

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR



# CGW NEWS



JUNE 2023

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (Summer) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
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Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601  
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

## **Sunday Services and Church Activities**

**Wantage Morning Worship is shared each week on Zoom at 10:30**  
(for access to this please contact Gordon Skidmore)  
**Texts for Services at home for each Sunday are posted on the websites.**

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

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

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

**Circuit YouTube channel**

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

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

July/August	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June
September	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August
October	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September
November	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
December/January	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November

## From the Manse.....

A few weeks ago, Liz and I along with some friends went to the Abba Arena in Stratford, East London situated within the Olympic Park. Here we experienced the Abba Voyage “a concert like no other” as the publicity proudly boasts.

*“Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid have created the kind of concert they always wanted, performing for their fans at their very best: as digital versions of themselves backed by today’s finest musicians. Blurring the lines between the physical and digital, see the magic of ABBA brought to life using the latest in motion capture technology. It’s the greatest ABBA performance the world has never seen. Until now.”*

Alongside real, live musicians, holograms and digital wizardry brought Abba to life in a mind boggling, sensory experience. It was a great show and we really enjoyed it. Along with the music, we marvelled at what modern technology is now able to do, and wondered what the next decade might bring.

As incredible as the digital projections were, if you looked really carefully they still lacked that final touch of humanity, of being truly human that cannot so easily be digitally quantified or copied..... but they weren’t far off at all!

As the digital, virtual world impinges more and more on our lives and concerns continue to be raised about the impact of AI there will no doubt be much discussion around the issues of ethics and questions about reality. The concert raised all sorts of questions for me as to what it means to be human as well as what it means to be made in the image of God.

As we made our way home, with songs such as “Waterloo” and “Dancing Queen” going round in my head, I was also conscious of some well known and loved words from Psalm 139;

*“For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.”*

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

There is a **Circuit Service** at Milton on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 4.30 pm to celebrate Marlene Chalkley and Barbara Kershaw's 60 years of service as Local Preachers. It will be preceded by a **bring and share tea** at 3 pm. You are invited to join us. If coming for tea, please can you bring a contribution towards it.

### **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 mins. The bible study group did not meet in May as the care home were holding events to celebrate the Coronation. Our next Bible Study will be on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June** at 2.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend and those at Elmbrook enjoy having a chat after the bible study.

### **Three Pressed Men Wallingford Methodist Church Saturday June 10th, at 7.30 pm.**

The fine tradition of English folk music will be brought to Wallingford in June by the Three Pressed Men.

The acclaimed veteran performers excel in 'a cappella' songs but also play a variety of instruments. They are known for their large collection of concertinas.

The Oxfordshire trio of Ian Wheeler, from Cholsey, Mark Fry and Dick Wolff will include a selection of sensitive ballads, lively dance music and rousing choruses when they appear at Wallingford Methodist Church on Saturday June 10th, at 7.30 pm.

The singers, who have English folk music at the heart of their repertoire, embrace many moods and styles when they perform at folk clubs and festivals. They were highly entertaining when they performed previously at Wallingford.

Tickets cost £10 and include an interval drink and nibbles.

To reserve tickets please email [wmleadership@outlook.com](mailto:wmleadership@outlook.com), or leave a message on 07818 660861.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the maintenance of Wallingford Methodist Church.



## Stepping out with Noah.

Our walks this month are as below. As always, everyone very welcome



### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00 am

Wantage to All Saints Lockinge & back via Best Mate (approx 4.5 miles)

Start (and end) outside Manse,

14 Haywards Close Wantage OX12 7AT

**R** onto Garston lane : **L** onto Charlton Road

**R** onto Larkhill (by Lord Nelson pub)

**L** by allotments - *keep going*

*Keep going straight as road joins from left*

**L** where road bends to right

**R** towards East Lockinge

**L** just past Barton House

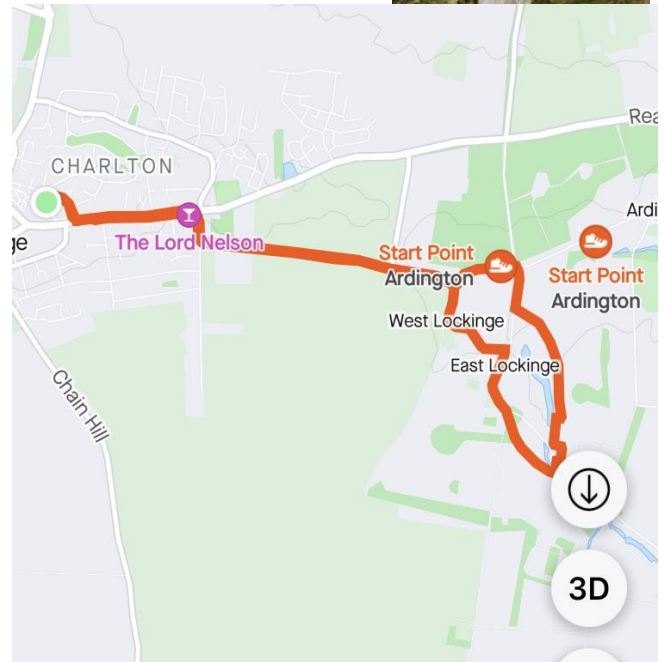
**R** by Lockinge Brook keep going

**R** down steps and **L** towards All Saints

*Time of reflection in and around All Saints Church - back up to road*

**R** towards statue of Best Mate : Down hill

and then : **L** *keep going past Stables and return to Manse via way came.*



Parking at Christopher's Wood Car Park would shorten the walk

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00am** - route still be worked on!

**Pimm's and Cake** - a sectional fundraiser for **Cornerstone** at the Manse on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 3 – 5 pm.**

In order to help us with catering and numbers, anyone who wishes to come along will need to have purchased a ticket in advance. These will be available in June via the church stewards or from Keith and Liz direct.

Tickets are £10 and will include a large glass of Pimm's or for those who'd prefer, a non-alcoholic Orange and Lemonade plus a piece of cake. All monies raised will go to help support the work of Cornerstone.



Wantage and Grove  
Church Partnership

# **Joint Service and AGM 2023**

**Followed by refreshments**

**4pm Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

**St John's Church  
Main Street, Grove  
OX12 7LQ**

A time to celebrate and give thanks for everything that God is doing in Wantage, Grove and the surrounding area as local churches work together. And catch up with people you haven't seen for a while over tea and cake!

Contact John Steventon for more details:  
email: [jsteventon@aol.com](mailto:jsteventon@aol.com) mobile:07919032203



Jesus loves the Church - He will not allow His Church to die. And yet there are so many problems in this world ... 360 million Christians worldwide are persecuted or discriminated against (statistics from Open Doors) ... our Churches are struggling to survive, with dwindling congregations ... millions have little or no faith ... what is to be done?

Well, we have started a new prayer group, Pray for Revival, and we meet at Grove Methodist Church on the last Sunday of each month at 6.30 pm. As we enjoy a time of fellowship, we worship, pray, share and reflect, with the focus on asking God to revive His Church and move it forward.

Please feel free to come along and join us - everyone is welcome. And if you are unable to join us in person, please do add your prayers to ours, wherever you are.

Hoping to see you soon. God bless.



**JUNE 25**

"... if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

**PRAYER FOR REVIVAL**  
Grove Methodist Church

**Sunday June 25th**  
**6:30 to 8pm**

You are Invited to pray together with us for Revival

We would love to welcome you to join with us to:

- Pray for God to move powerfully in our local community and
- Seek God's purposes for Grove and the surrounding area.

Meeting at Grove Methodist church, Main St. Grove OX12 7JY.  
Tea and coffee will be served. Parking available in Millbrook square.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**  
[isturt56@gmail.com](mailto:isturt56@gmail.com)

## Wantage In Harmony

On **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**, Wantage in Harmony will be joining with two other Gospel Choirs, Didcot Community Gospel Choir and Blewsing, to give two concerts at The Beacon. The title of the concert is, "One Love," and together we form a joint choir of over 100 voices.

The first concert is at 3 pm and the second at 7 pm. Tickets are £10 each (£8 for concessions) and they are available from [wantageinharmony@gmail.com](mailto:wantageinharmony@gmail.com), or on the door.

Do come along, and enjoy something a little bit different!!

## Cornerstone news – June 2023



**Cornerstone Christian Centre AGM** will be held on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments will be served from 7.15 pm ready for a 7.30 pm start. We will be reporting on the past year and looking forward to what we hope to achieve in the future. Come and meet our board of Trustees and find out more about the running of Cornerstone. We would appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you there.

**Father's Day – 18<sup>th</sup> June** : We have a selection of cards and gift items such as socks, mugs, etc. suitable as gifts for Fathers.

**Take Note** : We have a new Take Note promotion – leaflets detailing the books and CDs available can be found in various churches as well as in Cornerstone and we have copies of all the items on promotion on the shelves.

**Free breakfasts** : During the summer holiday we will be offering free breakfasts for those families whose children receive free school meals. If you are able to donate towards the cost of this do please ask at the till or contact me.

**St John's Church Fete – 24<sup>th</sup> June – 2-4 pm** : We will be having a stall at St John's Fete – if you are able to help with this at all please let me know.

**Teacher's Gifts** : We have a selection of cards and gifts suitable to give teachers as a thank you at the end of term.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> June** - please do book this in advance so we know how many to cater for.

**Food Bank and Clothes Bank** : A reminder we are a drop-off point for the Wantage and Grove food bank and the children's clothes bank.

**Volunteers** : We are looking to cover the till on a Wednesday afternoon 2-4 pm. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more, do get in touch.

We are also keen to assemble a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday team. It's a great way to serve in the community and get to know Christians in other churches as you work together – life long friendships have been forged in our Utility area over washing up, believe it or not! Do get in touch if you are interested – there will be a few shifts between now and December and the team will start once every 5 weeks properly from next January.

**Donations** : As you are aware we do rely on donations as well as shop income to help towards our costs. We are very grateful to all those who donate on a regular basis – if this is a way you are able to help us please contact me or pick up a donations leaflet from the till.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> June** at 8.30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.



As I write this it is just a few days since our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. This is a time when we particularly pray about and meditate on the immeasurably costly sacrifice of our Lord on the first Good Friday and God's immense power shown on the first Easter Sunday through the Resurrection. These events demonstrate the depth of God's love for us. They show how God pours out His goodness on anyone who would receive it even though we do not deserve it – what we call grace.

Grace features prominently in the story of Jonah. Perhaps the best-known part of the story is where Jonah is swallowed by a great sea creature so God can save him from drowning. Jonah prays from inside the sea creature, remembering that as his life was ebbing away, he received grace that was undeserved. He then proclaims:

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs,

But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you” (Jonah 2: 8-9 – NIV)

Worthless idols are all around us in the world. Only God can know how much grace is forfeit in a world that clings to them. As Street Pastors patrol, we pray that we show love and bring grace to those we meet bringing caring, listening and helping to anyone in need. And as we sacrifice our free time and sleep to patrol, we do so with a song of thanksgiving to the Lord we serve.

### **How we helped on the streets**

One of our night-time venues in Wantage was evacuated to allow emergency services to attend to a lady who had had a medical emergency. Street Pastors chatted to those who had been evacuated, gave out lots of lollies and bottles of water and generally helped to keep everyone calm while they waited to be let back in and continue with their evening. Street Pastors met a young lady who had had too much to drink and so we gently suggested it would be good to make her way home and we offered to go some of the way with her. We also helped a young man who tripped and fell, dropping his bag and wallet as he made his way home at the end of the night. We picked up his things, gave him some water and a lolly and checked that he was ok to go the rest of the way on his own. We met a man who seemed a bit wobbly and asked if he was ok. He said that he had lost his keys but that he didn't need any help and that he was going to lie on a bench for a while. We gave him a bottle of water and a space blanket to help keep him warm and checked in on him later in the evening. One night we spent some time with a young woman who explained how she was sleeping on a friend's sofa having escaped an abusive relationship. We listened to her and signposted her to an organisation that may be able to help her further.

Our **2023 AGM** will be held on: **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**, 7.30 pm at Lower St John's Room St John's Parish Church, Grove. Please put the date in your diary and note that this is a **change from previously advertised date** of 3<sup>th</sup> July. With 138 members, we need a quorum of 14 people. More information coming soon!

## Committee Goals 2023/34

Each year our Management Committee sets goals to help focus our efforts and to ensure that we continue to serve our community well. We centre our goals around the key areas of delivering patrols and online presence, finances and relationships. Here is a summary of our 2023/24 Committee Goals:

### ► Delivering Patrols and Online Presence:

- ✧ Increase numbers of volunteers, Street Pastors & Prayer Support Volunteers
- ✧ Online Networker to continue to grow our social media presence including Street Pastor messages and Bible verses
- ✧ Pursue Daytime Patrols
- ✧ Hold at least one fundraiser and one awareness event

### ► Finance:

- ✧ Secure funding to cover our costs

### ► Relationships:

- ✧ Complete the transition of WGSP into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- ✧ Recruit two new Trustees
- ✧ Work with statutory and third sector agencies to help people in the night time economy

For more information about our goals, please do talk to a Trustee or send us an email.

# Clothes Swap

Why shop when you can swap?



## Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July

### at Wantage Baptist Church

6 Mill Street, Wantage, OX12 9AQ

**Drop off your items 9-10am**

**Select new items 10.30-11.30am**

Refreshments available

Bring clothes, shoes and accessories you no longer wear and swap them for something you'll love! (No underwear, swimwear, nightwear or earrings please.) To take part bring at least 1 clean and presentable item to swap. You can take away as many items as you bring in, extras can be bought for £1 an item. Items left over will be donated or recycled.

Any questions? Contact **Jane: 01235 765421** or **Daniela: 01235-767396**



With thanks for support from:



## Representing the Methodist Church at the Coronation

*Rev Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference*

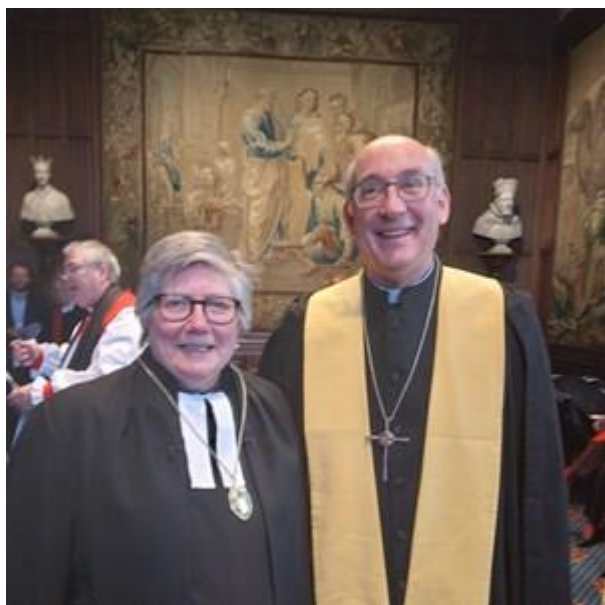
It was an amazing privilege to represent the Methodist Church at the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. The arrangements for the day were kept from public attention for as long as possible.

My invitation came about three weeks beforehand and the requirement to attend a full dress rehearsal about a week later. All of which meant that plans had to be changed and I am grateful to those (especially the Methodist Diaconal Order) who accommodated these.

The Faith Leaders who were invited to attend the Coronation were led into the Abbey just after 10 am and seated in the North Transept behind the pulpit. We couldn't see all that was happening but had the benefit of television screens that we could watch but we could hear everything. The music was incredible; chest pounding and moving.

The overall message - I have come not to be served but to serve - was clearly enunciated from the beginning of the service and reinforced throughout, including a reference by Prince William in his speech at the Coronation Concert the next day.

The call to service; to live for the benefit of others, is a call that we should all recognise. After all, we are disciples of the Servant King and discover how much we can receive as we give ourselves to meet the needs of others.



Hugely significant were the number of departures from the Coronation of seventy years ago. On Saturday, ecumenical partners took part (including Helen Cameron as Moderator of the Free Churches Group) as they invoked a corporate blessing on the king.

Leaders of other faith groups also took part as they brought some of the symbols to the throne. And, right at the end of the service, they met the newly crowned king at the door of the Abbey and declared, "Your Majesty, as neighbours in faith, we acknowledge the value of public service. We unite with people of all faiths and beliefs in thanksgiving, and in

service with you for the common good."

We are all called by God to serve and to do so in partnership with others. This clear message ran through the whole occasion, whilst also assuring everyone who would listen that God's leading and a positive response to God's call is all that we need so that might know life in all its fullness.

## **Response to the Government's White Paper on Gambling**

**The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church provide the following response to the publication on 27<sup>th</sup> April of the UK Government's Gambling White Paper.**

*Rev Fiona E Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church*  
*Rev Karen Hendry, Convener pro tem, Faith Impact Forum, Church of Scotland*  
*Rev Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, The Methodist Church in Britain*  
*Rev Hayley Young, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

The Government's White Paper, High Stakes: Gambling Reform for the Digital Age, is a combination of welcome changes, disappointing delay in some important areas, and missed opportunities.

The Government has indicated that it will consult on the introduction of a number of measures that Churches have been calling for, which we believe are needed to prevent the harm caused by gambling.

Gambling costs in physical and mental health, relationships, jobs, families and has an impact on wider communities, and tragically, in extreme cases, it can lead to suicide. Churches have long supported a statutory levy on gambling companies to contribute towards treatment and the prevention of harm. The industry's voluntary financial contribution has been inadequate so we welcome the Government's decision to introduce a statutory levy.

In our submission to the Government's consultation on the White Paper we highlighted evidence that young people aged 18-24 routinely have the highest rates of problem gambling. We are therefore encouraged to see that the Government will be consulting on additional protections for younger adults through some enhanced checks and limits on online stakes. The Churches have for several decades campaigned in support of the principle that gambling is an adult activity, and so we welcome the plans at long last to legislate to ban children from Category D cash slot machines.

Recently a number of gambling companies have been fined for failing to carry out checks and allowing people to gamble and lose enormous amounts of money. Many more will have simply lost more than they can afford, leading to cycles of debt, addiction and gambling harm. The Government's decision to consult on the introduction of financial risk checks to address binge gambling is welcome.

At the moment there are no statutory limits on stakes for online gambling. Given the amount that people can lose online in a short space of time, the consultation on introducing a limit on stakes is welcome. However, this has to go hand in hand with other ways of making online gambling safer by design, looking at features such as the speed and volatility of play and the illusion of player control.

This white paper has sadly missed an opportunity to significantly strengthen controls on advertising. Advertising is a powerful tool for normalizing gambling, particularly around sport. Many young people who have a susceptibility to gambling say that advertising has affected their decisions to gamble. By only offering limited consultation on marketing and voluntary codes, the Government is missing an



opportunity to do much more to minimise the harm that gambling is causing particularly to young adults but also to those whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

The direction of travel within the White Paper is largely encouraging and responds to various concerns that Churches have raised over many years. However, after waiting three years for this White Paper, it is frustrating to see how many of the changes will now be going out again to consultation, risking further delay and dilution. We cannot afford further delay, and encourage the Government to ensure that gambling is indeed a public health priority.



# Shakespeare in Jazz

Choral and  
jazz settings of  
Shakespeare

An evening of music from the  
Crown Singers and Adam's Apple  
including music from George  
Shearing and Bob Chilcott

**Friday 30th June**

**7:30 PM**

**Wantage Methodist  
Church, OX12 8DA**

**Tickets available on the door**  
**Refreshments included**

**Adults £10    Concessions £8    Children £1**



## **CHILDREY**

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

In June:

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**      11:00 am   led by Tabitha Griffiths

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**      11:00 am   led by Rev Alan Grist

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

On the morning of Good Friday a reflective service was held at the Chapel, conducted by Keith. Attendees came from Childrey, Grove and Wantage Methodists and also our friends from St Mary's Childrey.

On Easter Sunday evening an Emmaus service was held at Childrey with Grove and Wantage Methodists again attending. It was also nice to see the Legg family from Calne at the service. A Chapel tea was also partaken of. The Legg family were stalwarts of Childrey chapel for many, many years.

### **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**

**Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June**, from 10 am till noon in the church. Peter and Noreen Hemmings are our hosts and proceeds from the morning will be donated to Alzheimer's Research UK. We hope you can join us in the church for tea/coffee, cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

**Film Club** is on **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "Argo". Argo is a 2012 American historical drama thriller film. Set in 1979 and based on real events, this film is about the rescue of six American civilians who escaped during a takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Iran. The film is suspenseful, funny and emotional and includes a star-studded cast. Ben Affleck both stars and directs the film and he does a great job, although he isn't pushed too hard as far as the acting goes. It's not that action packed, it's more about the suspense and politics although it does have a small amount of action along with a dash of humour. All are welcome. Admission is free; a small donation helps to cover the cost of licences and DVDs. Masks are optional.

**Tuesday Fellowship** : The next meeting of the Grove Tuesday Fellowship will be held on **Tuesday , 27<sup>th</sup> June** at 2.15 pm. Our speaker will be Mrs Daphne Savage, one of our Local Preachers. It will be held at Lesley Hummerston's house, 29 St. Johns Road, Grove, OX12NP.

**"Prayer for Revival"** – An ecumenical prayer meeting led by Ian and Carol on the last Sunday of each month at 6.30 pm till 8 pm in our church. All are invited to come and pray with us. The next meeting is on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June** at 6.30 pm.

**Summer "Spring Clean"** - a message from Peter Preston to us all.

We are holding our Annual "Spring Clean" of our lovely chapel on **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July** starting at 9.30 am. I have divided our chapel into 5 parts and each section will be looked after by a leader, but help is needed from as many people as possible if we are to complete our clean.

These are the five sections and names of the leaders taking charge:

Entrance Hall and Meeting Room	Margaret and Roger Bett
Kitchen:	Kirsty Bailey
Church Hall and Sanctuary:	Nicky Frost and Kit Rabson
Vestry and Storeroom:	Carol and Ian Sturt
Outside Areas:	Peter Preston

If you are able to help on 15<sup>th</sup> July please speak to the leader where you wish to clean. Thank you for helping.

**\*\*Please put the date in your diary and help if you are able to.\*\***

**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 Christian Aid Coffee Morning held in church on 13<sup>th</sup> May at the start of Christian Aid week. Donations raised £215.90. Thank you.

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.

Thank you to everyone for your continued and generous support for the Wantage & Grove Food Bank. Your donations of food do help make a difference to local families in need. Food Bank is also always in need of carrier bags if you have any spare ones. Thank you.

Donations for the homeless being rehoused (household cleaning materials, kitchen items, toiletries and new & nearly new bedding) are always welcome. Any donations put in the Ukraine box are passed to Cynthia and Martin Bulpitt who make up parcels for people being rehoused. They also continue to send limited items to the Ukraine and are grateful for medical supplies (paracetamol especially), toiletries and candles. Thank you for any help you can give.

**Cornerstone A.G.M. Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30 pm. They would appreciate your support to share the challenges of this financial year and look ahead to future challenges. All welcome.

## **WANTAGE**

### **Holy Habits (lite) 2**

June to August sees us exploring our second Holy habit, “**Gladness and Generosity**”. We will be following the same pattern as we did with our first Holy habit, which was prayer. Each month there will be one Holy Habit service as well as a novel to read and a film to watch for those who’d like to.

The **Holy Habit services** will be

**4<sup>th</sup> June** – Keith                      **9<sup>th</sup> July** - Helen Carter

**13<sup>th</sup> August** - Local Arrangement lead by June Grunwald.

The **novel** for this Holy Habit is **Humboldt’s Gift - by Saul Bellow**.

This is published by Penguin and is one of their modern classics. ISBN [0-670-38655-3](#)

“For many years, the great poet Von Humboldt Fleisher and Charlie Citrine, a young man inflamed with a love for literature, were the best of friends. At the time of his death, however, Humboldt is a failure, and Charlie's life has reached a low point: his career is at a standstill, and he's enmeshed in an acrimonious divorce, infatuated with a highly unsuitable young woman and involved with a neurotic mafioso. And then Humboldt acts from beyond the grave, bestowing upon Charlie an unexpected legacy that may just help him turn his life around.”

It was great to gather in ‘Down to Earth’ cafe on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May to have a coffee and cake while discussing the book ‘Chasing Francis’ and issues arising from the book.

We will be meeting once again in the ‘Down to Earth’ cafe from 10 am on **Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is extremely welcome (even if you haven’t completed the book by then)! If you would like a lift to the cafe I would be more than happy to pick you up - just give me a call or catch me at church – (Jane Kent, 07443 420205).

The **film** this time is “**Elf**” - which is, as those who know it will recognise, a Christmas film. Watching a film out of season, as it were, is often a good way to see things which we may otherwise miss. It is planned that this will be shown in Church on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July** at 7:30 pm.

### **Holy Habit of Prayer**

*Helen Carter*

One definition of 'habit' is "a settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up". The three month focus on the Holy Habit of Prayer is now at an end, but continuing to form that habit is really important, I believe. With that thought in mind, I would love to hear from those who would like to meet up so we can encourage each other in our prayer life. I am interested to know what others would like - the where, when, why and how. Please do contact me if you would like to think about how we continue to develop the prayer life of the church and also within our own lives. Thank you. ([helen45carter@gmail.com](mailto:helen45carter@gmail.com), 01235 764810 or 07881 504623)

It has felt like a long Winter, and the warmer weather and lengthening days, heralding the arrival of Springtime, seem to have taken longer in coming this year. So, how heart lifting it is now to enjoy the signs of summer appearing all around us. More importantly, what reassurance we feel through God's continuing care and love for us all throughout every season of the year. The delicacy and glorious colours of the blossom in our gardens, parks and countryside; the new foliage and magnificence of the trees, and the birdsong from dawn until late evening all combine in displaying God's wonderful creation in all its richness and beauty. We are also filled with thankfulness for the recovery from injury and illness, and the improved health of several of our church family members.

As well as his restored mobility and physical wellbeing, **Adrian Richens** has recently celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. We give thanks for the healing, which has enabled him to return to part-time work at Elmbrook Court, and look forward to Adrian's realisation of his aim to worship with us again on Sunday mornings.

Efforts to re-establish a flower rota have made good progress so far in 2023, and the sign up chart for June to December is now in place in the Link corridor. Thank you to everyone who has enhanced our worship space by providing flowers during the first half of the year. Hopefully, we will be able to continue this trend. Cut flowers, especially any from our own gardens, and pot plants are all acceptable and appreciated. Please also let me know if there is anyone to whom you would like the flowers to be given after the service as a token of prayers and love from our church family.

**Praying for each other.** In June the people listed below will be included in the prayer time when all of the members of Tuesday Prayer & Study Group, 'meet' to pray in their individual homes. On **June Grunwald's List:** Nicky Atkinson, Stella Belcher, Graham Godfrey, Agripinia Kilpatrick, Eileen Rennie, Jim Hughes, Sonia Wilkie and on **Rita Lawrence's List:** Pam and John Leake, Carole and Keith Robbins, Helen and John Carter and Meriel Robson

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

## Prayer list

*Eileen Rennie*

Loving God, we praise you and thank you for the beauty of the world you have created for us to live in and enjoy each day. May we be faithful in caring and protecting your world for future generations to enjoy as we have. We pray that you will help us to bring you our thanks and praise more and more each day even when life is tough and we fear for the future. We know you are a faithful God and you will never leave us. Help us to follow in your path and trust you in all things no matter what the circumstances. Accept our prayer for all those in trouble, for all countries living with conflict, for all who feel lonely and forgotten and for all those who feel unloved. Help each one of us to own and share your love and grace more openly and with conviction. We offer our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.



Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright and family, Caroline, John Morton, Anne and Doug Hatto, 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, Maggie. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, Our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, Community Chaplains, [kids@church](mailto: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 July/August Newsletter, please let me know **by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline.

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

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

*Eileen Rennie*

In May we continued our study of Holy Habits, Prayer and are enriched by the various aspects of prayer that we touched on.

We 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 June we will be studying Revelation which is the book of the Bible chosen by the Methodist Church for this year's Bible Month. Following this we will be having our usual Annual Day for Quiet Reflection at St Mary's Convent on **4<sup>th</sup> July** where we will further reflect on Revelation and hopefully clarify any questions we still have. Libby Bolton will be leading the day for us. If you are interested in joining us for this day please let me, Eileen Rennie, know **by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June** latest and I will be pleased to give you further details. My contact details are below.

Bible Month Revelation    Dates for June are as follows:

- |                       |  |                                    |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> June  | Wk 1: The Church then and now.                         | Reading: Revelation Chapters 1-3   |
|                       | This meeting also includes the Monthly Prayer Meeting. |                                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June | Wk 2: The triumph of the lamb.                         | Reading: Revelation Chapters 4-5   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June | Wk 3: Witness, worship & waiting.                      | Reading: Revelation Chapters 10-13 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June | Wk 4: Heading Home.                                    | Reading: Revelation Chapters 17-22 |

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

## Kids@Church

*Jane, Cath and Dave*

In May we explored the theme of prayer in the church then with a craft activity and breakfast in the hall. I will never look at a teaspoon in quite the same way again! The abbreviation tsp can help us to pray reminding us of saying thanks, sorry and please! We shared together in a signed version of the Lord's Prayer before individually thinking about what we wanted to say thank you and please to God for. In **June** we will be meeting on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9.30 am, exploring the theme of generosity.

Kids@Church is an informal, monthly gathering aimed at children in primary school and their families. New families always welcome!

## Community Café

*June Grunwald*

Numbers at the café continue to vary. In May the café was open on the three Bank Holiday Mondays. On the Coronation Bank Holiday Monday we had 44 visitors. The hall was decorated in red, white and blue, we had themed cakes and some of our volunteers and regulars came dressed to suit the occasion too. Our thanks to Morgan for arranging some quizzes which we all enjoyed.

We have also re-introduced toast with jam or marmalade, which is proving popular. As part of our link with The Mix in Wantage we are sometimes able to source bread from their Community Fridge, which offers surplus food to the local community and sometimes have large quantities of bread.

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 was "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. At the time of writing we will have raised approx £130. From June to August we will be raising money for Wantage Methodist Church, who provide a home for the café.

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*

We enjoyed our two meetings in May, especially as we now have a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. It is always good to look at the different things we are making or the variety of angel designs. Each member seems to have their own signature angel style. This month Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** and **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June** at 2 pm in the Hall. Come and join us for a time of companionship, chat and knitting.

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

## **Wantage Methodist Church - Looking to the future**

its challenges and all its opportunities.

Following on from the conversation that Keith began at the General Church Meeting, we will be holding an **open meeting** at Church on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July** from 9:30-12 noon to help us think about the future, its challenges, our priorities and our responses.

It would be really good to hear and share the hopes and dreams as well as the concerns of as many people as possible.

This meeting will be interactive and have plenty of time and space for discussion and feedback.

### **Food bank**

*Helen Carter*

Thank you to all who are contributing goods and money to the food bank. The requests for parcels is at an all time high. Hence all donations are very welcome, but please no pasta or baked beans! (They seem to be the 'go to' donations in the supermarkets and the food bank store is overflowing with those two items!!) Things that are often in short supply tend to be long life milk and fruit juice. If you want to know more about the food bank and what is needed then please talk to Helen Carter. Thank you.

### **Recycling at The Mix**

The items that can be taken to the Mix are as listed on the lid of the box in the chapel vestibule. Thank you to all those who are putting items into that box. It is great that so much is now going to be recycled and not going into landfill.

## 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 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Hall	Weekly 1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Week each month
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group	in the Hall	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs		Weekly in term

### Users All in the Hall

Monday	Evening	Slimming World	
Tuesday	Morning Evening Evening	MIND My Life, My Choice (Parlour) Wantage Camera Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Stage Musical	
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	In term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday

## In May / June / July

June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Evening	Wantage & Grove Campaign Group AGM (Chapel)
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Crown Singers Concert
June 30 <sup>th</sup> July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Evening Evening	Wantage & Grove Street Pastors Base Wantage & Grove Street Pastors Base
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Kennet Opera Concert
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	SUDEP Coffee Morning
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	WMC "Futures"

## DIARY for JUNE

### JUNE

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b> for Christian Aid at Grove	p15
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	<b>Holy Habits</b> at Wantage	p17
	4:30 pm	<b>Circuit Service at Milton</b>	p4
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p20
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Stepping out with Noah</b>	p5
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Three Pressed Men</b> at Wallingford	p4
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	4:00 pm	<b>Wantage &amp; Grove Church Partnership Joint Service and AGM</b>	p6
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 pm	<b>Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home</b>	p4
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Film Club</b> at Grove "Argo"	p15
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	<b>Kids@Church</b> at Wantage	p20

### DEADLINE for Summer CGW NEWS

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p20
	7:30 pm	<b>Cornerstone Christian Centre AGM</b>	p8
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30 pm	<b>Prayer for Revival</b> at Grove	p7
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	2:15 pm	<b>Grove Tuesday Fellowship</b>	p11
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Stepping out with Noah</b>	p5

### JULY

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 / 10:30 am	<b>Clothes Swap</b> at Wantage Baptist Church	p10
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Wantage &amp; Grove Street Pastors AGM</b>	p9
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	3:00 pm	<b>Pimm's and Cake</b> at the Manse	p5
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<b>Grove "Spring Clean"</b>	p15
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<b>Wantage Methodists - Looking to the future</b>	p21



## SERVICES during JUNE

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity</b>		
10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Stephen Atkinson

**4:30 pm    Milton    Circuit Service    Local Preachers' Celebration**

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ordinary 10</b>	<b>Methodist Homes</b>
10:30 am	Wantage	Rev John Anderson
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion	
10:30 am	Grove	Carol Sturt
11:00 am	Childrey	Tabitha Griffiths

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ordinary 11</b>	
9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church
10:30 am	Wantage	Local Arrangements
10:30 am	Grove	Libby Bolton

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ordinary 12</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Refugee Week</b>
10:30 am	Wantage		Daphne Savage
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
11:00 am	Childrey		Rev Alan Grist
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
6:30 pm	Grove	Prayer for Revival	