

June 2025

together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together
in Wotton under Edge



The Ark

**is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.
1995 – 2025 and many years to come.**

**There will be a week of celebrations
from Monday, 22nd – Saturday, 27th September 2025.**

Make a note of the dates. More details soon.

Meanwhile there is a Memories Book now in The Ark Coffee Shop,
45, Long Street. Please call in and share what The Ark means to you.

Open Mon – Fri: 9am – 12 midday & Thurs/Fri 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

Sat: 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Dryleaze Saturday Club held in the Dryleaze House Lounge, 10 May 2025

The afternoon commenced with a hymn and prayers. With the VE Day commemorations that had taken place the previous week in mind, mention was made of the sense of thanksgiving at that time and a desire for peace in the world which continues today.

Everyone had been asked to bring a favourite item with them, something that was special to them. A variety of items were displayed. It was obvious that they were "favourite things" because they all gave their owners great pleasure in many different ways. Objects ranged from treasured family pictures and a painting, books and clothing, to the satisfying results of a community project and research into a family "tree". Several of those present brought favourite items of craft work that they were pleased to have produced. These included knitted works of varying kinds, colours and sizes, sparkling bead pictures and a flower arrangement. The appropriately coloured (red, white and blue) floral arrangement was kindly donated to the Club to enhance the decoration of the Lounge. The stories behind these favourite possessions were all of interest and helped to make the afternoon a very pleasant and unusual one.

Several birthdays were remembered and cards and decorated cup cakes presented to those members present. Refreshments followed. These included a wonderful sponge sandwich cake which oozed with a filling of home made jam.

Libby was thanked for her musical accompaniments to the hymn and birthday greetings and for reminding us too of the song "A few of my favourite things"

Thank you to the ladies who arranged everything and without whom the afternoon would not have happened.

Mary George

The next Saturday Club will be on Saturday 14 June at 2.30pm at Dryleaze House.
There will be a harpist coming to entertain.

Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

A service will be held on Wednesday 18 June at 11.00am. Everyone welcome. Holy Communion will be available if you wish to receive it.



**We had another successful
Christian Aid Week** and the
current (never say final!) total
of monies raised was **£4,371.**

This figure included shop takings, donations, street collection and a lovely donation of £108.77 from a Bluecoat cake sale! Many thanks to all those involved in whatever way - your continued support is greatly appreciated.

**Please note: there will be NO Holiday Club at Wotton
Baptist Church this July**

Ascension Day at St. Mary's, Wotton

Thursday 29th May 2025

9.30am – Service for Ascension Day

followed by breakfast*

and

Margie Hoffnung giving a talk on summer flowers

All are welcome

**Please contact Kate in the office on 01453 872145 or
office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk to order breakfast!**

** There will be a nominal charge for breakfast*

Churches Together in Wotton

There was a meeting in St Mary's at 7pm on Monday 18 May. Fourteen people attended (one rather late, saying they thought it was at 7.30 – but they would still have been 5 minutes late!). As usual it was fairly informal and interspersed with cake and sandwiches.

Everyone had the opportunity to give their opinion on recent events; the World Day of Prayer Service; Lent House Groups and the Easter events – Walk of Witness (and Hot Cross Buns) and Sunrise Service (and breakfast). More recently, the VE80 and Peace Prayer event and Christian Aid Week. Most of these 'happen' every year, but we always need to ask if they are still relevant and can we do different or better.

We continued by looking ahead. It hasn't been possible to make arrangements for a United Service at the start of June, but we are now looking at a provisional date of Sunday 6 July when we would have a morning Service followed by a barbecue. All to be confirmed!

We all agreed that we want to be able to work as Christians with the community, in the community and for the community. The Ark – which is about to celebrate its 30th birthday – is a wonderful Christian resource, while The Keepers, sympathetic but not a Christian organisation – goes from strength to strength. We can do new things, but we can also build on what we already have.

Ideas were also thrown around concerning Christmas: at the next meeting (15 September) we will know more, but if you have ideas or would like to get involved, please speak to your Minister or email me (address on page xii).

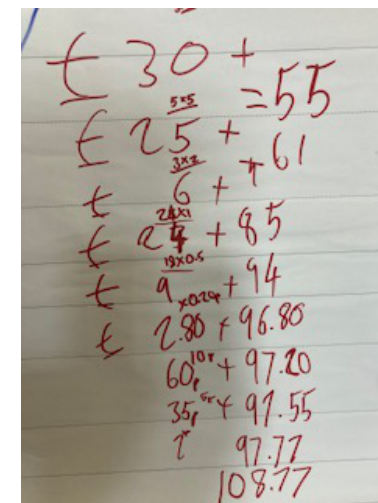
A reminder that the next edition of 'together in Wotton' will cover the months of both July and August



Members of Ignite Club decided to contribute to the 'Churches Together' Christian Aid Appeal by arranging a cake sale at school on Friday 16 May. Before the cake sale we learnt about the valuable work of Christian Aid by exploring their website and watching an online assembly.

Parents, grandparents and pupils baked a range of delicious cakes and Ignite Club helped set up the stall, and serve the customers.

It was a wonderful team effort which included sorting out change on the spot and then later totalling up how much was in the pot.



We raised an amazing **£108.77** which was handed to Wotton's Christian Aid Treasurer, Peter Sutton.

Thank you to Karen Dover, Jane Gray-Wallis and Jo Eade (parent helper) who supported us on the day of the sale.

Jane Blaken

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. 9th and 23rd June 10am - 2pm

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

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

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 2nd, 16th and 30th June. 11:30am - 1:30pm

Chair Exercise - join in with some gentle, supportive qigong. 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. 2nd June. 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. 12th June 9:30am - 11:00am.

Wotton Area Breast Cancer 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 17th June. 10am - 11am

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. 7pm - 8:30pm

Age UK Help Session - drop in for assistance for those who are 50+. 26th June 9am-11am.

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

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 June. 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.

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 4th June 10am-12pm

Stroud Foodbank - offering emergency food and essentials along with support and advice. 10am - 11:30am

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 11th June. 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 June 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. 25th June 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 (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

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 6th June 9:15m - 10:30am

CALENDAR EVENTS

Secret Garden Trail - open garden and café 7th and 8th June 10am-5pm

Wotton Pride - teas, coffees and cake served at the Wotton Town Hall 14th June 12:30am-4:00pm

Warm and Well - a drop in session to ask any questions you have about your energy tariff, how to make your house more energy efficient, energy saving tips and more! 26th June 2:15pm-3:45pm

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:
9.00am - 1.00pm

CLOSED on BANK HOLIDAYS

For more details please go to our website:
www.thekeepers.org.uk
Call: 07585 466418 or Email:
thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com
or pop in

Sunday 15th June

4pm

Father's Day Activity Event



**What to wear
when
fighting the
enemy?**

• **Bring your family and
friends**

• **Bring your armour**

Swords will be created in Church!



Praying for the Churches

This month it's Holy Cross

On a world-wide scale, last month we gave thanks for the life and witness of Pope Francis. Now we can pray for the new leader of the Catholic Church! Kate Barlow has sent me the below and says: 'We are all delighted to have a new Pope and positive about the future with him'

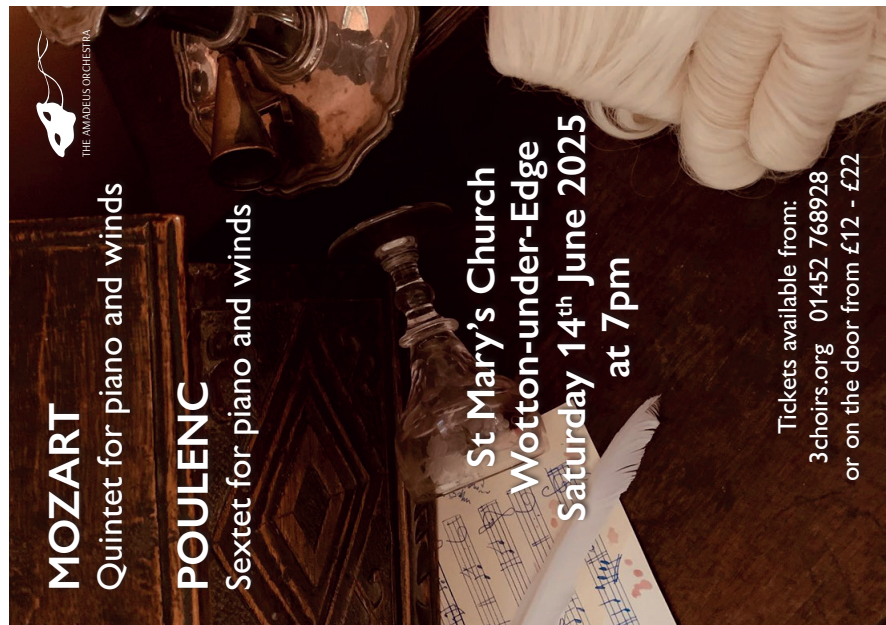
As thousands gathered in Vatican Square on Thursday 8 May, with countless millions watching worldwide, the senior cardinal Dominique Mamberti came out on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to announce that Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost had been elected the 267th successor to St Peter on the fourth Conclave vote.

Cardinal Prevost has taken the name Leo, and as Pope Leo XIV he becomes the chief pastor and shepherd to the universal church, some 1.4 billion Catholics across the world. We should never underestimate or take for granted the work of the Holy Spirit alive in our Church and in our world. Cardinal Prevost was hardly mentioned during the build-up to the Conclave and the voting for Pope Francis's successor was not expected to be over so soon, but here we are – the new Bishop of Rome, the first from North America with dual Peruvian nationality. We rejoice and are glad that we have a new leader for our time, someone who will look to build unity and bridges within the Church and across our troubled world.

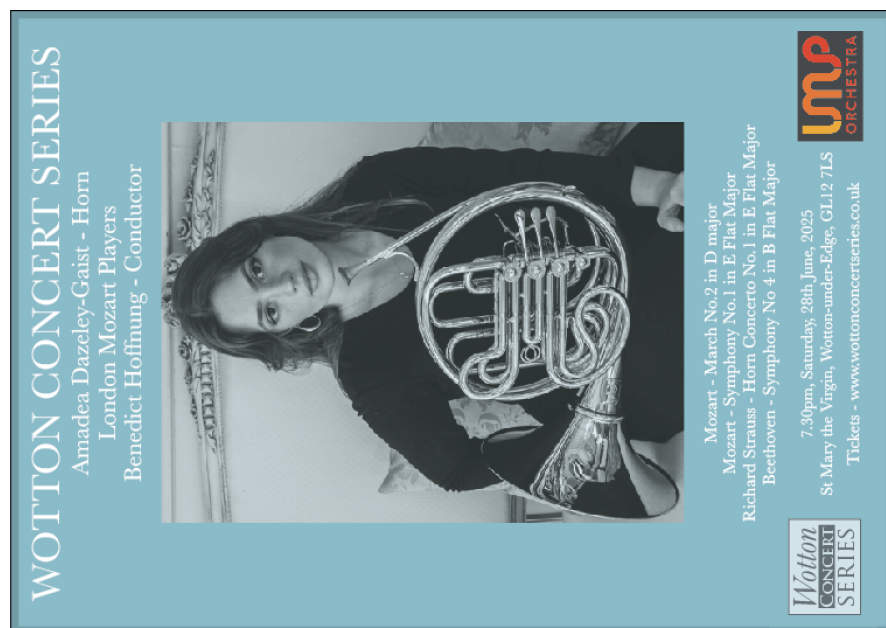
Bishop Bosco of our Clifton Diocese has provided a message on the election of Pope Leo XIV (abridged): "In his first words to the world, Pope Leo XIV greeted us with the timeless blessing: "Peace be with you all." He reminded us that this was the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd, who gave His life for the flock of God. He expressed his desire for this peace to enter our hearts, reach our families, and extend to all people, everywhere on earth.

O Holy Spirit, strengthen our new Pope, guide him in wisdom and peace, and bless the Church he now leads.





Concerts at St Mary's Church in June



United Ramblers

Monday 2 June

Meet at the United Church at 10am to drive to Hawkesbury Upton. If you wish you can drive directly to the start.

10:30am Start from car park of The Beaufort Arms pub in Hawkesbury Upton.

The walk is about 5.1 miles and will be a loop round to Horton Manor by way of the "yellow brick road", Monarch's Way and Cotswold Way coming back via Upper Chalkley Farm and up between Broad Hill and Birch Hill.

There are a few stiles, and the total ascent is around 460 ft.

Please let me know if you plan to come and if you want to join us for lunch at the Pub.

Contact Tony Raphael tonrap1@gmail.com or 07813 760334



LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD?



PLACES TO TRY THIS MAY / JUNE 2025



MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS

Wednesday 14 May, 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 11 June, 10am to 12 noon

www.thekeepers.org.uk



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 31 May, 8.30am

Saturday 28 June, 8.30am

Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church

vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk



TALK CLUB: FOR MEN ONLY

Wednesday 7 & 21 May, 7pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday 4 & 18 June, 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

'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 July/August edition, these should arrive by **5pm on Monday 23 June**