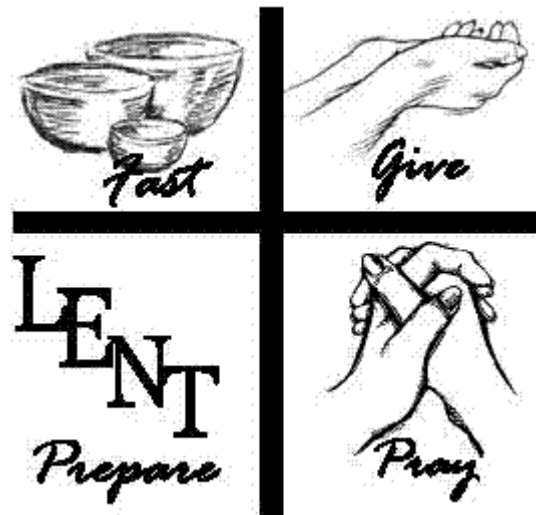


Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR



CGW NEWS



MARCH 2023

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (April) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19th March 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 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

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 – 2023

April	Sunday 19 th March
May	Sunday 16 th April
June	Sunday 21 st May
July/August	Sunday 18 th June

From the Manse.....

I so very often find inspiration and meaning in the words of authors, playwrights and poets. Recently, I have been made aware of Ayodeji Malcolm Guite an English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest, and academic.

I was struck by his Sonnet 'Ash Wednesday'. On his website (malcolmguite.wordpress.com) he explains his inspiration behind this sonnet written some 12 years ago now.

He writes; "As I set about the traditional task of burning the remnants of last Palm Sunday's palm crosses in order to make the ash which would bless and sign our repentance on Ash Wednesday, I was suddenly struck by the way both the fire and the ash were signs not only of our personal mortality and our need for repentance and renewal but also signs of the wider destruction our sinfulness inflicts upon God's world and on our fellow creatures, on the whole web of life into which God has woven us and for which He also cares."

Ash Wednesday

*Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.
The forests of the world are burning now
And you make late repentance for the loss.
But all the trees of God would clap their hands
The very stones themselves would shout and sing
If you could covenant to love these lands
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.*

*He sees the slow destruction of those trees,
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,
And still you make what purchases you please,
And still to dust and ashes you return.
But Hope could rise from ashes even now
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.*

May the poets and the artists, the dreamers and the prophets, continue to speak to us all this Lententide and may God give us ears and hearts to hear and act!

With love and God Bless

Keith

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.

World Day of Prayer. Friday 3rd March

The Service will be held at St John Vianney at 7:30 pm.

Prepared this year by the women of Taiwan, for everyone, and entitled “I have heard about your faith”, this is an opportunity to share worship as it is celebrated on that day in around 120 countries. It enables us to learn first hand of their faith experiences, to be aware of their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows and needs and to be part of a great wave of prayer. ALL are welcome. Please join us if you can.

Circuit Service at Wallingford Methodist Church

Palm Sunday 2nd April at 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome to this Circuit Service led by Rev Jocelyn Bennet as we recall Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and together mark the beginning of Holy Week

Stepping out with Noah in March

We continue to further explore and offer a contemplative, intentional, reflective way of walking with one another in which we might know and experience God together. As we walk together in the beauty of God's creation, so we see new signs of life around us, snowdrops and catkins, buds and green shoots. Although many of the paths and routes have dried out in recent weeks, please do continue to make sure you are wearing suitable footwear and clothing in case of sudden showers etc.

March sees our postponed walk to Wayland's Smithy (caused by me testing positive for Covid) as well as the repeat of one of our previous walks - Wantage to St. Mary's Childrey. *Please note that this walk starts from the car park at Wantage Methodist Church.*

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

March

Wednesday March 1st 2:00 pm Meet at the National Trust Car park at White Horse Hill where we will walk to Wayland's Smithy

Thursday March 23rd 10:00 am Meet at Wantage Methodist Church Car park to walk to St. Mary's Church, Childrey, and back.

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 joining us on 1st March and would like a lift to White Horse Hill or can offer a lift to someone else, please let me know. Parking is free for National Trust Members or £2 for 2 hours or £4 for all day.



Stepping out with Noah in April

Due to Easter, school holidays etc there will only be one SOWN this month on Thursday 13th April at 10:00 am - details t.b.c.

Love and God Bless

Keith

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

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 February we focussed on the theme of love as it was Valentine's Day the next day. Some regulars came to the session and it was good to welcome a new lady. **On Monday, 13th March we will have a Lent theme.** The group decided that they would like a session on **Monday, 10th April** (which is Easter Bank Holiday Monday) and members of the group have chosen a few favourite Easter hymns. The group would also like to have a session on **Monday, 8th May** which is also a Bank Holiday following the coronation of King Charles. 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.

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Report of December 2022 & January 2023 Activities

We patrolled eight times during December 2022 and January 2023. We patrolled on 'Black Friday', the last Friday before Christmas, which we are pleased to say passed without major incident. Unfortunately, we were unable to patrol on New Year's Eve.

Street Pastors braved some cold and icy weather in December and January and were available to respond to a couple of incidents between individuals that were turning aggressive. Often just being present helps to keep things calm and prevent escalation.

We cleared up lots of litter, including glasses that had made their way on to the streets and we swept up broken glass on several occasions. We chatted to lots of different people - one night we spent some time chatting to a lady while she waited for a lift home. Another night we helped a couple of ladies who were having some difficulty walking home and spent quite a bit of time chatting with a couple who were concerned for a family member.

Patrols in early January were fairly quiet, as we would expect, but by the end of the month things were generally busier in Wantage.

In January we appointed Sky Shoemark as an Online Networker to help us with social media. As well as improving our Facebook page, you can now follow us on Instagram and TikTok.

Quarterly News See separate publication on the web sites. Paper copies are available at the churches

Cornerstone news



Church Visits

I visited Wantage & Grove Methodist Churches in February and felt very welcomed in both. It's a good opportunity to thank the churches for their support and also raise the profile among those who are new to the area or church.

I also visited a WI, and have two more booked in, in April. If you are a member of a group who would be interested to hear about what happens at Cornerstone, I would be happy to speak to more groups.

Lent

Lent started on 22nd February but there still are a number of Lent books available at Cornerstone.

Mothering Sunday – 19th March

Come and see our range of Mothering Sunday cards along with gifts suitable for all ages.

Easter – 9th April

We have plenty of Easter cards for sale along with Easter books, including children's books, and Real Easter Eggs. With Traidcraft no longer trading, we have had some problems sourcing more fair-trade chocolate but we are hoping to have Divine Chocolate Eggs and Mini Eggs available in March.

Community Fridge

The Community Fridge runs here every Thursday from 4-5pm – come and take some surplus food to help stop food wastage. There is always surplus bread and often a selection of vegetables.

Outside catering

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

Monthly hot meal special

The hot meal this month will be served on **Wednesday 29th March** - please do book this in advance so we know how many to cater for.

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 11th March at 8:30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

FoodBank news

A note from D Townsend on behalf of the committee

Just to keep you updated on FoodBank News for 2023 so far.

FoodBank has continued to be busy - we are averaging 3 - 5 parcels a day at the moment - half term and the week before were particularly busy. We have already delivered over 150 parcels so far this year. However, as we have seen in the past even as the need increases, so do the donations! The challenge is storing it all!

If you are someone who refers to FoodBank can I remind you to make sure your clients are getting all the help they need. We work closely with the Vale Community Impact - who have access to all sorts of advice and funding. Sign-posting to them can really make a difference.

We are as ever blessed by the support from the churches, schools and local community in terms of time, money, food donations. The biggest challenge for us is logistics - getting the food out on time to the people in need. So we are looking for a larger premises - currently we run out of two sites - the Kings Centre with it's wonderful staff and a unit on Elms Farm. Really we need to be in one place and for a nominal sum - so if you know of any large-ish (very cheap) spaces with parking (and no stairs) do get in touch.

Many thanks once again for your support for FoodBank

Wantage Choral Society

will perform

Haydn Creation

on

March 25th at 7:30 pm

at

Wantage Parish Church



***Do you enjoy
taking
photographs
or
painting
and drawing?***

***Then the Pen and Camera
Club might be for you***

The Pen and Camera Club of Methodism



**Contact:
Alex Robinson
01189 874049
alex@robins.plus.com**



www.penandcamera.org.uk

Do you take photographs? Would you like to share them with other people? Have you heard about the Pen & Camera Club of Methodism?

The Pen & Camera Club began as part of the Wesley Guild in 1904, prints and slides were circulated by post, now digital images are sent by email and prints still by post. Members live from Scotland to Cornwall, and many place in-between. It is a very friendly group, my late husband was a member for 67 years and I have been one for 40. If you would like to speak to me about how it functions etc. ring 01235 765 259.

Glenys Deval

CHILDREY

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

Sunday 12th March 11:00 am led by Libby Bolton

Sunday 26th March 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

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.

LINDA JOY GEE

1931 – 2022

Linda Joy Gee was born at No 5 Chapel Way, Childrey in 1931 and lived there with her parents, Edgar and Elsie Pottinger until 1977 when she married Frederick in Childrey Methodist Chapel and moved to Rowstock.

Joy followed in her father's footsteps and became a Methodist local preacher in 1960 – a role she carried out for 60 years and it was through this that she met her beloved Frederick who, although confirmed in the Church of England, had friends at Milton Methodist Chapel. He often attended Milton to listen to the various local preachers. one of whom was Joy! The rest, as they say, is history.

Joy was always very much involved in family life. She was a key figure in the lives of her great nieces and nephew. She got involved in all family activities and even went horse riding a few times.

She worked as a librarian at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell – a very neat and tidy job which reflected her personality. Joy was also active in village life, being a member of the WI as well as several local clubs and charities.

Joy and Frederick faithfully attended Childrey Methodist Chapel until increasing frailty meant that this was no longer possible. Joy has now returned home and was buried alongside her beloved parents in St Mary's churchyard, Childrey.

Joy, thank you for your faithfulness to your family and to your calling and may you rest in peace, safe in God's eternal protection and his loving arms, and rise in his glory.

GROVE

Morning worship at Grove starts at 10:30 am.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for Freyja's Fund** on **Saturday, 4th March** from 10 am in the church. Judith and her family are our hosts. Proceeds are for Freyja's Fund, which is a fund at the J.R. Hospital set up by Freyja's family so that Clic Sargent social workers can access money quickly and easily as needed, to help children who have cancer and their families,

There will be handmade cards on sale. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Judith's cards will also be on sale after the service on Sunday morning, 5th March.

We realise that the Coffee Morning coincides with the special Circuit Meeting arranged by the Circuit Leadership team and open to all, also on 4th March, 9:30 am to 12 noon, at All Saints Methodist Church, Abingdon and several of you will be attending this meeting. But we hope that those who aren't will come along and support the Coffee Morning.

Lent Course

Carol and Ian are running a Lent course at their home. First session was on Ash Wednesday (22nd February) and it continues **each Wednesday afternoon at 2 pm**, with the final session in Holy Week. Sessions should last around 90 minutes.

They are using the material "Exploring Spiritual Practices" from the inspire network which can be found on the Methodist website here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/exploring-spiritual-practices/>

We hope it will be a lovely time of fellowship, learning and blessing. Everyone is most welcome to join us. Please contact Ian or Carol to find out more.

Film Club is on **Friday, 17th March** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "**Belfast**", a 2021 British coming-of-age drama film written and directed by Kenneth Branagh starring Catriona Balfe, Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds, Colin Morgan and newcomer Jude Hill.

The film, which Branagh described as his most "personal" follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, Northern Ireland at the beginning of The Troubles in 1969.

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

Tuesday Fellowship. Our fellowship will meet on the last Tuesday in **March**, the **28th** at 2:15 pm at 8 Vicarage Close, Grove, OX12 7NS, the home of Noreen and Peter Hemmings. The speaker will be announced in church.

We will be pleased to welcome any new members.

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 February Coffee Morning held in church.

£204.25 was raised for Wateraid. We have received a letter of thanks from WaterAid UK and we thought you might be interested to read what they have to say:

“You’ve done something amazing!

Thank you so much for choosing to fundraise for WaterAid – we’re so grateful for your generous support. Your donation today will help us to continue to transform lives around the world with water, toilets and hygiene.

The ripple of change that comes from these three basic things really is incredible. Health, Happiness, Safety. The chance of an education or a better job. It’s just the beginning of breaking the cycle of poverty, and because of gifts like yours, we’re able to make this difference a reality for even more communities.”

Saturday Coffee mornings of 2023. On the first Saturday of each month, except for May, when we hope to hold a coffee morning for Christian Aid on Saturday, 13th May. Offers of help with this would be appreciated.

If you would be willing to help or 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 free are: 3rd June and 1st July.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems. We trust that, with care, life has opened up again for you.

Food Bank

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to so generously donate to the food bank. You are really helping to make a difference to local families in need.

May God bless you.

Carol and Ian

We also have a collection box for household cleaning materials, kitchen items, toiletries and new & nearly new bedding to help homeless people being rehoused, which we pass to Cynthia Bulpitt for distribution. She also has access to transport to send limited items to the Ukraine again and is grateful for medical supplies, toiletries and candles. Any help you are able to give is much appreciated.

WANTAGE

Holy Habits (lite)

This month will see the launch of our journey through Holy Habits (lite) based on the book and material from the Methodist Minister, Rev Andrew Roberts.

Using Acts 2 as his starting point, Andrew has identified 10 of what he refers to as 'Holy Habits' as practiced by the early church and challenges us to reflect on how they are of relevance to us today.

He lists; Biblical teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of bread, Prayer, Giving, Service, Eating together, Gladness and generosity, Worship, and Making more disciples.

The first Holy Habit we will be looking at is Prayer and will run from the beginning of March to the end of May.

For prayer, and indeed for each habit, there will be a specific Sunday each month during which we will explore together in worship aspects of the theme.

5 th March	Keith Underhill
16 th April	Helen Carter
21 st May	Libby Hawkness-Smith.

Each theme will also be used by Kids@Church and the Tuesday prayer and study group.

There will be a film for us to watch together – this time it is

Bruce Almighty (Cert 12) - Thursday 20th April - to be shown in church at 7:30 pm.

There will be a book for those who like to read, followed by an opportunity to meet and discuss it in person and for people to write their thoughts, reflections on it for the newsletter, church Facebook page etc.

The book this time round is the novel, "Chasing Francis - a pilgrim's tale" by Ian Cron (ISBN 978-0-310-33669-3 published by Zondervan.)

"Pastor Chase Falson has lost his faith-and he did it right in front of the congregation of his megachurch. Now the elders want him to take some time away. Far away. Follow Chase's spiritual journey all the way to Italy as he rediscovers his faith in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi."

This book be ordered through Cornerstone at £9.99. They will give a 10% discount if a number of copies are purchased.

We will be setting up of a prayer corner, focus, prayer tree etc as part of our Holy Habits (Lite) and these will be used throughout our journey together.

We welcome the longer and warmer days as signs that Winter is leaving us, with the Spring flowers brightening up our gardens and so many aspects of God's wonderful creation bringing joy to our hearts. Within our church family, there are several people for whom Winter has brought additional health problems, and we pray for their recovery and return to better health.

Graham Godfrey has now moved from Wallingford Hospital to Bridge House Care Home in Abingdon. He is receiving physiotherapy treatment to help restore his standing and walking abilities, hoping he may progress far enough to be able to return home. **Ed and Joan Clipsham** are recovering from a fall at home, and, as always, Joan's motivation to get better comes from her longing to be able to return to Church for worship. In our previous Newsletter, we shared the good news of **Arnold Tucker's** improved health and return to Church. A few weeks later we learned that, following a fall necessitating a return to the JR a need for heart treatment was uncovered, and so he had a Pacemaker fitted. Arnold is already back worshipping with us, and we hope that Joan too will be well enough soon to join us on Sunday mornings again. **June Hartle** has asked for the following message to be included in the Newsletter: "I would like to thank the people who so kindly have conveyed their sympathies to me after losing my sister Pam. Pam was going to live with me here and changed her mind and stayed in London. She came to church with me several times and was a retired Headteacher and missed by so many people, especially me." More recently June's brother Ken has been diagnosed with cancer in his jaw, and she would value prayers for him too.

Chris Froud began worshipping with us a while ago and we welcome her warmly into our fellowship. Until now she has been unable to stay after the end of the service, but she hopes to stay for coffee in the future and we will look forward to getting to know her better. **Adrian Richens's** recovery has been amazing and we thank God for the progress he has made in recent weeks. Not only has he been able to make a phased return to work at Elmbrook Court, but it was a joy to see him back in church and worshipping with us again.

Marion Jones: we learned with sadness that Marion died suddenly and unexpectedly on 15th February, aged 85, at Framland Care Home, where she had lived for almost two years. It is a while since Marion has been well enough to worship with us, but she was well known and well loved not only within our church family, but also in the local community where she worked as an Auxiliary Nurse at Wantage Hospital. Marion was a very keen cyclist and runner, and together with her late husband, Alan, was instrumental in setting up the White Horse Harriers, and in coaching and mentoring young runners. They also completed the London Marathon several times. Two years after losing Alan, Marion completed a solo cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in his memory, replicating Alan's own ride a year before he died. We offer our sympathies and our love to Marion's daughter Ruth and her sons Cliff and Mark, and to all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren, praying that God will comfort and strengthen them at this sad time. Marion's funeral service will be on **Monday March 27th** at 1:00 pm at Wantage Methodist Church followed by a committal at Chain Hill cemetery.

Praying for each other: In March the following people on Alison Brown's Pastoral List will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study group: June and Alan Grunwald, Jane Robinson, Judith and Mike Skinner. 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, we give you thanks and praise for the beauty of your Springtime world. New birth in the spring lambing season, new growth in the spring flowers all bring new hope amidst the turmoils in your world today. We continue in our daily prayers for peace in your world. We also pray urgently for those in Turkey and Syria suffering from the aftermath of the earthquakes and the devastating loss of lives. We pray that you will open our eyes and our hearts to see the great need of the survivors of the disaster. May all throughout your world help to aid the recovery there and the peoples needs in whatever way they can. Lord, hear our urgent prayers 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, Geoff, Ken and Grace Wright, Margaret Young, Tessa and Family, Janie Cottis, Diane's daughters Julie and Claire, John, Ken Harmer. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, Our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, kids@church, Street Pastors and Cornerstone. 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 April Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 17th March** 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 the first two weeks of February we discussed the previous Sunday's sermon and this was a much appreciated opportunity to look more fully at points the preachers focussed on. On 21st February we began our Lent Study for this year which is Holy Habits: Following Jesus, a resource written by Andrew Roberts. We are all looking forward to our journey with this in helping us grow in our faith. Full details of this Lent Study were in the February Newsletter.

We meet in the Hall each Tuesday at 2 pm. 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 March we will continue our Lent Study. In Holy week on **Tuesday 4th April** at 2 pm we will again be visiting St Mary's Convent for reflection and prayer at each of the **Stations of the Cross**. If you would like to join us please let Eileen know by **Sunday 19th March** latest.

Dates for March are as follows:

7 th March	Lent Study Week 3 Jesus sharing bread.	Reading Luke 9:12-17
14 th March	Lent Study Week 4 Jesus praying.	Reading Luke 11:1-4
21 st March	Lent Study Week 5 Jesus making disciples.	Reading Luke 19:1-10
28 th March	Lent Study Week 6 Jesus generous under pressure.	Reading Luke 19:28-39

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

Thursday Lent Study

On Thursdays Alison Phillips is leading a Lent group from 10 am to approximately 11:30 am at 1 Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis, following the same Holy Habits material that the Tuesday group are using. Please let Alison know if you would like to join the Thursday morning group.

Kids@Church

Jane, Cath and Dave

We met in February in the church and thought about the verse in Luke 18:25 when Jesus said **“it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”**. David had made an archway of boxes which got smaller and smaller and the children had great fun trying to get through! In the hall the children coloured pictures of or made camels and then we shared food and drinks together.

Future dates for Kids@Church - **March 19th** (Jesus at the wedding), **April 16th** (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.

Community Café

June Grunwald

Numbers at the café vary, between 17 and 39 over the last few weeks. We have been pleased to welcome some new faces. Some volunteers from The Mix came one week with information and tips about energy saving. Details of the café have been added to a couple of “Warm Spaces” web-sites, which lists places where people can be assured of a warm welcome and a hot drink for free. www.warmspaces.org; 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 December to February we will have raised around £380 for supporting Ukrainians. The final amount will be posted in the April newsletter. Our charity for March to May will be “Wheels for the World”. This is a Christian charity which restores and distributes refurbished wheelchairs to disabled people in developing countries who can't afford them.

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.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

Many of us are busy knitting and crocheting the 500 small purple hearts requested by SUDEP Action in support of their Purple Hearts for Purple Day on 26th March. I will need to give the hearts to them by about March 15th so that they can get them ready for distribution. Please bring your hearts to the next Knit & Chat session or let me know if you need me to collect them.

Our meetings this month will be on **Monday 6th March** and **Monday 20th March** at 2 pm in the Hall. Looking forward to seeing you then with whatever project you are currently working on.

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

Firstly, many thanks for the continuing support for the food bank with gifts of food and money. The latest information is that, at the time of writing, over 150 food parcels have been delivered since the beginning of the year. That is a significant increase over recent times. (More in FoodBank news on page 8)

The need currently is especially for tinned meat, tinned fruit, coffee, hot chocolate (made with water), long life milk and fruit juices.

Annual Report

In order to prepare the Church Annual Report for distribution with the April CGW News, please could contributions be sent to wmcannualreport@gmail.com by Palm Sunday April 2nd.
The Annual Church Meeting will be on May 7th in Morning Worship.

What is happening on the premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church	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	Prayer & Study Group in the Hall	Weekly
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Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs	Weekly
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Users All in the Hall

Monday	Evening	Slimming World
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Tuesday	Morning	MIND	
	Evening	My Life, My Choice (Parlour)	2 nd Tuesday
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	(not 7 th March)

Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical
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Thursday	Midday	KAWI	3 rd Thursday
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Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	in term
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Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	1 st Saturday
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DIARY for MARCH

MARCH

Wednesday 1 st	2:00 pm	Stepping out with Noah	p5
Friday 3 rd	7:30 pm	Day of Prayer Service at St John Vianney	p4
Saturday 4 th	9:30 am	Circuit Meeting + at All Saints	p4
	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p11
Sunday 5th	10:30 am	Holy Habits at Wantage	p13
Monday 6 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
Thursday 9 th	7:30 pm	Circuit Meeting	
Monday, 13 th	2:00 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p6
Wednesday 15 th	7:30 pm	Wantage with Childrey Church Council	
Friday, 17 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove	p11
Sunday 19th	9:30 am	Kids @Church at Wantage	p16

DEADLINE FOR APRIL CGW NEWS

Monday 20 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
Thursday 23 rd	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p5
Tuesday 28 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p11

APRIL

Sunday 2 nd	Palm Sunday		
	6:30 pm	Circuit Service at Wallingford	p4
		DEADLINE for WANTAGE ANNUAL REPORT	p18
Thursday 6 th	Maundy Thursday		
	7:30 pm	Holy Communion at Wantage (shared on Zoom)	
Friday 7 th	Good Friday		
	9:00 am	Worship at Childrey	
	10:30 am	Worship at Grove	
	2:00 pm	Worship at Wantage	
Sunday 9 th	EASTER DAY		
	6:00 am	Sunrise Communion at the Millennium Stones	
	6:00 pm	Road to Emmaus Communion at Childrey	

SERVICES during MARCH

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 5th Lent 2

10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion			
10:30 am	Grove		Barbara Kershaw

Sunday 12th Lent 3

10:30 am	Wantage		Ian Sturt
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion			
11:00 am	Childrey		Libby Bolton

Sunday 19th Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church	
10:30 am	Wantage		Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Rev John Anderson

Sunday 26th Lent 5 Passion Sunday

10:30 am	Wantage		Stephen Atkinson
10:30 am	Grove		Peter Hemmings
11:00 am	Childrey		Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion			