



July and August 2026

together in Wotton

*Christians worshipping, working - and playing - together
in Wotton under Edge*

SUMMER FETE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WOTTON

Saturday 11th July
10.30am to 2.30pm

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Pimms Bar •
- Bottle Stall •
- Children's area with stalls & activities •
- Preloved clothes stall •
- Plants •
- Toiletries •
- Lots of music •
- Refreshments •
- and much more!

• Tower Climb & Teddy Parachutes (weather permitting)

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

For more information visit: St Marys Wotton on Facebook

Wotton Baptist Church

**SUIT UP
Holiday Club**

GET READY FOR AN EPIC
ADVENTURE WITH GOD!

20TH - 24TH JULY 2026
10:00AM- 12:30PM

FOR CHILDREN JUST FINISHING
RECEPTION TO Y6

Places will be pre-booked this year - head to
wottonbaptist.org.uk/suitup or pop into the church office for a form!

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

PLACES TO TRY THIS JULY / AUGUST 2026

MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS

 Wednesday 8 July, 10am to 12 noon
 Wednesday 12 August, 10am to 12 noon
www.thekeepers.org.uk

MEN'S BREAKFAST

 Saturday 25 July, 8.30am
 Saturday 29 August, 8.30am
 Full English, All Welcome, Wotton Baptist Church
vince@wottonbaptist.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

Tyndale
Benefice



invite you to an exciting course



Ageing Gracefully

Led By Dr Ian Donald

(A recently retired Consultant in Old Age Medicine)

A six-week course for Christians who wish to explore some of the theological issues raised by an ageing society

The course will run on Monday afternoons beginning

5 October

At the United Church, Wotton-under-Edge

Everyone is Welcome

Further details will come out in September

Dryleaze Saturday Club, 13 June

A hymn giving thanks for all our blessings introduced the afternoon. The fluctuating weather and allied climate changes were considered and their effect on the activities we wanted to do. Appropriate readings and poems about sunshine and leisure set the theme for the afternoon.

Unfortunately Rev. Jimmy could not attend the meeting as hoped because of ill health. He was wished a speedy recovery.

As the sun was shining again thoughts turned to recalling happy childhood memories of sunny Summer days. These included sea side holidays, or being free to spend whole days in the local countryside and enjoying local events like fairs or annual sports days. Sunday School outings, especially in a train, were fondly remembered as were donkey rides and Punch and Judy shows at the seaside. As a number of those present had lived in different parts of the UK (and abroad) in their young days it was interesting to learn how traditional annual events varied in different parts of the Country. November fire work parties were bigger events in the North than in the South while street processions and carnivals seemed greater in the South than in the North. Fun Fairs, Circuses and building sand castles or fishing in rock pools at the seaside though seemed to be generally looked forward to everywhere. A lively afternoon of shared memories.

As usual, refreshments in the form of cups of tea and a variety of tea breads and cakes were provided and enjoyed. Several Birthdays were remembered and those named received the customary cake, card and musical greeting. Many thanks to the Ladies who arranged everything and to Bernard for the musical interludes. It was noted that the July meeting would be a Birthday Celebration one.

The meeting ended with another hymn and prayers for families and friends and for those who were known to be unwell. A pleasant and sunny afternoon had been enjoyed with everyone taking part.

Mary George

The July Dryleaze Saturday Club meeting will be at 2.30pm on 11 July. There is no meeting in August

Holy Communion Service - at Dryleaze House

There will be a services of prayers, readings and hymns at Dryleaze House on Wednesdays 15 July and 19 August at 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion will be offered to those who wish to receive it. Everyone welcome.



KS1 Religious Education Church Trail

Our church trail began at The United Church, where Sue and Godfrey shared what makes their church community special. Before we began, Godfrey rang the church bell and explained that this marks the start of a church service. Sue then spoke about the importance of gathering together to worship God and spend time with friends. We explored the church's key features, listened to the organ and sang *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."* As Sue gradually made the organ louder with each verse, we were convinced the whole of Wotton High Street could hear us!

Our next stop was Holy Cross Church, where Kingsley and Jane introduced us to the 14 Stations of the Cross. The children were fascinated by the plaques telling the story of Jesus' final day on Earth. They also looked at a picture of The Pope and found learning about his role within the wider Christian Church world interesting. We also heard the church bell ring and learned about Kingsley's role as a Church Deacon, including his visits to people in care homes.

At St Mary's Church, the children explored the churchyard, eagerly reading headstones and learning about the past. Before heading into the church, we heard the church bell chime 11 times – perfect timing for our elevenses! We were very grateful to Kate and Irene for providing drinks and biscuits on such a warm day. After enjoying picnic lunches together in the cool of the church building, the children took part in an interactive game matching church artefacts to picture cards.

Our visit to Perry & Dawes gave us the chance to see the chapel, common room and secret garden. David, Debbie and Anthony shared the history of the building and its beautiful stained-glass windows. The children also learned about the community who live there and what life is like within Perry & Dawes, including how special it is to live in such a supportive and caring environment. The children practised their best whispering voices so as not to disturb the residents and were amazed that the chapel was large enough to fit an entire class of 30 children.

Finally, at the Baptist Church, Karen helped the children reflect on everything they had learned. A slideshow, run by James and Nathaniel, highlighted the many activities that take place within the church community. The children were asked if they could remember what was beneath their feet and were excited to recall the baptismal pool they had seen during a visit in Reception. We met George the puppet, who told us all about Holiday Club!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the church leaders and volunteers who generously gave their time to welcome us, share their faith, and make this visit possible. We are also very grateful to the volunteer walkers who supported the children throughout the day, helping them walk

safely around Wotton, answering questions, and supporting their learning at each stop. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn, ask questions and experience the different ways churches are part of our community.

Jane Blaken



Blue Coat School KS1 Church Trail



What's on in July?

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

Citizens Advice - to book an appointment call 0808 800 0510/0511 or just drop in, 6th and 20th July 10am - 2pm

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

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 13th and 27th July 11:30am - 1:30pm

Keepers Kidz - board games, craft and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3.15pm - 4.30pm

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

Connect to Work - This session offers tailored 1:1 employment support for those facing specific barriers or long-term unemployment, however, anyone seeking career guidance is welcome as we can also refer you to the broader Employment and Skills Hub. 6th & 20th July 1:45pm-3:45pm.

Thursday

Lloyds Bank - drop in for basic transactions. No cash services are available. 9:30am - 3pm

NHS social prescriber's Drop In - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just come in, no appointment needed. 11am-1pm

Rethink Welcome Group - a drop-in mental health group. 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+. 23rd July 9am-11am.

Alzheimer's Society Advice Drop In - practical advice for anyone suffering from Dementia (or their carers) 9th July 12pm-4pm.

Community Autism Support and Advice - book a one hour advice and support session for autistic adults, and friends and family of autistic adults. 23rd July 11:30am-3:30pm

To book go to: cal.com/casarisae or email them at info@casae@grocc.org.uk

Chronic Pain & Fatigue Support Group - This group offers a gentle, understanding space where you can simply be yourself. Monthly on Thursdays. 2nd July 11:5pm-2:25pm.

Strength and Balance - a fitness class specifically targeting the strength and stability required for fall prevention in older visitors. Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm.

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

Sing 2 Remember - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up. 7th and 21st 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.

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

NEW/CALENDAR EVENTS

Charles Community Cancer Support - We will be hosting Charles Community Support every first Thursday of the month from 9am-1pm.

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. 16th July 10am - 11am

Menopause Support Group - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 6th July 7pm - 8:30pm

PCSO Drop In - a chance to ask your questions or share concerns. Thursday 2nd July. 1pm-2pm, Tuesday 14th July 1:30pm-2:30pm

GDA Hearing Aid Clinic - support for those with hearing aids. To book an appointment, call 01452 372999. 30th July. 10am - 2pm

Fundraising Events

Two Monuments Walk - Join us on 1st August from 9am for a sponsored walk to raise money for our vital work. Choose your route from the 2hr round-trip to Tyndale Monument or 6hr round-trips to Tyndale then Somerset Monument.
Book your place now:
bit.ly/twomonuments

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. Weekly 10am - 1pm

Health Visitor Drop In - bring your baby in to get advice from a Health Visitor 1st July 10am-12pm

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

Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop In - pop in and talk to Becky. Monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. 29th July 10:30am-11:30am

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, neurodiverse adults and parents/carers of neurodiverse children. 29th July 7pm-9pm

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 8th July 10am - 12pm

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 1st July 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

The Friday Table - Join us for a seasonal lunch (now serving jacket potatoes), all welcome on a Pay as You Feel basis. 12:00pm-12:30pm

Farewell as I leave my role as Priest in Charge, at St Mary's Wotton U Edge

I am not quite sure where the time has gone since I took on the role as Priest in Charge back in May 22. Back then, it was like a dream come true. I had always thought I would complete my working career as a chaplain in The Prison Service (a role I loved and in which I found much reward). But my job review meeting with Bishop Robert in Dec 21 led to a lightbulb moment for us both. Tyndale benefice had been thrown unsuspectingly into another vacancy, our diocese where perplexed as to how to fill the role quickly and I was very concerned for the parishes which I called home.



Of course, I have lived in the Wotton area since the late 1980's when I found my life partner and husband Bob Hewish. Many will have known me from 'The Tolsey Shop' under the jubilee clock through the 1990's I had a wonderful time there for nearly 11 years. My claim to fame was introducing scented candles to the town and the shop was nick named 'an Aladin's' cave' for affordable gifts and cards. It was always the people who came through the door who made that shop so special.

My Christian faith was something that emerged a little later when I was in my 40's. I found myself taking on the role of Children's and Youth Worker at St Marys in Wotton and was flung into new experiences including youth camps and summer youth projects and the opening of the St Mary's Skaters Tuc Shop back when the nearest Wotton had to a skate park was the tarmac drive outside the church.

The Rev John May encouraged me greatly and kept suggesting I might look rather good in priests' robes! I can recall one specific day when I lost my temper with him and shouted *'please stop teasing me John, its becoming very annoying'* to which he responded with a very firm gaze. *'Oh no Lesley, I am very serious, I think you would make a splendid priest'*.

I can remember getting the go ahead to start training for ordination when I was on summer camp with the churches at Viney Hill in The Forest of Dean. The phone signal was terribly poor there. I had to stand in the middle of a field with my phone held high to get the YES or NO from our Bishop. Everyone was standing expectantly at the far end of the field trying to give me some privacy but wanting to know the outcome. Suddenly I could hear the words 'YES' and my thumbs were raised and there was a mighty roar of congratulations from the other end of the field. That was in 2007.

I have had the most wonderful journey with old friends and loved ones; and with the new people I have met along the way and now it is time for me to retire and take a pause. MY state pension will arrive in my bank account on the 6 Aug!!! I had hoped there would be a year of fallow as I have worked since I was 18 but it seems I am now taking on the role as Mayor for Wotton for a year, well at least that will give me some time to work out what God has got in store for me next. Or maybe that is what God has in store for me.

You will still see Bob and myself wandering up and down the street in Wotton. A town that means a great deal to both of us. Thank you for all your love and support over the past years. I have loved every minute of being 'Priest in Charge'. And am already enjoying the opportunity of being your Mayor.

Rev Lesley Hewish

Rev Lesley's

"Au-Revoir" Socials

An opportunity to meet with you informally as I believe
Good endings are important.



Friday 3 July 4 - 6pm
Rev Lesley's office in Wotton

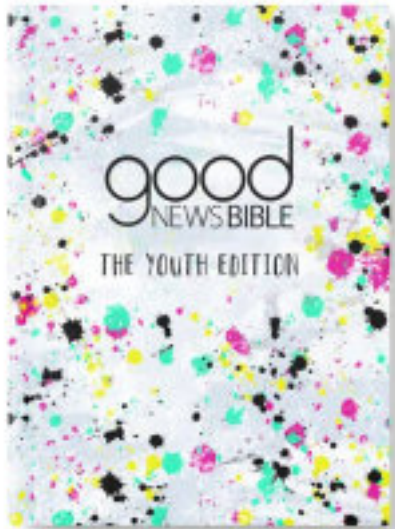
Thursday 9 July 10am - 12pm
The Bungalow,
Lowerhouse Lane, North Nibley

Monday 13 July 10am - 12pm
The Bungalow,
Lowerhouse Lane, North Nibley

Thursday 30 July 7 - 9pm
Drinks and nibbles
Rev Lesley's office in Wotton

All Welcome

Please let me know if you are coming so I can order enough cake etc
RSVP 07500 180325



Bibles for Schools

As another school year draws to its close, Churches Together in Wotton is again delighted to be able to present all Yr6 School Leavers with a copy of a Bible. This year, as last, we are giving the lovely Youth Edition of the Good News Bible which includes spaces for the reader to record their thoughts and concerns.

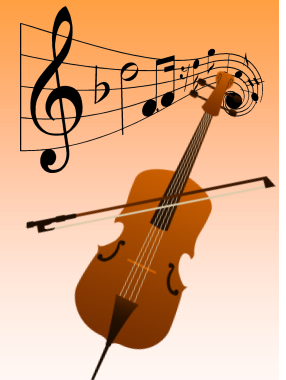
The British School Leavers' Service will be at the Baptist Church at 9.30am on Tuesday 14 July, and the Blue Coat School at St Mary's at 10.30am on Friday 17 July

Thankyou to Cathy & Gideon of the Cotswold Bookroom for supplying the Bibles at a very fair price, and for all those individuals, and to the Old Town christian Trust charity who contribute.



Concerts in St Mary's Wotton

A very welcome return to Twickenham String Trio



Saturday 8th August at 7.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Wotton under Edge

Tickets £15 from The Cotswold Book Room. Enquiries - tyndaleconcerts@gmx.com

What's on in the Churches in July and August

Wednesday 8 July 10am - noon: *Men's Shed* at The Keepers
Saturday 11 July 10.30 - 2.30pm St Mary's Church Fete
Saturday 11 July 2.30pm: Dryleaze Saturday Club
Tuesday 14 July Leavers' Service for British School at the Baptist Church
Wednesday 15 July 11am: Holy Communion at Dryleaze House
Tuesday 14 July 2.30pm: *Reflections* at St Mary's Church
Monday 20 - Friday 24 July: Holiday Club at The Baptist Church
Saturday 25 July 8.30am: Men's Breakfast at The Baptist Church
Sunday 26 July 11am St Mary's Farewell Service for Revd Lesley, followed by lunch
Saturday 1 August 9am Two Monuments Walk: The Keepers Fundraiser
Saturday 8 August 7pm: Twickenham String Trio Concert at St Mary's
Tuesday 11 August 2.30pm: *Reflections* at St Mary's Church
Wednesday 12 August 10am - noon: *Men's Shed* at The Keepers
Wednesday 19 August 11am: Holy Communion at Dryleaze House
Saturday 29 August 8.30am: Men's Breakfast at The Baptist Church

Praying for the Churches

In July and August we pray for the United Church, and for the Oliver Memorial Chapel respectively. Both Churches rejoice that, although finding preachers and leaders is not always easy, the two are happy to join together for worship.

We pray for Lois, the Pastor at the Chapel who has dedicated so much of her life to Synwell, and also for Jimmy as he is ordained as a fully-fledged Minister in the Methodist Church, and we remember their partners whose love and support enables them to give so much.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - WUE, INVITES YOU TO
FAREWELL SERVICE
SUNDAY 26TH JULY
at 11am
AND LUNCH AFTERWARDS
(OR JUST COME FOR LUNCH!)
BUFFET LUNCH* AT MIDDAY
SUGGESTED DONATION £10 (15+), £5 (4 - 14)
CONTACT KATE C ON 01453 842175 / office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk TO BOOK YOUR LUNCH BY 15TH JULY. PAY BY CARD/CASH/CHEQUE OR TO BANK ACCOUNT: WUE PCC Reordering; SORT CODE: 77 69 66; ACCOUNT: 00885268 USING "LUNCH [YOUR NAME]" AS REFERENCE
Rev Lesley Hewish
BUFFET LUNCH PROVIDED BY SARAH MALE CATERING

(For clarity: Account details are sort code 77-69-66 and number 00885268)

Prayer Breakfast Number One

Tea, coffee, cereals, fruit, croissants and toast were the order of the day for our first prayer breakfast.

Fifteen early risers from across the Churches came out in the rain to share fellowship followed by prayer. This began and ended with a prayer written by Paul for the Ephesians (4:21-29)

When we pray as CTiW, God unites our hearts with one another, strengthens church bonds, and allows us to share in each other's joy and sorrow.

After a few moments of silence to allow time to absorb the words, spontaneous prayer followed for our churches, church leaders, our town, and future events. The hour passed so quickly; thank you to everyone who came, and I look forward to the next one.

Kate Tutty



St. Mary's - Wotton Churchyard Nature Trail

* Pick up a pack in the church porch and enjoy this beautiful space during the school holidays

* Bring a picnic

* Suitable for children
up to the age of 10

'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, should arrive by **5pm on Monday 24 August***