

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The **Methodist** Church

CGW NEWS



DECEMBER 2023/
JANUARY 2024

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:

Helen Carter : 01235 764810
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

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (February) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 21st January 2024**
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 Contribution 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.....

This year during Advent and Christmas we will be following the theme “Out of the ordinary” which has been produced by the Methodist Connexion as we prepare once more for the birth of Jesus.

We are being invited to scratch beneath the surface this Christmas so as to experience how the wonder of God’s love is revealed in the ordinary.

The message to one and all is quite simple. 2,000 years ago, a seemingly ordinary birth changed the world and each day ordinary acts of kindness can break through to the extraordinary.

Perhaps we are in danger of taking the Christmas story for granted and in doing so, missing how the extraordinary can be found in the every day and in the humdrumness of the ordinary.

Amongst many of the suggestions and resources are some questions based upon lines from famous Christmas carols to help us reflect upon the incarnation and what it means for us.

“So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven”

Look at yourself. Where do you see the divine reflected back at you?

“Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light”

Look at the people around you. Where do you notice the divine shining back at you?

“Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by”

Look at the world around you. Where do you see glimmers of the divine?

I wonder what your responses and answers to these questions might be? As we scratch beneath the surface this Advent season may we be alert to the extraordinary in our midst which so often can be hidden within the seemingly ordinary.

With love and God Bless

Keith

Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson has accepted the invitation to become presbyter in the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit with responsibility for Trinity Church, Abingdon and All Saints Methodist Church, Abingdon, from September 2024, and with an indication of a willingness to assume the Circuit Superintendency from September 2025.

Revd. Georgina is very much looking forward to joining our Circuit and we will look forward to welcoming her and her family next year.

This appointment is (of course) subject to approval by Methodist Conference next June.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January

During this Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, there will be an online session of daily prayers each evening at 8:00 pm for 20 minutes.

Each Church will be invited to lead one of the sessions, and the prayers will be as varied in format as the traditions of our member churches. This form of celebration of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been well received in the past and we are looking forward to repeating it again.

In addition, there will also be a united service on **Sunday 21st January** at 4:00 pm at Wantage Parish Church of St Peter and St. Paul.

Stepping out with Noah – 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 the new pattern will be one walk mid week and another on a Sunday afternoon.

The dates are as below.

Thursday 14th December at 10:00 am

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.

Wantage& Grove Food Bank

D Townsend

Dear wonderful churches,

You may have seen we are collecting again for our Christmas hampers.

This year we are looking for donations of:

Christmas Pudding

Savoury Nibbles or Crisps

Crackers for Cheese

Christmas Cake or Chocolate Log

Mince Pies

Boxes of Christmas Biscuits

Boxes of Chocolates

all with at least a January 2024 expiry

The deadline for collection is December 5th

Many thanks, on behalf of Wantage and Grove 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.

From Wantage Parish

New Curate 2024!

Fr Benji will soon be concluding his training period as our curate, and there will be both celebration and sadness yet to come when we bid him farewell in 2024. More news on that in due course. But many have been asking whether we will be getting a new curate, and it can now be confirmed the answer is Yes!

Although Wantage has been training curates for many generations, it is no longer guaranteed that any parish will always receive a curate, especially as the supply of new clergy in the diocese is below its normal quota next year. The case had to be made that Wantage and our team of clergy and laity can provide a high quality of training for a new curate to start their ministry, and to our joy the Diocese agreed.

We will be joined by Thomas Frances Caroe, known as Frances, who is due to be ordained deacon at Petertide 2024 and will be moving to Wantage in June with his wife Hannah. Here's what Frances has to say about himself:

"I am about to finish training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, where I have finally fallen in love with the Oxfordshire countryside, not least the vista over towards Wantage and the Ridgeway from our front door. (I was brought up in Yorkshire, and yearn for the Dales.) Before training, I occupied myself as a gardener, managing an allotment with volunteers from a homeless day centre, and as a scholar of Japanese language, literature, and culture. It was while living in Japan that I came to adult faith, and the Japanese custom of adopting a Christian name at baptism and confirmation is the source of my name Thomas (although I use Frances in day-to-day conversation). The patronage of the doubting apostle is appropriate for me, as a fellow sceptic who has travelled to the East. My wife, Hannah, and I married in 2020; she is an archaeobotanist and a poet, among many other things. We are both looking forward to moving to Wantage in the summer, and I am excited at the prospect of serving you as assistant curate, God willing."



Please pray for Frances and Hannah, and for Fr Benji, as they each prepare for their next steps.



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

7.30 pm 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

Christian Concern for One World (www.ccow.org.uk) is offering free Christmas window posters with a positive "Refugees Welcome" message for churches and individuals to use. (CCOW offer resources for prayer and action on a wide range of issues, with a focus on trade justice, fair trade, climate change, and responses to refugees). The posters are a way of changing the narrative, showing hospitality rather than hostility, to those seeking sanctuary. More details and a link to request copies of the poster here.

<https://mailchi.mp/0dfa21c7d908/ccows-december-refugee-support-newsletter-15635885?e=c185fa28d0>

If anyone would like a printed copy of the poster, Libby Hawkness-Smith can collect them from Didcot and take them to Wantage.

Holocaust Memorial Day Events

Wantage Methodist Church Saturday 27th January 10 am till 12 noon

A time to pop in and reflect a while, for as brief a time or as long as you are able.

At 12 noon Rev Bruce Thompson will lead a 15 minute reflection

Further details June Grunwald

Refreshments available in the hall.

Wallingford Methodist Church Tuesday 13th February 12 noon till 1pm

Holocaust Survivor Dr Agnes Kaposi MBE

in conversation with Rev Bruce Thompson

Light refreshments to follow

Wantage Methodist Church Tuesday 13th February 7.30 - 8.30pm

Holocaust Survivor Dr Agnes Kaposi MBE

Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich

Revd Bruce Thompson

Disability Workshop for the Northampton District



The disability awareness charity "Through the Roof" are going to put on a workshop for our District on **12th February 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00pm on Zoom**. We ask you to please make sure that your circuit is represented at the workshop, and ideally it would be wonderful to welcome as many people from churches as possible. Please do see the attached flyer with the details and display/put on your websites and circulate around your circuits. Registration is via the District Office at email address : office@northamptonmethodistdistrict.co.uk.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your replies by **15th December 2023**. If you'd like to know more about the charity please follow this link:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/roofbreakers/>



As Coordinator of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors, I'm so grateful for everyone who is involved in this wonderful ministry, serving God by serving people - bringing the love of Christ from church to street; from heart and minds to hands and feet! I'm sure that everyone involved has got a really good reason NOT to volunteer with us!!! Busy with work, hectic family life, don't do late nights, health not great, getting a bit old, starting to creak! Despite the difficulties, it all comes together to enable us to care, listen and help in Wantage & Grove week by week.

In the Bible, God was able to use all sorts of people for his glory despite their personal situations - here are just a few:

Abraham & Sarah were old, Moses had a stutter, Gideon was afraid, Rahab was a prostitute, David had an affair, Jonah ran away, Naomi was a widow, Job lost everything, Martha was a worrier, the Samaritan woman was divorced (several times). Zacchaeus was short, the disciples were sleepy, Peter denied Christ, Thomas doubted and Paul was religious!

There are many ways you can volunteer with us from admin/secretarial to event management, prayer support to Street Pastoring. check out our [Join Us](#) page on our website and our [Vacancies](#) page for more ideas!

So, what are your reasons to NOT volunteer? Drop us an [email](#) and let us know - we'd love to hear from you!

Nigel Watts - Coordinator

Afternoon Patrols to launch in Spring 2024

It is always a delight to serve the community of Wantage & Grove and show others all about the excellent work that Street Pastors do. In June I was able to observe as a Street Pastor and take the MP for Wantage and Didcot out onto the streets of Wantage. Later in the evening we came across a group of young people who were drinking and talking. The conversation quickly turned to why are you here, what do you get out of being on the streets late at night? We were able to explain and talked about how, as Christians, it is important for us to serve the community and to help people. Shortly after those conversations the young people dispersed, and we carried on with our evening. It was a great example of witnessing to people but also by being there, potentially stopping something else happening.



This little story is a good reminder that we are wanting to help the young people of Wantage & Grove by having an afternoon patrol. I am training up to be a street pastor and one or two others have come forward, but we are in need of more to come forward in order to launch next Spring. Please do get in touch if this is something you feel you could do to help the young people of Wantage & Grove.

Paul Gander, Chair of Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

How we Helped in the Streets

In the early hours of one Saturday night, an argument broke out among a group of about 15 people, which soon became aggressive. There was much shouting, pushing and a few punches were thrown. We called the police and waited at a safe distance until they arrived. Although the incident had mostly subsided and many of the people left the scene, the police apprehended the main perpetrator and spoke to others from the group.

In September one of our teams met a homeless man sitting in a shop doorway with a sleeping bag. It is unusual to find homeless people sitting on the street in Wantage. When we do meet them, they are usually heading to Oxford where there is some provision for homeless people and are only here in Wantage for one night. We carry a few basic supplies for homeless people – just enough to make one night a bit more bearable. The man was very grateful for a pot of hot noodles and a pair of clean socks.

One of our teams met a group who had been to a wedding celebration in Wantage. One of the ladies, who wasn't wearing shoes, gasped when we handed her a pair of flip-flops. We also handed out lollies and chatted for a while leaving them very happy at the end of the night.

Part of what we do is to listen to people. One night we chatted to two young men, one of them stayed with us for a while and said how he had been through some really dark times recently but things were brighter now. We also chatted to a couple who said that we had helped them home when they were drunk about ten years ago!

Street Pastor Church Rep

Many of our partner churches have a wonderful person who we call our Church Rep. This is someone who helps us stay connected with the church and helps us communicate all that's going on in Wantage & Grove Street Pastors. We are very grateful for the time and effort that they put into promoting our work within their church community. Thank you!

Website: www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Cornerstone news –

In the Cafe it's getting busier in the run up to Christmas. We are now taking bookings for a full Christmas lunch on **14th December** but we also welcome booking for other days in December when we will be offering Christmas specials like Brie and Cranberry Quiche and Roasted Vegetable Nutloaf. We will be closed from **24th December to 1st January** inclusive.



Make and Bake for the under 5s is back up and running every Tuesday, just £2 per child. The last session before Christmas will be **12th December**.

In the shop we have lots of Christmas Cards, Advent Candles, Calendars and lots of gift ideas for Christmas. We will be at the Wantage Methodist Christmas Tree Festival on **1st & 2nd December** with a stall of stock, so do drop by and see us.

From JPIT Newsletter

What brings you joy? In C.S. Lewis' book 'Surprised by Joy', he muses,

“All joy reminds. It is never a possession, always a desire for something longer ago or further away or still ‘about to be’.”

It's difficult to feel joy when we are faced with the news on our screens, on our radios and smart speakers and in our newspapers. The Christian joy sees the sweep of human history and, despite its many, many failings and horrors, clings to faith that better days are coming.

Have you taken time to celebrate the glimmers of light that break through the darkness? Our thankfulness requires us to use our memory and our experiences, and then changes our perspective. It might not overcome the challenges, but it does illuminate them. In darker days, can we celebrate the shafts of light that appear when we see justice done and harmful words, policies and actions admonished?

So what brings you joy? For many of us, joy is witnessing the positive change in others' and our own lives when peace and justice are established. Let us continue to share this joy, pray for this joy and work for it, knowing that brighter days will come, especially when we do this together.

Loving God

I see the news and I am afraid.

Violence is spiralling out of control.

I don't know what to think or feel.

**The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair
feels very close at hand.**

**Help me to remember that nothing in all creation
can separate me from your love
that I know in Jesus.**

**May your perfect love for me cast out my fear
and free me to discern what is mine to do
amidst the chaos of this suffering world.**

Amen

The **Methodist** Church



Church leaders including the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have signed a statement calling for a ceasefire

Christian Aid, the undersigned church leaders and Christian organisations are gravely concerned by the mounting death toll across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. There can be no justification for the deliberate killing, maiming and kidnapping of civilians, which is a crime under international law and for which the perpetrators should be held accountable. We unequivocally condemn the violence carried out by Hamas in Israel on 7th October.

The subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza has added enormously to the toll of civilian suffering. Innocent Palestinians are going through an increasingly grave humanitarian crisis as a result the Israeli government's strategy of relentless bombardment, which has left no place safe, and of siege, which effectively strangles life. The death toll in Gaza is over 7,000 and, with no end in sight, will no doubt dramatically rise.

We call on all governments with influence to help bring about an immediate end to the violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Specifically, we call for the following steps to be taken:

- Protection of civilians and an end to all violence, with adoption of a ceasefire without conditions.
- The unconditional and immediate release of all hostages.
- Unfettered and immediate humanitarian access, as urged by the UN, including immediate reconnection to water and electricity.
- Unequivocal support for the ICC to conduct a truly independent investigation into all war crimes to ensure accountability.
- Acknowledgement of the failure of the international community to effectively engage with any meaningful peace process, and a commitment to work ceaselessly from now on to address the root causes of the violence which must include an end to the occupation.

Signed by:

- The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan
- The Most Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin & Bishop of Glendalough, Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan
- Most Revd William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow
- Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church
- Rt Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
- Susan Mitchell Assistant Clerk: General Meeting for Scotland (Quakers)
- Revd. Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator Elect, National Synod of Scotland, United Reformed Church
- Marian Pallister, Chair of Pax Christi Scotland
- Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary, Churches Together in England
- Revd Gill Newton, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain
- Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain

- Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church
- Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain
- Rt Revd Mary Stallard, Bishop of Llandaff
- Revd Andrew Charlesworth, Chair of the Wales synod of the Methodist Church in Wales
- Rev Paul Martin, Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit.
- Revd Judith Morris, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Wales
- Rev Jeff Williams, President, Union of Welsh independents
- Christine Allen, Director, CAFOD
- Patrick Watt, CEO, Christian Aid
- Tim Livesey CEO Embrace the Middle East
- Ann Farr, Chair, Pax Christi England and Wales
- Charlotte Marshall, Director, Sabeel-Kairos UK
- Rev Chris Rose, Director Amos Trust
- John Cooper, Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation in England & Scotland

Statement from the Methodist Liaison office in Jerusalem

From the Methodist Liaison office in Jerusalem

The World Methodist Council, the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, and the Methodist Church in Britain work in partnership to run the Methodist Liaison Office based in Jerusalem employing 3 staff members. They have released this statement after the attacks in the region:

We are witnesses to the escalation of violence in the region and we call on the global Methodist people to continue to pray for peace and for an end to the violence.

Pray for those who have lost family members and livelihoods, the injured, for those who perpetuate violence and for world leaders that they may work for peace, the churches and all religious leaders and for those who work for peace in the region.

The situation is complicated, and we recognise the fear and sense of injustice that are felt, but we call on both sides not to resort to further violence and to engage in negotiation to establish a peaceful solution for all who live in the Holy Land.

Prayers for Israel-Palestine

Methodist Liaison Office Weekly Update and Prayer Meeting

Join Methodists from around the world to pray together for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land. Every Wednesday from 6pm (UK time) for 40 minutes. Each week there will be updates and theological reflections from local voices and MLO staff members followed by the opportunity to pray together. To join please email office@mlojerusalem.org and you will be sent joining instructions.

A prayer from the Methodist Peace Fellowship

Oh Jerusalem, how we long for all peoples to be gathered up under the wings of peace and yet your heart is shattered and your sides pierced by swords of grief. Beloved city, may mercy and justice walk in your streets and markets, show us how to look into each others eyes with love and equity so that all humanity might die to violence and live to trust our neighbours once again.

Out of the Ordinary Advent Theme for the Methodist Church

Scratch beneath the surface this Christmas

During Advent and Christmas, you are invited to experience how the wonder of God's love is revealed in the ordinary:

- 2,000 years ago, a seemingly ordinary birth changed the world
- each day, ordinary acts of kindness can breakthrough to the extraordinary

Sign up for our Advent reflection emails

Throughout Advent we are sharing daily email reflections that explore our theme *Out of the Ordinary*. Sign up to receive these each day and discover a rhythm of reflection during Advent this December. They begin on Monday 27 November (Advent starts on Sunday 3 December) and finish on Christmas Eve.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/out-of-the-ordinary/>

A Note from The Editors

Advent is with us once again, the liturgical year begins and the calendar year draws to a close. Another year's editions of CGW News are complete.

We hope you find the CGW News content interesting and informative. Any contribution is welcome and we do our best to get everything in each edition and not let errors get past us. Please let us know if the print size makes CGW News difficult to read.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the content each month.

If you do not get a paper copy, there are copies on the Wantage and Circuit websites. If you cannot access the websites, please contact either the editors or weekly notices contact and we will do our best to make sure you can get a paper copy.

Finally may we wish you every blessing for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHILDREY

10th December 10:30 am We will be joining in with the village as we sing carols round the tree as part of the Childrey Christmas Festival Weekend, along with members of the Wantage Silver Band and Childrey Choir.

4:00 pm Christingle Service at St. Mary's

17th December 3:00pm Carol service at St. Mary's
led by Ness and with Keith preaching

24th December 11:00 am A service of **Holy Communion** led by Keith

25th December 10:15 am Christmas morning service at St. Mary's

14th January 11:00 am Our Annual Covenant service led by Keith

28th January 11:00 am Morning Worship led by Revd Ian Griffiths

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.

**Carols by Candlelight at Aston Tirrold URC Church
at 6 pm on 24th December**

Mince pies in the centre afterwards

GROVE

Services for December and January

17th December 6:30 pm - Carol service. Come along and join us as we sing some of your favourite carols and hear the familiar readings as we prepare for Christmas.

18th December 5:00 pm we have been invited to take part in community carol singing at Lancaster Crescent, Wellington Gate – more details will be available shortly.

21st December 7:00 pm - Carols around the tree. The Parish Council's Carols around the tree opposite the church will take place on Thursday 21st December at 7:00 pm, to be followed by mince pies and hot drinks in church.

24th December, Christmas Eve. Our traditional Christmas Eve communion service will be at 8:00 pm as we prepare for his coming amongst us once more.

25th December, Christmas Day, 10:30 am. Come and celebrate Christmas Day in this all age service – don't forget to bring along one of your presents to show!

Covenant Service Our annual Covenant service will be on **January 28th** and will include Holy Communion.

Coffee Morning on Saturday, 2nd December from 10 am till noon in the church. Proceeds from the morning are for the Wantage & Grove Foodbank. Ian has agreed to host the morning but he has asked for our help and support. Offers of help with cakes would be appreciated. Please speak to Ian or to Jenny Marriott.

We hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Details of the first Coffee morning for 2024 will be in the weekly notice sheet. This may not be until February. At the moment the January slot is still available.

The **Film Club** will not be meeting in December.

The first **Film Club of 2024** will be on **Friday, 19th January** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. We will be showing "The Happy Prince".

This is the untold story of the last days in the tragic times of Oscar Wilde, a person who observes the difficulties and failures surrounding himself with ironic detachment, humour and the wit that defined his life.

Cast: Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, Colin Morgan, Emily Watson, Edwin Thomas.

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

There will be no ecumenical meeting of "**Prayer for Revival**" in December.

From January the meetings will change to the first Sunday of each month, beginning on **Sunday, 7th January**, at 6.30 pm till 8 pm in our church.

All are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship.

We are meeting at the Cornerstone for an Afternoon Christmas Tea on **Tuesday, 19th December** at 2.15 pm. We will need to have names nearer the time and details will be in the notice sheet about this.

The **first Tuesday Fellowship of 2024** will be on **Tuesday, 30th January** at 2.15 pm. Details of venue and speaker will be in the notices in January.

Carols round the tree, at the top of Vale Avenue, arranged by Grove Parish Council, is on **Thursday, 21st December**. Followed by mince pies, tea/coffee in our church.

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 Coffee Morning in November raising funds for Freyja's Fund. Donations raised £190.05, card sales £161 and Morgan's card sales £10.22, making a total of £361.27. Judith and her family thank you for your very generous support.

Thank you to everyone for your continued and generous support for the Wantage & Grove Food Bank. Since Harvest a further four deliveries of goods from our box in church have been taken to the Food Bank. Thank you. Your donations of food do help to make a difference to local families. UHT milk and fruit juice are always a particular need, also tinned meat and vegetables. Spare plastic bags are most useful. 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.

Sustainability and looking to the future.

Following on from the last Circuit Meeting Plus (2) and our recent Church Council, there will be **an open meeting** on **Sunday 3rd December** from 2:30 - 4:30 pm to reflect on the challenges that all the churches in the Circuit will be facing in the coming 18 months or so as we prepare to drop from three Presbyters to two in September 2025.

In particular we will be looking to respond to the questions that were asked at the Circuit Meeting Plus meeting in October.

Sustainable Circuit

Question 1 - The background

The discussions that took place during the Circuit Meeting Plus event held earlier in March were strongly in favour of having fewer chapels and that our focus should be on mission and outreach. As stated elsewhere, this was courageous and forward thinking.

So, respecting the views of seven months ago, and bearing in mind that it is only individual Church Councils - not any other body - who can close or merge chapels...

How do we reduce the number of chapels and Worship Centres? How do we choose which locations to prioritise?

All within the context of

- What are we trying to do here?
- What should we be doing?
- What are we able and willing to do?

Q1. What steps should your own chapel take towards considering merger or closure, in order to assist in the creation of fewer chapels/worship centres?

Question 2 -The Background

By September 2025, if not before, the number of Local Arrangements on the Preaching Plan will dramatically increase. Consideration will be given in due course to a couple of suggestions –

1. that the two Circuit presbyters might lead two consecutive morning services in two different chapels on some of these Sundays - although this would have a negative and limiting impact on important pastoral contact and conversations after the first service.
2. that regular Circuit services might be held in one chapel whilst all others close on that Sunday.

In any event, it is clear that the local chapels themselves will need to make decisions about what to do on the occasions when there will be no planned worship in their buildings.

The Circuit Leadership Team are keen to understand what challenges and opportunities these suggestions present for individual chapel settings.

Q2 In respect of providing meaningful and viable alternatives for your particular chapel when there are Local Arrangements on the Preaching Plan, how viable are the following suggestions:

1. Close your building on those Sundays – worshippers can decide for themselves where they go
2. Enter an arrangement to share worship with other Methodist chapels (or ecumenical partners) – taking it in turns to host, or perhaps a larger chapel always hosting a shared service
3. Maintain worship in your chapel through holding a service that is
 - a. Worship Leader/house group/stewards led?
 - b. A combination of worship leaders etc and technology?
 - c. Technology led? E.g. live streaming a Circuit Zoom service etc

As a group, please rank and explain your preferences, giving both strengths and weakness in relation to the chapels represented in your group.

As we reflect on these issue we will spend time discussing this both in small groups as well as all together.

It is important that everyone's views are heard and are part of our deliberations, so if you are not able to be with us for these discussions, please do let Keith or the stewards have any thoughts that you might have so that these can be included.

Pastoral Care

There will be an open meeting on **Thursday 25th January** at 7:30 pm for all those interested in the issue of our pastoral care for one another and how best to fulfil this as we seek to go forward into the future. Everyone is welcome.

Film Club January to June 2024

Friday 19th January The Happy Prince (2018 1hr 45mins 15)

The untold story of the last days in the tragic times of Oscar Wilde, a person who observes the difficulties and failures surrounding himself with ironic detachment, humour and the wit that defined his life.

Cast: Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, Colin Morgan, Emily Watson, Edwin Thomas.

(Production companies: Maye Pictures, Entre chiens et loups, Palomar. Distributed by Lionsgate UK, Concorde Film, Beta Cinema, Sony Picture Classics)

Friday 16th February Surprised by Oxford (2023 1h 47m)

Emotionally guarded Caro Drake arrives in Oxford with the singular goal of attaining her Ph.D., but through a turbulent friendship with a charming young man, Caro begins to open herself up to mystery, vulnerability and love.

Cast: Rose Reid, Ruairi O'Connor, Phyllis Logan, Emma Naomi, Simon Callow, Mark Williams

Friday 15th March An Inspector Calls (2015 1h 27m PG)

A mysterious inspector investigates the wealthy Birling family and their dinner guest following the suicide of a young woman. Directed by Aisling Walsh based on a play by J B Priestley.

Cast: Sophie Rundle, Lucy Chappell, Miranda Richardson, Ken Stott, David Thewlis

Friday 19th April A Man called Otto (2022 2h 6m 15)

Otto is a grump who has given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Cast: Tom Hanks, Mariana Trevino, Rachel Keller

Friday 17th May Dark Horse (2015 1h 25m PG)

In a small valley town in South Wales, a barmaid decides to breed a racehorse she ultimately names Dream Alliance. She and her husband buy a broodmare and she asks other villagers to join in the effort with funding and advice.

The website Rotten Tomatoes critical consensus reads, "*Dark Horse* offers a thoroughly crowd-pleasing look at an incredible — and inspirational — real-life story that will thrill equine enthusiasts and novices alike."

Cast: Jan Vokes, Howard Davies, Brian 'Daisy' Vokes

Friday 21st June The Great Escaper (2023 1h 36m 12A)

The Great Escaper is a 2023 biographical drama film directed by Oliver Parker, written by William Ivory, and starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. It is based on the true story of 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France in June 2014.

Cast: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson



Framland Christmas Fayre

Saturday 16th December
10.00am – 12.00pm

Cake stall
Sweet Stall
Mince pies

Bric-a-Brac
Card Stall
Music
And so much more

Toy Stall
Decoration stall
Craft Stall



WANTAGE

Services for December and January

10th December 10:30 am. During this service, led by Helen Carter, our knitted angels will be blessed before being 'set free' to be given and found bringing messages of hope and peace.

17th December 10:30 am. This will be an all age, interactive carol service. There will be a church breakfast beforehand to which everyone is welcome. This is being organised by the Kids@Church team. Please do sign up to help us know how many to cater for.

Christmas Eve 24th December 4:30 pm. Following on from last year's positive experience, we will once again be holding a 'cloth for the cradle' service at which we will transform our crib into a suitable bed for Jesus and reflect together on the events of the stable and that first Christmas. This will be an all age service including an informal act of Holy Communion for this most special of days.

Christmas Day 25th December 9:30 am. Come and celebrate Christmas Day in this all age service – don't forget to bring along one of your presents to show.

Covenant Service. Our annual Covenant service and re-dedication of Pastoral Visitors will be on **January 21st** and will include Holy Communion.

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

In November we thought about Daniel being thrown into the lion's den for praying to God. We had fun being sleeping lions on the church carpet before going through to the hall and making lion masks! It is always a joy to share food together before we leave and we are so grateful to Liz, Zack and Jordan who enable that to happen. Our thanks also go to June, who faithfully comes and does all the sound and projection for us.

We are excited about our **shared breakfast** (Kids@church and 10.30 congregations) on **Sunday 17th December** before the all-age Carol service. We hope you will be able to join us!

In the new year kids@church will be meeting at 9.30 am on **Sunday 21st January** and **Sunday 18th February**. All children and their families are very welcome to join us for this informal gathering of story, prayer, music and craft or a game followed by a simple breakfast.

For more information please call Jane on 07443 420205.

Holy Habits

We will resume in February.

At this time of the year we invariably learn of difficulties which several members of our church family are encountering. At present we are missing Jane Rudd, Arnold Tucker and Celia Roser from our services on Sundays because of being unwell. We think of them all and pray that they feel supported by the knowledge of our love and prayers for them.

Jim Hughes: We learned with sadness that Jim died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on 29th October. As a regular attendee at our Community Café, Jim was presented with a birthday cake celebrating his 90th birthday, and he enjoyed being there with Sonia and many other friends. He and Sonia have frequently come to our Sunday services, as well as attending the service at Childrey on many occasions. Jim will be remembered fondly by many people within our church family, and particularly by those whom he supported and encouraged in his generous and cheerful manner. Our thoughts are with Sonia and with Jim's family, and we pray that God's love and care will comfort and strengthen them all.

John Morton: Sadly we record that John died on Monday 13th November at the JR Hospital. We have all become used to seeing John, accompanied by one of his team of kind carers, sitting in the front row with his mother, Gill, also close to him. John clearly liked being part of our Church family, especially receiving a blessing from Keith at the services of Holy Communion. We offer our love and our prayers to Gill, and to John's brother, Derek, and his family, praying that they will be comforted by the assurance of knowing that John rests peacefully in God's eternal care.

John's funeral Service will take place at Garford Crematorium on Monday 11th December at 12 noon, followed by a Thanksgiving Service in our Church at 1 pm. Gill has said that members of our Church family will be welcome at both of these services.

Jill Bunney: Within a few days of her move to Somerset, Jill has been in touch to give us glowing reports of the new home into which she has moved with her son and daughter-in-law, Nigel and Julie. She is excited about being able to help with the garden, and looking forward to going to the Methodist Church close by. She also says that she is determined to come back to special services at our Church, and missing her friends in our Church family is the only downside of being in her beautiful new surroundings.

In the evening of 5th November we held our Service of Remembrance. It was a valued opportunity for each person to hold before God their loved ones who have died, and to offer and to receive mutual support and encouragement by coming together within a service. Afterwards there was conversation over coffee and biscuits in the hall, and a time to share fellowship with each other.

Praying for each other: In the coming two months the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study Group: in December on **Mary Trotter's** Pastoral List: Diane Barton, Glenys Deval, Hilary Rewcastle and Mary Whittaker, and in January on **Mary Whittaker's** Pastoral List: Richard George, Pam Lowerson, Mary Trotter and Arnold Tucker.

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 Eileen's 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.

Prayer list

Eileen Rennie

Loving God, we praise and thank you for this season of Advent and for the opportunity to spend quiet time with your word and message, studying, reading, reflecting and prayerfully bringing understanding to your love, faithfulness, promises and covenant with all your people. Our prayer is that we will truly become your covenant people living our lives according to your will and purpose for each one of us. We urgently pray for all the countries in the world living through war and conflict, famine and oppression in the knowledge that this is not your will being done. Keep us focussed on our prayer life and sharing with all we meet your love for them and all people and daring to hope that your will and not ours will bring peace and joy and an equal sharing to all. We offer our prayer in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Please pray for:

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright and family, Caroline, Anne and Doug Hatto, Jane and Brian Soffe, Richard in York, Adrian, Diane, Diane's daughters Julie and Claire, Geoff, Ken Harmer, Meriel, Jane Robinson, Maggie, June Hartle, Richard and Anne, Peter, Kathryn Clark, Louise, John and Jo, Jane and Harry Rudd, Pam Johnson, Sonia, Victor, Andrew Holley, MarySpalding. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, our Ministers, Deacon, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, Community Chaplains, kids@church, Street Pastors and Cornerstone. Those members of our church family who, through frailty or ill health, can no longer worship with us.

If you or the person/people you have put on the prayer list would still like to be in the February newsletter, please let me know by **Friday 19th January** in order for me to meet the newsletter deadline.

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

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Eileen Rennie

In November we continued our study of “Holy Habits Eating Together”, covering weeks 4-6 of this study. In the last week we began our Advent Study which this year 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 Dimittus). 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. We will tackle Our Song as a group when we return in January after our break and we may surprise ourselves with what we can come up with, for a future year! The Advent Study will start on **28th November** through to **19th December**. A welcome awaits you if should wish to join us for this Advent study.

We will have a short break for the two weeks 26th December and 2nd January and when we meet again on **9th January** we will return to the final session of the Advent Study and the remaining sessions of Holy Habits Eating Together.

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.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Dates for December and January are as follows:

- 5th Dec Advent Study: “They Sang”, Week 2 : Magnificat, A Song of Justice.
Reading : Luke 1:39-56. This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List
- 12th Dec Advent Study: “They Sang”, Week 3 : Gloria, A song of Peace.
Reading : Luke 2:8-15.
- 19th Dec Advent Study: “They Sang”, Week 4 : Nunc Dimittus, A Song of Hope.
Reading : Luke 2:22-38.
- 26th Dec No Meeting
- 2nd Jan No Meeting
- 9th Jan Advent Study: “They Sang”, Week 5 : Our Song, A Workshop Session and a time of worship and reflection. This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.
- 16th Jan Holy Habits Eating Together, Week 7 : The Healing Power of Eating Together. Reading : Luke 19:2-7
- 23rd Jan Keith will talk to us on a subject of his choice.
- 30th Jan Holy Habits Eating Together, Week 8 : An open door, an open heart and an open table. Reading : Revelation 3:18-22

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

An Evening Advent group

Alison Phillips

There is an Advent study group meeting at 1 Mill Paddock, Letcombe Regis 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 7.30 pm and finish at 9.00 pm latest. It is 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.

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 November we held more of a service of Remembrance. More residents came to this service which was held in the care home cinema room. Our next sessions will be on **11th December**, **8th January** and **12th February**. 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.

Book Discussion in January

Jane Kent (07443 420205)

Although there will be a little break from Holy Habits in January we have decided to continue reading and discussing a book.

We will meet on Saturday **20th January** at 10 am at Cornerstone to discuss 'The Christmas Mystery' by Jostein Gaarder.

Everyone is welcome! I will ask for an idea of numbers nearer the time!

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. We were very sad that Jim Hughes, a regular at the café, passed away suddenly at the end of October. Jim always had a kind word for everyone at the café and will be much missed.

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 was Cornerstone, our local Christian café and bookshop in Grove. So far we have raised over £358.54. Our charity for December, January and February will be Grove Day Centre.

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 fewer 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.



Christmas Angels

Carolyn Roche, 01235 764310

Knit & Chat - Almost time for our angels to fly!



The labelling of the angels will be completed at our first meeting in December. This year they will be blessed at the Sunday morning service on **10th December**, led by Helen Carter. We set out the angels on Saturday 9th December. As in previous years, in the following week, the angels will be taken to the care homes and distributed around the town. People will be invited to take some to put out in their area.

In December, Knit & Chat will meet as usual in the hall on the 1st and 3rd Mondays – **4th December** and **18th December** at 2 pm. Just for the month of January we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** – **8th January** and **22nd January**. We will continue to knit angels in the coming year but are always ready to learn of other projects that we can do.

Remember that you can join our Knit & Chat Facebook group. Please let June G know if you wish to do so. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.



Christmas Tree Festival 1st – 3rd December

Our Christmas Tree Festival this year will be supporting **Blood Cancer UK**.

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.

June Grunwald has already had offers of help to set up and clear. She would be grateful to hear from any volunteers to look after the kitchen and cake stall and to make cakes.

In the meantime she 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.)

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church	3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship	Weekly
		In person and on Zoom	
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat in the Hall	see article
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	MIND	Weekly
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	Weekly
Wednesday	Evening	Wantage Sings	Weekly (not Dec)
Thursday	Midday	KAWI	14 th Dec / not Jan
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers	Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out	9 th Dec / 6 th Jan

December

Friday / Saturday	1 st / 2 nd	Christmas Tree Festival	All
Saturday	9 th	Morning "What about Joseph?" rehearsal	Hall
Monday	11 th	Midday John Morton's Funeral	All
Thursday	14 th	Evening Music Makers	Hall
Friday	15 th	Evening "What about Joseph?" rehearsal	Chapel
Saturday	16 th	Afternoon "What about Joseph?" rehearsal	Chapel
Saturday	16 th	Evening "What about Joseph?"	All
Wednesday	27 th (not 25 th)	Evening Slimming World	Hall

January

Saturday	27 th	Morning Holocaust Memorial Day	Chapel
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February

Tuesday	13 th	Evening Holocaust Memorial Day	Chapel
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DIARY for DECEMBER

DECEMBER

Friday / Saturday 1 st /2 nd	Christmas Tree Festival at Wantage	p27
Saturday 2 nd	10:00 am Coffee Morning at Grove	p16
Sunday 3rd	2:30 pm Sustainability Meeting at Grove	p17
Monday 4 th	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p27
Sunday 10th	10:30 am “Blessing the Angels” at Wantage	pp22/27
	10:30 am Carols round the Tree at Childrey	p15
	4:00 pm Christingle Service at St Mary’s, Childrey	p15
Monday 11 th	1:00 pm John Morton’s Thanksgiving	p23
	2:30 pm Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p26
Thursday 14 th	10:00 am Stepping out with Noah	p4
	7:30 pm Music Makers at Wantage	
Saturday 16 th	10:00 am – Noon Framland Christmas Fayre	p21
	7:30 pm “What about Joseph?” at Wantage	p7
Sunday 17th	9:30 am Kids@Church Breakfast followed by	p22
	10:30 am All Age Carol Service at Wantage	
	3:00 pm Carol Service at St Mary’s Childrey	p15
	6:30 pm Carol Service at Grove	p15
Monday 18 th	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p27
	5:00 pm Community Carol Singing	p16
	at Lancaster Crescent, Lancaster Gate	
Tuesday 19 th	2:15 pm Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p17
Sunday 24th	Christmas Eve	
	11:00 am Holy Communion at Childrey	p15
	4:30 pm “Cloth for the Cradle” at Wantage	p22
	(with Communion)	
	8:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion at Grove	p16
Monday 25th	Christmas Day	
	9:30 am Christmas Morning Celebration at Wantage	p22
	10:15 am Christmas Morning Service	p15
	at St Mary’s, Childrey	
	10:30 am Christmas Morning Celebration at Grove	p16

DIARY for JANUARY

JANUARY

Sunday 7th	6:30 pm Prayer for Revival at Grove	p16
Monday 8 th	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p27
Sunday 14th	10:30 am Covenant Service at Childrey	p15
Friday, 19 th	7:30 pm Film Club at Grove	p20
Saturday 20 th	10:00 am Book Discussion at Cornerstone	p26
Sunday 21st	9:30 am Kids@Church at Wantage	p22
	10:30 am Covenant Service at Wantage	p22
	4:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Wantage Parish Church	p4
DEADLINE for February CGW NEWS		
Monday 22 nd	2:00 pm Knit & Chat at Wantage	p27
Thursday 25 th	7:30 pm Pastoral Care at Grove	p19
Sunday 28th	10:30 am Covenant Service at Grove	p16
Tuesday 30 th	2:15 pm Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p17

SERVICES during DECEMBER

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 3rd

Advent 1

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

Sunday 10th

Advent 2

10:30 am	Wantage	Angels	Helen Carter
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
10:30 am	Childrey	Carols round the tree	
4:00 pm	Childrey – St Mary's	Christingle Service	

Sunday 17th

Advent 3

9:30 am	Wantage	Kids@Church Church Breakfast	
10:30 am	Wantage	All Age Carols	Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Daphne Savage
3:00 pm	Childrey – St Mary's	Carol Service	Rev Keith Underhill
6:30 pm	Grove	Carol Service	Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 24th

Advent 4 Christmas Eve

10:30 am	Wantage		Libby Hawkness-Smith
10:30 am	Grove		Belinda Kaur
11:00 am	Childrey		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
4:30 pm	Wantage	Cloth for the Cradle	Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		
8:00 pm	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill
	This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion		

Monday 25th

Christmas Day

9:30 am	Wantage		Rev Keith Underhill
10:15 am	Childrey – St Mary's		
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 31st

Christmas 1

10:30 am	Wantage		Daphne Savage
10:30 am	Grove		Rev Keith Underhill

SERVICES during JANUARY

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 7th Ordinary 1

10:30 am	Wantage		Rev Keith Underhill
10:30 am	Grove		Libby Bolton
6:30 pm	Grove	Prayer for Revival	

Sunday 14th Ordinary 2

10:30 am	Wantage		Local Arrangements
10:30 am	Grove		Local Arrangements
11:00 am	Childrey	Covenant	Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 21th Ordinary 3 Christian Unity

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

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am	Grove		Rev Ian Griffiths
4:00 pm	Wantage Parish Church	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service	

Sunday 28th Ordinary 4

10:30 am	Wantage		Tabitha Griffiths
10:30 am	Grove	Covenant	Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

11:00 am	Childrey		Rev Ian Griffiths
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