

December 2022 & January 2023

# Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in  
Wotton under Edge



## Christmas Services in Wotton under Edge

### Sunday 27 November

6pm: Advent Service of Darkness to Light – St Mary's (StM)

### Saturday 3 December

4-8pm: Christmas Tree & candlelit church; a space to rest – StM

### Sunday 4 December

9.30am: Holy Communion, blessing the tree and nativity – StM

### Sunday 11 December

9.30am: Christmas Café Church + hot choc & brownies - StM

6pm: Nine Lessons and Carols – StM

8pm: Carol Service followed by coffee & mince pies (also on Zoom: Meeting ID: 824 9361 1011 Passcode: 052640) – Baptist Church (BC)

### Saturday 17 December

7pm: Evening Christmas Concert with the Renewal Gospel Choir – St M

### Sunday 18 December

11am: Holy Communion, Bring & Share Christmas lunch – StM

6pm: Carols & Christingle – Oliver Memorial Chapel (OMC)

6pm: Carols by Candlelight – United Church (UC)

### Tuesday 20 December

6pm: Carol service at Ozleworth

### Friday 23 December

6pm: CTiW carol singing around town starting at St. Mary's

### Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December

4pm: Christingle Service – StM

5.30pm: Christingle Service – StM

5pm: Christmas Mass – Holy Cross (HC)

6pm: Christmas Eve Communion – UC

9.30pm: Bethlehem Midnight Mass – StM

11.15pm: Midnight Mass – OMC

### Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

9.30am: Morning Service (approx. 40 mins) – OMC

9.30am: Celebrate Christmas Together, with Communion – StM

10.00am: All Age Worship for Christmas Day (also on Zoom: Meeting ID: 884 5031 6980 Passcode: 497368) – BC

## United Ramblers

Our next walk is on Monday 5 December; meet outside the United Church at 10am or in The Fleece car park at Hillesley at 10.15. Graham Jackson will lead us. Graham and myself enjoyed walking the route this week to check it out. Although the grass was wet, it wasn't particularly muddy.



We will leave Hillesley walking on the road (it is a quiet lane) that heads in the Horton direction; we join a track that takes us to Hawkesbury Church. From there a footpath takes us uphill to join the Cotswold Way towards the Hawkesbury monument.

We will continue along the road for a short distance before joining a track that takes us back to Hillesley. We reckon it is a little over 4 miles. The uphill section is quite steep in places. There are 4 stiles. Lunch will be taken at The Fleece. No need to order in advance.

Contact Rob Carruthers [robert.carruthers@care4free.net](mailto:robert.carruthers@care4free.net) for further information.

The January walk will be on Monday 2 January led by Rob Carruthers.



Thanks to all for supporting the Shoebox Coffee Morning on Saturday 12 November. We raised over £220 which will be sent to the charity direct, as a more efficient way of getting gifts to the children than filling and transporting our own shoeboxes.

*Sue Marsland*

## Job Opportunity at The Keepers

You may already be aware that Cathy has decided to leave her role as Hub Coordinator at The Keepers.

She will be greatly missed, but this is also an exciting opportunity for someone new to join our fantastic team. If you know of anyone who might be interested in finding out about this position, please let them know and then they can contact us for an application pack [thekeepersrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:thekeepersrecruitment@gmail.com)

Thanks for your help

*Gail*



## Year 6 at Blue Coat

We are now well into the swing of things here in Year 6! We have had some exciting trips and responsibilities already being the eldest children in the school and in this article we are going to share some of our recent highlights.



## Visit to the places of Worship

On Tuesday 15 November Year 5 and 6 pupils travelled to Cheltenham for an educational RE trip. Members of class Opportunity have shared some reflections of this day. Darcey said *"I really enjoyed the trip, it was a great experience to see the inside of a temple. It was an adventure exploring different places of worship. We were lucky to meet two friendly Vicars who took us on a personal tour. A great time was had"*. Jessica told her teachers she *"found the school trip really inspirational and it would not have happened without the help of the lovely people that gave up their own time. They helped us explore the features of a church and a synagogue. We had to learn about certain features of the synagogue over a zoom call as the building contained many fragile things so it was not available for ninety busy children to enter! We also visited a Hindu temple – before entering we were asked to take off our shoes"*. Lastly, Jasmine recalled how the children were able to *"view a special Hindu celebration as it was happening and then also participate in a secret code challenge at Minster church with her friends"*.

## Children in Need

On Friday 18 November it was Children in Need Day at school. On this day the school had been asked to dress as **spotty** as possible to reflect Pudsey Bear's bandana. Charlie was looking forward to *"something really fun that takes place on this day... the Year 5 and 6 pupils were asked to organise and run exciting stalls during break time to fundraise for this charity"*. Darcey explains *"Children in Need is where we all come together and help those who have struggled through hard times. We donate what we can, and participate in organising a delicious*

*cake sale and other fun stalls. This year I am sorting cakes, bracelets, a lucky dip, mystery bags and other treats. So there is plenty for everyone to choose from"*. Thank you to all of the pupils that have used their own time to help run this event it is always a joy seeing the funny outfits and competitions on the day!

## Christmas at Blue Coat

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas is around the corner. Whilst we have not yet started full preparations, our teachers have begun drafting plans for the Key Stage One Nativity and Key Stage Two Carol Concert. We absolutely adore being part of these special traditions each year and coming together to share music, songs, acting and retelling the story of the Birth of Jesus. These special events truly put the true meaning of Christmas into the forefront of our minds.

Some members of Class Opportunity shared some reflections on what the lead up to Christmas means to them. Wren explains *"Christmas at Blue Coat is one of the best times of the year. Key Stage 1 practice and perform a beautiful Nativity. Years 3-6 hold a carol concert at St. Mary's church. Parents and families are invited to watch the children perform. In addition, we have fun days including Christmas jumper day, Christingle celebrations, Christmas lunch all together in the hall (including Christmas crackers!) and of course our class parties. Christmas at Blue Coat is magical and I am looking forward to it again this year"*. Oliver describes this festive period as *"amazing"* his favourite part being the Christmas parties, which are held in each classroom. The children engage in *"games, eating yummy foods and sharing laughs and fun together. There is often a visit from Father Christmas himself!"*

If you would like to see the excitement of Children in Need events and the upcoming Christmas concerts, please keep a look out on our school website or our official social media pages. On these platforms we will be sharing photographs of the fun that is to be had in Year 6 and beyond! Until next time... Mrs Dougall and Y6 pupils



# HOME from HOME

A safe space to be with others and stay warm this winter

**Every Monday 9am-4pm** **No charge All welcome**

Reading, games, chat, puzzles, craft, TV  
Bring your work or homework  
Breakfast, lunch, drinks  
*supervised children welcome*

**WOTTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
W-U-E, Rope Walk, GL12 7AA  
01453 844726  
wottonbaptist.org.uk

## Christmas Cafés

24TH DECEMBER (10AM - NOON)  
CAROLS FROM 10.45AM

28TH DECEMBER (10AM - 12.30PM)  
INCLUDES CAKE, DRINKS, SOUP

30TH DECEMBER (10AM - 12.30PM)  
INCLUDES CAKE, DRINKS, SOUP

The Keepers  
Wotton Area Community Hub

Christingle celebrations 2022  
St. Mary's Church, Wotton under Edge

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
'Come and mingle' before Christingle 10am - 12pm  
with coffee, mincepies and favourite Christmas tunes

Christmas Eve  
Christingle services are back!  
Choose 4pm-5pm or 5.30pm-6.30pm

May the joy of Christingle bring light to your Christmastime

Please come and support The Children's Society in the vital work they do for the vulnerable children and young people in our society



# JOIN US!

## CAKES AND LADDERS

At The Keepers

Drop in, play board games, have refreshments

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**11.15A.M-12.30P.M**

For more information pop into The Keepers, or call 07585 466418  
[HTTPS://WWW.THEKEEPERS.ORG.UK/](https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/)

# Warm space

at the United church hall

Bradley Street

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**12 - 4.30pm**

Accompanied children welcome  
LIGHT LUNCHES TEA & CAKE

Pay as you feel

Pay As You Feel

Will you be on your own this Christmas or caring for someone by yourself?

Join us around the table for Christmas lunch

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
11.45am - 2pm

The Keepers, Symn Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, GLOS, GL12 7BD

PHONE 07585 466418 OR POP IN TO BOOK BEFORE 18TH DECEMBER

The Keepers  
Wotton Area Community Hub

# Christmas AT THE KEEPERS

See <https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/> for all our normal activities

3rd Christmas under the Edge	7th - 15th Donate for food boxes	7th, 14th, 21st Normal Tuesday lunches
12th - 15th Sign up for a food box if needed	19th/20th Food box collections	22nd Holiday food/craft activity for families
24th Cafe and Carols 10-12	25th Christmas lunch	28th Cafe with soup 10-12.30
30th Cafe with soup 10-12.30	26th, 27th, 29th Closed	Community freezer open when we are open

For more details, pop in or call 07585 466418

# AFTER SCHOOL DROP IN

LAPTOPS TO USE

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP

REFRESHMENTS

SOMEWHERE WARM TO WAIT

Any age children with their accompanying adult

Mondays between 3pm and 4pm  
Starting 7th November

## Advent Hope

Are you ready?

Do you care?

Vainly search the sky?

Even shepherds get the message -

New-born stabled baby's cry.

Tethered oxen shelter share.

Here, as at the world's beginning,

Opens grace to sinners' gaze.

Pray forgiveness, each to the other.

Enter heaven on earth with praise.

*Ann Revill*

Within 'together in Wotton' are several posters for events outside of the Churches; many organised by The Keepers Community Hub.

So why are they included? The truth is that all of us in the Churches are getting older, and many lack the energy they once had. Once upon a time we could have easily organised all these events and services - now many of us are more likely to be in need of them ourselves, though we continue to do what we can.

## Praying for the Churches

In December we are asked to pray for the Church of Holy Cross in Wotton under Edge and in January, for the United Church.

We have been asked by Holy Cross to remember all those, not necessarily of their own community who are struggling with food and fuel poverty. Young families, single people the elderly may they all find food and warmth during this difficult time

In a similar vein, the United Church has recently opened its doors on Wednesdays for all who wish to come for a soup lunch, hot drink, cake or just company. We ask for prayers that we are able to reach those who most need this and thank God that we live in a town where all, churches and secular groups, can work together for the common good..

'Together in Wotton' is produced on behalf of all the Churches of Wotton under Edge. 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 material for the February edition please by 5pm on Monday 23 January