



May 2025

together in Wotton

Christians living, working and worshipping together
in Wotton under Edge



A full Chapel at Synwell spilled out into the town as the Walk of Witness processed to the Perry and Dawes Almshouses, to Long Street near The Ark, to the corner of Tabernacle Pitch, to Holy Cross and finally to St Mary's, with prayers, singing and the distribution of Hot Cross Buns along the way.

Together at Easter

How lovely to see all the churches coming together at Easter



Then at 7am on Sunday, dog walkers were treated to Easter hymns and storytelling of the Easter story on Coombe Hill.

After proclaiming that Jesus was risen, breakfast was shared at St Mary's.

Services in the churches included the joy of an Easter Baptism at the Baptist Church; Easter bonnets at the Oliver Memorial Chapel, singing outside at the United Church. At St Mary's Holy Saturday saw a service of Light and Fire.



He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!



Christian Aid Week

11 – 17 May 2025

Two Weeks To Go !

The **Christian Aid service** will be at the Baptist Church at 6pm on Sunday 11 May and will be led by Rev Andy Eyre.

There will be a **pop-up shop** at the Baptist Church from Monday, 12 May to Wednesday, 14 May, 9 am to 4pm (Monday only) and 9am to 2pm Tuesday and Wednesday. Also Tuesday evening 6 – 8pm when soup will again be served.

We are looking for volunteers to do the **street collection** on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May. If several people come forward, we can operate a rota so no-one has to do more than an hour!

“What can I do?”

We are looking for donations of books, jigsaws, gifts, nearly new clothes, bags and accessories, usable art and craft supplies.

The plant stall will be run by Pauline Jones and Sue Marsland who are asking for seedlings and plants as well as pots, planters, garden ornaments and almost everything garden-related. House plants too!

We are also asking for donations of soup and cakes.

If you are able to help, or would like any donations to be collected, please speak to your church rep or contact me suttonpanda75@gmail.com or 01453 843224

If you can't help with any of the above, please come along and spend your money.

Many thanks.

Alison Sutton

And a Thank You:

Huge thanks to all who supported the Christian Aid Lent lunch on 11 April which raised an amazing £388.50 - up on last year!

Alison



Pope Francis

As this edition goes to press, the news is full of the death of Pope Francis.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the Catholic Community in Wotton under Edge and throughout the world and we also pray for wisdom as his successor is elected.

Sue Marsland says: “Reading about the death of Pope Francis I saw an article about a group of students from University College, Dublin who visited him in 2022. Obviously nervous, they were told that it would be like meeting your grandfather. He personally opened the door to greet them and he said to them that they had an hour and ask what they wished. They asked about his student days, he was super relaxed and he made them feel relaxed too.

I quote " He really encouraged us to live our faith in a joyful, life-giving way and to be authentic. He told us to go to the pub with your friends, do what young people do but always have the gospel in your back pocket" What wonderful encouragement.

Sue

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

Holy Communion at Dryleaze House

On Wednesday 16 April a Communion Service in preparation for Easter was held in the House Lounge. Readings and hymns, with thoughts and prayers for families and friends, combined for a thoughtful and relaxing half hour.

The next service will be on Wednesday 21 May at 11.00 a.m. All welcome.



'Future readiness' for our pupils is built on the foundation of God's love. Therefore, we aspire to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and to enable others to do the same. (Matthew 22:37 – 39)

Blue Coat School is very well supported by the Diocese of Gloucester and each month, schools are given the most recent updates both nationally and regionally of new initiatives, events and training opportunities provided by the Diocese and The Church of England. This takes shape in the form of a newsletter called 'The Den'.

The newsletter always starts with a prayer which is shared amongst all Church of England schools. I am taking this opportunity to widen its reach and share this prayer with our local churches.

The prayer was written by Canon Rachel Howie, CEO of Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust and a member of the Diocesan Board of Education Trustees.

Loving God,

We thank you for the blessing of our Church of England schools and for all who are part of them.

We pray for the children as they grow day by day into all that you intend them to be. Thank you that they are each unique, special and loved by you. Help them to find awe and wonder in their learning.

Thank you for all who work with and support the children. Bless them with patience, strength and resilience. May they inspire the children in their learning and create classrooms filled with joy and kindness.

We also thank you for the volunteers who give their time so generously to serve and help our schools.

Bless and strengthen our school leaders, governors and trustees with wisdom in living out their Christian vision in their decision making. Renew them with passion for enabling their schools to flourish and thrive and be a blessing to their community.

*In all things, help us to be a reflection of your love.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

The children and staff are blessed with the love and support given by generous volunteers from our local community who provide educational and spiritual guidance. The Open the Book Team, members and leaders from our churches, Read With Me, governors....to name a few.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who help shape our School Christian Vision.

Jane Blaken

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

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What's on in MAY?

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. 12th and 19th May 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. 26th May. 11:30am - 1pm

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 5th and 19th May. 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. 5th May. 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. 8th May 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 15th May. 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

Collage and Cake - Get Creative with Collage and have a cuppa and some cake - starts 22nd May

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+. 22nd May 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. 6th and 20th May. 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 7th May 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. 14th May. 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. 7th and 21st May. 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. 28th May 7pm-9pm.

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 7th May 10am - 12pm

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 café is quieter than a Wednesday, - a chance to do some crafting! 11:30am - 12:30pm

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

CALENDAR EVENTS

Covid Jabs Drop In - 8th May 1pm-3:30pm

Intro to Catering Adult Education Course - Starts 15th May 9:30am-12pm weekly for six weeks

Quiz Night - Join our quiz at BlueCoats. £6 per person, max team of 6. 17th May 7:30pm-10pm

Nature based Holiday activity for Primary age children/guardians 19th (11:30-3:30pm) 28th and 29th May

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

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VE DAY




Thurs 8th May

St. Mary's Church

Wotton under Edge

12pm Proclamation **5.45pm Service of Peace**
from 11.45am arrival

Remembering VE Day
Poetry & singing from our local schools
Praying for countries still in conflict today

12.30pm Fish & Chip Lunch

£6 Lunch* provided by The Great British Takeaway
Come in your lunchbreak!
To order & pay, contact St. Mary's Church office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk 01453 842175

6.30pm Ring out in Celebration
St. Mary's Bells will toll, as they did in 1945

Weds 7th - Sat 10th May

Exhibition

from 9.00am
Selection of local photos from the time plus a story line of 8th May 1945

*choose from fish & chips; sausage & chips; halloumi sticks & chips
For more info contact: Kate in the office on 01453 842175 or office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

Praying for the Churches

This month it's the Baptist Church. Read on ...

At Wotton Baptist Church we have had two young people baptised this year. One in March and the most recent one was on Easter Sunday, a great day to celebrate a baptism. Please pray for these two young men as they grow in faith and for WBC, and others, as they support them as new disciples.




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

Due to a glitch with the PC the report of the March Saturday Club didn't appear in the last issue. Apologies to all who missed it.

Dryleaze Saturday Club - 12 April 2025

A very enjoyable afternoon began with a reading reminding us that it was now Spring - the season of new growth. Nature was beginning to wake up after the cold of Winter and trees and plants were starting to display their new colourful foliage and flowers. Beauty was all around. The subsequent hymn also praised and gave thanks for the beauty of the World we live in.

With the aid of paper cup cake cases and some ingenuity, everyone was encouraged to construct some paper flowers. Some unusual and colourful button holes resulted.

It was a pleasure to welcome Anthony Young and Jane Parker who came to entertain us. Anthony sang a selection of Spring time songs from a variety of well known musical shows and Jane gave some appropriate readings including a delightful little poem (as it was Palm Sunday next day) about a donkey's part in that day. They concluded with a much loved extract from the show "Easter Parade".

Several birthdays were remembered and prayers said for family and friends who were unwell.

Some tasty Easter refreshments then arrived including a rich Simnel Cake and spicy Easter Biscuits in rabbit and egg shapes. All very tempting.

Very many thanks to all who took part in the afternoon. Special thanks to Libby who so ably accompanied Anthony and Jane on the piano and to the team of Ladies who arranged everything. The afternoon ended with the distribution of Easter cards to everyone.

Mary George

Saturday Club will next be held on 10th May 2.30pm at Dryleaze House.

Ramblers Return

Good News 1: Tony Raphael has volunteered to take on the organisation of the monthly rambles.

Good News 2: Alison Makepeace has volunteered to lead the first one to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May.

5 May Walk - Thornbury

10.00am Meet at the United Church and drive to car park in Badger Road, Thornbury.

Take A38 south from Falfield then first exit off to Thornbury (Gloucester Road) to enter Thornbury; turn left onto Morton Way; take second left, Badger Road, and follow round to right and park near football pitch.) or

10.30am We will meet you at car park.

Walk along footpaths (old and new) to outskirts of Thornbury and return. App. 4.5 miles (but can be shortened.)

No stiles and some good views across the Severn. Most tracks surfaced so walking shoes fine.

12.30-13.00 Picnic Lunch if weather suitable. (As it is Bank Holiday Monday, I suggest everyone brings a picnic)

Please could people let me know if they are coming on the walk:
amakepeace@outlook.com or 07813 965160

Thanks
Alison

If you no longer wish to be on the notification list, please let Tony know and he will amend the circulation accordingly: tonrap1@gmail.com



Save the Date!
Saturday 12 July 2025
St Mary's Church Summer Fête

Save the Date 2 **Sunday 1 June, 6.30pm**

Everyone is invited to a United Service at Wotton United Church, Bradley Street. Watch out for more details.

TOBY HUGHES *double bass*
& BEN POWELL *piano*



OUR SEASON'S
CLOSING CONCERT

JOIN US FOR AN HOUR

SAT 3RD MAY 1:00 PM

📍 St. Mary the Virgin Church Wotton-under-Edge



FOR INFO & TICKETS COTSWOLDCONCERTSERIES.ORG

'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 19 May**