

# Together in Wotton

October 2023

Christians living, working and worshipping together in  
Wotton under Edge

## Being Well Day

**SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER | 10AM TO 3PM**

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WOTTON UNDER EDGE

## Christian peace, hope and healing

All ages are invited to encounter God, through  
music, mindfulness, Christian-based Yoga, silence,  
the senses, nature, prayer walks, bereavement  
support, Bible texts and a labyrinth.

Light refreshments served, local cafes available.

*Life*  
TOGETHER

 **DIOCESE OF  
GLOUCESTER**

On the cover are details of the 'Being Well Day' being held at St Mary's on 28 October. Revd Lesley says she hopes this event will 'encourage our community to drop in and see what Christian Healing looks like. There is something for adults and children, for those with or without faith.' If you would like to volunteer to help on the day, please contact her on ...[vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)'

**At the beginning of September, St Mary's had our first full immersion baptism.** You can see Rachel taking the plunge!! There was a real sense of anticipation, and the congregation were buzzing with excitement. We are praying that this will be the first of many.

Rachel and her partner Shelley both hope to be 'Confirmed' by our Bishop next year. This is the Anglican way of moving from baptism to at time when as adults we confirm your faith in Jesus Christ. Of course, Rachel knew exactly what she was doing when she took the plunge, but there is something special about confirmation as it is a sacrament presided over by one of our Bishops.

For many of us our baptisms are an event that happened years before, so there is a significance in publicly declaring our faith. Our hope is to have a wide number of candidates for confirmation in 2024, when one of Bishops will come and celebrate this special event here in Wotton. Please pray for those preparing and discerning this next step in their faith journey.

*Rev Lesley*



## Harvest Thanksgiving

A reminder that Harvest Services will be held at the Oliver Memorial Chapel and at the United Church (10.15am at both) on Sunday 1 October

Harvest Service at St Mary's is on Sunday 8 October followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch in the church.

All are welcome.



The start of a school year is always an exciting and special time. This is even more the case for our reception children. Our new starters are settling brilliantly into Class Discovery and the wider school. Since their very first day, when they reached the school gates with their shiny new shoes and smart new jumpers, they have been making friends, learning the routines of the classroom and becoming familiar with the spaces and faces around them.



As I write, the children have just finished the first week of learning their sounds. How exciting it is for the children to start to learn to read! They have also been exploring many different activities, including construction play, puzzles, painting, crafting and playing in the home-corner.

In the coming days, our reception children will be introduced to their Year 6 Buddies. Being a buddy is an important milestone for our Year 6 pupils; one which they look forward to with great excitement. This role is very important as they help their reception child settle and support them as they navigate their very first year at school.





At the end of the month we look forward to 'The Welcome Service' at St Mary's Church. Our new reception children will be formally welcomed into the Blue Coat school community and presented with a pebble which has been carefully hand-painted by their buddy. Parents, teachers and buddies will watch on with pride.

### Jackie Sims MBE

We were sad to hear of the death of Jackie on 10 September, following a long illness.

Jackie was a founder member of Longfield (formally Cotswold Care) Hospice, a talented pianist and a good friend to the Synwell Chapel Community.

A Celebration Service for her life will be held on 9 October at 12.30pm at St Mary's Church. All are welcome and the family have requested no black - the service is to celebrate her life and will be filled with music, colour and memories.



### Saturday Club at Dryleaze House and Court

The October Saturday Club is on 14 October 2.30pm. There will be entertainment from the Morning Choir.

### Report on the September meeting

This was the annual Harvest Festival gathering. It was good to welcome Reverend Phil Summers back. He led the prayers of thanks and the hymns of praise. He reminded us that while the Autumn Harvest deserved special thanks, to remember with gratitude the many other gifts that God bestows on us the whole year round.

Phil recalled the parable of the scattered seeds and the soil needed to nourish them. John Betjeman's poem of the Church Mouse with meagre diet who raged against incomers who stole his Harvest feast raised a smile, while the story of the elements that went on strike and caused the crops to fail made everyone reflect. Unless everything worked together in harmony there would be nothing to Harvest.

Kind thoughts were sent to friends who were unwell and couldn't attend the meeting and a member with a special birthday was also remembered.

As usual refreshments were provided but this was a really splendid Harvest feast. Many thanks to all the ladies for their hard work and kindness. Our thanks to the pianist for music too.

The donations of foods and money given during the afternoon were sent to The Keepers. The foods are to go on their "Free Shelf" for those in need. Thank you.

*Mary George*

### Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

Wednesday 18 October at 11.00am in the Lounge.

A restful half hour with hymns, prayers and Communion and thoughts of families and friends who are unwell or a distance away and cannot join us. Everyone welcome.



Watch out for Christmas cards, Advent calendars and diaries. Coming soon.

We sell **Hannah Dunnnett** cards, coasters, mugs and canvas bags.

Order forms available.

Come and see us at The Ark, 45, Long Street, W-u-E.



# What's on in OCTOBER?

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 call 0800 800510/511 or just drop in. 30th October. *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. 2nd October. *11am - 12:30pm*

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

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

**Menopause Support Group** - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 2nd October. *7pm - 8:30pm*

## Thursday

**Lloyds Bank** - drop in for basic transactions such as account balance, direct debit, standing order and bill payment enquiries for both personal and business account customers. No cash services are available. *9:30am - 3pm*

**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. 12th October. *9:30am - 11:00am*

**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 19th October. *10am - 11am*

**Gloucestershire Deaf Association Hearing Aid Clinic** - 5th October. To book an appointment, call 01452 372999. *10am - 12pm*

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

**Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' Drop In** - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just drop in, no appointment needed. *11am - 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*

**Menopause Support Group** - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 19th October. *7pm - 8:30pm*

## 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 Healthcare Assistants 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. 3rd and 17th October. *10:30am - 12:30pm*

**Dementia Connections** - for anyone who would like to make connections, including those living with dementia, long term health conditions, and unpaid carers. Activities and conversation. 10th and 24th October. *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. 3rd and 17th October. *10:45am - 11:45am*

**Tuesday Lunches** - come and join us for a warm meal, open to all and Pay As You Feel (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' Car Club 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.

**Ukulele group** - open to beginners and those who already play. Come along and join in. 3rd and 17th October. *2:15pm - 3:15pm*

## Friday

**Small Circles** - music and movement for pre-school children and their adult. *9:30am - 11am*

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

**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. *11:30am - 12:30pm*

### OPENING TIMES

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

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

## 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 11th and 25th October. Learn how to use a Kumihimo ring. *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*

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

**Health Visitor Drop In** - available to weigh babies and answer any questions. Next drop in is on 4th October. *10am - 12pm*

Other visitors to the Café - all *10am - 12pm*:

**Gloucestershire Carers' Hub** - if you support someone, come and get some advice and find out what is available. 4th October.

**Men's Shed** - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 11th October.

**Gloucestershire Older Persons' Association** - aims to provide a voice for all those over 50 living in Gloucestershire. 11th October.

**Wotton Heritage Centre** - Janet will be sharing old photographs. 18th October.

**Ask Us** - Gloucestershire Library Service - find out about the free, fast information service. 25th October.

**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 25th October. *7pm - 9pm*

**Talk Club** - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 4th and 18th October. *7pm - 8:30pm*

### Courses at The Keepers

**IT Course (Adult Education)** - Next steps for tablet/Pad users. This 6-week course has spaces. **Mondays. 1:30pm - 3:30pm**

**Art Shape** - a 6-week creative arts course. This course is full, if interested in another art course, please contact us. **Thursdays. 9:30am - 11:30am**

**Cookery Course (Adult Education)** - Confidence in the kitchen. This 3-week course has spaces. **Thursdays. 9:30am - 11:30am**

*To find out about the eligibility for these courses, book a space or ask a question - contact us on 07585 466418, email [thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com](mailto:thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com) or pop in.*

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](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk) Reg Charity No. 1192121





## NEXT STEPS FOR TABLETS OR IPADS

Topics will depend on the interest of participants - but may include:

- Installing Apps
- Avoiding scams
- PayPal
- Travel plans and bookings

You do not need to own a device to attend this course, but it is advantageous.

To be held at  
the Keepers

Mondays  
1.30 - 3.30p.m

6 sessions  
starting  
2nd  
October

Phone 07585 466418,  
pop in or email  
thekeeperscommunity  
hub@gmail.com to  
book or find out more.

Free subject to  
eligibility.  
There may be a cost for  
people in work.

### Praying for the Churches

In October we pray for St Mary's

We pray for their Being Well day at the end of the month, that it will be well supported by those within and without the Church

## Cooking Confidence and Next Steps



Start to hone your cooking skills on this next steps course

- Become confident with chopping, weighing and measuring
- Work independently on your various recipes
- Be creative in the kitchen
- Apply your understanding of budgeting, food storage and using leftovers
- Think about next steps

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> October  
9:30 – 11:30am

The Keepers Hub,

Symn Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 7BD

To book a place or for more information, please contact Gail from The Keepers Hub

[thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com](mailto:thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com)

Free subject to eligibility. There may be a cost for people in work. \*Learners must be over the age of 19 and a UK/EEU resident in the last 3 years. Learner must be one of the following: Unemployed/earning below £20,310 /retired; Learning disability; Mental health difficulty; qualified below a level 2 (less than 5 GCSES).



CTiW bring and share meeting at the Baptist Church on Tuesday 20 September was a small gathering... But I must say, small but mighty!!

We shared lovely food together and had time to sit and compare stories, to listen to each other's needs and to pray for each other. Each church held concerns and fears about their future, but in equal measure, there was a sense of anticipation and expectation...



Tom and his family are about to pack their bags and move to Chipping Sodbury, so we prayed for them and for the Baptist congregation as they look to the future with hope and expectation to grow new disciples. The church will look for a new minister; a process that will take time and prayer for the right candidate.

The United Church is enjoying their final year with Phil Summers as their minister. He is moving to Hereford in August 24 to start a new adventure using his gifting as a Storyteller. Their hope is to have a new minister appointed just a month later in the September, so please pray for them and good secession.

Holy Cross is in the processes of selling their residential accommodation next to the church and were very thankful for Father George and the team of dedicated deacons who care for Wotton and the surrounding churches.

There was discussion about the sale of the old vicarage next to St Mary's and the challenges this will bring when there is a private owner. Prayers for good relationship with new neighbours when they arrive. We reflected on the pros and cons of such a large church building, that holds huge cost to maintain and care for, but equally St Marys is a space that has much potential for the whole community and the church is used for many funerals, baptisms and weddings, plus school events inc KLB; all of which are great opportunities to reach out to our community and offer hope and the love of Christ.

The next part of our meeting concentrated on the actions that CTiW have historically shared. It was agreed unanimously that all the previous activities and events should be continued, and we identified who would be leading on each event and where the venues would be. There will be further information on this, but at this point, the only change regarding timing of events was related to our Week of Prayer and Christian Unity; this has been moved to the week leading up to Pentecost in May when the weather is warmer, and participants would find it easier to come and join in. More details to follow. We will be looking at Lent Lectures for 2024.

For the small number who gathered for this meeting, there was a wonderful creative energy that emanated throughout our time together. It was a privilege to be part of something so Spirit led.

Rev Lesley

Below is a copy of the card which has been delivered to all Wotton homes. Wotton Baptist Church is committed to sharing the good news about Jesus Christ, and making disciples.



**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION...  
...NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM**

**SIMPLEGOSPEL : THIS IS THE GOOD  
NEWS ABOUT JESUS**

At Wotton Baptist Church, as with all the churches in Wotton, we would love to help you explore this life-changing message and maybe encounter God in the process!

Get in touch online, come along any Sunday at 10:30am  
or join us for one of our autumn events:

Harvest Hog Roast, Sunday 24 September, The British School, 11am

The Tearfund Big Quiz, Saturday 7 October, Wotton Baptist Church, 7pm

Two Pastors in a Pub LIVE!, Friday 10 November, The Star, 7pm

The Alpha Course, coming in January...



[wottonbaptist.org.uk/simplegospel](http://wottonbaptist.org.uk/simplegospel)

*We send our very best wishes to Tom, Jo and family as Tom starts in a new post as Minister of Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church. His first service there will be on 6 November but they will probably still be living in Wotton for a short while longer.*

*Thank you for your Ministry here Tom: you will be much missed.*

## United Ramblers Monday 2 October

On Monday 2 October Alison Makepeace will lead the United Ramblers walk. Meet at the United Church, Bradley Street 10am or meet in The Farmer's Table top/newer car park at Tortworth for 10.30 departure.

The walk will take place from Tortworth around Avening Green, Huntingford, the Little Avon River & Damery and return.

Length about 4.5 miles with a few gentle hills and one easy stile to climb over.

Lunch is provisionally booked at The Huntsman, Falfield for 1pm. Order in advance or on the day.

MENUS — The Huntsman Inn  
([huntsmanfalfield.co.uk](http://huntsmanfalfield.co.uk))

If you want to order in advance please ring Alison (07813 965160) by Friday 29 September.



### Tea, Cake and Company

All are invited to the Wednesday 'Tea and Chat' afternoons in the United Church Hall.

There is usually home-made cake and the session (session?) is completely informal. Come at any time, 2.30 - 4pm, and if you wish to pay, it is 'pay as you feel'.



Thank you everyone who has saved milk bottle tops for recycling over the years. Sadly it is no longer possible for me to accept them at The Ark or The United Church because the processing of them is no longer viable. The bottle tops can of course be put into your own recycling bin.

*Margaret Carruthers*

*'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 November edition please by 5pm on Monday 23 October*