

# Together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together in  
Wotton under Edge

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

[pietrafitness.com](http://pietrafitness.com)



## Praying for the Churches

In March we focus on the Quakers. Perhaps quite appropriate during Lent when our thoughts are about Justice; always associated with the Quaker way of life.

Wotton Quakers continue to meet as an informal worship group twice a month in Friends' homes, and these meetings are much valued by those who are able to attend. Some Friends are also enjoying stronger links to Nailsworth Meeting and getting to know Friends there.

"Several members are coping with major health issues and we continue to support each other as best we can."

*It is always a joy to receive news from Blue Coat School and see how the children are helped to grow in the Christian faith.*

*Reports from The British School and from KLB would also be gratefully received.*



## 2024 Lent Lunches

### At St. Mary's Church

(unless otherwise stated)

Raising money for local and international Christian charities  
Fridays from 12pm – approx. 2pm

1<sup>st</sup> March World Day of Prayer



at The United Church

8<sup>th</sup> March



15<sup>th</sup> March



22<sup>nd</sup> March



*Pay as you feel*



"This January, Blue Coat Primary School's Year 6 children and Ignite Club were very lucky to be taken on a trip to Gloucester Cathedral to take part in the National Children's Society Christingle service.



This month we reflect upon the wonderful visit made by our Y6 pupils and Ignite Club to Gloucester Cathedral. We asked one of our older pupils to report on the experience. Our core Christian Values of Respect, Responsibility, Happiness and Creativity shone through.

"In the morning, the Year Sixes created their Christingles and practised some hymns and songs ready for the service later that day. They also got to eat their lunch early so they could get on the coach in plenty of time. After the journey to Gloucester, the excited children exited the coach and, in pairs, began the walk to the Cathedral. Once inside the ancient building, which was full of children from many different schools, the enthusiastic youngsters



settled and the service began. During this, the Christingles were lit in a beautiful ceremony.

“After the service, the children poured out of the Cathedral, and many schools, including Blue Coat, took the opportunity to take a few photographs! The children were sad to have to leave and get back to school, as the Year Sixes and Ignite Club really enjoyed it. Harry (Year 6) said, “I enjoyed the atmosphere of the Cathedral.” Bonnie (Year 6) added, “I enjoyed making the Christingles, as

well as the lighting ceremony.” Mrs Galvin, also stated that her favourite part of the event was the lighting ceremony. A huge thank you to Mrs Galvin and Mrs Blaken for organising the trip.”

Written by Mollie  
(Year Six pupil)



We were delighted that Andrew Holt, ambassador of The Children’s Society, travelled to Blue Coat and met members of Ignite Club. Andrew gave a talk about the fantastic work carried out by the charity and how our donation of £90 would contribute towards improving the lives of vulnerable young people.

## The Trustees of Revd Rowland Hill Almshouses Charity invite applications for their vacancy at the property at Tabernacle Pitch

Our Almshouses are registered Social Housing and as such prioritise those of limited means

The accommodation is 1 bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom containing a shower. Electric central heating. Property is unfurnished, with no appliances supplied

Front and rear access to the property. Shared laundry facility



A Weekly Maintenance Contribution is payable to cover the costs of maintaining the building. Utility costs are also the responsibility of the resident

To request an application form please write to Clerk to Trustees at 4 Tabernacle Cottages, Tabernacle Pitch, Wotton under Edge, GL12 7ED

## Tea and Chat at the United Church



A reminder that everyone and anyone is welcome to join us for cake and hot drinks at the United Church.

Every Wednesday\*

2.30 - 4pm

Pay as you feel

\* Not 28 February

# LENT TALKS "JUSTICE"



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WOTTON

AT WOTTON BAPTIST CHURCH  
TEA & COFFEE 6.30PM  
LECTURE 7PM

## WED 21 FEBRUARY, 6.30PM

Phil Clements will speak on 'Justice: A biblical perspective,' with Q&A

## WED 28 FEBRUARY, 6.30PM

Chris Gordon from The Keepers, with Q&A

## WED 6 MARCH, 6.30PM

Barrie Voyce, Youth Co-ordinator at Glos Diocese with KLB students, with Q&A

## WED 13 MARCH, 6.30PM

Gill Martin from HMP EWP, with Q&A

## WED 20 MARCH, 6.30PM

Refugees Tales, with Q&A

HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD.  
AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?  
TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY  
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD. (MICAH 6:8)

## Services at St Mary's during Holy Week

Holy Monday - 7.30pm Reflective Service with stations.

Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday - 7.30pm Compline services

Maundy Thursday - 6 - 7.00pm Re enactment of last supper with liturgy

Intermission – optional foot/ hand washing

7.30pm - Stripping of the Altar and Tenebrae service with readings and silence

Good Friday - 2-3pm At the Foot of the Cross.

Easter Saturday - 7.30 Celebration of Fire and Light

Easter Sunday - 9.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's also supports the Good Friday Walk of Witness (9.30am from Oliver Memorial Chapel) and the Easter Sunrise Service (7am on Coombe Hill)

## St. Mary's Celebrate! Services

Third Sunday of the month.

**New winter start time: 2.30pm until 3.30pm.**

A family friendly service for all ages celebrating life in its abundance through our faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Dryleaze Club - at Dryleaze House**

On Saturday 10 February 10, with St. Valentine's Day only a short time away the Revd Phil Summers took as his theme for the afternoon the word "Love".

Firstly he explained that St. Valentine had lived in the third century A.D. and had ministered, though it was forbidden, to a Christian community in Rome. He was executed by the Roman Emperor Claudius II as a result of his loving care.

Phil also mentioned the three Greek words that occur in the Bible from time to time that can all translate as "love" but reflect various aspects of the word. We tend to bandy the word about in many different ways - I love watching football or I love fish and chips or love is a zero score in tennis and so on. It is associated too with human affection. Phil read a number of poems from his book of "Romantic Love Poems" that again looked at love from different perspectives, some thoughtful and others humorous. Though we may often use "love" in a light hearted, almost careless, fashion there is a far greater meaning and feeling to the word when we think of the Love of God. A profound love, freely given. Something steadfast, secure and unconditional. A real meaning of Love.

Thoughts and prayers were offered for those we knew who were unwell or had recently been bereaved. A number of February (and March) birthdays were remembered and we were regaled as usual with some great refreshments.

Many thanks to the Ladies for all their kindness and to Bernard as well for accompanying the hymns and also providing romantic piano interludes. Thank you to Phil for his thoughts, prayers and blessing.

*Mary George*

***Dryleaze Club will next meet on Saturday 9 March, 2.30 - 4pm when  
Revd Phil Summers will again join us.***

## **Holy Communion at Dryleaze House**

A Communion service, leading up to Easter, will be celebrated at 11.00am on Wednesday 20 March in the Lounge at Dryleaze House. A thoughtful half hour of hymns, prayers and readings, and remembering family and friends who are unwell and unable to be present. Holy Communion is available for all but only if you wish to receive it. Everyone very welcome.



**Also:**

## **Bible and Biscuits**

**2.30pm every second Monday of the month  
Wotton United Church Bradley Street**

**Meet to drink tea or coffee and eat biscuits while  
looking at a topic from the Bible.  
Share news and share prayer.**

**All Welcome.**

## Churches Together in Wotton at Easter

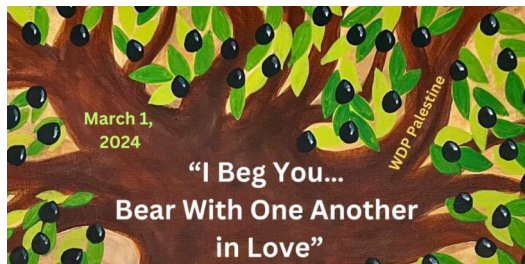
The Good Friday Walk of Witness will again take place, starting at The Oliver Memorial Chapel at 9.30am on 29 March, and will be led by Reverend Lesley.

If you are unable to do the entire walk, do join in later; at the Perry and Dawes Almshouses, or in the street near the chemist; at the bottom of Tabernacle Road or at Holy Cross or St Mary's. Or just come for Hot Cross Buns and Coffee in the church.

On Easter Day the Sunrise Service will be held on Coombe Hill at 7am **however** it is the first day of British Summertime so the clocks will 'spring forward' at 2am and 7am is going to feel very much like 6am!

The Service will be led by Revd. Phil Summers, after which we will drive, walk run or cycle to Wotton Baptist Church where breakfast will be served by members of the Oliver Memorial Chapel and friends.

Everyone is welcome to join with all or any parts of these gatherings.



## World Day of Prayer - 1 March 2024

### 11am at the United Church

This year the World Day of Prayer Service has been prepared by Christian women in Palestine. Prepared before they knew what was around the corner for their country.

Please come to join in this event, when a chain of prayer encircles the world. And afterwards, stay for the Lent Lunch, when all donations will be given to the World Day of Prayer

## A Place of Pilgrimage - Eyam

The Derbyshire village of Eyam gains a place in the British Pilgrimage Trust book, Britain's Pilgrim Places.

While The Black Death was rife in London, in the remote Peak District there should have been no threat, until a bolt of cloth was sent from the capital to the village tailor. His assistant George Viccars opened the package – and four days later he was dead; the church holding its first plague burial on 7 September 1665.

Infection within the village was swift and fatal. Just over a year later the final plague burial left just 83 of the village's 350 inhabitants surviving.



However, rather than run away and probably infect other neighbourhoods, the local Vicar, William Mompesson persuaded the people to stay in what amounted to a seventeenth century lockdown. Mompesson's own wife was among the last victims, dying on August 25 1666 at the age of 27. Both she and her husband had selflessly visited the homes of grieving families, ministering to them without regard to their own safety.

Each family was expected to bury its own, dragging the bodies as far away from the living as they were able and then digging their graves.

Mompesson had much help and support from Thomas Stanley who until recently had himself been the village Vicar, until being sacked from the post as his theology was not popular and was deemed unsound. Good to see how the two men held no grudges, but worked together to lead the village through.

The church building was closed and church services were held on a hillside called Cucklet Delph, where the natural features included an amphitheatre and a rocky ledge known as Pulpit Rock. In an ironic twist, the 2020 Plague Sunday service, traditionally held on the last Sunday in August, the time of Catherine Mompesson's death, saw Cucklet Delph empty as the service was relayed online.



A mile north of Eyam is a well, named after Mompesson, and it was here people from neighbouring villages came with food and supplies for the stricken villagers. Where they were able to make payment, the coins were left in vinegar-filled holes, in order to disinfect them.

Visitors to Eyam often seek out the Riley Graves, an enclosure on the hillside to the east where Elizabeth Hancock buried six of her children and her husband in the space of just eight days.

xi A month after the final plague death,

the Vicar wrote to a friend saying that the village had become a Golgotha; the place of a skull. He remained there another three years.

Our walk took us into Eyam from Stoney Middleton, along Mill Lane, and almost immediately we entered the village we saw the Lydgate Graves, neatly signposted, in a walled enclosure. Here are buried John Darby and his 20-year-old daughter Mary. Immediately the reality of the Black Death makes itself felt, and holds the visitor despite the lure of the tearooms and the pub.

JM



**LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH**  
**WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD?**

**PLACES TO TRY INCLUDE:**

**MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS**  
Wednesday 10 January, 10am to 12 noon  
Wednesday 14 February, 10am to 12 noon  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk/this-week](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk/this-week)

**MEN'S BREAKFASTS**  
Saturday 27 January, 8.30am  
Saturday 24 February, 8.30am  
Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church.  
[vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk)

**ALPHA: FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOU AND GOD**  
Starting from 11 January, 7pm  
All Welcome. [vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk)

**TALK CLUB: FOR MEN ONLY**  
Wednesday 17 January, 7pm to 8.30pm  
Wednesday 7 February, 7pm to 8.30pm  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk/this-week](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk/this-week)

**MIND INFO HELPLINE 0300 123 3393**  
[UK.MOVEMBER.COM/MEN-S-HEALTH/SPOT-THE-SIGNS](http://UK.MOVEMBER.COM/MEN-S-HEALTH/SPOT-THE-SIGNS)  
**SAMARITANS 24/7 116 123**

Churches Together in Wotton  
The Keepers

[www.wottonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.wottonbaptist.org.uk)  
[www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk)  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk)

*'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 April edition please by 5pm on Monday 25 March*