

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



NOVEMBER 2023

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (Dec/Jan) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 19th November**
e-mail : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com
Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601
Editors : Gill & Gordon Skidmore

Sunday Services and Church Activities

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

Grove web site is found from www.wantab.org.uk

Wantage web site www.wantagemethodist.org.uk

Circuit web site www.wantab.org.uk

CGW News Publication deadline dates – 2023

Christmas/New Year (December/January) Sunday 19th November

CGW News Publication deadline dates – 2024

February	Sunday 21 st January
March	Sunday 18 th February
April	Sunday 17 th March
May	Sunday 21 st April
June	Sunday 19 th May
Summer (July/August)	Sunday 23 rd June

From the Manse.....

As I write, the recent violence that has been unleashed in Israel/Palestine and the carnage and loss of life that has ensued is foremost in my thoughts.

The atrocities and acts of violence being played out are beyond our comprehension and we find it hard to put into words what we feel and wish to express.

My hope is that by the time you read this the situation will have improved but it is hard to see how in the midst of all that is currently going on.

We may well feel impotent in the face of all that we see – but we must never give up hope and we must to continue to pray.

You may find this prayer from the president and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference helpful:

*God of peace and compassion,
We pray for all impacted by the escalation in conflict in Israel-Palestine
For all who are mourning
For all who are fearful, today, and for what may lie ahead
For all traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.
Enable us to stand in solidarity with people of peace
May your Spirit bring peace and healing to your troubled world.
Amen*

Prayer leads us into action and we need to ensure that we live lives that demonstrate love, peace and justice so that all we say, do and seek to be, are rooted and grounded in that.

Of course, peace is not simply the absence of fighting or warfare for it is far deeper and more encompassing that.

We must never forget that

*Peace is not a thing to possess - but a way of possessing.
Peace is not a gift to be given - but a way of giving.
Peace is not a topic to teach - but a way of teaching.
Peace is not a theory to learn - but a way of learning.
Peace is not an opinion to hold - but a way of holding.
Peace is not a resolution of strife - but a way of striving.
Peace is not a creed to preach - but a way of preaching.
Peace is not a God to serve - but a way of serving.
Peace is not a question to ask - but a way of asking.
Peace is not an answer to seek - but a way of seeking.
Peace is not a journey's end - but a way of journeying.*

With love and God Bless

Keith

Carol Sturt

We were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of Carol's sudden death on 6th October. In the five years that she and Ian have been with us, Carol has touched all our lives and greatly blessed us in so many ways, for that we are grateful to God.

These past days as we've shared our memories of Carol the phrase "she was greatly loved" has been mentioned time and time again. Indeed she was.

It was our great pleasure to celebrate with Carol when she became a fully accredited Methodist Local Preacher - her services around the Circuit were greatly appreciated by all who shared in the worship she led.

There is a verse in John Bell's hymn "For all the saints who showed your love" that perhaps best sums up how we feel at this time;

*"For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord."*

May Carol rest in peace and rise in Glory and we assure Ian and all the family of our love, thoughts, and prayers at this time.

Stepping out with Noah – November/December 2023

Keith Underhill

As mentioned last month, 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.

Tuesday 7th November at 10:00am

Sunday 19th November at 2:30pm

Thursday 14th 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 and 4 miles.

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 2.30 pm, lasting between 30 and 45 mins. In October Keith joined the group and led Holy Communion as part of our bible study on The Last Supper. He also took communion to a resident and her daughter who were in the garden and gave a blessing to another resident in their room, which was greatly appreciated. On **13th November** the session will be more of a short service on the 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.

“Who is missing?”

As we look around our churches the question “who is missing?” is both pertinent and challenging.

This is not about who is away on holiday, or those who may be temporarily unwell and therefore cannot come to worship, but rather it is a much larger and all encompassing question.

Connexionally, you may be aware that the Methodist Church seeks to be an inclusive church with a welcome for all and to be a place where everyone may feel at home, valued for who they are and the richness of human diversity celebrated. The Methodist Church has produced excellent resources to help us with this

It is this context that the question “who is missing?” should be faced and addressed.

In essence, it asking us to look at our churches in the settings in which they are placed and ask, who is not here? How representative of our communities are we?

Are there things that we do or don't do (large or small, intentionally or unintentionally) that prevent those who are missing from coming along or being part of us?

Are there things that we automatically do that do not make sense to others, or who find them unhelpful or off-putting. How much of what we say and do we assume that people both know and understand?

This a question about mission, ministry, welcome, acceptance, hospitality and service.

The new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training (EDI) is designed to help us look at ourselves and see how we can as churches and Circuits, be more welcoming and inclusive, reflecting the diversity of our communities and be a place where everyone is known and valued for who they are.

To help with this, there will be three opportunities across the Circuit to engage with this training – the first of these will be held at Wantage Methodist Church on **Wednesday 8th November** at 7:30 pm.

There will be additional training at Abingdon and Wallingford in due course, details t.b.c.

Whilst this training is mandatory for Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Circuit Stewards and Church Stewards, it is hoped that as many people as possible from our churches will want to come along.

It is our hope that by engaging with this, it will help us to live out our commitment to being a church which is inclusive and justice-seeking for we are committed to life-long learning about the richness of human diversity and to learning from one another.

Please contact Keith if you have any questions or queries.

President and Vice-President update on the situation in the Middle East

As deaths and injuries of civilians continue to rise in the Israel-Hamas conflict, we are heartbroken to see the devastation this is having on so many people living in the region. We believe in a God who weeps, and, alongside the Holy Spirit our Comforter, our hearts are breaking with all those whose loved ones have had their lives brutally cut short, for the terror felt by Israeli families, and the unimaginable wait that many face for news of the people being held hostage. We watch in horror as Gazan civilians flee for their lives, unable to leave Gaza and trapped in the midst of a violent and unpredictable conflict.

The situation may feel overwhelming; so much information, so much misinformation and so much misery. Where is our hope? Watching and reading news reports can leave us confused and feeling helpless. What can we do? As members of the Methodist Church we have witnessed the plight of the Palestinian people's oppression for many years and have sought to encourage those on all sides who are working for lasting peace with justice in the region.

Now we pray for all those people and groups we have met: Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations and the recipient of the World Methodist Peace Prize in 2018; Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, the Wi'am Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem; the staff of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel, and the countless people and families in Gaza and the West Bank who we, as a Church, have supported over the years. We uphold them, praying for their safety, asking for God's protection and comfort. And we pray for those who have the power to effect change – that they will use this privilege wisely and well to put a swift end to this violence and aggression. We undertake to continue to pray that the beautiful peace of the Prince of Peace will manifest in our world, and we pledge ourselves once again to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out this discipleship in our worship and mission.

We call on the UK Government to do all it can to encourage dialogue between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and states in the wider region. We urge our Government to use its influence to end the siege of Gaza that is depriving its population of water and food, and to call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law.

As well as praying, we ask you to consider doing the following:

- Supporting [Christian Aid's appeal](#) and/or signing a petition calling on the UK Government to establish safe routes out of Gaza for people left homeless or caught up in the violence
- Find out more about the situation: [Resources for studying theological issues relating to Israel-Palestine](#)
- Write to your MP to ask them to act to protect civilians in Gaza and to support a lasting peace
- Be generous to those who you may not agree with, and try to find common ground. Pray for those people and, if appropriate, pray together. Be aware of those in your church or community who are particularly impacted by this situation, whether they have a connection with Israel or Palestine or because

this is a painful and traumatic reminder of their own experiences of conflict. And please pray for those in leadership who are being called to offer support to the people who are impacted by the ongoing situation.

**The Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference
Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference**

Let's End Poverty launch

Let's End Poverty was launched on Saturday 14 October 2023.

The launch occurred simultaneously across several cities in person, as well as online.

Recent events such as the war in Ukraine have increased the cost of living, this has led to a rise in the number of people experiencing poverty and the deepening of its impact. As of March 2023, The Trussel Trust announced that during the previous 12 months they had given out a record number of food parcels, with almost 3 million (2,986,203) given to needy families and individuals.

“Not doing anything is a moral failing,” says Hannah Fremont-Brown, the Anti-Poverty Movement Methodist Coordinator.

“In between the increasingly desperate financial situation for many and the looming general election, now is the time to get organised and tackle the poverty issue, given the seeming ambivalence of our politicians.”

Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference, said, “Currently poverty is impacting on far too many lives across our nation, and engaging with the Let's End Poverty movement now is one way that the Methodist people can play their part in the transformation of the world. “

The launch featured recordings that presented the Let's End Poverty project and offered moments for the attendees to reflect, give their opinions and share their ideas about the way ahead. “We have the technology, the infrastructure and the funds to end poverty, what we lack is political will,” asserted one of those who was interviewed. One of those attending the launch in London added, “We are committed to ending poverty because we cannot trust our political leaders to do it.”

The aim is to bring together a collective representing a wide range of people with varied backgrounds, skills and experiences. The Let's End Poverty Movement is ecumenical and always keen for those who want to fight against poverty to join. There is power in numbers and, with the Methodist Church in Britain having already signed up, other churches and institutions are invited to join too.

Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, concluded. “We know the lasting, negative impact that poverty has on our lives. But we also know that poverty is not inevitable. As a justice-seeking church, we believe that God consistently shows a bias of care and concern for people experiencing poverty and economic marginalisation and that we, as Methodists, are called to stand in solidarity with one another, seeking justice and transformation. I urge all Methodists to engage with the Let's End Poverty movement, to call upon those in power to make the changes that will enable others to flourish.”

Wantage & Grove Church Partnership Christmas Services 2023

Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Wantage

Sunday 3rd December, 6 pm - Advent Carols: an atmospheric service of readings, carols and choral music

Friday 22nd December, 7 pm - Carols by Candlelight: the Christmas story in words & music

Saturday 23rd December, 3 pm - Crib Service with real farm animals!

Christmas Eve, 11 pm - Midnight Mass with music from the Parish Choir

Christmas Day, 10.30 am - Choral Eucharist

Sunday 7th January, 6 pm - Epiphany Carols: join the Three Wise Men to welcome Jesus.

St John Vianney, Wantage

Christmas Eve 6 pm and 9 pm - Vigil Mass

Christmas Day 9 am - Christmas Day Service

Wantage Community Church

Sunday 17th December - Family Carol Service 4 pm @Wantage Primary Academy

Christmas Eve - Kingsgrove Carols 4 pm @Kingsgrove Square

Christmas Day - Christmas Celebration 11 am @ Wantage Primary Academy

Wantage Methodist Church

17th December 10:30 am - All-age Carol service

Christmas Eve 4:30 pm - All-age Cloth for the cradle service - preparing for Jesus' arrival, with Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9:30 am - All-age Christmas morning celebration

Grove Methodist

17th December 6:30 pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve 8:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion service

Christmas Day 10:30 am - All-age Christmas morning celebration

Holy Trinity Church, Charlton

Thursday 21st December, 10.30 am - Christingle: with Christmas crafts and carols from the Trinity Tots

Christmas Eve, 8 pm - First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, 9.15 am - Sung Eucharist

St John The Baptist Grove

Sunday 17th December 6 pm - Carol Service

Christmas Eve 4 pm - Crib Service

Christmas Day 10 am - Christmas Communion



Vale Elim Church (meeting at Millbrook Primary School Grove)

Sunday December 10th 10.30 am - Family Christmas Service

Sunday December 17th – Oddments Theatre Company presents 'Dan in the Den'

Christmas Eve 10.30 am – Christmas Eve Reflections

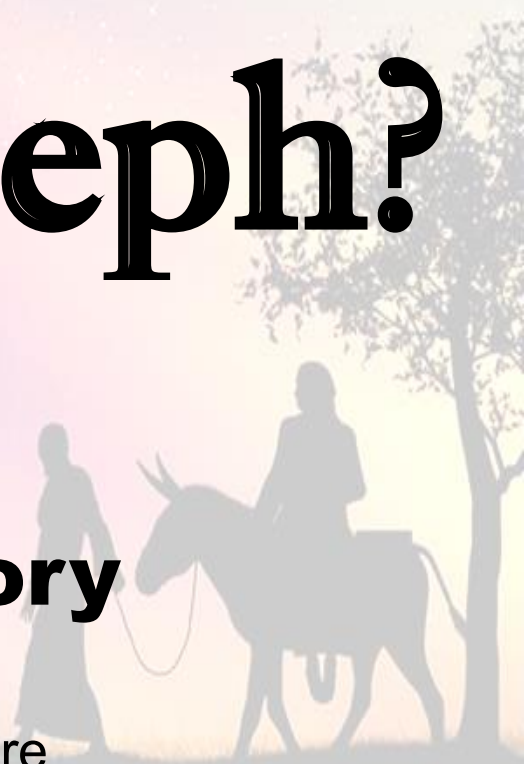
What About Joseph?

A grown-up musical version of

The Christmas story

By local songwriter Julie Steventon

Vocal arrangements by Gill Skidmore



A fund-raising concert for Helen and Douglas House

7.30pm 16th December

Wantage Methodist Church

£10 (£8 concessions) including refreshments

For more details or tickets contact

John Steventon jsteventon@aol.com 07919032203

or Gordon Skidmore jgordon.skidmore@ntlworld.com 07710214601

Cornerstone news – October 2023



Staffing

We are still advertising for a **Kitchen Manager** and a **Cook**. For more information see our adverts or contact me. We increased the pay rates for both these roles this month, so do pray we find the right candidates.

Free breakfasts

At the time of going to press we are preparing to offer free breakfasts in half term to those families whose children receive free school meals. This is already paid for from donations for which we are very grateful.

Make and Bake for Under 5s

We are delighted that Make and Bake is running again – every Tuesday in term time from 9.30-11 am. Cost remains at £2 per child to include drink and activities. Do tell anyone you know who may be interested.

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. It looks great on your CV and can help fill in a gap on your CV if you are between jobs. We are more than happy to provide references for volunteers who are looking for paid work.

Advent

Advent Sunday is on 3rd December, and we have a selection of Advent study books on the shelves.

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. There are also the ever popular Hannah Dunnitt calendars as well as mugs and coasters.



Out and About

On 28th October we took part in the Wellington Gate fair, serving refreshments and advertising the work of Cornerstone.

We will be having a stall at the Dickensian evening on 1st December and the St John's Christmas Fayre on 2nd December.

28th Birthday

This month we celebrate 28 years of the Cornerstone in Grove. Give thanks for God's faithfulness through the years.

Monthly hot meal special

We are not planning on providing a hot meal special in November due to staff shortages. If that changes we will send an email to our mailing list and advertise on our Facebook page and in the café, so keep an eye out.

Fairtrade

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

Christmas Lunches

Unfortunately due to staff shortages we will not be serving Christmas lunches this year. However, we do plan to have some Christmas specials on the menu in December.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 11th November** at 8.30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

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 18th November, Wantage Methodist Church Hall.**

Book in your team of 6 people now!

Email us on...

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
Teams of up to 6 people max

Book your team in now!
07554 655 594

Raising funds for Wantage & Grove Street Pastors
wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk
www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk
facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors

Wantage Silver Band

WSB Solo Concert

Sunday 26th November 4pm in Sykes Hall

Wantage Choral Society

A Concert for the Coronation Year

Handel: Coronation Anthem – Zadok the Priest

Handel: Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne

Mozart: Coronation Mass – Mass in C major KV317

Saturday 25th November at 7:30 pm

Wantage Parish Church

Conductor – Hannah Towndrow

Soprano : Helena Moore

Alto : Milette Gillow

Tenor : Toshi Ogita

Bass Jack Redman

Organ : Sebastian Thomson with Orchestra

Tickets £15 (U16 free) from WCS members or at the door

Wantage Orchestra

Coleridge Taylor: Ballade

Tchaikovsky: Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture

Balakirev: Symphony No 1 in C Major

Saturday 15th November at 7:30 pm

Wantage Parish Church

CHILDREY

Services in November

Sunday 12th 10:45 am led by Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 26th 11:00 am led by Helen Carter

On Sunday 24th September, Childrey Methodists joined with the congregation at St Mary's, Childrey for a joint Harvest Festival service led by St Mary's new Rector, the Rev Ness Brunner-Ellis with our Minister, Keith, preaching the sermon. Afterwards refreshments were served in the church.

On Sunday the 8th October the roles were reversed when we held our Chapel Anniversary service and Keith led the worship with Ness preaching the sermon! The Childrey music group and the Village choir provided their usual uplifting contribution. Afterwards a Chapel tea was enjoyed by around 40 people.

We would like to thank all those from the Circuit who attended along with our friends from St Mary's, the music group and the village choir.

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.

Annual service of remembrance

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

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

GROVE

Coffee Morning on **Saturday, 4th November** from 10 am till noon in the church. Judith and her family are our hosts. Handmade cards will be on sale.

Proceeds from the morning are for Freyja's Fund. This fund at the J.R. Hospital was set up by Freyja's family so that Clic Sargent social workers can access money quickly and easily as needed, to help children who have cancer and their families. We hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Film Club is on **Friday, 17th November at 7.30 pm** in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "Breathe". After contracting polio at the age of 28, Robin Cavendish is confined to bed and given only months to live. But with the help of his wife Diana and her twin brothers and the ground breaking ideas of inventor Teddy Hall, Cavendish emerges from the hospital ward and devotes the rest of his life to helping fellow patients and the disabled.

Cast: Andrew Garfield, Claire Foy, Hugh Bonneville, Tom Hollander, Ed Speleers. All are welcome. Admission is free; a small donation helps to cover the cost of licences and DVDs. Masks are optional.

Tuesday Fellowship. We will be meeting on **Tuesday, 28th November** at 2.15 pm. Malcom Newton is coming to speak to us. Venue will be arranged nearer the time and will be in the weekly notice sheet.

Craft Group meets at the Cornerstone Coffee Shop on Monday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome. Bring your own craft to do and enjoy a chat and exchange of ideas with other crafters while you work. We each give a donation of £1 to Cornerstone and buy a drink of our choice.

Thank you for your support for the Coffee Morning in October raising funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. Donations raised £331.30. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to everyone for your continued and generous support for the Wantage & Grove Food Bank and a special thank you for all the gifts at Harvest. Your donations of food do help to make a difference to local families. When Dee from the Food Bank came recently to collect our contribution she said the need is still as great and their shelves were looking very low on supplies at that point. UHT milk and fruit juice are a particular need, also tinned meat and vegetables. Also spare plastic bags would be most helpful. Please put them in the donations box. Thank you for any help you are able to give.

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.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden and unexpected death of Carol. She was such a lovely and joyful person and will be very much missed by Ian and her family and by us all.

"Prayer for Revival" – An ecumenical prayer meeting 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, 26th November** at 6.30 pm. All are welcome.

WANTAGE

Holy Habits

A reminder that **Babette's Feast** (the film we will be watching together for our exploration of "Eating Together") will be shown in Church on **Wednesday 22nd November** at 7:30 pm.

"When Babette, a beautiful and mysterious French refugee, arrives in a remote Danish town the tight-knit, puritanical community begrudgingly let her in, providing her with shelter and work. But after the town patriarch passes away and Babette insists on preparing a feast in his honour, a magical world of sensory revelations is thrown open to the villagers, changing their lives forever..."

Cert. U 104 minutes. 1987

Holy Habits book discussion

This time there has been a choice of two books to read - 'Chocolat' by Joanne Harris or 'Appetite: a memoir in recipes of family and food' by Ed Balls. If you would like to come along to a very friendly, relaxed discussion about either or both of these books and enjoy a coffee alongside please join us at **Cornerstone bookshop on Saturday, 11th November at 10 am**. We will of course mark the two minutes silence at 11:00 am.

Cornerstone would like a good idea of numbers so if you are planning to come please could you phone or text me on the number below **by Wednesday 8th November**.

Jane Kent: 07443 420205

Thank you!

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 (07443 420205)

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

In October we met in the church and the children had great fun making delicious flatbreads in preparation for a Godly Play interpretation of the story of the parting of the Red Sea led by Keith.

We thoroughly enjoyed the flatbreads with our drinks after the story!

Next month we will be meeting on **Sunday 19th November** at 9:30 am to discover what happened to Daniel!

All children and their families are very welcome to join us - we meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month 9.30 -10.15am. If you would like to find out any more information please feel free to give me a call on 01235 765421.

Autumn has well and truly arrived, with all of its beauty as John Keats expresses in his ode to this “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...” We are thankful as we look up in awe at the trees with their golden leaves, and those falling to make a carpet on which we can walk. We give thanks for all the blessings of our natural environment, for the freedom to worship openly, safely and without fear, and the assurance and security of living in a country at peace. Our hearts ache for the millions of people across our world for whom the absence of peace, and the horrors of war make their lives unbearably hard. In the giving and receiving of pastoral care within our church family, we pray for all of those seeking to provide aid and support for the victims of conflict and natural disasters. In our reflection on their efforts to fulfil Christ’s commandment that we should love and care for one another, even at personal sacrifice, we are encouraged to commit ourselves ever more strongly to that same goal.

Very soon we will be saying farewell to Jill Bunney, who will be moving with her son and daughter-in-law, Nigel and Julie, to the village of Horton near to Ilminster in Somerset. We will greatly miss Jill’s kind, gentle and ever cheerful presence amongst us. She leaves us knowing that her expressed appreciation of being part of our church family is reciprocated by the joy she has brought to us throughout all of the time she has worshipped with us. God bless you as you settle into your new home and new church, Jill.

We also remember with happiness the huge contribution which Sharon made to our Church, and so it was an immense pleasure to welcome her son, Prince, to our morning service in October. It is good to know that Prince has found a church in Swindon where he enjoys the worship, and is a vital part of its music group as a keyboard player and guitarist.

We are pleased that Jane Robinson is now well enough to worship with us again in person, having only been able to join us via Zoom for so long. We give thanks for the medical care she has received, enabling her to recover well enough to be with us again on Sunday mornings.

Praying for each other: In November the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study Group: on Judith and Mike Skinner’s list: Alison Brown, Faith & Damien Culshaw, Alex Mwange, Derek & Felicity Morton, Heather Wells and Graham Wells.

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 Prayer and Bible Study group.

Prayer WhatsApp group

Holy Habit of Prayer

Helen Carter

If you would like to be informed of urgent prayer requests please do get in touch with Helen Carter as this will be done through a WhatsApp group. If you don't want to use WhatsApp but want to be informed of urgent prayer requests then please speak to Helen and she will make sure a way is found of informing you of urgent prayer requests. Thank you.

In October we continued our study of Holy Habits Gladness and Generosity covering the final two weeks of this study. We were pleased to welcome Keith to lead our discussion for the final session and thank him for his willingness to join and lead us regularly from his busy schedule. We then commenced our study of Holy Habits Eating Together.

We have now decided on the choice for our **Advent Study** this year. It is They Sang written by Amy Scott Robinson and published by Kevin Mayhew. It is based on the four songs in the Christmas Story, Zechariah's song (the Benedictus), Mary's song (Magnificat), the song of the angels (Gloria in Excelsis) and Simeon's song (Nunc Dimitittus). These songs are all filled with prophecy and praise and contain all the expectations of what the Messiah would be like and his purpose in coming to earth. They help us to look back to the first Christmas with wonder, through the eyes of the people who experienced it; and forward to a time when God will finally fulfil all of these expectations in the kingdom of heaven. The study also has a fifth session which is Our Song, an opportunity for us to write our song. If we tackle Our Song as a group it will be at a future date after Christmas for a future year! The Advent Study will start on **28th November** going through to 19th December. A welcome awaits you if should wish to join us for this Advent study.

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.

Dates for November are as follows:

7 th November	Holy Habits	Eating Together Week 4
	What should we eat?	Reading Daniel 1:8-12
14 th November	Holy Habits	Eating Together Week 5
	Mission Impossible?	Reading Matthew 14:16-20
21 st November	Holy Habits	Eating Together Week 6
	An Open Invitation.	Reading Luke 14:16-18 and 21
28 th November	Advent Study	They Sang, Week 1
	Benedictus, A Song of Salvation.	Reading Luke 1:67-79

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

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, we offer our thanks for the changing seasons, for the beauty of the Autumn with the changing colours and for the thankfulness of the Harvest now safely gathered in. We also offer our prayers for all the parts of your world, who, far from being in our fortunate position, are suffering through so many atrocities which are not of their making. We think particularly of Israel/Palestine and Ukraine. Bless and comfort all who mourn and those who have suffered injuries. We pray the aid they need will be on the way to them. We urgently offer our prayers for a just and equal sharing for all in your world. Help us to play our part in bringing your kingdom for all as Jesus taught us to. Lord hear our prayer as we offer it 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, Diane's daughters Julie and Claire, Ken Harmer, Meriel, Jane Robinson, Maggie, June Hartle, Richard and Anne, Peter, Kathryn Clark, Louise, John and Jo, Jen, Jane and Harry Rudd, Pam Johnson. 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. Give thanks for the NHS.

If you or the person/people you have put on the prayer list would still like to be in the December/January newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 17th November** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

Eileen Rennie: Telephone 01235 224284, or email eileenrennie@icloud.com

An Evening Advent group

Alison Phillips

This year we are planning an evening Advent group, at 1 Mill Paddock on four Thursday evenings from **November 16th to December 14th** (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 would like to be part of this Advent group.

We will be 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.

Community Café

June Grunwald

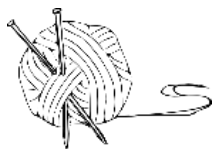
The Community Café has been well attended in the last few weeks. We quite often have 30+ visitors. Some are regulars and some just passing by. Our A-frame notice board in Church Street works well and one couple dropped in after their motor home broke down and was being fixed locally. We had a bumper crop on the Monday in half-term with over 40 people, which included a couple of young people with their extended families.

The café does not charge for coffee or home-made cakes, but each week we have “piggy banks” for donations to a charity. 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. The café will NOT be open on Christmas Day, which is a Monday, but we plan to be open on New Year’s Day.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310



Thank you to all the people who have let me know how many angels they have knitted. I have ordered the labels and once collected from the printers they will be prepared for attaching to the angels.



This year the angels will be blessed on **10th December** before taking flight into Wantage.

Knit & Chat will meet on **Monday 6th November** and **Monday 20th November** at 2pm in the Hall. The latter date is likely to be used for tying on labels and we may need to add an extra session to complete the work. Information about this will appear in the notices.

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

Food bank

The need of foodbank parcels continues to accelerate with record number of requests being received. As it comes up to Christmas there will almost certainly be a further increase. Every donation is much appreciated and so if you are able to pop something into the Food Bank box that resides in the foyer in the church that would be great. Thank you.

Christmas Tree Festival, Wantage Methodist Church 1st – 3rd December



Our **Christmas Tree Festival** this year will be supporting **Blood Cancer UK**. We shall be open from **6 pm on Dickensian Evening, Friday 1st 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 2nd December, 10 am - 12 noon** 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. I would be grateful to hear from any 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.)

Who Cares?

In response to Our Calling, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

Who Cares? is a series of four 2-hour modules that introduces participants to pastoral practice, drawing on insights and underpinning knowledge in the areas below. With suggested pre/post-session learning and reflection, these pilot sessions will set churches and Methodist communities on a sound footing to envision and enable pastoral support in their context.

Session details (it is strongly recommended that participants attend all 4 sessions)

- Session 1 (13th November): Introduction to Pastoral care
- Session 2 (20th November): Discipleship and Hospitality
- Session 3 (27th November): Listening and Prayer
- Session 4 (4th December): Pastoral Care in Difficult Times

All sessions will take place on Zoom, from 7 - 9pm.

Work is continuing on 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.



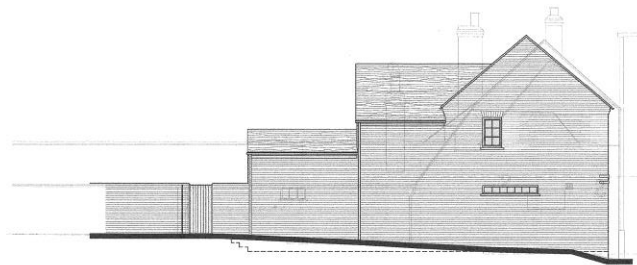
16 & 16A NEWBURY STREET WANTAGE OX12 8DA	1:100 A3	HNSW/PL/004A
FOR: ALAN HUNT	MAY 2020	
PROPOSED ELEVATIONS BASED ON SURVEY INFORMATION BY OTHERS	Matthew T. Young A.A. Inc. By A.A. Inc. Chartered Architect 25, Hunt Hill, Oxshott Lane, Wallingford, OX12 0DN Telephone: 01491 825244 www.mtyoung.co.uk	
Note: Elevations are based on information provided by client. Discrepancies should not be relied upon. Before application to Authority, check dimensions against existing ground conditions.		

SOUTH EAST ELEVATION
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)

SECTION A-A
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)



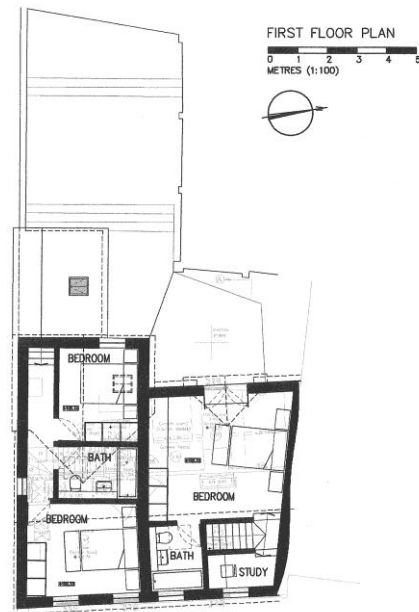
NORTH WEST ELEVATION
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)



SOUTH WEST ELEVATION
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
0 1 2 3 4 5
METRES (1:100)

16 & 16A NEWBURY STREET WANTAGE OX12 8DA	1:100 A3	HNSW/PL/004A
FOR: ALAN HUNT	MAY 2020	
PROPOSED PLANS BASED ON SURVEY INFORMATION BY OTHERS	Matthew T. Young A.A. Inc. By A.A. Inc. Chartered Architect	

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
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group	in the Parlour	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs		Weekly in term

Users All in the Hall

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

November

Sunday 5 th	Evening	Memorial Service		Chapel
Wednesday 8 th	Evening	EDI Training		Chapel
Saturday 11 th	Morning	“What about Joseph?” rehearsal		Hall
Wednesday 15 th	Evening	Church Council		Chapel
Thursday 16 th	Evening	Newbury St PPG AGM		Chapel
Saturday 18 th	Evening	WGSP Quiz & Curry		Hall
Wednesday 22 nd	Evening	Holy Habits Film		Chapel
Thursday 23 rd	Evening	Music Makers		Hall
Saturday 25 th	Morning	“What about Joseph?” rehearsal		Hall

December

Friday / Saturday 1 st / 2 nd		Christmas Tree Festival		All
Saturday 9 th	Morning	“What about Joseph?” rehearsal		Hall
Friday 15 th	Evening	“What about Joseph?” rehearsal		Chapel
Saturday 16 th	Evening	“What about Joseph?”		All

DIARY for NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p14
Sunday 5 th	6:30 pm	Annual Service of Remembrance	p13
Monday 6 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p19
Wednesday 8 th	7:30 pm	EDI Training	p5
Saturday 11 th	10:00 am	Holy Habits – Book reflection	p15
Monday 13 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p4
Wednesday 15 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Council	
Friday, 17 th	7:30 pm	Film Club at Grove - “Breathe”	p14
Saturday 18 th	7:00 pm	WGSP Quiz & Curry Night	p11

Sunday 19th 9:30 am **Kids@Church** at Wantage p15
DEADLINE for November CGW NEWS

Monday 20 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p19
Wednesday 22 nd	7:30 pm	Holy Habits Film - Babette’s Feast (Wantage)	p15

Sunday 26th	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p14
Tuesday 28 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p14

DECEMBER

Friday / Saturday 1 st /2 nd		Christmas Tree Festival at Wantage	p20
Saturday 16 th	Evening	“What about Joseph?” at Wantage	p9

SERVICES during NOVEMBER

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 5th Ordinary 31

10:30 am	Wantage	Local Arrangements	Gill Morton
10:30 am	Grove		Rev John Anderson
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
6:30 pm	Wantage	Annual Service of Remembrance	

Sunday 12th Ordinary 32 Remembrance Sunday

9:30 am	Wantage		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
10:30 am	Grove		Elizabeth Wood
10:45 am	Childrey		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		

Sunday 19th Ordinary 33

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

Sunday 26th Sunday before Advent Women against Violence

10:30 am	Wantage	Holy Habits	Libby Hawkness-Smith
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Baptism		
11:00 am	Childrey		Helen Carter
6:30 pm	Grove	Prayer for Revival	