

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR



# CGW NEWS



OCTOBER 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 : [wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com](mailto:wntgmethodistnotices@gmail.com)

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (November) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

e-mail : [wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com)

Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

## **Sunday Services and Church Activities**

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

**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**

November Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

December/January Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

## **From the Manse.....**

By the time October has arrived, I will have purchased two books that are currently on my wish list - waiting for them to be published.

Richard Osman's latest novel, "The Last Devil to Die" (published 14<sup>th</sup> September) and the seventh instalment of the Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacot series by Robert Galbraith, "The Running Grave": published on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Having read the previous three and six novels respectively, I am full of anticipation as to these latest offerings.

Whilst there is certainly the thrill of escaping into new plots and story lines that are ready to be solved and unravelled – there is, just as importantly, the further development of the characters to look forward to. Indeed, you need both elements to make the books worth reading.

For if you do not learn anything new about the people you've grown to know and care for and they simply stay the same, then it would be rather dull and boring and I would suggest, not worth investing your time and effort in.

The characters are obviously affected by what happens within the story itself but also by what life in general has to throw at them.

The protagonists as they appear in books four and seven are now very different to how we first met them in "Thursday Murder Club" and "The Cuckoo's Calling" and that's as it should be.

As in fiction, so too in life, for we are all now very different to what we once were.

Whilst time and circumstance have certainly helped to shape and change us as we have reacted to what has come our way, both good and bad, it is God who has been at work in our lives.

For as the prophet Isaiah reminds us, God is like a potter and we, his clay. Day by day, through the power and presence of his Holy Spirit, he continually changes, moulds and shapes us so that we are changed from who we are to who he calls us to be.

When Jesus, first met Peter, he said to him; "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas"

You are, you will be - or, as Charles Wesley put it; "Changed form glory into glory"

Happy reading!

With love and God Bless

*Keith*

## **Circuit Meeting Plus 2**

## **All Saints Methodist Church**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 9:30 am-12 noon.**

As we continue to explore the potential ways forward for the Methodists of the Circuit, we look forward to welcoming you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Meeting Plus event that will be taking place at All Saints Methodist Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30-12 noon. We hope that we get as good a turn out as at our previous event earlier in the year and we will be seeking to build on the success of that occasion. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to come along and join us - it is important that we engage with one another and hear the various views and opinions as together we seek to discern the way forward.

We are pleased to say that Matt Forsyth, the District Mission Enabler will be joining us again and he will be speaking to us in the second part of the morning.

## **Stepping out with Noah – October to December 2023**

*Keith*

*Underhill*

Thank you to all who contacted me with your thoughts as to the future shape of these walks.

As a result, I have decided that we will still have two walks per month (apart from December when there will be only one) and that the new pattern will be one walk mid week and another on a Sunday afternoon.

The dates are as below.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10:00am

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2:30pm

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00am

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 2:30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00am

As to the routes, I will publicise these nearer to the time, as with the unpredictable weather at this time of year, they might need to be changed depending on the conditions under foot.

The walks will be between 3-4 miles

Both of the walks in October will start at Christopher's Wood car Ardington. If there is no space there, then please park carefully on School Road and walk back to the car park itself from where we will set off.

Looking forward to walking with you once again.

Thank you

## Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

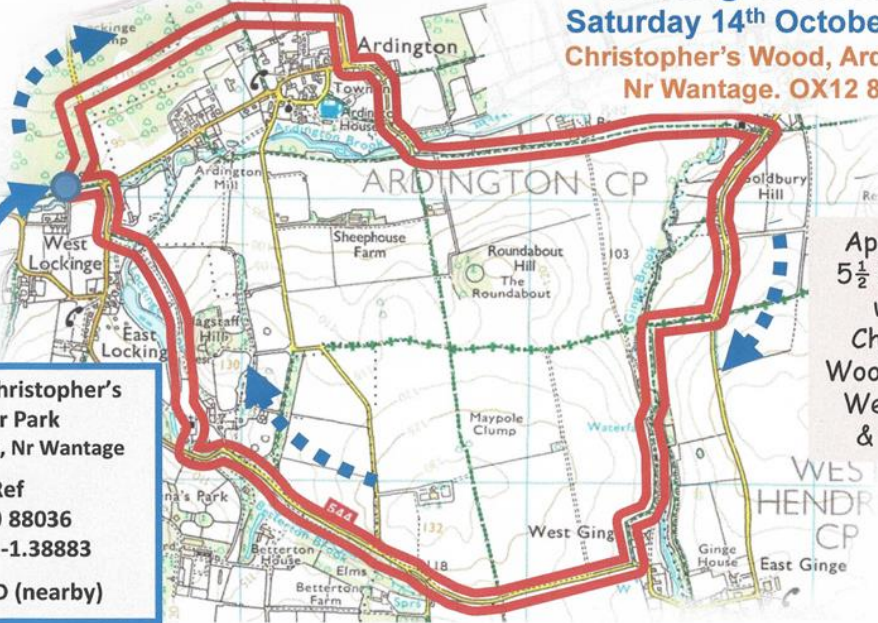
June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the new care home on Grove Road. It is held on the second Monday of the month at 2.30pm, lasting between 30-45 mins. In September, Helen Carter kindly agreed to lead a session on the theme of Harvest. On **9<sup>th</sup> October** Keith will join the group and lead Holy Communion. On **13<sup>th</sup> November** the session will have a theme of Remembrance. For various reasons, numbers who attend from Elmbrook vary from month to month. Residents really appreciate people from our church joining in their study and we often enjoy fellowship with a cup of coffee in the Elmbrook lounge afterwards.



## Sponsored Walk in aid of Pilgrim Homes

**Meeting at 10:30am  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Christopher's Wood, Ardington,  
Nr Wantage. OX12 8PD**



**Park in Christopher's Wood Car Park  
Ardington, Nr Wantage**  
OS Grid Ref  
SU 42440 88036  
51.5896, -1.38883  
OX12 8PD (nearby)

Approximately 5½ mile circular walk from Christopher's Wood Car Park to West Hendred & the Ginges

Sponsorship forms available from Dave Pepler via email - [dave.a.pepler@gmail.com](mailto:dave.a.pepler@gmail.com)

**Please note:- Good walking shoes or boots are strongly recommended as the route is of mixed terrain.  
Dogs to be kept on a lead and children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.**

Pilgrim Homes  
175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 7AE  
Tel: 0300 303 1400, Fax: 0300 303 1415 Email: [info@pilgrimfriend.org.uk](mailto:info@pilgrimfriend.org.uk)  
[www.pilgrimfriends.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimfriends.org.uk)

Pilgrim Homes is a registered charity (formerly known as 'The Aged Pilgrims' Society') and registered social landlord. Charity No. 242266, RSL No. A0872



**All proceeds go towards the support of the Framland Pilgrim Home**  
**Pilgrims' Friend Society Registered Charity Number 242266**



## Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

### Quiz & Curry Night

It's time to brush up on your general knowledge and keep up to speed on current affairs because our very popular Quiz & Curry Night is back this November! **7pm, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Wantage Methodist Church Hall.**

Book in your team of 6 people now!

Email us on...

[wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)



**Wantage and Grove  
STREET PASTORS** 

INVITE YOU TO OUR

# Curry & Quiz Night

**7 pm Saturday 18 November**  
**Wantage Methodist Church**  
**£12 per person**

Includes meal and soft drink      Book your team in now!  
Teams of up to 6 people max      07554 655 594

Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors  
[wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk)  
[www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk)  
[facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors](https://facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors)



## Texts, Myths and Pharisees preaching without contempt

**Thursday 12th October 7.30—8.45 PM**

**On Zoom**

**Dr. Joseph Sievers**, leading expert on the Pharisees, From 1991 until his retirement in 2023, he taught Jewish history and literature of the Hellenistic period at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, where he was a full Professor.

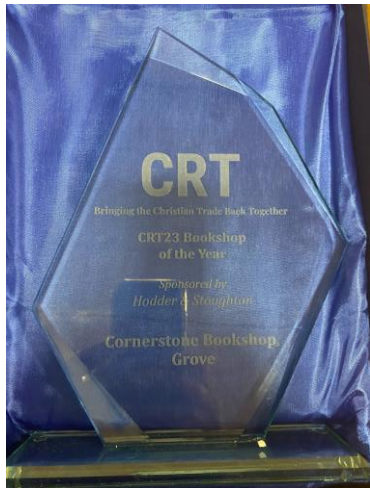
He has published several books, and numerous articles on Christian-Jewish relations. With Amy-Jill Levine, he edited *The Pharisees* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2021).

**Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers** is part of the Rabbinic team at Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue. She has been actively engaged in Inter-faith work for 25 years, and continues to write and teach on interfaith relations at Leo Baeck College, Queens Ecumenical Foundation and Ripon College. She is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought among others.

**To Join the Zoom meeting**

**please contact the Rev Ann Lett before Tuesday 10th October**

[revannlett@gmail.com](mailto:revannlett@gmail.com)



### Christian Bookshop of the Year

We are delighted that we were awarded Christian Bookshop of the Year by the Christian Booksellers Association at their conference last month. To put that into context there are 189 Christian bookshops in the country so quite an achievement. We hope to be able to use this to further publicise the work of Cornerstone.



### Staffing

We were sorry to say goodbye to Diana last month and wish her well in her new role.

Layla, who was working as a Saturday cook will now be with us four days a week until Christmas and we are grateful to her for taking this on.

We are delighted that we have some new young people helping in the kitchen on Saturdays.

However, we are still advertising for a **Kitchen Manager** and a **Cook**. For more information see our adverts or contact me.



### Bookshop Day

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October is National Bookshop Day when we will have a new Take Note promotion including the category winners from the Booksellers Conference.

### Make and Bake for Under 5s

We are aiming to start this up very soon, check on our Facebook page for updates.

### Volunteers

We are looking for a number of volunteers both on the till and the counter for various shifts. If you are interested in volunteering please do contact me.

### Community Fridge

The Community Fridge runs here every Thursday from 4-5pm – 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 25<sup>th</sup> October - please do book this in advance so we know how many to cater for.

## Free breakfasts

We plan to serve free breakfasts during the October half-term, to those families whose children are entitled to free school meals.

To do this we do need extra volunteers for two hours each morning – this is the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Do let me know if you can help with this.

We are grateful for all the donation we received over the summer and have enough to cover the cost.

## Fairtrade

We have found a new source for Fairtrade goods and at the moment have tea, coffee, hot chocolate and chocolate.

## Christmas goods

We are now starting to fill the shelves with Christmas goods – we have a number of Christmas cards and Advent calendars and candles on display.

This includes the ever popular Hannah Dunnitt calendars as well as mugs and coasters.

## Christmas Lunches

*At present we are not sure that we will be able to serve Christmas lunches this year due to our shortage of staff. We are however, taking expressions of interest and if we are able to go ahead then we will contact those who have enquired.*



## Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October** at 8.30am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

## Job Vacancy: Kitchen Manager

**Are you an experienced Cook with the skills to lead a team?**

This is a rare opportunity to join our small but friendly team as Kitchen Manager and become part of the Cornerstone family. Cornerstone is a Christian organisation supported by four churches. You will be leading a very experienced team of cooks in our 5-star rated kitchen producing a variety of food from our menu; creating delicious specials, hot meals, cakes and occasionally catering for outside events. You will have experience in all the relevant legislation and be trained to a minimum of Food Hygiene Level 2.

The hours are flexible up to a maximum of 35 hours which must include two Saturdays a month. The current hourly rate is £11.00 per hour.

Cornerstone,  
10 Savile Way, Grove  
OX12 0PT  
01235 772280

For more details contact Sarah Shewring at:  
[office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk](mailto:office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk)





## **CHILDREY**

A reminder that our **Chapel Anniversary** will be on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October** at 4:00 pm. With Keith leading the service and Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis preaching – this will be followed by a “bring and share” tea. We hope as many people as possible will be able to join us.

Services in October

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**      4:00 pm      **Chapel Anniversary** (see above)  
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**      11:00 am      led by Daphne Savage

### **Pat & Brian Winsley – 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Pat and Brian Winsley, regular attendees at Childrey Methodist Chapel celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 14<sup>th</sup> September.

At our service on the 10<sup>th</sup> September we commemorated this special event (albeit 4 days early!). After the service an Anniversary cake, baked by Fran Esplin, was shared between the congregation. Flowers and a congratulatory card were also presented to Pat and Brian.

All our lives have been enriched by knowing Pat and Brian and may they have many more anniversaries to share.



### **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**

Join us as we celebrate **Harvest** on **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**. Our service of thanksgiving is at 10.30am. It will be led by our minister, Rev Keith Underhill. We hope you will come and share in it with us. Gifts of dried and tinned food for the local Food Bank would be appreciated. Sorry, no fresh food gifts please.

**Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am till noon in the church. Proceeds from the morning will be donated to The Brain Tumour Charity in memory of David Phillips. Mirella and her family are our hosts. We hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you. Offers to make cakes would be appreciated.

**Church Council** meets on **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. All who are interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and be part of the meeting.

**Film Club** is on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "**All is true**". The year is 1613 and Shakespeare is acknowledged as the greatest writer of the age. But disaster strikes when his renowned Globe Theatre burns to the ground. Devastated, Shakespeare returns to Stratford, where he must face a troubled past and a neglected family.

*Cast: Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Ian McKellan, Kathryn Wilder, Lydia Wilson.*

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

**"Prayer for Revival"** – An ecumenical prayer meeting led by Ian and Carol on the last Sunday of each month **at 6.30pm till 8pm** in our church. All are invited to come and pray with us. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October** at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

**Tuesday Fellowship.** We will be meeting on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October** at 2.15pm. Further information will be in the weekly notice sheet nearer the time.

**Craft Group** meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on **Monday afternoons** from 2pm to 4pm. 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.

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** for your support for the Coffee Morning in September raising funds for Cancer Research UK. Donations raised £242.51. Thank you for your support.

**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. Thank you.

### **Film Club**

It is time to ask for suggestions for the New Year.  
In November we have **Breathe** (2017 1hr 58mins 12a)

December's film is to be chosen  
The more suggestions the better. It helps to make a varied programme.

Please consider what we should do in December.

Choices are:

- (a) go ahead with Friday 15th
- (b) skip December
- (c) go for the 29th when there is less going on.

Please let Peter Hemmings know.

### **Annual service of remembrance**

**This year will see our joint sectional Service of Remembrance taking place at Wantage Methodist Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm.**

This will be an opportunity to gather together to remember those we love but see no longer, to say our prayers and to light candles in memory of those who have died.

This will be followed by tea and biscuits. Everyone is welcome

# **WANTAGE**

## **Holy Habits**

**Holy Habits (lite) #3** got off to a great start on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September as we shared breakfast together before launching the theme of "**Eating Together**"

The **film** will be watching together **Babette's Feast** which will be shown in Church on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** at 7:30 pm.

This theme's **book choice** will certainly be an easier read than the last and in fact there is a choice of two books to choose from

**"Chocolat" by Joanne Harris** or

**"Appetite: A memoir in recipes of Family and Food" by Ed Balls** .

For those who would like to meet up and discuss these, we will be meeting at **The Cornerstone in Grove** on **Saturday morning 11<sup>th</sup> November** at 10am to share our thoughts over tea, coffee and cake. We will of course mark the two minutes silence at 11:00am.

If you'd like a lift, please ask as that's not a problem at all. Please can you speak to Jane Kent, email (janevkent@iCloud.com), phone or text (07443420205) **by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** so Cornerstone have a good idea of numbers.

**Eating together:** After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Habit of Eating Together service on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** there will be an opportunity to do just that. There will be a simple lunch provided and it would be really helpful if people could **sign the list** that is on the hall foyer notice board. Thank you. More details will be in the weekly notices.

## **Prayer WhatsApp group**

## ***Holy Habit of Prayer***

*Helen Carter*

I am setting up a prayer WhatsApp group that can react to immediate need for prayer. Anyone within the group can ask for prayers for a particular person or situation that needs prayer that day.

To join a WhatsApp group you need a mobile phone and need to put the WhatsApp app on your phone. WhatsApp is a secure way of communicating and only those within the group can see what is being asked for. Nobody outside the church will be joining. If you are interested in being part of this group please talk to me, Helen Carter. Thank you.

## **Kids@Church**

*Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith*

It was lovely to see so many families at kids@Church in September. Cath led a lovely retelling of the creation story encouraging us all to really think about the story and imagine what God was thinking throughout the events. We shared a talking prayer where we called out the things that we are thankful for including rainbows, butterflies, friends, trees and family. In the hall the children made some beautiful flowers before we all enjoyed breakfast together.

We look forward to meeting again on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** at 9.30am.



We are a few weeks into the new Methodist Year, and the autumn term has started for our young people who have begun, or returned to, schools, colleges and universities to continue their education and training. It was good to have **Charlotte Worth** with us during the summer vacation, and we wish her well as she begins her second year of medical training at Liverpool. It is transition time for **James and Emily Kent**, who are moving on from King Alfred's and Didcot Girls' School respectively. Our good wishes go with them both as James moves to Bristol to study Practical Film Making at the University of the West of England, [UWE], and Emily transfers to Oxford College for the next stage of her education. Similar thoughts are with **Maureen Osei-Akowuah**, who starts a Graphic Design Course at Nottingham Trent University, and her sister **Audrey**, who moves to King Alfred's 6<sup>th</sup> form, after celebrating her achievement of 11 A\* GCSE passes. At the younger end, **Morgan Nisbett**, our quiz and coffee-helper star, has just moved from Primary School to Year 7 at King Alfred's. We pray that God's blessings will support and encourage them all, hoping they will make a happy adjustment to their new educational environments.

**Graham Godfrey** has celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday with an Afternoon Tea Party, at Bridge House Care Home in Abingdon. Keith and a small number of church folk, together with Graham's daughter Anne, and Wendy Moorin, our Circuit's Anna Chaplain joined him for this happy occasion. It was wonderful to see Graham's delight at recognising his church friends, and enjoying conversations with them.



The many blank spaces on the **Flower Rota** for the rest of this year indicate that we are no longer able to provide flowers in Church every week. On those occasions we will use arrangements of synthetic flowers, which we hope will be acceptable as a substitute. If anyone feels able to provide flowers or a pot plant for our worship space on any Sunday, please let me know, or fill in your name on the list in the link corridor.

**Praying for each other:** In October the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study Group: on **Carolyn Roche's list:** Dilys Seymour, Linda & Rodney Tillotson, Andrew Holley, and Catherine & David Worth, and on **Kelvin Rose's list:** Peter Bainbridge, Andrew Barber, Margaret & Francis McAlpin, Carolyn Roche and Marina Scott

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.

## Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

*Eileen Rennie*

In September we were all pleased to start again after our break in August. We started our first meeting spending some time planning and outlining what we would like to cover in this Methodist Year 2023/2024. This led on to our Study Discussion time followed by our weekly prayer time. We are meantime in September continuing our study, Holy Habits Gladness and Generosity, covering weeks 3 to 6. We shall study weeks 7 and 8 in October before starting our study, Holy Habits Eating Together, on 17<sup>th</sup> October. We are looking at possibilities for our Advent Study this year but to date have not made a final decision while we follow up suggestions. Confirmation of our Advent Study will be in the November Newsletter. The Advent Study will start on 21<sup>st</sup> November through to 19<sup>th</sup> December.

We meet in the Parlour each Tuesday at 2pm. 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.

Dates for October are as follows:

- |                  |   |                                    |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Holy Habits - Gladness and Generosity                   | Week 7 Shaken and Stirred.         |
|                  | Reading : Acts 16:25-34.                                |                                    |
|                  | This meeting will also include our monthly prayer list. |                                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Habits - Gladness and Generosity                   | Week 8 Giving until it feels good. |
|                  | Reading : 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.                         |                                    |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Habits - Eating Together                           | Week 1 Entertaining Angels         |
|                  | Reading : Genesis 19:1-3.                               |                                    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Habits - Eating Together                           | Week 2 Plenty for All?             |
|                  | Reading : 1 Chronicles 29:21-24                         |                                    |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Holy Habits - Eating Together                           | Week 3 In trust and hope.          |
|                  | Reading : Isaiah 55:1-3                                 |                                    |

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

## Knit & Chat

*Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310*

The nights are drawing in and by the end of this month the clocks will have changed. Plenty of time in the evenings to knit a few angels. It would be good if people could begin to let me know how many angels they think they will have finished by the beginning of December. The final number will determine if we can give to all the care homes as well as around the town. I also need to see how many labels need to be ordered.

This month we are meeting on Mondays **2<sup>nd</sup> October** and **16<sup>th</sup> October** in the hall. We look forward to seeing you then for knitting and a cup of tea.

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

## Prayer list

*Eileen Rennie*

Loving God, We praise you and give you thanks this month for our celebrations of Harvest this year. We thank you for those who have toiled in sowing and reaping, gathering and transporting. May our Harvest Thanksgiving truly reflect all those who have worked in producing what we now give thanks for. As we rejoice in our thanksgiving may we never forget all that is happening in so many parts of your world today where so many people are suffering through war, earthquake, flooding, famine and homelessness. We offer heartfelt prayers for all and ask that we listen for the prompting of your word to look for and act on any opportunities of ways that we are able to help and to respond as generously as we can in whatever way we are able to. Lord, when trials come and we feel tempted to doubt your love, please help us to entrust our lives to you. We offer our prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

Please pray for

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright & family, Caroline, John Morton, Anne & Doug Hatto, Jane & Brian Soffe, Richard in York, Adrian, Diane, Geoff, Diane's daughters Julie & Claire, Ken Harmer, Meriel, Jane Robinson, Emily, Maggie, June Hartle, Richard & Anne, Peter, Betty, Kathryn Clark, Louise. 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 November Newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October** in order for me to meet the Newsletter deadline. *Eileen Rennie: Telephone 01235 224284, or email [eileenrennie@icloud.com](mailto:eileenrennie@icloud.com)*

## An Evening Advent group

*Alison Phillips*

It's that time of year again when we plan our journey through Advent to Christmas, although at the time of writing it is a sunny September afternoon!

This year there has been a request for an evening Advent group, and I am wondering how many people would like to come and meet at 1 Mill Paddock on four Thursday evenings from **November 16<sup>th</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup>** (omitting November 30) arriving from 7 pm for coffee and chat, then to start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00 pm latest. Please let me know if you are interested and would like to be part of an Advent group this year.

I am thinking of using material written by Rob Frost called 'A Journey through Advent'. There is a reading each day and questions based on the reading which will be the basis of our group meeting each week. We will journey with Isaiah, John, Mary and Jesus, and each week take time together to think about the events in their lives and what God called them to do.

My prayer is that, amongst all the preparations and busy time of Advent, we are able to consider the journey we have made and listen to what God is calling us to do.

The Community Café continues to meet. Once again we were open on the August Bank Holiday Monday and had 32 visitors. Our kitchen volunteers also managed to cope with a neighbourhood power cut. During September numbers varied depending on whether it was too hot or too wet.....

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. We can now confirm we raised £503.40 for Wantage Methodist Church, who have provided a free home for the café since 2019. From September to November our charity for donations will be for Cornerstone, our local Christian café and bookshop in Grove.

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 cannot commit regularly but would be willing to be called upon at short notice it would be helpful. Although we can operate the café with less people, having 2 coffee makers and 2 welcomers each Monday is ideal. If you would like to learn more about the café please see June Grunwald or Eileen Rennie.



### Christmas Tree Festival Wantage Methodist Church 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December



Hurray! Good News! We are once again holding our Christmas Tree Festival which this year will be supporting **Blood Cancer UK**. I (June Grunwald) have

offered to take the lead this year as Carolyn will be in the Holy Land. We will be open from **6pm on Dickensian Evening, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** for people to look at the trees and to enjoy refreshments and stalls in the hall.

The festivities will continue with a **Coffee Morning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10am-12noon** and the trees will remain in place for the Sunday service.

We will be having a stall in the hall selling cakes and biscuits.

At this early stage we already have enough other stall holders. If you know any organisation who would like to decorate a tree, please let me know as we still have room for a few more trees. In November, I will be looking for volunteers to man the kitchen and cake stall and to make cakes. In the meantime I would be pleased to receive any donations of unwanted toiletries, gifts etc. for a “Nearly New” stall. Gifts in original packaging. (Not books or clothes.)



## Riders & Striders

Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> was the day for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust annual fundraising event when many of Oxfordshire's (and surrounding counties') churches were opened to visitors who travelled around on foot, bicycle or horse to raise money, through sponsorship, to be shared between their churches and the OHCT. The OHCT uses this money to support churches' refurbishment and repair, and our church has benefited from this in the past. Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> was also one of the hottest days of 2023 and visitors appreciated delving into, and resting in, the cool space in the churches! This year, from our church, Gill Skidmore & Alison Brown and Alison & Clive Phillips, independently took the S9 bus to Oxford and explored some of the churches there. An added attraction was that the weekend was also, coincidentally, Oxford "Open Doors", an annual event at which many colleges, the castle, and other buildings are opened to the public for free entry. Alison B & Gill visited 16 churches in Oxford and 2 in Wantage. Alison P & Clive were less energetic and managed only 8 Oxford churches and 3 Wantage churches. However, for all four it was a great experience, exploring the beautiful interiors of Oxford churches, and also looking inside a few of the secular buildings some of which we had not visited before. We must thank our own church members who looked after our church and welcomed visitors: Sue H, Gill M, June & Alan G, Helen & John C, Rob C, Kelvin R. This year the church had 18 visitors, a similar number to last year but well down on pre-pandemic days when we usually had about 34. None of us actively sought sponsorship before the day but it is not too late to make a **donation** to this worthy cause. If you would like to, please speak to one of us.

### **Work is continuing on the clearing and rebuilding of 16 Newbury Street.**

There will be vehicles in the yard to deliver and remove the materials. Please be aware and take care when entering our site from Newbury Street. Also parking spaces will be in use during the day.

We are grateful for the care taken by the workers on this project to maintain a safe and tidy operation.

## What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship In person and on Zoom	Weekly
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat in the Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Week each month
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group in the Hall	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs	Weekly in term

### Users All in the Hall

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

### September

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Day	SUDEP	Hall
	Evening	Wantage Music Festival	Hall/Chapel
	Evening	Meeting	Parlour
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Wedding Rehearsal	Chapel
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	Wedding	Chapel

### October

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Private Party	Hall
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup>	Morning	WGCP – rehearsal	Hall
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon	Jigsaw	Hall
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Wantage Music Festival	Hall

### November

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Memorial Service	Chapel
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	EDI Training	Chapel
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Church Council	Chapel
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	Newbury St PPG AGM	Chapel
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	WGSP Quiz & Curry	Hall
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Evening	Holy Habits Film	Chapel
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Day	Abingdon Community Church	All

### December

Friday / Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Christmas Tree Festival	All
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Evening	“What about Joseph?”	All

## DIARY for OCTOBER

### OCTOBER

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10:30 am	<b>Grove Harvest Festival</b>	p10
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p14
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	<b>Circuit Meeting Plus 2</b> at All Saints Abingdon	p 4
	10:00 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b> at Grove	p10
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	4:00 pm	<b>Childrey Chapel Anniversary</b>	p9
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 pm	<b>Bible Study</b> at <b>Elmbrook Care Home</b>	p5
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<b>Pilgrim Homes' Sponsored Walk</b>	p5
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	<b>Kids@Church</b> at Wantage	p12
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> at Wantage	p14
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Grove Church Council</b>	p10
Friday, 20 <sup>h</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Film Club</b> at Grove - "All is True"	p10
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10:30 am	<b>Holy Habits Service and Lunch</b> at Wantage <b>DEADLINE for October CGW NEWS</b>	p12
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Summer Time Ends – Clocks go back 1 Hour</b>	
	6:30 pm	<b>Prayer for Revival</b> at Grove	p10
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	2:15 pm	<b>Grove Tuesday Fellowship</b>	p10

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	<b>Annual Service of Remembrance</b>	p11
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	<b>Holy Habits – Book reflection</b>	p12
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Wantage Church Council</b>	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	<b>WGSP Quiz &amp; Curry Night</b>	p 6
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Holy Habits Film - Babette's Feast</b>	p12

## SERVICES during OCTOBER

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Ordinary 26

10:30 am	Wantage		Rev Ian Griffiths
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
10:30 am	Grove	Harvest Festival	Rev Keith Underhill

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Ordinary 27

#### Homeless and Prisons Sunday

10:30 am	Wantage		Local Arrangements
10:30 am	Grove		Ian Sturt
4:00 pm	Childrey	Chapel Anniversary	Rev Ness Brunner-Ellis & Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Ordinary 28

#### Freedom Sunday

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

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Ordinary 29

#### One World Week

10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Helen Carter
10:30 am	Grove		Belinda Kaur
11:00 am	Childrey		Daphne Savage

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Ordinary 30

#### Bible Sunday

#### Summer Time Ends – Clocks go back 1 Hour

10:30 am	Wantage		Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Daphne Savage
6:30 pm	Grove	Prayer for Revival	