

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR

  
The **Methodist** Church

# CGW NEWS



FEBRUARY 2023

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (March) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
e-mail : [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)  
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

## **Sunday Services and Church Activities**

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

**Texts for Services at home for each Sunday are posted on the websites.**

**Grove web site** is found from [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

**Wantage web site** [www.wantagemethodist.org.uk](http://www.wantagemethodist.org.uk)

**Circuit web site** [www.wantab.org.uk](http://www.wantab.org.uk)

**Circuit YouTube channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t\\_ZQt0w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t_ZQt0w)

## **CGW News Publication deadline dates – 2023**

March	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
April	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
May	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
June	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May
July/August	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June

## From the Manse.....

Whilst Pepper's training continues to go well there is still plenty of room for improvement; not least, recall off the lead and to be calmer when meeting people out in the street or when they call at the house. I am sure that she will get there and we are taking advice from experts to help us with this.

As you would expect there is a lot of information on the internet when it comes to how best to train your puppy/dog.

I was fascinated by an online course run by Absolute Dogs with the snappy title of "The Sexier Than A Squirrel Challenge", which is, so they say, a fantastic online training programme that teaches you how to get great focus, recall and even loose lead walking from your dog and how to become sexier than that squirrel!

The concept is quite simple, to make your dog so focussed on you, that you are more important ("sexier") than a squirrel, other dogs, other people or any of the 101 other distractions that can prove to be irresistible to your canine companion. The course videos show you tips and training exercises to do at home with your dog to help make this all a reality.

This idea of being focussed reminded me of a hymn written back in 1918 by Helen Lemmel (the daughter of a Methodist Minister) who was an accomplished hymn writer and soloist. Apparently she was moved to write the words and music after reading a small booklet by Lillas Trotter entitled "Focussed".

You may remember the chorus of her hymn. It was one that was sung weekly at a Methodist Sisterhood meeting that I would regularly speak at when I was in London.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace."

I am not sure that Helen Lemmel would approve of "The Sexier Than A Squirrel Challenge" wording, or a Methodist Minister using it in a church newsletter – but, of course, we live in different times and the wording of her chorus may leave some cold, yet the concept is the same for both.

To be so focussed on the one we seek to follow that we would find fulfilment in their presence and wish to do their bidding.

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

**Circuit Service at Wallingford Methodist Church at 6:30pm  
on 5<sup>th</sup> February**

The focus of the service will be **Chaplaincy**.

We will be celebrating the excellent and inspiring work of our Community Chaplains, hearing what they are up to, wondering how we may develop this work further and also commissioning Wendy Moorin as a Community/Anna Chaplain.

It will I'm sure, be an uplifting and joyous occasion.

**Special Circuit Event looking at the future**

The Circuit Leadership Team would like to inform you of a special **“Circuit Meeting +” on Saturday 4th March from 9:30am - to 12 Noon at All Saints Methodist Church** in Abingdon.

This meeting is open to everyone and we hope as many people as possible will come along and join us

You may be aware that we have already spent a lot of time looking closely at the whole question of the sustainability of this Circuit and planning for the future post 2025 when it is anticipated we will be reducing from three Methodist Presbyters to two.

As you can imagine this is a complex, complicated and time consuming piece of work which encompasses many different aspects of ministry, mission, worship and service across this Circuit, which in turn, will have an impact on all our churches.

At this meeting we will be able to explain in more detail our current thinking, and more importantly, enable you to engage with us in this on-going process so that together we can grapple with these issues and so define more clearly the way forward.

Your help, views and suggestions will be of enormous value as we seek to discern God's plan for us as we look ahead.

If you are hoping to come along, please do let your either myself or your minister know so that we can ensure that the paperwork you will need can be distributed to you no later than a week before.

Please do contact either Keith or any of the CLT in the meantime if you have any questions etc.

## 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 the new time of 2.30 pm**, lasting between 30-45 mins. In December we focussed on the story of the shepherds and played some suitable carols for Advent. It was good to have a few people from church there and to have Adrian Richens join us. In January our theme was old hymns for a new year. Some members of the group had chosen their favourite hymns at previous sessions. Again it was good to have some church members to join in with the singing and to chat to residents afterwards. The bible study on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February** will be on the theme of "Love". On **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March** we will have a Lent theme. 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.

**Trinity Church Table-Top sale, and bacon butties:**  
**4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 in February

The routes for our two February walks will be publicised shortly and will be emailed around as well as appearing in notice sheets and on the church websites etc.

The dates are

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** at 10:00am

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** at 10:00am





## **Wantage & Grove Children's Clothes Bank**

*Helping Local Families*

**Collecting used or new children's  
clothes to pass on to local families in  
need of support**

If you have any children's clothes in  
good condition for 0-16 years that you  
are able to donate, please contact

Helen at:

[w.g.clothesbank@gmail.com](mailto:w.g.clothesbank@gmail.com)

**Wantage Community Church**

**Little People**

Helen Margetts is a member of Wantage Community Church and is trying to establish a children's clothes bank for Wantage, Grove and surrounding villages, for which she needs donations of clothes in good condition. At the moment Tessa Heron runs 'Little People' a local charity that reaches out to families that are struggling to make ends meet and initially it will be to support her work. With enough clothes Helen hopes to be able to broaden the scope.

### **Cornerstone**

As churches we've had strong and close links with Cornerstone ever since its inception and opening back in 1995. Many of you have either volunteered there or frequent it both as a bookshop and a café. Cornerstone does a fantastic job and touches the lives of so many people.

However, like so many other businesses at this time, they are finding the current economic climate very challenging and are asking us to remember them in our prayers and to continue to use and support them as they look to the future.

We are pleased to say that **Keith will be interviewing Sarah Shewring, the manager at Cornerstone. as part of the Sunday services at Wantage on 5<sup>th</sup> February and Grove 19<sup>th</sup> February.**

We look forward to Sarah sharing in worship with us, hearing how things currently stand and how we can help them in their mission and witness to our local communities.

## Cornerstone news



**Cornerstone Board** We are delighted to welcome Wendy McEwen to the Cornerstone board as a representative from Vale Elim church.

**Book Sale** Come and look for your next book – a large number of books are on sale at half-price.

**Traidcraft** We learned in January that Traidcraft had gone into administration. Traidcraft was the driver and main founder of the Fairtrade Foundation and has been an important trailblazer in the movement since 1979 (all my life!!). Pray for the staff, suppliers & shops as their future hangs in the balance.

**Free breakfasts** We will be offering free breakfasts during February half-term (13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February) for those families whose children receive free school meals. If you are able to help towards this project any donation would be gratefully received.

**Lent** Ash Wednesday is on 22<sup>nd</sup> February this year and we have a good selection of Lent books available on the shelves or if there is a specific book you want which we don't have in stock we can order it for you.

Some previous year's Lent books are also in our half-price sale. We do also have Easter cards, Palm Crosses and the Chocolate Eggs are on order!

**Community Fridge** The Community Fridge runs here every Thursday from 4-5pm – come and take some surplus food to help stop food wastage, it is completely free and open to everyone, just bring a bag.

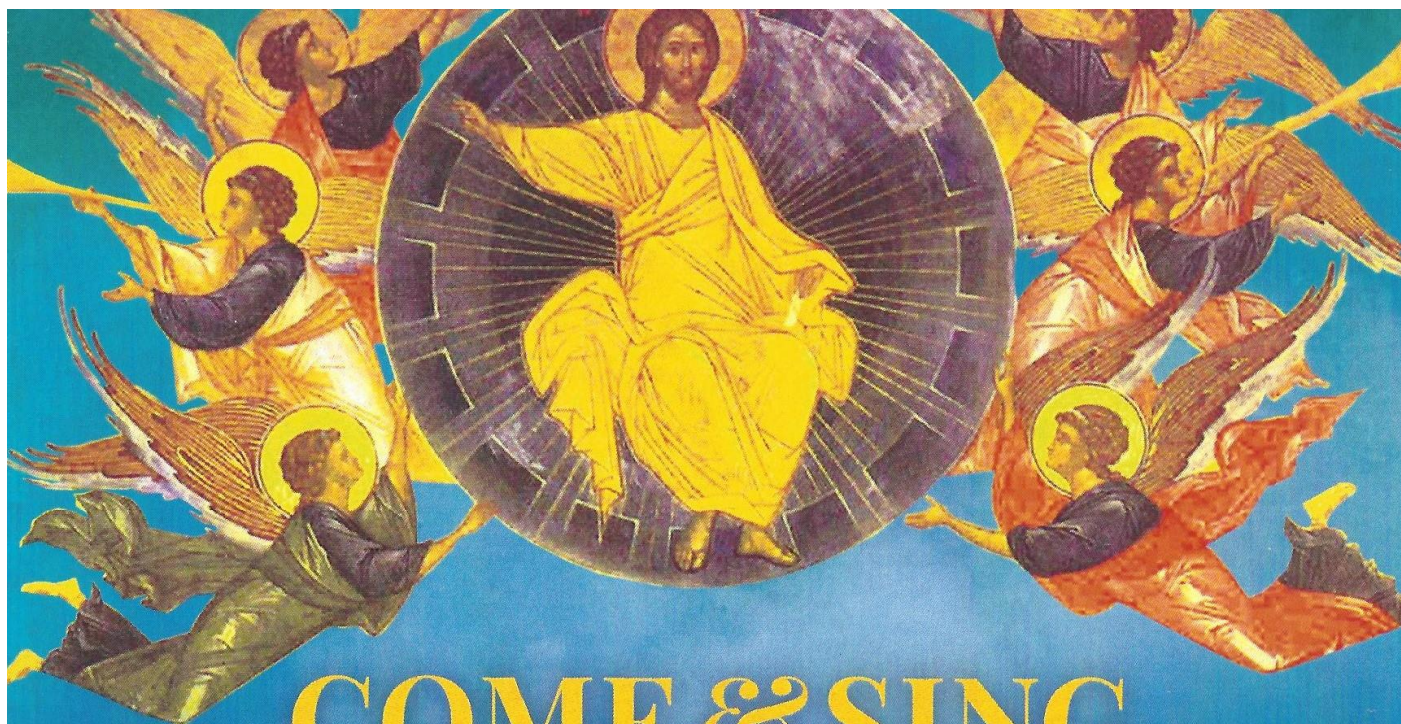
**Make and Bake for the Under 5's** Make and Bake is held every Tuesday morning in term time from 9:30-11 am and costs £2 per child which includes activities, story time and drink. No need to book just turn up.

**Monthly hot meal special** The hot meal this month will be served on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - please do book this in advance so we know how many to cater for.

**Outside catering** We are able to supply outside catering for your events – please contact us for more information.

**Prayer breakfasts** Don't forget our monthly prayer breakfast where we can meet together to pray for Cornerstone. The next one will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8:30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.





# COME & SING MESSIAH

**SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023**

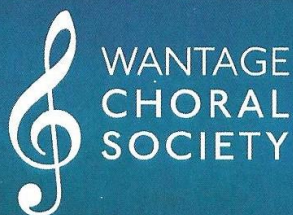
**PARISH CHURCH OF SS PETER AND PAUL  
WANTAGE OX12 8AQ**

**THE PARISH CHURCH IS SITUATED ON THE CORNER OF MARKET PLACE AND CHURCH STREET, WANTAGE**

**2.00pm Registration  
2.30pm Rehearsal  
3.30pm Performance**

**FOLLOWED BY TEA AND  
HOMEMADE CAKES**

**SOPRANO:** Suzzie Vango  
**ALTO:** Suzie Purkis  
**TENOR:** Rob Jenkins  
**BASS:** Frazer Scott  
**TRUMPET:** Brian Thomas  
**ORGAN:** Ben Giddens  
**CONDUCTOR:** Sebastian Thomson



[wantagechoralsociety.co.uk](http://wantagechoralsociety.co.uk)

Registered Charity No 265227

**Audience & Singers £15  
Singers under 18 £10**

(Under 14s free – if accompanied by an adult)

For further information email: [wantagemessiah@gmail.com](mailto:wantagemessiah@gmail.com)

**NET PROCEEDS TO:** Sweatbox and Music for Autism





# **Holy Land Pilgrimage**

**26 Nov — 3 Dec 2023**

**Led by Rev Bruce Thompson**

**Walk on the steps that Jesus trod, sail the same waters, pray in the same garden**

**Flights including taxes**

**7 nights half board**

**Private air conditioned coach**

**English speaking guide**

**£1884 based on two persons sharing a twin  
room**

**All the major Christian sites in**

**Jerusalem**

**Bethlehem**

**Galilee**

**Nazareth**

**all entrance fees included**

Further information, full itinerary, and booking forms  
from Bruce Thompson on [chair@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk](mailto:chair@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk)

 **TOURS FOR  
CHRISTIANS**  
Operated by Travelink Group Ltd.



If anyone has any questions or wants to know more, please  
contact either Keith or Bruce.

# **CHILDREY**

Childrey will normally be open for Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb    Ordinary 6        11:00 am led by Libby Bolton**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb    Lent 1                11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill**  
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

There will be a **Church Meeting** at 2:30 pm **on 20<sup>th</sup> February.**

## **Prayers**

We remember in our prayers:

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

John Cliffe and Frederick Gee.

Keith, 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.

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**JEAN DORA CLIFFE**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June 1933 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Although she had a pronounced Yorkshire accent Jean was actually an Essex girl! Born in Rayleigh she moved to Sheffield (her father's hometown) when war was declared in 1939 and the risk of invasion was high.

Jean knew what she wanted to be from a very early age – a school teacher – and nothing was going to stop her achieving that goal. After teacher training in Leicester she began her career back in Sheffield.

On marrying John, they came to live initially in Challow and then Childrey, where Jean taught at Childrey school for the remainder of her teaching career touching the lives of many local children and their families.

Jean was a staunch Methodist with a strong and deep faith as well as being an old-fashioned socialist sometimes ruffling a few feathers when preaching!

Her father had a profound influence on Jean and growing up she accompanied him everywhere, she became a keen supporter of Sheffield United FC, however John supported Sheffield Wednesday, so there must have been some interesting conversations in their household come most Saturday evenings in the football season!

In later years Jean & John went on two round the world cruises although health issues disrupted their second cruise.

Jean had various health problems in the last few years but John was a tower of strength during this time. He insisted that after her long stay in the JR and a care home she should come back home to Childrey. Her last months were spent back where she belonged. When the end did come, it was all very quick – in fact Jean had enjoyed a meal at the “Bear” the day before she was taken ill.

We will all miss Jean, a forthright Methodist and teacher, friend and helper. May you rest in Peace and Eternal glory.



## **GROVE**

A reminder to everyone: **Morning worship** at Grove starts at **10:30 am**. You are invited to a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February** from 10 am in the church. Kirsty is our host and proceeds are for Wateraid. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

**Film Club** is on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "**Brassed Off**", a 1996 British comedy-drama film written and directed by Mark Herman, starring Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald and Ewan McGregor.

The film is about the troubles faced by a colliery brass band following the closure of their pit. The soundtrack for the film was provided by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, and the plot is based on Grimethorpe's own struggles against pit closures. It has been generally very positively received for its role in promoting brass bands and their music. Parts of the film make reference to the huge increase in suicides that resulted from the end of the coal industry in Britain and the struggle to retain hope in the circumstances.

All are welcome. Masks are optional. Admission is free; a small donation helps to cover the cost of licences and DVDs.

**Church Council** is on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at 8 pm in the Meeting Room. We invite all interested in the life and work of our church to come and be a part of this meeting.

The next meeting of **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**, at 2:15 pm. Our speaker will be our friend Libby Bolton and we will be meeting at the home of Kath and Jock Gourlay, 4 Mayfield Avenue Grove. We will be pleased to see you there.

If possible could you please let Kath know if you are coming for seating arrangements. Thank you. Tel: 01235 411023.

**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.

**Thank you** for your support for the December Coffee Morning held in church. £156.44 was raised for Framlands Care Home in Wantage.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Dates still available** are: 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July.

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 are living through. We trust that, with care, life has opened up again for you.

## **Food Bank**

We were overjoyed by the response to our appeal for donations to the Food Bank box in the foyer of GMC. Donations poured in from our wonderful congregation and from visitors to the premises.

We took our “final” donation of six bulging carrier bags of food to Elm Farm in the middle of December, but the donations kept pouring in so we happily made another trip with a further two bags a week later.

We would like to thank everyone – our own church family at Grove and those who are unknown to us but have helped to make a huge difference to families in need over the festive period by their kindness and generosity. We pray that the spirit of generosity will continue over the coming months, as families struggle with spiralling food costs and energy bills. Our help is needed more now than ever and all your gifts, however large or small, are gratefully received by the amazing team at the Food Bank and will be given to someone who really needs your help.

God loves a cheerful giver! May He inspire and direct your giving and bless you for your generosity. Carol and Ian xx

**Cynthia Bulpitt** continues to collect household cleaning materials, kitchen items, toiletries and new & nearly new bedding to help homeless people being rehoused. She also has access to transport to send limited items to the Ukraine again and is grateful for medical supplies, toiletries and candles to send there. There is a collection box in the entrance hall for these items. She is always most grateful for any help we are able to give. Thank you.

### **Grove Tuesday Fellowship:**

The following is a brief history up to the present day about our Fellowship. *Lesley Hummerston/Kath Gourlay*

About 47 years ago a group of friends at the Methodist Church got together and formed a Fellowship Group that would meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2:15 pm for fellowship.

At first, they met in homes but, as they grew they moved to the church still meeting for fellowship on a Tuesday at 2:15. They continued for a number of years and some of the members left and others joined them, so taking on new roles and then some members started to bring husbands too, and the name was changed to the Tuesday Fellowship from the Women's Fellowship.

Then Covid hit, and it all changed. Some of the members died and some were reluctant to return and others moved away. We were left with just about 6 members. So it was time for a further change. We returned to meeting in homes, but just once a month. Our meetings would be a 'friendship group' rather than a 'fellowship group' and speakers were invited but although some will talk of fellowship, others may talk about holidays, trips out, books, and people they have met. So we now meet once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon in homes with an occasional trip to the Cornerstone and with a Christmas lunch with husbands, too.)

We are always looking for new members, both ladies and men, and, although we call ourselves the Tuesday Fellowship, it's really more of a friendship group.



# **WANTAGE**

## **Holy Habits (light) Wantage Methodist Church**

You may recall that prior to lockdown we were anticipating undertaking the Holy Habits course - as designed by Revd Andrew Roberts. In his book that is based around Acts chapter 2, he identifies 10 so called "Holy Habits" that both encourage and challenge individuals and churches in their faith, service and witness.

In March, we will begin a more simplified version of this where we will be looking at one of the Holy Habits every three months. We will do so through a mix of some of our Sunday services, Tuesday Bible Group, kids@church and opportunities for conversation and sharing together.

The initial Holy habit that we will be exploring together is "Pray". Full details will be available shortly

## **Kids@Church**

*Jane, Cath and Dave*

In January we met to explore the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. We reflected on some of the gifts we had received at Christmas and the people who had given us those gifts. The parachute brought lots of smiles and laughter! Some beautiful stars were decorated and then we used those as we prayed together. It was a joy to share breakfast together once again!

Future dates for Kids@Church - **February 19<sup>th</sup> (the Wise and Foolish builders)**, March 19<sup>th</sup> (Jesus at the wedding), April 16<sup>th</sup> (Easter events)

Kids@Church is an informal service aimed at children up to the end of primary school and their families. We usually meet in the church at 9:30 am and finish at 10:15 am in the hall.

We'd love to see you!

If you would like more information about this service please ask Keith, Dave, Cath or Jane.

**Charitable Donations:** The collections at the Church Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services raised £300, which has been shared equally between the Wantage & Grove Foodbank (£150) and The Ray Collins Trust (£150). In addition, the Community Cafe collections on Monday mornings over the last three months (September to November) raised £500 for our close neighbour, the charity Sudep.

In our first Newsletter of 2023 it is good being able to include a welcome to those who have recently begun worshipping with us. **Pam Lowerson** has transferred her membership from the Methodist Church in Alsager, Cheshire. Pam now lives with her son and family on Kingsgrove. **John and Jo Checketts** have moved from Cheltenham to Richmond Village. It is a joy to welcome all three to our church family, and we look forward to getting to know them better.

Alongside that good news, regrettably, we have also recorded the losses of three longstanding members of Childrey and of our church. It was with sadness we learned that **Jean Cliffe** died on 30<sup>th</sup> November. She was part of the village of Childrey, and a member of the Methodist Church there, for more years than most of us have been in Wantage. Not only did Jean contribute greatly to the life of the church, but, as the Headteacher of Childrey Primary School, she also played a major role in the early education of the many young children who passed through her school. We offer our prayers for her husband John, who cared for Jean as her health steadily deteriorated over the last several years.

We also learned with regret that **Joy Gee** died on 19<sup>th</sup> December, in the JR Hospital having been there for a short time. Joy and her husband Fred lived in Rowstock, but she was a member of Childrey Church for very many years. Joy was well known throughout the Circuit as a local preacher, although it is several years since she ceased to lead services. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fred and their nieces, as well as our friends in Childrey Methodist Church who have sadly lost two more of its most longstanding, loved, and respected members.

From our own church, we learned the sad news that **Roy Scholes** died on Boxing Day. We remember his time as a member of our church family with much affection. When Friday lunches first started, Roy was a regular helper and specialized in washing-up duties! Years later he liked just coming to enjoy his lunch and the company of his friends. It was comforting to learn that he had spent an enjoyable Christmas Day at the Care Home in Scotland to which he had recently moved. The following morning he passed away suddenly, but entirely peacefully. Roy had been widowed twice and had cared for each of his wives, Myra and Pam, with great dedication during their illnesses in the final years of their lives. We give thanks to God for Roy and the part he played within our church, and we offer our love and our prayers to his son Grant and all his family.

During these short days of Winter, when seasonal illnesses are at their height, we are aware that several others within our congregation are also experiencing health problems. **Margaret Wilson** is continuing her recovery at St Katharine's, looking hopefully towards being well enough to return home. Arnold Tucker has made a very pleasing recovery after his stay in hospital before Christmas, and it is wonderful seeing him back in church worshipping with us again. We think of and pray for **Carole Robbins** who is recovering from a stroke, and wish her well as she regains her health and mobility. **Joan and Ed Clipsham** have encountered several medical problems in recent months, and our thoughts are with them both, knowing that Joan longs to be back worshipping with us each Sunday. It was encouraging when we learned of **Graham Godfrey's** transfer from the JR to Wallingford Community Hospital, and we continue to hold him in our prayers, as well as his carer, Tracey, and daughters Anne and Gillian who watch over him devotedly. **Adrian Richens** has made good progress following his serious accident, and whilst staying at Elmbrook Court his mobility has improved so much that he is now able to walk without any aids. Adrian is now returning to live at home again. As he undertakes this big step, we pray that his rehabilitation will continue, and we will hold him in our thoughts and our prayers.

**Church Flowers:** on the notice board in the link corridor is a new list with dates from now until mid-summer. Please add your name by the date[s] of your choice if you can provide flowers for church. Hopefully, now that more people are worshipping in person, it may be possible to fill the rota.

**Contact details:** Having mentioned the names of new friends who have recently joined our church family, there are no contact details published. With their permission, I will circulate their email addresses, but, in line with data protection regulations, not their phone numbers or postal addresses. Please let me know if you would like either of these, and I will advise you individually. [Just a reminder that there is space in the latest edition of our church directory for additions and amendments]

**Praying for each other:** In February the following people on Ann Barber's Pastoral List will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study group: Margaret Fordham, Lizzy Horton, Julie Horton, Amy Lancaster, Alison & Clive Phillips, Kelvin Rose, Mary Spalding, Marjorie and Colin White and Barbara Porter.

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 Bible Study Group.



## Prayer list

*Eileen Rennie*

Loving God, accept our praise and thanksgiving for your presence in our lives every day to guide us in the decisions we make. We pray that we will be attentive to your guidance and aware of others' needs in all our decision making. In a world of so many injustices and needs, open our hearts and minds to ways we can help. You have given us all gifts that we can use for the good of all. In this period of Lent, may we seize every opportunity to learn more of your love for each one of us. Help us share that love with others with compassion and generosity of spirit and grace. We offer our 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 and Doug Hatto, Gordon and Marina, Jane and Brian Soffe, Richard in York, Margaret Wilson, Adrian, Diane's daughter Julie, Geoff, Ken and Grace Wright, Margaret Young, Tessa and Family, Janie Cottis, Diane. 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 March Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

Telephone 01235 224284, or email [eileenrennie@icloud.com](mailto:eileenrennie@icloud.com)

## Car Parking at Church on Sundays

As we have a limited number of parking spaces in the yard, it would help if people would park off site so that people with limited mobility can use the spaces in the yard.

## **Community Café**

*June Grunwald*

Numbers at the café vary, but we had 17 visitors on a very wet morning and 22 on the New Year's Bank Holiday Monday. On one memorable morning in December we had a surprise visit by an elf and a Pets as Therapy dog. In January we were pleased to mark Brenda Edward's 90th birthday with cake. Details of the café have been added to a couple of "Warm Spaces" web-sites, which list places where people can be assured of a warm welcome and a hot drink for free.

[www.warmspaces.org](http://www.warmspaces.org); [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk) .

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 £500 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. Sudep were so thrilled with the donation that they came to the café to thank us in person. From December to February any donations will go to the Ukraine. At the time of writing we will have raised around £200 and the money will be going to Opora. Opora is a charity supporting Ukrainians to settle and sustainably rebuild their lives in the UK.

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. If you would like to learn more about the cafe please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.

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

*Eileen Rennie*

In December we completed our Advent study, Unexpected Jesus, and in January we discussed the previous Sunday's sermon. Both months led to fruitful discussions and many thoughts to take away.

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.

For the first two weeks in February we will be discussing the previous

Sunday's sermon and on 21<sup>st</sup> February we begin our Lent Study. This year we are using Holy Habits: Following Jesus, a seven week course by Andrew Roberts who wrote the book Holy Habits and all the accompanying material. At some point we as a Church will be following this material. Lockdown delayed this venture.

**Alison Phillips will be hosting a Lent group on Thursday mornings using the same material.** The Lent Study follows six weekly sessions and in Holy week there is material for each day.

The Weekly Sessions are as follows:

- Week 1 Jesus guided by scripture.  
Focus habit for this session: Biblical Teaching.
- Week 2 Jesus serving with gladness.  
Focus habits for this session: Serving, Gladness and Generosity.
- Week 3 Jesus sharing bread.  
Focus habits for this session: Breaking bread, Sharing resources and Eating together.
- Week 4 Jesus praying.  
Focus habits for this session: Prayer, Fellowship and Worship.
- Week 5 Jesus making disciples.  
Focus habits for this session: Making more disciples and Eating together.
- Week 6 Jesus generous under pressure.  
Focus habits for this session: Gladness and Generosity and Worship.

For Holy Week as follows:

- Holy Monday Jesus' prayerful anger.  
Focus habits for this session: Prayer, Biblical teaching and Serving.
- Holy Tuesday Jesus' teaching on tax.  
Focus habit for this session: Sharing Resources.
- Holy Wednesday Jesus the humble servant.  
Focus habit for this session: Serving.
- Maundy Thursday Jesus breaking bread.  
Focus habit for this session: Breaking bread.
- Good Friday Jesus' ultimate generosity.  
Focus habits for this session: Making more disciples, Gladness & Generosity
- Holy Saturday Jesus in the tomb.
- Easter Day Jesus worthy of all worship.  
Focus habits for this session: Worship and Biblical teaching.

## **Dates for February** are as follows:

- 7<sup>th</sup> February Discuss Sunday's sermon from service led by Keith  
14<sup>th</sup> February Discuss Sunday's sermon from service led by Helen  
21<sup>st</sup> February Lent Study Session 1  
Jesus guided by Scripture. Reading Luke 4:1-13  
28<sup>th</sup> February Lent Study Session 2  
Jesus serving with gladness. Reading Luke 4:16-19

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

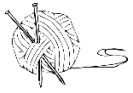
## **Born in song**

*Gill Skidmore*

To quote our Connexional website, "Methodists are well known as enthusiastic singers, in choirs and congregations. Singing is still an important means of learning about, sharing and celebrating our faith." From comments to me, I know that that is very true of the congregation at Wantage Methodist Church. Unfortunately, Covid is responsible for many things, and affecting our singing is not least among them. All of us have found that it has taken its toll on voices and confidence.

I have noticed recently that the congregation has responded extremely well to having a preacher who is also a strong singer. Everyone has felt enabled to let go and sing with gusto again – something which has been difficult after a year or two of being told we may not sing. I have really enjoyed those services, and it has started me thinking. Could we set up a rota so that in every service we had two or three people prepared to be miked up and lead the singing? We would not have "choir practices", but those people would make sure that they have looked up the hymns in advance and familiarised themselves with any unknown hymns or songs, or any where fitting in the words is tricky. I can help a bit from the piano, but it is no substitute for having somebody actually singing with you. Although I have sung all my life, I still find that helps me.

One or two people have potentially volunteered to do this. Are you prepared to be a member of the team? If so, please speak to me at church or email me on [gill.skidmore32@gmail.com](mailto:gill.skidmore32@gmail.com), and we will explore what can be done. You don't need to be a brilliant singer, just a reasonably able musician who is prepared to do a little work in your own time to enhance the quality of our worship.



Once again we can celebrate a very successful flight of angels into the local community and local care homes. Thank you to all those who helped knit, label or distribute them enabling each angel and message to find its home.

At the January meeting we talked about the angels we would use to decorate Arnold's wooden tree next December. We have decided on a colour scheme of red, green and off-white. June has obtained some wool that we can use for this if you would like to take part. All the other angels for distribution can be knitted in any colours that you wish, as is our usual custom.

We have been asked by SUDEP Action if we could help knit/crochet 500 purple hearts to support their Purple Hearts for Purple Day on **26<sup>th</sup> March**. Many of these will be given out to MPs in the Houses of Parliament to help raise awareness of the difficulties being faced by people with epilepsy. SUDEP will supply us with the correct colour of wool and the patterns. These plus more information will be available at our next meeting.

Our meetings in February will be on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** and **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February** at 2 pm in the Hall. Looking forward to seeing you then with whatever project you are currently working on.

Last year I took part in a Lent Knitalong run by a group at Victoria Methodist church in the Bristol Circuit. Each day there was a reflection and 3 or 4 rows of knitting pattern to follow. Eventually it made a cushion cover with an Easter day picture on it. This year it is going to be a scarf but you won't know what it will be like until you finish at end of Lent. Please let me know if you wish to join me in taking part with this.

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.

## Food Bank

Many thanks for the very generous donations of both food and money for the Food Bank.

Currently the need is specifically for hot chocolate (to make with water), long life fruit juice and tinned custard.

Please continue to support as the need is great. Thank you



## What is happening on the premises at present?

Sunday 9:30 am Kids@Church Monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Week each month

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer & 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Friday Morning Mothers & Toddlers

Saturday Morning Dads Out

## Specials

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February Afternoon Private Party in the Hall

## The Methodist Church Global Relationships Team

### Radiate webinar

Do you have an interest in global relationships and global mission? Join for us for a time of storytelling where we will hear from Mission Partners and about the most recent work of the World Mission Fund at the Radiate webinar.

**Wednesday 8th February**, 2023 at either 1-2 pm or 7-8 pm via a Zoom webinar.

Book your place now

<https://methodist-news.org.uk/BVI-86B8S-5V61QZ-51EQWD-1/c.aspx>

## DIARY for FEBRUARY/MARCH

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Stepping out with Noah</b>	p5
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b> at Grove	p11
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	<b>Cornerstone</b> at Wantage	p6
	6:30 pm	<b>Circuit Service</b> at Wallingford	p4
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p21
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Bible Study</b> at Elmbrook Care Home	p5
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Stepping out with Noah</b>	p5
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Film Club</b> at Grove	p11
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	<b>Kids @Church</b> at Wantage	p14
	10:30 am	<b>Cornerstone</b> at Grove	p6
<b>DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY CGW NEWS</b>			
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p21
	2:30 pm	<b>Childrey Church Meeting</b>	p9
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ASH WEDNESDAY		
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 pm	<b>Grove Church Council</b>	p11
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2:15 pm	<b>Grove Tuesday Fellowship</b>	p11

### MARCH

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<b>Circuit Meeting +</b> at All Saints	p4
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Circuit Meeting</b>	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Wantage with Childrey Church Council</b>	

## **SERVICES during FEBRUARY**

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary 5**

10:30 am	Wantage	Cornerstone	Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion			
10:30 am	Grove		Rev John Anderson
6:30 pm	Wallingford	Circuit Service	

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary 6 Racial Justice**

10:30 am	Wantage	Helen Carter
10:30 am	Grove	Ruth Savage
11:00 am	Childrey	Libby Bolton

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church	
10:30 am	Wantage		Liz Wood
10:30 am	Grove	Cornerstone	Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion			

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Lent 1**

10:30 am	Wantage	Belinda Kaur
10:30 am	Grove	Libby Hawkness-Smith
11:00 am	Childrey	Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		