

March 2023

T

ogether in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in
Wotton under Edge

World Day of Prayer Service Friday 3 March at 11am St Mary's Church

To be followed by a Lent Lunch to raise funds for the Day of
Prayer charities

“Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service
they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023.”

Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.



Not Just For Women!

DAGORETTI CORNER STREET CHILDREN PROGRAMME **ADDITIONAL CHARITY TRUSTEES**

Because of increasing workload this local charity would like to expand the board of trustees and invites suitable people to join.

REQUIREMENTS

- Evangelical Christian
- Concern for street children in Africa
- Willing to attend occasional trustee meetings in person and online
- Ability to use computers to email, read and compose simple documents, communicate on Zoom, Skype, etc.
- Help steer the charity through the building development project.
- Help manage the charity transition from a “hands on” street children work to one supporting other organisations carrying out that work.

BENEFICIAL EXPERIENCE

- Some experience of African culture
- Involvement in building development projects

For more information please contact Phil Green, philipk.green@btinternet.com
Or Mary Hutton, mary.hutton1@btinternet.com

CHARITY OVERVIEW

Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme (DCSCP) is a Christian charity based in Wotton and registered in the UK, operating through a company registered in Kenya. The objectives of the charity are the prevention of poverty and education of young people especially, but not exclusively, the street children in the Dagoretti Corner region of Nairobi.

The charity was formed in 2004 and owns an acre of land in Riruta, a deprived suburb of Nairobi near Dagoretti Corner. Currently 9 young men aged between 20 and 25 years have been living there for upwards of 10 years. They are cared for by a couple, who live on site with their three young children. Another couple, who live in Nairobi, oversee the work on behalf of the charity.

FUNDING

The work is funded by individuals in the UK, specific fund-raising events and by regular donations from Wotton-under-Edge Baptist Church. All money raised is used directly in the charity, none being taken out for trustees' expenses. Currently, should UK support cease, activities would soon stop leaving the young men no choice but to disrupt their education and, without family support, probably return to a life on the streets.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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.

In January 2022, after much prayer and discussion, the trustees agreed to sign a contract for development 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 for sale or rent. Building is expected to take about 5 years to complete. This is a major step for the charity which should establish the work for the long term.

The building phase will be managed through a Kenyan company with the funding raised separately. At the end of the project, after all costs have been paid and investments repaid, DCSCP will receive a 50% share of the proceeds. These proceeds will then be made available to local projects working with street children, where the need is enormous

Lent House Groups 2023

Except when Pandemics prevent, Churches Together in Wotton alternates between offering Lent Lectures and Lent House Groups. The House Groups allow free thought and discussion often with Christians from other Churches.

The Groups will meet over five weeks commencing Monday 27 February

To sign up, please contact the Leader direct. Don't delay! Spaces are filling fast.

Monday 9.30am at Shepherd's Leaze with Kate Tutty
Kate Tutty 01453 844371 [katetutty@hotmail.com](mailto:kate.tutty@hotmail.com)

Wednesday 10.30am at Ellercroft Road with Graham Jackson
graham.jackson149@btinternet.com

Wednesday 2.30pm at Bearlands with Shirley & Roger Wyse
rjwyse@gmail.com

Thursday 11.30am at Wotton Baptist Church with Tom Wharin
01453 844726 tom@wottonbaptist.org.uk

Friday 7.30pm at Coombe Road with Martin Dove
martindove@hotmail.co.uk

See: <https://unanswered.prayercourse.org/sessions/> for details of subject matter with five meetings, titled:

1. God on Mute: engaging the silence
2. Maundy thursday: How?
3. Good Friday: Why?
4. Holy Saturday: Where?
5. Easter Sunday: When?

Many thanks to those who open their homes and give their time for these meetings.

Planning for Easter

All are invited to the usual Easter events.

Good Friday 7 April 9.30am Walk of Witness starting at Oliver Memorial Chapel and followed by Hot Cross Buns and hot drinks at St Mary's

Easter Day Sunday 9 April 7.00am Sunrise Service on Coombe Hill, led by Revd Tom Wharin, followed by breakfast at the United Church in Bradley Street

You are welcome to join for breakfast even if you are unable to climb the hill!

Mothering Sunday

High Tea and Praise

St Mary's Church Wotton



19 March, 4pm

Join us for a celebration of

Mothers, Grandmothers, and those who are significant to us.

Come if you are single or come as a family.

ALL WELCOME

Please book your places so we can cater well for all.

Contact Kate Cropper

01453 842175 office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk



I believe at Blue Coat School our playtimes encapsulate something of what Jesus meant when He said "I have come that you may have life in all its fullness." John 10 v 10. Our aim is to provide children with a rich play environment that promotes creativity, exploration and wonder. Our school's Christian values of respect, responsibility, creativity and happiness are encouraged throughout playtimes and are celebrated regularly in our play star awards.

When people ask me what I do for work and I tell them I am a play coordinator they most often say something like "that sounds such a fun job, how lucky you are, I wish I could play for work!"

I have worked in the play team at Blue Coat School for over 5 years now and have been the play coordinator since October 2020 and on a sunny day it is true, I have an amazing job.

Blue Coat is an OPAL (outdoor play and learning) school, this means we recognise that play is a really important part of how children learn and develop. Whilst at primary school 1.4 years will be spent on the playground and we want to make sure that this is time well spent.

My aim as play coordinator is to make every play time a great play time. I have a wonderful play team who help me to do this. We understand that children need to play and work hard to support and facilitate this. We work together to ensure that children have plenty of

resources and access to a variety of different spaces to play in. It has been said that play is what happens when you stop telling children what to do. True play is freely chosen by the child, directed by them and done for their own motivations. When our job is done well we have the joy of then standing back and watching amazing play happen.

There are so many benefits to this type of play from improvements in mental health to increased learning ability in the classroom. Children have the opportunity to try new things, to take calculated risks, to develop friendships, to be creative, to explore their own values and beliefs as well as increased physical fitness. We are very blessed at Blue Coat to have incredible grounds. As an OPAL school we know the value of playing outside and use as much of our space as we can.

This means we very rarely have wet indoor playtimes, and with appropriate footwear we use our field throughout the whole year. We have recently benefited from our "trash for treasure" collection when we ask school families to donate items that they are clearing out as trash to become our treasure to play



What's On at The Keepers in March



with. We have collected all sorts from kitchen utensils to garden chairs. We are so grateful to the wider school community for their support in this.

The Chill zone is our newest space where we have created sofas from wooden pallets, planted tyres full of bulbs, used off cuts of artificial turf and old wicker chairs and hung CD's for effect. Children are now found there at lunch times chatting with friends, resting, relaxing or

reading a book. They chose the name for the space and have helped to make it a great place to be. I hope this gives you a window into what goes on in our playground and why we think it's so important.

Jo Wharin

Praying for the Churches

In March we pray especially for the Wotton Quaker Meeting

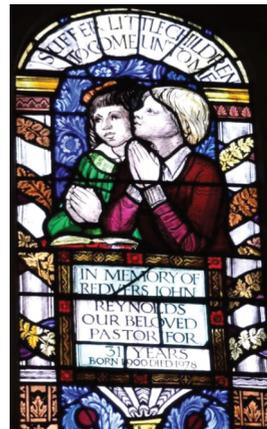
“A number of Friends in our small meeting have been facing challenges with their health and we do our best to support one another. We have started to hold meeting for worship in Friends' homes on two Sundays in the month, which has enabled more Friends to participate and this has brought us joy”

Services at the Oliver Memorial Chapel

7 April Good Friday. Walk of Witness 9.30am.
7 April Good Friday Evening service 5pm.
9 April Sunday Easter service 10.15am.
3 & 4 June Chapel Anniversary celebrations weekend. Details to follow.

All welcome.

Gods Blessings to all.
Lois



Monday:

Citizens' Advice 6 & 20 March 10 – 2pm. Phone 0808 800510 for an appointment or just drop in.

Age UK 11 – 12.30pm A social group for those aged 50+. No need to book – just drop in.

Tuesday

The Keepers Garden is open 10 – 12. Come to help dig or weed or plant, or just sit.

Lunch, 12.30 – 1.30pm. Phone 07585 466418 to book as spaces are limited. Pay As You Feel. (PAYF) If you need transport please book a seat in our minibus when you ring.

Wednesday

Drop-in Café 10 – 12. PAYF. On 1 & 15 March there will be Craft available as well!

P3 Drop-in: help with issues such as housing and benefit support. 10 – 12

Talk Club for men, 1 & 15 March, 7 – 9pm

Thursday

Wotton Area Breast Support Group 16 March 10 – 11. A chance to meet others who have been touched by breast cancer.

Welcome Space 1.30 – 3.30pm Run by the Independence Trust and CALMHS – a space to talk and be listened to. Call 01453 797999 to book.

Friday

The Keepers Garden is open 10 – 12. Come to help dig or weed or plant, or just sit.

Cakes and Ladders. Play Board Games and have refreshments 11.30 – 12.30pm. All Welcome

Call in at The Keepers in Symn Lane (Mon, Tues, Thurs 9 – 4; Wed & Fri 9 – 1) to collect full details of all that is happening: I can't put the whole sheet here or the print will be too small to read so the Editor has had to make assumptions about which events might be of interest - and she could be wrong!

The next United Ramblers walk is on Monday 6 March, led by Rob Carruthers.

Meet outside the United Church 10am.

This month we will be walking a 4.5 mile circular route starting from Sharpness and passing through Purton. The route takes us across fields to Purton and then along the canal towpath past the Purton Hulks back to Sharpness. It is easy walking with no stiles. If wet, the fields will be muddy in places.

Lunch will be at The Berkeley Arms 1pm in Berkeley, no need to choose meals in advance.

Contact Rob for further information:

robert.carruthers@care4free.net



**United Ramblers
Monday 6 March**



**St. Mary's Lent Lunches
12pm until approx. 2pm.
All will be soup lunches unless otherwise stated.**

- 24 Feb – at United Church for Christian Aid
- 3 Mar – St. Mary's after the World Day of Prayer – a Ploughman's Lunch
- 10 Mar – St. Mary's for Garas (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers)
- 17 Mar – St Mary's for Tearfund
- 24 Mar – St. Mary's for British Red Cross Earthquake appeal
- 31 Mar – St. Mary's for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

'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

All material for the April edition please by 5pm on Monday 20 March