

May 2023

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in
Wotton under Edge

Christian Aid Week 2023

Pop-up Shop

at Wotton Baptist Church
Ropewalk
15 – 17 May

- plants
- books
- cakes
- art & craft supplies
- 'nearly new' clothing, bags and accessories
- refreshments and soup lunches

Opening times:

15 May 9am – 4pm

16 May 9am – 2pm

and 6pm – 8pm

17 May 9am - 2pm



The Christian Aid Service will be on 14 May at 6pm at St Mary's
On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday fundraising takes place at the
Baptist Church as below.

Donations can be brought to the Baptist Church on Sunday 14 May,
2.30 - 4pm or contact your own church CA rep or Alison Sutton
843224 / suttonpanda75@gmail.com



Wotton celebrates ...

Amongst the street parties and the Family Fun Day, take time to pray for King Charles, the 'Defender of Faith'.

You can watch the Coronation live (and free!) on a big screen at the Baptist Church throughout Saturday. You could also join the community at Dryleaze to watch the processions and ceremonies together on their big TV screen. Refreshments of various kinds will be available during the day and there will be a special tea in the afternoon. This will include puzzles, mementos and a sales table. Celebrate in friendly company.

At the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin at 11am on Sunday 7 May you are invited to join schools, organisations and community groups to celebrate the Coronation with music, songs, readings and poems.

At the same time Wotton and District Silver Band will play on Wotton Hill to mark the Coronation and to welcome in the summer.

Also on Sunday 10am - 5pm there will be open gardens in Coombe, and Town Hall Teas spill into Market Street, 2 - 6pm

On Monday 8 May there will be a Family Fun Day on Synwell Playing Field, 12 - 6pm Tazke your own picnic and blanket and enjoy entertainment and activities galore.



The Editor asked what you all did at Easter. Mary replied:

Dryleaze: Easter Saturday Club 8 April 2023

How good it was to see the Lounge at Dryleaze House so full of people for the Easter Saturday Club afternoon; not only residents from Dryleaze House and Court but folk from the local community as well as members of the United Church congregation. A great friendly atmosphere.

Those with birthdays in April were remembered with cards and Easter mementos and prayers were said and get well wishes sent to friends who were known to be unwell.

The main part of the afternoon was Rev. Phil Summers refreshing retelling of the Easter story, various events leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus and the subsequent happenings at the tomb where he was buried. We were reminded that the disciples and other followers of Jesus were ordinary, humble men and women who were mystified and probably frightened by the unexpected events that engulfed them. Did they find it difficult to understand? Could they have imagined that the amazing story of which they were part, would be told and retold, and that centuries later we would be reflecting thoughtfully on the tragedy and joy of these events and their meaning for us ?

The telling of the story was interspersed with some favourite Easter hymns.

As usual some very tasty refreshments were provided – the Easter biscuits were particular favourites - and the Simnel cake was much enjoyed too.

Many thanks to the ladies who organised everything, to Phil for his eloquent narration and to Bernard for his piano accompaniment.

The Dryleaze Saturday Club meets monthly, usually on the second Saturday, 2.30 - 4pm with the next meeting on 13 May when the subject will be Kings and Queens through the Ages. All welcome.

Dryleaze House and Court Easter events.

Residents had started the weekend with a Fish and Chips Lunch on Good Friday. It concluded with a special tea on Easter Monday. Besides some appropriate food there were quizzes and a grand raffle. The Lounge was decorated in green and yellow with an assortment of eggs, bunny rabbits and fluffy yellow chicks!

Mary George

**THE
GREATEST HOLIDAY CLUB**

24 - 28 July
10am - 12:30pm

For those finishing
Reception – Year 6
Wotton Baptist Church

WELCOME

No pre-booking required. Free of charge. Registration starts 9:45am.
Contact Karen Dover: karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk 01453 844726

See above poster with details of this year's summer holiday club. All primary school children are eligible and will be in groups as follows:

Groups Red Group- Reception/ Year 1,
 Yellow Group - Year 1 (older) /Year 2
 Green Group - Year 3/Year 4
 Blue Group - Year 5/Year6.

This year's title is **The Greatest Holiday Club** and will have a circus theme. The volunteer roles are endless:

- Group helpers (we have the Leaders)
- Help setting up 23 July (after service - bacon butties available!)
- Help clearing up 28 July
- Catering (snacks) during the week
- Gunge making
- BBQ – Leader and helpers on 28 July
- Actors darlings
- Etc, etc etc

Please ask me if you have any questions or indeed if you would like to help.
Thank you.

Karen
karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk



#100KinMay
WALK, RUN, JOG, WHEEL OR RIDE

**STEP UP THIS SPRING AND MAKE YOUR WAY TO
100KM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE DOOR**

GET FIT WHILE YOU FUNDRAISE! EVERY POUND DONATED WILL HELP #KeepTheDoorOpen

SIGN UP FOR FREE!
AT THEDOOR.ORG.UK

ALL AGES WELCOME / FACEBOOK GROUP / DO 100KM YOUR WAY / FINISHERS CERTIFICATE



Based in Stroud since 1991, **The Door** offers mental health support to local young people and their families by providing positive role models and safe spaces such as youth clubs, mentoring and telephone support. The Door also works in Wotton.

Demand for their services continues to be at an all-time high and with the cost of living pressures every penny and pound really counts.

Find out more about the challenge and sign up today at <https://www.thedoor.org.uk/100kinmay> or find us on Facebook or Instagram @TheDoorStroud You can also call Anne on 01453 756745 if you have any questions or email fundraising@thedoor.org.uk

What's on in May?

The Keepers is a community hub supporting the residents of Wotton and surrounding areas. It is here for everyone. Either come along to one of the organised groups below, or just pop in for a chat and a cuppa - whenever we are open. Come as you are, bring what you can and take what you need.

Monday

Parent Support Group - a support group by parents for parents. 9:15am - 10:45am

Citizens Advice - to book an appointment for 15th May call 0808 800510/511 or just drop in. 10am - 2pm

Age UK Gloucestershire - a social group for those who are 50+. 11am - 12:30pm

Age UK Gloucestershire Help Team - drop in and ask questions about any aspect of later life. No booking needed. 15th May. 11am - 12:30pm

Chair Yoga - join in with some gentle, supportive yoga. Open to all. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. 15th, 22nd May. 1:30pm-2:30pm

After School Drop in - reading, games and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. 3pm - 4pm

Tuesday

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

The Carers' Café - run by Frailty nurses from Culverhay and Chipping surgeries. Coffee, chat and advice if needed. Just drop in. Carers can come by themselves or bring the person they care for. 2nd and 16th May. 10:30am - 12:30pm

Sing 2 Remember - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up, on the 2nd and 16th May. 11am - 12pm

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a warm meal, open to all and PAYF. Spaces are limited, so to book a space please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12:30pm - 1:30pm

The Keepers' minibus service is also running on Tuesdays to provide transport from your home to the hot lunches. Places are limited so to book please call 07585 466418 or pop in to The Keepers.

Wednesday

Drop In Café - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. 10am - 12pm

Craft and Chat with tea and cake - held fortnightly on 10th and 24th May. 10am - 12pm

P3 Drop In - help with a range of issues e.g. housing, debt and benefit support. No booking needed. 10am - 12pm

Job Club - help with CVs and employment support. Drop in, no booking required. 10am - 12pm

Health Visitor Drop In - available to weigh babies and answer any questions. Next drop in is on 3rd May. 10am - 12pm

Other visitors to the café - **Real Nappy Project** 3rd May, Men's Shed 10th May.

Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop in - pop in and talk to Rachel. 10:30am - 11:30am

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, ND adults and parents/carers of ND children including Autism, ADHD, PDA, Dyslexia etc. The next meeting is on 31st May. 7pm - 9pm

Talk Club - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 3rd and 17th May. 7pm - 8:30pm

Thursday

Wotton Area Breast Support Group - anyone touched by breast cancer is invited to drop in and meet others who know just how it feels. The next meeting is on 18th May. 10am - 11am

Clean Slate Drop in - enabling people to improve their financial wellbeing. Pop in to have a chat with Milly on 11th and 25th May. 10am - 12pm

Cookery Course - Introduction to Spices (Adult Education). This course is full, if interested in another cookery course, call us on 07585 466418 or pop in. 9:30am - 11:30am

Art Shape - a 6 week creative arts course. This course is full, if interested in another art course, call us on 07585 466418 or pop in. 9:30am - 11:30am

Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. 11am - 1pm

Qigong - meditation, breathing and gentle movement. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. 12pm - 1pm

Welcome Space - run by the Independence Trust and CALMHS - a space to talk and be listened to. Call 01453 767999 to book. 1:30pm - 3:30pm

WE ARE CLOSED ON BANK HOLIDAYS

Friday

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - Come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Rhyme with Me - a free session of songs, rhythm, rhymes and fun for 0 - 5 year olds and their accompanying adult. 10:15am - 10:50am. Term time only.

Cakes and Ladders - play board games and have refreshments. All welcome. 3rd May. 11:15am - 12:30pm.

Drop in Café - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. This café is quieter than a Wednesday, the tables are spaced apart, board games available if wanted. 11:15am - 12:30pm.

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:
9.00am - 1.00pm

Call us or pop in: 07585 466418

CORONATION TOWN HALL TEAS

Sunday 7th May

- MARKET STREET, WOTTON
- 2pm - 6pm
- TEA, COFFEE, CAKES
- ENTERTAINMENT - to include Wotton and District Silver Band.
- 3pm CORONATION PROCLAMATION - George Carpenter, Town Crier

CORONATION THE BIG HELP OUT

Monday 8th May

Come and join us from 9.30-11.30am
Gardening in community spaces.

The gardening will be followed by refreshments at The Keepers.

We have meals in our community freezer - available to anyone, for any reason, on a 'Pay As You Feel' basis. It's important to us that everyone is included, the Hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations. www.thekeepers.org.uk Reg Charity No. 1192121

Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme

We would like to invite you to join the Charity's 2-year sponsorship Scheme

The charity was formed in 2004 and owns an acre of land in Riruta, a deprived suburb of Nairobi near Dagoretti Corner. Living accommodation has been built with electricity, running water, shower and toilet facilities.

Currently this has been home for 9 young men aged between 20 and 25 years for upwards of 10 years.



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

In a recent edition of 'together in Wotton' the proposed development of the site was reported. Final selection of the development is still to be made but it will probably consist of around 160 apartments. This is a major step for the charity which should provide an income and so establish the work for the long term.

UK funding will still be needed to support the current 9 people to the end of their education. We anticipate this will take a maximum of two years. We would then expect any further costs to be met from income the charity receives from the development project.

Basic costs for each young man average about £165 per month covering food, clothing, and education.

The trustees have launched a one-off 2-year sponsorship scheme offering people the opportunity to help support those costs for one or more of the young men until the end of their education.

We would like to invite you to consider joining this scheme, supporting an individual young man. You will be linked to an individual and receive details about him and his activities. If you are able, please complete and return the response form overleaf.

Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme Sponsorship SCHEME

I agree to sponsor for years
from

at £.....per month.

Or. I would like to make a one-off donation to support
..... of £.....

In return DCSCP will provide regular updates on the boy's progress.

Signed

I am a UK tax payer and would like Gift Aid for these donations to
be claimed

Signed

Please return the form to Karen Rayfield, DCSCP Treasurer

Charity registered address:

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



Don't put away the bunting!

St Mary's Fete is Back

Saturday 15 July 2023

More details later, but put it in your diaries *now*.



Blue Coat school choir performed alongside 6,000 other children to audiences of family and friends at the Young Voices concert 2023 held at Birmingham NEC

The Young Voices experience is not simply a children’s choir concert, it is the largest children’s choir concert in the world! Children perform in one of the world’s greatest arenas alongside incredible artists. This experience helps their self-belief, self-motivation, confidence, and ability to communicate as part of a team – which is invaluable!

Lisa Crew Teaching Assistant writes:

I was lucky to be asked to assist the children, not only as a member of staff but also as a parent.

We set off on the coach at 11.30am. The atmosphere on the coach was full of excitement and apprehension. The children were singing the songs in preparation for the concert all the way to our destination ... we arrived at the arena around 1.15pm.

With a coach full of 46 children and 6 adults, an excited Blue Coat School choir headed to their seats ready for the first official rehearsal of the day!

The whole arena was full of cheer and excitement as parents and family members took their seats.

At 7pm the lights went down, and the concert began. All 6000 plus children and adults wearing white t-shirts couldn’t wait to start singing!

Being part of this day was incredible and I cannot wait to attend Young Voices again, given the chance. Anyone who attended would agree! With our amazing children we felt very proud to say we are from Blue Coat School.

The Blue Coat choir have been working extremely hard learning three new songs ready for a performance on the 27 April alongside the Orchestra Pro Anima. The choir had a rehearsal with Nicky Akeroyd this week who leads the viola section in the orchestra and she commented on the lovely sound the children produced. The children are very much looking forward to being part of this project!

Blue Coat Primary School achieves OPAL’s top award!

Headteacher Glyn Jones writes:

Blue Coat Primary School undertook a rigorous assessment from OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This involved an inspection of our outdoor play and learning provision for children as well as our strategic planning and management. We are delighted to announce that we were assessed as Platinum, the highest grade given for a third time. We were further awarded OPAL’s highest accolade in being given their Honours Award.

The children have an amazing experience during play and outdoor provision at Blue Coat. This is as a result of the hard work and dedication of many members of our school community but, most notably, the Play Team. Donna, Tash, Kelly and Denise are fantastic at ensuring that children have a great experience every single day. Mr Haynes is constantly ensuring that his work within the team



and also as the site manager focuses on providing children with an environment conducive to play. They are all led by Mrs Wharin as the play co-ordinator who has done an exceptional job in ensuring that Blue Coat has the highest standards of play.

The full OPAL report can be viewed on the School Website by following this link: <https://www.bluecoatprimary.com/parents-community/newsletter>

Preparations are under way for marking the Coronation and we have lots of activities lined up for the children. On Friday 5 May the whole school will come together to meet local author and parent, Mr Smith, to talk about his new book written especially for the occasion. We will be having a special street party/ picnic lunch on the school field, and everyone will be invited to wear red, white or blue. The day will finish with a collective worship led by Mr Jones concluding with a loud rendition of the National Anthem... listen out for us at about 3.10pm!

Jane Blaken



Praying for the Churches

In May we pray especially for Wotton Baptist Church. Tom asks please pray:

- For Karen Dover and the team as they begin to plan 'The Greatest Holiday Club' for July.
- For the forthcoming Coronation events.
- For our leaders as we seek new ways to share the good news of Jesus in Wotton.
- For regular ministries – Pulse youth group & Little Fishes mums and tots
- For our debt advisors (now linked to New Start Debt Advice Centre, Thornbury)

The Bank Holiday Walk on 1 May will be led by Graham Jackson, starting at 10.30am from The Fleece inn.

Graham says: "We will leave Hillesley along the lower road to Hawkesbury, past the farm, over a stile and down the hill onto the common. Walk around the common until we reach the road; we have then a choice either continue along the road or cross the road and take a half hour detour through the woods. We leave the common cross several fields and continue up a slight hill back into Hillesley."

Distance no more than 4 miles

Lunch at the Fleece

Contact Graham on 842449 or graham.jackson149@btinternet.com

NB Menu choices were requested by Saturday 29 April. If you are new to the group you will be very welcome but probably won't receive this in time to book. Suggest a phone call to The Fleece on 01453 520003



**United Ramblers
Monday 1 May**

'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 June edition please by 5pm on Monday 22 May