you'd like a link. isturt56@gmail.com

We hope it won't be too long before we can meet "live" once again.

THE BEST
OF ALL IS
GOD
IS WITH US.

Wantage

Where next?

We are still expecting to start having services in chapel from **Pentecost, May 23rd**. Details of what the arrangements will be will not be finalized until after the Annual Church Meeting, by which time we expect to have a clearer view of national progress.

The general plan is to hold services in the same way as we did in October 2020. Through the following period, we would expect to reduce social distancing and increase the seating as demand increases over the summer with the intention of restoring wider church activities from September. We are expecting to maintain Zoom transmission of services.

It is intended to retain the provision of hand sanitation facilities for the indefinite future. The compulsory use of face masks will be reviewed over the summer.

Wantage Annual Church Meeting - Wednesday 21st April at 7:30 pm

Again this will be on Zoom and Keith will issue access information in due course.

In preparation for this, an **Annual Church Report** has been published and is being distributed with this copy of CGW News.

We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in finding more about the role of **Church Treasurer**, **Church Council Member** or **Church Steward**. If you are prepared to consider any of these opportunities and would like to know more, please contact Keith or one of the Stewards. You will also see that there is the opportunity to refresh Church Council.

Pastoral

Ann Barber

When this Newsletter is published, we will be nearing the completion of our journey through Lent, and the time when we set our clocks to British Summer Time, with all of the joyful anticipation of what that season brings. We will have had a year in which each day's news has included references and statistics relating to the Coronavirus. So much of what we have experienced in the last twelve months has been unfamiliar, unwelcome, and unrelenting. We reflect with sadness on the members of our church family whom we have lost, and we continue to feel deep concern for those whose health is not good, or who are facing individual struggles of different kinds. Without our faith, and without God's love and support endlessly holding and caring for us, the past year would have been infinitely more difficult, and our anticipation of the year ahead would generate doubts, anxieties and fears. Thankfully, we know that we can rely totally on God's promises to be alongside us every day, and our pastoral care for each other is one of the surest ways in which we can reflect his love for each one of us. Maybe we are not too far off being able to visit each other in person, in our homes and gardens, in hospitals and Care Homes, and how much we will appreciate that direct contact with each other again. Throughout all of the restrictions of lockdown, through to a complete lifting of each

one of them, nothing has compromised the limitless prayer support we have been able to offer, and we thank God for the comfort, encouragement and reassurance which our prayers have provided.

Sadly, on 5th March Kay Goodwin's husband Jack died. He had been unwell for a while and was resident in the Sanctuary Nursing Home since last October. We assure Kay, her daughter Lorna, her son Murray and all of the family that we are thinking of them and praying for them in their sadness.

Pam Martin's recovery from her fall last December was progressing until a few weeks ago when, unfortunately, she was admitted to the JR Hospital again, and has undergone two major operations on her brain. This has caused deep concern, particularly for Gill and Tim, through whom we have remained updated on Pam's condition. It was a great encouragement and joy today when Pam herself telephoned. She anticipates being transferred to a Community Hospital for a period of recovery and rehabilitation – maybe to Witney again? In the meantime, she is keen to express her appreciation of the concern, interest and love received from church friends and she says: "I am on the way up, although it's going to be a long journey back to good health". We know that Pam's determination will be a strongly motivating factor, and we continue to hold her and the whole family in our thoughts and prayers.

Richard George has been in the JR for a few weeks and remains very unwell. Through his daughter Rita we have been able to send messages of love and support to Richard and he knows we are remembering him and his daughters and family in our prayers.

We were sorry to learn that Marion Jones is no longer well enough to live independently at home, and has been resident in St Katharine's for several weeks. The hope and intention is that she will be able to move to Framland Care Home as soon as a place becomes available for her there, and we will hold Marion in our prayers.

Having only found out a few days after the event, it was a privilege and joy to see one of our dearly loved, elderly members, Hilary Rewcastle, and to offer her our warmest congratulations on having just celebrated her 90th birthday. Being invited to just peep into her living room for a moment, a wonderful array of cards, flowers, and plants was displayed, and so, despite all of the current social restrictions, Hilary was delighted by the thoughtfulness shown to her, and she asked me to pass on her sincere thanks to all of her kind friends from church

Praying for each other: In April the people listed below will be included in the prayer time during which all of the members of Eileen Rennie's House-group, 'meet' to pray in their individual homes. On **Helen Carter's Pastoral List:** Jo & Simon Aldworth, Valerie & John Broadbent, Diana Gawlas, Trevor & Sheila Johnson, Adrian Richens, and Jane & Harry Rudd, and on **Faith Culshaw's List:** June Hartle, Jane Kent, Iain Kent and Rita Lawrence

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 Eileen's house-group.

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, we come into your presence with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving for all the inspiration, guidance and help we have received in so many ways from so many people and resources. We particularly thank you for time spent in study during Lent and for the sharing of our thoughts with others thus aiding us on our faith journey. Our earnest prayer is that we will be ever mindful of those less fortunate and that we will be guided to help in whatever way we are able to. We look forward in faith as we rejoice in the message of Easter, new life and new hope. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who died for us and rose again that we might have new life. Amen.

Please pray for:

Jean M, Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Carol Mackinder, Anne, Betty, Emma Wright and family, Alex and Brian, Gordon & Marina, Caroline, Adrian, Jenny, Kathy, June Coppock, Sarah Holt, Alastair Wright and family, Pauline Hawkins, Charlie Webb, Eric and Judy Thomas and family, Alan Smith, Doug, Michael Clegg, Richard, June C. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, 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 April Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 23rd April** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

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

Greeting from Jill Bunney

I would like to thank you all for your kind wishes and so many prayers, they have been answered. It has been a very difficult and hard time but I am so pleased to be able to tell you our good news. Nigel's heart was treated in the JR on March 1st and all was 100% successful. I do not have the words to say how pleased we all are and cannot thank you enough.

May God bless you all and so many thanks.

Thank you

Many thanks to my Church Family for the greetings card, and the lovely Jasmine, for my 90th birthday. Thinking of you all, with love from Hilary Rewcastle.

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

Eileen Rennie

Another month has passed and although we are still living under restrictions we have so much to give thanks for. So many people are working incredibly hard to ensure that we can look forward to a brighter future.

We appear to be moving in the right direction with the help of continuing restrictions and the continuing success of the rollout of the vaccine thus far. It is amazing that at the time of writing over 26 million people in the UK have received their first dose and over 2 million their second dose. We all need to play our part in adhering firmly to the guidelines in the hope that we can then advance to the next stage.

We continue to pray for the current situation and that we will all act responsibly and so look forward in faith. All our NHS Staff and Support Services still need our prayers as they still face overwhelming workloads as they fight to support all in need of additional care.

Although we are still not able to meet physically as a group, we have been able to keep in touch with each other in many different ways. Please let us know if there is someone or some situation you would like us to pray for. I will continue to email the group each Monday with details for our prayer time for the current week when on Tuesday we unite at 3:00 pm, even though we are apart, praying for people and situations locally and globally. This has been one real positive in the present situation.

It is good to have the availability of Zoom Sunday services, reflective worship resources, Lent study groups, YouTube resources and our Church website, as well as Zoom Tea @ Three on Tuesdays.

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 for a little exercise, 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 please 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 email: m.rennie50@ntlworld.com

Community Drop In Café

Eileen Rennie

It is good that we have been hearing very positive news about the roll out of the vaccine with already over 26 million people in the UK having received their first vaccine and over 2 million having received their second dose. That, coupled with the return to schools and colleges of many pupils and students, which seems to be very well monitored, is very encouraging.

The beauty of the Spring world also gives us much hope and yet another thing to be truly thankful for. With a little more patience I am sure that we can look forward to eventually being able to meet together again. We will have so much to talk about.

We are always pleased to be able to keep in touch with some of you through phone calls and also to see you sometimes when we are out for our daily exercise when we can have a socially distanced chat. 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. Gillian Hurd, who is now living in Scotland with her daughter and son-in-law, sends her greetings to you all.

We continue to look forward in faith to when we are able to meet again and enjoy each other's company. Meanwhile be assured that 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 willing volunteers waiting in the wings to be able to resume service again. 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



A wide variety of flowers are being produced and should make a very cheering and colourful display for Easter – look out for the bees and butterflies! Thank you to all the knitters and to Gill, Judith, Louise and Helen who are sewing it all together.

Thank you also to those who are faithfully continuing to build up the angel numbers. I will be adding to their number as soon as I have completed three crocheted baskets to hold chocolate bunnies.

Zoom Knit & Chat continues on the **first and third Mondays** of the month, although this will not take place on Easter Monday, 5th April. Please contact Helen if you wish to join in at any time. Contact June G if you wish to join our Facebook group and keep a lookout for photos and news on the church website.

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

Users

There is some greater use of the buildings for the period to summer. We are hosting a polling station on May 6th. After this we shall host Food Bank on Wednesday mornings for a period to be agreed. Wantage Music Festival are using the Hall and Chapel in closed session on Saturdays 19th and 26th June.

We remain closed to our community users. We shall not reopen before Easter and more probably September for our community users.

DIARY

Holy Week and Easter Services see page 4

APRIL

Saturday 10th 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Morning (Freya's Fund) p10

Wednesday 14th 7:30 pm A Methodist Way of Life : Circuit Zoom meeting p6

DEADLINE for GROVE ANNUAL REPORT

Wednesday 21st 7:30 pm Wantage Annual Church Meeting on Zoom

Saturday 24th 10:15 am to 3:00 pm District Synod on Zoom

4:00 pm Framland 35th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service p7

Sunday 25th **DEADLINE for MAY NEWSLETTER**

Wednesday 28th 8:00 pm Grove Church Council on Zoom

MAY

Sunday 16th **DEADLINE for JUNE NEWSLETTER**

Services during April

Sunday 4th 10:30 am Zoom Circuit Service – Rev Keith Underhill
11:00 am Childrey Easter service – Helen Carter

Sunday 11th 10:30 am Zoom Circuit Service – Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 18th **09:00 am** Zoom Circuit Service – Rev Keith Underhill
10:45 am Grove Morning Worship - Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 25th **09:00 am** Zoom Circuit Service – Rev Keith Underhill
10:45 am Grove Morning Worship – Tabitha Griffiths
11:00 am Childrey Morning Worship – Rev Keith Underhill

Smiles and Groans

Thanks to Rev'd Tony Buglass on Facebook

I love it when people repeat what I said, but don't quote me on that.