

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

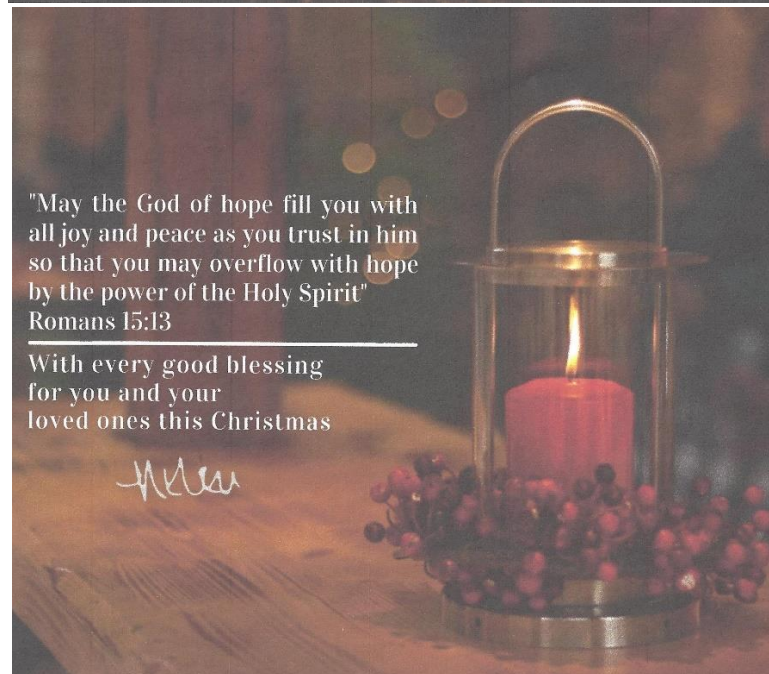
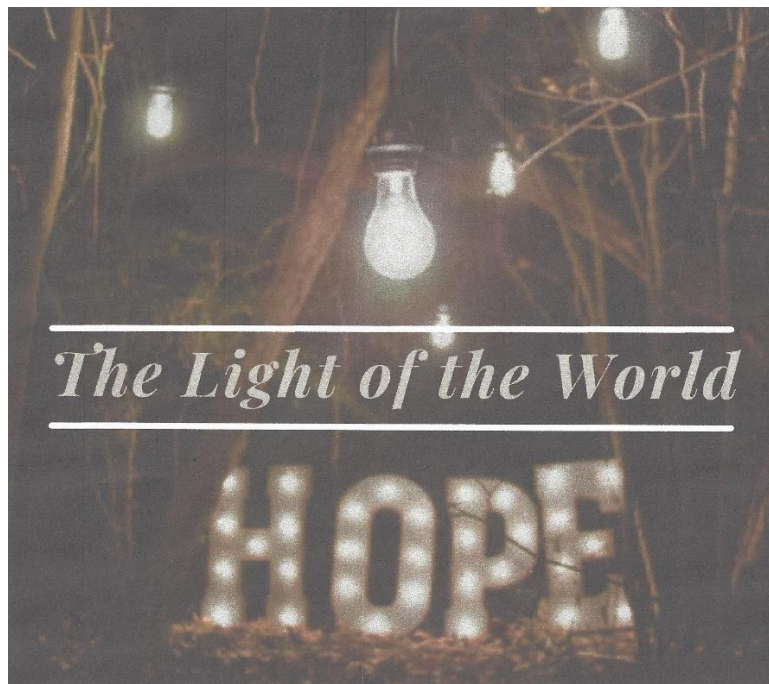
CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR

CGW NEWS


The Methodist Church

**Christmas 2021
Greetings
Supplement**





Advent Letter 2021 from Helen Cameron - Chair, Northampton District

My dear sisters and brothers,

I write to you at the beginning of Advent 2021 and towards the end of a year when we continue to know disruption, continued anxiety and though many are now vaccinated against Covid, and those vaccinations boosted, continued pressure this winter on our NHS and emergency services. We do trust that this year families will be able to visit and support one another at Christmas although I note that those in care homes are still experiencing considerable limitations. It is my custom to share a poem with you and my choice this year is written by Steve Turner, who writes for children,

*Christmas is really
for the children.
Especially for children
who like animals, stables,
stars and babies wrapped
in swaddling clothes.
Then there are wise men,
kings in fine robes,
humble shepherds and a
hint of rich perfume.*

*Easter is not really
for the children
unless accompanied by
a cream filled egg.
It has whips, blood, nails,
a spear and allegations
of body snatching.
It involves politics, God
and the sins of the world.
It is not good for people
of a nervous disposition.
They would do better to
think on rabbits, chickens
and the first snowdrop
of spring.*

*Or they'd do better to
wait for a re-run of
Christmas without asking
too many questions about
what Jesus did when he grew up
or whether there's any connection.*

The darker side of the birth narrative in Matthew's Gospel includes the slaughter of all the male children under two years around Bethlehem at the orders of a tyrant King. Even if legend, other innocents continue to be slaughtered, even drowning in the English Channel under our gaze. There is nothing cosy about the promised presence of God with us, but there is the challenge of what God's radical and inclusive love means, and calls us to become. May we not just worship the Christ child but follow him.

Every blessing, as ever,



Christmas greetings to everyone at Wantage Methodist Church and a happy new year from Carole and Keith



*Wishing joy and peace to everyone,
With love from Ann and Pete xx*

Wishing everyone at Wantage Methodist Church every blessing
this Christmas and in the coming year.

Love from Carolyn.

Wishing all a happy Christmas.
with love from June and Alan Grunwald

Here's good news: our God is with us, friend for life in joy and need!
In rejection, pain and trouble Jesus is our Friend in deed.
Baby child and dying Friend, living Lord, love without end. *(Peter Relf)*

With every good wish for a Happy Christmas and blessings for 2022
Love from Gordon & Gill Skidmore

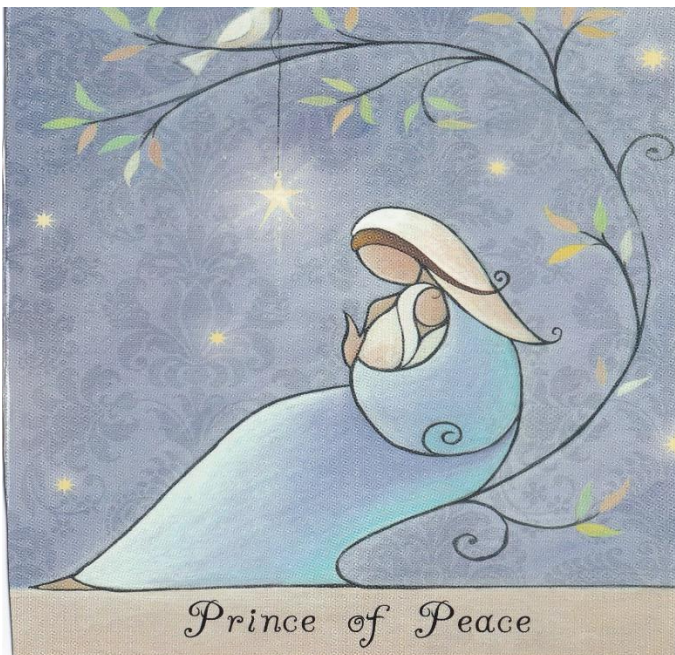
A Happy Christmas to all!

And as we celebrate the coming of Jesus let us approach the next months and years in faith, even as we recognise that the current virus will be with us indefinitely, that the earth's climate will not repair itself without many sacrifices, and that whatever we endure, both difficulties are worse for almost all the rest of the human race.

With love, Linda and Rodney Tillotson.

Love and Good wishes at Christmas to everyone in the Church Family, and wishing you ALL good health and Peace in the New Year.

from Hilary Rewcastle



To All at
Wantage Methodist Church

May God bless you this Christmas
and in the year ahead

with love & thanks
for your fellowship.

Helen + John C

Very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2022

With love from

David, Cath, Chris & Charlotte



With best wishes to all at Grove, Wantage and Childrey
From Lois & Justin Greenhalgh

Wishing everyone a safe Christmas & peaceful New Year.

Andrew



Wishing everyone a
happy Christmas and
"more settled" New Year
with all good wishes
for 2022,
with love,
Margaret Wilson

Best wishes for
CHRISTMAS
and the
NEW YEAR
With love from Margaret F.

Wishing everyone and all your families,
happiness, health and every blessing
this Christmas,
Mary Spalding



To all our friends at the Church

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas
and a very Happy New Year

with Love and God Bless You.

Marjorie and Colin White



To all my friends at Wantage
Methodist

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Love Janet & Roger Evans



Mary & Child
CORDELIA HUTCHINSON
CCS803

From Martin Smithson

Dear Wantage friends,

We hope you are all avoiding Covid and keeping well and that the church there is coping with continuing to adapt as the rules change.

This will be our sixth and final Christmas here. I'm pleased that we are able to do much more this year than last (hopefully). I hardly have time to realise that this will be my last Christmas in circuit but I'm sure I will notice the difference next year!

Our family is well. Jane did have Covid but fortunately only felt ill for a couple of days. They have all been working from home since the start of the first lockdown which, of course, has its downsides as well as up. We are hoping to see all our grandchildren just after Christmas - again, hopefully.

There is less news to share than there might have been as a result of Covid. I had a sabbatical earlier this year (postponed from the year before) but we couldn't travel as planned so it was a very home-based sabbatical. Nonetheless I was grateful for the break from the usual work. We have managed a couple of trips away within this country and continue to hope that going further afield will become possible again before we are too old.

You may know how serious the shortage of Ministers is now. This circuit did not get a match (to replace me) in the first round in November and we were not hopeful that we would at all. We are very grateful that we do have a match in round two but the visit has not taken place yet due to a health issue. We pray all will be well for the sake of all concerned.

We hope you have a good Christmas at church and at home and pray you know many blessings in 2022.

With love,

Martin and Jude



To Keith and all the leadership
and Pastoral teams

"Merry Christmas To You all"
With love
Moreen Webber

Thank You Anne for the
news letters.