

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

The Methodist Church

GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR NEWS



April 2025

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (May 2025) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 27th April**

e-mail : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com

Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

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

Sector Newsletter Contribution deadline dates – 2025

May	Sunday 27 th April
June	Sunday 18 th May
July/August	Sunday 22 nd June
September	Sunday 24 th August
October	Sunday 21 st September
November	Sunday 19 th October
December / January	Sunday 23 th November

From the Manse.....

In our Methodist tradition we are used to marking certain days of Holy week and remembering their significance and symbolism as we come to this most sacred of weeks in the Christian calendar.

We receive our palm crosses on Palm Sunday, remember the events of the upper room on Maundy Thursday and keep watch on Good Friday, all before celebrating that “He is Risen!” on Easter Day. But what of the other days in-between, what are they called and what do they signify.

Fig Monday remembers the day on which Jesus cursed the fig tree. There is a custom of eating dried figs on this day.

Holy Tuesday remembers Jesus delivering the Olivet discourse, the eight woes against the pharisees and the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. It is a day of vigilance, and of being prepared for the coming of the bridegroom.

Spy Wednesday remembers the day on which Judas Iscariot met with the Jewish priests and made plans for the betrayal, hence the name “spy.”

Maundy Thursday – the name is derived from the Latin Vulgate version of John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you”. The word “maundy” is a corruption of the Latin “mandatum” meaning commandment.

Good Friday – Here, the word “good” finds its roots in Middle English in which it denotes piety or holiness.

Holy Saturday commemorates Jesus’ burial. Typically, this is seen as a sombre day where we mourn the death of God’s son. To the question what Jesus was doing on that day, a more recent answer has been “looking for Judas!”

Each of these, mark our final steps of a journey that began on Ash Wednesday as Lent now gives way to the passion and the events in Jerusalem. As we seek to tread in his footsteps, acknowledging as we do the pain, betrayal, desertion, mockery and bloodshed that is soon to come, may we also experience something of the glory of the Easter morn.

With love and God bless

Keith

Local Arrangements Workshop

Rev Bruce Thompson

The second workshop for those who might be interested in helping to lead Local Arrangement Services on Sunday mornings is to be held at **Wantage Methodist Church. 9:30 am – 1:00 pm Saturday 5th April.**

Even those who weren't able to join the first session in February are welcome to join in at this stage.

**London Landmark's half marathon
featuring Liz, Becca (Jon - Liz's brother) and Keith**

Remember **Liz, Becca (Jon - Liz's brother) and Keith** as they take on the **London Landmark's half marathon on Sunday 6th April**. They would value your prayers for this venture and if you felt able to sponsor us that would mean a great deal.

They are running to raise money for the Skye High Foundation and the brilliant work they do.

It is a small charity specifically providing support to hospital staff, medical professionals and families during and after the loss of a twin, or a baby from another multiple birth and they wanted to do something practical to help them as a way of saying thank you for all their help and support to their nephew and his wife.

They are running in loving memory of Nuala, never forgotten, and of Nancy who brings so much joy. They are pleased to have Jon, Papa to Nuala and Nancy running with them.

The link to their Just Giving page is https://www.justgiving.com/page/keith-underhill-1736248913715?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Raising Money for SERES and Artistas de El Astillero – Charities based in Guatemala.



SERES cultivate and catalyse youth leaders to build more just and sustainable communities in Guatemala. SERES stands for Social Equity, Resilience and Ecological Sustainability. <https://www.seres.org/>

Artistas de El Astillero focuses on children, youth and adults, from a community with limited resources supporting the power of art in the lives of the children. This is a community that lies just above Antigua yet wasn't even on Google Maps prior to 2023. If ever you want to see the impact of every single pound, this is it.

On Saturday 10th May

**A Silent Auction and Tabletop sale will be held with a cake stall and a book stall
At Wantage Methodist Church Hall from 9am to 1pm – Silent Auction to be concluded at 1pm.
Refreshments will be available.**

To reserve a Table to sell crafts, home-made goods etc, please contact Heather on 07769 902532 Cost £10 / table [6ft / 1.8m long]



We would welcome all contributions of cakes, books and items for the Silent Auction i.e. promises of time/talents and new or nearly new items, all gratefully received – the central photo above is a picture painted by one of the children from **Artistas de El Astillero** – this will be part of the silent auction.

Spring is the season to declutter and support a good cause

Gill Skidmore

If you don't know what to do with all those items lurking in drawers and cupboards, and listed in the flyer, please consider donating them to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Alison Brown, Janine and I have accepted a new challenge, the Macmillan Mighty Hike. We wanted to support all our family members and friends who are currently fighting cancer, and challenge ourselves to get moving again.

We have to raise a minimum of £250 each this time, but we can help that along by collecting items to recycle. Hopefully some of you are like us and have lots of odds and ends lying around because you don't know how to get rid of them ethically. The items don't have to be in working order and currency can be from any country even if out of circulation. The stamps option really is as stated – you can just take the stamps off any post you receive and donate them, as long as you make sure the stamp itself is not damaged. I have checked with the organization and Kindles count as tablet computers for the purpose of recycling. Otherwise, only listed items can be accepted.

There will be a large white collection sack to put them in, or you can just give them to Alison Brown or myself. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Items we recycle

<h4>Jewellery</h4> <p>Unwanted gold & silver Including damaged items Costume Jewellery Watches</p> 	<h4>Coins & Currency</h4> <p>Banknotes & Coins Any currency UK or foreign of any age/unchangeable currency</p> 
<h4>Mobile Phones, Cameras & Gadgets</h4> <p>Mobile Phones · Video Cameras Old Film Cameras · Digital Cameras · Sat Navs Game Consoles · Games & Accessories · iPods MP3 Players · Tablet Computers</p> 	<h4>Stamps</h4> <p>Loose / Single Stamps First Day Covers Presentation Packs</p> 

Please place your items into the sack provided at your designated drop off point or pass to your community fundraising representative.

Alternatively call 0800 633 5323 or email info@recyclingforgoodcauses.org to request your own collection sack.

The Mix

The Mix offers many different opportunities for us to ensure we do what we can to be environmentally friendly. The following information is correct at the time of writing, but there are sometimes changes made at short notice.

Firstly - opening times are Monday 2pm to 6pm, Wednesday 10am to 3pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm. So what happens there in those times?

Surplus food, that would have been thrown away by supermarkets, is offered to anyone. There is no charge but there is a box for donations.

Some of us get our refills of washing up liquid, liquid soap, shower gel etc from the Mix on a regular basis. It saves on plastic as bottles can be refilled many, many times before needing to be replaced.

Additionally there is a Library of Things. Many items that we only need to use on the odd occasion can be borrowed from the Mix. Why not pop along and see what is there? Or you might ask if they need something that you could maybe offer to be put in the Library.

Did you know there is a repair café held there? They are held on the first Saturday of each month. Household items are repaired by volunteers. It is worth checking with them if you have an item that needs mending and you need to book a time slot. (Not all items can be accepted.)

There is a collection point there for Wantage & Grove Children's Clothes Bank – donations of clothes for ages 0 to 13 are welcomed.

Finally, they accept items to recycle, thus reducing waste. Currently they can take printer ink cartridges, disposable gloves, lunchboxes & water bottles. There is also a box for scrap paper (with a clean side so it can be used). That is not nearly as much as they used to be able to take but they are constantly looking to add further items again.

If you have access to the internet, then please check out the website <https://sustainablewantage.org.uk/the-mix/>

This church is a corporate member of the Mix and it is good to support what they are doing. The Mix is part of Sustainable Wantage, so there is much more to explore, and in future newsletters we will find out about other parts of Sustainable Wantage.



Clothes Swap

Friday, 16th May 2025

7PM - 8PM Wantage Methodist Church Hall

Newbury Street, OX12 8DA

Why shop when you can swap?

To take part drop off at least 1 clean and presentable item to swap at The Mix in advance. You can take away as many items as you bring in, extras can be taken for a donation. Items leftover will be donated or recycled. (Shoes and accessories accepted.)

No underwear, swimwear, nightwear or earrings please.

Drop off items to The Mix,
15 Mill Street, Wantage, OX12 9AB:

- Sat 10th May 10am-1pm,
- Mon 12th May 2-6pm,
- Wed 14th May 10am-3pm

Select new items at
Wantage Methodist Church Hall:

Any questions? Contact Daniela:
01235-767396



Cornerstone News – April 2025



Volunteers

Thank you to all those who came to our recent volunteer training evenings. We are still in need of more people to help particularly on the following shifts:

- Tuesdays 12-2pm – counter
- Thursdays – 12-4 - till

The experience is something that can be put on your CV, it is brilliant for meeting new people, and we can be very flexible for time off. If you are interested or know someone who might be then do get in touch.

Marble Jar

We plan to provide free meals during the Easter holidays to those families whose children have free school meals. This is funded through the marble jar – our pay forward system. If you would like to contribute towards this please do ask at the till.

Repair update

We continue to thank you for all your prayers. There is no more news this month unfortunately.

Easter

Easter Sunday is 20th April and we have a good variety of Easter cards, Children's books, as well as the 'Real Easter Egg' Easter Eggs. These are likely to sell quickly as this year Divine are not producing Easter Eggs so do buy early.

Monthly hot meal special

We will be serving lamb this month. This will be served on Wednesday 30th April at 12.30pm – please book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Easter opening

We will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday but open as normal on Saturday 19th.

Looking ahead

You may know that it will be our 30th Anniversary this year, we have a number of events coming up to celebrate this. The celebrations begin with a special guest author at our AGM in June. There will be other events over the summer and into the Autumn culminating in a special celebration on 16th November. Keep an eye out for our future newsletters for more information.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on Saturday 12th April at 8.30 am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Tel: 01235 772280 email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk

GROVE

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 5th April** from 10.00 am till 12 noon in the church. Our hosts for the morning are Linda and Mark Jones.

Proceeds from the morning are for “Emmaus”. Emmaus is an organization like no other in the way that it restores in people who have been marginalised a sense of their own worth and potential. It is no exaggeration to say that Emmaus changes lives. They pick people up, give them a home, a job and a purpose.

We hope you are able to join us for a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Offers of cakes and help on the day are always appreciated.

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meeting is on **Sunday, 6th April** from 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship in April is on **Tuesday, 29th April** at 2.15 pm. The speaker and venue will be given in the weekly notices nearer the time. Everyone is welcome.

Film Club is on **Friday, 11th April** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room.

(Please note this is the 2nd Friday - to avoid the Easter weekend)

We will be showing **“A Song for Jenny”**. *This is a British television film directed by Brian Percival. It is a moving dramatization of Julie Nicholson’s response to the death of her daughter Jenny in the July 7th 2005 bombing at Edgware Road train station. It is based on Nicholson’s book of the same name.*

Stars: Emily Watson, Noah Jupe, Stuart Martin, Gwilym Lee, Steven Mackintosh.

All are welcome. Admission is free. A small donation helps to cover costs.

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 to everyone who supported the **March Coffee Morning** for “Freyja’s Fund”. Donations from you all amounted to £171. Sale of cards – Morgan £60 and Judith £75. So a total of £306 altogether for Freyja’s Fund. **Thank you.**

Thank you to all those who generously continue to support the **Foodbank** by putting contributions in the box in the entrance hall week by week. Thank you.
All your donations are very much appreciated. The need is still great.
There is a list above the box of the things that are most useful to them at the moment.

We continue to hold in our prayers all those who are in poor health or have other difficulties and problems. Thank you to everyone who helps in whatever way they are able to. Your support is very much appreciated.

We invite you to worship with us at Easter:

Maundy Thursday, 17th April at 7.30 pm. Service of Holy Communion at
Wantage Methodist Church

Good Friday, 18th April at 11 am. United Open Air Service at the top of Vale Avenue,
to be followed by hot cross buns & hot drinks in our church.

Easter Day, 20th April at 6 am. Sunrise service at the Millennium Stones, Ardington.
10.15 am. Morning worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Keith Underhill
at Grove Methodist Church.



Services for Holy Week

Palm Sunday 13th April

Grove

10:30 am Morning worship

Belinda Kaur

Wantage

10:00 am Market Place United open-air service

10:45 am Morning worship

Rev Keith Underhill

Holy Monday 14th April to Holy Wednesday 16th April

7:30 pm - 8:00 pm Evening reflections at Wantage

Maundy Thursday 17th April

Wantage

7:30 pm United service with Holy Communion - Rev Keith Underhill

Good Friday 18th April

Grove

11:00 am Open air United service opposite the church

Rev Keith Underhill

Wantage

Walking the Way of the Cross together, from Kingsgrove to Wantage Market Place. **Gather at 10.30 am at Kingsgrove Square** for a walking pilgrimage with our brothers and sisters from other churches, ending with Hot Cross Buns in the market place at 1 pm.

2:00 pm A service of reflection

Rev Keith Underhill

Easter Day 20th April

Grove

10:30 am Morning worship & holy communion Rev Keith Underhill

Wantage

6:00 am Sunrise open-air Communion service at the Millennium Stones
Rev Keith Underhill

9:30 am Wantage Church breakfast (please bring an egg cup with you)

10:30 am Morning worship & holy communion Rev Nigel Ogle

WANTAGE

Wantage Methodist Church General Church Meeting

Our General Church Meeting will take place on **Sunday 27th April**. There will be a short morning service which will lead into the meeting.

The General Church Meeting elects/re-elects our Church Stewards as well as appoints representatives to the Church Council and a representative to the Church Leadership Team.

It also allows us to reflect together on the life of the church and for anyone to ask any questions they might have.

If you feel that you would like to serve on either the Church Council or the Church Leadership Team, (you need to be a Church Member to do so) please ensure that you let Keith know in writing along with the name of the person who is willing to nominate you by the Sunday before (Easter Day).

Wantage Coffee Morning and Gift Day

As you may remember from the service Keith led in January this year on the theme of "Buried Treasure", we are seeking as a church to address the issue of our financial shortfall.

We are very aware that these are economically difficult times, and that money is tight, but we have a responsibility to balance the church's books.

Keith reminded us of the four markers that help us to reflect on our giving and how we use our money.

Our giving to God is to be voluntary - Exodus 25 v. 2

"Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me"

Our giving to God is to be cheerful - 2 Corinthians 9 v. 7

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Our giving to God is to be regular - 1 Corinthians 16 v. 2

"On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"

Our giving to God is to be in proportion to our means - Deuteronomy 16 v. 17

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you."

We are very grateful to those who responded after the service with one-off gifts as well as increasing the amount they felt able to give to the church each month – thank you.

We also agreed that we would hold a church **coffee morning and gift day** on **Saturday 26th April** from 10 am – 12 noon. So, we warmly invite you to come along and join us.

The Church will be open for quiet reflection with background music being played. Tea, coffee, and cake will be available in the hall and Keith and Heather (our Treasurer) will be in the church parlour ready to receive your gifts (whether by cheque, cash, or by bank transfer) or to let them know that you feel able to increase your regular offering. This will of course, be kept confidential. They will also be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the church finances etc.

Discussing our financial situation will also be part of our conversation at the General Church Meeting the following day.

Holy Habits

We have started our next Holy Habit, “Biblical Teaching”. As with previous Holy Habits, one service per month will be focusing on this issue.

The **film** we will be watching on Thursday April 24th is “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”

Holy Habits book group

A reminder that we will be meeting at the Cornerstone on **Saturday 12th April** at 10:00 am to discuss the books we have read.

The **novels** linked to this theme that you might like to read include;

- The Da Vinci Code – by Dan Brown – Transworld 2003
“Are there books which have challenged your relationship with Biblical Teaching?” and “How can we respond to this and similar novels?”
- The shadow of the Galilean – Gerd Theissen – SCM Classic 2010
“How can a broader understanding of biblical times help our engagement with Biblical Teaching?”
- The Neverending Story – Michael Ende – Puffin 1983
“How have you known Jesus calling you through the Bible to step into his story, and let your experience of him become part of the story of your life?”

If anyone would like a lift please give Jane Kent a call / text on 07443 420205 , and she will be more than happy to help.

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

What a joyful morning we had together in March exploring the theme ‘Love God and love your neighbour as yourself’! We enjoyed a rhyming retelling of the story of the Good Samaritan before moving through to the hall and doing a craft activity followed by breakfast. We will be meeting next on **Easter Sunday** morning!

New children (and their parents/carers) are always welcome at this monthly informal service on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 9.30 to 10.15 am. Any questions - please don’t hesitate to ask Keith, our minister, on 01235 763321.

We are more than halfway into our journey through the season of Lent, and close to the beginning of British Summer Time. Putting our clocks forward during Springtime always provides a joyful boost to this season of new growth, longer hours of daylight and, above all, the celebration of Christ's resurrection and all that it means to each one of us. We know with certainty, and trust completely that our future is in God's hands. There is no greater reassurance when world events could fill us with fear and distress. Our thoughts and concern for everyone involved in the wars in Ukraine and Israel - Gaza, and sadly in many other places besides, intensify our hopes that peace may be achieved, and that the safety and wellbeing which we enjoy can become a reality for those who currently live in a constant state of fear and danger.

June Grunwald's health has necessitated an unrelenting timetable of treatments and an additional sadness was that her wedding ring fell off her finger and was lost. There was a happy ending to this occurrence in church a few weeks ago. Alan brought June's new ring to the morning service at which it was blessed by Keith, before placing it on her hand, witnessed not only by our usual congregation, but also many of June's and Alan's families and friends. As a congregation we felt privileged to have shared in their joy, just as we assure them of our continuing love and prayers.

It is currently a difficult time for Jo Aldworth. She is virtually immobilised through having broken her leg and torn some ligaments, so it is going to be a long road to regaining free movement again. Jo's hairdressing customers, including those in our church family, will particularly miss her, and we all hope that the road to recovery is smooth and as swift as possible.

Val Broadbent has learned that she must have fifteen sessions of radiotherapy following on from the surgery she underwent last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with Val and with John as they anticipate three weeks of daily visits to the Churchill for this treatment. It is also a worrying time for fellow Richmond Village residents Jo and John Checketts. Jo recently suffered a minor stroke, and John is also having to cope with his own health issues. We will continue to offer them our love and prayers.

Sonia Wilkie has been unable to worship with us for several weeks, suffering from very severe headaches, some of which recently spoiled a holiday with her daughter. We will support Sonia with our prayers, hoping she will soon receive some effective treatment to relieve the pain of her headaches.

Adrian Richens is undergoing tests at present and we assure him of our love and prayers as he anxiously awaits the results and potential treatment to follow. Diana Gawlas is hoping that her antiviral medication will help her to get over her current bout of shingles speedily, and we will hold her in our thoughts too.

It was good news last week to learn that, after a spell in hospital, Pam Johnson is now back at home with a package of care to help her. Hopefully she will continue to make good progress and be well enough to worship with us again

There are other members of our Church family also dealing with health problems. Some of these will, hopefully, reduce as the warmer weather takes away infections associated with Winter, whilst we also know that longer-term conditions are less easily

resolved. Our prayers are ongoing for everyone going through these difficult times, especially those for whom there is no speedy resolution. We will hold onto our trust in God to give strength, reassurance and hope to all for whom life is hard at present, as we do our best to offer our own pastoral help, encouragement, and support.

Praying for each other: In April the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study-group. On: Helen Carter's Pastoral List: Jo & Simon Aldworth, Valerie & John Broadbent, Diana Gawlas, Trevor & Sheila Johnson and Adrian Richens, and on Faith Culshaw's List: June Hartle, Jane Kent, Iain Kent and Rita Lawrence.

As well as those whom we have named above, we assure those in our church family, who can no longer worship with us on Sundays, that they are remembered, and will also be prayed for by name, at the Tuesday Bible Study Group.

Prayer list

A prayer that we see the world through God's eyes

If we see the world through your eyes, Lord,
then we see a vision of our world as your love would have it:
a world where all who are weak are protected and none go hungry;
a world where your riches of creation are shared for everyone to enjoy them;
a world where mutual respect is expressed between different races and cultures and harmony descends;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it how you see it Lord!
That all may praise together and the only power exerted is the power of your love. Amen.

Gwynn Bamford, supernumerary deacon, Bromsgrove and Redditch Circuit

Please pray for

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Angela, Anne, Bethan Grant, Carol Mackinder, Caroline, Diane, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, Doug & Anne Hatto, Edwina, Eileen, Emma Wright & family, Findley, Geoff, Gill, Hunter, Jade, Jane Robinson, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, John & Jo, June G, June Hartle, Lucas & family, Mary Spalding, Meriel, Norma, Peter, Richard & Anne, Richard in York, Sue, Terry & Sue, Sonia, Tony G, Trudy, Val Broadbent, Vic Press, Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren, the family & friends of Louise.

All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors, our Ministers, Deacon, Community Chaplains, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders, kids@church and Street Pastors, Cornerstone and those members of our church family who, through frailty or ill health, can no longer worship with us.

If you have any queries or prayer requests you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 01235 764310 or e-mail: ciroche48@hotmail.com

Prayer tree - anyone can leave a prayer request on the tree. It is appreciated if a date is written on the tag somewhere. No tags are taken off the tree unless circumstances for the person or situation being prayed for change or the tree is full... Please take time to check the tree and choose someone or a situation to pray for or about. Also, if any of the prayer cards on the table feel relevant to you please do take one.

Prayer initiative by the Parish Church.

On the first Thursday of each month at 8 pm, via Zoom, there will be a contemplative prayer time of up to an hour. Anyone is welcome to join in with this time and if you would like to know more, then please get in touch with Helen Carter who will put you in touch with the person organising these sessions. If you would prefer a face to face contemplative prayer time based on Julian of Norwich, then please let Helen Carter know.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

This open and friendly group meet for Bible Study and prayer each Tuesday at 2pm in the Parlour. Please feel free to join us. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

During April we will be continuing with the Lent study guide – Centred on Christ. This Cover-to-Cover guide uses examples from Paul's letter to the Philippians as its model to help us to centre our lives on Christ.

Dates for April are as follows:

1st Centred on Christ week 3: Living is Christ : Reading: Philippians 1:12-28
This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.

8th Centred on Christ week 4: Mindset of Christ : Reading: Philippians 2:1-5

15th STATIONS OF THE CROSS –see separate article.

22nd Centred on Christ week 5: Knowing Christ : Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

29th Centred on Christ week 6: Rejoicing in Christ : Reading: Philippians 4:4-13

If you have any queries or prayer requests you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 01235 764310 or e-mail: ciroche48@hotmail.com

Stations of the Cross

Carolyn Roche

As in previous years, the Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study group will be meeting at St Mary's Convent for prayer and meditations using the Stations of the Cross in the St Mary Magdalene Chapel. This will take place in Holy Week on **Tuesday 15th April** at 2 pm. The time of reflection is followed by tea/coffee and cake. If anyone would like to join us please can you let me know by **Friday 4th April**.

Carolyn Roche: 01235 764310 or 07906 515323 or ciroche48@hotmail.com

Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home

June Grunwald

This Bible Study is held at the care home on Grove Road. It is held on the **second Monday of the month at 2.30 pm**, lasting between 30 and 45 minutes.

In March we studied Luke 4:1-13, the temptation of Jesus. Our theme for **April 14th** will be Luke 19:28-40 (the triumphal entrance into Jerusalem); our theme for **May 12th** will be Psalm 23.

We have a core group from the care home who regular attend and other drop in from time to time. 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. My thanks to the regulars from our church who attend and to Helen and John Carter who have been ferrying our church members to the sessions. In between bible studies I pop into Elmbrook on an irregular basis and have a chat with some of the Bible Study group and any other residents who would like a chat.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

Our first meeting in March saw a total of 18 Knitters and Chatters gathered together. As per usual the tea break was enhanced with the addition of cakes not used at Community Cafe in the morning.

Our meetings in April continue on the first and third Mondays of the month and will be on **Monday 7th April** and **Monday 21st April** at 2pm in the Hall.

As mentioned last month, Victoria Methodist Church in the Bristol District is having another Lent Mystery Knitalong. I am currently following the daily instructions to make a lap blanket and am really looking forward to seeing the final design. I will eventually post a photo of this on our Facebook page.

Looking forward to seeing you and your current project at our next meeting. If you need wool, have any other queries or just fancy a chat do please call me.

Community Café

Carolyn Roche

Throughout March our café has continued to provide a warm and friendly welcome to regulars and new visitors. We will be open from 9am to 12 noon on every Monday in April and this **includes Easter Monday**. Thank you to all who volunteer at the café and to all the cake makers. There is no charge for refreshments, but people are welcome to make a donation which goes to a different charity each quarter. This month we will continue collecting for the charity – Parkinsons.Me. From January to February the café raised £446.71 for our chosen charity Siyabonga – a charity that supports children in Uganda. Thank you everyone for your generosity. We are now looking for ideas for the charities that the café will support from September 2025 – August 2026.

Do come and join us for coffee, cake, cheese scones and conversation.

Wantage Parish Bible Reading Book Club

Open to anyone wanting to explore the Bible with other people. Refreshments served from 5:30 pm. We read a few chapters of which ever book of the Bible we are in followed by open discussion. Anyone at any stage of faith welcome.

Tuesdays 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm at Holy Trinity, Charlton followed by evening prayer and Eucharist service at 7:00 pm

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church	3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship	Weekly
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat in the Hall	1 st & 3 rd Monday
Tuesday	Afternoon	Prayer & Study Group in the Parlour	Weekly
Friday	Afternoon	Caritas Choirs	Weekly in term
Users	All in the Hall Rooms		
Monday	Evening	Slimming World	Weekly
		CA Meeting	Weekly
Tuesday	Morning	MIND	Weekly
	Evening	Wantage Camera Club	Weekly
	Evening	My Life My Choice	3 rd Tuesday
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

Other Bookings in April / May

Saturday 5 th April	Morning	Local Arrangements Workshop
Saturday 12 th April	All Day	Family Party
Thursday 24 th April	Evening	Music Makers
Thursday 24 th April	Evening	Holy Habits Film
Saturday 26 th April	Morning	Gift Day / Coffee Morning
Thursday 1st May	All Day	Local Elections
Saturday 10 th May	Morning	Silent Auction / Table Top Sale
Friday 16 th May	Evening	Clothes Swap
Saturday 17 th May	Afternoon	Wantage Sings
Sunday 18 th May	Afternoon	Jigsaw

SERVICES during April

April

Sunday 6th

Passion Sunday

Lent 5

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

10:30 am Wantage

Holy Habits

Helen Carter

10:30 am Grove

Libby Bolton

6:30 pm Grove

Praying for Revival

Sunday 13th

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 23:1-49

10:45 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove

Belinda Kaur

Thursday 17th

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1,2,12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,31b-35

7:30 pm Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

United service with Holy Communion

Friday 18th

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

11:00 am Grove Open air United service opposite the church

Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am to 1pm

Walk the way of the cross through Wantage

Meet 10.30 am at Kingsgrove Square, finishing in Wantage Market Place at 1 pm.

2:00 pm Wantage

A service of reflection

Rev Keith Underhill

Sunday 20th

Easter Day

Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1,2,14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

6:00 am at the Millennium Stones

Rev Keith Underhill

Sunrise open-air Communion service

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Nigel Ogley

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 27th

Local Preachers

Easter 2

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

General Church Meeting

10:30 am Grove

Ian Sturt

DIARY FOR APRIL

APRIL

Saturday 5 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p9
	09:30 am	Local Arrangements Workshop at Wantage	p3
Sunday, 6th	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p9
Monday 7 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
Friday 11 th	7.30 pm	Grove Film Club	p9
Saturday 12 th	10:00 am	holy Habits Book Group at the Cornerstone	p13
Sunday 13th		PALM SUNDAY	See pages 11/19
Monday 14 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p17
Thursday 17 th		MAUNDY THURSDAY	See pages 11/19
Friday 18 th		GOOD FRIDAY	See pages 11/19
Sunday 20th		EASTER DAY	See pages 11/19
	9:30 am	Wantage Church Breakfast	p11/13
Monday 21 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p17
Thursday 24 th	7:30 pm	Holy Habits Film at Wantage	p13
Saturday 26 th	10:00 am	Wantage Coffee Morning and Gift Day	p13/14
Sunday 27th	10:30 am	Wantage Morning Worship leading to General Church Meeting	p12
		Deadline for April Section Newsletter	p2
Tuesday 29 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p9

MAY

Saturday 10 th	9:00 am	Silent Auction & Table Top Sale at Wantage	p4
Friday 16 th	7:00 pm	Clothes Swap at Wantage	p7