

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit

CHILDREY, GROVE & WANTAGE SECTOR


The Methodist Church

CGW NEWS



SUMMER 2024
July/August

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Contributions for the **next Newsletter** (September) should be sent to the editor by email, phone or in writing by **Sunday 18th August 2024**

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

Tel : 01235 766655 / 07710 214601

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

September	Sunday 18 th August
October	Sunday 22 nd September
November	Sunday 20 th October
December/January	Sunday 17 th November

From the Manse.....

The long summer of sport has begun. We have the Euro 2024 football finals in Germany as well as the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games in Paris, not to mention Wimbledon, the Tour de France and all the cricket that this summer offers.

For some this will bring a sense of great joy and pleasure and for others it is something to be avoided at all costs, an annoyance as their usual TV programs are rescheduled or postponed.

I'm writing this letter the day after Scotland crashed out of the Euro 2024 finals and England await their last group match. Much has been made of this so-called golden generation of England football stars, those who play regularly week by week with great skill and aplomb at the highest level for their clubs, those who have reached the very pinnacle of what it means to be a professional footballer.

However, when they put on an England shirt it appears that this group of talented individuals suddenly and inexplicably seem somewhat ordinary, pedestrian and not good enough.

Competition after competition and tournament after tournament England flatter to deceive. Is it the fault of the players, the manager or the system that is being played or is it simply down to unrealistic expectations of the fans?

Time and time again, we are reminded that the team that wins isn't necessarily the one with all the star players but the one that performs well playing to one another's strengths and with a sense of unity, purpose, pride and passion. When this happens, they can be unstoppable, they can be impressive to watch, and they can be a real tour de force.

Whilst St. Paul makes one or two references to sport (boxing and athletics) he of course has nothing to say about football or tennis or cricket, or does he?

Paul in 1 Corinthians talks a lot about what it means to be a church and uses the analogy of it being like a body, made up of many different parts and how all those parts are necessary for the functioning and well-being of the whole. He reminds us that all the parts (people) are vital and have unique roles to play no matter who they are. How sometimes it is the smaller or less obvious parts of the body that have the most important part to play and how when everybody is performing to their best, when everybody in the life of the church is giving of their all and when people work together in unity and harmony, then the church becomes what God has called it to be.

Perhaps we find that we can no longer do what we used to but, even when this is taken into consideration, there is much that can be done, for we all have our gifts to offer, our own ministry to exercise and as Methodists we believe in the concept of the ministry of the whole people of God. I remember when I was line-manager for Debbie Thrower (the first ever Anna Chaplain), she told us how an elderly lady of 101 who was almost blind discovered on moving into a care home a new ministry for herself. Each and every night she would walk down her corridor knocking on the doors of her neighbours and simply say "good night and God bless you."

I never believed that England would win the Euro 2024 finals, maybe reaching the last eight is the best that we can hope for, but when they take heed of St. Paul and learn to play as a team and not as individuals, then maybe just maybe, we can hope that "Football's coming home!"

With much love and God bless

Keith

Childrey Methodist Chapel

Many of you will already be aware that, following the recent Church Council meeting at Wantage and the additional Circuit meeting, it has been agreed that worship will cease at Childrey following the anniversary service on **October 13th** at which our new Chair of District, the Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks, will be preaching.

This decision was not taken lightly, but nonetheless it was the right one, reflecting the wishes of those who have helped the chapel to keep going these past few years and for which we are very grateful.

Please note that this is not the same as closing and selling the building. It is hoped (and in doing so to be faithful to the wishes of those stalwarts from the chapel who have died in recent years) that we will find new ways of enabling the Methodist name and presence (in conjunction with St. Mary's) to continue in a new way on the site. We have already begun some discussions about this with the District Mission Team.

It is right that we give thanks to God for the faithful witness of the chapel which this year celebrates 30 years of the opening of the new building, 175 years of Methodism on this site and 215 years of Methodism within the village

The remaining services at the chapel will be held on

11:00am July 28th

11:00am August 25th

11:00am September 8th

4:00pm October 13th, Chapel Anniversary

We assure all those at the chapel of our love, thoughts and prayers at this time.

Stepping out with Noah in July/August

The last walk this Connexional year will take place on **Sunday 14th July**, meeting outside **the Wantage Manse at 2:30 pm**. The route will be circulated a few days before hand. Hopefully the weather will be perfect on the day!

Goodbye and hello

Like many other Methodist Circuits, the next few months will see us saying goodbye and hello as staff change.

The **leaving service for Revd Ian Griffiths and Tabitha** will be held at **Trinity Church, Abingdon** on **Sunday 21st July at 3:00 pm** when we will give thanks for their ministry among us and wish them godspeed as they move to Wales.

A few weeks later on **Saturday 31st August at All Saint's Methodist Church at 3:00 pm**, we will be **welcoming the Rev'd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson and her husband Leslie** as they come to share with us in God's work in our Circuit. The preacher on this occasion will be Rev'd Dr Sonia Hicks our new Chair of District.



International Cafe Didcot

Continuing by popular demand
July dates:
Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

The Hub
Didcot Baptist Church
43 Wantage Road
Didcot, OX11 0BS

A friendly welcome
English practice
Refreshments
Arts and crafts
Signposts to advice

Organised by Didcot Churches Refugee Welcome

From the editors

Another Methodist Church Year is drawing to a close. The next edition will be for September and the harvest will be in progress.

Rev Ian & Tabitha Griffiths will have moved away and we will be welcoming Rev Georgina Bonzi-Simpson and Leslie to live and work amongst us in the circuit. We will have a new Chair of the District. There will be a new government, whoever wins the impending General Election. As time passes the world changes.

We hope you find the magazine useful and informative. Sadly there are sometimes errors in the printed edition but for those able to access the internet, corrections are made to the online edition. We try to add articles from the wider church and welcome any contributions and suggestions to improve the content.

Thank you to all our contributors, without you, the production of CGW News would not be possible.
Gordon & Gill

The Methodist Church in Great Britain celebrates 50 years of women's ordination as ministers

The Methodist Church in Britain is proud to mark the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women as ministers (presbyters). Although women were permitted to become deacons in the Methodist Church from 1890, they were not ordained as presbyters until 2 July 1974 at the Methodist Conference in Bristol.

The anniversary will be celebrated at the Methodist Conference which is this year taking place in Leeds. A specially written prayer will be included during the Sunday service at the Conference and a new short film featuring four female ministers will be released. The Preacher in the Presbyteral Session is the Revd Ruth Gee, a former President of the Conference (2013). She was invited to preach by the current President Gill Newton to mark the anniversary. The bible that was presented on the 40th anniversary will be on display throughout the Conference.

The film shares the experiences of past Presidents, the Revd Sonia Hicks and the Revd Michaela Youngson along with the Revd Kathryn Stephens and the Revd Kan Yu who talk about their calling to the ministry as well as the challenges they faced and their work now. A preview can be seen [here](#).

Revd Sonia Hicks says, "Despite the lows, I remain deeply grateful that this Methodist Church allows me to exercise this calling to ministry. I have ministered in different countries and met amazing people. It continues to be a great honour and privilege."

Revd Kathryn Stephens says, "There is never a dull moment in ministry! The challenges are wide and varied, some difficult and painful, others filled with wonderful joy and opportunity. Through the highs and lows of ministry, I try to remember my calling, be deeply rooted in Jesus and seek the strength of God in all things."

Revd Kan Yu says, "I am compassionate about nurturing and valuing the diverse gifts and heritage of God's people to build up Christ's body with love and justice to serve the present age. I am keen to find God in all things and enable others to discern God's call upon them."

Methodist ministers are being asked to share their memories for the anniversary, which will be featured on the Methodist Church website.

Since 1974, 10 women presbyters have been elected as President of the Conference and 6 of them over the past 10 years – Revd Loraine Mellor in 2017, Revd Michaela Youngson in 2018, Revd Dr Barbara Glasson in 2019, Revd Sonia Hicks in 2021, Revd Gill Newson in 2023 and Revd Helen Cameron in 2024.

The full list of women ordained in 1974 is:

Anne Bradfield, Beth Bridges, Kathleen Burgess, Margaret Butler, Kitty Foster, Irene Gibbs, Joy Hale, Elizabeth Hodgkiss, Mary Holliday, Marjorie Hopp, Jennifer Lunn, Marjorie Maltby, Irene Morrow, Clare Powers, Kathleen Share, Elsie Smith and Eileen Wragg.



Wantage and Grove STREET PASTORS

Annual Report April 2023 to March 2024

Paul Gander - Chair



It is incredible to think that Street Pastors started before the first Apple iPad had been released. We live in a world so full of technology and the reliance on tablets to help things work, to educate, to buy things, sell things etc and also to make life quicker and in some cases better.

All those years ago when that first trustee meeting happened or the first patrol, did they think they would still be here 15 years later, meeting the need for those who find themselves vulnerable on the streets at night? Maybe they had hoped they wouldn't need to be on the streets due to a change in the night time economy? I wasn't there so don't know... But I do know that Street Pastors are still needed for our town and area, people needing support or a listening ear or to be cared for at just the right moment at their time of need.

I am very blessed as chair of this wonderful charity that it has such a great track record of doing the above for the people of this town and area and I very much hope and pray that we will enjoy another 15 years in serving the vulnerable people of the town, I wonder what technology will be invented in 15 years time...?!

Thanks to ...

Members, Friends, Partner Churches, Grove Parish Council, Wantage Town Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Ascension Trust

Thank you to all our volunteers whose hard work and dedication has helped us achieve another year of caring, listening and helping in our communities. Thank you to all those individuals and organisations who have supported us in so many ways, from prayer and patrols to finances and provision of our base - Thank you!

Who we are ...

Trustees (currently 2 vacancies)



135 Members; 14 Friends; 13 Partner Churches; 17 Street Pastors; 23 Prayer Support; 5 Prayer & Patrol Teams each month; Coordinator (Nigel Watt – part time); Online Networker (Sky Shoemark – part time)

We recruited one new Street Pastor trainee for night-time patrols in the year. We had two Friday teams, one patrolling 8 pm - midnight, one patrolling 10.30 pm - 3.30 am; and three Saturday teams patrolling from 11 pm to 3.30 am.

The Year in Patrols

	2023/24	2022/23
Patrols	52	45
Hours Covered	226	189
Supporting Vulnerable	38	35
Calming Aggressive	7	13
Flip-flops	25	14
Lollypops	-2625	-2040
Water	58	67

People we engaged with:

	Male	Female	Total	2022/23
Under 13 years	2	1	3	0
13 to 17 years	24	23	47	104
18 to 25 years	125	93	218	240
25+ years	232	83	315	210
Totals	383	200	583	554

How we helped on the streets

Street Pastors met a young man who was homeless and had slept on the streets for 4 nights. Being the beginning of a very cold spell, we attempted to find emergency accommodation for him. The Police joined us and also attempted to find somewhere for the man to stay, unsuccessfully. We used our mobile power pack to put some charge into the man's phone. He was able to call a friend and arrange to sleep in their shed for the night. We gave him some soup, snacks, a jumper and a pair of gloves to help keep him warm.

In Grove one evening, Street Pastors saw a young lad fall off his new bike. We went over to check he was ok and used our torches to help him check if his bike was ok too.

One of our teams visited Sweatbox Youth Centre and spent time chatting with the young people and staff. The same night we cleared up a lot of broken glass in the Undercroft Car Park – our kit bag includes a dustpan and brush for this very reason.

Another night in Wantage town centre, we found that some of the plants in one of the Wantage planters had been uprooted, perhaps by a frustrated reveller. Before heading home for the night, one of our Street Pastors replanted the plants.

Street Pastors met a group of three young people at Grove Skate Park. We chatted for some time and gave them lollies. We also cleared up broken glass at the Skate Park. The same night Street Pastors cleared up lots of litter at Mary Green Park and the Old Mill Hall.

Community involvement

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors works alongside and supports a number of local, regional and national groups. We regularly contribute to the Neighbourhood Action Group, which seeks to identify and resolve issues that arise in our local communities. Our early Friday evening team visits Sweatbox whenever possible to connect with the young people and encourage youth workers.

Wantage & Grove Neighbourhood Action Group

Wantage & Grove PubWatch

Sweatbox Youth Centre

Missing People

Afternoon Patrols

It has been a long-held **ambition** of ours to have Street Pastor patrols in Wantage town centre on Friday afternoons.

Our purpose is always to care, to listen and to help. We will be available to whomever we meet, albeit children on their way home from school, members of the public waiting for a bus, for example, or shopkeepers.

During term-time, there will be lots of young people leaving King Alfred's Academy and making their way through town on foot or by bike. We will be there to provide a reassuring presence for everyone and a listening ear for anyone who needs to talk.

During 2023/24, our chair, Paul Gander has championed this aspect of our ministry and signed up as the first afternoon patrols Street Pastor recruit. We have gained 3 further recruits and have started training and equipping in order to start patrols later in the calendar year.

Financial overview

Michael Elliot Treasurer



We ended the 2023-24 financial year with a deficit of £6,522 compared with a surplus £650 in the previous financial year. The table below summarises our income and expenditure.

We continue to receive grant funding from Oxfordshire County Council and also from the TVP Community Action Fund. We also received some smaller but welcome grants from other supporters of WGSP. The

reduction in grant income is a result of changes in the timing of the Oxfordshire County Council grant.

We are grateful to those supporters who give by standing order (19 in total) who have mostly maintained their giving at the same level as last year and also to other supporters making one-off donations.

Some areas of expenditure have increased, in particular staff costs due to inflation and the development of our social media presence. Higher Operating costs and Ascension Trust fees are mainly caused by timing issues.

We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from members, the public and charitable bodies, especially at this time when many are experiencing reductions in their income together with greater demands on available charitable funds. Our work continues to be recognised and valued at all levels within the community. **Thank you!**

Income		2023/24	2022/23
Church support	Grove Free Evangelical Church, St John's Grove	2,209	2,200
Grants	Oxfordshire County Council, TV Police Community Fund, Penuel Trust	5,500	7,150
From Individuals	19 standing orders, and one-off donations	3,125	3,558
Events	Quiz & Curry Night	775	480
Collecting Boxes	Cornerstone, Kings Centre and various pubs	125	77
Gift Aid Recovery		439	572
Interest		35	27
Total Income		£12,258	£14,064

Expenditure		2023/24	2022/23
Staff Costs	Salary & related	14,548	10,736
Cost of Fundraising	Catering & hall hire at events	303	204

Training & Safeguarding	SP training and safeguarding costs	706	269
Operating Costs	Flip-flops and lollipops, refreshments for those on duty, kit, mobile 'phone top-ups, printing, etc	1,416	1,082
Ascension Trust Fee	15% of income (except OCC grant)	1,807	1,123
Total Expenditure		£18,780	£13,414

Charity overview

Trustees

Paul Gander - Chair

Marj Lunn - Secretary

Michael Elliott - Treasurer

Steve West

Hilary Moore (resigned July 2023)

Andy Smith (appointed July 2023)

Vacancy for two more Trustees

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Anne Cheeseman (07827 750 217)

Deputy DSO - Paul Gander (07812 136 031)

Street Pastor Sundays

Wantage Baptist Church - 30 April 2023

Wantage Parish Church 18 June 2023

Holy Trinity Church - 4 February 2024

Employees

Nigel Watt - Coordinator

(part-time paid role)

Sky Shoemark - Online Networker

(part-time paid role)

Events & Fundraising

'Thank You' Afternoon Tea - 23 April 2023

Beacon Open Day - 25 June 2023

Curry & Quiz Night - 18 November 2023

2023 AGM

Our 2022/23 AGM took place on 4th July 2023 at St John's Church in Grove. The meeting was well attended and, as well as the usual AGM business, we were able to receive an encouraging update from Sky Shoemark on our social media presence, which had increased steadily in the 6 months since it started. We were also able to thank Hilary Moore for her service as a trustee as she was stepped down at the meeting. In answer to our request and our prayers for additional trustees, we were very grateful that Andy Smith very kindly offered to fulfil this need.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Members endorsed a proposal to transfer Wantage & Grove Street Pastors from an Unincorporated Group to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at our 2020 AGM. The new CIO charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 6 November 2023 and has Charity Number 1205598. Work now begins to set up the new charity and to transfer existing assets, employees, etc to the new organisation.

Online Networking

Sky Shoemark has continued to work on our online presence as our Online Networker. In the last year Sky has:

▶ **Posted** SP & PSV team pictures & videos, encouraging Bible verses, safety advice and guidance for the night time economy

▶ **Grown** our following: Facebook: 452 followers (up from 311)

Instagram: 358 followers (up from 241) TikTok: 410 followers (up from 153)

Ascension Trust has, on a number of occasions, commended Wantage & Grove Street Pastors for our social media presence as being one of the best they have seen. Please follow us, like and share!

Trustee Goals for 2024/25

Each year our Management Committee sets goals to help focus our efforts and to ensure that we continue to serve our community well. We centre our goals around the key areas of delivering patrols, finances and relationships.

Here is a summary of our 2024/25 Committee Goals:

- ▶ Delivering Patrols and Online Presence:
 - Increase numbers of volunteers, Street Pastors & Prayer Support Volunteers
 - Online Networker to continue to grow our social media presence including Street Pastor messages and Bible verses
 - Pursue Daytime Patrols to start on Friday afternoons
- ▶ Finance:
 - Secure funding to cover our costs £15k - £20k target for this year
 - Hold at least one fundraiser and one awareness event in the year
- ▶ Relationships:
 - Complete the transition of WGSP into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
 - Recruit two new Trustees, especially for the Secretary role.
 - Work with statutory and third sector agencies to help people in the night time economy.

For more information about our goals, please do talk to a Trustee or send us an email.

Wantage & Grove Street Pastors

Once again, thank you for your support of our work in our local communities.

For more information about our work or for details of how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact us using the details below:

Website: www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

Email: wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk

Mobile: 07554 655 594

Facebook: facebook.com/wantageandgrovestreetpastors

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

TikTok: [wantage_grove_pastors](https://tiktok.com/@wantage_grove_pastors)

Cornerstone News – June 2024



AGM

We recently held our AGM and it was very encouraging to have such a good turnout. We were excited to share with our supporters that in the year to March 2024 we had retained a surplus of £8,000, compared to the loss of £4,000 we had made the previous year. The majority of the surplus could be explained by much higher café revenue. Our staff worked tirelessly all year to deliver more outside catering than ever before whilst keeping on top of a busy café. Sadly, a number of staff moved on during the year, but we also welcomed two new staff and will be looking to recruit one more in the autumn. If you missed the AGM and are interested in the details of the financial report, do let us know, we would be happy to share it with you.

Board Membership

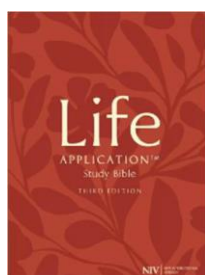


At the AGM, Sue Parnell stepped down as Chair and resigned from the Board of Trustees. Sue has been involved in the Cornerstone since its inception and this was her third stint on the Board. Don't worry, she will still be volunteering regularly on the till. Miranda Hawkins has been appointed the new Chair of the board and Celia Terrill has joined the board of trustees as Sue's replacement from St John's.



Marble Jar

Many of you will know we have a scheme to “pay it forward” to cater in the café for those in need which we call the marble jar. We have been using this scheme to pay for families entitled to free school meals to come in during the holidays and also others in need, such as unemployed or homeless people who are signposted to us by churches or the Advice Centre. It's been very successful. Since the beginning of April, the scheme has been used by individuals or families 35 times. Due to the generosity of our customers and friends we do still have some money in the marble jar fund but it has been depleted significantly. We anticipate this scheme will be popular again in the summer so we would appreciate more donations, which can be made at the till.



In the bookshop

We have a Take Note promotion running until the end of July with a good selection of books and CDs including the much-anticipated new edition of the “Life Application Study Bible” which has £5 off. We do also have a large selection of children's books 10% off. For churches with an account with us, that will be 20% off.

Second hand books

We have a bookshelf of second hand books with prices from 50p upwards – all profits from the sale of these books goes to Cornerstone.

Make and Bake

It's been a great term at Make & Bake, our little ones have made various sweet and savoury treats including bread rolls, biscuits and smoothies. They made their Dads a cake that looked like a burger complete with lettuce, cheese and ketchup. Our last session before the summer break will be on **Tuesday 16th July 2024**.



Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on **Wednesday 31st July** at 12.30 pm – please do 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 13th July** at 8.30am 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

Come and be part of our
vibrant Christian community at...

Framland Care
Home, *Wantage*

Call us on **0300 303 1470** or email
wantage@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

 **www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/framland**



Wantage Parish welcomes a new Curate

Wantage Parish are welcoming **Thomas Frances Caroe**, known as Frances, as the parish's new curate.

Frances will be ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral on **Saturday 29th June**. He and his wife Hannah moved into the Parish early in June.

Frances will be welcomed on **Sunday 30th June** at the Patronal Festival Evensong

A letter from Frances

I'm very much looking forward to joining you all in Wantage at the end of June. After three years training in the Oxfordshire countryside, it will be wonderful to be involved again in parish life (and to be able to walk to the shops!). I'm joining you from Ripon College Cuddesdon, where Hannah and I moved after meeting and marrying in East Oxford. I last worked there as a gardener, managing an allotment project for a local homeless charity; before that I was a student of Japanese literature and culture. I miss Japan, where I lived for some time (and came to faith), so most of my cooking is Japanese, and in any spare moment you will probably find me with my head in some Japanese novel. However, I have also fallen in love with the Downs, so I shall enjoy working and praying with you in their shadow. Please do pray for us as we move, and as I prepare to be ordained a deacon in the Church of God, and licensed to serve as your assistant curate.



A Prayer for the new curate and for all those being ordained at Petertide

Almighty God: by your holy inspiration your apostles appointed the first deacons, amongst them the holy martyr Stephen. Look with mercy on your servants now called to share in this ministry; replenish them with the truth of your teaching, and clothe them with integrity, that by their word and example they may faithfully serve you in this ministry, to the glory of your name and the building up of your church. Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Wantage and Grove
STREET PASTORS**

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

2024 AGM

**Tuesday 2 July 2024
Holy Trinity, Charlton
7.45 pm**



Includes refreshments and "special guest"!



Contact us: 07554 655 594
wantageandgrove@streetpastors.org.uk
www.wantageandgrove.streetpastors.org.uk

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY

**Summer
Concert
2024**



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

Saturday 6 July 2024 | 7.30pm
Letcombe Regis Village Hall OX12 9LJ

John Rutter – **Feel the Spirit**
Bob Chilcott – **A Little Jazz Mass**

George Gershwin – **excerpts from Porgy and Bess**

Conductor Sebastian Thomson **Accompanist** Peter McMullin



wantagechoralsociety.co.uk
Registered Charity No 265227

Tickets £15 – including wine and canapés

Available from Eventbrite, Wantage Bookshop
or via wantagechoralsociety.co.uk
or members of WCS or at the door

Under 16s – Free

GROVE

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** for Helen & Douglas House on **Saturday, 6th July** from 10 am till 12 noon in the church. Nicky and Lynda are our hosts for the morning. Helen and Douglas House in Oxford is a homely place for local children up to the age of 18, living with life-limiting and terminal conditions, and their families. They provide care in a warm loving environment where families can create happy memories in their last days, weeks, months or years together. Hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

The **Coffee Morning** in August is on **Saturday, 3rd August** from 10 am till noon in the church. Proceeds from the morning are for Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA), a charity which is dedicated to enabling older people to live later life well. Our hosts for the morning are Margaret and Roger Bett. Do hope you can join us for a chat, coffee/tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you.

Ecumenical "Prayer for Revival" is held on the first Sunday of each month in our church. The next meetings are on **Sundays, 7th July** and **4th August** at 6.30 pm till 8 pm. You are invited to come and pray with us. All are welcome.

Church Council will meet on **Thursday, 11th July** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room. All interested in the life and work of Grove Methodist Church are invited to come and share in this meeting.

Tuesday Fellowship in July is on **Tuesday, 30th July** at 2.15 pm when we have been invited to visit Sue and John Stead at their home, 17 Woodgate Close, Grove. We are hoping for a fine day to be able to enjoy their garden. All are welcome.

Tuesday Fellowship for August will be on **Tuesday, 27th August** at 2.15 pm. Details of what will be happening will be put in the weekly notice sheet nearer the time.

Film Club : Please let Peter Hemmings have any suggestions and requests or future films.

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 June Coffee Morning for Tools with a Mission which raised the sum of £186. The money has been sent for their Summer Appeal to purchase a new fork-lift truck for the Ipswich Refurbishment Centre. The present truck is now 25 years old and needs replacing for the work to continue. Thank you to everyone.

Thank you also 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 contributions are very much appreciated. The need is still great.

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.

CHILDREY

Services at the chapel will be held on

11:00 am July 28th led by Helen Carter

11:00 am August 25th led by Daphne Savage

Prayers

We remember in our prayers:

Vicky, Robin and Becky Legge and the Legge family grandchildren. 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.

We record with sadness that **John Cliffe** died on 26th May. He and his late wife Jean worshipped at Childrey Chapel for very many years.

John's funeral will take place at 1 pm on **Wednesday 10th July** at Childrey Methodist Church. Our prayers are with John's family.

WANTAGE

Holy Habits

Our Holy Habit, covering the months of June through to August, is on the theme of fellowship.

There will be **services** on July 21st and August 11th that focus on the Holy Habit theme.

The **film** we will be watching together in church is Paddington - Wednesday 3rd July at 7:30 pm

There are **three books** that people might like to choose from (or any combination of!) that encourage us to look at and explore the theme of fellowship from a different angle.

“The Bees” by Laline Paull published by Fourth Estate in 2015. This novel and work of fiction focuses on Flora 717 who is a bee born into the lowest class of hive society. Not only does this book delve into the way that hives work but also raises questions about living in community, survival, internal tensions, religion and outside enemies.

“Winnie the Pooh” by A. A. Milne published by Egmont in 1926. Join Winnie the Pooh and his collection of friends as they share their adventures together in the Hundred-Acre Wood.

“Offshore” by Penelope Fitzgerald published by Fourth Estate, this was the winner of the Booker prize and was published in 1979. This novel focuses “on a mixed bag of the temporarily lost and patently eccentric who live on houseboats that are rising and falling with the tide of the Thames on Battersea Reach.” Set in 1961 this story captures a bygone age.

We will meet at Cornerstone at 10:00 am on **Saturday 20th July** to have a chat about these books and the issues raised over tea, coffee and cake.

World Peace Day – 21 September

June Grunwald

In 2022 we marked World Peace Day with a simple projection of images, words and music in our chapel for a couple of hours. In 2024 World Peace Day falls on a Saturday. I have volunteered to mark the day somehow on our premises. As the day falls on a Saturday I wonder whether it might be possible to mark the day differently somehow. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could suggest any ideas. The chapel and hall have been booked for the day.

The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21st as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. Peace Day has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate the day.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone with ideas or who might be willing to be involved in some way.

As we are now enjoying the recently arrived special treats associated with summertime, like the long awaited warm sunshine, many hours of daylight, as well as the glorious colours of summer flowers, trees and shrubs, we give thanks for these wonderful features of God's beautiful creation. For everyone who, between now and our next Newsletter in September, will be taking holidays, or enjoying days out and perhaps exploring new places, we wish you enlightening, joyful and fulfilling experiences.

On 4th July, the Thanksgiving Service for Jane Rudd will take place, and we will celebrate her life and involvement with our Church over very many years. Sadly though, the funeral of Jane's husband will take place at Garford Crematorium two days earlier, as Harry died on 1st June following a fall at his home. We hold all of Jane's and Harry's families in our thoughts and our prayers.

We record with sadness that John Cliffe died on 26th May. He and his late wife Jean had lived in Childrey and worshipped at the Methodist Church there for very many years, but they were also well known to many people in our church family too. They regularly attended Friday and Sunday lunches, and until very recently John enjoyed spending Monday mornings at our Community Café. John's funeral will take place at 1 pm on Wednesday 10th July at Childrey Methodist Church. Our prayers are with all who knew John, especially our friends at Childrey who have sadly lost yet another one of their church family members. John was one of only two remaining who lived in the village.

With regret we also record the death of David Harrison, who lived at Betjeman Court and was a close companion of one of our late members, Dilys Seymour. David regularly came to Church lunches with Dilys on Fridays and Sundays, and his presence is missed as a friend of several people within our church family.

There is encouraging news to report on some of our members who have recently been in hospital or receiving outpatient treatment. Joan Clipsham has recovered from her accident sufficiently well to enable her to resume worshipping with us on Sunday mornings. She wishes to gratefully acknowledge the care and concern offered by many of our church family, whilst she was in the JR Hospital and since her return home. Joan is very thankful for the kindness and support she has received from so many people.

We assure Sue Haithwaite of our love, alongside our ongoing prayers, as she recovers from further surgery. We look forward to when she is able to worship with us in person again.

Eileen Rennie is now back home after her stay in hospital and in The Close Care Home at Burcot. There are remaining health problems for which Eileen awaits treatment, and we pray for her continuing progress towards much better health.

It is always a joy to welcome new people attending our morning Services, and several weeks ago we were pleased to meet Mereoni and her husband Peni Tauli, together with their sons Sikeli and Myles. Similarly we were delighted to have Barbara Hayers and her son Martin, young grandson Zane, and granddaughter Xandi at our service.

We hope that both of these families will continue to worship with us and we will enjoy getting to know them better.

Praying for each other: In July the people listed below will be included in the prayer time at the Tuesday Bible Study: On **Alison Phillips's** list: Jan Abrahall, Rob Charles, Janet Charles, Anne & Doug Hatto, Jane Soffe and Evelyn Osei-Akowuah

In August the prayer time will include those of our church family who, for many different reasons, we no longer see regularly at Sunday services, but whose involvement with our church is remembered with thankfulness, and who are held in God's love: Edwina Collett, Graham Godfrey, June Hartle, Julie Horton, Sheila and Trevor Johnson, Jean Manners, Margaret McAlpin, Hilary Rewcastle, Meriel Robson, and Jenny Whymark,

Prayer list

A prayer for patience and courage in a bewildering world

Eternal God, we seek clarity and reassurance in a bewilderingly complex world.

Grant us the patient trust that will enable us to sense your hand in the emergent, the ambiguous, the random and the fragile. Give us courage to embrace your vulnerability seen in Jesus Christ.

May your Spirit help us to understand it is amid the darkness that your light can be seen most clearly; attune the eyes of faith so that we can detect and follow the glimpses of your kingdom's radiance. In the still, dark night of our days may we behold galaxies of divine light and love and be captivated by the vision of your glory. Amen.

Mike Long, Action for Children Trustee

Please pray for

Bethan Grant, Anne, Carol Mackinder, Emma Wright & family, Caroline, Geoff, Doug & Anne Hatto, Richard in York, Edwina, Adrian, Louise, Diane, Meriel, Diane's daughters Claire & Julie, June Hartle, Jane Robinson, Louise, Richard & Anne, Peter, John & Jo, Mary Spalding, Jane & Emma Soffe & family, Trudy, Jade, Sue, Findley, Eileen, Alison C & family, Norma, Hunter, Angela. All at Bullingdon Prison, staff, prisoners and visitors. Our Ministers, Deacon, Community Chaplains, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders, kids@church, Street Pastors, Cornerstone and 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 September newsletter, please let Carolyn know by **Friday 16th August** in order to meet the newsletter deadline.

Carolyn Roche: telephone: 01235 764310 email: ciroche48@hotmail.com

Community Café

June Grunwald

The cafe is open every Monday from 9 am to 12 noon. All are welcome.

It seems a long time since we were in the month of May, but at the end of May we were open again for the Bank Holiday Monday and had 28 visitors. As promised in the June newsletter, I am pleased to write that the café raised £565.74 for Christian Aid, which was our charity for March, April and May. In June, July and August donations will go to our own church funds.

The café was sad to hear about the deaths of two café regulars. John Cliffe and David Harrison both attended the café for a number of years. We shall miss their chat.

Our thanks to all the volunteers on the rota who make the café such a welcoming place and to those 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. The café members have greatly missed Eileen's presence and we continue to wish her a full recovery. My thanks to all those who have supported me during Eileen's absence.

Knit & Chat

Carolyn Roche

Knit & Chat will continue to meet throughout the summer months. Please come and join us if you are not away on holiday. We are now more than half way through the year and hopefully the host of knitted angels is continuing to increase. I know it is more difficult to knit in hot weather so the production rate may slow down. We are also doing well with knitting Hats for the Homeless. These will be used to decorate the K&C Christmas Tree before being passed on to the relevant charity.

We look forward to seeing you over the summer and sharing a chat, a cup of tea/coffee, biscuit/cake and a little knitting/sewing etc.

Summer Knit & Chat - Monday 1st July and Monday 15th July

Monday 5th August and Monday 19th August 2pm in the Hall

Kids@Church

Jane, Dave, Cath and Keith

In June we had fun in the church learning about the church calendar and completing a puzzle. In the hall we played 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' before making clocks. We finished in our usual way, sharing breakfast together.

In **July** kids@Church will be meeting on the 21st in the **memorial park** up Manor Road between 9.30 and 10.15 am. If it is wet we will meet in the church hall.

We have a break in August and will meet again on **Sunday 15th September**.

Kids@Church is an informal service and craft/ game for children and their families on the 3rd Sunday of the month between 9.30 and 10.15 am. We always finish sharing breakfast together. New families always welcome!

For more information please speak to Jane, Cath, Dave or Keith (01235 763321)

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 30-45 mins. For various reasons the group was very thin on the ground at the meeting in June, but we hope both church and Elmbrook regulars will be able to rejoin the group. Our studies for the next couple of few months are: **July 8th** (Mark 6:1-13) and on **August 12th** (Ephesians 4:25-32). 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. In June Nicky and I spoke to a new resident in the lounge who had arrived at Elmbrook that very morning.

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer and Study Group

Carolyn Roche

Our open and friendly group meet in the Parlour on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm to study and pray. Do please feel free to come along and join us any week and you can be assured of a warm welcome. Members who are unable to meet with us be can assured that they are remembered in prayer. Prayer is an important part of our meeting and we spend time each week praying for situations near and far. If you have someone or a situation you would like us to pray for please let me know.

During June we have been studying Genesis using the study guide provided for Bible Month. Nine of us joined Libby Bolton at the Convent for a day of quiet study, prayer and reflection. This was also based on readings from Genesis.

We shall meet as usual during July when we shall be completing the study on Genesis and then following the Holy Habits Group Studies on Fellowship. During August, the Prayer and Study group will take a break and we will recommence on **Tuesday 3rd September**.

Dates for July are as follows:

2nd The God who Confirms and Safeguards Divine Purposes

Reading: Genesis - Chapters 37 - 50 This meeting includes the Monthly Prayer List.

9th Group to be led by Rev Keith Underhill

16th Holy Habits Fellowship – Covenant Commitment Reading: Ruth 1:14-17

22nd Holy Habits Fellowship – Visions of Harmony Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9

30th Holy Habits – Abiding in Love Reading John 15:1-5,7

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

Lunchtime prayers - Fridays 12th July and 9th August at 1 pm in the vestry. We will meet for 30 minutes of prayer. We always pray for those on our prayer list, those who have asked for prayers via the prayer tree and the box on the outside of the hall, together with any other issues that we feel need our prayers. All are welcome. More information can be obtained from Helen Carter.

Wantage & Grove Food Bank

Helen Carter

During the school holidays there is inevitably an increase in the request for food parcels. Those families where the children have free school meals during termtime do struggle during the holidays. Our continuing support through donations for food and money is much needed. Thank you so much to all those who continue to support the Food Bank in both ways.

The Mix

Sadly the Mix can no longer receive toothpaste tubes as they don't have an outlet for those any more. However, we can still give them teeth related items such as the worn out heads for electric toothbrushes. Also, we can still give them writing implements - both working and not working - and empty printer ink cartridges. There is a new item - that of used candles. They are being collected and used by an organisation to either make new candles to send or just send them as they are. The notice on the box will indicate what can now be accepted. Don't forget that you can deposit medication blister packs in the box in Boots.

First Aiders wanted Do you have first aid experience? For a variety of reasons we currently have too few named people we can call on in the case of an emergency within a church service or other church activities. We would like to find out if there are members of our church family who have first aid experience and who would be willing to be on a list of people who are prepared to act in the case of an emergency. Of course we hope and pray that such action is not necessary, but we do want to feel secure in the knowledge that there are such folk we can call on. I have talked of 'we', so who are 'we'? We are the church stewards and we would love to hear from you if you think you can help. If you can, please talk to Helen Carter, Sue Haithwaite or David Worth. Thank you.

What is happening on the Wantage premises at present?

Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Kids@Church Morning Worship	In person and on Zoom	3 rd Sunday Weekly
Monday	Morning Afternoon	Drop-in Café Knit & Chat	in the Hall in the Hall	Weekly 1 st & 3 rd Monday
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 CA Meeting		Weekly Weekly
Tuesday	Morning Evening	MIND Wantage Camera Club		Weekly 9,16,23,30 July only
Wednesday	Afternoon Evening	My Life My Choice Wantage Sings		Last Wednesday Weekly
Thursday	Midday	KAWI		3 rd Thursday
Friday	Morning	Mothers & Toddlers		Weekly in term
Saturday	Morning	Dads Out		1 st Saturday

July

Wednesday 3 rd	Evening	Holy Habits Film	Chapel
Thursday 4 th	All Day	General Election Polling Station	Hall
	Morning	Jane Rudd's Thanksgiving	Chapel
Thursday 18 th	Evening	Music Makers	Hall
Monday 29 th	Evening	Church Leadership Team	Chapel

DIARY for July/August

JULY

Saturday 6 th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p17
Sunday 7th	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p17
Monday 1 st	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p22
Monday 8 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p23
Thursday 11 th	7:30 pm	Grove Church Council	p17
Friday 12 th	1:00pm	Lunchtime Prayers at Wantage	p23
Sunday 14th	2:00 pm	Stepping out with Noah	p5
Monday 15 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p22
Thursday 18 th	7:30 pm	Music Makers at Wantage	
Sunday 21st	9:30 am	Kids@Church at Wantage	p22
	3:00 pm	Farewell to Rev Ian & Tabitha Griffiths at Trinity, Abingdon	p5
Monday 29 th	7:30 pm	Wantage Church Leadership Team	
Tuesday 30 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p17

AUGUST

Saturday 3 rd	10:00 am	Coffee Morning at Grove	p17
Sunday 4th	6:30 pm	Prayer for Revival at Grove	p17
Monday 5 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p22
Monday 12 th	2:30 pm	Bible Study at Elmbrook Care Home	p23
Friday 9 th	1:00pm	Lunchtime Prayers at Wantage	p23
Sunday 18th		DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER CGW NEWS	
Monday 19 th	2:00 pm	Knit & Chat at Wantage	p22
Tuesday 27 th	2:15 pm	Grove Tuesday Fellowship	p17
Saturday 31 st	3:00 pm	Welcome service for Rev Georgina Bonzi-Simpson at All Saints, Abingdon	p5

SUNDAY SERVICES during July

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 7th

Ordinary 14

Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

10:30 am Wantage

Rev John Anderson

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

6:30 pm Grove

Prayer for Revival

Sunday 14th

Action for Children

Ordinary 15

Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

10:30 am Wantage

Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove

Peter Hemmings

No Service at Childrey

Sunday 21st

Rural Mission Sunday

Ordinary 16

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-21; Mark 6:30-34,53-56

9:30 am Wantage

Kids@Church

10:30 am Wantage

Holy Habits

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove

Elixabeth Wood

3:00 pm **Farewell to Rev Ian & Tabitha Griffiths**

at Trinity, Abingdon

Sunday 28th

Ordinary 17

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

10:30 am Wantage

Belinda Kaur

10:30 am Grove

Rev Keith Underhill

This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

11:00 am Childrey

Helen Carter

SUNDAY SERVICES during August

All Services from Wantage are shared on Zoom

Sunday 4th

Ordinary 18

Exodus 16:2-4,9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

10:30 am Wantage Rev H A Tillinghast Local Arrangements

10:30 am Grove Local Arrangements

6:30 pm Grove Prayer for Revival

Sunday 11th

Ordinary 19

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35,41-51

10:30 am Wantage Holy Habits Helen Carter

10:30 am Grove Peter Hemmings

No Service at Childrey

Sunday 18th

Ordinary 20

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

10:30 am Wantage Rev Keith Underhill
This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:30 am Grove Andrew Dixon

Sunday 25th

Ordinary 21

Joshua 24:1-2a,14-17; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

10:30 am Wantage Libby Bolton

10:30 am Grove Belinda Kaur

11:00 am Childrey Daphne Savage

Saturday 31st

3:00 pm **Welcome service for Rev Georgina Bonzi-Simpson
at All Saints, Abingdon**