



March 2022

# Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in Wotton under Edge



## Lent Lectures

Every Wednesday during Lent  
7.30pm at The Baptist Church



### Christians and the Climate Crisis

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>Rev Dr Cate Williams</b><br><i>Environmental Engagement Officer in Gloucester Diocese</i><br>Imagining and creating a new Green future                           |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>Prof Patricia Broadfoot CBE</b><br><i>National Trustee CPRE and Chair CPRE Gloucestershire</i><br>Our God-given home: Christians and the Countryside             |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> | <b>Alex Avard</b><br><i>Tearfund Action Team</i><br>How Climate change affects the world's poor and what we can do to care for them                                 |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>Kevin Durrant</b><br><i>Minister of Keynsham Baptist Church</i><br>Going Green in the Local Church   |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>Rev Noel Sharp</b><br><i>Methodist Minister, convenor of Bristol Methodist Synod Eco Team</i><br>Building the movement, changing structures, engaging with power |

To access the lectures, live, via Zoom please use the following:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89919536308?pwd=NENETkdUNDI3dFJrVXdxXWVlWVlBOZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 1953 6308

Passcode: 935519

## Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme

The trustees have made a momentous decision about the future of the charity.



As many of you will know the Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme (DCSCP) charity provides rehabilitation, education and provision of food for ex-street children in Dagoretti, a deprived area of Nairobi in Kenya. The Programme runs on Christian principles and is small scale and limited in scope to be more manageable and effective. Currently, nine young men aged between 16 and early 20s live on land owned by the charity under the care of resident house parents, Mutunga and Florence. Thankfully, none of the young men nor the team in Kenya have contracted Covid so far. However, we need to continue praying for their protection and safety.

The charity started 18 years ago and is managed by a board of trustees based in Gloucestershire operating through a company registered in Kenya. Martin Musyimi oversees the activities in Kenya on behalf of the trustees. Most funding has been provided by individuals through regular giving, one-off donations and loans, proceeds from monthly soup lunches and a regular donation from Wotton Baptist Church.

For some years, the trustees have been concerned that the charity is dependent on funding from the UK. If that funding were to stop or reduce significantly then the young men could find themselves back on the streets. Several options to reduce that risk have been considered. The long-term vision is to provide self-sustainable funding to deliver care for street children and to work with others who are at risk to prevent them ending up on the streets.

### **Artist's Impression of Proposed Development**



### **Land Development Contract**

The area of Dagoretti where the charity operates has been developing fast with residential and commercial properties built recently. It is now becoming less appropriate to run an ex-street children rehabilitation programme there. As the charity land has potential for similar development which could provide funding for the future the trustees decided to explore this possibility.

For several years the charity has been discussing development options with Hand in Hand, a Christian company based in Essex, which has completed similar development projects in Kenya. Eventually, in December 2017, the charity, Hand in Hand and Briken, Hand in Hand's operating partner in Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU opened the way to prepare proposals for development of the land.

In January this year, after much prayer and discussion, the trustees agreed to sign a contract for the work to go ahead. Final selection of the development is still to be made but it will probably consist of around 160 apartments in 4 blocks as shown in the attached picture. We expect work to take about 5 years to complete. This is a major step for the charity which should establish the work for the long term.

A Joint Venture Company (JVC) will be created, shared 50/50 by DCSCP and Briken, from the value of the DCSCP land and matched money from Briken. Individuals will be invited to invest in the JVC to fund the construction of the properties. Briken will manage the day-to-day activities of the JVC and obtain the investments. At the end of the project, after all costs have been paid and investments repaid, DCSCP will receive a 50% share of the proceeds, probably 30 to 35 apartments which could be sold or rented out so providing a steady funding source.

### **Next 5 years**

Between now and completion of the development work in Dagoretti dependency on UK funding will remain. Careful management will be needed to ensure enough is available.

While this project progresses an individual development plan is being prepared for each of the young men for whom the charity is responsible. It is our priority to ensure that none will be impacted adversely by the building development and eventual change of use of the land at Dagoretti.

We believe the Lord has led us to this decision. Please would you support the trustees in prayer as we move into this new and exciting phase of the charity's life. We are looking to strengthen the board of trustees so that we can deal with the inevitable additional workload this project will create.

DCSCP Charity Trustees

UK Charity Reg. no. 1104382

## **Praying for the Churches**

In March we are asked to remember especially in our prayers, the Quakers in Wotton.

The Friends ask that we pray for their members, many of whom are facing health issues at the moment.



### **Ignite Club visit Gloucester Cathedral**

Since it began in 2019, Ignite Club have had the privilege of being invited to the annual Children Society's Christingle Service held at Gloucester Cathedral. This year we were more determined than ever to be there! Against all the odds, lateral flow tested, Covid risk assessments as long as your arm, parents in attendance, we made it and overleaf Molly one of our Year 6 pupils writes about her experiences:



**Picture: Bishop Rachel, the giant Christingle, members of the Children's Society and Molly**

*Going to the cathedral was great fun and I really enjoyed it. It started when we made some Christingles at school - a few days later we went to the cathedral and met Bishop Rachel. When the service started we learnt some stories about children who don't have many things, and how the Children's Society has supported them. It made me realise how lucky we are. While in the cathedral we went into a big circle with the other schools, and lit our Christingles. Then we sang some lovely songs together. This was a great experience and I enjoyed it very much. Thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to go - Thank you our parents for transporting us to the cathedral and to Rev'd Morag and Mrs Blaken for organising the visit.*

During the final hymn we joined with schools from around the Diocese to present cheques from fundraising activities carried out throughout the year. It was an absolute pleasure attending the service with Blue Coat pupils, parents and Rev'd Morag. The messages of hope, thankfulness and unity flowed throughout the service as we heard of the valuable work carried out by the Children's Society.

*Jane Blaken*

## **Some services at St Mary's**

Please note the following dates :

- Wednesday 2 March – Ash Wednesday – 7.30pm Service with Bishop Rachel
- Sunday 6 March – 9.30am Holy Communion with Area Dean Revd David Russell
- Maundy Thursday service will take place on 14 April at 7.30 pm.

**A further Bereavement Journey course** will be run each Thursday afternoon from 10 March 2022 for 6 weeks, held in Charfield Chapel, from 2:30 – 4pm.

All who have lost loved ones and who struggle to handle their grief, whether the loss is recent or decades ago, are welcome to attend.

Topics covered include what loss is, how grief feels, how we handle it, the pain of grief and dealing with guilt and anger, coping with change and letting go, and moving on.

The 6th session covers aspects of faith relating to loss and grief.

If you would like to know more please email Diana Baker via [dianab@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:dianab@wottonbaptist.org.uk)

**The  
Children's  
Society**

**Children's Society Box Opening Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at St. Mary's**

**10 – 12pm**

**Refreshments and a stall to purchase items!**

**All welcome**

*Contact Dot Moss (844886) for further information*

## **More about ...**

### **The Children's Society**

In 1881 Edward Rudolf founded the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society after two young children who used to attend his Sunday School were found begging for food on the street. A year later Edward Rudolf campaigned against children being placed in workhouses and he opened a family group home in Dulwich, South London.

In 1935 the Children's Society became a registered adoption agency and between 1960 and 1980 the Society had placed over 10,000 children for adoption. By the mid 1970s local services departments were playing an increasing role in placing children in homes or for adoption and the Children's Society moved away from fostering and adoption. Instead it shifted its focus onto preventative and community based projects.

The Society works with children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope as a result of trafficking, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and poverty. In January, one aspect of the Society's work was featured on BBC's Countryfile. The programme highlighted the exploitation of children and young people by criminals who target them to carry drugs. This problem is not limited to cities but can happen anywhere.

The Society has a nationwide programme working with police, schools and local authorities to help and support victims of this abuse.

The Society aims to listen, to support and to act.

The world may be a very different place now from 1881 but some things haven't changed. In partnership with the Church, supporters and volunteers the Society continues to work towards a better world for thousands of children in England. This work is well supported by members of St Mary's along with other people in Wotton, through the house box scheme and the Christingle.

*Dot Moss*

## Good News for St Mary's

It is with great pleasure that as Churchwardens for St. Mary's Church, we can announce that Revd Lesley Hewish will be joining us as Priest in charge, from the end of May. We are so pleased she will be working with us in the Benefice.

*Jackie Excell & Douglas Hinton*

### **Introducing Lesley Hewish (Although many of you know her already).**

I have lived in North Nibley since the late 1980's and married a local chap called Bob. He is a retired Painter and Decorator who has a passion for Vintage vehicles and guitars.

We have two children, Marian and Roy; both creative adults who continue to live locally.

I was co-owner of The Tolsey Shop in Wotton for over 10 years and Chaired the Chamber of Trade during this time.

I became a Christian after joining the choir at North Nibley and then seeing my daughter baptised when she was 7 years old.

I love singing of all kinds.

My faith grew as I explored Christianity through the care of the Local Ministry Team in Nibley and was eventually appointed as Youth and Children's worker for the Tyndale Benefice under the care of John May.

Soon came a new calling to ordained Ministry and was encouraged by many within the benefice to make this next leap of faith.

I trained at Trinity College Bristol and I was ordained in 2010 just weeks after my 50th birthday.

I had a wonderful curacy in Tetbury, Beverston, Long Larton and Shipton Moyne, but felt called to Prison Ministry after working with a Charity called One 25 who cared and supported women working the streets of Bristol.

God steered me towards a new adventure as an Anglican Chaplain at HMP Eastwood Park Women's Prison. I Loved walking alongside both prisoners and staff, hearing their stories and trying to restore their faith in human kindness and decency.

My main achievement was setting up and running a Restorative Justice



Programme called Sycamore Tree, which encouraged prisoners to take responsibility for their actions and seek forgiveness.

With a new promotion I stepped into the role of Managing Chaplain at HMP Leyhill Open Prison in 2019 where I have spent 3 years managing a Multi Faith department and playing my part in Senior Management there. My plan was to stay until I retired, but God has revealed yet another adventure.

I now look forward to three years of ministry and fellowship in the Tyndale Benefice.

St Peter opened the door to my faith in an epiphany moment and I have carried prison keys for the past 9 years of my ministry. A new door is now being opened that does not require a lock. All I had to do was knock.

I am more than excited to be stepping into this new role as Priest in Charge of the Tyndale Benefice and look forward to whatever God has in store for us in our time together.

*Rev Lesley Hewish*

## **United Ramblers**



The next United Ramblers walk is on Monday 7th March, lead by Rob Carruthers. Meet outside the United Church at 10am or The National Trust car park at Woodchester Mansion, Nympsfield for a 10.30am walk.

Please note the car park is free to NT members or £3 for non members; the machine only takes coins.

We will walk through Woodchester Park to The boat house and return, a distance of 4 miles. Almost all of the walk is on well made tracks, there are two steady inclines and no stiles. Lunch is at The Swan in Wotton at 1pm.

*Rob Carruthers*  
07910123297

## **North Nibley Congregational Chapel**

### **Part Time Pastor**

The Chapel is seeking the assistance of a part time Pastor to provide spiritual guidance and Christian leadership in the village and surrounding areas.

This is a new position made possible by grant funding over a three-year period initially. Annual salary £4368.00

We are looking for a candidate to bring a fresh approach to developing Christian outreach with the support of the Trustees, Congregation and Administrator.

The successful applicant will need a committed Christian faith and an enthusiasm to bring people to know Jesus Christ.

We would welcome expressions of interest by e mail to [pplrichard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pplrichard@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.



### **Christian Aid Week**

**15 - 21 May 2022**

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises

that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate.

After 2 years of non-contact fundraising, plans are being made for more traditional ways to raise funds

One thought: Please could some of you gardeners plant a few extra seeds, veggies or flowers, to sell during the week? They usually make a good amount of money.



# The Keepers

Wotton Area Community Hub

Come as you are,  
bring what you can and  
take what you need.



## What's on at The Keepers? MARCH

We will be closed to all groups from Monday 28th February to Friday 4th March for essential work to our kitchen. However, we will still be open if you need to pop in for a chat or to collect meals from our freezer.

### Monday

- Age UK Gloucestershire - 11am - 1pm
- Dramatic Change - an inclusive drama group designed for people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and autism - 2.30pm - 4pm (booking required)

### Tuesday

- Dementia Connections - Held fortnightly - 10.30am - 1pm (call 07754 179749)
- Chair Strength and Conditioning - 2pm - 3pm - starting on 15th March

### Wednesday

- Drop in Café - Pay As You Feel - 10am - noon
- Craft and Chat with tea & cake - Held fortnightly - 10am - noon
- Meet the professional - a different visitor in the Café each week - come along and ask any questions for yourself, a friend or family member - 10am - noon
- Job Club/GEM - help with CVs and employment support - 10am - 11.30am

### Thursday

- Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers - 11am - 1pm
- Qigong - meditation, breathing and gentle movement - 12 - 1pm
- Welcome Space - space to talk, be listened to and make new friends - 1.30pm - 3.30pm (booking required)

### Friday

- Although there are no group activities on Fridays in March, you can still pop in for a cuppa and chat if needed or to collect meals from our freezer.

It's important to us that everyone is included, the Hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations.

For more information, see our website  
<https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/>



Monday, Tuesday  
and Thursday:  
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and  
Friday: 9.00am -  
1.00pm

Call us or pop in:  
07585 466418

# WOTTON BAPTIST CHURCH

## ART GROUP

WE'RE A FRIENDLY GROUP WITH A VARIETY OF SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND AGES, SO ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

**WHEN:** EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FROM 9.30 TO 12

**WHERE:** BAPTIST CHURCH HALL, ROPE WALK

**WHO:** ANYONE WHO WANTS TO PAINT OR DRAW, OR TRY NEW SKILLS; NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

**WHAT:** COME WITH YOUR OWN MATERIALS, OR TRY SOMETHING NEW USING OUR SUPPLIES.

COFFEE/TEA AND BISCUITS PROVIDED. ALL THIS FOR A SMALL ANNUAL FEE AND A WEEKLY CHARGE OF £1



**POP IN ONE TUESDAY  
AND SEE WHAT WE DO  
- THERE'S NO OBLIGATION  
TO JOIN!**

'together in Wotton' is produced on behalf of all the Wotton under Edge Churches. Items and comments are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Judy Mills [judy.mills@live.co.uk](mailto:judy.mills@live.co.uk)  
All items and articles for the April edition should be submitted by 5pm on Monday 21 March