

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR



CGW NEWS



DECEMBER 2022
JANUARY 2023

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When Keith is not available, please talk to one of the Stewards listed below, who will put you in touch:

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (February) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 22nd January 2023**
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

December/January Sunday 20th November

CGW News Publication deadline dates – 2023

February Sunday 22nd January

March Sunday 19th February

April Sunday 19th March

May Sunday 16th April

June Sunday 21st May

July/August Sunday 18th June

From the Manse.....

Many a parent, grandparent, family friend and neighbour will have, I am sure, with a teary eye watched their little ones perform in the Primary School nativity.

Shyly standing there trying to remember their lines whilst simultaneously sneaking a look to see if they can catch your attention, they offer you a wave or smile.

Along come Mary and Joseph desperately looking for somewhere to stay as they keep on knocking on inn keepers' doors only to be told that there is no room. Eventually though, they are offered the use of a stable, and it is here where the tableau then gathers for the finale of the production.

This year's Advent and Christmas material produced by the Methodist Connexion is a twist on this scenario, titled as it is, "There is room" – Christmas for everyone with the word "No" hidden by an image of the nativity scene.

The point is both simple and clear – for it encapsulates the gospel message that everyone is welcome and that there is room for all in the Christmas story and also in the church itself. There is room and space, and a welcome and acceptance for all.

All the main characters are mentioned, (even the sheep) reminding us that they symbolise a welcome.

There is room and a welcome for;

Wise men – reminding us that there is room for difference

Mary - reminding us that there is room for all ages and genders

Joseph - reminding us that there is room for refugees

Sheep - reminding us that there is room for all nature

Shepherds - reminding us that there is room for those who are experiencing poverty

Angel - reminding us that there is room for revelation

You and me - reminding us that there is room for us

Jesus - reminding us that there is room for God.

We will be using the "There is Room liturgy" throughout Advent and, no matter who we are and what our story is, may we all know that there is room for us in this most special of stories, and also here in our churches.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

With love and God Bless

Keith

Wantage and Grove Church Partnership Week of prayer for Christian Unity

In January, during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, there will be an online session of daily prayers each evening. Each Church will be invited to lead one of the sessions, and the prayers will be as varied in format as the traditions of our member churches. This form of celebration of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity was well received in 2021 and this year. It was therefore considered to be the most appropriate and effective way in which to celebrate the event again. More details will be coming soon....

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the new care home on Grove Road. It is being held on the second Monday of the month at 2 pm, lasting between 30-45 mins. My thanks to John and Helen Carter who kindly stood in for me in November when I contracted Covid. Rather than a bible study in November the group decided they would prefer more of a Service of Remembrance.

On 12th December our session will be on Advent with a few favourite carols. Having reminisced on a few hymns in October our January session may be "Old hymns for a New Year". If you would like to be involved in any session, please contact me. At the time of writing visitors no longer needed to take a lateral flow test.

Circuit News

We are pleased to be able to share the news that the Rev'd Bruce Thompson has accepted an invitation to join the circuit for two years from September 2023 with pastoral charge of Didcot, Milton & Wallingford. This, of course, remains subject to confirmation by the Methodist Conference of 2023. We look forward to welcoming Bruce, Karen and their dog, Dylan.

Trinity Church Table-Top sale, and bacon butties:

4th February, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, in the Conduit Centre.
Come and buy and/or sell after Christmas and the New Year.

Set-up from 6 pm Friday 3rd February .
To book a 6' x 2' 6 table for £10.00
contact Eluned Hallas in the Trinity Church Office on 01235-
520282.

Stepping out with Noah (Edition 3)

My grateful thanks to those who joined me in November on our walks to St. Andrew's Church in Letcombe Regis and St. Mary's in Childrey - it was good to be able to enjoy one another's company as we walked together.



December sees S.O.W.N taking on a new walk

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

Tuesday 6th December at 10:00 am

Walk to the Millennium Stones Ardington & back (approx 3.8 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 pass the

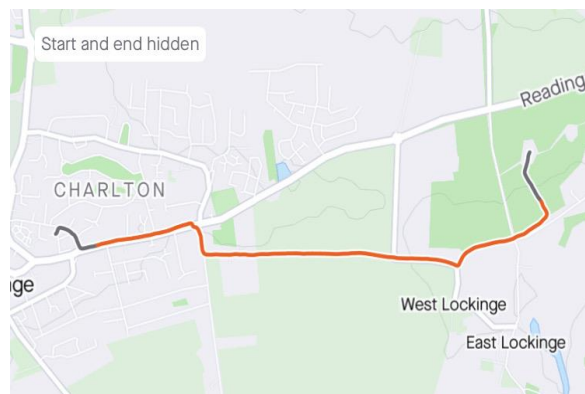
Parkinson's me garden - *keep going*

Cross over the road onto school road and walk along the grass area until you reach the explanatory stone

L up the grass path to the stones and stop on the sun!

and return to Manse via way we came.

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



Stepping out with Noah in January

Full details will be published in Stepping out with Noah edition 4 but the dates for January are **Wednesday 11th January at 10:00 am** and **Tuesday 24th January at 2:00 pm**

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

Love and God Bless, Keith

keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk (01235) 763321 Work mobile 07565 051310

Cornerstone news



Automatic Door Installation

We should now have installed the automatic opener for our front door. No more struggling with the heavy door, no more struggling to get through with buggies, frames or wheelchairs! We're very excited.

Thank you to all those who gave money to support this project. We did also receive a sizable grant from the Oxford Community Foundation Sir George Earle Fund for this specific project – for which we are also very grateful.

How you can help us

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for us and visiting us more regularly. We need this increased trade to continue so please do keep praying and keep us in mind for your Christmas cards, gifts & advent goodies. Come in with a friend for lunch or coffee. Donations are another way to keep us going. An easy way to donate is: <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20026346>.

Bookshop.org

A reminder that if you order any book through bookshop.org and list us as your preferred bookseller then we receive a percentage of the cost.



Take Note

There is a new Take Note promotion on offer from now to the end of the year – come and browse and see the range of books.

Cornerstone Christian Centre 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Out and About

We will be having a stall at the Dickensian evening in Wantage on 2nd December where we will be inside the parish church.

Prayer breakfasts

Prayer is an important part of the life of Cornerstone and it would be good to see more people at our monthly prayer breakfast. We start at 8.30 am prompt so we have a full hour before the staff arrive to prepare for the day. The next one will be on Saturday 10th December at 8.30 am when we will share coffee (or tea), croissants and prayer.

Christmas lunches

We are now almost fully booked – contact us if you would still like to come. We do still have plenty of space on **Saturday 17th December** for those of you who are not around in the week.

Christmas Specials

During December, on non-Christmas meal days we shall have a Christmas specials menu alongside our normal menu. Book a table of 6 or more and receive a free jug of mulled punch and crackers.

Christmas goods

We have in stock:

- Christmas cards – including boxed, single and packs
- Advent calendars and advent candles
- 2023 calendars
- Books, including a variety of gift devotional books and children's Christmas books for all ages
- Many gift items including the ever popular bamboo socks, scarves, coasters and more
- Traidcraft food items

Hampers

We are able to provide Christmas hampers – either buy ready made from the shelf or can be made to order with your choice of goods.

Late night shopping

We will be open on **Wednesday 7th** and **Thursday 8th December** from 7 – 9 pm for those of you who can't get to us during the day. Come and do your Christmas shopping while enjoying a warm drink and fellowship. This would make a great social for your Home Group/ Life Group – do book a table if you are bringing a group. Free mince pie/shortbread with every drink.

Community Fridge

The last community fridge of the year will be on 4 – 5 pm **Thursday 22nd December**.

Christmas and New Year

We will close at 2 pm on **Saturday 24th December** and reopen at 9.30 am on **Tuesday 3rd January**.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

CENTRE FOR REFLECTION
SPRING LANE, ASTON TIRROLD OX11 9EJ
WREATH MAKING & ADVENT
REFLECTIONS
SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 11 – 3pm

PLEASE COME TO OUR WREATH MAKING DAY. I WILL BRING ALONG SOME GREENERY AND THE OASIS WREATHS BUT PLEASE BRING WITH YOU ANY ADDED DECORATION OR EXTRA GREENERY THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE. A LIGHT LUNCH OF SOUP WILL BE PROVIDED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEMORY, POEM, OR PROSE, PLEASE BRING IT ALONG.

CONTACT JULIE YOUNG IF YOU WISH TO RESERVE A PLACE. julieireneyoung@gmail.com

COST: DONATION TO THE CENTRE FOR REFLECTION.

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

REPORT OF OUR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2022 ACTIVITIES

We patrolled eight times during August and September.

Street Pastors patrolled in Grove visiting several areas including Saville Way shops, Millbrook Square and The Old Mill Hall among others. They spent some time chatting with a small group of 17-year-old girls sitting outside the Rugby Club and cleared up litter at the Skate Park.

In Wantage, Street Pastors met a lady who was very unsteady on her feet. She had said she was getting a lift home from her son and then she said she was getting a taxi. We stayed with her until she eventually made her way home on a bus.

Street Pastor teams were in Wantage on the opening weekend of Delaney's Club in August. The town was very busy throughout the night with a very good atmosphere.

One night we encountered a drunk young man who was being helped by a young woman. He was very wobbly and wanted to keep hugging everyone. The woman was grateful that we were able to relieve her, but soon after, the man walked away from us towards other people. He reappeared later, this time in an altercation with some other young people. This escalated and ended with a punch thrown by him and the very timely arrival of two police officers!

Street Pastors were in Wantage in September when a man who was spoiling for a fight went off and came back with a kitchen knife. A group of young men chased him off but attacked his associate instead. The man was rescued, thanks to a member of the public, who put himself between the victim and the assailants. Street Pastors stayed at a safe distance, called the police and helped the injured when it was safe to do so. We are grateful that no-one was injured by the knife. The police later made three arrests.

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

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY

WANTAGE SILVER BAND

MAKE WE MERRY

David Bednall

CHRISTUS NATUS EST

Cecilia McDowall

PLUS Festive favourites for choir, band & organ
(some for the audience to sing)

CONDUCTOR	Paul Burke
ORGANIST	Sebastian Thomson
SOPRANO	Bethany Woolgrove

Saturday 10 December 2022 7:30 pm
Wantage Parish Church



All Tickets £12 Under 16 Free

Tickets available from wantagechoralsociety.co.uk
or members of WCS or on the door

Registered Charity No 265227

CHILDREY

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

11th December 10:30 am we will be joining in with the village as we sing carols round the tree as part of the Childrey Christmas Festival Weekend, along with members of the Wantage Silver Band and Childrey Choir

4:00 pm Christingles Service at St Mary's Church

18th December 11:00 am Carol Service at St Mary's Church

24th December 11:30 pm at St Mary's Church

25th December 10:00 am at St Mary's Church

8th January 11:00 am Our Annual Covenant Service
led by **Rev Keith Underhill**

22nd January 11:00 am Led by **Peter Hemmings**

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.

Sunday Afternoons and Evenings at Wallingford Church

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 **4th 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.

GROVE

From Sunday, 4th December onwards Sunday morning worship at Grove will start at 10:30 am.

Come and celebrate Christmas with us:

Christmas Services:

18th December, 6:30 pm - Carol service

Come along and join us as we sing some of your favourite carols and hear the familiar readings as we prepare for Christmas.

24th December, 8 pm - Christmas Eve Communion

Our traditional Christmas Eve communion service will be at 8:00 pm as we prepare for his coming amongst us once more.

25th December, Christmas Day, 10:30 am

Come and celebrate Christmas Day in this all age service – don't forget to bring along one of your presents to show!

Carols round the Christmas Tree on the green space at the start of Vale Avenue, opposite our church, on **Thursday, 15th December at 7 pm**, arranged by Grove Parish Council, followed by refreshments in our church. Everyone welcome.

Covenant Service

Our annual Covenant service will be on **January 15th** and will include Holy Communion.

Coffee Morning on **Saturday 3rd December** from 10.00 am in the Church. Our hosts for the morning are Lynda Culley and Nicky Frost. Proceeds are for Framlands Care Home, Wantage. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat.

We look forward to seeing you.

So far, no arrangements have been made for the Coffee morning in January. Information will be printed in the weekly notices nearer the time if one is arranged.

Tuesday Fellowship.

Tuesday, December 13th, 12:15 pm. Meeting at Cornerstone for a Christmas Meal.

January 2023 – Meeting at Cornerstone for Afternoon Cream Tea. Date and time to be announced.

Change of schedule: In 2023. We will not be meeting at church for TF in the future because of falling numbers. We will meet in member's houses each month. The venue and date will be announced in church.

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.

There will be **no Film Club meeting in December.**

Film Club is on **Friday 20th January** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room.

Please send **suggestions for films** to be shown to Peter Hemmings so that the programme for 2023 can be put together. (Telephone 01235 762504)

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.

Thank you for your support for the November Coffee Morning held in church.

£347 was raised for Freyja's Fund, (£187.70 donations, £24.44 tax rebate in hand, and the rest from Judith's cards).

Saturday Coffee mornings in 2023. A new list of dates has been prepared – the first Saturday of each month, except for May as the Coronation is planned for 6th May. If you would be willing to host one of the mornings for a charity of your choosing, then please get in touch with Jenny Marriott on 01235 767624. So far three dates have been booked, so plenty of choice left.

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.

Donation Boxes Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the Food Bank and has contributed to the Ukraine Appeal through the donation boxes in our entrance hall. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

The **W&G Food Bank** are very grateful for our continued support and thank you for your generosity. They are planning to make up Christmas parcels for families in need to enjoy and are asking if we are able to help with some appropriate Christmas treats. As always, they are asking for a "use by" date of at least January 2023. Suggestions for Christmas parcels are: Christmas puddings and cakes, tins of ham and salmon, mince pies, biscuits and other appropriate treats. All Christmas donations should in the box by **Sunday 11th December** please to make sure they reach the distribution point during the following week. Thank you very much for any help you are able to give.

We received a note from **Cynthia Bulpitt** at the beginning of November thanking us very much for all our contributions for the Ukraine appeal. The last trip of the 8 minibuses and volunteer drivers that was used to send out the parcels Cynthia and her helpers packed, went at the beginning of November so **no more items for Ukraine**, including knitted toys or communication dolls, at the moment please. If any dolls are in the process of being made please complete them and put them in the box in the entrance hall. They will be found a good home. Cynthia is still collecting household cleaning materials and toiletry items to go in parcels for **homeless people** being rehoused locally and welcomes any donations towards this. Also toys, new or nearly new, and dolls and dolls clothes. All can be put in the box in the entrance.

WANTAGE

Baptism at Wantage 4th December

We look forward to the baptism of Jude Wilbur Hinks and hold him, his older sister Mabel, his parents Kate and Harry and all their families in our prayers as they prepare for this joyous occasion.

Decorating for Christmas

Alison Phillips

In the past people have generously donated money towards flowers to decorate the chapel at Christmas for which we are very grateful.

This year we are faced with the rising cost of living on top of the climate crisis, and we were delighted with the beautiful Harvest decorations which were almost completely sourced from hedgerows and gardens, thus saving pockets and air miles!

Christmas is more of a challenge as gardens are largely sleeping, but there is still plenty of greenery around and Jan Abrahall is sure she can make our chapel just as beautiful with a variety of **greenery**, but would very much appreciate including candles for the windowsills.

The candles used in previous years have now burnt down to their last few hours, so if you feel you would like to contribute to **replacement candles** and feel you could make a donation towards them, that would be very much appreciated.

Any money could be given to a steward, Ann Barber or myself as we will be purchasing the candles rather than Jan.

With many thanks as always.

Wantage Carol Service 18th December at 10:30am

This will be an all age, interactive carol service. Our Kids@Church families will be joining us for this special service. We also hope to have Kay and Brian Edney with us who will be celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary that day at 11:00am!

Christmas Eve 24th December

This year we are trying something new. At **4:30 pm** we will be holding a '**cloth for the cradle**' service at which we will transform our crib into a suitable bed for Jesus and reflect together on the events of the stable and that first Christmas. This will be an all age service including an informal act of Holy Communion for this most special of days.

Christmas Day 25th December, 9:30 am

Come and celebrate Christmas Day in this all age service – don't forget to bring along one of your presents to show!

Covenant Service

Our annual Covenant service and re-dedication of Pastoral Visitors will be on **January 22nd** and will include Holy Communion.

18th December at 10:30 am - Kids@Church families are invited to join an all age, interactive carol service. (See above)

15th January - Kids@Church at **9:30 am** and every 3rd Sunday of the month from then on.

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).

Pastoral

Ann Barber

In this newsletter, which leads us through the final month of 2022 and into the new year, we have an opportunity to reflect on some of the notable changes experienced within the life of our church family. We remember with sadness those members we have lost, but we are thankful for the parts they played, and their contributions to church life. It has been a joy to welcome new families who have brought their babies and children for Infant Baptism. We hope to be able to maintain links with them and maybe encourage their repeated attendance at other services and special events. Throughout the year, worship in person has gradually become possible for more people, whilst the provision of the Zoom link has enabled others to continue participating from home. We are grateful to the team of people who have facilitated both live worship and Zoom transmission on Sundays, acknowledging the hard work that goes into each Service.

Whilst his wife was alive Roy Scholes and Pam regularly worshipped with us on Sunday mornings. He continued to do so when Pam moved into residential care at Framland. After Pam's death, it took a while for Roy to return to church, but it was pleasing to see that he gradually felt confident enough to come more often, and this continued until the Covid lockdown in 2020. Since then, Roy's health has declined and he can no longer care for himself at Pegasus Court. A few weeks ago, he moved to Largs, in Aberdeenshire, to a Nursing Care Home close to where his son lives. We miss Roy, but he will remain in our thoughts and our prayers, hoping that he settles happily in his new surroundings with his son and family nearby.

Shortly after his 100th birthday, Ros ended her placement with Graham as his live-in carer. Whilst with him we saw Ros each Sunday, it was a pleasure getting to know her during after-service coffee most weeks. Unfortunately, on the Sunday immediately preceding her departure Ros and Graham didn't come to church, so there was no opportunity to say goodbye. This is Ros's message:

"To all the dear people of Wantage Methodist Church. Thank you so much for welcoming me into your church and being so friendly. I have loved living in Wantage for these few months! And do hope to see you all again after the new year.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Love Ros"

Our Prayer Box was set up on the outside wall of the hall building in June. So far, four requests have been posted into it. Whilst that is a small number, each request has been included in our intercessory prayers at Sunday morning services, and in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study meetings. It is our privilege to receive and activate each request.

Praying for each other: In December the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study Group: on **Mary Trotter's** Pastoral List: Diane Barton and Mary Whittaker, and on **Mary Whittaker's** Pastoral List: Richard George and Arnold Tucker.

In January 2023 prayers will be offered for the friends from Fleur-de-Lis who worship with us, but who are not assigned to a Pastoral Visitor, and those whom we welcome to our services on an occasional basis and for whom we have no contact details. [We are grateful to Margaret Merryweather who kindly serves as our contact person at Fleur-de-Lis, and who advises us in the event of pastoral need.]

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 group.

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, as winter approaches we praise you for the wonderful changing of the seasons which reflect so much of your glory in creation. We thank you for all we will encounter during this period. In this season of Advent, Christmas and New Year we ask that you will challenge us to devote time firstly for prayer and close study of your word. We thank you that we can draw close to you in both prayer and the reading of your word and we pray that you will encourage us to put into action the guidance we receive from time spent in your presence. May we truly reflect through our actions in how we treat others the love that Christ Jesus brought into our lives. We remember and pray for all who are finding life particularly difficult at this time. Challenge us to see need and provide support in whichever way we can. We offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Jane, Alan Bunn and family, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright and family, Caroline, John Morton, Anne Hatto, Gordon and Marina, Jane and Brian Soffe, Richard in York, Margaret Wilson, Adrian, Gloria, Diane's daughter Julie, Jackie, Geoff, Roy Scholes and family, Meriel, Ken and Grace Wright. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, 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 February Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 20th January** 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

In November we completed our Study of The Balanced Christian Life and started our Advent Study, Unexpected Jesus. The Advent Study is most interesting, revealing and challenging so hopefully we will all be greatly enriched in our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ this year with a fresh perspective.

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 make sure the space is adequately ventilated. 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 December we will complete our Advent Study before having a short break over the Christmas period. We intend to discuss the Sunday sermons during January.

Dates for **December and January** are as follows:

6 th December	Advent Study, Unexpected Jesus Session 3, Unexpected Encounters Reading Acts 9:1-22. Keith will be leading our discussion. Our prayertime will include the Monthly prayer list.
13 th December	Advent Study, Unexpected Jesus Session 4, Unexpected Return. Reading 1 Peter 3:1-18
20 th December	No Meeting.
27 th December	No Meeting.
3 rd January	Discuss Sunday's sermon from service led by Keith.
10 th January	Discuss Sunday's sermon from service led by Libby Bolton.
17 th January	Discuss Sunday's sermon led by Libby Hawknesh-Smith.
24 th January	Discuss Sunday's sermon led by Keith.
31 st January	Discuss Sunday's sermon led by Tabitha Griffiths.

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

Community Café

June Grunwald

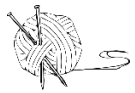
It was lovely to see some of our church families at the café during the Autumn half-term. We continue to welcome people new to the area as well as being pleased to see our regulars. Details of the café have been added to the “Warm Spaces” web-site, which lists places where people can be assured of a warm welcome and a hot drink for free. **We have made the decision to close for Boxing Day but we WILL be open on Monday, 2nd January.**

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. From September to November we raised approx. £400 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. From December to February any donations will go to the Ukraine.

The cafe 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. Especial thanks to Sue (one of Eileen’s neighbours) who has been a regular welcomer at the café but is taking a break whilst her husband undergoes treatment for cancer. Also thanks to those who stood in at the last moment due to Covid amongst helpers. If you would like to learn more about the cafe please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310



By 5th December, our angels will be labelled and ready to be blessed by Rev John Anderson at the Sunday service on 11th December. The angels will be put out in church on Friday 9th December. In the week following the blessing, the angels will be taken into the care homes and distributed around the town. If you would like to take part in the distribution then you are invited to collect some angels after the service to put out in your area.

In December, Knit & Chat will meet as usual on the 1st and 3rd Mondays – **5th December** and **19th December** at 2 pm in the Hall.

In January, Knit and Chat will not meet until the third Monday of the month – **16th January**.

Remember that you can join our Knit & Chat Facebook group. Please let June G know if you wish to do so. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

Advent & Christmas



Christmas Tree Festival 2nd – 4th December Wantage Methodist Church



This year we are supporting **Wantage and Grove FOOD BANK.**

Friday 2nd December from 6 pm, Dickensian Evening, look at the trees and enjoy refreshments and stalls in the hall.

Saturday 3rd December, from 10 am to 12 noon, Coffee Morning

The trees will remain in place for the Sunday service.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes, biscuits and handmade Christmas gifts/goodies. Please let Eileen or myself know if you would be able to contribute something for this. Many thanks in advance for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all that weekend.

Carolyn Roche

Advent Study Groups

Tuesday afternoons in the Hall

Thursday mornings at 1 Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis.

Knit & Chat - Angels

Sunday 11th December morning service will include the blessing of the Christmas Angels prior to their distribution.

Carols in December

Wednesday 7th December

7:00 pm Wantage Town Mayor's Carols in Wantage Parish Church

Thursday, 15th December

7:00 pm Carols round the Christmas Tree on the green space at the start of Vale Avenue, opposite Grove Methodist Church, arranged by Grove Parish Council, followed by refreshments in Grove Methodist Church.

Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December

10:30 am Carol Service with Kids@Church in the Chapel

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm "Cloth & Cradle" in the Chapel (includes Communion)

8:00 pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve at Grove

Christmas Day

9:30 am Christmas Morning Celebration in the Chapel

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who is so generously contributing to the Food Bank at this time with both goods and money. That is hugely appreciated. Goods that are currently in demand are longlife milk, longlife fruit juice, tins of fruit and puddings. Luxury items for Christmas would be welcomed at this time. Other items are of course welcomed. Please could you ensure all items have at least 3 months and preferably 6 months of shelf life (where they are still date stamped that is!). Financial gifts can be put in an envelope and given to Helen Carter who will pass that money on to the treasurer. And again, thank you for such generosity being shown towards those who are in need at this time.

Recycling Items For The Mix

A good number of items have been taken to the Mix and put into their recycling boxes. Thank you for the very significant number of items. Just a reminder that they can accept blister packs from any medication, writing implements that no longer work, empty toothpaste tubes and old tooth brushes & electric toothbrush heads, plus empty printer ink cartridges. There is a box in the chapel vestibule for these. Biscuit and crisp wrappers can be taken to Sainsbury's and put in their recycling box. If you are unable to get there, please put them into the recycling box in church and they will find their way to Sainsbury's.

Energy Watch

We now have costs for the next year for gas and electricity. Our electricity costs have gone up by a factor of 5, while our gas costs will double. We are still unclear what relief will come from the government for the six months from October to March.

Please check that you have turned lights out and equipment off before leaving the premises.

Please do not turn off the switch marked "Central Heating" in the kitchen or the switches by the Hall radiators.

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
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	
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical	
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	Dec/Jan - 8 th December only
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	not school holidays
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	10 th December : 4 th January

Specials

2nd/3rd December Christmas Tree Festival

DIARY for DECEMBER/JANUARY

DECEMBER

Thursday 1 st	10:00 am	Advent Study Group at Letcombe	
Christmas Tree Festival : Wantage Methodist Church 2 nd – 4 th December			
Friday 2 nd	6:00 pm	Dickensian Evening	p18
Saturday 3 rd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning	p18
Saturday 3 rd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p11
Sunday 4th	10:30 am	Baptism of Jude Wilbur Hinks at Wantage	p13
Monday 5 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
Tuesday 6 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p5
Wednesday 7 th	7:00 pm	Wantage Mayor's Carols at Wantage Parish Church	
Thursday 8 th	10:00 am	Advent Study Group at Letcombe	
Sunday 11th	10:30 am	Carols round the tree - Childrey Christmas Festival	
	4:00 pm	Christingles Service at St Mary's Church	p10
Monday, 12 th	2:00 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p4
Thursday 15 th	10:00 am	Advent Study Group at Letcombe	
	7:00 pm	Carols round the Christmas Tree on the green space at the start of Vale Avenue, opposite Grove Methodist Church, arranged by Grove Parish Council, followed by refreshments in Grove Methodist Church.	P11
Sunday 18th	10:30 am	Kids@Church and Carols at Wantage	p18
	11:00 am	Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Childrey	p10
	6:30 pm	Carol Service at Grove	p11
Monday 19 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p18
Christmas Eve			
	4:30 pm	"Cloth for the Cradle" in the Chapel (includes Communion)	p18
	8:00 pm	Holy Communion for Christmas Eve at Grove	p11
	11:30 pm	Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Childrey	p10
Christmas Day			
	9:30 am	Christmas Morning Celebration in the Chapel	p18
	10:00 am	Christmas Morning at St Mary's Church, Childrey	p10
	10:30 am	Christmas Morning Celebration at Grove	p11

JANUARY

Sunday 8 th	11:00 am	Covenant Service at Childrey	
Wednesday 11 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p5
Sunday 15 th	9:30 am	Kids @Church at Wantage	p14
	10:30 am	Covenant Service at Grove	
Monday 16 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
18-25 JANUARY		WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY	p4
Friday, 20 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove	p12
Sunday 22 nd	10:30 am	Covenant Service at Wantage	
DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY CGW NEWS			
Tuesday 24 th	2:00 pm	Stepping out with Noah	p5

SERVICES during DECEMBER/JANUARY

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

DECEMBER

Sunday 4th Advent 2

- 10:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the Baptism of Jude Wilbur Hinks
- 10:30 am Grove Rev Eileen Appleyard
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 11th Advent 3

- 10:30 am Wantage Rev John Anderson
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Grove Andrew Dixon
- 10:30 am Childrey Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 18th Advent 4

- 10:30 am Wantage **Carols** with Kids@Church Rev Keith Underhill
- 10:30 am Grove Rev Ian Griffiths
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion
- 6:30 pm Grove **Carols** Rev Keith Underhill
- 11:00 am **Carol Service** at St Mary's Church, Childrey

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve

- 4:30 pm **"Cloth for the Cradle"** in the Chapel (includes Communion)
- 8:00 pm **Holy Communion for Christmas Eve** at Grove
- 11:30 pm **Holy Communion** at St Mary's Church, Childrey

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

- 09:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill
- 10:30 am Grove Rev Keith Underhill
- 10:00 am Childrey at St Mary's

JANUARY

Sunday 1st Christmas 2

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove

Stephen Atkinson

Sunday 8th Ordinary 1

10:30 am Wantage

Libby Bolton

10:30 am Grove

Elizabeth Wood

11:00 am Childrey

Rev Keith Underhill

Covenant Service including the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 15th Ordinary 2

9:30 am Wantage Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Libby Hawkness-Smith

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

Covenant Service including the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd Ordinary 3 Christian Unity

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

Covenant Service including the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Carol Sturt

11:00 am Childrey

Peter Hemmings

Sunday 29th Ordinary 4

10:30 am Wantage

Tabitha Griffiths

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill