

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The **Methodist** Church

CGW NEWS



MAY 2023

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (June) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 21st May 2023**
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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

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.....

There is a great deal going on this month. For along with the usual two Bank Holiday Mondays that take place each May, we have an additional celebratory one on Monday 8th to mark the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey two days earlier.

Of course, May is a significant month for us Methodists. For we recall how at around 8:45 pm on the evening of May 24th 1738 during a church meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, John Wesley felt his heart “strangely warmed”. At that moment in time and space, God became real to him.

Each year the closest Sunday to May 24th, is observed as Aldersgate Sunday in the life of the Methodist Church. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on that pivotal moment in the life of John Wesley and its relevance to us today.

That feeling of a warmed heart is of course not exclusive to those of faith.

Over the years, countless people who do not attend church and have no allegiance to any particular religion have shared with me those profound moments and intense experiences when they have been stopped in their tracks and for a while, been aware of that which is beyond what can be seen, known or explained.

Those breathtaking moments of awe, wonder, beauty, magnificence and splendour that transcend the ordinary and the everyday, that help us to reach out beyond the limits of who we are to something far greater.

Whatever we find ourselves doing this May, however we will be spending our Bank Holiday Mondays, may be aware of those moments of wonder that break into our lives and in doing so warm our hearts and make the world a better place.

With love and God Bless

Keith

Thank you

On behalf of Liz, me and all the family, I'd like to say a very big thank you for the love, prayers, care and support we have been shown following the peaceful death of my mum last month. Thank you for the cards, flowers, texts and emails that we have received. To know and feel that you have been upholding us at this time has meant a great deal.

With much love,

Keith

Stepping out with Noah in April (Edition 8)

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

Tuesday 9th May at 2:00 pm - 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.



Please note that there is a change of date this month from those given in the April edition.

Further details about these walks will be available soon and will be available via the weekly notices, direct emails and on the church/Circuit websites.

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. The group decided they would like to meet on Easter Bank Holiday Monday when we looked at the bible reading of Mary Magdalene discovering the empty tomb. The group enjoyed singing some well know Easter hymns. We also used Easter eggs during our prayer time. The group **WILL NOT** be meeting on Monday, 8th May (which is also a Bank Holiday) as the care home are holding events for the coronation of King Charles. Our next Bible Study should be on Monday, 12th June at 2.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend and those at Elmbrook enjoy having a chat after the bible study.

PRAYER for REVIVAL

“A big thank you to all who came to the first PRAYER FOR REVIVAL meeting. It was a great time of worship, fellowship and prayer for the area. It moved most of us a little outside our comfort zones and I think we were blessed through it.

The next meeting is April 30th and the May meeting will be on 21st. Both at 6:30 pm at Grove Methodist church.

Cornerstone news – May 2023



We will have a busy start to May as we are catering for the Coronation Tea party at Old Mill Hall on Saturday 6th May. For that reason we will be closed on that day along with the other 3 Monday bank Holidays in May – 1st, 8th & 29th.



Outside catering

If you are interested in us catering for your event, we are happy to talk about what we can do. Our quiches are very popular. We are now booking for July & August, so do plan in advance.

Free breakfasts

During the Easter holidays we offered free breakfasts for those families whose children receive free school meals. A total of 84 were served – many thanks to those who donated towards the cost of this, the money received has just covered it, but we will need more donations towards the next holiday which will be the Half Term at the end of May.

Community Fridge

The Community Fridge runs here every Thursday from 4 - 5 pm – 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 24th May** – this is a week earlier than usual. We have not made a decision yet on the dish but in the last three months we have served Slow Cooked Lamb, Beef Casserole and Battered fish. It is often very popular, so do ask us nearer the time and book this in advance so you don't miss out.

Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers, particularly on Saturdays. If you are able to give a couple of hours either on a regular basis or just occasionally, or would like to know more of what is involved, please do get in touch.

Father's Day – 18th June

Looking ahead we have a selection of cards and gift items to celebrate Father's Day, do come in and browse. You could also bring your Dad in and treat him to one of our very popular breakfasts.

AGM – Save the date

Our AGM will be held on **Monday 19th June** at 7:30 pm, it would be great to see our supporters there as we share the challenges of this financial year and look ahead to future challenges – please make a note of the date.

Prayer breakfast

Don't forget our monthly prayer breakfast where we can meet together to pray for Cornerstone. The next one will be on **Saturday 13th May** at 8: 30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.



**SHEENAGH
DERNIE**
DIRECTOR



**GILL
SKIDMORE**
ACCOMPANIST

Tickets from
Madhatter's

SINGING FOR



Adults: £10
Children £5

www.caritas-choir.co.uk

' CARITAS' is a Wantage based choir set up by Sheenagh Dernie in 2016 to raise money for Christian Aid, so it is no accident that our Spring concert is taking place in Christian Aid Week in Wantage Methodist Church.

We currently have 25 children aged between 7 and 18 years, whose reputation for high standards of performance has continued to grow over the years, leading to some exciting opportunities. In 2022 we were invited to perform at the Arvo Pärt Festival organised by Music@Oxford, where we sang in Estonian to the Estonian Ambassador and featured on Estonian television! Most recently we performed in the Parish Church with the South Wales Male Voice Choir (Côr Meibion de Cymru), whose website reads "We were delighted to welcome 'CARITAS', a children's choir who captivated the audience with the freshness and beauty of their sound."

In our concert on 20th May the children will have opportunities to display their diverse musical talents as well as singing with the choir. We look forward to welcoming you to the concert and to raising lots of money for Christian Aid.

Action for Hope: New implementation officer to help the Church reach net zero

Dr Hamish Leese rejoins the Connexional Team as the new Action for Hope Implementation Officer. His job is to help the Methodist Church of Britain reduce its carbon emissions, aiming for net zero by 2030. This role was made possible by funding from The Benefact Trust.



Hamish was previously part of the Connexional team working in research before coming back in January 2023. In his own words, “it’s wonderful to be back working in the Methodist Church, and in such an important area as creation care.

The climate emergency is one of the most pressing concerns in the world today, but it is not merely a secular one. As Christians and Methodists we are called to care for God’s Creation and challenge injustice, so climate concerns are inherently missional and part of our discipleship.

Net zero by 2030 is a challenging target and it will take all of us to achieve it.” Hamish’s recruitment is a milestone in the net zero carbon emissions journey started by the Methodist Church.

Reducing carbon emissions has been a long-term desire of the Methodist Church, referenced in the 2011 report *Hope in God’s Future* and regularly raised by children and young people at 3Generate. Caring for creation is a core part of a Methodist Way of Life; we want all of God’s created Kingdom not just to survive, but to flourish.

Closing our ears to the voices of those most vulnerable to climate change would be nothing less than giving up our claim to be disciples of Christ. Acting with renewed urgency, the 2019 Conference acknowledged the climate emergency and created an aim for net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Methodist Church has already started: its investment policies were changed; the new Methodist Church House in London at Tavistock Place is currently under refurbishment and will abide by the net zero emission aim; the Methodist Church is also creating resources to support churches starting their journey into becoming carbon neutral. As of September 2022, no less than 643 Methodist churches had registered for EcoChurch (England and Wales).

After creating a connexional action plan, Hamish will help Methodist districts develop their own action plans and support churches in their path to net zero emissions. The Methodist Church is hoping to have 50% of its churches to have registered with EcoChurch or EcoCongregation (Scotland), and 50% of these churches to have achieved a Bronze award by 2026.

Amongst Hamish’s other responsibilities are ensuring that the new Methodist Church House in London is as good for the environment as can be and that travel, gas and electricity funded by the Methodist Church are also net zero emissions by 2030.

The Methodist Council, March 2023, Leamington Spa

The Methodist Council met at Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa between the 25th and 27th March 2023 to discuss matters relating to the life of the Church including the Walking with Micah project, the Anglican / Methodist Covenant and the composition of the Methodist Conference.

President and Vice-President Reflections

In his reflection to the Methodist Council, the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Graham Thompson, considered the work of the Church to support those impacted by the cost of living crisis and the need to focus our work to ensure we do what we can in an exemplary way. The Vice-President, Anthony Boateng, reflected on the need to ensure that we are a church working towards revival, while acknowledging the challenges of decline in membership and church buildings.

Anglican/Methodist Covenant

Meetings between the President and Vice-President of the Conference and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, as well as senior staff of both churches, have resulted in a mutual commitment to moving forward with the Covenant relationship.

The Council directed the Faith and Order Committee to explore with the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England the most suitable next steps in considering *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* and to work with that Commission to draft such liturgical, legislative and other texts as may be needed.

Composition of the Conference

The Council agreed to recommend the distribution of the 225 seats which will make up the full voting membership of the Conference. The Conference had previously decided that Synod-elected members should be no less than 70% of the overall body.

The report recommends that the category of Conference-elected be abolished and replaced by members of the Connexional Council. The Connexional Council will be represented by seven of its members plus its Chair. The remaining non-District categories will represent those groups within the life of the Church.

While the aim is for the overall number of voting members to reduce to 225 at the 2024 Conference, there will need to be some transitional arrangements before the Connexional Council is established and other changes can come into effect.

Review of Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

The Council received a report on the rationalisation of the length of the Church's safeguarding documentation. The review followed consultation with key stakeholders and has reduced the document by almost one third in length. Responses indicate that practitioners welcomed the concise version of the policy with intricate procedural details moved to the appendices.

Positive Working Together

The Council recommends that the Conference adopts a 5-year programme, in partnership with Place for Hope, to offer the integrated approach in support of Positive Working Together and extending the Reconciliation and Mediation Team to become a Connexion-wide programme.

Revising the Methodist Worship Book

The Council received a report from the Faith and Order Committee, including the suggestion that there should be consultation in order to develop proposals for a fundamental revision of the Methodist Worship Book. The Council engaged in conversation about the current use of the Methodist Worship Book and what future resources and formats might be desirable. The Council agreed that a consultation process should be initiated by the Faith and Order Committee.

Report of the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee commended the Walking with Micah project report for presentation at the 2023 Conference. The Committee felt the report was powerful, exciting and challenging, and was particularly pleased with the level of participation and collaboration.

The Council also agreed to place a resolution before the 2023 Conference that “The Conference supports the call for a fourth UN Special Session on Disarmament at a future UN General Assembly.”

Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

The Council agreed the addition of Worship Leaders to the list of those roles who need to undertake mandatory EDI training. It was also directed that, as far as possible, and with consideration of personal preference, gendered titles which disclose the marital status of a woman should be avoided in all connexional meetings and correspondence.



Illegal Migration Bill - JPIT at Downing Street!



As the Illegal Migration Bill continues to pass through the UK parliament, over 1500 church leaders have stepped up and spoken out against the hostile and cruel approach the UK government is taking towards people seeking asylum in the UK. On Tuesday 4th April, representatives from our denominations as well as CTE and CTBI headed to Downing Street to share the joint statement with the Prime Minister.

CHILDREY

Childrey is open for Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month.

In May:

Sunday 14th 11:00 am led by Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 28th 11:00 am led by Tabitha Griffiths **Pentecost**

The Chapel would like to thank all those who attended and helped out at the Good Friday and Emmaus services, a fuller report will appear in a future CGW News.

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

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 having Andrew and Su with us and hope you can join us too.

A church lunch will follow morning worship. Numbers for the lunch are needed by **23rd April** at the latest please. Contact Lynda Culley (07759 085336) or Linda Jones (01235 767748) for full details.

“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 are very welcome. In April it will be on **Sunday, 30th April** and then for May on **Sunday, 21st May**.

Church Council meets on **Thursday, 11th May at 7:30 pm**. All interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and be part of this meeting.

Coffee Morning for Christian Aid on **Saturday, 13th May** from 10 am till 12 noon, at the start of Christian Aid Week – 14th - 20th May.

This year Christian Aid is concentrating on raising money to help farmers in drought stricken African countries to buy pigeon peas seed which will grow into a hardy, drought-resistant crop. Pigeon peas are a food that can be farmed in the harshest conditions. In a land stricken by merciless droughts, they are a ray of hope. We hope you can join us at the church for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Film Club is on **Friday, 19th May** at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing **“The Duke”**. This is a 2021 British comedy-drama film directed by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman, dealing with the 1961 theft of the Portrait of the Duke of Wellington. The film stars Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Anna Maxwell Martin and Matthew Goode.

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

Tuesday Fellowship is on **Tuesday 30th May** at 2:15 pm at 4 Mayfield Avenue, Grove. **Libby Hawkness Smith** will be our speaker and we are very much looking forward to her visit.

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 April Coffee Morning for Emmaus held in church. Donations + tax rebate raised £171.96. Thank you.

Saturday Coffee mornings

Saturday 3rd June is still free. If anyone would like 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

Carol and Ian

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 is also in need of carrier bags, which can be put in the food box. Thank you. May God bless you.

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.



Don't Lose Your Right To Vote

By the elections on 4 May, you will need **photo ID** to vote in local elections in England and UK General elections.



Deadline approaching to apply for Voter Authority Certification

Did you know that all voters will need photo ID in order to vote at the upcoming local elections? If you don't have valid photo ID, you'll need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by 25th April. You can find a list of valid ID types and details of how to apply for ID on our website.

WANTAGE

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** which we started at the beginning of March and will follow until the end of May.

There is a specific Sunday each month during which we will **explore together in worship** aspects of the theme. On **21st May, Libby Hawkness-Smith** will lead us. The theme is also used by Kids@Church and the Tuesday prayer and study group.

The **book** for this habit 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.”

Have you read or are you planning to read this? If so, would you like to come along for coffee, cake and a discussion about the book?

If you have answered yes to the above questions I hope you can come along to the **Down to Earth cafe, Stirling Close Wantage** for **about 10 am on Saturday 20th May**. It would be great to see you!

If you would like to join us and would appreciate help with transport please give me a ring on 01235 765421. *Jane Kent*

Holy Habits (lite) Theme ii

The second of our Holy habits that we will be exploring is “**Gladness and Generosity**” and this will take place between **June** and **August**.

We will be following the same format as before, with one service per month focussing on this particular habit as well as a book to read (and discuss) and a film to watch for those who are interested.

More details soon – so please, watch out for further information.

Kids@Church

Jane, Cath and Dave

In April we met and talked about the Easter story focussing on the disciples’ encounter with the risen Jesus in Emmaus. The children acted out the story in the church and then we played a number of party games in the hall before we enjoyed breakfast together - breaking bread and sharing it with each other. Our future Kids@Church dates are **21st May, 18th June** and **16th July**. We meet at 9.30 am at church, apart from in July, when we hope to be at the park. Children and their families really welcome!

Kids@Church is an informal, monthly gathering for primary school aged children and their families. New people always welcome! For more information contact Keith.

Just a few weeks ago, we shared in the celebration of Easter on the most special day in our Christian calendar. At our Sunrise Service at 6 am, at the Millennium Stones in Ardington, which we approached in darkness, it was extremely cold. When daylight came, mist surrounded us and the sun couldn't shine through it while we were there. Nevertheless, nothing could suppress the joy we felt in being able to celebrate Christ's resurrection and all that it means to us. As we hold on to God's promise of new life through Jesus, we give thanks for the healing of several members of our church family who have been unwell and unable to worship with us. Following the injury to her leg in February, Joan Clipsham longed for her wounds to heal enough to walk again, and to be able to return to worshipping in church. As we see Joan, and others whose health problems have temporarily kept them from church, sitting in our congregation once more, we are so thankful for God's healing mercies, and reassured of his care for each one of us.

It is good to know that Jane Robinson is making progress as she recovers from her first heart operation and awaits a second one in the near future. Returning to church is one of Jane's objectives too, and we pray that she will continue to improve in health, and will be worshipping in church again before too long.

A further piece of good news is shared with us on learning that Christopher and Becca Wells have become parents for the second time. Their daughter, Susanna was born on 31st March in Ulster hospital. We remember Christopher growing up in our church along with his brother Laurence. We offer our congratulations to Chris and Becca, and acknowledge the joy this has brought to Chris's Mum, Heather, and his Dad, Graham, as grandparents. May God bless the whole family at this happy time.

It is a sad time for Keith and his family. Keith's mother died on 15th April in the Care Home in Nottingham where she had lived for the last few years. As recently as Mothering Sunday four weeks ago, Keith spoke about his Mum during our morning Service, sharing with us a beautiful letter she had written to her parents as an evacuee during the Second World War. Just as we were moved by that special memory we heard then, so we now hold Keith, Liz, Amy and Becca and all of the family in our thoughts, praying that God's love will bring them comfort and strength in their sadness.

Thirteen years ago, Sharon arrived in Wantage and immediately came to our church, bringing her joyful and animated style of worship which we soon came to associate with her and other Ghanaian friends who later joined us too. We have missed Sharon since she returned to Ghana at the end of 2021. A few weeks ago, her son, Prince, arrived in the UK, with the same objective which brought Sharon here in 2010. Like her, Prince is working as a Carer. He is with *Family Support Care*, a company in Swindon where some of his friends and relatives from Accra already work. He hopes to be able to send home some of his salary to help his family to cope financially. Sharon tells us that in Ghana inflation is unbelievably high, and constantly rising, while corruption prevents well-qualified young people from getting work. Prince has two degrees and a visa identifying him as 'highly skilled', but had

no job. We pray for him as he settles into a new life many miles from home, but with the same enthusiasm, dedication and faith that were Sharon's hallmarks.

Praying for each other: In May the people listed below will be included in the Tuesday Bible Study Group's prayer time. On **Sue Haithwaite's list:** Celia Roser, Gloria Smith, Ken Smith, Frances De'ath, Joan Kidd, and Margaret Watts and on **Julie Horton's list:** Liz Underhill, Ann Barber and Pete Barber

In addition to the names listed above, those in our church family, who through frailty or ill health can no longer worship with us on Sundays, will also be prayed for by name at the Tuesday Group.

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us everywhere in every day and every night. We know in our hearts we can never be separated from you no matter how distant we may feel you are at times. You are the font of all wisdom and knowledge and know our needs before we ask. Grant us then the inward peace of happiness and the serenity that comes from living close to you. You created all things so may we always be aware of our responsibility of caring for each other and for all creatures and living things. We are reminded that Solomon in all his glory could not compare with the beauty of the flowers of the field. We offer our prayer 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, Meriel, Heather, Jane Robinson, Emily, Trudy. 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 June Newsletter, please let me know **by Friday 19th May** 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 April we visited St Mary's Convent in Holy Week for Prayer and Reflection at the Stations of the Cross in St Mary's Chapel. We then began our new study Holy Habit, Prayer. This is in line with the Church focus on the Holy Habit of Prayer for the 3 months March to May.

We now meet 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. 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 May we will continue our study on Holy Habit Prayer.

Dates for May are as follows:

2 nd May	Holy Habits, Prayer,	Week 4	Praying when we get it wrong. Reading: Jonah 2:2 and 5-7
9 th May	Holy Habits, Prayer,	Week 5	Houses of Prayer. Reading: Mark 11:15-18
16 th May	Holy Habits, Prayer,	Week 6	Change the world. Reading: Luke 1:46-55
23 rd May	Holy Habits, Prayer,	Week 7	Focus on God. Reading: Philippians 4:4-9
30 th May	Holy Habits, Prayer,	Week 8	Shining testimony. Reading: Colossians 4:2-6

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

Community Café

June Grunwald

Numbers at the café continue to 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. Keith, our Minister, gave us a couple of 1930s newspapers which the group enjoyed looking at. The papers will be given to Elmbrook care home so they will get a second lease of life. It was lovely to see Morgan helping out at the café in the school holidays. We were open on Easter Bank Holiday Monday when 33 people came to the café. We will also be open on the May Bank Holiday Mondays. Some of us will be wearing red, white and blue on Monday, 8th May if you would like to join us on the Coronation weekend Bank Holiday.

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. 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

This month Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 1st May** and **Monday 15th May** 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.

Wantage Methodist Church Annual Report

The Annual Report is distributed with the printed edition of CGW News this month. It is also available on the Wantage Methodist Church web site in the Newsletter tab.

Food bank

Helen Carter

Thank you to all who have contributed with donations of goods and money. There is a need for everything just now except pasta and baked beans. As of last week 326 parcels have been distributed already this year, so the need continues to increase.

There is a need for volunteers. The pressing need is for someone to make up and deliver parcels on alternate Thursdays. The training would be done by working alongside an experienced volunteer. There is also a need for stand-in volunteers to cover holidays and illness. Please talk to Helen Carter if you can help. Thank you.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Kids@Church Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	3 rd Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Hall	Weekly 1 st /3 rd 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 Evening Evening	MIND My Life, My Choice (Parlour) Wantage Camera Club		2 nd Tuesday
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical		
Thursday	Midday	KAWI		3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers		In term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out		1 st Saturday

In May / June / July

May 4 th	All Day	Local Election – Hall Building	(06:00 to 23:00)	No access to the Hall building all day as it is a Polling station.
May 13 th	Morning	Abingdon Community Church	– OpenGate Training	
May 20 th	Evening	Christian Aid Concert	– Caritas	
June 1 st	Evening	Wantage & Grove Campaign Group	AGM (Chapel)	
June 30 th	Evening	Crown Singers	Concert	
July 8 th	Afternoon	Kennet Opera	Concert	

DIARY for MAY

APRIL

Sunday 30th **GROVE CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY**
6:30 pm **“Pray for Revival”** at Grove pp4/11

MAY

Monday 1st 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p17

Sunday 7th 10:30 am **Wantage Annual Church Meeting**
Part of morning Worship p17

Tuesday 9th 2:00 pm **Stepping out with Noah** p4

Thursday 11th 7:30 pm **Grove Church Council** p11

Saturday 13th 10:00 am **Coffee Morning** for Christian Aid at Grove p11

Christian Aid Week 14-20th May

Monday 15th 2:00 pm **Knit & Chat** at Wantage p17

Friday, 19th 7:30 pm **Film Club** at Grove “The Duke” p11

Saturday 20th 6:00 pm **Caritas Concert for Christian Aid** **p6**

Sunday 21st 9:30 am **Kids@Church** at Wantage p13

10:30 am **Holy Habits** at Wantage p13

3:00pm **Stepping out with Noah** p4

DEADLINE FOR JUNE CGW NEWS

Tuesday 30th 2:15 pm **Grove Tuesday Fellowship** p11

JUNE

Monday, 12th 2:30 pm **Bible Study** at **Elmbrook Care Home** p4

SERVICES during MAY

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 7th

Easter 5

10:30 am	Wantage	Annual Church Meeting	Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Stephen Atkinson

Sunday 14th

Easter 6

Aldersgate Sunday

Christian Aid

10:30 am	Wantage		Libby Bolton
10:30 am	Grove		Tabitha Griffiths
11:00 am	Childrey		Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 21st

Sunday after Ascension Day

9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church	
10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Libby Hawkness-Smith
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 28th

Pentecost

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