

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The **Methodist** Church

CGW NEWS



OCTOBER 2022

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (November) should be sent to the editor by
email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 23rd October 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

November Sunday 23rd October
December/January Sunday 20th November

From the Manse.....

Much has been written, spoken and shared about the life of our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and I write this reflection the day after her funeral with all that we witnessed still very much in our thoughts.

It is difficult to know what to say that has not already been expressed so eloquently and with great insightfulness and clarity.

From the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon delivered at Her Majesty's State Funeral to that preached by Revd Katherine Price at the Commemoration service in Wantage we have been given much to ponder upon and to think about as we come to terms with the death of "Our Queen".

The pomp and ceremony of yesterday's events helped to link us to our past, our history and our heritage, and in doing so, gave us a framework in which we could focus not only upon our sense of loss, but also that of gratitude and thankfulness.

'Loving service' is a term we long associated with Her Majesty and was a theme that wove itself throughout the events of the period of National Mourning and the funeral service itself. Queen Elizabeth visibly and outwardly demonstrated that which was at the heart of her faith.

It was that same loving service that saw Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, take up the bowl and towel and wash his friends' tired, sore and dusty feet, becoming a servant to all.

No doubt much will be discussed, spoken and shared about her Majesty's legacy. If her example of 'loving service' manages to inspire others to do likewise then what a difference that would make to the world, helping to make it a better place.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

With love and God Bless

Keith

Stepping out with Noah (Edition 1)

What on earth is this you may well be asking? Well, it is one of the practical outcomes of my walking the Thames Path during my recent sabbatical, which I found to be stimulating, thought provoking, reflective, fun and inspirational.

I am wanting both to further explore and to offer a contemplative, intentional, reflective way of walking with one another in which we might know and experience God together.



“Stepping out with Noah” begins in October taking the form of a walk of around 3-4 miles or so where, in conversation, laughter and the silence of our own thoughts, we seek to be attentive to God as we walk together in the beauty of his created world. For those who wish, there will be opportunities to join me for just a part of the walk thereby making it shorter and hopefully more inclusive.

It is my intention that there will be two walks a month, which will take up either a morning or afternoon with the dates and routes given in advance. To begin with, the walks will be local to Wantage/Grove but those further afield within the Circuit will also be explored as time goes on.

Please note that the walks will go ahead regardless of the weather!

October

Tuesday 11th October at 10:00 am - Details of the route overleaf

Wednesday 19th October at 2:00 pm - Details of the route overleaf

November - full details will be published in Stepping out with Noah edition 2

Tuesday 8th November at 10:00 am - route t.b.c.

Thursday 24th November at 10:00 am - route t.b.c.

If you are interested in joining me or if you have any questions or queries, do get in touch as below.

If you are planning on parking at Christopher’s Wood Car Park for either of the first two walks, which will shorten them by around 2 miles, please do let me know so that I can discuss this with you.

Love and God Bless

Keith
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Tuesday 11th October at 10:00am
West & East Lockinge via
Parkinsons.me gardens

(approx 3.5 miles)

Start (and end) outside Manse
14 Haywards Close Wantage OX12
7AT

R onto Garston lane

L onto Charlton Road

R onto Larkhill (by Lord Nelson pub)

L by allotments - *keep going*

Keep going straight as road joins from left

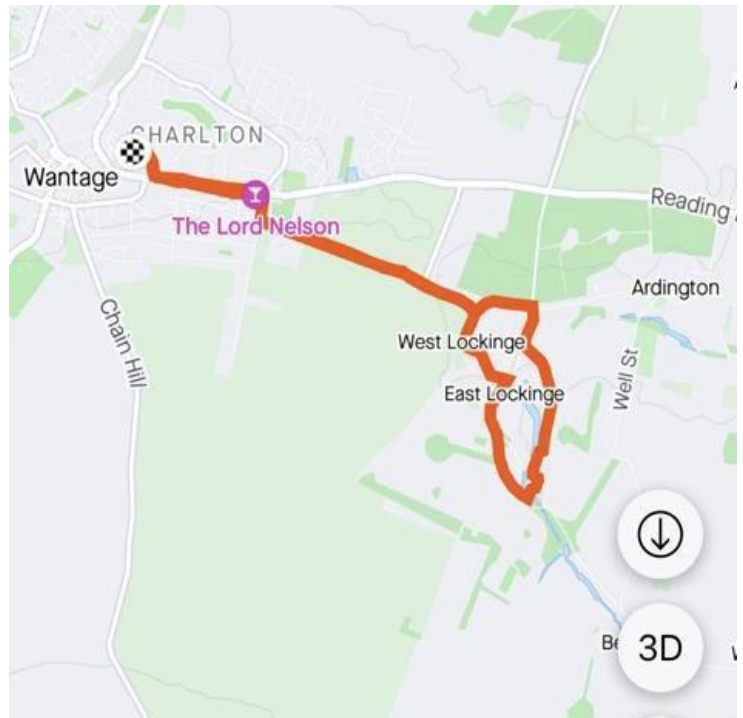
L where road bends to right

Time of reflection in Parkinsons.me gardens

R towards East Lockinge

R by Old fire engine *keep going past stables and return to Manse via way came.*

Parking at Christopher's Wood Car Park *would shorten the walk*



Wednesday 19th October at 2:00pm

Wantage to All Saints Lockinge &
back via Best Mate

(approx 4.5 miles)

Start (and end) outside Manse 14
Haywards Close Wantage OX12 7AT

R onto Garston lane

L onto Charlton Road

R onto Larkhill (by Lord Nelson pub)

L by allotments - *keep going*

Keep going straight as road joins from left

L where road bends to right

R towards East Lockinge

L just past Barton House

R by Lockinge Brook keep going

R down steps and **L** towards All Saints

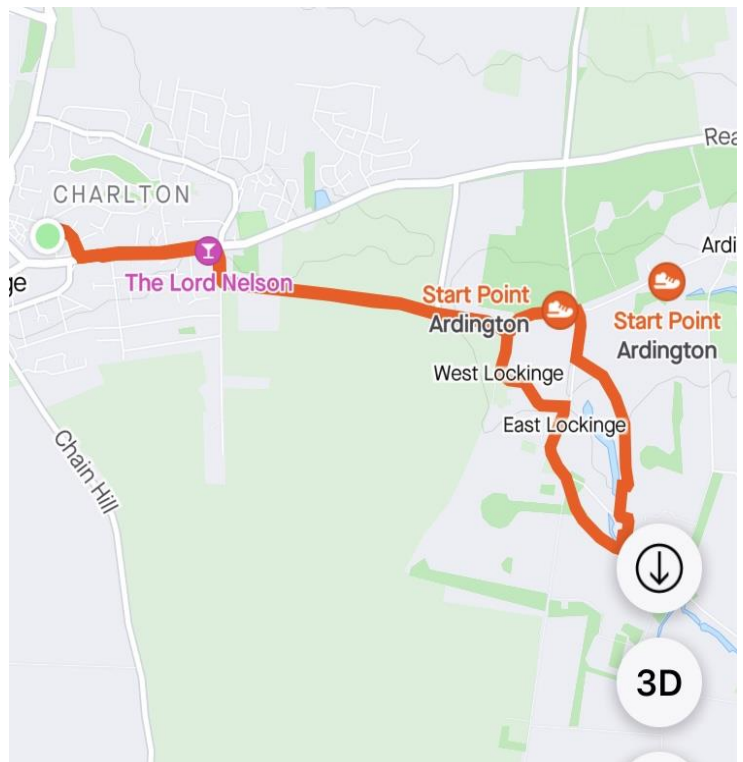
Time of reflection in and around All Saints Church - back up to road

R towards statue of Best Mate

Down hill and then

L *keep going past Stables and return to Manse via way came.*

Parking at Christopher's Wood Car Park would shorten the walk



Safeguarding Training

As part of our commitment to keeping everyone as safe as possible, those who work with our children and young people as well as those who are pastoral visitors, undertake Safeguarding training and the subsequent update and refresher events.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown etc, it wasn't possible to deliver these training events face to face. However, we are pleased to inform you that there will be three safeguarding training/refresher evenings coming up within the next few weeks in the form of the update foundation module of Creating Safer Space. Those who need to undertake this will only need to go to one of the evenings as it is the same training, being delivered in a different places and on different days to enable as many people as possible to take part.

All those who have previously taken part in Safeguarding training, will need to attend the updated foundation module, if they still hold the same posts or are involved in the same work in the life of the church.

The training will take place as below.

11th October Wantage Methodist Church 7:30 pm

18th October All Saints Methodist Church 7:30 pm

10th November Wallingford Methodist Church 7:30 pm

If you have any questions or queries, please would you contact either your church safe guarding officer

Grove – Roger Bett

Wantage – Ken Smith

Or speak to Keith

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

I have recently started a monthly bible study at Elmbrook care home in Grove Road. It is being held on the second Monday of the month at 2 pm, lasting between 30-45 mins. In August our theme was on Mark 1:16-20 (Jesus calls the fisherman). In September we were based in a different room, which worked better as far as technology went, but due to the Queen's recent death, only 2 residents attended. The theme was Harvest based on Luke 12:13-21 (The parable of the rich fool). Joan Clipsham came with me and we were made to feel very welcome, especially by Joan's friend, who showed us round the care home. We also enjoyed a coffee with some of the residents afterwards. An unexpected surprise was to join in an impromptu crafting event being held by the daughter of another resident. On **Monday, 10th October** the theme will be "The Woman at the Well". If you would like to be involved, please contact me. At the time of writing visitors no longer needed to take a lateral flow test.

Northampton Methodist District Prayer Diary 2022/2023

A copy of this can be found with this newsletter on the Wantage and Circuit websites. If you would like a printed copy and do not have access to the website, please contact Gordon and one can be printed for you. We shall "print on demand".

Methodist Church Global Relationships

Joint appeal with All We Can launched for Pakistan

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an urgent appeal to support communities impacted by the devastating flooding in Pakistan.

More than 1300 people have died since the monsoon season began in June, and it is reported that a third of the country is now underwater. Flood waters have not only devastated critical infrastructure, but also destroyed crops and livelihoods for countless people.

Pakistan is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis – already, more than one million homes have been destroyed or damaged, and 33 million people have been affected by the flooding.

Through Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can's joint appeal, urgent support will reach those most impacted by the flooding. By working with trusted church and humanitarian partners, donations will make a critical difference.

The Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "We invite – even urge – all those who have warm and comfortable homes to give to this appeal. We have so much and our neighbours in Pakistan have so little; let us give as much as we can and do so as both an offering and a prayer for the people of Pakistan."

Visit All We Can's website to donate.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

A prayer for Pakistan:

Holy God, we pray for all whose families, homes and livelihoods have been devastated by floods. We especially pray for the people of Pakistan as the nation is overwhelmed. We give thanks for all that is being done to bring aid and relief and ask that you work in the hearts of your people to quickly provide more and more until hope is restored for all. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Pakistan Floods

September 9: Solidarity Grant from the World Mission Fund for the Church of Pakistan

A solidarity grant of **£15,000 has been released to Church of Pakistan**, a Methodist Church in Britain Partner. These funds are a solidarity contribution from the World Mission Fund to the huge immediate need to support persons with shelter, clothing, food and water. These standing funds are able to be sent quickly in advance of funds to be raised through the joint appeal of the Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can.

September 6 : Update from the Diocese of Hyderabad, Church of Pakistan

"Greetings from the Hyderabad Diocese of the Church of Pakistan.



The unprecedented monsoon rains during the eight weeks of the months of July and August 2022 and associated rural and urban flooding in the Sindh province of Pakistan have wreaked havoc in the entire province including the 26 parishes of the Diocese of Hyderabad and their adjoining areas. The province and its people have never witnessed such monsoon rains and

flooding during last six decades and the 75% area of the province is under flood water."

"Many of the affected families have been migrated from the affected areas to their relatives' homes in urban areas. Their relatives (who are also not very strong economically) are under extreme pressure to meet their physical needs especially food. Some of the affected families are living in the temporary shelters on the sides of the roads with no food, proper shelter and any health and hygiene support to manage their living in the current difficult situation. They are in extremely poor economic, emotional, and physical state right now to cope with the scale and intensity of the current natural disaster."

In His Service, +Rt. Rev. Kaleem John The Bishop of the Diocese of Hyderabad/ The Deputy Moderator of the Church of Pakistan

August 31 : From the Church of Pakistan on the floods:

Thank you for your email in this time of trouble and thanks for the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) concern for all the affected people and families.

According to OCHA <https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-2022-monsoon-floods-situation-report-no-03-26-august-2022>

- 116 districts affected, including 66 districts officially declared 'calamity hit'.
- At least 937 people killed and 1,343 people injured since 14 June.
- Rainfall nationwide is 2.87 times higher than the national 30-year average, with some provinces receiving more than five times as much rainfall as their 30-year average.
- The Government of Pakistan has earmarked PKR 35 billion (ca. US\$173 million) to aid flood-affected people under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), among other assistance.
- Humanitarian partners are providing aid for flood-affected people even as weather and ground conditions inhibit access.
- The humanitarian situation is expected to worsen as communities and infrastructure are increasingly unable to cope with ongoing heavy rainfall.

Thousands of people are displaced. This is indeed a difficult time for all of us. His Grace Moderator Church of Pakistan gave a press statement and appealed on National and International level for help and support for Pakistan.

Sri Lanka appeal

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka is having devastating effects on the daily lives of the people as rising prices and shortages make essential goods, such as food, cooking gas and medicine, harder and harder to obtain.

The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has launched a *Samaritan Journey Project* which aims to provide relief for the people who are suffering most seriously. This includes providing severely affected families with relief packages consisting of essential food and other items, giving grants for medical expenses of children who have recurring illnesses, and giving start-up kits to enable people to grow their own vegetables.

In response, the Methodist Church in Britain has given a Solidarity Grant of £15,000 from the World Mission Fund towards the Samaritan Journey Project. The need, however, goes far beyond the scope of this grant, and so we are inviting donations to the Samaritan Project through the World Mission Fund. This channel for giving remains open into the autumn, and the money raised will then be sent as a lump sum to the *Samaritan Journey Project*.

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

Homeless Oxfordshire

PSSST..... something exciting is happening. October 8th 2022

Hello, we have some extremely exciting news!

On Saturday October 8th 2022, we will once more be hosting our sleep-out event, Hoxstock, and this year it's even more special because it's our 35th Birthday!

The events' world has been on hold since 2020, so we're thrilled to announce the return of our famous sleepout. With limited places available it is important to sign up as soon as you can.

Sleeping under the stars for one night isn't even close to what people without a home experience. But by joining us at HOXSTOCK we can show love, solidarity, and compassion to those people who face that reality.

With your help we can continue providing life-saving help to those who sleep rough every single night, 365 days a year, in all weathers.

We know that tackling homelessness is about much more than just providing a roof over someone's head and one of our aims is to raise awareness of issues around homelessness and the support that's available to those affected in our county.

Together we have the power to change attitudes and help make homelessness a thing of the past. So, this is your personal invitation to join us and become part of the Team Hox movement. There is no entry fee - all we ask is that you pledge to raise just £200 for Homeless Oxfordshire. These vital funds will help us to continue delivering the much-needed services we provide. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you and help get someone off the streets for good.

There will be lots of fun and entertainment through the night - it is our birthday after all! More details to follow in the coming weeks on our website and social media,

To register your interest please email us: sleepout@homelessoxfordshire.uk

See you there!

Sponsored Walk in aid of the Framland Pilgrim Home (Wantage)

This walk takes place on **Saturday 8th October**. The approximately 5 mile circular walk will start at 10:30 am from Christopher's Wood car park in Ardington, Wantage, OX12 8PD. June Grunwald is thinking of walking and would love to hear from anyone else. As you will know a number of our church family have been well cared for by Framland care home in the past and in the present.

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

REPORT OF OUR JUNE & JULY 2022 ACTIVITIES

We patrolled seven times during June and July.

Street Pastors were on hand to offer support to a man who had been assaulted in Wantage and fallen to the ground sustaining several injuries. The man asked us to call the police for him. We spent some time with him and his friends, who were all quite shocked and upset by the incident. We stayed with them until after the police had arrived and had spoken to the man, his friends and members of the public at the scene.

We spent some time with a man who was apparently avoiding being beaten up by two other people following a row over a year ago! We stayed with him and listened to him for some time. He shared with us some of the health issues that one of his children is going through. We offered to pray for his situation. He was very happy for us to pray with him there and then.

Street Pastors were in Wantage on the night of King Alfred's Academy Year 11 Leavers' Prom and spent much of their patrol chatting to groups of young. We gave flip-flops to two girls who had given up on their shoes very early on in the evening! Lots of young people were making their way over to 'the field' so we went too, sweeping up broken glass enroute by the Leisure Centre and giving out lollies. We didn't encounter any major problems and it was all good-natured, if a little noisy from time to time.

One of our earlier evening patrols met a lad who had fallen off his bike near Wantage Parish Church. We gave him wipes and plasters and checked that he was generally ok. Although, he didn't want too much help from us as he was with his mates and probably needed to play it cool, so to speak!

Street Pastors were asked to help find two mobile phones that had been left on a bench by the owners. We found the phones and were able to return them to their rightful owners.

Quiz & Curry Night

Join us for our Quiz & Curry Night on **Saturday 19th 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!

Childrey

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

9th October 11:00 am led by **Libby Bolton**

23rd October 11:00 am Led by **Peter Hemmings**

Chapel Anniversary

7:00 pm Thursday 13th October

The service will be followed by a Bring & Share Tea

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.

We are celebrating our **Harvest Festival** on **Sunday, 2nd October** at **10:45 am**. The service will be led by Rev Keith Underhill. We hope you can join us.

Gifts received for the Harvest will be given to the Wantage & Grove Foodbank, so should be of the non-perishable variety such as tins, packets and dried goods. They can be brought to church either on Saturday morning, (while the coffee morning is taking place) or on Sunday to the service. We will be preparing the church for Harvest on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 pm. Flowers, foliage and help would be much appreciated. Flowers/foliage can be brought along on Saturday morning if you wish.

There will not be a lunch on Harvest Sunday as we are having a church lunch at the end of October to say goodbye to Judy, who is moving soon to be near to her daughter and family.

We invite you to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 1st October** from 10:00 am till 11:30 am in the Church. Our host will be Mirella Phillips and her family. Proceeds from the morning are for Brain Cancer Research. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Grove Tuesday Fellowship will meet on **Tuesday, 18th October** at 2:15 pm. We welcome Lynda Culley to our meeting and she will be telling us of her visit to Oberammergau to see this year's Passion Play. We look forward to Lynda's visit. Can I remind you that we now meet on the **third Tuesday of the month**. See you there.

Church Council meets on **Thursday, 20th October** at 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room. All interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to attend and share in the meeting.

Film Club is on **Friday, 21st October** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing the film "**Goodbye Christopher Robin**".

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
All are welcome. The roof ventilation will be open. Masks are optional. Admission is free; a small donation helps to cover the cost of licences and DVDs.

Church family news: Nicholas has arrived safely in the Falkland Islands.

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, life is opening up again for everyone.

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.



UKRAINIAN APPEAL

Cynthia Bulpitt would like to say a warm heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who has donated items for the Ukraine appeal. However, the boxes being packed for Ukraine are now limiting the items which they are sending. These include medical type items and toiletries and the communication doll.

Cynthia and her helpers also provide parcels for local homeless. (which does include some Ukrainian refugees being housed). For each homeless person who is rehoused, they try and provide a basic food hamper, toiletries, cleaning products and, if possible, a knee blanket.

Below are a list of the things which they can make use of. Donations of any of these would be very welcome. They can all be put in the Ukraine box or contact Lynda on 07759 085336. Lynda will make sure they are taken to Cynthia at 64 Princess Gardens, Grove.

Thank you so much to all those who have already given so much and for your prayers. It really has made a huge difference to all the recipients.

UKRAINE

Communication dolls (see below)

Basic medical/toiletry items such as bandages, plasters, paracetamol, nappies, wet wipes, cling film, antiseptic, nail brushes, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Calpol

LOCAL HOMELESS (which does include some Ukrainian refugees being housed)

Toiletries (even the ‘freebies’ from hotels are very welcome)

Household cleaning products

New duvets and pillows. *New or almost new* sheets, towels, pillowcases

New kettles, toasters and microwaves (we appreciate these are less likely to be available for donating).

Communication Dolls for the Ukraine.

We have a pattern for the Communication Dolls, which have a sad face on one side and a happy one on the other. They are proving very popular with the children, helping them to express their feelings when they are unable to make themselves understood in other ways. Patterns and stuffing is available at church, on top of the Ukraine box. Please take some if you would be willing to make one.

Thanks

Donation Boxes : Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute 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.

Thank you for your support for the **September Coffee Morning** held in church. £159.90 was raised for Ssnapp (Support for the Sick Newborn and their Parents) at the J.R. Hospital.

Sunday Afternoons and Evenings at Wallingford Church

Sunday evening services on the first Sunday of the month (so that it's easy to remember) and they are: **2th October** and **6th November** at **6:30 pm**

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 **9th October** and **4th December**.

If you are interested in trying out the café style worship being held at Wallingford Methodist Church on Sunday, 9th October and would like a **lift**, June Grunwald intends to go and could offer a lift to 3 more people.

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

Harvest Festival

This year we will celebrate our harvest festival on **2nd October**. Please check weekly notices for updated information.

Gifts - The decision has been made to give all gifts to the Wantage & Grove Food Bank. That means we are asking for **non-perishable goods only please**. See the Food Bank article below for more detail on how to support this group. Gifts can be brought to church on Saturday 1st October or on the day of Harvest Festival. Please, no fresh food. Thank you.



Decorating the church - The church will be open on Saturday 1st October between 10 am and 12 noon for the decoration of the church. Jan Abrahall will be co-ordinating the floral decorations. Donations of flowers and foliage, preferably home-grown and from your garden, will be much appreciated. If those could be brought along as close to 10 am as possible that would be much appreciated so Jan knows what there is to work with. Offers of help with the decorating of the church will be welcomed. Thank you.

Books referred to by Rev John Anderson in his service on 18 September

"The Servant Queen and the King she serves" by Catherine Butcher and Mark Greene; published in paperback by the Bible Society in 2016. This may not be available now to purchase but someone in the congregation may have a copy.

Thomas Piketty is a French economist who is Professor of Economics at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Associate Chair at the Paris School of Economics and Centennial Professor of Economics in the International Inequalities Institute at the London School of Economics. His best-selling book "Capital in the Twenty-first Century" was published in French in 2013 and in English (by Harvard University Press) in 2014. It became a best-seller but is not an easy read. His 2022 "A Brief History of Equality" is a much shorter book about wealth redistribution intended for a target audience of citizens not economists.

Kate Raworth is Senior Associate at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute and a Professor of Practice at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. (She also happens to be the sister of BBC journalist Sophie Raworth). Her book "Doughnut Economics" is certainly readable; she argues that we need a model of economics that our planet can sustain with its limited resources, and that the current models are out of date and are not sustainable.

Kids@Church

Jane, Cath and Dave

We will meet again on **Sunday 16th October** at 9:30 am. Kids@church is an informal service for primary aged children and their families. We meet every third Sunday of the month at 9:30 am. If you would like further details please contact Cath Worth 01235 770151.

YMOSES – Sunday 9th September between 7:00 – 8:00 pm

The first Sunday of our Methodist new year was one of celebration, when Keith and Liz's grandson William was received into our church family through Infant Baptism. It was a happy occasion for everyone, with our congregation swelled by the presence of Amy and Dan's family and friends. Their comments on the warmth and friendliness shown to them were welcomed and appreciated by us all.

Anticipation of another celebration on the second Sunday was suddenly stalled by the very sad news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died on Thursday 8th September. We had long been planning to celebrate Graham's 100th birthday, but suddenly doubts arose over whether to continue. Careful thought was given to the acceptability of holding a birthday party at a time of deep sadness and mourning. This reflection provided the answer: our late Queen's reign was one of selfless service, defined and strengthened by her deep, personal Christian faith. Marking Graham's 100th birthday would endorse our respect and admiration for our late Sovereign by acknowledging the manifestation of these qualities in our longest-serving member. The hallmark of Graham's 73 years within our church family was his service to us in so many ways – and everything he has done for us has been because of, and strengthened by, his own deep Christian faith. Thank you, Graham, from all of us.

We are pleased to share news of the birth of Elijah, the third grandchild for Judith and Mike Skinner, and the first baby for their daughter Natalie who grew up as part of our church family. We congratulate Judith and Mike, and pray for Natalie and Jacob as they begin the most precious journey of parenthood with Elijah.

Adrian Richens, who has been a member of our church for many years, was doing very well in his job at Elmbrook Court, the new Care Home in Grove Road. Unfortunately, he suffered an accident at work and has been in the JR Hospital for the last few weeks. We pray for Adrian's recovery and his return home, assuring him of our thoughts and our love. Another of our members, Margaret Wilson, is also in the JR, and is awaiting a definitive diagnosis of her painful symptoms, and hopefully some encouraging information about possible treatment. We assure Margaret that we are thinking of her, praying for her, and trusting she feels comforted, upheld and strengthened by God's love and continuing care for her.

We also hold Paul Williams, one of the Circuit's longest-serving local preachers, in our thoughts and our prayers. Whilst visiting the members of their family who live in America, Paul's wife Marion died suddenly from a heart attack. We also extend our sympathy and love to everyone at All Saints where Marion has been part of the church family for very many years.

Praying for each other: In October the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study Group: on **Carolyn Roche's list:** Dilys Seymour, Linda & Rodney Tillotson, Andrew Holley, 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 the Tuesday Bible Study Group

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, as we come to you daily in prayer we praise you that each day we find so many things in our lives that we can thank you for. You are our faithful unchanging God throughout our whole lives on whom we can always depend. You have been with us in so many joys we have celebrated but you have also been with us through the sorrows we have met along the way. Encourage us daily to share our experience of your love in our lives with other we meet along the way. 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, Jill, Julie and Nigel Bunney, Diane's daughter Julie, Margaret Wilson, Adrian. 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 21st October** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

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

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Eileen Rennie

After our short Summer break we got off to good start in September with all but two of the group present. June Grunwald kindly came to take a photograph of the group which she has now updated on the website. We spent our first week back reflecting on the past year and planning for the year ahead. The group led the Local Arrangement Service on Sunday 11th September.

We meet in the Hall at 2 pm each Tuesday. This is an open friendly group who meet to study and pray each week so please feel free to come along and join us any week. You can be assured of a warm welcome. We are still mindful of everyone's safety and vulnerability so we have the chairs spaced and the windows and doors 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.

In October we will begin a new study of The Balanced Christian Life written by Michael Penny and published by the Open Bible Trust. This is a series of five studies based on Ephesians exploring the blessings Christians have in Christ and the practical Christian life which should follow.

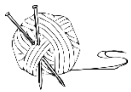
Dates for October are as follows:

- 4th October Mary Spalding will talk to us on “The Adventure of Hezekiah’s Tunnel” and our prayer time will include the Monthly Prayer List.
- 11th October The Balanced Christian Life 1: Praise. Reading Ephesians 1:1-4
- 18th October The Balanced Christian Life 2: Riches. Reading Ephesians 1:5-8
- 25th October The Balanced Christian Life 3: God in us. Reading Ephesians 1:13-14

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



Well here we are again, well into autumn, but still with plenty of time to knit a few more angels. This time last year I knew how many we had, but not this year, so please could you let me know how many angels you have knitted so far. The final number will determine if we can give to all the care homes as well as around the town. As we get into November I shall start thinking about ordering another batch of labels. Last year we used up nearly all of them. I know that some of you are alternating between knitting angels and emotion dolls. So far, I haven't tried the latter as I am not good at sewing on faces. I look forward to hearing from you.

We will now be meeting in the church hall rather than in the chapel.

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

Look forward to seeing you **3rd October** and **17th October at 2 pm.**

Community Café

June Grunwald

Numbers at the café fluctuated again in August and September. We opened on the August Bank Holiday with just a few dropping in first thing and ended up with 34 people, including a new couple who had moved to Wantage in the last year. We were also pleased to see some of our young church families drop in during the school holidays.

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. In July and August we raised money for our church, which has provided a free space to the café since 2019. We raised just over £258 for church funds. From September to November we will be raising money for Sudep. Sudep Action is a very local charity (based in the premises next door to church) and is dedicated to raising awareness of epilepsy risks and tackling epilepsy deaths including Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.

The café is open **every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon.** All are welcome. Our thanks to all the volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place to come to and who provide such delicious cakes. If you would like to learn more about the café please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.

Riders and Striders

Clive & Alison

Riders & Striders took place on Saturday September 10th. The church was open all day.

"Thank you" to Ann B, Margaret F, Carolyn R, Nicky A, Eileen R, Diana G, Helen & John C, Kelvin R and Rob C for minding the church and welcoming visitors.

Two "teams" from the church travelled around churches.

Alan and June Grunwald walked with some U3A walking group friends from East Hagbourne to Upton, Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and Aston Tirrold. Around 8 miles with additional mileage for getting lost! They really appreciated being welcomed at two of the churches. Highlights of the walks included lovely views to the Downs and Blewburton Hill, seeing two deer leaping across a field, lots of old buildings and a large wooden sign outside Blewbury church with the notice: "In memory of Geo Knapp. Died 11 Dec 1818 aged 68 years. Dear wife and children as you pass by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so must thou be, therefore be prepared to follow me".

Alison and Clive Phillips took a bus to Oxford and walked about five miles from St Aldates up St Giles and around Jericho visiting twelve, very varied, central Oxford churches, most well-known and a few less-so. We were able to enter ten and had a warm welcome at each. If you haven't looked around Oxford churches we do recommend that you do, it is an easy walk.

The two teams raised a total of about £130 from kind sponsors. Half the money will go to the Oxford Historic Churches Trust and a half to our church. **If you would like to add to the donations please see June or Clive.** We will not bank the money for a couple of weeks.

Holy Communion and the Benevolence Fund

Up until the start of the Covid pandemic it had been usual at Wantage Methodist Church to hold a collection at Communion Services, separate from the normal church collection, for the "Benevolent Fund" (more properly named the Benevolence Fund).

There is a long-standing tradition in Methodist Churches of maintaining a Benevolence Fund, collected and distributed principally for "the relief of poverty and distress" in the local community. The minister may use it at his or her discretion to give emergency financial support to individuals or families whether church members or not. Additionally, the Church Council is required to review the fund at each autumn meeting, and, if there is a surplus to expected needs, to decide how to use it. In practice, at Wantage, we have used the surplus to provide donations to local charities and other good causes.

This collection was suspended during the pandemic but Church Council has agreed that it will commence again at Communion Services from September onwards as a "retiring" collection. At those services, in addition to the plates at the church entrances, which are used for donations to the church general fund, there will be collecting boxes in which members and visitors may, if they wish, make donations to the Benevolent Fund. Any donations made at refreshments after the morning service are already being added to the Benevolent Fund.

Before the pandemic most of the money collected for the Benevolent Fund was distributed to local charities. However, there had been an increasing trend for modest donations to families and individuals who are suffering financial hardship. This trend is likely to increase as our society moves further into austerity through the increasing price of fuel and other inflationary pressures.

How do we use our energy?

As we all get older we are well aware of the need to conserve our energy to ensure that we can do the things we want to do and do not waste it on the unnecessary activities. I know that I get irritated with myself if I have to go up and down stairs repeatedly because I have not thought ahead and made sure I knew what I needed to take/get or I have forgotten what I went up for because I was distracted by another forgotten job I noticed when I was there!

At a personal level we pay the price for this in fatigue and frustration.

You will be tired of and probably have been frightened by the dire predictions about electricity and gas costs predicted for this winter. At a domestic level most of us are being promised some relief from the worst of the short term impact by the government.

As a church however the impact is more uncertain as we are not domestic users. It will be after this edition has been published before we know whether and how we may get relief from the state. At present we are facing an increase by a factor of five in our electricity costs from the beginning of October! This will make the cost to us for electricity use about £1 per unit. To give an idea of what this means, we use about six units each day on the premises as a background and in the first three weeks in September our total use was about 300 units.

We will not know until November or December what the gas charge will be.

We know from our responsibilities for climate change that we need to consider how we limit our energy use. The “big stick” of cash cost is going to focus our minds over the immediate future. It is therefore doubly important to manage our energy use carefully.

As a first step, please, when activities finish on the premises make a careful check that all lights and equipment are turned off.

What is happening on the premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church		Monthly on the 3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship		In person and on Zoom Weekly
	Evening	YMOSES		Monthly on the 2 nd Sunday
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café	in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat	in the Hall	1 st & 3 rd Week each month
Tuesday	Afternoon	Tuesday Prayer and Study Group	in the Hall	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs		Weekly

Users All in the Hall

Monday	Evening	Slimming World		
Tuesday	Morning	MIND		
	Evening	My Life, My Choice (Parlour)		
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club		(from 13 th September)
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical		
Thursday	Midday	KAWI		3 rd week each month
	Tea time	“Chop & Chat” (5:30pm to 8:30 pm in September & October)		
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers		
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out		1 st week each month

Specials

September 24 th	Evening	Church Street Patient Participation Group	Chapel
October 11 th	Evening	Safeguarding Training	Chapel
October 13 th	Evening	Wantage Music Festival AGM	Chapel
November 17 th	Evening	KU Sabbatical Presentation	tbd
November 19 th	Evening	Street Pastors Curry & Quiz	Hall
November 26 th	Afternoon	Private Party	Hall

DIARY for OCTOBER

OCTOBER

Saturday 1 st	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p13
Sunday 2 nd		HARVEST FESTIVALS at Grove & Wantage	pp13/16
Monday 3 rd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p19
Saturday 8 th from	10:30 am	Sponsored Walk for Framland Pilgrim Home	p10
		Homeless Oxfordshire: Hoxstock, sleep-out	p10
Sunday 9 th	7:00 pm	YMOSES	p16
Monday, 10 th	2:00 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p6
Tuesday 11 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p3
	7:30 pm	Safeguarding Training at Wantage	p6
Thursday 13 th	7:00 pm	Childrey Chapel Anniversary followed by a Bring & Share Tea	p12
Sunday 16 th	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p16
Monday 17 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p19
Tuesday 18 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p13
	7:30 pm	Safeguarding Training at All Saints Abingdon	p6
Wednesday 19 th	2:00 pm	Stepping out with Noah	p6
Thursday 20 th	8:00 pm	Grove Church Council	p13
Friday 21 st	7:30 pm	Film Club - Grove "Goodbye Christopher Robin"	p13
Sunday 23 rd		DEADLINE for NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER	p2
Sunday 30 th		British Summer Time Ends – Clocks go back one hour.	

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 8 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p3
Thursday 10 th	7:30 pm	Safeguarding Training at Wallingford	p6
Sunday 13 th		Remembrance Sunday – note changed service times	p24
Saturday 19 th	7:30 pm	W&G Street Pastors Quiz & Curry Night Wantage Methodist Church Hall.	p11
Thursday 24 th	10:00am	Stepping out with Noah	p3

SERVICES during OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

Sunday 2 nd	Ordinary 27		
10:30 am	Wantage	Harvest Festival (shared on Zoom)	Helen Carter
10:45 am	Grove	Harvest Festival	Rev Keith Underhill
Sunday 9 th	Ordinary 28	Homeless & Prisons Sunday	
10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)		Ian Sturt
10:45 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill & Street Pastors
11:00 am	Childrey		Libby Bolton
Sunday 16 th	Ordinary 29	Freedom Sunday	
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		Steven Atkinson
Sunday 23 rd	Ordinary 30	One World Week	
10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)		Tabitha Griffiths
10:45 am	Grove		Libby Bolton
11:00 am	Childrey		Peter Hemmings
Sunday 30 th	Ordinary 31	Bible Sunday	Clocks back to GMT
10:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)		Daphne Savage
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6 th	Ordinary 32		
10:30 am	Wantage	(shared on Zoom)	Rev Keith Underhill & Street Pastors
10:45 am	Grove		Helen Carter
Sunday 13 th	Ordinary 33	Remembrance	
9:30 am	Wantage (shared on Zoom)		Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
10:45 am	Grove		Ian Sturt
10:45 am	Childrey		Rev Keith Underhill
		This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	