

July 2023

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in
Wotton under Edge



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

Roll up! Roll up!

It's almost time for the Greatest Holiday Club!

Free of charge and no booking required.

Please contact Karen if you have any questions or would like to help.

Karen Dover
karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk

The office staff at Blue Coat School have enjoyed a lovely sunny and busy return to school following the May bank holiday break. We all agree working in a school office is like no other office based job as being part of the school community gives opportunities to have a very full and varied working life.

Every day we walk into the school office knowing for certain that we will check registers, send ParentMails to keep parents updated, take phone calls from suppliers, patch up some knees and elbows, but the rest of the day; well that is where it gets interesting. We say always expect the unexpected which, to name a few, have included returning lost chickens to neighbours gardens, dressing up for World Book Day, calling National Grid when we blew their fuse and making 300 sandwiches in under 15 minutes!



June saw the start of school swimming lesson at the lovely Wotton Pool. Mrs Jess, as well as organising all the lesson rotas, enjoyed the sunshine whilst keeping the pupils safe on their walk to and from the pool. Mr Haynes, accompanied by Mr Bickle, took members of the cricket club to a daylong tournament to Stroud cricket club and were blessed again with the beautiful weather. He also supported the PTA on their wonderful Blue Coat Summer Festival Day which included dance displays, the chance to soak a teacher and a visit from Captain Fantastic.

Ukulele lessons started this term for all pupils in year 2. Ms Phillips assisted Mrs Moir, and visiting teacher Mrs Carter, in the pupil's first lessons. Rumour has it that there may be plans for a staff ukulele orchestra in 2024!

Mrs Newman's role in the busy school finance office is not just about getting the accounts done! Breaking up her day she assists with medical issues, forgotten packed lunches and even helping in the lunch hall when extra help needed.

June is also a busy month to sort out an array of educational trips plans, including the year 6 annual residential visit to Morfa Bay. Miss Dover from the office

supported Mrs Galvin, Mrs Driver and Mr Evans for the week. A fine sunny time was had by all but I think she was glad to return to the office for rest and recuperation.

This month Mr Jones hosted a welcome evening for parents whose children are joining us in Reception in September. As well as the Reception Teachers and our SENCo, the Office attended the meeting to say hello to parents and help them start their journey as a parent at the School.

Life is varied in the school office and certainly never dull. Our plan for day to day work changes at the drop of a hat. You will never be bored working in primary school. Of course the best part is seeing pupils, filled with pride, take their work to the Headteacher and leave his office with the biggest smiles on their faces. You can't beat the infectious joy from our pupils.

Yes, our days are busy and varied and we wouldn't have it any other way!

*Ms Jo Phillips – School Business Manager
Mrs Jo Jess – School Secretary
Mrs Tracy Newman – Finance Administrator
Miss Charlotte Dover - Office Apprentice*



At BlueCoat: We aspire to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and to enable others to do the same. (Matthew 22: 37-39)



In the last financial year, food banks in the Trussell Trust network have seen the highest ever level of need, distributing close to 3 million **(2,986,203)** emergency food parcels — including more than a million to children. This is the most parcels the network has ever distributed in a single year.

Our social security system should support anyone in need of help, but it's not providing enough income to cover the cost of life's essentials, with most people at food banks in receipt of Universal Credit.

The basic rate of Universal Credit should at least cover the cost of essentials like food, household bills and travel costs, but it is not currently set according to any objective assessment of what people need.

Right now, this is only £85 a week for a single adult. That means there's a significant shortfall between people's living costs and their income, which is forcing many to skip meals, switch off essential appliances such as fridges, and means they are unable to pay essential bills.

That's why we're working with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to call for an Essentials Guarantee within Universal Credit, which means the basic rate at least covers life's essentials and that support can never be pulled below that level.

In just a couple of minutes you can email your MP and ask for their support for the Essentials Guarantee. Together we can send a clear message to all MPs that the basic rate of Universal Credit must at least be enough to afford the essentials we all need to get by.

The shopping list on the right shows the items Stroud Foodbank need (and those they don't) as of June 2023. A basket for your donations is near the till in Wotton Co-op.

SHOPPING LIST - JUNE 2023

FRAY BENTOS PIES

TINNED POTATOES & OTHER VEGETABLES

SPREADS - JAMS, PEANUT BUTTER, MARMITE

COOKING OIL

WASHING UP LIQUID

LAUNDRY LIQUID

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE

PASTA

CEREAL

TEA

OUT OF DATE, DAMAGED OR OPENED ITEMS

FOOD THAT NEEDS TO BE REFRIGERATED OR FROZEN

Oliver Memorial Chapel

The Chapel Anniversary on 3 & 4 June had a wedding theme where couples who had been married at the chapel could bring all things wedding to be displayed, including some lovely flower arrangements.

Tea and cakes were served all day on Saturday followed by Songs of Praise on Sunday. We were supported by many Wotton people enjoying all the photos of the past. Donations of £500 were given to Synwell Playing Field.

Thanks to all who came and all who helped; the weekend was greatly blessed.

With praise to the Lord,

Lois Etherington



Bibles for Schools

As at the end of every school year, changes loom on the horizon. For Year 6 pupils it's time for the big leap to secondary school, be it KLB, Rednock or farther afield.

The children will take with them many memories but also the gift of a Bible, donated by the churches of Wotton.

These they will have presented at the Leavers' Services at the Baptist Church (British School), St Mary's (Blue Coat) and St Martin's (North Nibley) on 20 & 21 July.

As this goes to press a bunch of youth and leaders from WBC are heading to Spree SW for the weekend.

Spree SW is a hugely popular camping and activity weekend at Exeter for young people aged 8 to 17 who attend with their church or Christian youth/children's groups. We pray for them all, children and leaders as they make friends, have fun and grow in the Christian faith.



What's on in JULY?

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 10th or 24th July 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. 10th July. 11am - 12pm

Chair Yoga - join in with some gentle, supportive yoga. Open to all. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. Every Monday in July, apart from 3rd. 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 20th July. 10am - 11am

Art Shape - a 6 week creative arts course based on maths. 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. 13th July. 9:30am - 11:00am

Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just drop in, no appointment needed. 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

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:
9.00am - 1.00pm

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. 4th and 18th July. 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. 4th and 18th July. 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.

Health Checks (NHS) - come along for a blood pressure, pulse check or signposting to local services. 4th and 25th July. 1:30 - 3:30pm

Ukelele group - open to beginners and those who already play. Come along and join in. 4th, 18th July. 2:15pm - 3:15pm

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. 7th and 21st July. 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 5th and 19th July. 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 5th July. 10am - 12pm

Other visitors to the cafe - **Real Nappy Project** 5th, Men's Shed 12th and PCSO 19th July.

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 26th July. 7pm - 9pm

Talk Club - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 5th and 19th July. 7pm - 8:30pm

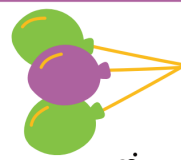


14th July - Open Garden

Come and look round the garden and have a piece of birthday cake. Drop in between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

15th July - Birthday Bash!

Fundraising quiz and silent disco at Kingswood Village Hall. Starts at 7:00pm. £20



Buy your tickets at The Keepers or call us on 07585 466418.



BELLS
are
RINGING
ST MARY'S

SUMMER FETE
Saturday 15th July 2023

**Our Fete is Back! Listen out for the bells
ringing in Wotton-under-Edge!**
Official opening at 10:30am

**Plants, Music, Food, Stalls, Family Fun,
Tower Tours, Art Exhibit, Eco Church,
Pimm's Bar, Grand Raffle and so much more!**

Tea Dance 2:00 to 3:30pm

ALL WELCOME!

St Mary's Fete - Grand Raffle

Would you be prepared to make a contribution or donation towards St Mary's Grand Raffle? The draw will take place at the Summer Fete on Saturday 15 July at 2pm.

Our first prize is £100 cash and it would be wonderful if you were able to support our fund-raising efforts.

Please contact Douglas Hinton 07415 541359 or
Sarah Guy 01453 844148.

The 2023 Summer Fete is in aid of St Mary's Fabric Fund, Longfield Hospice and The Keepers.

There is also a request for donations of: bottles (bottle tombola) cakes (for the teas) and jewellery (Kate Tutty's stall) - all can be dropped off at the parish office during working hours.

There will be **no** stall for books or bric-a-brac (as we don't have the space to accommodate them) so please, no donations of these items

Down the Pan?

Lost Saucepan! Gillian Carpenter is looking for the saucepan (and lid) she took to the Baptist Church for Christian Aid Week soup lunches.

She has checked the Baptist Church, St Mary's and the United Church but it is in none of these places.

If you have seen a stray pan, about 11" high and 8" across, please let Gillian know on 07970681634

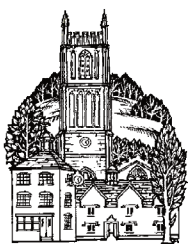
Worshipping in Wotton

Elsewhere in 'together in Wotton' you will see a poster for the Services currently being held at St Mary's.

Much of what is publicised in 'together in Wotton' concerns activities of Christians in the town but outside the church buildings.

To redress the balance, in the next edition I hope to bring you updated details of service times from all of our churches.

Until then, details can often be found online, or in the case of Holy Cross and Synwell, do have a look at the noticeboards outside the church.



Concerts in St Mary's

Tickling the Ivories

One man, a white jacket, 88 piano keys
and a treasure-trove of musical mirth.

Michael Lunts presents a musical romp
through a hundred years of comedy songs
by Noël Coward, Flanders and Swann,
Cole Porter, the Gershwins and Tom Lehrer

St. Mary's Church

Wotton under Edge

at 7.30 pm, Saturday 26th August

Tickets

£12.00 From The Cotswold Book Room

Enquires—tyndaleconcerts@gmx.com



St. Mary's Church
Wotton under Edge

Services

Wednesdays

9.30am: Holy Communion Service (BCP)

Coffee & chat afterwards

Sundays

1st & 3rd Sunday: 9.30am –

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday: 9.30am –

Service of the Word (non Communion)

5th Sunday: 11am – Holy Communion

(rotates around the Benefice Churches)

2nd Sunday: 6.00pm – Evensong

3rd Sunday: 4.00pm – Celebrate!

4th Sunday: 6.00pm – Choral Evensong

All Welcome

United Ramblers Monday 3 July

Our July walk will be 4 miles around the outskirts of Wickwar.

We head off towards Lower Woods which we enter briefly, then double back towards Wickwar, cross the main road and return to the village via the recreation field.

There are a couple of short uphill sections, plenty of kissing gates and 4 stiles.

Lunch will be at the café in Wickwar for which your meal choice will need to be selected in advance.

Meet at the United Church at 10am or at the car park at the entrance to Turnpike Gate Wickwar GL12 8ND for 10.30am

(Currently there is no walk planned for August)

Contact Rob Carruthers 07910123297



Praying for the Churches

July: United Church August: Oliver Memorial Chapel

The United Church is looking forward to the return of their minister Phil Summers who will hopefully be refreshed and renewed after his sabbatical. We give thanks for his Ministry and ask that, as we move towards his last year at Wotton, God shows us the way forward for the Church.

We give thanks for the faithful congregation of the Oliver Memorial Chapel, led by their pastor Lois, and thank God too for the success of their recent Church Anniversary celebrations.

'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 September edition please by 5pm on Monday 21 August