

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

The Methodist Church

GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR NEWS



Summer 2025

Minister
Until July 27th
Rev Keith Underhill – Tel: 01235 763321
keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk
From July 28th
Grove - Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson – Tel: 01235 219070
g.bondzi-simpson@methodist.org.uk
Wantage - Rev Bruce Thompson – Tel: 01235 813242
revbrucet@yahoo.com

When a minister 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 : wntgmethdistnotices@gmail.com

Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (September 2025) should be sent to the
editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 24th August**

email : wantage.sector.newsletter@gmail.com

Tel : 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

September	Sunday 24 th August
October	Sunday 21 st September
November	Sunday 19 th October
December / January	Sunday 23 th November

From the Manse.....

This Connexional year has seen so many “lasts” for me as we have journeyed together and followed the seasons of the liturgical cycle of the church, each bringing its own added poignancy.

I now come to this, my last letter to you and I find myself pondering what to write. There is so much that I could say as I reflect on these past nine years and all that we have shared together. My overriding emotion though is one of thankfulness and gratitude.

This has been a great appointment and although there have been challenges along the way, (not least Covid) we have been blessed throughout by God’s presence with us and for that we give thanks.

I still remember that wet Saturday in November 2015 when we, as a family, came to look around the Circuit having been ‘matched’ in Stationing. We met so many of you as we visited the churches and had a look at the Circuit.

The day went by in a bit of a blur: so many people, so many new faces, so many names, so much to see and then to remember. However, one thing was obvious and very apparent – that this was the right place for us and that the Connexional Stationing Committee had done a good job.

Nine years on and, as we prepare to say goodbye and thank you, some words of the communion hymn “I Come with joy to meet my Lord,” by Brian Wren, come readily to mind.

*“The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.”*

It has been a privilege to be invited into your lives and homes and be able to share with you in those times of birth and loss, of celebration and sadness, of joy and of tears as well as in all the ordinariness of life.

The last verse of the hymn tells us that,

*“Together met, together bound,
We’ll go our different ways;
And as his people in the world,
We’ll live and speak his praise.”*

Itinerancy and moving on, whether to a new Circuit appointment or into retirement, is always about saying ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’. So as Liz and I prepare to say thank you and farewell, I know that you will welcome Bruce and Georgina into your hearts and homes just as you did us.

Thank you.

With love and God bless

Keith

CIRCUIT SERVICES

July 20th 3:00 pm at Trinity Church, Abingdon Farewell Service
Farewell to Deacon Selina Nisbett

July 27th 3:00 pm at Wantage Farewell Service
Farewell to Rev Keith Underhill

Saturday 23rd August 3:00 pm at Trinity Church, Abingdon

Induction Service for Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson as Superintendent Minister of the Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

Schools Prayer Group 2025-2026

Schools Prayer Group 4 - 5 pm at St John's Rooms, Grove

- We really welcome new people to join us, 4 pm – 5 pm, in the St John's Rooms at Grove Parish Church
- We start by socializing over a cuppa and a cake
- We have a brief time of reflection together
- We pray for local schools, pupils, teachers & other school staff

We plan to meet three times each academic year, all from 4 pm to 5 pm in the St John's Rooms, Grove.

Upcoming dates:

- Wednesday 24th September 2025
- Wednesday 28th January 2026
- Wednesday 23rd April 2026

We are glad to welcome anyone who wishes to pray for our local schools.

Please send prayer requests or requests for more information to:

John Wilson: johnmwilson2012@gmail.com

Helen Harwood: andrewandhelenharwood@yahoo.co.uk

Local Arrangements Leaders' Workshop

The next session will be held on **Saturday 27th September** arrive 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start. It will be at Wantage Methodist Church.

Grove Methodist Church has recently been awarded the status of being a Bronze Eco church.

Sustainable Wantage focus this month is about their 'Library of Things'?

This is based at the Mix and it is worth noting that the opening times have changed recently. These are now – Mondays 1pm to 4pm, Wednesdays 10am to 4pm and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

All the details of the Library of Things can be found on the Sustainable Wantage website - <https://sustainablewantage.org.uk/> However, if you don't have access to the website or if you would rather go in person anyway, then do pop into the Mix and they would be delighted to show you what is currently available within that particular lending library.

The Library of Things aims to:

- Reduce consumption and waste

- Enable people to save money and do things they might not otherwise do

- Help to build a mind-set in our community that sharing things is an excellent option

So rather than buying a new pasta machine for your once-in-a-blue-moon Italian night, or upgrading your old sewing machine that you never really use anyway, why not just borrow from us?

To get started, simply [register](#) or [login](#) and get browsing.

Can't find what you're looking for?

Check out our [LOT Community](#) and see whether another local Library might have what you're after. Or, you can request items [here](#) - if we find there's sufficient demand for an item, we'll do our best to get it in stock.

Got something to donate?

We're always grateful for offers of good-quality items that might be useful to Borrowers in the community. Items don't need to be brand-new, but they do need to be safe, fit-for-purpose and in good condition.

If you've got something sitting unused in your garage/loft/shed that could be given a new lease of life, please do [get in touch](#). Donors will need to read and agree to our [Terms & Conditions](#).

Hopefully that information has given us all food for thought!



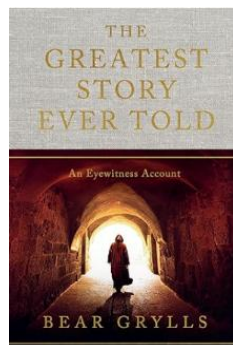
Cornerstone News

July 2025



AGM

Thank you to all who came to our AGM. What a great evening to kick off our celebrations for our thirtieth year and independent bookshop week. It's great to see our friends and supporters turning out to show how much Cornerstone means to you all. Nick Page gave us food for thought as he encouraged us to "Plod for God"



In the Bookshop

A new book, now out, is '**The Greatest Story ever told**' by **Bear Grylls**, a beautifully produced hardback book telling the story of Jesus' life. It's priced £14.99 and we have several copies in store. It would make a great gift to a friend or relative. As would **National Book Tokens**, buy and redeem them here. Talking of gifts, if you are looking

to treat a **special teacher** we have a large selection of appropriate cards and some great gifts available.

There will also be a new **Take Note** promotion arriving mid July – do come and browse the shelves.

Marble Jar

During the summer holidays we will be offering free meals to those families whose children receive free school meals. This is paid for through the marble jar and any donations towards this would be welcome.



30th birthday celebrations

As we celebrate 30 years of Cornerstone this year do look out for special events we will be holding. One very special date for your diary is **Sunday 16th November** when we shall be having a Thanksgiving Service to be held at St John's at 3 pm. We are hoping to make this a joyful celebration of all 30 years, so if you have any pictures or special memories to share of Cornerstone, do get in touch.

Repairs

Good news this month! The insurance company finally gave the go ahead in June. The contractor is ready to go but we are waiting for the new door and window to be manufactured. Thank you so much for your continued prayers.

Food Bank and Clothes Bank

Just in case you missed it last month, we are sorry to say that the Clothes Bank are unable to take any more donations at present.

However, the Food Bank are very much in need of donations so please continue to drop them off.



Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on **Wednesday 30th July** at 12.30 pm – please book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 12th July** 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

In support of Macmillan Cancer Support

Gill Skidmore

Many thanks to all of you who donated items for recycling. My first bag raised £57.40 which I have been able to add to my fundraising for the Cotswolds Mighty Hike. My second sack was collected last Friday. Hopefully that will help me to get close to my minimum required amount of £250 for the charity. I will keep you updated.

I know Alison is preparing to send her second bag too, but she will be able to let you know how much she has raised. We are now looking forward to our half marathon on 19th July – and hoping that the weather will be kind.... neither 30+ degrees nor torrential rain!

Wallingford Methodist Church In Conversation

Looking ahead in 2025

September 30th – Sharon Booth – Executive Director and Founder of Solutions Not Sides – an educational charity that promotes dialogue in schools and universities around the Israel-Palestine conflict

October 21th – Rev Sir Ralph Waller – former Principal of [Harris Manchester College, Oxford](#) (1988-2018) and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford (2010-2018)

November 25th – Rev Sonia Hicks – Chair of the Northampton Methodist District and a past President of the Methodist Conference



Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Save the date!

Save the date? "What manner of exciting event is being planned?", I hear you cry!

Well, it's our 2025 AGM of course! But it's not just our AGM and we don't want you to miss out!

2025 AGM Tuesday 1 July, 7.30 pm
Venue and further details to be announced!

REPORT OF OUR APRIL & MAY 2025 ACTIVITIES

"Wantage is in a good mood!", reported one of our Street Pastor teams. What a wonderful description of a peaceful but busy evening – exactly what Street Pastors are working towards! That night we met a man who was homeless. We spent some time listening to him. We gave him some water and got him something to eat. We also spent some time with another man who was sad, angry and in some emotional turmoil. We listened to him, tried to encourage him and offered to pray for him, which he gratefully accepted.

In Grove our team met a young lad standing at the bus stop on his own. He was heading home from a friend's house sooner than expected and was on the phone to his mum. Our Street Pastors offered to wait with him - which his mum thought a great idea. The bus arrived five minutes later. He didn't have any money so we were very happy to pay his fare.

One of our patrols met a lady who had been drinking and had become bad-tempered. Having lent her jacket to her friend she asked us for a space blanket to help keep her warm. On top of this she realised that she had left her handbag in one of the pubs and went off to find it. Our team caught up with her later on and checked that she had found her bag and that she and her friend had a way of getting home. They assured us that a lift was on its way.

Our afternoon patrol met a group of girls and a boy in Wantage and spent some time chatting with them about Wantage, Grove and life generally. They also met a young man who shared with them about his life, relationships, the anxiety he suffers and his faith. Another team cared for two men who were unwell after having drunk too much. One had a friend with him who was looking after him and the other we gave some water and stayed with him for a while.

	April 2025	May 2025
Patrols	4	5
Hours	12	16
Flip-flops	0	3
Lollies	150	200
Water	5	3

Coordinator: Nigel Watt Mobile: 07554 655 594

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Website: wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors

Instagram: [wantage_grove_pastors](https://instagram.com/wantage_grove_pastors)



West Hendred Summer Event

In aid of Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 12th July
12-30 to 3:30pm

At

Manor Farm House
opposite the Village Hall.

lots of stalls and fun for kids - Teddy
Tombola, Pre-loved Toys, Duck Race,
Bowls, Name the Octopus,
and the Garage Game

also

cake stall, raffle, tombola,
Lunch, hot-dog stall, bar



If you would like to help,
Please contact Hugh on 01235-833174
hugh@citidata.co.uk



Wantage
Orchestra



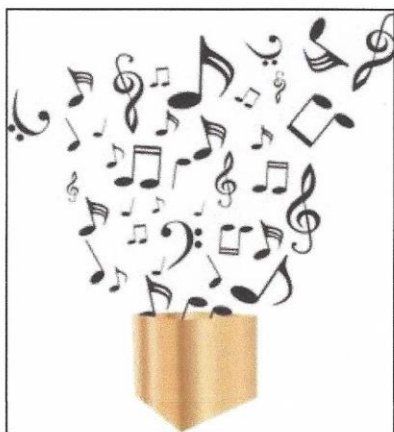
Saturday 5 July 2025 7.00 pm

Wantage Parish Church OX12 8AQ

Much Loved Music for a Summer's Evening

Free cake and hot drinks!

Discounted tickets for adults/seniors bringing schoolchildren



Marquez **Danzón no 2**

Khachaturian **Adagio** from *Spartacus*

Tchaikovsky **Swan Lake**

Grieg **Hall of the Mountain King**

Britten **Soirées Musicales**

John Williams **Star Wars Suite**

Guest Leader **John Hounam**

Conductor **Christopher Fletcher-Campbell**

Tickets in advance:

Adults £10.00 *

Seniors/students £8.00 *

* *Only £5 if bringing a schoolchild!*
Schoolchildren free

From:

Wantage Bookshop and
Regent Bookshop in Wantage

or scan, right



www.wantageorchestra.org.uk

Wantage Orchestra: charity no. 274065

Wantage Orchestra Productions Ltd reg 11283934

Wantage Choral Society

What greater joy than to stand on the terrace overlooking a Ridgeway-bordered landscape, sipping a glass of something cool during the concert interval, as we share the folk-singing tradition with like-minded lovers of choral music?

As usual the WCS Summer Concert will be held in lovely Letcombe Regis, and this time our programme will include Cecilia McDowall's *A Fancy of Folksongs*, John Rutter's cycle/arrangements *The Sprig of Thyme*, and the *Five Mystical Songs* of Ralph Vaughan Williams. Since a harp is needed for the McDowall accompaniment, we'll have the added pleasure of a harp solo piece. The modest ticket price of £15 covers canapés and a glass of wine in the interval. Full details are below, and by the way, there's easy parking right outside our venue.



WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY

A FANCY OF FOLKSONGS

Come and hear some wonderful choral music in the delightful surroundings of Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Gardens and enjoy a glass of wine and some canapés

Saturday 12 July 2025 | 7.30pm
Letcombe Regis Village Hall OX12 9LJ

Cecilia McDowall – **A Fancy of Folksongs**
John Rutter – **The Sprig of Thyme**
Ralph Vaughan Williams – **Five Mystical Songs**

Baritone Jack Redman **Harpist** Aoife Miralles
Accompanist Sebastian Thomson **Conductor** Hannah Zaki

 **WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY**

Tickets £15 – including wine and nibbles
Available via wantagechoralsociety.co.uk
or members of WCS or at the door

Under 16s – Free

wantagechoralsociety.co.uk | Registered Charity No 265227

GROVE

Grove Methodist Church has recently been awarded the status of being a **Bronze Eco church**.

Ecumenical “Prayer for Revival” is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The meetings are on **Sundays, 6th July** and **3rd August** from 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 5th July** from 10 am till 12 noon in the church. Proceeds are for Helen and Douglas House, an Oxford based charity where they help terminally ill children and their families live life to the full. Our hosts for the morning are Nicky and Lynda.

You are invited to the **August Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 2nd August** from 10 am till 12 noon when our hosts will be Roger and Margaret Bett.

Proceeds are for M.H.A. – Methodist Homes for the Aged – Live Later Life Well.

We hope you are able to join us for a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake on both or either of these occasions. We look forward to seeing you.

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

Film Club is on **Friday, 18th July** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room.

We will be showing **“See How They Run”**.

This film is a 2022 comedy mystery film directed by Tom George.

In the West End of 1950's London, plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered. When world-weary Inspector Stoppard and eager rookie Constable Stalker take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.

Stars: Sam Rockwell, Saoirse Ronan, Adrien Brody, Ruth Wilson, Harris Dickinson.

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

Film Club is having a break in August. We will meet next on **19th September**.

Tuesday Fellowship in July is on **Tuesday, 8th July** at 2.15 pm. Keith will be joining us for his last visit to us before retiring at the end of July. We have been invited to join Mark and Linda Jones at their home, 50A Charlton Village Road, Wantage OX12 7HQ. Hopefully the sun will be shining and we will be able to enjoy their garden with them. Do join us if you can. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship in August will be on **Tuesday, 26th August** at 2.15 pm.

More information will be in the notices nearer the time.

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

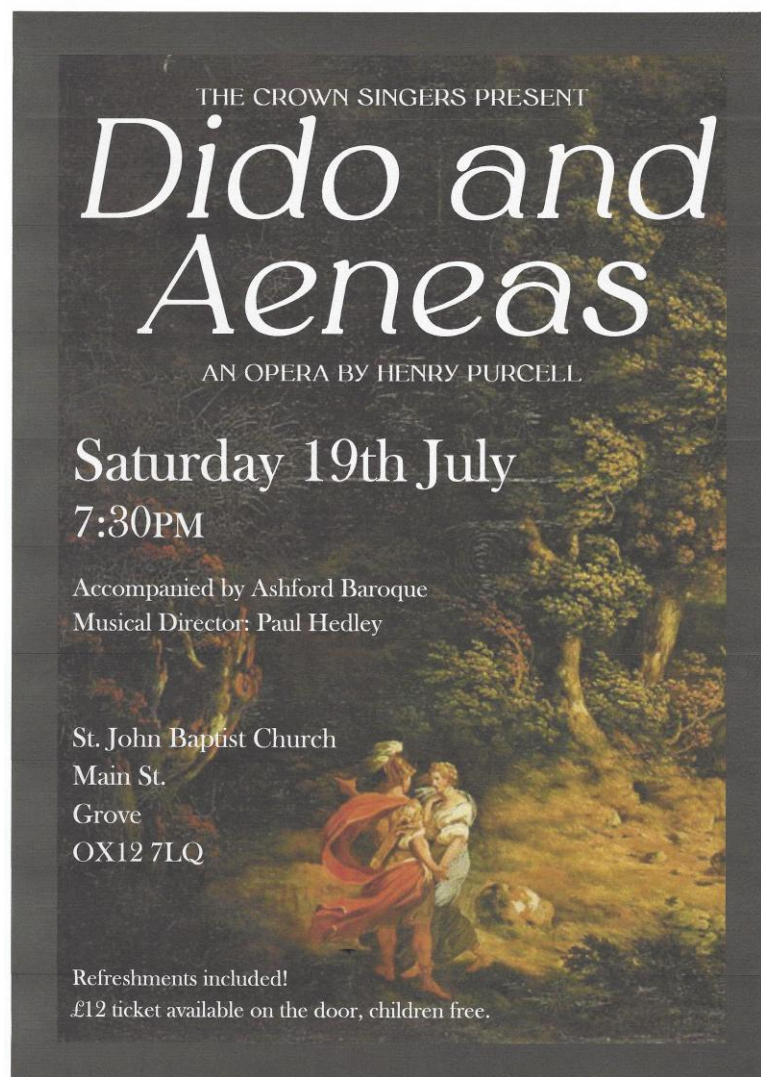
Thank you to everyone who supported the June Coffee Morning for "Tools with a Mission". Donations amounted to £216, which has now been sent to them. They thank us very much for the money and said it has been added to their Spring Appeal to increase the number of tool kits they are preparing and sending to people and places where they can be made good use of. So thank you once again.

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.



WANTAGE

Getting to know the Rev Bruce Thompson

On **Thursday 3rd July** at 10.30 am, Rev. Bruce Thompson is keen to meet with members of our church family, especially those he hasn't met yet. All are welcome to come to the hall and hear about his life and then ask him any questions you may have prior to him taking over pastoral charge of Wantage. There will, of course, be coffee, tea and biscuits available too!

Kids@church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

In June we met in the hall and learnt about Paul's amazing conversion and missionary journeys. We played 'pin Paul on the map' (as opposed to 'pin the tail on the donkey'!) and then made cardboard boats to remind us of Paul's travels. It was lovely, as always, to catch up over breakfast.

In July Kids@church will be on the second Sunday of the month (not the third) - **Sunday 13th July** - as some schools break up a bit earlier than usual this year. We will be meeting in Manor Park Memorial Gardens at 9.30 am (in the church hall if it's wet) for our summer fun in the park.

There will be no K@c in August.

For more information about Kids@Church please give Jane a call on 07443 420205. New children and parents/ carers always warmly welcome.

Can you help...? Kids@church

We are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen preparing K@C breakfast and washing up (from September onwards).

K@c meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Kitchen helpers need to be available from about 9.20 am to 10.30 am.

You would be free in time for 10.30 worship.

What you would be doing...

Prepare breakfast (it varies – we bring fruit, yogurt, toast, croissants etc) and tea, coffee, squash. Serve drinks from the kitchen.

Wash up & sterilise in dishwasher.

Set up coffee cups and coffee machine ready for after 10.30 service (coffee rota volunteers take over after the service).

For further details please contact Cath Worth: 770151

Thank you.

Writing on this the longest day of the year, in which every hour is filled with bright warm sunshine, it is not surprising that memories of summertime hymns are awakened. It was in *Hymns and Psalms*, but didn't make it into *Singing the Faith*.. "Summer suns are glowing" has to rest in the memories of our church family members who are content to be thought of as elderly!

*"Summer suns are glowing over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing bountiful and free;
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays,
All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise. "*

It may not have the appeal of contemporary hymns in which we enjoy the inspiring blend of meaningful words and melodic tunes. However, it does capture the elements of summertime, whose arrival we look forward to, as we welcome days full of brightness and warmth, colour and light, all epitomising the beauty of God's creation within our natural world.

The summer months of July and August, within the context of our Church, mark the drawing to a close of one year as we anticipate the beginning of the new Methodist Year in September. It will have a greater significance for all of us this time around, as we bid farewell to Keith and Liz. Much will rightly be said and written in the coming weeks to acknowledge the appreciation of everything which Keith has brought to the Circuit during his 9 years as Superintendent Minister. However, for our own Church family, the parting will have a deeper meaning. For us, together with our friends at Grove and erstwhile Childrey worshippers, Keith was our Minister, and the Manse in Haywards Close felt very close. Quoting the popular saying that '*all good things must come to an end*', we offer our grateful thanks to Keith for *all the good things* he has brought to us – amongst them are the Disciple Course, Stepping out with Noah walks, Holy Habits, for a while the Sunday Morning Bible Study Group, encouragement for the creation of Monday Community Café and more besides. He has enriched our experience, introduced us to new ways of exploring our faith, and comforted and supported us in pastoral situations during sad and difficult times, as well as sharing our joys at times of celebration. For all of these features of his ministry amongst us in Wantage, we say a big thank you.

Our current Church Directory is now 3 years old, and needs updating and reproducing. Whenever this is done, great care is taken to ensure that all of the GDPR, [General Data Protection Regulations], are observed. The contact details form which you will have signed last time has been stored, and this is the document used as confirmation of your agreement for that information to be included in our Church Directory. Data Protection and Child Protection regulations restrict the information that may be included in the Directory. Details of children and young people under 18 are therefore excluded. **All of the retained, signed forms will assume continuing consent for the next edition of the Directory unless you advise me that you wish to withdraw your consent. Please can you let me know as soon as possible if there are any amendments needed to your contact details as they appear in the current Directory. I will assume they are correct otherwise.**

For those who have planned holidays between now and when our next Newsletter is published in September, we hope that you will enjoy a time of rest, refreshment and perhaps exploring new places. Similarly we hope that the summer months will provide enjoyment for everyone staying at home, perhaps with opportunities for outings and summertime treats.

Farewell Letter from Mike & Judith Skinner

You may have read in the newsletter that we are transferring membership to Falmouth (a Baptist, our closest church) where we'll be continuing our faith journey. We're maintaining a presence in Wantage as it's really helpful for regular visits to Judith's mum in MHA Leicester, as well as daughters and grandchildren in Birmingham and London.

Letting our membership of WMC go (after 33 years) is a strange and rather sad feeling! Thank you all for your constant prayers, fellowship, friendship and support. Before coming to WMC we had been members in 5 churches since the late 70s, due to education then work moves, with stays never longer than 4 years. It was therefore lovely to be able to bring up our girls in a strong and steady Methodist congregation, with too many lovely memories to list!

We'd planned to try out different churches in Wantage but when Verena happily walked out alone with Pauline to toddlers (held across the road in the undertakers, as the Hall had only recently been completed), something she'd not done before, we knew this was the church for us.

We were overwhelmed by the welcome from a congregation that had the faith and commitment to undertake the radical construction of the new Hall complex, to serve their mission and the community. Shortly afterwards, Verena was joined by younger sister Natalie and we will be forever thankful for the love and support they both received from dedicated, loving care they received in junior church, youth fellowship and youth group. The experiences, examples and friendship they received contributed hugely to the fact that both are committed members of evangelical communities (free and Anglican) in Birmingham and London, as are their husbands and young children. Similarly, those deep-rooted experiences have supported them as they went through medical studies and training.

We have so many amazing memories of life at WMC (shaped mainly by the humbling examples of Christian commitment, dedication and care shown by so many in the congregation and community), so many indeed that it's impossible to acknowledge the role they all played in developing and supporting our family life. We feel so blessed by the quality of pastoral leadership from which we've benefitted, under Michael, Andrew, Brenda, Martin and Keith. We feel equally humbled by the unswerving sacrifice and commitment made by so many in so many aspects of the life of our Church and community over the years: by Graham and Jessie, John & Margaret, Pam & David, Jenny, Julie, Gill and Gordon, Alison & Clive, Eileen, Ann, Andrew and Sharon - to mention just a few.

We have so many happy memories of our own: Friday Night Group (and YMOSES) with Alan, Helen, all the volunteers (many of whom became long-term friends) and the wonderful children (about whose lives we still sometimes hear); the MAYC weekends with Helen; helping Gavin & then Tim with the February Circuit Youth Camps to Cornwall, Bristol, Derbyshire and Dover; watching the fund-raising, planning and final delivery of Project 21; seeing Eileen's and June's vision of the Community Café bear so much fruit.

Times change and God calls us in sometimes unexpected ways. Mike always felt the call of childhood memories in Cornwall but Judith resisted a move for wider family reasons. However, with the girls' families coming down to Cornwall for lovely holidays, and us promising to maintain regular visits to them in their homes, we became able to spend longer in Falmouth. The transient nature of all this left Judith feeling rather unsettled until she began making regular weekly walks with a local group of Christian women. When she was also offered a council allotment to nurture as her own project (a pleasant counterbalance to Mike's time spent maintaining the sailing boat we both enjoy), it felt like God was calling us to a new start, leading us to a new spiritual home and fellowship, as well as stimulating challenges to our faith, at Emmanuel Baptist Church. It's within walking distance (and close to the allotment site!) and we will be transferring our membership there in September (if they vote to have us!).

We'll still follow news of life at WMC as it adapts to the changes coming later this year and will be in Wantage regularly so hope to keep in touch. Who knows, we might also see and spend time with some of you in Falmouth and the county, either to stay with us or (like Kelvin) to enjoy the hospitality available in the town.

Worship at Emmanuel Baptist Church



Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

This open and friendly group will be meeting for Prayer and Bible Study on each Tuesday at 2 pm in the Parlour during July. We will be taking a break throughout August, although we do hope to gather at the Cornerstone Café on one of the Tuesdays during this month. This will give an opportunity to look at new material for 2025/26.

During July we will be completing the Bible Month study guide on the Gospel of John and then looking at sessions 5 to 8 from Holy Habits – Making More Disciples.

Dates for July are as follows:

- 1st Bible Month – The Gospel of John - Week 4 - 'The hour' and the resurrection and our drama. Reading – John 18:18-21
- 8th Holy Habits: – Week 5 – Kingdom Disciples: T&C's apply Reading: Luke 14:25-30
- 15th Holy Habits: – Week 6 – Honesty is the best prayer policy Reading: John 1:45-51
- 22nd Holy Habits: – Week 7 – Start making more disciples Reading: Acts 1:6-11
- 29th Holy Habits: – Week 8 – Which idols do we worship? Reading: Acts 17:19-23

Please feel free to join us. If you have any queries or someone or a situation you would like us to pray you can contact me (Carolyn Roche) by telephone on 07906 518323 or email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

A prayer for our fruitfulness

Be fruitful within us, O God, and fill our words with your love,
our lives with your glory, and our labour with your blessing.
Ann Gilbert, Cornish Methodist preacher (c. 1735-1790)

Please pray for

Adrian, Alison C & family, Alyson, Angela, Anne, Caroline, Carol Mackinder, 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, Sharon, Sue, Terry & Deborah, Sonia, Tony G, Trudy, Val Broadbent, Vic Press, Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren.

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 email: 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 June our theme was Psalm 8 (How majestic is your name)

On **July 14th** our theme will be Luke 10:38-41 (Martha and Mary) and on **August 11th** our theme will be Luke 5:1-11 (The calling of the first disciples).

We have a core group from the care home who regularly attend and others 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 those 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.

WMC Prayer WhatsApp group

We have set up a prayer WhatsApp group so that we can share requests for prayers that can't wait until they appear in the weekly notices or the monthly newsletter. It would be so good if we could add others to this group which currently has 7 of us in it. Please let Helen Carter know if you would like to be involved in responding to urgent prayer requests. Thank you.

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.

Community Café

Carolyn Roche

It has been great to meet and chat at the café throughout a warm and sunny June. Many thanks to all the volunteers and cake makers who make this possible. We would welcome new volunteers to help us occasionally, either as tea/coffee makers, or chatting with visitors or making the occasional cake. We will be open from 9 am to 12 noon on each Monday throughout July and August and look forward to welcoming old and new friends. There is no charge for refreshments, but people are welcome to make a donation which goes to a different charity each quarter. Currently we are collecting for Wantage Methodist Church. We are very thankful for the hospitality and fellowship that it offers throughout the year.

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

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

Our meetings will continue throughout the summer and as usual we will gather on the first and third Mondays of the month. In July these will be on **Monday 7th July** and **Monday 21st July** at 2 pm in the Hall. The dates in August are **Monday 4th August** and **Monday 18th August**.

As usual we will have a break for tea and biscuits (sometimes cake!). 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.

Holy Habits

Our current holy habit is “**Making more disciples**” and as usual there will be one service each month during July and August where “Making more disciples” will be the theme of the day. There are no books or films for this topic, but there are thoughts about meeting up one morning for a chat and coffee on a date to be agreed. “Watch this space!” well the weekly notices at any rate.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am	Kids@Church		3 rd Sunday
	10:30 am	Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	Weekly
Monday	Morning	Drop-in Café	in the Hall	Weekly
	Afternoon	Knit & Chat	in the Hall	1 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 July/August

9 th July	Market Place Consultation	evening	Chapel
17 th July	Wedding	afternoon	
27 th July	Circuit Service	afternoon	
31 st July	Music Makers	evening	Chapel
21 st August	Music Makers	evening	Chapel
31 st August	WCC Prayer Fellowship	teatime	Hall

SERVICES during JULY

July

Sunday 6th

Sea Sunday / Rural Mission

Ordinary 14

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

10:30 am Wantage

Baptism

Rev Keith Underhill

10:30 am Grove

Local Arrangements

6:30 pm Grove

Praying for Revival

Sunday 13th

Action for Children

Ordinary 15

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Rev John Anderson

10:30 am Grove

Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

Sunday 20th

Ordinary 16

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

10:30 am Wantage

Holy Habits

Helen Carter

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

3:00 pm Circuit Service at Trinity Church Abingdon

Farewell to Deacon Selina Nisbett

Sunday 27th

Ordinary 17

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Ian Sturt

3:00 pm Circuit Service at Wantage

Farewell to Rev Keith Underhill

SERVICES during AUGUST

August

Sunday 3rd

Ordinary 18

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

10:30 am Wantage

Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove

Local Arrangements

Sunday 10th

Ordinary 19

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

10:30 am Wantage

Stephen Atkinson

10:30 am Grove

Peter Hemmings

Sunday 17th

Ordinary 20

Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

10:30 am Wantage

Ian Sturt

10:30 am Grove

Belinda Kaur

Saturday 23rd

3:00 pm at Trinity Church, Abingdon

Induction Service for Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson as Superintendent Minister of the Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

Sunday 24th

Ordinary 21

Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

10:30 am Wantage

Holy Habits

Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove

Helen Carter

Sunday 31st

Ordinary 22

Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15, 16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

10:30 am Wantage

Rev Nigel Ogley

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion

DIARY FOR JULY/AUGUST

JULY

Thursday 3 rd	10:30 am	Getting to know you – Rev Bruce Thompson @ Wantage	p14
Saturday 5 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p12
Sunday 6th	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p12
Monday 7 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Tuesday 8 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p12
Sunday 13th	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p14
Monday 14 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p19
Friday 18 th	7.30 pm	Grove Film Club	p12
Sunday 20th	3:00 pm	Circuit Farewell at Trinity for Deacon Selina Nisbett	p4
Monday 21 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Sunday 27th	3:00 pm	Circuit Farewell at Wantage for Rev Keith Underhill	p4

AUGUST

Saturday 2 nd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p12
Sunday 3rd	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p12
Monday 4 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Monday 11 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p19
Monday 18 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p20
Saturday 23 rd	3:00 pm	at Trinity Church, Abingdon	p4
Induction Service for Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson as Superintendent Minister			
Sunday 24th	Deadline for Summer (July/August) Sector Newsletter		p2
Tuesday 26 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p12