



September 2024

Together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together
in Wotton under Edge

In this edition!

It's all about the children. They are our future; our churches' future.

We thank God for people like Jane Blaken and Karen Dover who have a passion for young people and their spiritual growth.



Blue Coat infants visit Wotton United Church (see article)

What a fantastic time we had when our Infant children (90 in total) visited the churches in Wotton!

The day started with Sue and Godfrey giving us a really interesting talk about The United Church (see picture on cover). The song that we sung along to with the organ (which got louder and louder after every verse) stayed with us throughout the day! At every stop we sang 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'.

Next, we moved to Holy Cross where Kingsley answered so many of the children's questions. They were noticing lots of similarities between the two churches - the hanging board for the hymn numbers, the font, the altar, the organ, and they were so pleased to spot the bell hanging at the back of the church. The beautiful ornate gold tabernacle box was something that stood out as being different and the children were so intrigued to find out what was inside.

St. Mary's was our next church and although familiar with the building, the younger children have only ever attended for worship so the opportunity to freely explore the space was just wonderful for our them. After the fun and interactive game of matching the picture photo cards to the objects in the church, it was time for our picnic lunch. Thank you to Mary, Kate and Jackie for providing squash, biscuits and a hot drink for the adults.



We had talked about 'the hidden gem' at school and the children were so excited to learn that the next stop was Perry and Dawes Chapel. In the warm sun we gathered in the courtyard as Debbie pointed out some of the interesting features that surrounded us. We looked inside the chapel, found the secret garden and even had the unexpected pleasure of meeting one of the residents, Isabel.

We finished our tour with a visit to The Baptist Church where Karen got us guessing what lay beneath our feet. The children recalled their previous visit when they were in the Reception Class and remembered that it was the Baptismal Pool. Lots of jumping on floorboards soon revealed where the pool was! Gertie (puppet) from the Summer Holiday Club made a surprise appearance and her jokes had the children in stitches!



We had the most fabulous time exploring the churches in Wotton and we are very grateful to all the volunteers from each church for making our experience so memorable.

Special thanks to Mary, John and Pauline who accompanied us on our walk around the churches. Mary and John were our experts for the day, answering questions and providing lots of information about the churches, past and present.

Jane Blaken

A Request from the Vicar

Hi everyone hope you are all enjoying the summer. I have just about recovered from helping Karen Dover with the holiday Club !!!

Please can I ask for prayer.

We are hoping to establish a visions group at our church. A team of people who are looking for the Holy Spirit's guidance to help us discern what God is calling St Mary's to be in the future.

We have a new Church Warden, Kate Tutty. I am very excited about working alongside Kate for the next few years. She is a deeply spiritual lady who wants our community to build our prayer life and this starts with a greater understanding of HOW to pray. We are therefore creating monthly services focused on this subject. Therefore..... please pray for us ?

Every blessing,

Rev Lesley

British School Leavers' Service, Friday 9 July.

The majority of The British School joined together to say a very fond farewell to the Year 6's. Twenty-nine of the total of 31 were able to be there as they leave primary school and venture off to KLB, Rednock and Stroud High. Families of the Year 6s also joined us.

Introductions were made - Rev Phil (United), Rev Lesley (St Mary's) and others from Holy Cross, Oliver Memorial Chapel, WBC & St Mary's. The children remembered memories at the school and a photograph was taken and put in The School Leavers Book along with their thoughts and wishes for the future.

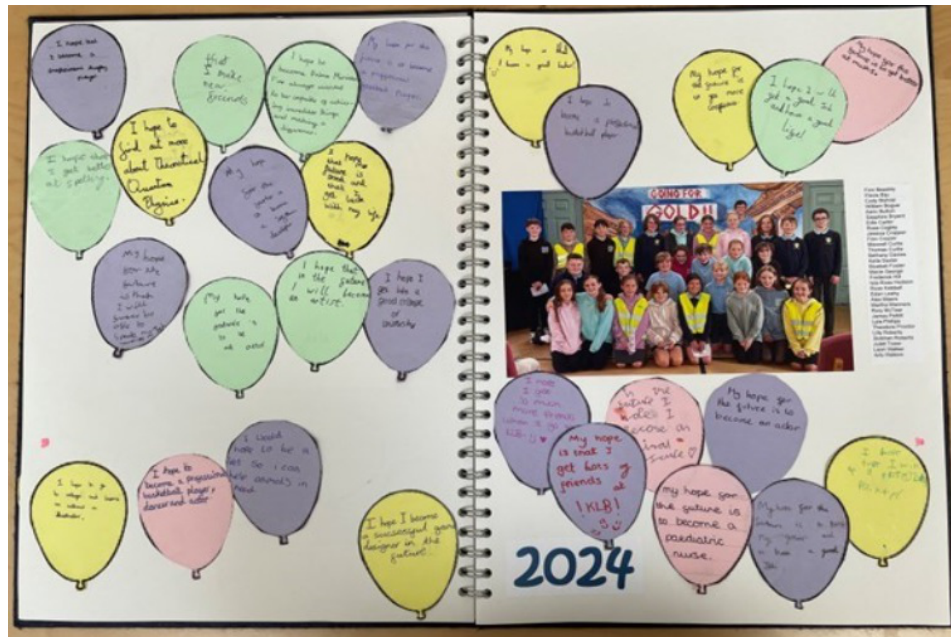
We had the British School song and then a storytelling of the calming of the storm by Phil & Lesley. Very powerful and the children were entranced. Prayers were given for the children, the parents/carers and all the staff at The British School who all work so tirelessly.

All the Year 6s were all presented with a Good News Bible kindly purchased by CTIW.

One last song of Great, Great, Brill, Brill and then refreshments followed.

Thank you to all that came to this service and for making it so special 😊

Karen Dover



Dryleaze Saturday Club

Held at Dryleaze House on the afternoon of 13 July 2024

The Meeting commenced with a reading from the Bible praising music. This was followed by an afternoon of Music thanks to our visitors, The Woodwind Band. They entertained with a variety of music including selections from films and musical theatre plus some Beethoven and songs from the first World War. Feet were tapping in time! It was good to hear "live" music.

The members of the Band brought with them a wonderful selection of instruments. While flute, clarinet and trombone were instantly recognisable there were also saxophones, a cor anglais and bassoons as well as a drum, oboes and a cheeky little piccolo. What caught everyone's attention however was the collection of apparently mis-shapen instruments that the group brought with them. Many were extensions of the clarinet, one in particular looking like an over grown paper clip, and an extended trombone seemed to go on and on for ever ending in an almost triangular shaped bell. The Band had no trouble in playing them however. All most entertaining.

During the interval - the Band's programme was split in two - prayers were said for those unable to be present, family and friends who were unwell and for the recent death of a resident. Birthdays were remembered, including one of the Band Members, and suitable piano accompaniment was played. Refreshments were then served, as tasty as usual. Thank you to everyone for a most entertaining afternoon; the Band, the Pianist and the Ladies who organised everything.

Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

There will be a Holy Communion service at Dryleaze Huse on Wednesday 18 September at 11.00 a.m. Everyone welcome to join this quiet half hour of hymns, prayers and readings plus reflective thoughts of family and friends. Communion is available for those who wish to receive it.

Please note As the Lounge is now shut for refurbishment the service will be held in the ground floor sitting area in the right corridor. This is situated between Flats Nos: 33 and 34. On entering the House keep right and follow the red arrows.

Mary George



What's on in SEPTEMBER?

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 800 0510/511 or just drop in. 2nd, 16th and 30th September. 10am - 2pm

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

Cruse Bereavement cafe - Bereavement support, advice and information, no need to book 11:30am - 1pm 23rd September

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

Keepers Kidz - board games, craft and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Menopause Support Group - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 2nd September. 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 August. 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 September. 10am - 11am

Qigong - Qigong - gentle exercises for physical strength and balance plus emotional relaxation. Pay As You Feel. 12pm - 1pm

NHS social prescriber's Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just come in, no appointment needed. 11am - 1pm

Digital Dropin - Any help on anything digital September 12th and 26th 2 - 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 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 September. 10am - 12pm

CONNECT (previously called Dementia Connections) - for anyone who would like to make connections, including those living with dementia, long term health conditions, and unpaid carers. Activities and chat. 10th and 24th September. 10am - 12pm

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 September. 10:45am - 11:45am

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a meal and chat. Open to all and Pay As You Feel (PAYF). Spaces are limited, so to book a place please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12:30pm - 2pm

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

Rainbow Cuppa - all LGBTQ+ folk and allies welcome to join us for a relaxed chat, coffee or bring a craft along. 10th September. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Death Cafe - drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. It is not a bereavement support group. 17th September 7pm - 9pm.

Friday

The Keepers Tots - a session for babies, toddlers and their responsible adult. 9:15am - 10:30am

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - Come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or 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

Wednesday

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

The Keepers' Car Club is also running on Wednesdays to provide transport from your home to The Keepers. Places are limited. To book please call 07585 466418 or pop in.

Craft and Chat with tea and cake - held fortnightly. 11th and 25th September 10am - 12pm

P3 Drop In - help with a range of issues e.g. housing, debt and benefit support. No booking needed. 10am - 1pm

Back to Work - help with online job searching, confidence building, CVs, covering letters and job applications. Every week apart from the 1st Wednesday in the month. 10am - 12pm

Stroud Foodbank - offering emergency food and essentials along with support and advice. 10am - 12pm

Health Visitor Drop In - available to weigh babies and answer any questions. Next drop in is on 4th September. 10am - 12pm (Real Nappy Project also there)

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 11th September. 10am - 12pm

Stroud District Housing Officer - advice on any social housing issues. No appointment is needed. 10:30am - 11:30am

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

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9:00am - 4:00pm
Wednesday and Friday:
9:00am - 1:00pm
CLOSED on BANK HOLIDAYS

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



Figure 1 Gunging



Figure 2 Team Photo from Wednesday



Figure 3 Drama



Figure 4 More Drama

Going for Gold Holiday Club

For the first week of the summer holidays, the church became an Olympic Village where we invited mainly local primary school children from Reception to and including Year 6 to join us for the morning learning about different characteristics you would need to be an Olympian and how different people in the Bible had shown them. Each day we had a drama (based on scripture), a memory verse, lots of games, singing, loads of fun, the quiz and the gunging of a team leader/helper in the super gunge tank. Lovely stuff!!

DAY 1 – So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Heb 12:1-2

Characteristic - Direction – Where's Jesus? Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and find him in his Father's house. He knew the direction he was going in!

DAY 2 – Keep yourself in training for a Godly Life. 1 Tim 4:7

Characteristic - Distraction – Jesus being tempted by the devil. Did he give in? No, he didn't! All the devil's temptations, Jesus came back with scripture! He was not going to be distracted!

DAY 3 – Encourage one another and help one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Characteristic - Dedication – Healing of the paralyzed man. The friends of the man were dedicated to get their friend to see Jesus and for him to be healed. Was he? Yes!

DAY 4 – If God is for us who can be against us. Romans 8:31

Characteristic - Determination – the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He knew the pain and suffering he would need to experience before and on Good Friday but he did it anyway. Sin was taken from us and put on him but on the Sunday, death was defeated, and Jesus was alive! 😊

DAY 5 – I'm gonna run straight towards the goal to win the prize. Phillipians 3:14

Characteristic - Decorated – The forgiveness of Peter, Jesus goes up to heaven and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is victorious!

A fab week with fantastic help from different people from different churches locally and from further afield. Great work done by The Rev (Lesley) although very disappointed that she didn't get gunged 😞

The event ended with a BBQ for all!

Next year's dates are Sunday 20 July set up, Holiday Club-Monday 21 – Friday 25 July 2025 10am-12.30pm. Would love for you to be able to come along and help in any way!

Karen Dover

In case you're wondering, only the faces of the children whose parent/guardian has given permission are shown. Others are obscured.



Figure 5 Gertie the Dog and her 2 human helpers

Praying for the Churches

In September we pray for the Quakers in Wotton. Wendy Barber says: "Thank you for remembering our Quaker meeting. We continue to meet twice a month in Friends' homes and feel that this continues to be valued by those who come, and we keep in touch with those who can no longer attend. In addition some of us now join Nailsworth Quaker Meeting either remotely by zoom or in their beautiful old meeting house." (see below)



The 'Beautiful Old Meeting House'

As part of Heritage Open Days, The Nailsworth Meeting House is open to visitors on Saturday 7 September, 9am - 5pm

The Quaker Meeting House on Chestnut Hill in Nailsworth is listed Grade II*. It has been used as place of worship by Quakers - the



Religious Society of Friends - since 1680.

Thought to have been originally a barn, it was repurposed and has been adapted over the years reflecting its history. The main Meeting Room still retains its wooden panelling and also the elders' benches on a raised dais, although these are no longer in use. In the upstairs room and landing, which has limited access, historical graffiti can be seen cut into the stone sills.

George Fox, founder of the Quaker movement, visited Nailsworth twice, and a meeting was active as early as 1655. Historic books recording the persecution of the early Quakers will be on display.

The meeting house and adjoining cottages are typical Cotswold style in stone with stone tile roofs and stone mullions around the windows. The keystones, imposts, and dripmould with large diamond stops around the door of the meeting house are unusual for the time.

The simple peace garden at the front will be open to view and visitors will be welcomed.



Churches Together in Wotton

There will be a meeting for all at 7pm on Monday 30 September at the United Church, Bradley Street. Anyone who has any interest in working together as a Christian presence in Wotton under Edge is welcome. There will probably be biscuits. There might even be cake.



ST MARY'S

AUTUMN AUTUMN AUTUMN
HARVEST HARVEST HARVEST

FETE

Saturday 21st SEPTEMBER

Listen out for the bells ringing in Wotton-under-Edge!

Official opening at 10:30am GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW AT 5PM MUGS



Town Hall Teas Supporting Christian Aid

Bank Holiday Monday
26 August, 2.30 to 5 pm

Please come and support us

Donations of cakes would be gratefully received



United Ramblers

At present there is no-one to lead the walk on Monday 2 September.

Could you arrange the ramble?

If you feel you could help, either this month or at any other time, please contact Rob Carruthers who would be very pleased to hear from you.

rob carruthers6@gmail.com 01453 844129



Dryleaze Saturday Club

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 14 September at the **United Church** as Dryleaze House is having renovations.

The theme will be Harvest and we will be collecting food for the Keepers Community Hub. Fresh fruit and veg, cans, packets and jars will all be well received.

Pauline

Services at St Mary the Virgin

As a guide to which services are happening on which Sunday, see below.
This can also be found at <https://wottonparishchurch.org.uk/>

St. Mary's – is open every day from around 9am until 6pm

Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion Service (BCP) Plus coffee and chat at around 10am

Sundays 10.00am – 1st Sunday – Holy Communion

9.30am – 3rd Sunday – Holy Communion

2nd and 4th Sundays – Service of the Word (non communion)

11.00am – 5th Sundays – Benefice Holy Communion (rotated around the churches)

2.30pm – 3rd Sunday – Celebrate! Interactive service

6.00pm – 2nd Sunday – Evensong

4th Sunday – Choral Evensong

Also: third Monday of the month: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Perry & Dawes Almshouses Chapel

'Together in Wotton' is produced ten times a year on behalf of all the Churches of and Christians in Wotton.

Articles, diary items and anything of interest can be sent to judy.mills@live.co.uk and for the October edition, these should arrive by **5pm on Monday 23 September**