



October 2026

Together in Wotton

*Christians worshipping and working together in Wotton
under Edge*



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**

Commences Monday 5 October, 2pm

At Wotton United Church, Bradley Street

Let Kate know if you would like to attend – office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk
or 01453 842175

Ageing Gracefully - There's still time to join!

We all like to pretend that ageing only happens to others and not us. "Ageing gracefully" is a course for those who are ready to face up to this reality. Through Biblical themes we will try to understand God's purposes in a long life. Together we will explore how Christians might respond to the challenges we often face towards the end of our earthly life – both in ourselves and in caring for those we love. What might it mean to remain fresh and green still bearing fruit into old age? And two things the course is NOT about: it is not top tips for retirement; secondly, although it will include medical perspectives on the issues raised, it is not primarily a guide on how to stay healthy in old age.

Ageing Gracefully is a 6-week course for Christians exploring some of the theological issues raised by an ageing society.

2pm for 2.15pm start. The sessions should last approximately 1.5 hours.

Facilitator Dr Ian Donald is a Consultant in Old Age Medicine, recently retired from Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Harvest at Synwell

The Oliver Memorial Chapel will give thanks for the harvest at 10.15am on Sunday 4 October.

During their service, the harvest loaf is distributed along with a chunk of cheese.

All are welcome at this and any of the Chapel's Services which take place at 10.15am each Sunday. They are also delighted that Louisa Lockwood, a member of Wotton Baptist Church and now a fully qualified Baptist Minister will be working alongside them.





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

PLACES TO TRY THIS SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026

MEN'S SHED: KEEPERS
Wednesday 9 September, 10am to 12 noon
Wednesday 14 October, 10am to 12 noon
www.thekeepers.org.uk

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday 26 September, 8.30am
Saturday 31 October, 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



Little Leaders, Big Changes!

There has been some very exciting news from our youngest children at Blue Coat! After a whole year of learning, laughing, taking on challenges and discovering what it really means to be a good leader, our KS1 children have proudly received their **Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award**.

The award, designed & promoted through **The Church of England**, encourages children to discover that leadership isn't always about being the loudest, the bossiest or the one at the front! Instead, it is about showing kindness, working together, persevering when things get tricky and, most importantly, taking action to make a difference.

Our Young Leaders have been on quite a journey. Along the way, they have taken part in a range of fun and interactive activities designed to develop four important leadership skills: **kindness, perseverance, teamwork and action**.

At the heart of our year was a bespoke story featuring **Gracie and her friends**, who, like many of us, weren't quite sure what being a leader actually meant. As the story unfolded, the children followed Gracie on her journey as she discovered that even the smallest acts of kindness and courage can make a big difference.

Gracie even set the children their own **Young Leader Challenges**, encouraging them to think about how small steps can lead to big changes. From helping others and working as a team to not giving up when something feels difficult, our children discovered that you don't need to be a superhero to make a difference!

This project beautifully reflects our school Christian vision. Our **'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)**. Through the Young Leaders Award, our children have been encouraged to use their gifts, care for others and take positive action — helping them to live out this vision in practical and meaningful ways.

The children's hard work and enthusiasm were celebrated during **Star Achiever Worship**, and an impressive **90 certificates** were handed out to everyone who took part.

It was wonderful to see so many proud faces as our children were recognised for their achievements. They have shown us that leadership can start with

something as simple as a kind word, a helping hand or the determination to try again.

A huge **well done to all our KS1 Young Leaders!** We are incredibly proud of you. Keep being kind, keep working together, keep persevering — and keep taking action. Who knows what big changes our little leaders might inspire next?

Small steps really can make big changes!

Jane Blaken



Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendars

The Ark purchase these from the Leprosy Mission, whose stocks are already running low,

Please Order (from The Ark) asap
price £6

Milk or Plain Chocolate - Payment on delivery

Other Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards
will be available soon

Speaking of the Ark:

Is there anyone who could take on a small but very important duty for The Ark? Apron washing! We have a rota for the weekly washing of the aprons and another couple of people would mean that there would only be a duty every couple of months or so. They are picked up at the end of the week, washed (no ironing required if folded flat after drying) and returned to The Ark by the following Monday. Please contact Sue Marsland if you can help.

suemmarsland@gmail.com or message 07748580265

The Keepers are Hiring!

We're putting out the word to find our new Outreach Manager.

The key details are: 25 hours (ideally across 4 days) Mon-Fri. Hybrid working will be considered. Tenure: Fixed term - 1 year

Closing date: Sunday 25th October 2026

If anyone is interested they can get in touch with us at thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com

What's on in October?

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 0800 800 050/0501 or just drop in. 12th and 26th October 10am - 2pm

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

Digital Drop-in - any help on anything digital. 5th and 19th October 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. Play 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. 12th and 26th October 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+. 22nd October 9am-11am.

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

Charles Community Cancer Support - holistic support for those diagnosed with Cancer 1st October 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. 15th October 10am - 11am

Stitch Café - Our new weekly Thursday Café. Bring your sewing machine, knitting needles, anything needlework or just come along for a chat with some friendly people. Weekly on Thursdays 1:30pm-3:30pm

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. 13th and 27th October. 10:45am - 11:45am

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a meal and chat. Open to all and Play As You Feel (PAAF). 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

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, all welcome on a Play As You Feel basis. 12:00pm-12:30pm

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project will be visiting, a great chance to find out about washable nappies. 2nd October 9:15am-10:30am

Fundraising Events

Save the date for The Keepers Quiz - 14th November

Wednesday

Drop In Café - all welcome on a Play 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 7th October 10am-12pm

Men's Shed - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 14th October 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. 28th October 10:30am-11:30am

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support group (WANDS) - a group run by, and for, neurodiverse adults and parents/carers of neurodiverse children. 28th October 7pm-9pm

NEW/CALENDAR EVENTS

Menopause Support Group - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 5th October 7pm - 8:30pm

PCSO Drop In - a chance to ask your questions or share concerns. 13th October. 2:30pm-3:30pm, 23rd October 12-1pm.

Community Autism Support and Advice - book a one hour advice and support session for autistic adults, and friends and family of autistic adults. 22nd October 11:30am-3:30pm
To book go to: cal.com/casualise or email them at infocasa@gicc.org.uk

Warm and Well Drop-in - a session for energy saving tips and more to help you prepare for winter 1st October 2:15pm-3:45pm

Creative Writing Workshop Course - 4 writing workshops led by local author and playwright Mark Seaman. Open to anyone - no eligibility criteria. 19th October - 9th November 10am - 11:30am.

GDA Hearing Aid Clinic - support for those with hearing aids. To book an appointment, call 01452 372999. 29th October. 10am - 2pm



Holy Communion Service at Dryleaze House

The monthly Communion Service will be held in the Lounge at Dryleaze House on Wednesday 21 October at 11am. All welcome to this calm reflective half hour. Holy Communion is available for those who wish to receive it.

The picture shows the table prepared for the Dryleaze Communion Service. When is a church not a church? Or when is not a church a church?



The Dryleaze Saturday Club

The September Meeting was held on 12 September in the Lounge at Dryleaze House. The theme for the afternoon was "Harvest Festival". The foods and household items that Residents and Friends had kindly donated were displayed on a table in the Lounge. They would later be passed to The Keepers Free Shelf or the local Food Bank.

It was good to welcome Revd Jimmy to the Meeting. He conducted the afternoon beginning with a thanksgiving Harvest Hymn. He then picked out several items from the donations table and used them to illustrate the fact that foods we take for granted and use daily come from many different sources. For example, home grown crops from the land, fruits and coffee from far flung foreign lands and fish from various seas. While we give thanks to God for our Harvest blessings we should also thank the farmers and fishermen both at home and far away for all they do to feed us.

Revd Jimmy also pointed out that in some foreign places it was not safe to be open about being a Christian. We think it normal to have bread and wine at a Holy Communion Service. In some instances however the juice from biting into a grape has to take the place of a chalice of wine. We give thanks to God for all our blessings but should also ask for blessings on those who are in need in any way. He then asked everyone to sing a modern version of the hymn "We plough the fields . . ." In conclusion prayers were said for those connected in any way with Harvest time.

A Harvest Quiz was then distributed to everyone and much head scratching resulted. Frustrating when an answer is on the tip of your tongue but you just can't recall it!

A Member's September birthday was remembered, complete with cake, candle and a rendering of the "Happy Birthday" song. Refreshments followed with several fruits topped by sponge echoing the theme of Harvest produce. Scones, Flapjacks and welcome cups of tea completed this special menu.

Thank you to Revd Jimmy for leading the meeting, to Bernard for the music and the four ladies who produced the refreshments and did everything else.

Mary George

The next Saturday Club will be on Saturday 10 October and the Morning Choir will be coming to entertain the group. All are welcome.

Thank You x 2

The Bank Holiday Town Hall Tea raised a wonderful £855.10 for the work of Christian Aid.

A further amount of £112.50 was raised at St Mary's the following Sunday from the sale of leftover cakes, and donations. The grand total therefore is £967.60! A truly staggering amount! Many thanks to all those who supported Christian Aid, either supplying cakes, or by attending on the day. So many people turned up and it was a really positive and rewarding afternoon.

Also a thank you from Mary Buckley on behalf of Churches Together in Wotton for donations towards Bibles for Schools. Personal gifts from friends of St Mary's and the United Church amounted to £530, while a grant from the Old Town Christian Trust was again very gratefully received.

In addition we thank Cathy and Gideon at the Cotswold Bookroom for their support.

Praying for the Churches- St Mary's

October is the month of Harvest Festivals – not only for St. Marys, as both Blue Coat & British School have their services at St. Mary's.

11 October at 11am is Harvest Festival – bring & share lunch follows

We also say a massive and heartfelt thanks to Kate Tutty who is standing down as St. Mary's Churchwarden. She has done so much for the church and community and will be sorely missed.

Therefore the October prayer needs to be for all those who are stepping up and doing more whilst the Benefice is in vacancy. For those helping with the recruitment process. And for helping to find the best person for the job.

Kate Cropper



Churches Together in Wotton



Another fairly informal and friendly meeting was held at St Mary's on Tuesday 22 September.

Notes will be circulated in due course to those present or who gave their apologies. If anyone else wishes to see them, please contact me.

Following a review of recent events, we looked to the future, so please put these dates in your diaries:

15 October (Thursday): 7.30am. Prayer Breakfast at Wotton Baptist Church

8 November (Sunday): Remembrance. Following the Parade, the Service at St Mary's will be led by Revd Canon Jane Kenchington, with the address by Revd Jimmy Cullingford.

5 December (Saturday): Christmas under the Edge will again include The Living Crib. Timing for this; approx 4.30pm, following the parade. It will be outside the Star, and Karen Dover would welcome offers of help.

18 - 25 January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Louisa Lockwood will be arranging prayers and devotions on the first three days, Monday - Wednesday and then on ...

21 January (Thursday): we will break our fast with a Prayer Break-fast at the United Church

1 February (Monday): 7pm Churches Together in Wotton Meeting at Wotton Baptist Church

10 February (Ash Wednesday): beginning of Lent. We will be invited to join with Wotton Baptist Church for their '40 days of pause' intentional programme. (This is in place of Lent House Groups or Talks.)

26 March (Good Friday): Walk of Witness followed by coffee and hot cross buns at St Mary's

28 March (Easter Sunday): 7.30am, Sunrise Service on Coombe Hill led by Revd Andy Eyre, followed by breakfast.

9 May (Sunday): Christian Aid Week commences with a Service

16 May (Sunday): Pentecost. This might be another town service at Synwell Playing Field, but date, place and other details tbc.

Throughout the meeting we felt truly blessed that, from different denominations and with different ways of worship, we at Wotton are able to join together as friends and Christians, in love and faith, never losing our sense of wonder at the love of God and of His son.

Everyone - Everywhere -Everlasting



Concerts in St Mary's
Two's Company



Stephen Whitford and Bethan Terry

*A programme of songs and
duets ranging from
opera to cabaret*

St. Mary's Church
Wotton under Edge GL12 7LS
Saturday 3rd October at 7.00pm

**Tickets £15.00 from
The Cotswold Book Room
and on the door**

Wine and soft drinks bar

*'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 November edition, should arrive by **5pm on
Monday 19 October**