

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR

  
The Methodist Church

# CGW NEWS



September  
2021

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:

Gordon Skidmore : 01235 766655/07710 214601  
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](mailto:wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com)

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone  
or in writing by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September** to  
[wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

## Sunday Services and Church Activities

Please see page 20 for the arrangements this month.

**Wantage Morning Worship will be shared each week on Zoom at 10:30**  
(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](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

**Wantage web site** [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

**Circuit web site** [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

**Circuit YouTube channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t\\_ZQt0w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t_ZQt0w)

## CGW News Publication deadline dates

Harvest	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> September
Autumn	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October
November	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Dec/Jan	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November

## From the Manse.....

These past few weeks the news headlines that have come to us via our televisions, newspapers and internet feeds have been tragic, frightening and disturbing. We have graphically seen how lives have been lost and communities devastated by ferocious fires, severe flooding and sudden earthquake as well as the on-going Covid pandemic. Then there has been those acts of indiscriminate violence and terrorism, the increase in hostility towards those who are somehow different and, as I write this, the rapidly unfolding situation in Afghanistan.

In addition, there is the messiness of our own personal situations that we are dealing with which, by themselves, can so often threaten to overwhelm us.

As people of faith, how do we react to all that is happening around us and how do we respond? What can we say that doesn't end up being more than just a platitude?

I'd want to say that we need to own our emotional responses to what we see and how they make us feel. We need to name our fears and worries, our distress and sorrow and our alarm and anxiety; for to pretend otherwise is to belittle the reality of what is happening and its effects upon us.

Also, it is okay to cry out in lament and in pain at the suffering of others and ourselves. It is natural and understandable to want to shout at God and rant at the injustice of it all and acknowledge our feelings of impotence and helplessness in the midst of such.

We need to pray. To pray for those who find themselves caught up in the midst of all that is going on, as well as for those who are seeking to help, deliver aid, rescue those who are in danger.

We need to act and to seek to make a difference. We need to play our part whether through donating goods and clothing to refugee charities or changing our consumer habits in the light of the destruction wrought by climate change, we must do what we can. We need to challenge our politicians and leaders. To hold them accountable for not only their words and actions but also their inaction and silence.

We should, through acts of kindness and generosity, seek to make a difference each and every day, to do what we can and what is in our power to help to transform the world, in the busyness of our daily lives.

Above all we need to hold on to our faith in God. In the one who through the pain and suffering on the cross, reconciled all things to himself and who does not abandon his people in times of need but is to be found alongside them in their sufferings.

We pray for God's world and ourselves even as we seek to make the world a better place.

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

## **A statement and prayer on the Afghanistan crisis**

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference offer the following statement regarding the crisis in Afghanistan.

The Taliban's advance in Afghanistan has taken place more quickly than anyone predicted. Over the past few days we have received distressing reports about the situation in Kabul, as well as across the country.

Following our military involvement, the UK bears a heavy responsibility towards the people of Afghanistan and must act to support all who fear for their future and seek asylum. Over the course of this conflict, members of our churches have been supporting those who have been forced to flee and at this critical time our response must be one of compassion and generosity. As Members of Parliament are recalled, we hope that there might be an unequivocal guarantee to support those seeking asylum, and that broad and accessible routes to the UK are created for those seeking sanctuary from Afghanistan.

Methodist chaplains have served members of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan over the past 20 years and we are mindful of them and of all who bear the scars of this conflict. We remember particularly those still serving, veterans, civilian colleagues and their families for whom the current situation in Afghanistan may be evoking difficult memories.

Our hearts go out to women in Afghanistan who have taken the opportunity to lead in many ways, making contributions in their communities, business and politics. They now fear that these freedoms will be reversed. We call on all governments everywhere to uphold the empowerment of women and to ensure that the new government in Afghanistan maintains the freedoms that have been gained in recent years.

In the face of uncertainty in Afghanistan and the region we know that many will want to join us in prayer.

*Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference*

*Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

### **A prayer for Afghanistan**

The Prophet says, You know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to offer you hope and a future.

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness.

Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future.

Amen

*Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

## **A message from the Methodist people of Plymouth**

On behalf of the Methodist people of Plymouth we offer our heartfelt thanks for the hundreds of messages of support and prayers offered for our city at this most difficult of times.

The Methodist Church has had a presence in the community of Keyham for generations as part of the Plymouth Mission Circuit, and even though our regular work in our premises there is currently paused, the legacy of faithful and prayerful community-facing ministry is acutely felt in times of crisis. We stand alongside our community in its grief and mourning, and through the ministry of our two circuits, seek to offer signs of hope and healing to those among whom we minister. We offer the following prayer which may be helpful in leading worship in the coming days.

Loving Father, we hold before you the community of Keyham and the city of Plymouth. We pray for all those who are suffering injury and trauma as a result of the events of this week. We ask for your strength for those who ran towards danger, for those in the response services that stepped forward and risked their own lives. We pray too for those who are dealing with the aftermath.

We think especially of those who, in their loss and grief, are trying to deal with the emotional results and come to terms with loss and their impacted lives.

May all those who suffer know that the God of all power holds their hand in gentle love.

Amen.

*Rev Gareth J Higgs (Superintendent, Plymouth Methodist Mission)*

*Rev Andy Chislett-McDonald (Superintendent, Plymouth & Devonport Circuit)*

*Rev Graham Thompson (Chair, Plymouth & Exeter District)*

## Circuit News

Thursday 9th September 7:30 pm

Circuit Meeting – location / Zoom tbc

### Touch the Earth lightly Circuit eco event

You are no doubt aware of the need to address our wasteful use of the earth's resources to help promote safe lives for everyone on the planet.

The circuit event at Milton aims to promote sustainability in our day to day lives, thinking about changes we could make that could reduce our footprint and promote climate justice.

We hope you will participate and enjoy this circuit event. (see below)

We hope circuit churches will enter a **fruit, veg and flower arrangement**, table size 4' x2' (small go-pac table). Staging of the arrangements will be 2 - 4pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please contact Jean Caudle ([jeanmcaudle@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmcaudle@gmail.com)) to arrange a visit to choose your pitch (we have around six possible spaces)

Could your group enter a team of two or three cooks to our **Ready Steady Cook** event? (Starting 12 noon Saturday) Cook up a meal from donated ingredients (plus a selection of basic foods) in 1 hour. Each team will be able to review for 10 minutes a selection of harvested fruit and veg, choose their ingredients and get cooking and preparing. Results will be tasted by the assembled company. We will have big oven, camping cookers, soup makers etc available to allow distanced preparation. (Supported by GoodFoodOxford and part of BigGreenWeek initiative) Please contact Mary Hancock ([imhancock@gmail.com](mailto:imhancock@gmail.com)) if you have some eager cooks!

If you have **craft** things made in lockdown that you would like to put in our exhibition, please contact Chris East ([christine.east@outlook.com](mailto:christine.east@outlook.com))

**Closing date for expressions of interest in both flower table and Ready, Steady, Cook, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**‘Touch the Earth Lightly’ Circuit flower  
festival and eco event**  
Milton Methodist Church  
Saturday and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021



The event aims to make people more aware of the influences they have on climate change, and what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Programme:**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

10 - 4.00 **Flower Festival** open with vegetarian refreshments on sale, swap shop, bring your unwanted things (no rubbish please!) and take away useful things, taste samples, craft exhibition, learn about electric cars and bikes.

12.00 **Ready, Steady, Cook:** Cookery competition to prepare a tasty vegetarian meal from surplus garden produce.

4.00 **Free film show** of ‘**Thank you for the Rain**’, a film promoted by Christian Aid with a good story exploring the effect of Climate change on a community, presented as a documentary about a farmer in Kenya. ( 85 minutes, Ice cream in the Interval)

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

2.00 - 3.00 **Flower festival** swap shop and eco book sales open

3.00 **Touch the Earth Lightly Circuit service**, led by Rev Jocelyn Bennett, preacher Martin Hodson

4.00 **Circuit tea** (outside hopefully)

All events are risk assessed and covid safe as far as we can make possible.  
Further details: Jo Lakeland (jolakeland@blewbury.uk) or Mary Hancock (imhancock@gmail.com)

## Wantage and Grove Street Pastors – Quarterly News

They say, 'Teamwork makes the dream work!' When Neil Townsend caught the vision for a Street Pastor team in Wantage and Grove, he knew that it was more than any one church could take on. In fact, Street Pastors can't be set up unless at least four local churches work on it together. We started with ten churches and have grown to include several churches in nearby villages. Our success has, in part, been down to our commitment to work together to solve problems in our communities. But more than this, everyone in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors plays their part to help make what we do a success. The good news is that no-one needs to feel like they're in this on their own, or that what they have to offer would never be enough. Whether on the streets at night, at our base in prayer, on the Management Committee or planning fundraising events, everyone brings what they have and somehow the Lord works it all together for His glory. It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful team of people serving the Lord and serving our communities. The last year has given many of us an opportunity to pause, reflect and re-focus. If you're thinking you'd like a fresh challenge or are looking for new opportunities to serve, we definitely have space for you - whatever you have to offer!

***Come and join the team!***

*Nigel Watt - Coordinator*

**How we helped on the streets** Since our last edition of Quarterly News, we have gradually increased the number of street patrols going out each month, as a number of Street Pastors who were shielding are now back on patrol with us. Street Pastor teams are receiving a very warm welcome from those they meet and they're loving being back out, meeting people and helping where they can. We achieved 3 patrols in April, 3 in May and 5 in June.

There have been some large groups gathering from time to time at pub closing times, which inevitably leads to scuffles breaking out among different groups and some anti-social behaviour too. Street Pastors have helped to calm things down and encourage people to head home rather than linger in town. We have had to call the police on several occasions who have swiftly brought things back under control when needed. We are really grateful to the police for the support we receive from them. We have also spent time talking with people and listening to what's going on in their lives. We have offered prayer for people facing difficult situations and we're giving out a few lollies, but we've not needed to give any flip-flops yet.

We are delighted to have 5 teams patrolling each month (individual Street Pastors patrol once-a-month), which is great - however, that does mean there are some Fridays and Saturdays each month that we are not able to patrol. **Can you help us fill in some of the gaps?** Maybe now is the time to consider getting involved with this valuable ministry!

Two of our Friday teams patrol from 8 pm to midnight, while the other teams patrol from 11 pm to 2.30 am. Please do contact us if you would like more information about training as a Street Pastor or pick up our 'So, what's involved in being a Street Pastor?' leaflet from church or speak to your church rep.



## Sharon Tedford in Concert

7:30 pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October at Wantage Baptist Church

We are delighted to welcome Sharon Tedford back to Wantage this October

Free entry with an opportunity to give to Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Advance booking is essential - call: 07554 655 594

or email: [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)

**Spring Harvest 2022** Spring Harvest is welcoming everyone in the Street Pastor network to Minehead and Skegness in April 2022 for a time of restoration, renewal and rebuilding. There will be a whole seminar stream related to Street Pastors and associated initiatives such as Rail Pastors, School Pastors, College Pastors for everyone at Spring Harvest to dip into. You and your family are warmly invited!

This is a great opportunity for those in the Street Pastors network to make a real impact, promote our work, share our experiences and encourage more people to get involved across the UK - what a wonderful opportunity for us all.

Bookings are already open at the Spring Harvest website [springharvestevent.org](http://springharvestevent.org) or by calling 0330 100 9330.

SKEGNESS 11-15 April 2022

MINEHEAD 18-22 April 2022

**Annual report** Our Annual report for 2020/21 is now available and gives a full update on our work throughout the financial year, highlighting the issues faced by us and by others who we work along side. Download a copy from our website or contact us if you would like a paper copy. Call us on: 07554 655 594 or send us an email: [wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)

**Anne Cheeseman – DSO** Anne Cheeseman has been appointed as our Designated Safeguarding Officer. Thank you to Anne for taking on this important role. Anne is also a Street Pastor and has been patrolling with us after many years patrolling with Reading Street Pastors. Anne can be contacted by phone on: 07827 750 217 or by email at [anneccheeseman@gmail.com](mailto:anneccheeseman@gmail.com).

'Thank you' too to David Law who has fulfilled the Safeguarding role since November 2014.

**YoCO launch in Wantage** Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO) has launched a group in Wantage after some delay due to the covid pandemic and lockdowns.

YoCO's vision is "To ensure every young person has the opportunity to develop personal confidence and resilience to choose to live a rewarding life and contribute to society." The YoCO Programme is designed to improve mental health and well-being and offers an amazing opportunity for personal growth and development for 14-21 year olds. Groups of 12 young people meet weekly for up to 18 months with activities based on teamwork, self esteem and leadership etc, working up to a life-changing volunteering trip to the Nasio Trust in Kenya. Street Pastors are able to refer young people who they meet to YoCO. Check out [www.yoco.online](http://www.yoco.online)

Many of you will know me through the Wantage Deanery, but there will be those who do not, so I will introduce myself. I am Peter Cook, I live in Childrey and have been a member of both St John's Grove and currently St Mary's Childrey for 20 years+. I was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2018 and have subsequently become a trustee of a local charity, based in Lockinge, called [Parkinsons.me](https://www.parkinsons.me) which exists to raise awareness of the illness and by creating a network, help others deal with the significant challenges created by this life-changing condition.

The trust has achieved much over the last 5 years but we have reached a point at which we need to grow into the community and expand our ability to help. We are in the enviable position in that we are not asking for fundraising effort, but rather asking you to consider supporting us with ideas and perhaps involvement. As an example of this we have already formed links with the local health centre and with help from their GPs are about to trial an initiative called 'Gardening on Prescription'. We are also in dialogue with VCI (Vale Community Impact), formerly WIAC (Wantage Information and Advice Centre).

The medical connection reflects the origin of the charity as its founder, diagnosed age 41, learned that gardening has therapeutic benefits for this degenerative illness and his brainchild was a community garden which was created out of nothing in his village of Lockinge. This was an inspired project which involved substantial effort from the community and generosity from local business, not least of which was the Lockinge Estate which provided the land. So successful was this that the garden featured on Gardener's World in 2019 and twice on Radio Oxford. Whilst such publicity is welcome, we are eager to involve more organisations in the wider community.

You will find below a copy of a recently designed poster as a tool to help us promote our charity. Let me talk you through it. As there is a proven benefit from exercise, we feel fortunate to have devised a class, led by NHS physiotherapists, which teaches exercises specifically developed for People with Parkinsons. (PWP) This is called 'MoveMe'. It started out as a fortnightly group held at the Loyd Lindsey Rooms at Ardington, but due to lockdown has metamorphosed to weekly sessions on Zoom. We are on the verge of becoming a hybrid class with alternate weeks at LLR and on zoom. A spin-off from the exercise group has been 'MoveMe Mates', a group of partners / drivers who had an hour to wait for their Parkinson passengers. Coffee and cake soon became a feature, but more importantly the opportunity to share with other people in similar circumstances became an important element in the wellbeing of supporters and carers.

Once Move.me was firmly established, it became clear that the next step to help those suffering from a degenerative neurological condition was counselling and Hear.Me was born. Counselling can be difficult to access, particularly financially, so Parkinsons.me are now able to recommend Counsellors and also help financially if necessary.

The local Churches have been identified as another key area in the community who already actively help those in need. With their existing networks they are ideally placed to help raise awareness of the increasing number of people affected by Parkinson's disease and actively engage in specialist activities. We invite you to consider how you

might respond to the needs explained here and ask how a mutually beneficial relationship might be fostered between the Church and the Charity.  
Read about us at our website, Parkinson's [s.me](http://www.parkinsons.me) or on our Facebook page.  
If you are looking for a local charity as part of your mission, this could be added to your list. Most of all may I ask for your prayers.



# Parkinsons.Me

Supporting you and your family

**Do You Or Someone In Your Family Have Parkinson's?**  
**We may be able to support you...**

**MoveMe**  
 Regular group-based exercise programmes

**MoveMe Mates**  
 Safe environment to share experiences with other members

**HearMe**  
 Counselling therapy for everyone in the family

**Community Garden**  
 Enjoy peace and tranquillity at our Community Garden in Lockinge

  
www.parkinsons.me  
Charity Number: 1166531  
Designed by Georgia Dunmore @gmadethis\_

**Keep In Touch**  
f @parkinsons.me  
i @parkinsons.me  
t @parkinsons.me

 **Parkinsons.Me**  
Supporting you and your family

If you would like to help us in any way, please contact us directly  
parkinsons.me@gmail.com



## Childrey

For the foreseeable future Childrey will be open for Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** : 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill  
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September:** 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill  
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** 11:00 am led by Helen Carter

### **Prayers:**

We remember in our prayers:

Pat Legge, Vicky, Robin and Becky and the Legge family grandchildren.

Keith, Leonora, Andrea, David, Joy Gee, Jean

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

Christian Love to all.



## *Cream Tea*

Available all day.



A Pot of Tea or a Large Americano  
Scone, Jam & Clotted Cream  
£4.25  
Available all day.

*Something a bit more special.....*

## *Full Afternoon Tea*

Available from 2pm weekday afternoons, advance booking essential.

Including:

- Unlimited Tea or Coffee
- Glass of Sparkling Elderflower Presse
- Mini Sandwich Selection
- Mini Cake Selection
- Homemade Scones with Clotted Cream & Jam

£14.00 per person

Book in at the till or  
Call 01235 772280 or e-mail [office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)  
(Please advise of any allergies on bookings)

Cornerstone Christian Centre is a Registered Charity No. 1046923  
Registered Office: Grove House, Grove, Wantage. OX12 7PF Company No. 3060710 V.A.T. No. 685-6254-96

## Grove

Congratulations and all good wishes to **Peter and Noreen** who are celebrating their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** on the **9<sup>th</sup> September**.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** for **Project Ecuador** on **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** at 10:00 am and we are planning to hold it **at church**.

Roger and Margaret Bett are our hosts for the morning.

Should there need to be any change to the venue we will let you know by email.

Donations made at the Coffee morning will be for **Project Ecuador**, which is a small Scottish charity which Katie King introduced us to and encouraged us to support. Project Ecuador was set up by Andrea Gardiner, who started work as a GP in Ecuador in 2005, and her husband Vladimir, to organise a child sponsorship programme, build housing for the poorest and support income generation projects. For the last few years they have been living in Scotland as their youngest daughter needed to have specialist eye treatment, and Andrea has been working as a GP in Shetland. But the charity continues its work through their direction and workers on the ground in Ecuador. The newsletter received in July said they are continuing to support 60 vulnerable families with food parcels once a fortnight. The sponsored children have started back to their studies. They have been given their sponsorship money for uniform and the stationery they need. So far the children are still receiving on-line classes but hope to be back in school soon. They have also bought 13 young people in their final year of school a Chromebook each to help them access their studies and phones for a few students who did not have any way of getting online. 35 children need glasses this year and they are being taken to an optician to obtain spectacles and they are helping the family of one young boy with the cost of eye surgery. They are also helping several young people who are venturing into further education or work placements. Ecuador elected a new president in April and since he took office vaccination has started. The restrictions have had devastating effects on the economy and especially on so many that Project Ecuador support. If you are **unable to join us** but would like to make a **donation**, please put it in a sealed envelope marked "Project Ecuador" and hand in at church, or give to Roger Bett or Ian Sturt. Thank you.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the Emmaus Coffee morning on 14<sup>th</sup> August. We will let you know the total in the next newsletter.

**Sunday worship in church** is open for all at 10:45 am and you are most welcome to come and share in it. The easing of government Covid-19 restrictions means that as a church we have given much thought as to how this effects our Sunday worship.

As a result, we have updated our advice and are asking those who worship with us either regularly or occasionally, to continue to use the hand-sanitiser that is available on entry and to wear a face mask (unless you are exempt).

Please feel free to sit where you would like to and you no longer need to be shown where to sit by a church steward. You do not need to book in advance

Singing is now allowed but please do keep your face mask on whilst doing so and do not sing at full volume.

It goes without saying that if you are feeling unwell or show any signs of Covid infection, then please do not attend the service.

Our aim is to ensure that we continue to play our part in keeping ourselves and everyone else as safe as possible.

**Film Club** Peter Hemmings would like to know if there is interest in possibly resuming Film Club meetings again in September? If you are interested please let Peter know, by telephone 01235 762504 or email peterjhemmings@btinternet.com

**Fresh flowers in church** It has been suggested that it would be nice to have fresh flowers in church again and we would like to know who would be interested on being on the flower rota please when we start again. The flowers may need to be brought along on Sunday morning before service and there is the question of how we distribute them afterwards – or would a pot plant be better in place for a few weeks (providing weekly watering is sufficient for it!). Things to sort out. Please contact Jenny Marriott if you are willing to help (01235 767624).

We continue to hold in our **prayers** all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems compounded by the very different time we have been living through. We are thankful that it is now possible to meet up with our families and friends again and hope that, with care, the way forward will open up steadily for everyone.

**Wednesday Zoom Coffee mornings** continue each week and are open to all. 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. Our thanks go to Keith, Ian and Roger for hosting the coffee mornings. They are much appreciated.

**Historic Churches Cycle Ride (Grove)**

*Lynda, John and Kit*

Grove members are taking part in the Historic Churches cycle ride this year. We plan on visiting a few local churches and would very much appreciate anyone able to sponsor. Half the money raised will go to Historic churches fund (they gave us a grant for the building extension) and half will go towards Church funds.



# Wantage

## Morning Worship

Morning Worship is in the chapel and on Zoom. Services commence at 10:30 am. For the time being we will continue to have cautious Covid-19 disciplines to help keep everyone safe.

If you are going to attend the service in person, please would you let Ann Barber know in advance either via [email \[annbarber7@gmail.com\]\(mailto:email\_annbarber7@gmail.com\)](mailto:email_annbarber7@gmail.com) or by telephone 01235 767152. This will assist us to fulfil our responsibilities to Track & Trace and limit congestion on arrival. A QR code is on display to scan.

It goes without saying that if you are feeling unwell or show any signs of Covid infection, then please do not attend the service.

Please wear a face mask (unless you are exempt) and use hand sanitiser on the way in and out.

We are pleased to say that singing is now allowed but please do keep your face mask on whilst doing so and do not sing at full volume.

We are conscious that for a variety of reasons not everyone will feel ready to return to church at this time. Reflective orders of service for use at home will continue to be sent out. The services from church will be Zoomed live for those who wish to join us from home. These transmissions will open at 10:15 and **it would help those hosting the service if people could log in before 10:28 please** so that you can be let in before the service starts. If you arrive later you could have to wait for the host to let you in while they deal with the start of worship and the first hymn.

We recognise that not everyone has access to internet facilities and even where they do, do not find Zoom works for them.

## Wantage Parish Church

Sadly we have to share the news that the Vicar of Wantage , Father Phillip Wells, has resigned his post. We offer Father Phillip and his family our prayers for them all as they explore their future. We also assure the Parish of our prayers and support in the coming months.

## Pastoral

*Ann Barber*

Beginning on a happy note, we offer our congratulations to Prue Cathcart, who is following the WMC 2021 trend in becoming a great grandmother for the first time. Her great grandson, Sebastian, was born to Prue's granddaughter Ellie, earlier this month. Prue is feeling very well blessed because, even during these difficult days when socialising is still restricted, she has already been able to see baby Sebastian.

The health of Gill's son John Morton remains in a critical state, and he has been in the JR Hospital since June. John has survived complicated heart surgery, but other major problems continue, and intensive treatment and care are needed. We assure Gill of our love, prayers and support for herself, for John and for Derek and his family.

## **Thoughts on our health care compared with what's offered in other parts of God's world**

The rainbow image overarching the words: "Thank you NHS" have become ubiquitous on pictures, posters, flags and tee shirts etc since the Spring of 2020, and rightly so. We are, indeed, thankful for a Health Service to which we all have access, and which is not dependent on our financial circumstances. We know that this is far from universally available in many parts of the world, and that we are in a privileged position when we become ill or are injured.

The distinctions between our situation and that of many countries worldwide has been brought more sharply into focus for me through conversations with Sharon in recent months. Both she and her husband, Thomas, have been infected with the Coronavirus. Thankfully, Sharon's condition, whilst serious, has not been life-threatening like her husband's. Not once has Sharon sought, or even hinted at an expectation of financial help, but she has described the heartbreaking situation for her fellow Ghanaians. We know too that their plight is replicated in countries throughout Africa, and is similar to countless parts of other continents. The phrase Sharon has repeated many times is: "Here we have to pay for everything; for medication, consultations, for tests and every form of treatment", adding "if you cannot pay you get nothing, nothing at all". She says the ultimate sadness has been in observing that people from families with no means to pay have had to just watch their loved ones suffer, weaken and die.

The gratitude of Sharon and her husband for the support she has received from our church family is immeasurable, and she says with great fortitude that, through God's grace, her husband's life has been saved by the practical help and prayers from her church friends. They are overwhelmed and thankful to God and to us.

Sometimes a personal story brings home to us the reality of situations which we only partially understand through news bulletins and media reports. Sharon's request is for me to pass on her heartfelt thanks to everyone, and her love, and I'm sure that, if it were possible, they would be supplemented with her enthusiastic hugs.

*(If anyone wishes to offer any personal support to Sharon, please contact Ann Barber for advice – Ed).*

**Praying for each other:** In September the people listed below, who are on Celia Roser's pastoral list, will be included in the prayer time when all of the members of Eileen's House-group meet at church to pray: Dorothy Andrews, Brenda Edwards, Joan Kidd, Margaret Merryweather, Pam Paine, and Irmgard Roberts. Although Margaret Watts is no longer resident at Fleur de Lis, nor able to share in worship with us, she is on Celia's list and will continue to be included and remembered in prayer. Knowing also that Celia herself is still unwell and recovering from her time in hospital, special thoughts will be with her too.

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 seeking your presence. Restore to each of us your Holy Spirit's joy to enable us to walk in your power. Lord Jesus, you are the head of the church; help our local churches to grow as they follow the example of the early church. Please forgive us when we focus more upon the local church's programme than upon the will, purpose and power that you have for your church. Father, we pray that your life sustaining love will enable us to grow in faith, hope and action. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright and family, Anne, Betty, Alex and Brian, June Coppock, Alastair Wright and family, Caroline, John Morton, Anne Hatto, 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 October Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Telephone: 01235 224284, email [eileenrennie@icloud.com](mailto:eileenrennie@icloud.com) (Please note change of email address)

## Tuesday Afternoon House Group

*Eileen Rennie*

During August some of us have continued to meet in the Church Hall at 2 pm each week for prayer and discussion on the previous Sunday's sermon. Carolyn, Mary and Margaret have all taken a turn in leading the meeting. We have still continued to socially distance and wear masks. This has been very much enjoyed by all who came.

In September we will be studying the York Course Superstar. We had just studied the first two weeks of this course when the first lockdown came in March 2020. We will start at the beginning again and work through the whole course. Others in the group hope that if things move forward positively that they too will feel able to join us in September. The Church Hall is now our home.

The September dates are as follows:

7 <sup>th</sup> September	Superstar Session 1 - Who is Jesus? Reading John 8:1-11
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Superstar Session 2 - Miracles. Reading Matthew 19:26
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Superstar Session 3 - The Psalms. Reading Psalm 27:1
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Keith will inspire us with his message.

If you have someone or some situation you would like prayer for please let me know.

We do all look forward to the time when we will all be meeting 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 e-mail: [eileenrennie@icloud.com](mailto:eileenrennie@icloud.com)

## **Coffee on the Decking**

June and Alan Grunwald invite anyone passing by their house (1 Elm Tree Cottage, Grove Road) to drop in for coffee on their decking, which overlooks the Letcombe Brook in a "wildlife" (aka weedy) garden. Their decking will be open to visitors between **10 am and 12 noon on Mondays until 30<sup>th</sup> August**. All very informal and dependent on dry weather. If you are unable to walk to their house, please telephone June (760488) as a lift might be possible.

## **Community Drop In Café**

*June Grunwald*

With more people continuing to receive their doses of the vaccine and without the expected high spike in Covid cases in the summer holidays, we are pleased to announce that **Community Café will resume in October. Every Monday from 4<sup>th</sup> October, 9 am to 12 noon.**

Eileen will be contacting the volunteers who helped at the café in the past to see if they are still willing to restart in October. If it feels too soon for you, just let Eileen know and we thank you for your past support. If you haven't volunteered and would like to know more, then please have a word with June or Eileen. The main roles are in the kitchen (preparing drinks, slicing cake, washing up.) In the hall (helping to set up, ferrying refreshments from the hatch and chatting with people).

Like most groups, the café won't be run in exactly the same way. We will expect folk to use the sanitisers on entry and when going to and from the toilets. People will also be asked to wear masks when walking around the building and we will take contact details. Our volunteers will act as waiters and bring refreshments to the tables. Windows will be open for ventilation. Depending on the Covid rates in October we may not have the usual jigsaw puzzles and games out.

We know that many people are looking forward to coming back and to be able to have an opportunity to sit and chat. June has produced some posters and small handouts, which will be in the chapel if you would like to take one for a friend.

The café does not charge set prices but asks for donations for coffee and cake. In the past the cafe raised money for "The Fund for Human Need". From October to December the café will be sending money to a different charity. Clean Slate is a low cost, long-term listening and support service for all victims of abuse and mental illness.

For further information about the café, please contact either Eileen Rennie or June Grunwald.

## **Action for Children boxes**

*Carole Robbins*

I will be opening the boxes and banking money during September. I think that the boxes are no longer viable as a means of fund raising as most people now use a card and many shops prefer this. This is the last time that I will be opening boxes. If you wish to continue to use your box then you can either pay the money in via the church treasurer or make a direct personal donation.

There will also be opportunities to donate at special events eg the Carol service or coffee mornings. Thank you for your support over the last 22 years.



## Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

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

Our meetings in August were enhanced with celebrating two birthdays that coincided with those dates. We continue to wear masks but this does not stop us enjoying chatting together while we get on with our knitting and crocheting. I am pleased to say that I mastered knitting the V-neck on circular needles and have now given the jumper to June to add to those we have already made for Future Pillars Zambia.

Don't forget that you can join our Knit & Chat Facebook group. Please let June G know if you wish to do so. Maybe you have photos of angels or other items for us to admire.

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

Look forward to seeing you **6<sup>th</sup> September** and **20<sup>th</sup> September** at 2 pm.

## Riders & Striders

Clive & Alison Phillips

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust will be holding its annual "Riders & Striders" fundraising event on **Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>**. As usual, Wantage Methodist Church will be open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm with welcomers to sign the sponsorship forms of visiting walkers and cyclists.

**If you are able to help by church sitting on September 11<sup>th</sup> (we will maintain appropriate Covid protection) or want to participate as a rider or strider and need a sponsorship form, or information, please let us know on 01235 760335 or at [candaphillips@gmail.com](mailto:candaphillips@gmail.com).**

## Users: Weekdays at Wantage Methodist Hall

### September

Mondays 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> aft	Hall	Knit & Chat
Monday evening	Hall	Slimming World
Tuesday morning	Hall	MIND
afternoon	Hall	Tuesday Afternoon House Group
evening	Hall	Wantage Camera Club
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	Parlour	My Life, My Choice
Wednesday 5:30pm	Hall	YoCO
Wednesday evening	Hall	Wantage Stage Musical
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> midday	Hall	King Alfred's W.I. tbc
Thursday evening	Hall	Wantage Bridge Club
Friday morning	Hall	Mother & Toddlers
Friday afternoon	Hall	Caritas Children's Choir

## DIARY for SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Grove Coffee Morning at church. Roger and Margaret Bett are our hosts
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in the Hall
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting - location/Zoom tbc
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>		Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust – “Ride & Stride”
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>DEADLINE for “Harvest” NEWSLETTER</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat in the Hall
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>		Wantage Harvest Festival

## Services during AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

### AUGUST

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Daphne Savage
	10:45 am	Grove	Peter Hemmings
	11:00 am	Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	10:45 am	Grove	Libby Bolton

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
	10:45 am	Grove	Ian Sturt
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Libby Bolton
	10:45 am	Grove	Helen Carter
	11:00 am	Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Tabitha Griffiths
	10:45 am	Grove	Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	HARVEST FESTIVAL Rev Keith Underhill
	10:45 am	Grove	Carol Sturt
	11:00 am	Childrey	Helen Carter