

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR

  
The Methodist Church

# CGW NEWS



April 2022

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** should be sent to the editor by email, phone  
or in writing by **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022** to  
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Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

## **Sunday Services and Church Activities**

**Wantage Morning Worship will be shared each week on Zoom at 10:30**  
(for access to this please contact Gordon Skidmore)

**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 - 2022**

May	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
June	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
July/August	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June
September	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August
October	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
November	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
December/January	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> November

## From the Manse.....

Whether it is due to global warming and its associated changes or some more mundane reason, the fact is that our Christmas cactus is behaving strangely.

Sitting proudly on the windowsill in our kitchen, it is flowering magnificently! The bright pink flowers that bloomed throughout Advent, just a few months ago, are back once more, in timely fashion, to accompany us on our journey through Lent towards Easter.

It is a visual reminder of how these two festivals are intimately and inextricably connected, helping to both explain and make sense of one another. Together, they complete our understanding of Jesus.

After all, what is Easter but the fulfilment of the Christmas story and without the message of the incarnation there would be no resurrection.

We are reminded of this fact in Horatius Bonar's Easter hymn "*Rejoice and be glad! The redeemer hath come: Go, look on his cradle, his cross and his tomb*"

The flowers remind us of the new life that is to be discovered in that which has finished and is all over.

The flowers speak of hope and surprise and in doing so allow us to trust God for the future that is yet to come, even as we are taken unawares by him in the present.

The flowers tell us that, even as we await the transforming dawn of Easter Day, we are not abandoned in the darkness that surrounds us, for even in the messiness of the world there are signs of light, hope, peace and love that we can hold on to.

As this year we come towards the finish of our Lenten journey prepared to enter into Christ's passion, we are very aware that we are living through the darkest times for many an age.

However, the truth of Christmas tells us that, even so, we are not alone and that the Christ child is with us, whilst the glory of Easter and resurrection tells us that the Christ light has never been and never will be extinguished by the darkness of the world.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

# Ukraine

## Statement on Ukraine from the Methodist Presidency

We are horrified and heartbroken as we witness the violent assault on Ukraine by the Russian military. This devastating action and ensuing loss of life have rightly been condemned across the world. It is a very clear violation of the UN Charter and as such imperils the foundation upon which international security is built and on which we all depend. We regret the failure to build an understanding with Russia and we pray for the Ukrainian and Russian peoples, including the Methodist church leaders in the region and the Methodist communities across Ukraine. Christians are called to 'pursue peace with everyone' (Hebrews 12:14); this mandate is clear and requires courage, perseverance and understanding. We ask you to pray for all politicians, that there may be an end to aggression and that dialogue, justice and peace may be established.

## Refugee access to the UK - guests and hosts in the Wantage area

At Wantage Church Council, we launched a discussion about the plight of Ukrainian refugees, the willingness to welcome and host even those without family ties in the UK and the slow, inhuman UK response.

In an attempt to persuade the government to simplify and speed up the granting of visas, we decided that the most direct way of doing this would be to **lobby David Johnston, the local MP**. [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

In the meantime, there have been promising developments, though there are still many unknowns about the new sponsorship scheme and concerns remain about possible bureaucratic delays and practical hindrances to the vulnerable refugees who are in such need.

We suspect that many other groups around the country, and possibly nearby, are probably having similar discussions, and that some might be well ahead of us, especially if they have pre-existing contacts with Ukraine. We are therefore reaching out to you, not necessarily as possible hosts (though we recognise some of you may be considering it), but as someone who might be well connected in one or more sectors of our local community, or might be experienced in supporting refugees, or might be involved in local voluntary activities.

The situation is obviously extremely fluid and we recognise the need to be adaptable but, at the moment, our aims for Wantage and the surrounding area would be:

- to set up / join a self-support group of potential hosts who can share experience on issues they experience (and explore the possibility of group sponsorship, should that emerge as a possible viable option) and expedite the process (including finding and pairing with guests; advise on DBS requirements)
- to set up (or join) a broader support group for hosts, helping them navigate the process of volunteering and welcoming guests
- to set up / join a support group(s) for Ukrainian guests, helping them navigate the practicalities of setting up a new (hopefully temporary) life in a foreign country and culture, which might include issues such as:

- accessing nurseries and schooling (with possible provision of a dedicated nursery in early months)
- accessing a “youth group” for Ukrainian children to meet with each other (with/without local children)
- support for parents (mothers) who wish to work
- to monitor progress and difficulties which can be fed back to local and national government to ensure urgent implementation of the humanitarian response

If you feel you could be involved in any of these groups, please contact:

Revd Keith Underhill [keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk](mailto:keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk) 01235 763321

We completely understand that not everyone is in a position to be involved or to help and there is no pressure whatsoever to do so.

Thank you for your on-going prayers for all those who are caught up in this tragedy.

Local Facebook group: Wantage and surrounding area - Ukrainian refugee support: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/509737370736137/?ref=share>

### **Ukraine Donations:**

In Grove Methodist Church, there is a box in the foyer for items donated for Ukrainian refugees. Suggestions of things that are desperately needed are nappies, sanitary items, paracetamol, disposable gloves. We have also been asked if we could focus on the children and possibly provide knitted/crochet blankets and soft toys, also colouring pencils/crayons, colouring books and small toys. Lynda Jones will take all donated items to a collection point in Grove, from where they will be forwarded to Poland to help with the refugee effort there. Thank you so much for all that has been given so far.

### **Monetary Donations**

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an emergency appeal in response to events unfolding in Ukraine as have Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal)

As communities face violence, upheaval, and the trauma of war, your urgent support is needed. Working together with the Global Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, donations will be used to support the response to the crisis happening in Ukraine, and ensure that critical humanitarian assistance is available to those who need it.

Links to make donations :

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donations/ukraine/>

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Please note that if people can claim Gift Aid and make their donations on-line using a debit or credit card, or at a bank, DEC can claim Gift Aid which increases their donation by 25%. Gift Aid cannot be claimed by DEC for money that is accumulated and sent via the church.

## **Prayers for Ukraine**

**Holy and Gracious God**

**We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.**

**We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.**

**We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.**

**We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.**

**We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.**

**Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.**

**And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.**

**Lord have mercy.**

**Amen**

**Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.**

**Today, we weep over Ukraine.**

**We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.**

**We weep for those cowering in basements.**

**We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.**

**We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.**

**We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.**

**We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.**

**We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.**

**We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.**

**May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.**

**May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.**

**Amen**

International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

This year's theme for International Women's Day 2022 was #BreakTheBias. Whether conscious or not, we are responsible for our own thoughts and actions and, through these, we can break the bias in our communities, workplaces, and education systems.

Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist, and activist once explained "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist, nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

I've always been passionate about women's equality and working at All We Can has only amplified this. 'Intersectionality' is a term coined by law professor and civil rights advocate Dr Kimberlé Crenshaw. It helps us to explore the dynamic between coexisting identities and connected systems of oppression.

All We Can endeavours to see every person's potential fulfilled regardless of gender, however, the interconnectedness of all issues of injustice cannot be ignored and it is often women that are worst affected by poverty. Kimberlé Crenshaw explains, 'This idea that we all have the same life is false, race, class, gender come together to shape the life chances of people in very different ways.' It is also true that humanitarian crises, resulting from natural disasters or wars, deepen and aggravate the inequities of the patriarchal system in place.

It is easy to feel helpless when you hear about all of the injustice in the world, but there are some easy ways you can promote gender equality this International Women's Day and beyond:

**Raise Your Voice** – Have conversations with friends and family about inequality and call people out if they make ill-informed comments.

**Support Female Creators** – Buy a book, film, or piece of art from a female small-business owner, author, director, or artist.

**Volunteer or Fundraise** – Support charities that promote women's equality.

The Zubo Trust, one of our incredible partners in Zimbabwe, exists to open opportunities for women. Working in the Binga District of Matabeleland North, they promote and support the needs of rural women in the Zambezi Valley to realise their full socio-economic potential. The Zubo Trust encourages women to make the most of naturally available resources which also benefits children, men, and the wider community around them.

Rebecca is part of Buniswa women's co-operative which hand-makes traditional woven baskets from the Ilala palm tree. This project, supported in partnership with All We Can, aims to give women an alternative source of income to provide them with more financial stability- which is at the heart of our partnership approach. All We Can walks together alongside talented local organisations, like the Zubo Trust, to ensure that communities become stronger through our collaboration with them.

## **A pandemic of injustice**

*JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team)*

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania; Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex; Ban Ki-Moon; and Charlize Theron join plea for a People's Vaccine

More than 130 former world leaders, Nobel laureates, leading scientists, economists, humanitarians, faith leaders, business leaders, trade unionists, and celebrities are calling for urgent action to vaccinate low and middle-income countries and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, in a letter coordinated by the People's Vaccine Alliance.

Condemning the approach of world leaders so far as “immoral, entirely self-defeating and also an ethical, economic and epidemiological failure”, they warn that leaving billions of people unvaccinated risks leading to dangerous new variants COVID-19.

Failure to vaccinate the world so far is down to “self-defeating nationalism, pharmaceutical monopolies and inequality”, the leaders say, which have led to the “avoidable” milestones of two years and an estimated twenty million deaths from COVID-19.

The full letter and list of signatories is available here: <https://bit.ly/3CuHIV1>

The letter puts five demands to world leaders:

1. Urgently agree and implement a global roadmap to deliver the WHO goal of fully vaccinating 70% of people by mid-2022, and beyond this ensure sustained, timely and equitable access worldwide to COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, tests and other medical technologies, including next generations effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines and medical technologies.
2. Maximise the production of safe and effective vaccines and other COVID-19 products by suspending relevant intellectual property rules and ensuring the mandatory pooling of all COVID-19 related knowledge, data and technologies so that any nation can produce or buy sufficient and affordable doses of vaccines, treatments and tests.
3. Invest public funding now in a rapid and massive increase in vaccine manufacturing as well as research and development (R&D) capacity to build a global distributed network capable of and governed to deliver affordable vaccines as global public goods to all nations.
4. Make COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests available to governments and institutions at a price as close to the true cost as possible, and provided free of charge to everyone, everywhere, and allocated according to need.
5. Scale-up sustainable investment in public health systems to ensure that low- and middle-income country governments have adequate resources to get shots into arms and save lives. These investments will pay dividends in the global economy and help restore economic and development gains which the global COVID-19 pandemic has partially reversed.



## **Wantage & Grove Church Partnership**

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April there will be a post onto the Wantage and Grove Facebook Group each day. Each church is supplying a short thought provoking scripture/ thought / image that is relevant for the day.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Church</b>
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Grove Methodist
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	St John's Grove
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Vale Elim Church
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Wantage Parish Church
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Wantage Methodist
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	St John Vianney
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Grove Free Evangelical Church
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Wantage Community Church

### **Help For Carrie**

Carrie is a friendly, bright and intelligent young woman who says she suffers from a wide range of psychological and other issues including ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), PTSD, Autism and Eating Disorders. She lives in Grove, is house-bound, has a seven year old daughter, and has a fulltime (unpaid) carer.

It's not her real name. She contacted us through a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) notice and is greatly in need of help. We visited her recently. CAP is not the right channel for helping her but the church could certainly do so. She needs a resolute and determined person who could act as her "advocate" in discussions with Social Services; someone who can devote a lot of time getting to know and understand her and her relationship and history with the authorities, and help her to access financial support from them. She is particularly fearful that social services might remove her daughter from her. Carrie's advocate would possibly need a small team of supporters, to help him/her carry the load.

Carrie expresses a desire to come into the church and to arrange for her daughter to be baptised.

If you think you could be Carrie's advocate, and would like to know more, please contact one of us, or your own church leader. It would not be a task for the faint-hearted! Her advocate could be a man or a woman; her carer would always arrange to be present in discussions.

*Elisabeth Atkin (07790 407479)    Peter Rumsey (07580 291258)*

**The Revd Katherine Magdalene Price**

We are pleased to announce that on Friday Bishop Gavin offered the position of Vicar of Wantage to the Reverend Katherine Price, and Katherine has accepted the incumbency.

Katherine is currently Chaplain of The Queen's College, Oxford, a post she has held for five years, before which she was a curate at Grimsby Minster, having studied at Oxford and Mirfield.

The appointment follows our selection day on Thursday, at the conclusion of which the interview panel unanimously assessed Katherine as an outstanding candidate and the right choice for Wantage.



Please pray for Katherine, her husband and son as they prepare to join us this Summer.

**Wantage Choral Society  
&  
Abingdon & District Music Society  
Bach's St Matthew Passion  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm  
St Helen & St Katherine's School,  
Faringdon Road, Abingdon OX14 1BE**

**Conductor : Alexander Walker**

**Soloists:**

**Evangelist: Edward Woodhouse**

**Christus: Daniel Tate**

**Soprano: Rebecca Bottone**

**Countertenor: William Purefoy**

**Tenor: Dominic Bevan**

**Bass: Michael Hickman**

**Tickets £14 at the door / £12 in advance from:  
wegottickets.com**

**or from**

**Peter Smith : [psmiffy69@btinternet.com](mailto:psmiffy69@btinternet.com); 07979 894095**

## Childrey

For the foreseeable future Childrey will normally be open for Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month. In April, however, the services will be:

**Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**            9:00 am    led by Rev Keith Underhill

**Easter Day 17<sup>th</sup> April**            10:00 am    at St Mary's  
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

6:00 pm    Road to Emmaus - Communion

With sorrow we remember **Pat Legge** , whose death on 10<sup>th</sup> March followed so soon after that of Doug. We offer our prayers and our love to Robin, Becky and Vicky, and to all of Pat's grandchildren.

### **Prayers:**

We remember in our prayers:

Vicky, Robin and Becky and the Legge family grandchildren.

Keith, Andrea, David, Joy Gee, Jean

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

Christian Love to all.

THE BEST  
OF ALL IS,  
GOD  
IS WITH US.

## Grove

**Sunday worship** in church is open for all at 10:45 am and you are invited to come and worship with us. The seating is well spaced, the windows are open, and face masks are now optional – your choice.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for Emmaus** on **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April** in the church from 10 am. Emmaus communities seek to offer homeless people a safe place to live and meaningful work. They also provide the personal support that people in crisis need. Our hosts are Linda and Mark Jones. If you would like to offer help in any way, then please speak to Linda. We are aware that Covid is still very active. If you wish to continue wearing a face mask then please feel you can do so. The windows are usually open, so come prepared!

Thank you to everyone who has kindly volunteered to host a Coffee Morning in 2022. Just two dates left to be filled: 6<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please let Jenny Marriott know if you are willing to host/co-host one of them (telephone: 01235 767624).

Thank you to all who supported the Coffee morning for Freyja's Fund in March. £161 was raised by donations and, in addition, £111 through card sales.

### **Ukraine Donations:**

There is a box in the foyer for items donated for the Ukrainian refugees. Suggestions of things that are desperately needed are nappies, sanitary items, paracetamol, disposable gloves. We have also been asked if we could focus on the children and possibly provide knitted/crochet blankets and soft toys, also colouring pencils / crayons, colouring books and small toys. Lynda will take all donated items to a collection point in Grove, from where they will be forwarded to Poland to help with the refugee effort there. Thank you so much for all that has been given so far.

### **Wantage & Grove Food Bank:**

A reminder to everyone that we have a food bank collection point in the foyer also. It would be wonderful if we could all try to remember to put some small item in there every week, as part of our weekly offering. Items in tins, jars and packets are best, with as long a shelf life as possible please.

God bless you, and many thanks for so much already. Carol & Ian xx

**Fresh flowers in church:** Thank you to everyone who provides fresh flowers in church each Sunday. There is a new blank list on the table in the entrance to cover the months April, May and June. If you are able to help again by filling in a date, it will be much appreciated. Flowers need to be taken away after the service please.

**Easter Sunday:** extra vases of spring flowers for the window sills for Easter Sunday would be most welcome. Thank you.

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

**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 or Roger know and you will then receive a weekly invitation by email and can join in as and when you are able to.

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 trust that, with care, the way forward is opening up gradually for everyone.

## **Grove and Wantage Extravaganza**

Ian Sturt has taken on the task of coordinating the Wantage & Grove Church Partnership effort for the Grove & Wantage Extravaganza on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Following an initial meeting, the current plan is to join two pitches together (already booked) with a marquee and serve 'Gospel cocktails' (mocktails). There will be some chairs and tables and some activities for children. Cornerstone cafe are otherwise engaged on the day but if they have any spare capacity there may also be coffee served.

The first job is to gather a team. Please publicise this in your churches and if anyone would like to be involved in any capacity, please contact Ian (07426 772761) in the first instance and give him your contact details.

# Wantage

## **Annual Church Meeting – April 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of Morning Worship**

Nominations for representatives to Church Council are invited. They must be members of the Methodist Church and have approved their nomination. Helen Carter and Rodney Tillotson have completed their two terms of 3 years and stand down. Alison Brown and Kelvin Rose have completed their first term of 3 years and are eligible for nomination and appointment for a second term. See Wantage Annual Report or the weekly notices for more detail.

## **Morning Worship**

Morning Worship is in the chapel and on Zoom. Services commence at 10:30 am. We continue to try to ensure a Covid safe environment.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group**

*Eileen Rennie*

We meet in church each Tuesday at 2 pm. In March we have been following our Lent study which is The Prayers of Jesus and it focuses on six of the seven recorded prayers of Jesus.

In April we will continue our Lent Study, Keith will be making his quarterly visit to the group on 5<sup>th</sup> April and we will be visiting St Mary's Convent on 12<sup>th</sup> April. This is an annual event for the group each year in Holy Week when we visit the Stations of the Cross.

It was lovely a few weeks ago to have the presence of almost all the group. We are still mindful of everyone's safety and vulnerability so we continue to wear our masks whilst meeting and have the chairs spaced and the door open for fresh air. We are keeping an eye on the rising numbers of cases at present. Please be assured if you cannot meet with us that you are remembered in prayer.

Prayer is an important part of our meeting and we spend time each week praying for people and situations near and far. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

Dates for April are as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Keith will talk to the group.
- 12<sup>th</sup> We visit St. Mary's Convent for prayer and reflection at the Stations of the Cross.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Lent Study Session 5 - In the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36-46
- 26<sup>th</sup> Lent Study Session 6 - On the Cross. Luke 23:26, 32-34.

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)

## **Thursday Lent Group**

The **Thursday** group is meeting **in the Hall at 10 am** and is using "**Journeying through Lent with New Daylight**", published by BRF(Bible Reading Fellowship). The remaining weeks cover:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Jesus' Wisdom in Luke | 31 <sup>st</sup> March (Luke 11:1-2) & 7 <sup>th</sup> April (Luke 11:37-41) |
| 1 Corinthians 13      | 14 <sup>th</sup> April (1Cor13:13)   |

## Pastoral

*Ann Barber*

This Newsletter will be read during our journey through the season of Lent, and close to the beginning of British Summer Time. Putting our clocks forward during Springtime gives us a joyful boost to this season of new growth, the experience of longer hours of daylight and, above all, the celebration of Christ's resurrection and all that it means to each one of us. Knowing and trusting that our future is in God's hands feels like our greatest reassurance when, without our faith, world events could fill us with fear and distress. Our thoughts and concern for everyone involved in the war in Ukraine intensify our hopes that peace may be achieved, and that, with God's help, and in every possible way, we can offer our support to those in great need.

We reflect with sadness that, so early in the new year, we have already lost three of our church members during 2022. All of them have been in their nineties, with many years of Christian service fulfilled, and we give thanks for their long and fruitful lives. The most recent was **Rodney Deval**: We were sad to record that, at the age of 94, Rodney died on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March in the JR Hospital, after a short stay there. He had been a member of our church for very many years, and despite his extremely poor eyesight, he and Glenys continued to worship with us as often as they could until the lockdown two years ago. They met through Wantage Methodist Church, and would have celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary later this year. Rodney is remembered with affection, particularly by the older folk in our Church family, and with respect and admiration by all for his outstanding photographic skills. He was always willing to use those skills for the benefit of our church, and that of the local community. He was a founder member of the Wantage Camera Club which has met in our Church Hall for many years. Another important part of Rodney's life was his involvement with the Methodist Pen and Camera Club, which was founded as part of the Wesley Guild. He belonged to it for 67 years, and was an Honorary Life Member. The original and continuing purpose of the Club is that of furthering the art of photography within a Christian Fellowship. Rodney served as a Folio Secretary, General Secretary, and then as its President. In addition to that, Rodney ran photo holidays in Guild houses for 12 years. He also had the honour of gaining the Licentiatehip of the Royal Photographic Society in 1988, followed by the Associateship a year later.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Rodney's life will take place at 2 pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We know that Rodney now rests in peace in God's arms, and pray that Glenys and her family will know that they too are held in that same way. We offer them our support through our prayers, our thoughts and our love.

We also remember **Pat Legge**, whose death on 10<sup>th</sup> March followed so soon after that of her husband, Doug, who died last year. We offer our prayers and our love to Robin, Becky and Vicky, and to all of Pat's grandchildren as well as to our friends at Childrey Church, who have lost three of their most longstanding members within such a short time.

It was wonderful to be able to hold our first Service of Infant Baptism for over two years on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Eugenie and Reuben Taylor were baptized, and we welcomed them into our church family. Many friends and other family members attended the Service, and we hope that their interest and involvement with us will be maintained. Further good news is that there will be another Baptismal Service in July.

**Praying for each other:** In April the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's Bible Study-group. On **Helen Carter's Pastoral List:** Jo & Simon Aldworth, Valerie & John Broadbent, Diana Gawlas, Trevor & Sheila Johnson, Adrian Richens, and Jane & Harry Rudd, and on **Faith Culshaw's List:** June Hartle, Jane Kent, Iain Kent and Rita Lawrence

In addition to the names listed above, those in our church family, who through frailty or ill health can no longer worship with us on Sundays, will also be prayed for by name at Eileen's house-group.

## Prayer list

*Eileen Rennie*

Loving God, we praise you for your sustaining support in our lives. We thank you for your influence to follow the example your son Jesus taught us in showing compassion, love and grace to all in your world whatever colour, race or creed. At this time we pray for all those affected by the continuing horrific war in Ukraine. Grant us Lord an abundance of your grace, love and humility as we seek your will for us in supporting the needs of those who suffer at this time. We give thanks for the many countries and people who have shown their support in so many ways. As Easter approaches, may we concentrate our efforts of help and support for all needy people as our recognition of the great sacrifice your beloved Son gave on Good Friday for all people. Accept our humble prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Betty, Emma Wright and family, Caroline, Adrian, Alastair Wright and family, John Morton, Anne Hatto, Gordon and Marina, Jane and Brian Soffe, Ruth Dams, June, Catharine (Gill and Gordon's niece). 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 May Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline. Eileen Rennie Telephone 01235-224284, or e-mail [eileenrennie@icloud.com](mailto:eileenrennie@icloud.com)

**DEC Ukrainian Appeal:** Members and friends will be pleased to know that the collections at the church from March 6th to March 20th raised £391. Wednesday Fellowship added an additional £124 from reserves. The total of £515.00 was sent to the DEC Ukrainian Appeal on March 23rd.



## **Kids@church - IT'S BACK !**

We will be meeting again from **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 9:30 am.**

Dates for the summer term are 15<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June & 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Kids@church is an informal service for primary aged children and their parents. If you would like further details please contact Cath Worth 01235 770151

## **YMOSES**

*Jane Kent*

It was great to meet in the hall in March and welcome a new young man to the group. We talked about Ignatian imaginative prayer and then approached the story of Zacchaeus in this way. We imagined the scene and placed ourself within it, watching the story unfold and then being approached by Jesus / approaching Jesus and imagining how that conversation might go. It was a new experience for most of the young people but one which I find really helpful so wanted to share with them. We will next meet on **May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7-8 pm.**

YMOSES is an informal, discussion based group for young people at secondary school. Anyone who would like to come along and see what it's like, is more than welcome. Any questions, please give me a call on 01235 765421 / 07443 420205.

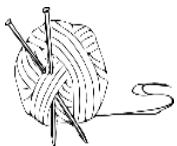
## **Community Drop In Café**

*June Grunwald*

The café was unable to meet on church premises for a couple of weeks due to the lack of water. Eileen and June managed to contact most of the café regulars and about a dozen of us met up at Umami café and enjoyed a chat there instead. We were pleased to be back in the church hall in March when numbers averaged 30. We were particularly pleased to see John and Jean Cliffe at our café again. Profits from the café from January to March will be sent to Hope UK. Hope UK is a charity equipping young people to make drug free choices. From April our new charity will be Through the Roof which aims to encourage disabled people to discover their skills and get involved. As has been the custom the café WILL be open on Easter Monday. Our thanks to all our volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place. For further information about the café, please contact either Eileen Rennie or June Grunwald.

## **Knit & Chat**

*Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310*



This month Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April and Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 2 pm** in the Chapel. Come and share in an afternoon of companionship, chat and knitting – or whatever other craft you are currently doing.

My Lent Knitalong cushion cover is progressing well and so far there has only been one episode of unpicking. Still have no idea what the final pattern will be. Hopefully I can put a photo of it on our Facebook page next month. It is good to see the photos of things that members have completed. Please let June G know if you wish to join the Facebook group.

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

**Blue collection envelopes:** The new blue collection envelopes (usable from Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>) are available for picking up in the church vestibule from Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to pick them up yourself in the next 2-3 weeks please let me know and I will deliver them to your home. If you would prefer to use bank standing orders in future please let me know and I will give you the church bank details. The church is very happy for any members and friends to use the envelope scheme but you may like to know that our bank now charges for paying in cash and cheques while standing orders are free. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Gift Aid:** This is just a reminder that if the church can claim Gift Aid from a member's or friend's donations it increases the value to the church by 25% without costing the donor any more. For the church treasurer to be able to claim gift aid on a donation, the donor must pay income tax. If you are an income tax payer, as a rough rule of thumb, gift aid can be claimed on all donations totalling up to about four times the amount of income tax you pay. The reclaim of Gift Aid from HMRC is an important source of income for the church, totalling over £9,000 each year. If you think your donation is liable for gift aid and you want the treasurer to claim it you will need to sign a simple declaration. The other side of the coin (no pun intended!) is that if you think your donations no longer qualify for gift aid you should let the church treasurer know. If you want to know more please speak to me. All inquiries will, of course, be treated confidentially.

**What is happening on the premises at present?**

Sunday	10:30	Morning Worship	in person and on Zoom	Weekly
	Evening	YMOSES	Monthly on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café	in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat	in the Chapel	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week each month
Tuesday	Afternoon	Tuesday Prayer and Study Group	in the Chapel	Weekly
Thursday	Morning	Lent Study Group	in the Hall	Weekly through Lent
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Children's Choir		

**Users** All in the Hall

Monday	evening	Slimming World	
Tuesday	morning	MIND	
	evening	Wantage Camera Club	
Wednesday	late afternoon	Youth Challenge Oxfordshire	
	evening	Wantage Stage Musical	
Thursday	midday	KAWI	3 <sup>rd</sup> week each month
Friday	morning	Mother & Toddlers	
	early evening	Down 2 Earth	(April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> also Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday	morning	Dads Out	1 <sup>st</sup> week each month

## DIARY for APRIL

### APRIL

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 am Grove Coffee Morning at Church

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am Wantage Morning Worship with Annual Church Meeting

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm Knit & Chat in Wantage Chapel

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> **PALM SUNDAY**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

8:00 pm Communion at Wantage (shared on Zoom)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> **GOOD FRIDAY**

9:00 am Service at Childrey

11:00 am Service at Grove

2:00 pm Service at Wantage

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> **EASTER DAY**

6:00 am Sunrise Communion at Millennium Stones, Ardington

6:00 pm Emmaus Communion at Childrey

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm Knit & Chat in Wantage Chapel

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> **DEADLINE for MAY NEWSLETTER**

## SERVICES during APRIL

### APRIL

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PASSION SUNDAY	
	10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the General Church Meeting	
	10:45 am Grove	Carol Sturt
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	PALM SUNDAY	
	10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Irene Byron
	10:45 am Grove	Rev Keith Underhill
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	8:00 pm Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY	
	9:00 am Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
	11:00 am Grove	Rev Keith Underhill
	2:00 pm Wantage	Rev Keith Underhill
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER DAY	
	6:00 am Millennium Stones, Ardington	Sunrise Communion
	10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
	10:45 am Grove	Rev Eileen Appleyard
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
11:00 am Childrey	at St Mary's	
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
	6:00 pm Childrey	Road to Emmaus Communion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Tabitha Griffiths
	10:45 am Grove	Rev Keith Underhill