



Easter & April 2019

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping & working together in Wotton under Edge

Sunday 7 April, 6pm

St Mary's Church

**THE
CRUCIFIXION
BY Sir John Stainer**



Sung by the Choir, under Director of
Music Eddie Garrard.

All Welcome. No entry charge.

A letter from the Rev Canon Iain Marchant:

Dear fellow-Christians,

I'm not sure how long it is since I was last banging on about Christian Unity, but it seems as important as ever this month.

If Christians cannot agree among themselves, and work together, why should the general public take any notice ?

In January we had a good week, with over 100 at the United Songs of Praise followed by about two dozen at each prayer evening in the different churches during the Week of Prayer, a little up on last year.

Last month the combined Lent Talks began at the Baptist Church, and continue each Wednesday up to and including 10 April. We continue this month with the Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning 19 April, starting at Synwell Chapel and ending at St Mary's, followed by hot cross buns. The three-hour Good Friday devotional service runs at St Mary's from 12 noon until 3pm, divided into half-hour slots, involving 24 people. Do come to as many or as few as you can manage. I am delighted that speakers from other churches have agreed to take part.

Then there will be the United Easter Sunrise service on Coombe Hill, 7.30am this year. In the past few years St Mary's has been conspicuous by its absence (we can't claim we all attend the 8am service). Let's hope we can do better.

Then it will be all hands on deck for Christian Aid Week, starting on 12 May with a United 6pm service at Synwell Chapel, followed by the shop open Monday-Thursday in the Baptist Schoolroom. Please clear out the attic, and unwanted Christmas presents, but we can't really sell vast quantities of worn-out clothes: Longfield will accept them for shoddy.

If you sow seeds now, the plants will be welcome at the plant stall: sweet peas and runner beans always sell quickly.

During Lent we have distributed Christian Aid booklets, with a daily reminder of the uncomfortable world beyond Wotton, and what we can do to help. It's never too late to start. If the challenge moves you to contribute money, please direct this to Peter Sutton c/o the United Church: please tell him if Gift-Aid is applicable.

In the meantime, the weekly round continues at the Food Bank, and the daily round continues at the Ark Coffee Shop, staffed by volunteers from all the churches. The Ark is always in need of helpers, even one forenoon or afternoon a month. If you can spare a couple of hours in a wonderfully friendly atmosphere, do please contact Nia Archer on 845585 or email niaarcher@btinternet.com.

Blessings, as we celebrate the coming of spring, and the resurrection of Jesus.

Iain.



Easter Competition

Saturday 20 April

at the Oliver Memorial Chapel.

The Chapel is staging an Easter Garden and an Easter Bonnet competition. Entries and judging from 10am to 11am with presentations and prize giving at 2pm.

All ages are welcome to enter and every child who enters will receive a small gift.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be served.

For further details and entry forms contact Julie Ashby 07970737990 / 01453 845289.

Messy Church at St Mary's

Saturday 13 April - 'Always with Us'



Activities will start at **9.30am** in St Mary's Church before moving to the Parish Room for tea, coffee, cakes and fellowship ending at 11am.

All Welcome

Easter Church Services

All welcome

Good Friday Procession of Witness 9.30am from the Oliver Memorial Chapel, Synwell. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Room.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 7.30am at Coombe Hill. Breakfast afterwards at Holy Cross Catholic Church

Other Easter Services & events include:

14 April	Palm Sunday	10.15am	Parish Eucharist with Procession and dramatic reading of the Gospel - St. Mary's
15 April	Monday	7.00pm	The Stations of the Cross - St Mary's
16 & 17 April	Tuesday & Wednesday	9.00pm	Compline - St Mary's
18 April	Maundy Thursday	7.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion - United Church Service - Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church Holy Communion of the Last Supper - St Mary's
19 April	Good Friday	12-3.00pm 3.00pm 6.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross - St Mary's Service - Holy Cross Service - Oliver Memorial Chapel
20 April	Holy Saturday	11.00am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Palm Sunday to Easter - St Nicholas's Church, Ozleworth The Easter Vigil - Holy Cross Ceremony of the Easter Fire - St. Mary's
21 April	Easter Sunday	8.00am 10.15am 10.15am 10.15am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion - St Mary's Easter Service - Oliver Memorial Chapel Easter Day Worship - United Church Family Communion for Easter Day - St Mary's Easter Mass - Holy Cross Easter Worship - Baptist Church Easter Carol Service - St Mary's

Praying for the Churches

In April we remember in our prayers the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin.

There are still many people whose church experience is for weddings and funerals; at Christmas and Easter. For many of those, the local Anglican Church is the place they will visit. We pray that all those who visit will, through the words of those leading the Easter Services, learn that Jesus died for them.

We pray for St Mary's as they continue to seek for a new Vicar, remembering those who are 'holding the fort' during the Vacancy, and also thinking of the Churchwardens at this time.



If you or someone you love is living with dementia you may feel that holidays are no longer an option.

Perhaps, traditional models of respite that separate families don't appeal to you. There may be an answer. Dementia Adventure offer small group, supported holidays for people with dementia and their partners, family, friends or carers to enjoy together.

Although still not cheap, holidays are subsidised through fundraising to enable as many people living with dementia to benefit as possible. Whether you want to relax by the coast or walk up mountains, there is something for everyone— There is a welcome for people with all types of dementia and personal care can also be arranged if necessary.

If a small group holiday is not your thing a bespoke holiday could be ideal for groups of friends or families who want to travel together.

Choose between Devon, Cornwall, Isle of Wight, Lake District, Norfolk, Northumbria, Kent, Yorkshire Wales and even a sailing holiday from Maldon in Essex.

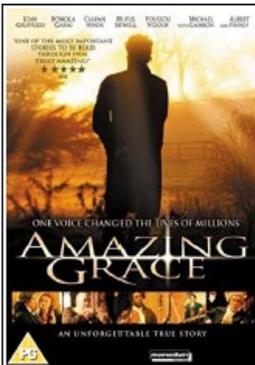
More details on the Dementia Adventure website
<https://dementiaadventure.co.uk/>

(Circulated by Christine Sweet)

HOLY WEEK FILMS

15, 16, 17 & 18 April

Showing at Wotton Baptist Church, FREE



Monday 15 April

7pm

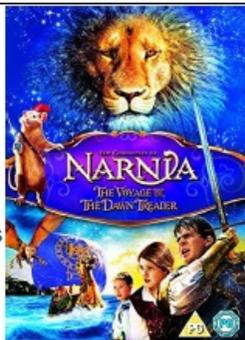
In 18th-century England, House of Commons member William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd) and his close friend and a future prime minister, William Pitt (Benedict Cumberbatch), begin a lengthy battle to abolish Great Britain's

slave trade. Though Wilberforce's legislation is soundly defeated in 1791, his growing affection for Barbara Spooner (Romola Garai) inspires him to take up the fight once more.

Tuesday 16 April

7pm

Visiting their annoying cousin, Eustace, Lucy (Georgie Henley) and Edmund Pevensie (Skandar Keynes) come across a painting of a majestic ship called the Dawn Treader. Suddenly, the painting comes to life and draws the youths into Narnia, where they meet their old friend, King Caspian (Ben Barnes). Caspian is on a quest to find the seven lost Lords of Telmar, whose swords will save Narnia from an evil green mist that enslaves men's minds and bodies.



Wednesday 17 April

2pm

Take an eye-opening adventure with a lovable pig (Horace), a faint-hearted horse (Monty), a finicky rat (Slink), a rambling rooster (Drake), a motherly cow (Esmay), a downtrodden donkey (Jack) and a heroic lamb (Judah). Upon learning that Judah has been trapped in the clutches of the townspeople and faces the possibility of being the sacrifice at the annual

Festival, the stablemates leave their cosy barn and embark on a hilariously funny series of adventures to find and free their friend. During their numerous attempts to find Judah, a wonderful story emerges as they intercept, interact and entwine with history finally seeking out the King, who was born in their stable more than 30 years earlier.

Thursday 18 April

7pm

Growing up in Greenville, Texas, Bart Millard suffers physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Arthur. When Arthur becomes terminally ill, he finds redemption by embracing his faith and rediscovering his love for his son. Years later, Bart's troubled childhood and mended relationship with his dad inspires him to write the hit song "I Can Only Imagine" as singer of the Christian band MercyMe.



Lent Meetings and Lent Lunches

Lent Meetings

Meetings at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings at the Baptist Church. Tea / coffee and biscuits, and a retiring collection for the charity of the speaker's choice.

3 April	Peter Hill	Discipleship in Retirement
10 April	Revd Phil Summers	Personal Discipleship

Lent Lunches

Fridays throughout Lent, 12 - 2 pm

5 April at St Mary's for *Send a Cow*

12 April at St Mary's for the *Reordering Project*



The opening of the Children's Society boxes at a recent coffee morning at St Mary's. The coffee morning raised £117, and with six boxes still to open, almost £600 has been counted!

These boxes are kept in people's homes and they put in money whenever they are able. One collector has had a box for 61 years - all her married life! Thanks to everyone for their support.



Unity is a relatively new group which meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2.30 pm (doors open at 2 pm) in the United Church Hall, Bradley Street, £2 to include refreshments.

This social get together is for everyone (male and female) of all ages who wish to come along, meet friends/new people and join in. Just turn up if you wish to be involved in any of the planned meetings, which will be very informal and relaxed.

Wednesday 17th April - "The Lark is Singing". A relaxing hour listening to a cd recording of the United Church's Jean Kelly (mezzo soprano) singing several old favourites.

Feel free to bring your knitting/needlework/crocheting/sketching, etc. if you wish, whilst enjoying the music.

Babs Pearn

United Ramblers Monday 1 April



The April Walk will venture around the limestone ridge of Tytherington. It is about 5 miles in length and has several (about 15) stiles to go over, around or through!

Meet 10.00am United Church, Wotton.
Travel to park at The Swan, Tytherington for

10.30pm where we will meet you.

Walk around village and over Tower Hill, Jones's Wood to Hope Farm returning via Baden Hill and Tower Hill. Views across Severn Vale and towards Cotswold possible (but not Lundy island!) and wild flowers evident with possible sightings of deer and llamas or alpacas!

Lunch at The Swan, Tytherington.

Alison & Bob
(Mob: 07813 965160)

This news sheet is produced on behalf of Churches Together in Wotton. If you have any comments, or would like items included in future issues, please contact me, Judy Mills email judy.mills@live.co.uk