



July and August 2025

together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together
in Wotton under Edge

**SUMMER
FETE**
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WOTTON

Saturday 12th July
10.30am to 2.30pm

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Wine & Pimms Bar •
- Bottle Stall •
- Children's toy stall •
- Preloved clothes stall •
- Plants •
- Toiletries •
- Lots of music •
- Refreshments, including cream teas & BBQ •
- and much more!

• Tower Climb •
(weather permitting)

• Raffle •
£150 first Prize
Tickets available from
Wotton Coffee Shop
& on the day

In July we can't rely on the weather, but we're all in Church Together
For more information visit: St Marys Wotton on Facebook

St Mary's Church Fete ...

Money raised will be divided between Winstons Wish, Cotswold Vale Talking Newspapers and St. Mary's Church.

Dryleaze Saturday Club

After an introduction and welcoming hymn, the afternoon continued under the leadership of the Rev. Jimmy Cullingford. The Meeting was pleased to welcome him for the afternoon.

He asked everyone to think about "luggage" and how we often accumulated too many cases or packages to manage without dropping something and there was never anyone about to help. Rev. Jimmy then read a passage from an Iona Community book of Reflections which continued the theme of "luggage" but of a different kind - the worries and fears we collect and are burdened with in our day to day lives. The reading reminded us that we could reach out for God's help. He was always there to reassure, reduce our burdens and lighten the load.

We were then entertained by a Harpist. Clarissa had brought her small portable harp, the modern descendent of the Celtic ones used by Bards and folk singers in the past, and played a number of traditional tunes from different countries some of which were very familiar, others new. While refreshments were being served she also played quietly in the background, some Welsh tunes being quickly recognised. A very different and pleasant afternoon.

One birthday for June was remembered and several friends who were unwell were also mentioned. Many thanks as usual to the ladies for refreshments, especially as they were "under staffed" that afternoon. Thank you to Rev. Jimmy for his thoughts and leadership and to Clarissa for her music.

Mary George

The next Saturday Club will be on 12 July at 2.30pm at Dryleaze House. There will be musical entertainment with Rachel Howgego.

There will be no meeting in August.

Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

There will be services in the Lounge at Dryleaze House on both Wednesday 16 July and Wednesday 20 August at 11.00 am.

All welcome to attend a quiet half hour of hymns, readings and prayers and thoughts of families and friends. Holy Communion is available for those who wish to receive it



Service of Hope

Remembering the end of WW2

with rev Lesley

All Welcome

St. Mary's Church
Wotton under Edge

Praying for the Churches

In July we pray for the United Church and in August for the Chapel at Synwell and give thanks for the dedication and commitment of, in each church, an ever decreasing group of Christians.



BEING WELL DAY
Saturday
16th August
10am - 3pm

St. Mary's Church Wotton under Edge

Children & adults are invited to encounter
 Peace, Hope & Healing through music, Pilates,
 mindfulness, quiet spaces, nature, prayer walks,
 reflective readings, health through nutrition and
 children's activities

Being Well 

Refreshments served



SAT 9 AUG
 2025

FREE ADMISSION UNDER 25
BOOK NOW
www.ELMOREFESTIVAL.com

1:10 PM
 ST MARYS CHURCH
 WOTTON-UNDER EDGE

  @elmorefestival

This concert is part of Elmore festival which is run by St Mary's Director of Music, usually in Elmore. As they have no suitable organ in Elmore, renowned international organist Henry Fairs is coming to St. Mary's to play.



Little Fishes 

Over the summer holidays Little Fishes will be running on the following dates: 24/7, 7/8, 14/8, & 28/8.

All the usual fun for your little ones, plus you can bring older siblings to join in too (up to Year 2).

Thursdays 10am-11.30am at Wotton Baptist Church, Rope Walk, GL12 7AA.

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. 7th and 21st July 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. 28th July. 11:30am - 1pm

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 7th and 21st July 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. 7th July. 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. 10th July 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 July. 10am - 11am

NHS social prescriber's Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just come in, no appointment needed. 3rd, 24th July 2pm-4pm, 31st July 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+. 24th July 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. 1st, 15th, and 29th July. 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 2nd July 10am-12pm

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 2nd July 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. 9th July. 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. 2nd and 1st July 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. 30th July 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

CALENDAR EVENTS

Cancer Support Group - the second meeting of the new Cancer Support Group. Anyone who has been affected by cancer themselves or through a loved one is welcome. 15th July from 7pm-8pm

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



Our vision is "future readiness", which means that we aim to empower children as learners and individuals to be prepared for their future lives.

Exciting times as Blue Coat prepares to implement a new RE syllabus

Gloucestershire Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) have for the past few years been closely following the national developments in RE. Research suggests that most young people are growing up without any religious component in their upbringing, and many of them are non-religious. Times are changing and new approaches to the teaching and learning of RE are imperative if we want to prepare our children for modern day Britain. The Commission on Religious Education recommended a "Religion and Worldviews approach to Religious Education" in schools, a "worldview" being any of the diverse ways in which religious and non-religious people "encounter, interpret, understand, and engage with the world", recognising that world-views can be organised, such as an institutional religion, or can be personal. The report which was published in 2018 has helped SACRE develop and shape a new syllabus that embraces a Religion and Worldviews approach. The new Primary RE syllabus retains its emphasis on examining four religious worldviews (Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam), alongside non-religious worldviews held by pupils. Humanism, as an example of an organised non-religious worldview, is given more space in the 2025 syllabus. The curriculum also continues to offer open, enquiring, exploratory RE, suitable for all pupils, whether their personal worldviews are religious or non-religious, or a more complex jigsaw of elements of both. The 2025 syllabus is forward thinking, providing an academic and knowledge-rich understanding of faith and belief in modern Britain which allows them to engage meaningfully with their own beliefs, as well as others'. In the words of SACRE:

'The principal aim for religious education in Gloucestershire is

for pupils to understand how worldviews influence people's lives, including their own, through the study of religious and non-religious worldviews, so that they better understand themselves and the world around them, and become better equipped to contribute to and flourish in society.'

As a RE Hub Leader for the Diocese of Gloucester, I have had the pleasure of helping shape the new syllabus and worked alongside Debbie Helme, Principle Advisor of the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Education, and Stephen Pett, National RE Adviser, and author of the Gloucestershire RE Syllabus. It has been and will continue to be an exciting journey. A journey which ensures that our young people have access to high quality religious education in Gloucestershire.



Butterflies flutter in The Ark as they spread the 'Good News' of 'The Golden Rule' across the town

*Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31:
So in everything, do to others
what you would have them do
to you.*

Pupils in Y1 & Y2 classes have creating butterflies to display in The Ark Coffee Shop window. They represent 'The Golden Rule' of treating others as you want to be treated. The children have included words that best describe what following the Golden Rule means to them. Please do admire them and write in the book of comments

which will be shared with the children back in the classroom. I'm sure you'll agree, the display brings colour and joy to the high street! Thank you to Val Smith, Kate Barlow and Allan Churchill who kindly assisted with the display, and provided a very welcomed coffee! Our future is in safe hands with our National Young Leaders!

Huge congratulations to our Y5/6 Future Leaders on completing the National Younger Leaders Archbishops' Award! The NYLA is a programme focused on developing leadership and character skills in young people. Designed to empower our future generation to become

agents of change in their communities. Thank you to Alison Bernays, our Ethos Governor, for attending the sessions which have taken place throughout the year. Alison's support has been greatly valued and appreciated. During the online sessions we have met with children and church leaders from across the country and discussed all sorts of topics such as social justice, environment, poverty & religion.



Ignite Club brings iSingPop back to St Mary's Church

Ignite Club will be taking part in the Family Service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 13th July. The service starts at 10am and the children will be singing songs from iSingPop. Please do come along to hear the children sing - there will be actions to learn, including some funky dance moves!

Thank you to you for your continued interest and support of Blue Coat School.

Jane Blaken



Town Hall Teas

The Town Hall Tea on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August, 2.30 - 5pm will raise money for Christian Aid.

Please help - by offering to make a cake, or by coming along. Or both.

x

Walkers United

The July walk will be at Frampton led by Alison Makepeace

Meet at United Church, Wotton, at 10.00am OR

Drive to Frampton on Severn for 10.30am. Park in The Bell car park just past the green.

Walk around Frampton Court, past the lakes on good footpaths/tracks towards the sailing club, then walk towards the Church and Splatt Bridge.

Return via the canal towpath and footpath to the Bell for lunch at 1.00pm.

Distance app. 4.5 miles. There are 6 stiles, most of which are avoidable using alternative routes or farm gates.



Ark Coffee Shop : 30 years : Memories book

Pop in to The Ark @ 45, Long St & write in the book over the next few weeks or send me an email valsmith17@talktalk.net with your memory.



The Ark

Thank you to those people who have contributed to the Memories Book so far. All contributions welcomed – poems, accounts (short or long !), a funny story, photos, newspaper cuttings, anything about fair trade etc.

The Ark Coffee Shop is 30 years old.
We will be having a week of celebrations from
Monday 22 – Saturday 27 September

xi

LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD?



PLACES TO TRY THIS JULY / AUGUST 2025



MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS

Wednesday 9 July, 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 13 August, 10am to 12 noon

www.thekeepers.org.uk



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 26 July, 8.30am

Saturday 30 August, 8.30am

Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church

vince@wottonbaptist.org.uk



TALK CLUB: FOR MEN ONLY

Wednesday 2 & 16 July, 7pm to 8.30pm

Wednesday 6 & 20 August, 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 September edition, these should arrive by **5pm on Monday 25 August**