

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



SUMMER 2022

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (September) should be sent to the editor by
email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 21st August 2022**
e-mail : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
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

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 - 2022

September	Sunday 21 st August
October	Sunday 18 th September
November	Sunday 23 rd October
December/January	Sunday 20 th November

From the Manse.....

Depending when you read this I will already be back from my Sabbatical or shortly will be!

Another month or so and Liz and I will have been here with you for six years - where has that time gone?

The perception of time depends a great deal on what you are doing and what is going on around you. We know how time can play tricks and give the illusion of either going very quickly or slowly and sometimes both simultaneously.

In the Bible, the concept of time is interesting. Notwithstanding the "days" of creation, we assume that the narrative of the Bible stories, particularly in the Old Testament are as action packed and fast and furious as in say, Mark's Gospel. The truth is rather different.

The book of Exodus begins with a bit of a recap, reminding us in verses 1-7 about Jacob and his family settling in Egypt and his descendants becoming numerous. Verse 8 then speaks of a new King who knew nothing about Joseph etc. In the space of those 8 verses, 300 years or so have come and gone!

1 Samuel 3:1 tells us that in those days there were very few messages from the Lord, and visions from him were quite rare.

There are also the 400 years of silence - which refers to the end of the Old Testament in Malachi and then nothing until the events of the New Testament.

Time is one of our most precious commodities and yet our relationship with it is complex, messy and out of kilter. We talk of the dichotomy of how for some they find themselves to be money-rich and time poor. A number of recent articles speak of the chronic feeling of having too many things to do and not enough time in which to do them. 'Time poverty' is on the rise we are being told.

Rather than setting us free, our technological, fast moving, digitally driven, 24-hour news coverage world (where everything is a swipe of a screen or a touch of a button away), further imprisons us in this vicious cycle of being constantly contactable and available at all time.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still and know that I am God" - a faith perspective that we find resonating in the poem 'Leisure' by WH Davies, that begins with the familiar lines,

"What is this life if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare".

How we find the time and space to be still and know God, will need to be considered and worked out by each and everyone of us.

My thanks to the Methodist Church and to you all for the gift of a Sabbatical - an opportunity to find refreshment and renewal.

With love and God Bless

Keith

Circuit Service at Grove Sunday, 17th July at 6:30 pm

This will be the accreditation service for Carol Sturt as a local preacher.

Rev Keith Underhill will be leading the service and it will include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are invited for tea and cakes from 5 pm.

Plans for Sunday Afternoons and Evenings at Wallingford Church

The Leadership Team is keen to try out our Sunday evening services once again to see if we can attract enough people to make them viable.

They will be on the first Sunday of the month (so that it's easy to remember) and they are: **3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October and 6 November.**

Initially they will start at 6:30 pm although the Leadership Team would like to hear your views on whether continuing with that start time works for you. We also hope to be able to organise at least one of those services to include Holy Communion.

The team would also like to give the Café Church a few more trials to see if it is a style of worship that people would enjoy and might attract more newcomers and friends from other churches.

Café Church is held in the hall and starts at 3:30 pm with tea, coffee and cakes, followed by a shorter, more informal service and will take place on **10 July, 9 October and 4 December.**

Please attend some of these services if you can and, as importantly, please let one of the stewards know what you think of the plans.

Wantage Parish

There will be a Service of Welcome for the Institution, Induction and Installation of The Reverend Katherine Magdalene Price as Vicar of Wantage at Wantage Parish Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st July 2022.

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Quiz & Curry Night

Join us for our Quiz & Curry Night on **Saturday 19 November** at Wantage Methodist Church. Put the date in your diary and get working on your team of 6 people.

Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors! More details coming soon!

From the Methodist Church News Website

The 2022 Methodist Conference

The Methodist Conference returned for the first wholly in-person event since 2019, following two years where it has met online or in hybrid form. It took place at the Telford International Centre between June 24th and 30th.

The Representative Session opened on Saturday with the induction of the President, the Revd Graham Thompson and the Vice President, Anthony Boateng who will serve in these roles for the next year.

The **Revd Canon Graham Thompson** has been a Methodist minister for over 35 years, beginning his ordained ministry in Bristol. He has been Chair of the East Anglia District and most recently of the Plymouth and Exeter District. Connexional responsibilities during his ministry have included as a Trustee of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust, a member of the Stationing Committee and meetings of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

A promoter of ecumenism, Graham Thompson is an Ecumenical Canon of Exeter Cathedral and has been Chair of Churches Together in Devon. While Chair of the East Anglia District, Mr Thompson was Ecumenical Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

In his Conference address Mr Thompson reflected on his theme for the year, calling on all Methodists to love our neighbours. He said:

“And who is my neighbour? We know that Jesus told a story about a good Samaritan in response to this question. In 2022...we should reference the person without a home, the person who has been on an NHS waiting list for too long, the person seeking a new life as they flee from warfare, violence or economic uncertainty. Our neighbours are those who are struggling with long Covid or who remain fearful of Coronavirus. Those whose island nations are threatened by the effects of climate change on sea temperatures and rising waters. Those who do not have enough to eat because we eat too much and participate in an economy that sells food to the highest bidder.

“It is people such as these who are our neighbours because it is our lifestyles and the choices we make that have an effect on those who are as loved by God as we are. For we are all equal under God - if only we were in reality.”

The **Vice-President, Anthony Boateng**, is a Local Preacher in the Westminster Circuit, with a passion for social action, politics, church unity, spiritual revival and creative ways of worship. He is the Convenor of the London District Social Responsibility Commission and has been a member of the Conference since 2014. Anthony was as recently as last year a member of the Church Action for Tax Justice Management Committee and Methodist Central Hall Westminster Leadership Team. In his day job, Anthony works for a government Work and Health programme which

seeks to help central London residents who are unemployed, as well as people with health conditions, into sustainable work.

In his address to the Conference entitled 'Revival: The Methodist Dream', Mr Boateng called for a revival and wrote an imaginary letter to that section of the great cloud of witnesses who are our spiritual forebears in the Lord: "Dear Forebears, I am deeply grieved to report our decline. I confess, at times, we have been guilty of squandering our inheritance. I am sorry. Susanna, we desire a return to the intimate devotion to the Lord which you knew in your Epworth home. John and Charles, we need an abundance effusion of the Holy Spirit just as you received in your own day. Hugh and William, we long to see again a move of the Holy Spirit as you saw on Mow Cop. We need all the inspiration you can offer to slow the curve of decline." "Now is the time to strive to rekindle and revive the Wesleyan fire in our everyday lives."

"Friends, through unity, guided by the Holy Spirit, let us embrace those who feel marginalized and voiceless within our church, challenge the status quo, and act as an agent of change. Let us remind ourselves of the benchmark Christ has set for all society, because God is Lord of every society and nation. This means no one is inferior and there should be equality in opportunity and treatment for all."

Mr Boateng said there are signs of renewal in the Church, recalling a recent visit to the inauguration of the first Ghanaian Methodist Church in the UK, commenting "I will do everything in my power to encourage initiatives such as this across the whole church and I urge you all to do the same."

During the Sunday morning service 22 ordinands will be received into Full Connexion, with their ordinations taking place across four locations in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District in the afternoon.

Ordination Venues, Ordinands and Officiants, June 26th 2022

St. John's Methodist, Bloxwich (Deacons)

President: The Revd Sonia Hicks Vice President: Mrs Barbara Easton

Preacher: Mark Wakelin Warden of the MDO: Deacon Karen McBride

Connexional Representatives: Deacons Eunice Attwood and Kerry Scarlett

Ordinands: Kim Gabbatiss Theresa Simons-Sam Robert Stoner

St. Andrew's Church, Shifnal (Presbyters)

President: The Revd Richard Teal Vice President: Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

Preacher: The Revd Sahr Yambasu Secretary: The Revd Michaela Youngson

Connexional Representatives: The Revd Dr Christine Dutton and Mr Gary Hopkins

Ordinands: Kevin Highfield Julia Reid George Heinz
Pamela Roberts Latika Singh Emily Young

St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury (Presbyters)

President: The Revd Graham Thompson Vice President: Mr Anthony Boateng
Preacher: The Revd Loraine Mellor Secretary: The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler
Connexional Representatives: The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean and the Revd Paul Wood

Ordinands: Ian Couchman Julie King Sydney-Samuel Lake
Margaret Newman Ken McNally Katie Smith
Bekkie Wright Yanyan Case Sue Baker-Maher

All Saints Church, Wellington (Presbyters)

President: The Revd Ruth Gee Vice President: Ms Rachel Lampard
Preacher: The Revd David Nixon Secretary: Ms Jo Anderton
Connexional Representatives:
The Revd Dr Claire Potter and The Revd Dr Nicola PriceTebbutt

Ordinands: Nick Biggar Mark Carrick
Louisa Haynes Helen Hickson

Topics that will be discussed this year include Oversight and Trusteeship, an update on the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy and exploring a Theology of Online life. Action for Hope, the plan to implement an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030, will be shared with the Conference and will outline eight aims to focus on in the coming years. Conference representatives will also hear a presentation by the newly-installed Chaplain-General and Deputy Chaplain-General of the British Army who are both Methodist ministers.

A service of repentance and commitment is to be shared during worship on the Wednesday. It has been developed in response to last year's Conference adopting the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy and a Notice of Motion which offered an unreserved apology to those who have suffered abuse and victimisation. The apology is not offered to any single group or characteristic, but is recognition that the Church has caused harm to many groups and people. It will be offered to Methodist districts and circuits to be used at Synods during the latter part of 2022.

***** The full texts of the Conference addresses can be found on the Methodist Church Web site (<https://www.methodist.org.uk>) and the Circuit web site (www.wantab.org.uk). Printed copies are available from Gordon & Gill Skidmore.

Diary of a Home for Ukrainians – (2) Familiarisation, generosity & bureaucracy

It's 7 weeks since our guests arrived in a foreign country & culture, their first flight and (apart from the stay in Poland) their first time abroad. It feels a lot longer - so much has happened, so much learned and so many new contacts made.

Keith, Rodney & I spoke in our letter about the anticipated need for various levels and types of support group. We're now aware of 7 or 8 families hosted in Wantage & nearby villages (with one guest having returned to western Ukraine), have met a few of them, and are connected with them or their hosts by social media (**Facebook** and **WhatsApp**). We are also connected with Methodist hosts in Wallingford as well as a larger network of hosts in Didcot, Harwell & nearby villages. Almost all the information and reassurance we needed came *via* Facebook, including links to other resources; it's tempting to say we couldn't have managed without the peer support it offered from other hosts, as well as more professional advice from organisations such as **Opora** and **Sanctuary** (there having been little useful advice from central government – though Oxfordshire responses were much better). Using Facebook for this can, if you prefer, be: focused, one-way (*i.e.* collecting rather than revealing information) and both Wantage & Didcot Ukraine Facebook pages are reassuringly 'private' and moderated.

The first few weeks were spent on **bureaucracy**, tackling the immediate priorities identified by the sources above:- UK phone SIMS, UK bank accounts, registering for universal credit (UC) and Job Centre (the first visit to Abingdon was, disappointingly, just to prove identity – *hadn't we done that several times before?*), welfare visit from Oxfordshire CC, obtaining NI numbers & residence permits (BRPs), registering with NHS GPs & opticians, finding school places (not an issue we had to face), registering with the library.

Listed like that, it all sounds easy but, as those in our community who have long supported those from Syria and elsewhere are well aware, the actuality is that each can be frustrating, exasperating and exhausting. Getting residence permits, using both of the two alternative official routes (depending what kind of passport they had and so whether they'd visited a Visa Application Centre, VAC, in say Poland), meant driving our guests, and later a family of 3 young children, right into the centre of London (both families fortunately welcomed the opportunity for sight-seeing).

Familiarisation has involved guests getting to know the local geography and community, gradually building a new social and support network themselves. They are learning how they can survive in the future on a very limited budget, which is where much of the **generosity** has come in. There have been many welcome contributions, from our first-day trip to Newbury, where the Salvation Army passed on the Vodaphone SIMs but also issued vouchers for use at their charity shop, allowing our guests to get several basic items of clothing, including footwear and cold/wet weather jackets (£80 of goods between them, at charity shop prices!). Cynthia Bulpitt's organisation offered support for broader needs, and a small financial contribution towards immediate, personal needs, as did our neighbours, family and friends. Our guests have also become familiar with the Mix & the Community Larder, and know about the Food Bank.

This could all sound rather rosy but we haven't mentioned the big issues that are developing and will be ongoing.

Jobs: many contacts (old & new) and friends have come forward to help with the job search, as well as language improvement that will help, but the transferability of qualifications remains a big issue.

Dentistry: as for many in England with limited and even moderate financial resources, accessible dental care is almost impossible to obtain unless in an emergency (some Ukrainians are asking if they are permitted to visit Ukraine to obtain the cheaper care there!).

Accommodation: our guests have asked about the cost and availability of accommodation – you won't be surprised to hear they were shocked about the answers. The chance of renting their own place will also be limited in many cases by the lack of a sizeable deposit and credit history in the UK. We can also offer no reassurance about what the Government will offer after the 3 year residence permit expires. Many Ukrainians (especially those from the western part of the country) will want, and hopefully will be able, to return home but others, such as our guests, will see no future in devastated and/or occupied cities such as Mariupol and all those other previously unfamiliar names with which we've all become so familiar.

Transport: Our guests have had English lessons offered in Oxford but the high cost of bus fares somewhat precludes them (I suspect some of you would jump to offer lifts but many of the guests are naturally keen to find independent and sustainable solutions). For those with drivers' licences, there is a Kafkaesque complication (too complicated to discuss here) concerning the transfer from Ukrainian to UK licences, which may affect their ready access to affordable cars.

Language support: There is a local initiative, hopefully with some support from local government to offer English lessons but the requirements for different guests can be very different – ours have quite good English and probably require practice and more technical language.

For those of you still considering, or even in the process of, matching with Ukrainians we do want to offer encouragement (and do please feel free to contact us for pointers to concrete advice). There are clearly many families still needing to find a home (or to move on to a different UK home) and there's now a wide body of experience and advice available to support you in that process. The hospitality of UK hosts is clearly recognised and valued, and the privilege of being able to offer a modicum of shelter, safety and comfort is rewarding, as is the insight into another culture and the challenge of working with those who have experienced, and face ongoing, trauma.

For those who felt unable to host but were keen to offer support, we appreciate there might be some disappointment that offers don't seem to have been taken up but please don't feel they've been ignored. Every guest, every family has different needs, which change with time and, at the moment, there are still few guests here.

Prayer for Ukraine

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

Childrey

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

10th July 11:00 am Led by **Geoff Caudle**

24th July 11:00 am Service of Holy Communion led by **Rev Keith Underhill**

14th August 11:00 am Led by **Rev John Anderson**

28th August 11:00 am Service of Holy Communion led by **Rev Keith Underhill**

Prayers

We remember in our prayers:

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

The Stanley family.

Keith, Joy Gee, Jean and all members and supporters of Childrey Methodist Chapel.

The congregation at St Mary's, Childrey and the people of the village.

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

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 optional.

Our next **Coffee Morning** is on **Saturday, 2nd July** from 10 am in the Church. Our hosts will be John and Sue Stead. Proceeds from the morning are for the Grove & Hanney Guides and Brownies Association. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee and cake. If you are able to help, either by baking a cake or on the day please get in touch with Sue and John (01235 219053). Help would be appreciated.

In August, the **Coffee Morning** will be on **Saturday, 6th August** from 10 am in the Church. Roger and Margaret Bett will be hosting the morning for M.H.A. (Methodist Homes for the Aged). We hope you will be able to come along for a chat and cup of tea/coffee and cake.

Tuesday Fellowship. We will be meeting at 2:15 pm on **Tuesday, 5th July** in the Meeting Room. Alan Stead (John's brother) is coming to talk about his visit to Israel and Palestine. It promises to be an interesting afternoon and we invite you to come along to hear what he has to tell us. Looking forward to seeing our members and friends.

On **Tuesday, 8th August**, Linda Jones has invited us for afternoon tea, hopefully in her garden in Wantage. Her address is 50A Charlton Village Road, Wantage. If you need one, lifts will be available. All welcome.

Craft Group meets 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 each give a donation of £1 to Cornerstone and buy a drink of our choice.

Donation Boxes **Thank you** to everyone who continues to contribute both to the Food Bank and the Ukraine Appeal through the donation boxes in our entrance hall. Your contributions are very much appreciated and do make a difference to people. There is a list on the notice board of items which are useful for the Ukraine Appeal.

Special dates to note:

Sunday, 17th July Carol Sturt's accreditation service as a local preacher. You are invited for tea and cakes from 5 pm to be followed by the service at 6:30 pm. Rev Keith Underhill will be leading the service and it will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Wednesday, 20th July at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. Church Council discussion meeting on “God in love unites us” to see if we are of mind at this time.

Wednesday, 3rd August in the Meeting Room. Grove Church Council Meeting which will include the business of a general church meeting, e.g. to appoint stewards.

On **Sunday, 31st July** we have a special service of membership transfer and confirmation for Kit Rabson and Nicky Frost.

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 times we have been living through. We trust that, with care, the way forward continues to open up safely for everyone.

GROVE METHODIST CHURCH FILM CLUB

Programme –July to October 2022

The roof ventilation will be open until it gets too cold. Masks optional.
Meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

15th July **Fisherman’s Friends** (1hr 52mins 12A 2019)

The fishermen from Cornwall achieve a Top 10 hit with their debut album of sea shanties after they are signed to Universal Records by a cynical London music executive. *Cast: Tuppence Middleton, Daniel Mays, James Purefoy*

19th Aug **Peter Rabbit** (1hr 35mins 12a 2018)

Peter Rabbit is a live-action/computer animated comedy film. The film's story focuses on Peter Rabbit as he deals with new problems when the late Mr. McGregor's great nephew arrives and discovers the trouble Peter's family can get into.

Cast: James Corden, Rose Byrne, Domhnall Gleeson, Sam Neill, Daisy Ridley, Elizabeth Debickin and Margot Robbie.

16th Sept **The man who knew infinity** (1hr 48mins 12a 2015)

When self-taught mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan fails out of college, he does not give up hope. Determined to pursue his passion, he contacts Professor G.H. Hardy and is invited to attend Trinity College.

Cast: Dev Patel, Jeremy Irons, Devika Bhise, Toby Jones, Stephen Fry

21st Oct **Goodbye Christopher Robin** (1hr 47mins PG 2017)

It is a biographical drama film about the life of the Winnie-the-Pooh creator AA Milne and his family. The father-son relationship between Alan Alexander Milne and his son, Christopher Robin, is profound. Their bonding inspires Alan to write about the magical world of Winnie-the-Pooh.

Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie, Kelly Macdonald, Will Tilston, Alex Lawther

Wantage

Covid

We continue to try to ensure a Covid safe environment. We can no longer insist on the wearing of masks in the building. That decision must lie with the individual. We do ask that people have respect for one another and wear a mask if they have a cough or any signs of a cold. We will do our best to keep the space well ventilated.

We are monitoring as best we can the prevalence of Covid infection in the area and reserve the right to increase discipline if this proves necessary.

Pastoral

Ann Barber

Writing this during the final week of June, there's so much of God's amazing creation on which to reflect with gratitude. We have enjoyed the celebrations marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and during the many long days of warm, sunny weather, we've been serenaded by birdsong from early dawn to late dusk, and gardens are full of glorious colour and fragrances. We cannot help feeling deep thankfulness for all of these gifts from God, as well as the joys of sharing worship together as our church family, and being able to experience all of this in an environment of peace and safety.

Our thoughts have been with Keith and Liz whilst Keith has taken the remaining two months of his delayed Sabbatical. As they return to us, hopefully feeling refreshed by the break, we welcome them back and look forward to Keith's leadership and pastoral care being resumed once more.

With sadness we record the death of Nick Hance at the end of May. Nick and his family were closely involved with our church until 1989, and we hold his daughters Marion and Debbie in our prayers, together with Joy and all of Nick's family and friends.

As Martin Smithson's years of Methodist ministry draw to a close this month in Nottinghamshire, we remember with gratitude all that he did for us during the eleven years in which he was our Minister. We pray for God's blessings on him and Judith as they enter what will, hopefully, be a long and happy retirement. Martin's final Service will be on Sunday 24th July at 10:30 am, and his Circuit Farewell on Tuesday 26th July at 7 pm. Both Services will be live streamed on YouTube, but the message from Judith and Martin is that "*any Wantage folk who would like to be there in person would be very welcome*".

With excitement we look forward to a Service of Baptism this month. On 10th July Mark and Emma will present their son Ezra for Infant Baptism, and we are pleased to welcome him into our church family.

Praying for each other: In July the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at Eileen Rennie's Bible Study-group. **On Alison Phillips's List:** Jill Bunney, Jan Abrahall, Robert Charles, Jan Charles, Anne and Doug Hatto, Marion Jones, Evelyn Osei-Akouwah and Jane and Brian Soffe. In August the prayers will be for the **residents of Fleur de Lis who worship with us:** Dorothy Andrews, Anna Bouchier, Brenda Edwards, Edith Hudson, Joan Kidd, Margaret Merryweather, Pam Paine, Irmgard Roberts, Celia Roser, Ann Twyford and Margaret Watts.

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, with thankful hearts we praise you for being a constant in our lives in an ever changing world. We know that following your way is not an easy road but we acknowledge that we never face the challenges alone. There are so many places in your world today facing what seem insurmountable problems but with each of us focussed on doing the best we can, together we can make differences in this world. You have blessed each one of us with gifts of varying natures but all with a purpose to use our particular gift to full advantage. As our physical abilities lessen, Lord, remind us of the power of prayer and encourage us to play a full part in praying for your kingdom in all its fullness here on earth. In this summer period help us all to find time for rest and refreshment as we look forward to a new Methodist Year serving you well in our communities. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright and family, Caroline, Alastair Wright and family, John Morton, Anne Hatto, Gordon and Marina, Jane and Brian Soffe, June, Catharine, Richard in York, Nigel Bunney, Diane's daughter Julie, Meriel. 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 September Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 19th August** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie Telephone 01235 224284, or email eileenrennie@icloud.com

Prayer box

On the outside wall near the double doors to the Hall building, is a poster with the words: ***"Would you like us to pray for you?"***

It doesn't matter how big or small your prayer is, God can help"

The invitation is for anyone to place their request into the Prayer Box, and our promise is to respond by praying for them. Preachers and Worship Leaders will be notified and asked to include the requests in their prayers of intercession. **In addition**, we would like to set up a prayer support group, so that its members can also respond. Volunteers who would like to be part of the support group will receive information about the requests via WhatsApp or email. [Confidentiality rules will, of course, be agreed in advance]

Please send Ann a WhatsApp or email message if you would like to be part of the group, or let any of the Stewards know.

Kids@church started meeting again in May. It has been lovely to be with the children and their families again and to welcome some new people.

In May we saw photos of the Kids@church@home activities that the children did during the first lockdown for Palm Sunday, Easter and then picked up almost from where we left off - listening to the story of Jesus meeting the disciples on the beach. The church hall became our beach, complete with pretend campfire and salt-dough fishes! The children enjoyed acting out the story, fishing from an inflatable boat and catching lots of fish followed by tasting some real fish "cooked" on our beach campfire. And for those who were not so keen on fish there were bacon sandwiches!

In June we met on Fathers' Day and had great fun singing "Father Abraham had many sons" with actions - lots of arm waving, leg shaking and head nodding! We talked about Psalm 100, how we are all God's children and thought about all the wonderful ways we can see God's love for us all around us. We made noisy shakers by decorating bottles/tubs filled with lentils and then used them to "shout for joy to the Lord" as we sang along to a musical version of the psalm.

On 17th July we will be meeting at 9.30am in Wantage Park for outdoor fun and parachute games (or in the church hall if the weather is wet).

There will be no Kids@church in August.

We start meeting again on Sunday 18th September.

Kids@church is an informal service for primary aged children and their families. We meet every third Sunday of the month at 9.30am.

If you would like further details please contact Cath Worth 01235 770151.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Eileen Rennie

We meet in church each Tuesday at 2 pm.

In June we followed Bible Month beginning with an Introduction to Isaiah at a Day for Quiet Reflecton at St Mary's Convent, which was an event which inspired us all and prepared us so well for the four weeks' discussion on Isaiah. We will study the final week of Bible month on 5th July.

We will have a summer break and our last meeting before the break will be on 19th July. The Group will resume again on **6th September**.

We are still mindful of everyone's safety and vulnerability so we continue to wear masks when necessary and have the chairs spaced and the door open for fresh air. 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 July are as follows:

5th July Bible Month Week 4 A New World, Isaiah 65:17-25

12th July Keith will be inspiring us

19th July Planning for September to December and our usual weekly prayer time to include monthly prayer meeting for August.

If you have any queries you can contact me (Eileen Rennie) by telephone on 01235 224284 or email: eileenrennie@icloud.com

Community Drop In Café

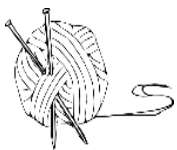
June Grunwald

In June we restarted the tables with puzzles, books etc which was appreciated by one pre-Covid regular in particular. Each Monday is different with regulars and complete strangers coming through the door. On one Monday we had more men sitting at tables than women, which was very unusual. We were very pleased to see a group from Charlton Centre return to the café too.

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. From April to June we supported Through the Roof (a Christian charity supporting people with disabilities. The amount raised will be around £360 (exact details for the whole period unavailable at the time of going to press). In July and August donations will go to Wantage Methodist Church who have provided a free home to the café since 2019.

The cafe is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. This includes the August Bank Holiday Monday. All are welcome.

Our thanks to all the volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place to come to. If you would like to learn more about the café please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.



Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

This time last year we were just beginning to meet together again in person rather than chatting and knitting on Zoom. It is good that we have been able to continue to do so.

During the hot weather I always seem to do more chatting than knitting but I am still managing to complete the occasional angel. Come the end of the summer it will be time to get back into it as we begin to build up the next host of angels.

Knit and Chat will continue to meet on the first and third Mondays during July and August.

If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me. Please let June G know if you wish to join the Facebook group. Looking forward to seeing you.

Christian Aid Week

The Church collections for Christian Aid week raised a total of £447 of which £402 was gift aided. The money has been sent to Christian Aid who should eventually receive £547.50 with their gift aid reclaim. I believe that some church members made donations directly to CA through the Christian Ad website or by post, so the total from our church will be even more than stated here. A very good response.

Toilet Twinning

Now that church attendance has returned almost to normal it may be worth remembering that there are collecting boxes for the charity "Toilet Twinning" in each of the church toilets. Before the pandemic these boxes collected a lot of money to enable toilets to be installed and sanitation improved in the under-developed world. Very little money has been collected in the past two years. Maybe it is time to start dropping small change into the boxes again? Over the years leading up to the pandemic the church "purchased" over a dozen toilets for villages all over the world.

What is happening on the premises at present?

Sunday	10:30 am Evening	Morning Worship YMOSES	In person and on Zoom Monthly on the 2 nd Sunday	Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Chapel	Weekly 1 st & 3 rd Week each month
Tuesday	Afternoon	Tuesday Prayer and Study Group	in the Chapel	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs (in school term)		

Users

All in the Hall

Monday	Evening	Slimming World	
Tuesday	Morning Evening Evening	MIND My Life, My Choice (Parlour) Wantage Camera Club (not August)	
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical	
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	3 rd week each month (not August)
Friday	Morning	Mother & Toddlers (not August)	
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	1 st week each month (not August)

Specials

July 16 th	Afternoon	Down2Earth	Hall
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DIARY for JUNE/JULY

JULY

- Saturday 2nd 10:00 am **Coffee Morning** at Grove
- Monday 4th 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** in Wantage Chapel
- Sunday 10th 7:00 pm **YMOSES** at Wantage
- Thursday 14th 7:30 pm **Wantage Church Council**
- Friday 15th 7:30 pm **Film Club** at Grove **“Fisherman’s Friend”**
- Sunday 17th 9:30 am **Kids@Church** at Wantage
6:30 pm Carol Sturt’s accreditation as a local preacher at Grove
- Monday 18th 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** in Wantage Chapel
- Wednesday, 20th 7.30pm **Grove Church Council** “God in love unites us”
- Wednesday 27th 7:30 pm **Wantage Church Council** “God in love unites us”

AUGUST

- Wednesday, 3rd 7:30 pm **Grove Church Council**
- Friday 19th 7:30 pm **Film Club** at Grove **“Peter Rabbit”**
- Sunday 21st **DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

SERVICES during JULY & AUGUST

JULY

Sunday 3 rd	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Andrew Dixon
	10:45 am	Grove	Rev Keith Underhill
Sunday 10 th	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	10:45 am	Grove	Elizabeth Wood
	11:00 am	Childrey	Geoff Caudle
Sunday 17 th	9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church
	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
	10:45 am	Grove	Helen Carter
	6:30 pm	United Circuit Service at Grove	
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
Sunday 24 th	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Peter Hemmings
	10:45 am	Grove	Carol Sturt
	11:00 am	Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
Sunday 31 st	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev John Anderson
	10:45 am	Grove	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		

AUGUST

Sunday 7 th	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
	10:45 am	Grove	Local Arrangements
Sunday 14 th	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Elizabeth Wood
	10:45 am	Grove	Helen Carter
	11:00 am	Childrey	Rev John Anderson
Sunday 21 st	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Local Arrangements
	10:45 am	Grove	Rev Ian Griffiths
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
Sunday 28 th	10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)	Daphne Savage
	10:45 am	Grove	Ian Sturt
	11:00 am	Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		