

November 2024

# Together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together  
in Wotton under Edge

**Shop early for your gold, frankincense and myrrh!**

*Or, failing that, Advent  
calendars, Christmas Cards  
and even jams and pickles.*

November in Wotton is a time to  
support our local churches and  
charities

At the same time, have a cup of  
coffee and a piece of cake with  
friends.



- The Oliver Memorial Chapel hold their Bazaar on **Saturday 9 November**, 10am - 12 noon
- On **Saturday, 23 November** the 28th Wotton Charities Fair will take place at the Civic Centre, from 10 am to 4 pm.
- On **Friday 29 November** from 10am at the United Church there is a fundraising coffee morning for The Rotary Club Shoebox appeal.
- Available **now** at The Ark - Advent cards, Calendars and candles as well as Christmas Cards and more Fair Trade items will be added in the next few weeks.

More details inside ....

Every year, the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) teaching staff in Blue Coat School anticipate an exciting, yet busy, first academic term. Yet despite signs of Autumn outside, the first term is more symbolic of Spring. We watched young children in fresh new uniforms say goodbye to their parents and enter a recently deep-cleaned classroom brimming with many new beginnings and possibilities. It is often a momentous, yet emotional 'first', however, experienced EYFS professionals wear many hats to ensure children settle quickly and feel welcomed by creating a nurturing and fun environment for individuals to bloom.

We find that pairing reception children with a year 6 'buddy' is instrumental in quickly developing a sense of belonging to the Blue Coat family. It is always a pleasure to see new relationships quickly fostered across many planned activities and more importantly, naturally, during playtimes. Two of our Christian core values are often witnessed during these occasions, happiness and responsibility. It is joyful watching pairs of buddies having fun together. Additionally, year 6 buddies take their new role very seriously by frequently checking in on their younger buddies and providing an extra friendly and familiar face to support the transition into school.



One of the annual events at St Mary's church is the Blue Coat Welcome Service, where the school and church community unite over song, poem and prayer to welcome the reception children officially. Parents were invited to observe the moment their little one proudly walked hand in hand down the aisle with their older buddy to be greeted by Rev Lesley and handed a copy of the Holy Bible. Despite how long some members of the EYFS team have been privileged to support this special occasion, I don't think we've ever managed to get through a service with a dry eye amongst us!

*Elaine Grant  
EYFS Team*

## Good News!

There will be a Living Crib at the Christmas Under the Edge Event on Sat Dec 7th.

Location near The Star ( appropriate!)

We need help with non-speaking parts: if you would like to be:

- A King
- A Shepherd
- An Angel
- Joseph
- Mary
- possibly even a donkey!!

please get in touch with  
[karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk)  
[vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)



## Social Events at the Baptist Church

**Singles Space** - for singles - is every month on the *first* Saturday of the month, at 10.30am.

**Men's Breakfast** - for men - runs monthly on the *last* Saturday of the month, at 8.30am.

## Praying for the Churches

From this month's 'recipient' - The Baptist Church

“Thank you for your prayers. We await the arrival of our new Minister Andy, his wife Ellie and their family in the New Year and we appreciate your prayers for this time of transition both for them and for our church congregation and leaders. Please pray for those preparing to welcome Andy and his family, particularly the team refurbishing the manse in Dryleaze, a large amount of work needs to be completed in a very short time. During the past year we have been blessed by many gifted people from within the fellowship who have led services and preached. Also, for Karen Dover who has been recently appointed full time as Youth, Families and Children's Worker. Please pray for her as she develops this role in the church and in the community.”

## Churches Together in Wotton



On 30 September we met to welcome the new United Church Minister, Jimmy Cullingford, although he was unable to stay for the entire proceedings as he had been double-booked. Jimmy is also Minister for Cam, Dursley and Stonehouse Methodist Churches, as well as being committed to a lot of study time, since he is still officially in training, so he is a busy person.

The meeting agreed with Karen Dover, that we need to reinstate the Living Crib as there is an increasing concern that Jesus is not included in Wotton's Christmas celebrations. See elsewhere for what is being planned and how you can help.

A design for the Churches Together Christmas Card was agreed. It will contain details of all our Christmas Services and events; the Baptist Church will arrange for it to be printed and again it will be thanks to Julie and Geoff Ashby that it will be delivered to all homes in Wotton.

Looking ahead, there will be a World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 7 March, which hopefully will segue into a Lent Luncheon. Talking of Lent, this year there will be house groups with we hope plenty of choices of when and where to attend, so that those working as well as those who don't want to go out at night can get to a group.

Similar to last year, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will probably be condensed into an event alongside the commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of VE day; 8 May.

This will be closely followed by Christian Aid Week; 12 – 18 May,

St Mary's are organising an Alpha Course which will last for 11 weeks and end around Easter time. Assistance and accommodation from the other Churches would be welcome.

Good Friday in 2025 is on 18 April, therefore Easter Day is on 20 April. The usual pattern will be followed, with a Walk of Witness on Good Friday and a Sunrise Service at 7am on Sunday

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 January, 7pm in the United Church. It

## Dryleaze Saturday Club Held at the United Church on 12 October 2024

It was a pleasure to again welcome the Morning Choir to the October meeting. The afternoon commenced with some readings, prayers and a hymn. The Choir then entertained with a number of songs, some familiar others not so well known. These included some very complicated rounds. They were accompanied for most of them by the piano but for one by the accordion instead. The Choir finished with a group of three spirituals. Everyone joined in with these for a lively finish to the singing. A most enjoyable warm afternoon on a very dull day outside.

Birthdays were remembered including one for a Choir member who was surprised to receive a candle lit cup cake! A special welcome was given to Jean Kelly. It was good to see her at the meeting. The usual refreshments then appeared which the Choir, including its two gentlemen members, kindly helped to serve.

Thank you to everyone involved in the afternoons arrangements. A thank you as well to those who kindly provided transport for those who would otherwise have found it difficult to attend.

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### Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

There will be a Holy Communion service at Dryleaze House on Wednesday 20 November at 11.00am. Join this quiet half hour of hymns, prayers and readings plus thoughts of family and friends, particularly those who are unwell. Communion is available for those who wish to receive it. All are welcome.

**Please note** As the Lounge will be shut for some time for refurbishment work the service will be held in the ground floor seating area. This is between Flats Nos: 33 and 34. On coming into the House keep right. The red arrows point the way.

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### Remembrance week end

There will be a table display of pictures and other memorabilia at Dryleaze House over the week end of 9 - 11 November to mark Remembrance Sunday.





# What's on in NOVEMBER?

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 0510/0511 or just drop in. 11th and 25th November. 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. 25th November. 11:30am - 1pm

**Chair Yoga** - join in with some gentle, supportive yoga. Open to all. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. Followed by refreshments (optional). 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. 4th November. 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. 14th November. 9:30am - 11:00am

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

**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 21st November. 10am - 11am

**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 Drop-in** - any help on anything digital. 7th and 21st November. 2pm - 4pm

**Rethink** - mental health drop-in. Every Thursday. 1pm - 3pm

**Spanish For Beginners/The Terrified** - informal Spanish conversation group. Just drop in. 7:30pm - 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 Chipping surgery. Coffee, chat and advice if needed. Just drop in. Carers can come by themselves or bring the person they care for. 5th November. 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. 12th and 26th November. 10am - 12pm

**Sing 2 Remember** - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up. 5th and 19th November. 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. 12th November. 2:15pm - 3:45pm

## 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. 6th and 20th November 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 (with Real Nappy Project)** - available to weigh babies and answer any questions. Next drop in is on 6th November. 10am - 12pm

**Men's Shed** - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 13th November. 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. 6th and 20th November. 7pm - 8:30pm

**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. 27th November. 7pm - 9pm

### COME AND JOIN US

**Fundraising Quiz Night** - Saturday November 9th at Blue Coat School

**Wreath making Workshops** - make an affordable festive wreath on November 26th or 27th.

**Charities Fair** - come along, have a go at our Chocolate Tombola and find out more about The Keepers.

For more details or to book a place please:

Call: 07585 466418, email:

thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com or pop in

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

LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

## WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD?



PLACES TO TRY THIS NOVEMBER /  
DECEMBER 2024



### MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS

Wednesday 13 November, 10am to 12 noon  
Wednesday 11 December, 10am to 12 noon  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk)



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 30 November, 8.30am  
Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church  
[vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk)

### TALK CLUB: FOR MEN ONLY



Wednesday 6 & 20 November, 7pm to 8.30pm  
Wednesday 4 & 18 December, 7pm to 8.30pm  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk)

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)



# Remembrance Day



## Service

# Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Seating from 11.15am, service will start after  
parade is seated (lasting approx. 35mins)



Our Service of Remembrance  
will take place **after**

## The Act of Remembrance at War Memorial

(The service could start anytime from 11.30am)

Collection during the service will be for



St. Mary's Church  
Wotton under Edge



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

*We will remember them*



## Pop into The Ark, 45, Long Street, W-u-E.

Opens Monday to Friday 9am – midday  
& Thursday/Friday 2.30pm - 4.30pm plus Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.  
**All are welcome.**



## The Ark

**Christmas goodies are available now!**

Several types of **Advent** calendars, calendar cards and candles are on sale ready for 1 December.

Packets of **Christmas cards** (Leprosy Mission, Transform Trade, Compassion) and various individual cards are ready to buy now.

Watch out for fairtrade gifts coming soon.

Contact Val Smith- 07729885457 for more information about current stock.

## ANNUAL Christmas BAZAAR

The Oliver Memorial Chapel 10 -12noon Saturday 9 November

Synwell Chapel invites you to their annual bazaar

Gifts, Christmas items, cake stall, bottle stall, raffle, tea, coffee & cake etc, etc.



Wotton United Church, Bradley Street

## Coffee Morning

Friday 29 November - 10am

Our annual effort to raise money to send to the Rotary Club's shoebox appeal.

Cakes, preserves and gifts for sale.

(Please do not bring any items for shoeboxes: just yourself and your purse.)

x

## Thank You!

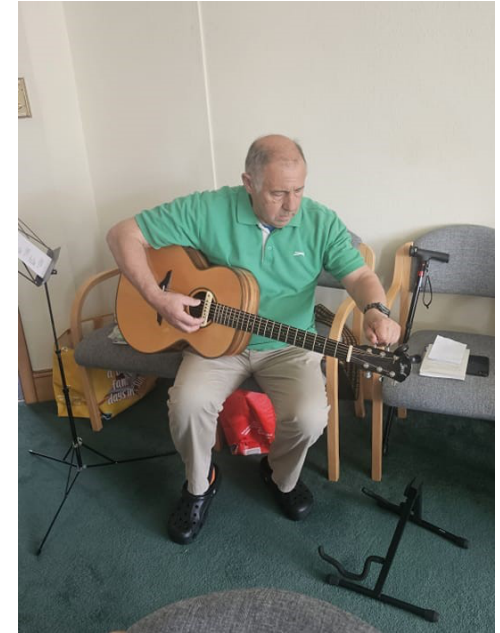
The funeral for Father George which began with the Mass of Reception at Holy Cross and concluded with the Requiem Mass at Christ The King went so well, was wonderfully attended and a credit to the Parishioners at both of our Parish Churches and Primary School. We feel sure that this was much appreciated by Fr George's immediate family, his Salvatorian family present and Fr George himself.

We were blessed by Bishop Bosco who presided at the Requiem Mass, with Bishop Declan, and so many of the Diocesan Clergy. A special word of thanks to Father Richard Mway Zeng, the Salvatorian Provincial. We are very grateful to all those who helped in any way in terms of the planning for both Masses and those who were involved on both days: Readers, Servers, Musicians, Stewards and all who helped with the refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

We were very pleased that the Live Streaming in CTK Church worked so well for the Requiem Mass and enabled those unable to attend on the day to join in with the celebration. The recording of the Requiem Mass remains available for those who may wish to watch it. <https://www.churchservices.tv/thornbury>

We would like to mention also all those who were visiting our churches, perhaps for the first time, and those who travelled from near and far to be there. We are grateful too for the Funeral Directors who supported us in our plans to provide an opportunity for people in Wotton and Thornbury to pay their respects to Father George.

Please continue to keep the repose of the soul of Father George, his family, and the Salvatorian Community in your prayers. Eternal rest grant upon him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



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## 'Together in Wotton' - combined December & January edition

As usual the December and January edition is a combined one, but just to make things easier for the readership you have an extra week to prepare and send items and articles.

Truth is, the Editor is going away for a few days and tiW will have to wait for her return.

However, this means that when items are requested for 25 November, *it really does mean 25 November* or not even the electronic copies will be available by the start of the month.

### United Ramblers Monday 4 November

November's United Ramblers walk will be in the Eastington area and will be led by Rob Carruthers.

It is a 4.2 mile flat walk apart from a short incline at the end with one stile. The route takes us across fields, under a mainline railway (twice), through the grounds of a paper bag factory, the canal towpath, two cemeteries and a community orchard.

Meet at 10am outside the United Church in Bradley Street or in the car park of the Old Badger Inn in Eastington GL10 3AT for 10.30am. Lunch will be at the Old Badger Inn.

An questions contact Rob [rob carruthers6@gmail.com](mailto:rob carruthers6@gmail.com)

*Please note that this will be the last walk until next April.*



*'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](mailto:judy.mills@live.co.uk) and for the combined December and January edition, these should arrive by **5pm on Monday 25 November***