

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS


CHRIST ^{THE} LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!

APRIL 2023

Minister : Rev Keith Underhill – Tel: 01235 763321
keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk

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

Gordon Skidmore : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Ian Sturt : 07426 772761

Please send material for the **Weekly Notices** to :

Grove Jenny Marriott : 01235 767624
Wantage Gill & Gordon Skidmore : 07710 214601
email : wntgmethoistnotices@gmail.com

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (May) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 16th April 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

May	Sunday 16 th April
June	Sunday 21 st May
July/August	Sunday 18 th June
September	Sunday 20 th August
October	Sunday 17 th September
November	Sunday 22 nd October
December/January	Sunday 19 th November

From the Manse.....

Soon, but not yet, our Lenten journey will reach its culmination and find its glorious fulfilment when together we proclaim the message of Easter.

When warmth breaks through the cold and light comes to the dark places,
CHRIST IS RISEN!

When sadness turns to joy and fear turns to rejoicing
CHRIST IS RISEN!

When we take courage and share the good news
CHRIST IS RISEN!

When the shroud is left behind and the banner of Christ is unfurled
CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christ is risen!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! Alleluia!

Our proclamation is often loud, echoing as it is said around our churches. Rightly, it is the first thing to be said on Easter morn. No Easter service should ever begin with the weekly notices!

Having mentioned Malcolm Guite the English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest, and academic last month in the context of his sonnet for Ash Wednesday, I thought it would be both apt and fitting to share his sonnet "Easter Dawn" as we contemplate the miracle that is Easter and announce to the world that Christ is alive!

Our Easter proclamation is understandably said with feeling and passion, shouted from the roof tops so that all may hear. Yet, as Guite reminds us in his sonnet it also comes in the quiet and gentle encounters.

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

However it comes, whether through the whispers of the still small voice or the cacophony of jubilant raised voices, may the truth of Easter be ours once more as we acknowledge "He is risen indeed!"

With love and God Bless

Keith

New Rector for the Ridgeway Benefice

The licensing of the new rector for the Ridgeway Benefice, **The Rev'd Ness Brunner-Ellis**, at which she will be duly instituted, inducted and installed will take place at the **Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt** on **Thursday 13th April** at 7:30pm.

News of Rev Andrew Hollins

Having started his circuit ministry in our sector 29 years ago, Andrew is now back in the Northampton District having been stationed at Stamford in Lincolnshire since August last year. After the huge circuit he had in Bedford, as the Superintendent minister, he is delighted that he has many fewer churches now, with a circuit the same size as here. He is clearly very happy to be in such a lovely town with Burghley on his doorstep too. He sends his love to all who remember him.

Special Circuit Event looking at the future

The special "Circuit Meeting +" on Saturday 4th March at All Saints Methodist Church in Abingdon was well attended and proved an interesting and stimulating morning. Rev Matt Forsyth, the District Mission Enabler was present and gave a challenging and supportive contribution.

The morning explored some aspects of the issues arising because from September 2025 at the latest, the circuit would have to face the challenge of only having two Presbyters (Ministers of the word and sacrament) rather than the three we have at present. This reflects our falling membership as a circuit and the associated limits of what we can finance, along with the limited numbers of Presbyters available for full time appointments.

Two questions were considered in nine groups of about five or six people:

How should worship be organised? Given a limited number of preachers and ministers, how do we manage to fill the pulpits of the circuit each Sunday?

What should our Presbyters be doing? What is the primary task of the Presbyter?
How do we do the things they cannot do?

The Circuit Leadership Team is preparing a document containing the outputs from the groups and individual comments/thoughts shared during the morning.

It must be emphasised that this is the beginning of a discussion that will continue for some time and that no actions are yet proposed.

Illegal Immigration Bill – Circuit Response

Keith has sent the following letter from the Circuit to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and our local MP.

As the Superintendent Minister for the Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit, I am writing to you in connection with the Government's new "Illegal Migration Bill".

At our recent Circuit Meeting (which represents the Methodist churches and people of Abingdon, Childrey, Didcot, Grove, Milton, Wallingford and Wantage) held on 9th March 2023, we were unanimous in our dismay and outrage to this Bill which seeks to detain, punish and reject thousands of people seeking safety.

Such actions are completely incompatible with our Christian conviction that all human beings are made in the image of God, and are therefore inherently worthy of treatment which honours their dignity. Instead of dignity, these plans will foster discrimination and distrust, and cause immeasurable harm to people already made vulnerable by conflict and persecution. If ever there was a contemporary example of ignoring our neighbour and walking by on the other side, this is it.

When two in three people who cross the channel to seek sanctuary in the UK are granted asylum following rigorous checks, it seems unthinkable to reject them before they have even had a chance to have their claim for asylum heard.

Many people fleeing war and persecution in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Eritrea and Sudan have been left with no safe and accessible routes to claim asylum in the UK, forcing people to make difficult and dangerous decisions.

The UK falls far behind our global neighbours in welcoming people seeking sanctuary into our communities, and yet these plans essentially put a ban on claiming asylum and reject the UK's responsibility to play our part in responding to global inequalities and conflict.

We all agree that we cannot continue to see thousands of people risk their lives to reach safety in the UK, but the solution cannot be deterrence and punishment. As Christians, we believe that we should be amongst the first to welcome the stranger with open arms.

In addition we are appalled by the language and rhetoric that is being used by the UK Government (both in print and during personal interviews) when speaking of this issue.

We would remind you that words are important and that they have consequences.

Great care should be taken to ensure that the language used does not add to the toxicity that already exists around the issue of migration, nor fan the flames of hatred and division.

We urge the government to withdraw this legislation, to honour our moral and international obligations and to behave with compassion and fairness by establishing safe and accessible routes to enable the UK to play its part in welcoming people in need of safety.

Stepping out with Noah in April (Edition 7)

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, even as we celebrate the miracle of Easter.



Please do continue to make sure you are wearing suitable footwear and clothing for our walks, keeping one eye on the weather!

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

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

This will be a circular walk starting at Wantage Methodist Church and taking us out and around East Challow before heading back - this will be approx. 4.5 miles

Meet in the Church Car park.

Exit car park towards Church Street

L on Church Street

where Church Street turns **L** to become Priory Road, **cross over** and down the slope (Betjeman Lane) towards the brook crossing the footbridge

L onto footpath

At junction with Ham Road carefully cross over into Nalderton

Keep going (pass Framland on your **RHS**) slight turn **L** into Grosvenor Terrace

L join footpath on A417

bear **L** onto Letcombe Hill and carefully cross over road and up the steps into Childrey way

At junction of Childrey way and Windmill Place cross over Pass St. Nicholas CofE School on **RHS**

R down footpath Cornhill Lane

At bottom **R** along river

Carefully cross over A417 onto Canal Farm Lane opposite

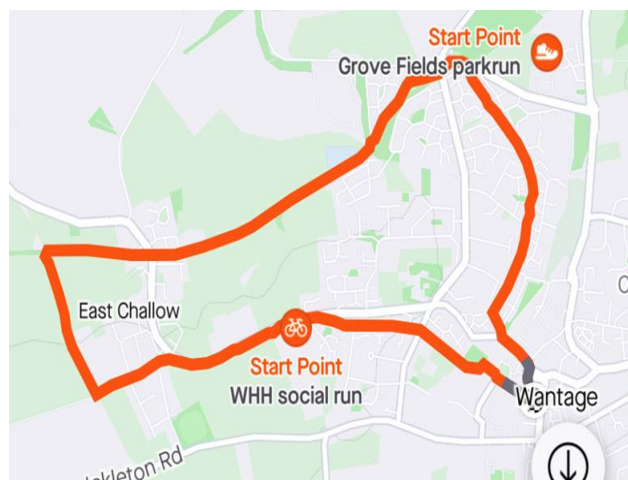
Bear **R** along footpath

At footpath T junction, turn **L** then immediately **R**

Cross over Denchworth Road and walk along Mably Way.

Take 2nd Footpath on **R** just by the reverse of large road sign.

Cross over The Wharf onto Mill Street and return to Wantage Methodist Church.



Stepping out with Noah in May will see us stepping out on

Thursday 11th May at 10:00 am - route t.b.c.

Sunday 21st May at 3:00 pm - route t.b.c. - a walk for those who working or otherwise are not free mid week.

For any further information or queries, please do get in touch.

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 and 45 minutes. In March we focussed on the theme of Jesus being tempted in the desert as it was during Lent. Unfortunately there was some confusion over the time of the session so there were fewer participants. The group have 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. At the time of writing, I am awaiting confirmation from the care home, to ensure that this is OK. Anyone is welcome to attend and those at Elmbrook enjoy having a chat after the bible study.

Cornerstone news – April 2023

Easter

We still have a good range of Easter cards as well as books for all ages but now only a very limited number of Divine and Real Easter Eggs – unfortunately we are unable to get further stock.



Free breakfasts

We will be offering free breakfasts during the Easter holidays for those families whose children receive free school meals. If you are able to help towards this project any donation would be gratefully received.

Community Fridge

The Community Fridge runs here every Thursday from 4 to 5 pm – everyone is welcome to come and take some surplus food to help stop food wastage.

Monthly hot meal special

The hot meal this month will be served on **Wednesday 26th April** and will be fish - please do book this in advance so we know how many to cater for.

Outside catering

A reminder that we are able to supply outside catering for your events – please contact us for more information.

Bookshop

The latest **Take Note** promotion has now finished but there will be a new one later in April – watch out for further information. In the meantime we have a **Bible sale** – many styles of NIV and many devotional bibles in all translations now **half price**. If you buy bibles or books for a school or Sunday school, now would be a good time to start looking and ordering. There are lots of new exciting books and bibles out there. We would love to show you our stock and are happy to order large quantities, a discount of at least 10% is normally available.

Environmental Health Inspection

We have just had our annual inspection and I'm delighted to say that we have retained our 5 stars. The inspector was very pleased with the cleanliness of our kitchen and had to go to some lengths to find anything that needed attention!

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

Easter closing

We shall be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday but open as normal on **Saturday 8th April**.

CHILDREY

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

In April

Friday 7th April Good Friday 9:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 9th April Easter Day

10:00 am at St Mary's

6:00 pm Emmaus Sector Service led by Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 23rd April 11:00 am led by Peter Hemmings

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.

GROVE

Come and celebrate Easter with us.

A list of all the services is given elsewhere in this newsletter, but special mention of **Good Friday**, (7th April): Open Air Worship at the top of Vale Avenue, opposite our church, at 11 am to be followed by hot cross buns and tea/coffee in our church.

Easter Sunday, 10.30am, Morning Worship with Holy Communion will be led by Rev Keith Underhill. *Please bring a few flowers to help decorate the cross.*

We are celebrating our **Church Anniversary** on **Sunday, 30th April** at 10:30 am. Morning worship will be led by Andrew Lockley. We are looking forward to Andrew and Su being with us and hope you can join us too.

The service will be followed by a Church Lunch. Details of this will be in the notices nearer the time.

“Pray for Revival” – An ecumenical prayer meeting led by Ian and Carol on the **last Sunday of each month** at 6:30 pm to 8 pm in our church. All very welcome. This month it will be on **Sunday, 30th April**.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning for Emmaus** on **Saturday, 1st April** from 10:00 am in the church. Linda and Mark Jones are our hosts. Proceeds are for Emmaus, a charity which provides not just a bed for the night for the homeless, but a home for as long as someone needs it. They also offer work for 40 hours a week, or as many hours as they are able to, in the charity’s social enterprise. We hope you can join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Lent Course

Carol and Ian have been running a Lent course at their home. The first session was on Ash Wednesday (22nd February). It has continued each Wednesday afternoon. The final session is in Holy Week on **Wednesday, 5th April** at 2 pm. You are most welcome to join us even if you have not been to any of the previous sessions. We will be pleased to see you.

Film Club is on **Friday, 21st April** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing **“The Lost King”**. This is a 2022 British comedy-drama film directed by Stephen Frears and written by Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope.

It is a fictionalisation of the story of Philippa Langley, the woman who initiated the search to find King Richard III’s remains under a car park in Leicester.

Starring Sally Hawkins, Steve Coogan, and Harry Lloyd.

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

Tuesday Fellowship. We will be meeting on **Tuesday, 25th April** at 2:15 pm, venue to be decided. We look forward to welcoming Keith to talk to us. All welcome.

Craft Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 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 March Coffee Morning held in church. Donations raised £82.50 for Freyja's Fund and additional money was also raised through the sale of handmade cards. Freyja's family very much appreciate your continuing support.

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

Saturday 3rd June is still free. If anyone is willing to arrange a coffee morning in June for a charity of their choice please contact Jenny Marriott (01235 767624).

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. Food Bank are also in need of carrier bags, which can be put in the food box. Thank you. 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 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

Easter Sunday Church Breakfast

Carolyn (764310), June (760488)

Come and join us for breakfast on Easter morning. We will be open from 9 am for fellowship and food. We shall be serving toast with marmalade or jam and also simple pastries such as pain au chocolat. There will be fruit juice, coffee and tea. There is no set charge just a basket for donations to cover the cost with any surplus going to church funds.

If possible, please sign up on the list on the notice board in the corridor or let June or Carolyn know. It would be good to have some idea of numbers so that we can get the right amount of supplies but if you make a last minute decision on the day please come. It is such a lovely morning to be together.

Baptism

We look forward to the baptism of Kayson Karl Jake Merchant on **Sunday 23rd April**. We hold him, his parents Kelly and Karl and his older sister Gracie May in our prayers as they prepare for this special occasion.

Holy Habits (lite)

We have started our journey through Holy Habits (lite) based on the book and material from the Methodist Minister, Rev Andrew Roberts.

The **first Holy Habit** we are looking at is **Prayer** and we started at the beginning of March and will run 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.

16th April **Helen Carter**

21st May **Libby Hawkness-Smith.**

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

A reminder that we will be watching the film

Bruce Almighty (Cert 12) - at 7:30 pm, **Thursday 20th April** in the chapel.

A number of people have or are reading **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 can be bought at Cornerstone who have a few copies left in stock.

Watch this space for opportunities to discuss this book and what you thought about it.

Kids@Church

Jane, Cath and Dave

In March we enjoyed listening to Keith telling the story, through the eyes of a cat, of Jesus at the wedding and listening to his mum's request and miraculously turning the water into wine. We thought about the people who care for us and made cards to show our appreciation. We didn't turn water into wine (although Keith made a very realistic attempt in church!) but milk into milkshakes! Thanks to Liz for the delicious muffins!

Next month we will meet on **Sunday 16th April** to explore the Easter story.

K@C is an informal, monthly gathering for primary school aged children and their families. New people always welcome!

For more information contact Keith, our minister, on 01235 763321.

Pastoral

Ann Barber

A short time after this Newsletter is published, our clocks will go forward, and we will be in the second half of our journey through Lent. When Easter Day arrives and we can celebrate the most special festival in our Christian year, hopefully, we will also be able to welcome warmer weather, in which to enjoy everything about the season of Spring which gladdens our hearts and often helps us to feel better too. For some members of our church family, this remains a difficult time because of health concerns for themselves or loved ones. **Graham Godfrey** remains in Bridge House Care Home in Abingdon, with a diminishing expectation of an imminent return home. His daughter, Anne, says that contact with his church family is becoming ever more important to him. Graham's Carer, Tracey, is no longer with him, so afternoon visits would be particularly welcomed by Graham.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Jane Robinson**, for whom the last few weeks have brought immense sadness, as well as serious concerns about her own health. At the end of February, the death occurred of Jane's lifelong, close friend Mary, who died peacefully in her sleep in her Care Home in Devon. Mary often worshipped with us when she stayed with Jane, for whom this is a deep loss. A week later Jane was taken to the JR for urgent heart surgery. She is recovering well from the first operation, and will have a second one after Easter. We assure her of our thoughts and hopes for much improved health, and that she will feel upheld by the strength and comfort of God, as well as the prayers and love of all of us.

It is good to see **Margaret Wilson**, who is now living at home again, worshipping with us in Church. We thank God for her greatly improved health, and hope that the cataract operations for which she is waiting, will further improve not only her vision, but her confidence in being out and about too.

Praying for each other: In April the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study group. On **Helen Carter's Pastoral List:** Jo & Simon Aldworth, Valerie & John Broadbent, Diana Gawlas, Trevor & Sheila Johnson, Adrian Richens, and Jane & Harry Rudd, and on **Faith Culshaw's List:** June Hartle, Jane Kent, Iain Kent and Rita Lawrence. 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 praise you and give you our thanks for the many opportunities for growth in our faith that Lent has presented us with. With gladness and rejoicing we now look forward to Easter and the wonderful message revealed to us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we, with the guidance, power and strength of your Holy Spirit, be prepared to spread that wonderful good news with all we meet in our daily lives. We offer this prayer with hope, joy and love in our hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, 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, Adrian, Diane, Geoff, Ken and Grace Wright, Diane's daughters Julie and Claire, John, Ken Harmer, Emily, Meriel, Heather, Jane Robinson. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, Our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, Community Chaplains, 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 May Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 14th April** 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 March we continued our Lent Study, Holy Habits: Following Jesus. This study has been greatly enjoyed by the group who are now looking forward to studying the Holy Habit, Prayer, in line with the Church focus on the Holy Habit of Prayer for the 3 months March to May.

From Tuesday 11th April we will be **meeting in the Parlour** 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 April we will be visiting **St Mary's Convent** on **4th April** for prayer and reflection at the Stations of the Cross and on **11th April** we will commence the Holy Habit Study on Prayer.

Dates for April are as follows:

4th April Visit St Mary's Chapel at the Convent for Prayer and Reflection at the Stations of the Cross

- 11th April Holy Habits, Prayer, Week 1: An emotional outpouring.
Reading: 1 Samuel 1:10-17
- 18th April Holy Habits, Prayer, Week 2: The Solomon process.
Reading: 1 Kings 3:10-15
- 25th April Holy Habits, Prayer, Week 3: Raw and raging prayer.
Reading: Job 30:20-23, 26-27

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 group during Lent 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.

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 as well as our usual regulars.

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 raised £439.36 for supporting Ukrainians. 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 café is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. Our thanks to all the volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place to come to and who provide such delicious cakes. If you would like to learn more about the café please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

Well done and thanks to everyone who helped to knit and crochet the little purple hearts for SUDEP Action. We managed to supply them with just over 700 hearts. If you go to their website you can see the photo of us at Knit & Chat sitting round a table covered with hearts. There is also an article to read about our work.

My Lent Knit-along scarf is making good progress. Each week a new panel is added connected to the Bible readings and reflections. So far there is a dove, prison bars, diamonds and sea and stars. I will put a photo of it on our Facebook page next month. Please let June G know if you wish to join the Facebook group.

This month Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 3rd April** and **Monday 17th April** at 2 pm in the Hall. Come and share in an afternoon of companionship, chat and knitting – or whatever other craft you are currently doing.

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

Protocol for the start of worship

Gill Skidmore

At the March Church Council it was mentioned that some people in the congregation were puzzled and mildly disconcerted to see that the preacher and steward were ready to start worship, only to find that the pianist was carrying on playing, appearing to be unaware!

I was asked to publish an explanation, so here you are Firstly, the service will never start before 10:30, in fairness to all attending either in person or on Zoom. Secondly, because the service is going out on Zoom, Gordon tries to ensure that everyone online has been let in before worship commences, so he operates a bit like a broadcasting studio, i.e. the pianist has to wait until the red light at the back of church has gone out before (s)he stops playing and worship can begin. Unfortunately some people have a tendency to arrive a minute or two after 10:30, so the pianist has to improvise a little!

I hope this makes people worry less if the steward appears to be in suspended animation!

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 Wantage premises at present?

Sunday 9:30 am Kids@Church 3rd 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 1st/3rd 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) 2nd Tuesday
 Evening Wantage Camera Club

Wednesday Evening Wantage Stage Musical

Thursday Midday KAWI 3rd Thursday

Friday Morning Mothers & Toddlers In term

Saturday Morning Dads Out 1st Saturday

DIARY for APRIL

APRIL

Saturday 1 st	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p10
		For Holy Week & Easter events see over.	pp19/20
Sunday 2 nd		Palm Sunday	
	6:30 pm	Circuit Service at Wallingford	p19
		DEADLINE for WANTAGE ANNUAL REPORT	p16
Monday 3 rd	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p15
Monday, 10 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p7
Thursday 13 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p6
Sunday 16th	9:30 am	Kids @Church at Wantage	p13
	10:30 am	Holy Habits at Wantage	p12
		DEADLINE FOR MAY CGW NEWS	
Monday 17 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p15
Thursday 20 th	7:30 pm	Holy Habits Film at Wantage “Bruce Almighty”	p12
Friday, 21 st	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove	p10
Sunday 23rd	10:30 am	Wantage – Baptism of Kayson Karl Jake Merchant	
Tuesday 25 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p10
Sunday 30th April		GROVE CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY	
	6:30 pm	“Pray for Revival” at Grove	p10

MAY

Sunday 6th	10:30 am	Wantage Annual Church Meeting Part of morning Worship	p16
Thursday 11 th	10:00 am	Stepping out with Noah	p7
Sunday 21st	3:00pm	Stepping out with Noah	p7

Holy Week and Easter events

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Palm Sunday 2nd April

10:00 am Wantage - Market Place : ecumenical service to mark Palm Sunday

10:30 am Wantage Methodist Church : service led by Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove Methodist Church : service led by Daphne Savage

6:30 pm Circuit Service at Wallingford Methodist Church

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

Monday 3rd April 7:30 pm Wantage Methodist Church
A time of reflection : Jesus' prayerful anger

Tuesday 4th April 7:30 pm Wantage Methodist Church
A time of reflection : Jesus' money and tax

Wednesday 5th April 7:30 pm Wantage Methodist Church
A time of reflection : Jesus the humble servant

Thursday 6th April 7:30 pm Wantage Methodist Church
A Tenebrae service for Maundy Thursday to include Holy Communion

Good Friday 7th April

9:00 am Childrey Methodist Church - led by Rev Keith Underhill

11:00 am Open Air service at Grove - led by Rev Keith Underhill
Refreshments and Hot Cross buns afterwards

Seven Last Words: Journeying With Jesus On The Cross

A walking 'pilgrimage' through our local community as we reflect on Jesus' final hours

11.15 Kingsgrove

11.45 Holy Trinity

12.15 St John Vianney

12.45 Market Square

2:00 pm Wantage Methodist Church
Reflective service led by Rev Keith Underhill

Easter Day 9th April

6:00 am Sunrise Service at the Millennium Stones, Ardington
to include Holy Communion

9:00 am Wantage Methodist Church - Easter Church Breakfast

10:30 am Wantage Methodist Church
Easter Morning service led by Carol Sturt

10:30 am Grove Methodist Church
Easter morning service with Holy Communion
led by Rev Keith Underhill

6:00 pm Childrey Methodist Church
“Road to Emmaus” service led by Rev Keith Underhill.
This is a bring and share tea followed by informal communion.

All those wishing **to walk to Childrey**, please note that we will be **leaving the car park at Wantage Methodist Church at 4:30 pm.**

SERVICES during the rest of APRIL

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 16th Easter 2 Local Preachers

9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church	
10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Helen Carter
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 23rd Easter 3 Vocations Sunday

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

Sunday 30th Easter 4

10:30 am	Wantage		Local Arrangements
10:30 am	Grove	Chapel Anniversary	Andrew Lockley