

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



Autumn

2021

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or in writing by **Sunday 31st October** to
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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 this 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

CGW News Publication deadline dates

November Sunday 31st October
Dec/Jan Sunday 28th November

From the Manse.....

The past couple of weeks have seen the Labour and Conservative party conferences taking place in Brighton and Manchester respectively.

There, they have unveiled to their faithful and loyal supporters, the nation and further afield something of their vision for the future. They have spoken of what is important to them and how they would seek to address the multifarious needs of our country and to move forward.

Strap-lines and sound-bites have filled the airways and news bulletins as they have tried their hardest to garner support for their plans and delivered their manifestos.

Setting out your stall, sharing your values and ideas is nothing new of course and I am reminded of that passage in Luke chapter 4, where Jesus does just that and leaves no room for doubt as to where his priorities lie.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

What about us though? Well, "A Methodist Way of Life" comes readily to mind.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will **pray** daily.
- We will **worship** with others regularly.
- We will **look and listen for God** in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will **care for ourselves** and those around us.
- We will **learn more** about our faith.
- We will **practise** hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will **help people** in our communities and beyond.

- We will **care for creation** and all God's gifts.
- We will **challenge** injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will **share** our **faith** with others.

Why as Methodists should we seek to do this? Quite simply, in order that we might be a blessing both within and beyond God's Church all for the transformation of the world.

So, let us get on and do just that!

With love and God Bless

Keith

*Eternal God, creator of time and space, of years and seasons,
grant us your help we pray
as we hold before you our churches and Circuit at this time.*

*We give thanks for your faithfulness to us
and for the ways in which you have guided us in the past.
As we look to the future
we acknowledge that you are the God of new beginnings
and fresh possibilities.*

*May we be bold and courageous
as we seek to discern your will and purpose for us.*

*We thank you for the opportunities that lie ahead
and for your continued guidance.
Show us that which we need to lay down
as well as what to pick up - where to channel our energies
and resources even as we value and treasure
our past and our heritage.*

*Speak to us through the prophets of this age
who are doing your will working in our communities
as well as in our churches.*

*We pray for those who lead us as a Circuit and in our Churches,
grant them your wisdom, guidance, compassion,
openness and sensitivity.*

*We pray also for ourselves,
that we might be the people you call us to be in these times
and that we would be open and receptive
to the movement of your spirit.*

*We ask these and all our prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord, Saviour and friend. Amen.*

Sponsored walk in aid of the MS Society

Gill Skidmore & Alison Brown

As we mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, we are going to do a 42 km (marathon distance) sponsored walk on Saturday 12th February. It covers the 10 royal parks in London, starting at Kingston Upon Thames and finishing at Greenwich.

We have chosen the MS Society (MS = Multiple Sclerosis) as the charity to benefit from any sponsorship we receive, because, as many of you know, we have two members of our church, Jordan Smith and Anne Hatto, who are suffering from this horrible disease. Sadly Gill also had a friend many years ago in her previous church who was diagnosed, like Jordan, at a very young age. We are delighted that Jordan would like to help us organise our sponsorship, and hope that many of you will feel you can support us nearer the time.

If any of you would like to join us on the walk you would be most welcome. The full details can be found at

<https://www.charitychallenge.com/expedition/costs/3456/London-Royal-Parks-Challenge#tabs> .

If you are interested, we would urge you to read all the small print before committing. The challenge is officially rated as “tough”, there is a cost involved in registering, to cover costs of support, including a packed lunch, snacks etc, and, unless you are a very early bird, it will require an overnight stay in the Kingston area as registration is at 6.30 am! Given the time of year, it will be dark for the start and finish – and we just pray for no icy conditions!

If you are interested, please talk to Alison or Gill no later than **30th October**.

FOREST BATHING!

Helen Carter

No, you don't wear a swimming costume and it doesn't involve swimming in cold water! I have recently experienced a wonderful three hours of forest bathing which is basically time to spend in nature and to really appreciate the environment within a beautiful wood. We can of course take ourselves for a walk in a wood at any time, but this guided meditation was just wonderful. If you want to know more, do ask me, and also check out

<https://adoreyouroutdoors.co.uk/>.

Sonya is an excellent leader and I will certainly be going again. For me it was the equivalent of a half day retreat.

Online chat show takes faith outside the box

Welcoming people of all faiths and none, a weekly online chat show exploring spirituality in an inclusive, fun and non-judgemental way will be launched by the Methodist Church this month.

Hope & Anchor features guests from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence and laughter and inviting viewers to explore new spiritual landscapes.

The Revd Trey Hall, Director and Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, said:

“Imagine a table at your local pub where friends and strangers meet up and talk about anything and everything, from the frivolous to the sublime – this is the energy of *Hope & Anchor*.

“It’s a show for everyone – especially those who don’t consider themselves religious but are spiritually curious and Christians who creatively challenge the status quo and are passionate about change.”

Guests confirmed include:

- Chine McDonald, broadcaster and head of community fundraising & public engagement at Christian Aid,
- Ms Penny Cost, the first drag queen to become a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church.
- Emma Hardy, MP for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle since 2017.
- Guvna B, rapper, author and broadcaster.

Hope and Anchor is co-hosted by Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, Thelma Commey, past Methodist Youth President, Jenny Pathmarajah, Methodist presbyter, and Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth.

Livestreamed on [Facebook](#), the weekly show starts on Tuesday 28 September between 12:45 and 1:15

Sign up for weekly news about the show [here](#).

New Methodist Youth President welcomed

We are all made in the image of God. No one who comes to the Church should be judged. No one is underappreciated and we are all equal in the body of Christ.”

The welcome and induction service for Daud Irfan, the new Methodist Youth President, took place on Sunday 29th August at Cyncoed Methodist Church, Cardiff.

Daud, aged 21, is the first Methodist Youth President of Asian heritage and is keen to see increased diversity in Church leadership. Daud’s welcome service featured music and singing in Urdu from the Cardiff and Swansea Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi Fellowship to reflect his own family's heritage.

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

The focus of Daud's year will be God's Church - a home for all. Daud commented: "The focus of my year will be on God's Church being a home for all. The Church is a place where all are welcome. We are all made in the image of God. No one who comes to the Church should be judged. No one is underappreciated and we are all equal in the body of Christ."

"I am really looking forward to meeting the children and young people from across the country. I want to hear about their backgrounds, their church, what they do and what they would like to do."

The Revd Dr. Stephen Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church who has supported Daud, commented: "I was delighted to be able to join Daud and his family for the welcome service. I have known Daud for some 15 years since he and his family arrived in Cardiff and his experiences will enable him to serve alongside both young Christians and the wider Church in his year as Youth President."

Daud's father, Revd Irfan John, is a Synod Enabler for culturally diverse congregations with the Wales Synod. Revd Irfan commented: "For myself and Daud's mother, Raheela, it is an honour to see him welcomed into his position as Methodist Youth President. As a minister, I encourage Daud to work faithfully during this year and pray that he will be a blessing for the young people."

Find out more about Daud [here](#).

Gathering and growing at 3Generate

Cancelling 3Generate in 2020 was such a deep loss and we were enormously sad to not be able to meet at the NEC in Birmingham and enjoy a memorable weekend with children and young people. But despite the challenges there were still plenty of great virtual gatherings that took place where we explored together what it meant to 'Tune In' to God. 365 was also introduced: a way for children and young people to be supported to live out their faith and grow in their discipleship every day of the year. Electing our Youth President online was a real highlight and it's been fantastic to welcome Daud Irfan as he recently began the role. The best news of all is that this year we can meet! And we're overjoyed that in 2021 we can do this!

We're so excited for 3Generate as it's a great chance to deepen relationships and build on reconnecting with young people in our churches and communities. We believe you're also really excited to meet face to face with groups again, enjoying all the benefits and delights that brings with it.

We all know the power of residential events, as a great way of having fun with, and deepening relationships with, our children and young people. These times away together can have huge and lasting impact on a child or young person's faith development. Maybe we can cast our minds back to taking part in similar events in our youth and know how vital they were in spurring us on as followers of Jesus or encountering God for the first time?

There is definitely something very powerful about coming together, celebrating with others from around the country. The opportunity it gives to forge friendships and have that sense of belonging to 'something' bigger, being part of the wider Methodist church.

After such a challenging year or so, we believe children and young people really deserve the chance, now it's safe to do so, to have fun together, share joy and celebrate. 3Generate 2021 promises to be a huge party—celebrating the joy of being together after so long apart. In our brand new space at the NEC there's the '3Gen Town', brilliant venues to explore, think, make, pray, play, learn and worship. There will also be some great chances to celebrate together: from the big light switch on the Friday evening, through the Festival on Saturday night with an international flavour and street entertainment, to the energetic mass worship with Urban Praise Party and up and coming band Echo.

The theme for 3Generate this year is 'In Tune' - with each other and with God, including exploring Peter's story and how he was In Tune with what God was doing at different points in his life. Our hope is that as children and young people hear and engage with his story, they in turn reflect on their own, discovering how they can grow in faith and walk closely with God day by day.

As Daud says "through all the different spaces to encounter God through the course of the weekend, it promises to really spark faith in energising new ways that keep on growing once 3Gen is over."

So what would he want to say to anyone still wondering whether to bring a group to the event?

"Take a leap of faith and just do it! Children and young people stand to benefit so much and the Children, Youth and Family team are here to help make that happen!"

There is still plenty of time to arrange for a group to attend 3Generate— however big or small that might be: from 2 or 3 young people, to larger ones from a number of churches or across a circuit. Join in for a day or stay overnight for the entire weekend. Why not extend the invitation this weekend to the children and young people you know in expectation of all that God will inspire in their lives? Asking the question might just prove to be a lasting, memorable moment for them.

A party of young people from our circuit (YMOSES and Wallingford at least) are going to be at 3Generate again this year. We look forward to hearing, first hand, of their experiences.

Church leaders urge Government to think again on Universal Credit cut

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined over 1100 church leaders in urging the Government to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October.

In their letter to the Prime Minister, organised by [Church Action on Poverty](#) and [Christians Against Poverty](#), church leaders say:

"If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low income households will be swept further into poverty as a result."

Church at the Margins Officer and Former Vice-President of the Methodist Church, Eunice Attwood, said:

"Cutting £20 a week from families who are just keeping their heads above water cannot be right.

"Every day we see in churches and foodbanks people with huge potential, bursting to contribute who cannot move forward because the struggle simply to make ends meet is all consuming. I urge ministers to come to a church project and see the difference £20 a week makes for some families.

"We believe that everyone should be able to fulfil the potential God has placed within them and that we should do all that is necessary to prevent people being held back by poverty."

Full text of the letter:

Dear Prime Minister, We stand together as church leaders from across the UK to urge you to think again about cutting Universal Credit payments by £20 a week from the start of October.

If the Government persists with this cut, it would be the single biggest overnight reduction in the basic rate of social security since the welfare state was established in the 1940s. Millions of low income households will be swept further into poverty as a result.

As Christians, we are compelled by the gospel imperative to prioritise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

As church leaders, we must speak up, because of the impact this will have on our poorest neighbours and church members.

We urge the Government to choose to build a just and compassionate social security system that our whole society can have confidence in.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer people in communities all over the country were suffering because the lifelines they needed from our social security system and vital neighbourhood services were not strong enough. Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has shown that the cut will particularly hit the north of

England, the West Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland. Rather than levelling up the UK, this will compound existing inequalities.

The loss of £1,040 a year will be devastating for many families at a time when energy bills and other household costs are increasing. Instead we can make sure our social security system brings stability, and opens up options and opportunities for people whose income is too low or insecure to make ends meet.

The cut has already been opposed by community groups up and down the country, charities, six former Conservative Work and Pensions Secretaries, and many MPs from all parties. This is an opportunity for the Government to send a message that it listens, and recognises the pressure faced by those on the breadline.

Universal Credit has been a vital lifeline throughout the pandemic. For the sake of millions of families, it must be retained at its current level, and we therefore reiterate the calls for the planned £20 a week cut to be withdrawn.

Open letter to Alok Sharma calls for bold action over the climate crisis

Ahead of the UN conference on climate change in Glasgow next month, a youth-led, global Methodist campaign, [Climate Justice for All \(CJ4A\)](#), have released an open letter to [COP26](#) President Alok Sharma calling for bold and ambitious action to avert further damage caused to the environment by climate change. The [letter](#) has been released for British Methodists to sign.

Reflecting the work of the CJ4A movement, the letter says:

"Young people have been pioneers in the climate movement, and as a Church we have been led by their prophetic voice as we have responded to the climate crisis. Our young people have continually expressed their fears for the planet, and have called on those in power to do more to protect their future. We urge you to hold these fears close to your heart as you lead COP26. We ask that you test the impact of the resolutions you make on generations to come. To neglect to do so would be a betrayal of the young people whose voices have been so active in driving the climate movement, and who risk bearing the heaviest consequences of our actions in years to come."

The letter came from consultation sessions that CJ4A held with Methodists in Britain earlier this year. CJ4A wanted to find out what people wanted to say to our leaders at COP and the letter captures the heart and passion of what was shared during these sessions.

Mollie Pugmire, British CJ4A worker, said:

"We wanted to make sure we were properly representing the voices of Methodists in Britain who so boldly shared their anger and frustration at the way in which the climate crisis is handled by our national and global leaders. I was really inspired by the way in which despite all the anger, people had not given up and were prepared to call upon their leaders to do what it takes to achieve climate justice for all."

The [letter](#) is open for Methodists to sign until the end of the 24th October.

Find out resources and news on the environment from the Methodist Church [here](#).

One World Week 17-24 October

The Theme for OWW 2021 is: "Act Now For Our Children's World"

One World Week occurs just before the **COP26 United Nations Climate Summit**, takes place in Glasgow in November 2021, (postponed from 2020). Britain is hosting this Conference which will be attended by national leaders and delegations from around the world. The aim is to build on the 2015 Paris Agreement with more ambitious commitments and measures to reduce carbon emissions and stop further climate change - so that all our children and future generations can enjoy a future in a sustainable world. The children themselves, inspired by Greta Thunberg, understand the urgency and have been pressing the adults to get on with it!

This is a big moment - we can still keep climate change in check - just - **IF** we act now. If we wait any longer it may be too late.

OWW will be a great opportunity to focus minds and action on the COP (Conference of the Parties) and about what we are going to do help stop climate change. During 2021 we need to rally support for our own nation to set an example to adopt ambitious targets and time scales and, this is critical, put in place measures to achieve them.

OWW is working with The Climate Coalition (of which we are a member) to:

- raise the awareness of individuals and communities of what is at stake for our children's future,
- build individual and community commitment to a greener healthy lifestyle,
- inspire and stimulate support for far reaching and timely Government Action to build a cleaner, healthier, fairer, green economy and work with others around the world to achieve a sustainable planet.

A recent survey (4 - 5th January 2021) commissioned by The Climate Coalition, (*all figures from YouGov Plc*) whose other members include Christian Aid, Islamic Relief UK, the RSPB, WWF, National Trust, Oxfam and Women's Institute, found that two-thirds (65%) of adults in the UK believe the British Government should do more to combat climate change, up from just over half (57%) in 2017.

Climate Outreach, which specialises in communicating to different audiences, found that most people are concerned about climate change though their concerns may be different. Understanding their specific concerns and values makes having a useful conversation easier and more productive. [See useful webinar "Britain Talks Climate" here](#); and a recent one on ["Engaging the public on COP26" - recording here](#), where you can find out more.

Public support for tackling climate change is high as almost a third of Britons (29%) admit to feeling more worried about climate change now than they were a year ago, compared with 15% who feel less worried. Only 17% of respondents now consider climate change to be an issue of low importance, while 47% said it was of high importance. So there is still work to be done to convince people of the seriousness and urgency to tackle climate change.

Sharon Tedford

UK Tour 2021

Join us for an inspiring evening of songs, stories and scriptures from Sharon's latest album and book



7:30pm Friday 15th October

(doors open at 7pm)

Wantage Baptist Church

6 Mill Street, Wantage OX12 9AQ

Entry free with opportunity to give to Street Pastors

www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk



To book tickets:

email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

call: 07554 655 594

More information visit: bit.ly/wgsp-sharon

Childrey

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

Sunday 10th October: 11:00 am led by Ian Sturt

Sunday 24th October: 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Mother & Baby Support Group

A Baby Support Group began as we came out of the last lockdown with the aim of offering support to first time parents for Childrey and the surrounding villages by The Ridgeway Benefice, co-ordinated by the Rev Andrea Colbrook.

After a short break over the summer the Group has started back, meeting every Monday at Childrey Methodist chapel. It is going from strength to strength with 10 parents on the books with babies ranging from a matter of weeks to those turning one.

Relationships are being developed with the families and some have attended a teddy bears picnic and a baptism held at St Mary's. This is a wonderful opportunity to lovingly serve our community together.

The members of Childrey Methodist chapel are pleased to be able to support this new and exciting initiative and will pray for its continued success.

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.

Christin Love to all.

Grove

Sunday worship in church is open for all at 10:45 am and you are invited to come and share with us. The seating is well spaced, the windows are open, we sanitize hands and wear face masks in church and do appreciate being able to sing, even though it is behind face masks still.

Church Council is on Wednesday, 20th October at 8:00 pm.

All who are interested in the life and work of our church are invited to take part in this meeting. It will be held on Zoom. If you would like to participate in the meeting and haven't received the Zoom link already, please get in touch with Keith so that he can send it to you.

Coffee Morning and Handmade Cards for sale – **Saturday, 6th November at 10:00 am** in the church. Judith and her family are our hosts. Proceeds are for Freyja's Fund. This fund at the J.R. Hospital, set up by Freyja's family, enables the Clic Sargent social workers to access money quickly and easily as needed, to help children who have cancer and their families. We continue with Covid precautions still, sanitizing hands and wearing face masks when moving about, but remove masks when seated for eating/drinking. The windows are usually open, so come prepared!

Thank you to all who supported the Harvest Coffee morning for All We Can. We will be able to give you the total raised next time.

Coffee mornings: offers of help either on the day or by making cakes are very much appreciated. Please talk to whoever is hosting if you are willing to help.

Fresh flowers in church: Thank you to everyone who has responded to our plea to provide fresh flowers in church on Sundays again and filled their names on the list to the end of the year. It is lovely to see flowers on the table again. Thank you.

Craft Group is meeting again at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm. All are welcome. Bring your own craft to do and enjoy a chat and exchange of ideas with other crafters while you work. We give a donation of £1 to Cornerstone and buy a drink of our choice.

Grove Tuesday Fellowship: After a year and many months I am pleased to have to say that we are starting up our Tuesday afternoon meetings at Grove church on 2nd November at 2:15 pm. Our Minister, Keith Underhill, will be speaking. We welcome him and any new members, and our older members of course! Looking forward to seeing you on this day.

Kath Gourlay

Wednesday Zoom Coffee mornings continue each week and are open to all. 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.

Ride and Stride: Our thanks to John, Lynda and Kit who went out cycling and thank you to everyone who sponsored them. They raised a total of £325 for the Historic Churches Fund in Oxfordshire, half of which will be returned to our own church.

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 trust that, with care, the way forward will open up gradually for everyone.

THE BEST
OF ALL IS
GOD
IS WITH US.

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.

A Memorial Service

Our **Sunday service** on **31st October** will be a memorial service. It will be a chance for us to give voice together to the loss and sadness we have shared these past eighteen months or so.

It will allow us to remember all those who have died as well as to cry out together to God, to lament what cannot be regained, to hear again God's promise, and to give thanks for God's steadfast love.

Though we grieve with sadness for things which cannot be restored, we look to the future with hope in Christ in whom all things are made new.

Pastoral

Ann Barber

It's always nice to be able to celebrate good news, which the birth of a grandchild certainly is, and two of our church families have recently experienced this happy event. Christopher and Becca Wells welcomed their first baby, Ezra Robert Armantage who was born in Exeter on 15th September. Many of our older members will remember Christopher when he was part of our Sunday School and church. His Mum, Heather, and his Dad, Graham, become grandparents for the first time, and we offer our congratulations, love and prayers to the whole family

For Alison Phillips, the birth of a baby daughter to her son Tim and his wife Angela on 24th September, at their home in Edinburgh, marks the arrival of her third grandchild. Formally her Christian names are Genevieve Clare Margaret, but she will be known endearingly as Evie, and our warmest congratulations and love go to Alison and Clive, who are now blessed with a joint total of twelve grandchildren

In a recent telephone conversation with Richard George, he was pleased to have received a visit from Rachel and Morgan Niblett with whom he used to share the front row of seats at our Sunday Morning Services, and between whom a bond of affection had grown. Richard has settled well into his Care Home placement at Freeland House, and says he would warmly welcome visitors from Church. He was insistent that this Newsletter item includes a message of love from Richard to all of his friends at Church.

Similarly, in every conversation with Sharon, the same request is made. There's no doubt that she was relieved to be reunited with her family last December, especially as flights to Ghana came to a halt soon after her return. With her husband's life-threatening condition due to Covid, Sharon felt it was God's calling which ensured she was there to care for him, and to be with her children during those anxious times. Sadly though, Sharon finds that there are many alarming and frightening aspects of life within in Ghanaian society. She describes the situation, particularly in Accra, as one of lawlessness and corruption. She says there is extreme violence permeating all

aspects of life, and the fear it generates has a deep impact on daily living. Knowledge of the prayers of our church family, and the love with which she is held, give her the strongest reassurance, and Sharon always asks for her thanks and gratitude to be passed on.

There's encouraging news about Gill Morton's son John who is no longer in the Critical Care ward at the JR. After being in there since June, it is hoped that he may soon be transferred to Abingdon Hospital, and we pray for his continued recovery, and assure Gill of our ongoing love and support.

It is good to learn that Celia Roser is also improving in health. Last week she was well enough to join fellow residents in the communal lounge at Fleur de Lis, and to enjoy conversation with her friends there. Our prayers are with Celia, and we hope that she continues to make good progress.

Praying for each other: In October the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's House-group: on Carolyn Roche's list: Dilys Seymour, Linda & Rodney Tillotson, Prue Cathcart, Andrew Holley, and Catherine & David Worth, and on Kelvin Rose's list: Peter Bainbridge, Andrew Barber, Margaret & Francis McAlpin, Carolyn Roche, and Gordon & Marina Scott

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 Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are the Way to God, the Truth from God and the Life of God. Help us to know more of your truth and enjoy more of your life. Loving Lord, forgive us when we have been more focused on what we are doing rather than on what you want us to do within your church. Help us to keep our eyes on you. Thank you that even when we wander away you always wait until we return. Help us to be faithful in serving you. 'I do not know the course ahead, what joys and griefs are there, but One is near who fully knows; I'll trust his loving care' (Mission Praise 269). 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, Geoffrey Stokell, 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 November Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 29th October** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Telephone: 01235 224284, email: eileenrennie@jcloud.com

YMOSES (Youth Meeting On Sunday EveningS): We plan to meet on **October 10th** in the evening, and if you are at secondary school and would like to come along to this informal faith-based discussion group, you would be more than welcome! For more information please give me (Jane Kent) a ring on (01235) 765421.

Community Drop In Café

June Grunwald

The café restarted on 4 October and it was good to see some regulars, after such a long time. We also welcomed one new comer. We were unsure how many would join us but were pleasantly surprised to have 33 people during our first morning. The morning went smoothly with our new and regular helpers reminding themselves of how to operate the coffee machine and the new ways of working to reduce the risks of Covid. 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.

Tuesday Afternoon House Group

Eileen Rennie

In September we have met in the Church at 2 pm each Tuesday. Meantime we are studying the York Course, Superstar. On 28th September Keith came to inspire us with his thoughts and gave us the opportunity to add our thoughts. We always look forward to him coming to join us and do appreciate him giving so willingly of his time.

In October we will finish the last two sessions of Superstar then we will start with last year's Bible Month on Ruth, which sadly we were not able to do in 2020 because of lockdowns. Prayer is an important part of our meeting and we spend time each week praying for people and situations near and far. We still continue to socially distance, wear masks and ventilate the space when we meet. Safety for all is a priority.

It has been good to gradually welcome back some people we had not seen for some time. Please be assured that if you are not able to meet back with us yet that you are remembered each week in prayer.

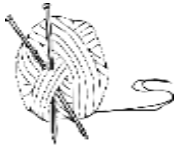
Dates for October are as follows:

5 th October	Superstar Session 4 - The Church. Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10
12 th October	Superstar Session 5 - Cross Purposes. Reading: John 12:27-36
19 th October	Ruth Session 1 - Focussing on various Characters. Reading: Chapter 1
26 th October	Ruth Session 2 - Ruth and Boaz. Reading: Chapter 2

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 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 email: eileenrennie@icloud.com



Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

As the weather becomes cooler and the days are shorter there is more time to get on with knitting and crochet projects. Hopefully you are managing to do a few angels and it would be great if you could start letting me know how many you have so far – every little angel counts! Angel knitting continues to bring me some relief from the Christmas jumper that I started. So far I have unpicked the front 4 times!! This time I have reached the armholes so hopefully this part will soon be finished although still not sure which Christmas I shall be wearing it.

Every now and then I get an email from the UK Knitting Association. The last one wrote about a charity that collects hats for the homeless. You can use any pattern and they are asking for these to be sent in by the end of November. If we don't manage many or any this year we could knit some for 2022.

The good news is that Community Café is re-starting so Knit & Chat will now meet in the Chapel. We look forward to seeing you on **18th October, 1st November and 15th November at 2 pm.**

Remember that you can join our Knit & Chat Facebook group. Please let June G know if you wish to do so.

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

Users: Weekdays at Wantage Methodist Church

Monday	morning	Hall	Community Café
Monday	18/10 & 1/11 aft	Chapel	Knit & Chat
Monday	evening	Hall	Slimming World
Tuesday	morning	Hall	MIND
	afternoon	Chapel	Tuesday Afternoon House Group
Tuesday	evening	Hall	Wantage Camera Club
Tuesday	12/10 @7pm	Parlour	My Life, My Choice
Wednesday	evening	Hall	Wantage Stage Musical
Friday	morning	Hall	Mother & Toddlers
Friday	afternoon	Hall	Caritas Children's Choir
Saturday	5/11 morning	Hall	Dads' Out

DIARY for OCTOBER

Monday 18th 2:00 pm Knit & Chat in Wantage Chapel
Wednesday 20th 8:00 pm Grove Church Council
Sunday 31st 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Memorial Service

DEADLINE for NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

Monday 1st 2:00 pm Knit & Chat in Wantage Chapel
Saturday 6th 10:00 am Grove Coffee Morning at church
Tuesday 16th 7:30 pm Wantage Church Council in Wantage Chapel
This meeting will also be on Zoom.

Services during OCTOBER

OCTOBER

Sunday 10th 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion
10:45 am Grove Libby Bolton
11:00 am Childrey Ian Sturt

Sunday 17th 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Helen Carter
10:45 am Grove Rev Irena Byron
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 24th 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Ian Sturt
10:45 am Grove Frederick Obeng
11:00 am Childrey Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 31st 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Rev Keith Underhill
Memorial Service
10:45 am Grove Peter Hemmings

NOVEMBER

Sunday 7th 10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom) Andrew Dixon
10:45 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill