

June 2023

# Together in Wotton

**Christians worshipping and working together in  
Wotton under Edge**

## **Christian Aid Week 2023**

Another successful week of fundraising took place at the Baptist Church from 15 to 17 May. Once again, the people at Wotton Baptist were kind enough to put up their marquee on the lawn where Pauline Jones, Sue Marsland and Margaret Carruthers held a very popular plant stall. Indoors, we had the usual refreshments and soup lunches and various stalls. Each day we were treated to an ad hoc fashion display by Mary Downs who was promoting her nearly new clothing stall! The atmosphere, as usual, was welcoming and friendly and demonstrated the strength of this annual ecumenical event.

The figures so far are: Shop takings £2,156.78; Street collection £303.97; Church service £121.00.

It is worth noting that all these figures are up on last year! Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. It is much appreciated by all of us on the Christian Aid Committee.

*Alison Sutton*





We have seen plenty about Ofsted in the news recently and, at Blue Coat Primary School, we have seen even more of them in person. We were inspected at the end of the Spring term. More recently, we were able to release the published report to parents.

Our experience was a positive one. We received high grades and we are very proud of the accomplishments of the school. The overall grades that we received were:

- The quality of education: **Good**
- Behaviour and attitudes: **Outstanding**
- Personal development: **Outstanding**
- Leadership and management: **Outstanding**
- Early years provision: **Outstanding**

This gives Blue Coat Primary School an **Overall Effectiveness grade of Good** overall.

During our visit, the inspectors were professional and mindful of their potential impact on our workload and on our wellbeing. They praised our “broad and ambitious curriculum”, our “exceptional personal development” and the caring relationships between children. In a short period of time they gained a great deal of insight into the school but, of course, they could not capture all of the wonderful things that happen here. My personal insight from the experience is just what an exceptional team we have here at Blue Coat. Staff, Governors, parents, children and the community all contributed to the success.

We have not been resting on our laurels and continue to work on ways to improve further the experience that the children have here. Mrs Blaken has recently organized for the school to take part in “Farm School”. This is where a small number of children visit a local farm in order to experience how farms work. The children have been utterly enthralled when learning about growing crops, pond dipping, meeting the sheep and collecting eggs from the chickens. It has been a pleasure to take the children and see how much they enjoy the experience.

Our Year 6 children have recently completed their SATs assessments. As ever, they were a credit to themselves and to the school. We put on a special breakfast for the week in order to make the week as fun as possible. We will not receive the results for

some time but that does not get in the way of being incredibly proud of the effort that they put into their exams and school in general.

*Glyn Jones  
Headteacher*

**SOUP & ROLLS  
PUDDINGS  
COFFEE & TEA  
DF & GF**

**DAGORETTI  
SOUP  
LUNCH**

**FRIDAY  
23 JUNE**

**12 noon – 2pm**  
Wotton Baptist  
Church

To support Kenyan  
Street Children

**FRIDAY  
23 JUNE**

CARD OR CASH  
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS  
LOUISA@WOTTONBAPTIST.ORG.UK

**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](mailto:karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk) 01453 844726

Holidays are Coming! See above for details of our 2023 Holiday Club.

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, and it would be great to have helpers from the other Wotton churches:

- 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](mailto:karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk)

## Director of Music

**St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire**

### Part Time

We are a warm and welcoming church community with a morning and evening Sunday choir.

We have monthly family afternoon services and are currently exploring ways we can develop our musical outreach in our community and local schools.

We are seeking to appoint a creative, gifted, and inspirational director of music to come and join us and help develop our ongoing vision of ministry and mission through music.

- Do you have a passion for encouraging musicians and singers of different ages and abilities?
- Are you a fun and patient choir director?
- Do you enjoy playing across a wide spectrum of church music, from traditional to contemporary (from Tallis to Townend, Iona to iSing Pop) and able to bring us new ideas and initiatives!
- Are you skilled on the organ and/ or piano with a good ear and ability to improvise?
- Subject to availability be willing to play at weddings and funerals.



If you are interested and welcome an informal conversation about the role and our aspirations, please contact.

Hil Varlow (assistant DOM) [hilwotton@gmail.com](mailto:hilwotton@gmail.com) - 07795 515219  
Rev Lesley Hewish on [vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)

If you would like an application pack please email  
[office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)

This post will be recruited to in line with the Church of England's Safer Recruitment policy and will be subject to a DBS at enhanced level. This post attracts a genuine requirement for a person of Christian faith.  
Under the provisions of the Equality Act.

# What's on in JUNE?

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 26th June call 0808 800510/511 or just drop in. 10am - 2pm

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

**PCSO Drop in** - a chance to ask your questions or share concerns. 19th June. 11am - 12pm

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

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

**IT Course** - Tablets for beginners (Adult Education). This course is full. Please call us about future courses. 1:30pm - 3:30pm

**After School Drop in** - reading, games and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3pm - 4pm

## 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 15th June. 10am - 11am

**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

**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. 8th June. 9:30am - 11:00am

**Gloucestershire Deaf Association Hearing Aid Clinic** - 1st June To book an appointment, call 01452 372999. 10am - 12pm

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

**PCSO Drop in** - a chance to ask your questions or share concerns. 8th June. 11am - 12pm

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

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

## 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. 6th and 20th June. 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. 6th and 20th June. 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.

**Ukelele group - NEW** - starts 20th June. Open to beginners and those who already play. 2:15pm - 3:15pm

**Gloucestershire Carers' Hub** - visiting 20th June. Come and find out about the information and support available. 10:30am - 2:00pm

## 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. 16th June. 10:15am - 10:50am

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

**We have meals in our community freezer - available to anyone, for any reason, on a 'Pay As You Feel' basis.**

**Pop in or check on <https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/> to find out what is available.**

## 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 7th and 21st June. 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 7th June. 10am - 12pm

Other visitors to the cafe - **Men's Shed** 14th June and **PCSO** 28th June.

**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 28th June. 7pm - 9pm

**Talk Club** - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 7th and 21st June. 7pm - 8:30pm

**Come and see us as we go out and about!**

- **Charfield Village Fete.**  
3rd June.  
12:00pm - 3:00pm
- **Town Hall Teas in Wotton.**  
25th June.  
2:00pm - 5:00pm



## OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:**  
9.00am - 4.00pm

**Wednesday and Friday:**  
9.00am - 1.00pm

Call us or pop in: 07585 466418



### Our Mystery Donor

We don't know who you are, but you sure drink a lot of milk!

To whoever-it-is who regularly leaves large bags of milk bottle lids at the United Church - Thank you. We can still take them up to Gloucester for onward passage to be recycled.

We'd love to say thank you properly but unless you tell us who you are, this will have to do. Thank you

### Praying for the Churches

#### It's June: it's the turn of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Please pray for all at Holy Cross as they are now a parish with Christ the King, Thornbury. Father George (Malecki) is the Parish Priest as before and we have Deacons Kingsley and Lawrence.

There is a great shortage of priests so most Parishes are merging with ones near them in the Diocese..

We pray that blessings will come from these changes.

*Kate Barlow*

### SATs - GCSEs - Degrees

Just a quick mention and a reminder to pray for all those taking exams at this time of year. Teaching is hopefully getting back to some sort of normality, but it is a stressful time for all those having their knowledge tested.

And then next month many will be moving on or moving up (see the next edition for details of the Bibles For Schools presented at the Year 6 Leavers Services). As Julian of Norwich said: "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well."

### Recycle and support The Ark

Clear out your cupboards and drawers! You can bring to The Ark Coffee Shop any unwanted items shown below which will then be sold for recycling.

<h2>Yes Please</h2>		<h2>No Thank you</h2>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Gold or Silver Jewellery</li> <li>✔ Watches</li> <li>✔ Stamps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Costume Jewellery</li> <li>✔ Banknotes &amp; coins</li> <li>✔ First Day Covers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Laptops</li> <li>✘ Home phones</li> <li>✘ Fax machines</li> <li>✘ DVD players</li> <li>✘ Printers</li> <li>✘ Modems or routers</li> <li>✘ Kitchen appliances</li> <li>✘ Porcelain or glass items</li> <li>✘ Personal Grooming items (straighteners razors, hair dryers, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>The ONLY electrical devices we accept are:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Mobile Phones</li> <li>✔ Cameras</li> <li>✔ Video Cameras</li> <li>✔ Sat Navs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Electronic gaming devices</li> <li>✔ Ipods/MP3 players</li> <li>✔ Tablet Computers</li> </ul>	

Any questions about suitable items? Please ask Margaret or Rob Carruthers 01453 844129



It's getting closer:

### St Mary's Fete

Saturday 15 July 2023

Full details next month but put it in your diaries *now*.

## At The Oliver Memorial Chapel we will be celebrating our chapel anniversary on the first weekend of June.



The Chapel will be decorated and we are inviting people who have been married there to bring photos of themselves taken outside on the steps to add to the display.

On Saturday 3 June the Chapel will open 10.30am - 4pm and everyone is welcome to view the photos and flower arrangements and join us for tea, cake and a chat.

On Sunday 4 June our morning service at 10.15am will be a Songs of Praise, and we will be singing our favourite hymns.

All will be very welcome on both days. Any donations Saturday as well as the Sunday offering will go to Synwell Playing Field Association.

*Sent with God's blessings from Lois.*

## The Servant King

The Coronation of King Charles III is all over and done with. For most of us it was the first Coronation we have experienced and for many it will be the only one.

Looking back (if you can) to his Mother, she famously said in her 21st birthday speech in 1947 that: **I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.** We see these sentiments echoed in Charles' own commitment to service to other, to us, and at a time when more folk question the relevance of the monarchy, it is this service that will redeem them,

Having been given a holiday on the Monday following the coronation, we were encouraged to take part in The Big Help. To do something on that day for our communities. Obviously the idea was that links would be forged and people

would realise the value of both giving and receiving help from others, and continue when all the bunting had been put away.

But I don't want to go on about Charles III. 'together in Wotton' is about Christians in Wotton and Christian life and service, so we look past Charles to the greater; the greatest Servant King.

Most of us will have sung the worship song of that name, written by Graham Kendrick, but take another look at the words below.

As I prepare 'tiW' each month I am aware of how few in-church meetings and activities there seem to be. I console myself with the thought that this is because we are already outside, and serving our community.

On Kendrick's own website he says: 'It was a challenge to explore the vision of Christ as the servant who would wash the disciples' feet but who was also the Creator of the universe.'

We are not going to be creating any universes, but we can find plenty of feet to wash!

*From heaven you came helpless babe  
Entered our world, your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live*

*This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King*

*There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said*

*Come see His hands and His feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered*

*So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving*

*Graham Kendrick  
Copyright © 1983 Thankyou Music*

## United Ramblers Monday 5 June

### STOP PRESS!!!

**Ray is not going to be able to lead this walk: if there is anyone else who would like to do so, please contact Rob Carruthers on 01453 844129**

Also, please check with Rob or Ray before setting out.

Ray Kettell has come up with an interesting walk in an area we have not visited for a long time, starting and finishing in Avening.

Meet at the United Church, Bradley Street at 10am or in Avening for 10.30am.

We will park on the main Nailsworth-Avening road as it enters the bottom of the village (within sight of, but not as far as the Bell Inn).

The walk crosses part of the Gatcombe Estate as well as Minchinhampton Golf Course.

The walk is undulating with a longish steady climb at the beginning.

There are 6 stiles, one quite steep (but sturdy).

Distance: Approx 4 miles

Lunch at Nailsworth Garden Centre and approximate numbers would be helpful.

[ray.kettell@gmail.com](mailto:ray.kettell@gmail.com)



'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 June edition please by 5pm on Monday 19 June