

February 2025

Together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together
in Wotton under Edge

Welcome to our two new Ministers



We are delighted to welcome Father Frank Waters SDS to be the Priest in Residence for Christ the King and Holy Cross. He is a semi-retired priest who has come from St Joseph's Church, Wealdstone and Harrow Weald, a Salvatorian parish. This is the parish Father Alred grew up in.

He will be saying the Masses on Saturday in Wotton and Sunday in Thornbury. Deacon Lawrence will continue to do all the administration. Deacon Kingsley will help as well.

Father Frank was Parish Priest in Thornbury in the 80s so knows the area well. We do appreciate him joining us. Thank you Father Frank and God Bless you.

Kate Barlow.

And Also: ...

We welcome our new minister, Andy Eyre, to Wotton Baptist Church. Andy has joined us with his wife Ellie and their four children. Please join with us in prayer for them to settle into Wotton well and feel at home here, and for us as a church as we move forward into this exciting new chapter.



Anna Jones

Multi-Faith Trip to Bristol

Mrs Alison Bernays, Substitute Ex-Officio Foundation Governor, reflects on an educational visit to Bristol.

The Year 5 and 6 visit to various place of worship, as part of their R.E enrichment programme, in and around Bristol took place at the beginning of the Summer Term.

We visited the Hindu Temple in north east Bristol first. The Priest (who incidentally came to Rev Lesley's licensing at St. Mary's) was most welcoming even though there had been a double booking with another primary school. The Gods positioned around the the temple were truly exquisite - the children were very good at not attempting to touch them! The priest explained very well why the Hindu faith has so many Gods by illustrating how they all represent a different facet of one person. He told us that it is one of the oldest religions in the world.



From there we went to the Synagogue in central Bristol where the ornate features of the building were pointed out. The Jewish faith was fully explained to the children who were interested in it.

We then went to Bristol Cathedral and the children were split into 3 groups to be told all about the Cathedral and to enjoy the "Gaia" globe, which was constantly, gently revolving above the transept. To accompany it there was a quiz about climate change.

All in all it was a wonderful day where I certainly learnt a lot and I know the children did too.



Churches Together in Wotton

invite you to

**Wotton Baptist Church,
Rope Walk**

for a 10am Service

on Friday, 7 March 2025

Followed by refreshments

Also, Lent Soup Lunch

midday to 2pm – 7 March

In WBC church hall

**MONEY RAISED TO GO TO SUPPORT
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PROJECTS
All welcome for one or both events**

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



Celebrate! Service

Sunday 16th February

3.30-4.30pm

Come & Celebrate God's Love



An informal service for children *and* adults with craft and singing with refreshments



St. Mary's Church
Wotton under Edge

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent House Groups are being arranged but we desperately need hosts and leaders. By organising groups throughout the week and throughout the day, there should be a time to suit everyone. If you can help, please contact one of your church leaders, or tell Kate Cropper on office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Lent Lunches will be held every Friday and will start after the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 7 March at Wotton Baptist Church (see poster). Venues and Charities to be confirmed later.

The Living Crib - and more!

Living Crib, although not as I had envisaged, went really well with some people from the community coming along to St Marys. Working with children and animals can be amusing with Cyril having a bit of stage fright initially and Jesus being born to Mary before she got to Bethlehem? All good fun, but the message was there that Jesus is the real reason for Christmas and remembering what he did for us when he went to the cross and came back to life 3 days later. Hooray!!

The Living Crib will hopefully be part of Christmas Under The Edge next year depending on weather conditions! I have certainly booked it in with the organiser.

Just a heads up, Holiday Club dates are 21 – 25 July 2025 and I am thinking of a theme of kids doing amazing things in the bible. David, Miriam, boy with the packed lunch etc. Still in the very early stages but would be great if people from all the churches could come and help again.

Karen Dover

Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

There will be a Holy Communion service on Wednesday 19 February at 11.00am in the ground floor seating area in the House. Hymns, prayers, readings and music provide a quiet reflective half hour. Absent family and friends are remembered, especially those who are unwell. Holy Communion is also available for those who wish to receive it.

NB. Refurbishment work is continuing at the House. It is hoped that it will be completed by the middle of February and it will then be possible to invite everybody back in March.

Mary George



What's on in FEBRUARY?

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 0808 800 0510/0511 or just drop in. 3rd and 17th February. 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. 24th February. 11:30am - 1pm

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 10th and 224th February. 2pm - 4pm

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. 3rd February. 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. 13th February. 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 20th February. 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

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. 4th February. 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. 11th and 25th February. 10am - 12pm

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 February. 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. 11th February. 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 (incl. Craft and Chat) - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. This cafe is quieter than a Wednesday, - a chance to do some crafting! 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.

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

Health Visitor Drop In - bring your baby in to get advice from a Health Visitor 5th February 10am-12pm

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

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 12th February. 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. 5th and 19th February. 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. 26th February. 7pm - 9pm

CALENDAR EVENTS



Nature based Holiday activity for Primary age children/guardians 19th (11:30-3:30pm) and 20th February (11:15-3:15 pm)

Creative Writing classes - 4 weeks starting February 27th (11:30am - 1pm)

First Aid Course 5th and 12th February 1pm - 3:30pm

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 Reg Charity No. 1192121

Pancake Party

Everyone Welcome

Tuesday 4th March, 5pm - 6.30pm

St. Mary's Church, WuE

Pancakes to eat

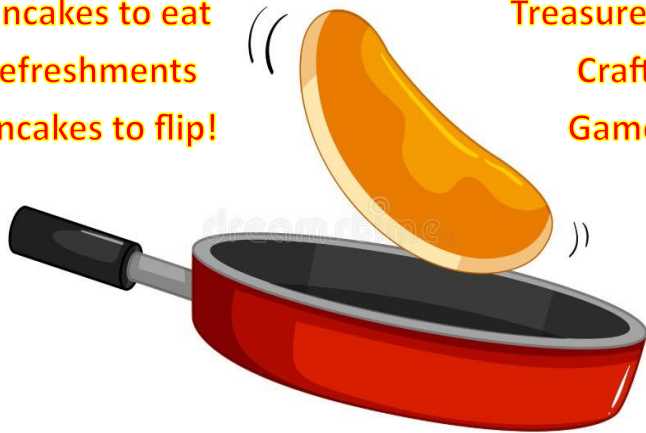
Refreshments

Pancakes to flip!

Treasure Hunt

Crafts

Games



Pay as you Feel—Donations to:



Can you spare some time to help? We need batches of pancakes, people to cook & serve on the day, plus helpers for the crafts, games and treasure hunt. Contact Kate C on 01453 842175 or office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk



St. Mary's Church
Wotton under Edge

Churches Together in Wotton

Once upon a time ... Churches Together meetings were fairly formal affairs. It was through these that we have now arrived at a less rigid format for all we do. The Churches do not have elected 'Representatives' and the meeting is chaired by a volunteer who is pretty sure that by thus volunteering, they won't be expected to also take the Notes (Minutes is perhaps too formal a term).

So everyone is welcome.

Although there is a rota for guidance as to which Church will arrange what event each year, because we are Churches Together we like to help each other out, and if one Church can't do it - another will.

At the meeting on 13 January we were pleased to welcome Andy Eyre, the new Minister at Wotton Baptist Church who was sent away scratching his head over comments about Pete The Print and Amy Cook. We were also pleased to hear that Holy Cross have a new priest, Fr Frank Waters SDS. More about both of these on the front cover.

A quick review of recent events included The Living Crib which would have been blown away by Storm Darragh so was reenacted inside St Mary's some days later. Cyril the Shetland took the role of all the animals and we had a real baby!

We are already thinking about Lent and even Easter. Shrove Tuesday is on 4 March and Easter Sunday 20 April. In between is the World Day of Prayer.

Then before we know it we will commemorate VE Day as well as encourage visitors to St Mary's to use the Prayer Station as Wotton's participation in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Wotton may be a safe place to live, but with an aging church population, there is less and less inclination to go out in the cold and dark so we try to move what we can to lighter evenings.

We are confident that the Christian Aid Committee will chivvy us all into action for Christian Aid Week, commencing with a Service on 11 May.

A combined/united service is planned for the evening of Sunday 1 June: save the date!

We will meet again on Monday 19 May; 7pm at St Mary's. I say it again: - Everyone is welcome!

Praying for the Churches

Please pray for all at the Oliver Memorial Chapel in Synwell. As an independent Chapel they have no formal means of securing preachers to lead Sunday Worship. Pray for Julie and Anthony who work to keep the Chapel open as often as possible, and pray for the health of their congregation, including their pastor, Lois Etherington.

Dryleaze Saturday Club at The United Church, 14 December 2024

The announcement promising that this would be “A Celebration of Christmas with Carols, Games and Refreshments and more!” certainly lived up to expectations. Early comers were immediately involved in a name guessing game, and after an introductory prayer and carol, the afternoon really started with a bang - literally – as everyone was given a cracker to pull. Some of the “jokes” from these were read out with groans (whoever writes them?) and other games quickly followed. Were there really 19 items on the memory tray and why is it so difficult to identify items in closed up bags by touch only instead of being able to see them? Pass the parcel caused the usual hilarity of course. Then refreshments arrived. A real feast including sausages, scones and shortbread, and topped up with individual trifles.

After another carol a moment of calm and reflection ensued. The Rev. Jimmy was welcomed and he reminded us of four stories from the Bible. Each one involved someone or a group of people who had received a prophetic message brought by an Angel. Between each of the stories a candle was lit to symbolise the great light that would shine in the world as promised in all the messages. There was another link between the stories too. While the prophecies might have caused concern to those who first received them everyone was told “do not be afraid”. God is always there in support. These thoughts were followed by a prayer and another Carol.

Some birthdays were remembered and Christmas cards handed round and then, as everyone was beginning to think about going home, a strange sound was heard outside. It was a jingle of bells! The door swung open and in came Father Christmas complete with a sack full of presents. Everyone had a gift. Then with a wave of his hand and a cheery “Good bye” he was off on his travels again.

Many thanks to everyone involved in any way with the afternoon's activities. To the ladies for games and refreshments, to Bernard for his trojan work at the piano, those who kindly provided transport and to the Rev. Jimmy for reminding us that Christmas was a great religious Festival. Everyone was wished a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful year to come.

p.s. Thanks to Father Christmas too. Safe journey!

Mary George

The next Saturday Club will be held on 8 February from 2.30 - 4pm at the United Church. It is hoped that from March it will return to Dryleaze House.



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

PLACES TO TRY THIS JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

 **MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS**
Wednesday 8 January, 10am to 12 noon
Wednesday 12 February, 10am to 12 noon
www.thekeepers.org.uk

 **MEN'S BREAKFAST**
Saturday 25 January, 8.30am
Saturday 22 February, 8.30am
Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church
vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk

 **TALK CLUB: FOR MEN ONLY**
Wednesday 15 January, 7pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday 5 & 19 February, 7pm to 8.30pm
www.thekeepers.org.uk

MIND INFO HELPLINE 0300 123 3393
UK.MOVEMBER.COM/MEN-S-HEALTH/SPOT-THE-SIGNS
SAMARITANS 24/7 116 123

Churches Together in Wotton
The Keepers

 www.wottonbaptist.org.uk
www.wottonparishchurch.org.uk
www.thekeepers.org.uk

Social Events at the Baptist Church

Singles Space - for singles - every month on the **first** Saturday at 10.30am.
Men's Breakfast - for men - runs monthly on the **last** Saturday at 8.30am.



ELMORE QUARTET

1ST
FEB

COTSWOLD CONCERT SERIES

Join us on the **first Saturday of each month** at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Wotton-under-Edge, for a new concert series featuring hour-long lunchtime recitals by some of the UK's leading young classical artists.

Concerts start at **1:00 pm** | Tickets **£10** online / **£12** at door

WWW.COTSWOLDCONCERTSERIES.ORG



1ST
MAR

JED HUGHES ORGAN



3RD
MAY

TOPY HUGHES DOUBLE BASS



TRIO KARAGU

5TH
APR

'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 March edition, these should arrive by **5pm on Monday 17 February**