



July & August 2019

# Together in Wotton

*Christians worshipping & working together in Wotton under Edge*

**Churches Together in Wotton**  
**Annual Fellowship**  
**Meeting**

For all church members and friends  
a chance to share

**Tea, coffee and nibbles**

**Stories of the life of our  
congregations**

**Encouragement and support**

**Future plans**

**Tuesday 9 July**

**7.30 pm**

**United Church, Bradley Street**

## Churches Together Annual Fellowship Meeting

You may have seen the poster on the front of 'together in Wotton'. You may have disregarded it. Better, you may have thought: 'Perhaps I will go along to that'.

What is different about what happens in the Annual Meeting? Well, there must be some business, and we will check the rotas to make sure everything that should be happening is in hand and we will ask Mary Buckley to tell us about the finances.

After that, Phil Summers and I would like to approach this as much more of a fellowship gathering, where people from the various congregations tell the rest of us what they are doing to reach out to our neighbours in Wotton so that we can affirm and support each other. This is likely to cover things we do for children and young people, for families and for the elderly as well as any social events we hold to which we invite our neighbours.

This is building on the very helpful time of prayer for our different congregations which Tom led at the Baptist Church but this time looking outside ourselves to our town.

We hope that many members of our congregations will come and talk about these things; it will all be very informal but it would be good to have a time of sharing.

*Alison Jackson*

	<p><b>Sing and Social</b></p> <p>6.30pm Friday 5 July St Mary's</p> <p>All Welcome!</p>
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### **Bibles for Schools**

A reminder about the Leavers' Services and Presentation of Bibles:

British School: - Friday 12 July at 9.30am at the Baptist Church

Blue Coat: - Friday 19 July at 10.45am at St Mary's

## Praying for the Churches

In July the United Church is the focus of our prayers. United Church members will have an 'Awayday' at the Marist Centre at Nympsfield in August, and will be looking at the Church as Community. A few days later they will be 'inviting the neighbours', the residents of Bradley Street, to join them for a cream tea. Prayers for the planning and success of both these events would be welcome.

In August we are asked to pray for the Oliver Memorial Chapel at Synwell, but they need our prayers now as much as in a month's time. The smallest church in the town has very recently said goodbye to two of their congregation. While such a close, family church is in mourning, they also struggle to remain viable with an even smaller congregation. The Chapel has a wonderful history and it would be so sad to see it close.



## Christian Aid Week 2019

The figures are in! Many thanks to everyone who supported the Week in any way.

**House to house collections:** the overall figure was £1074.85 against £1357.64

raised last year, so we were only about £300 down. In view of the reduced number of collectors, this was a very good result and the committee expressed its thanks to all those who had agreed to continue collecting in this way.

Looking at the list of donations, there was an outstanding amount of £249.64 from the Bluecoat School, who had opened up the collection this year to silver and gold instead of just bronze coins! Donations were slightly down on last year but it was noted that in 2018 there was a large donation from the United Church resulting from their Celebration of Gifts weekend.

**Street collections** this year raised £363.11 against £97.26 last year. This year we had an extra collection on the Friday as well as the Saturday so this was obviously worthwhile.

Looking at the totals raised during Christian Aid Week, the figure this year was £4482.90 as opposed to £4068.26 and £4264.95 over the previous two years so there was an increase of over £400!

*Frances Biggs and Alison & Peter Sutton  
United Church Christian Aid reps.*

## United Ramblers Monday 1 July

- Leave from the United Church, Bradley Street, Wotton at 10 am
- Park by Westonbirt Golf Club, just after Westonbirt Village by the Church
- 5.9 mile flat walk – open fields and lanes, taking in Hillcourt, Doughton and along the Monarch's Way
- A few stiles, most of which are very friendly
- A pre-ordered lunch at a mobile cafe at the golf club car park. The meals are very reasonably priced e.g. All Day Breakfast for £5
- Toilets available

Leader : Alan Pearn (01454 260649)

## Monday 5 August

The August walk will be led by Ray Kettell  
(ray.kettell@tiscali.co.uk) (01453 845291) leaving from  
the United Church at 10 am

More details closer to the time.



## Moonrakers in Concert.

Saturday 20 July, 7.30pm - St Mary's Church



Moonrakers is an Oxford-based group of four musicians, some from the classical and some from the folk tradition.

Tickets (including a drink) £12.00  
from Longfield, 15 Long Street &  
Fi Fi, High Street  
Also tickets and enquiries: 01453  
843144

In aid of the Church Reordering  
project.

Oxford's much-toured 4-piece band, Moonrakers (Celtic harp, cello, stringed instruments, whistles, female/male vocals), pride themselves on having brought traditional and contemporary folk music to new audiences in village halls, churches, arts centres and festivals across the south of England in recent years. With half their material being songs and tunes from the English, Irish and Scottish tradition, the other half consists of their own compositions

**THE**



# **INCREDIBLE**

**HOLIDAY CLUB**

**Wotton Baptist Church**

**Monday 22 July - Friday 26 July**

**10am-12:30pm**

**Registration starts 9:45am on first day**

**For all children who have finished**

**Reception to Year 6**

Registration forms can be downloaded and completed in advance from [www.wottonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.wottonbaptist.org.uk) but this does not guarantee a place and you still need to queue

**Contact Karen Dover on 01453 844726 or [karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk) for more info**

## World Day of Prayer

Formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer the title has been changed to make it more inclusive.

Since the 1920s the day has been held nationally and internationally on the first Friday of March.

A Mrs Grace Forgan first heard about the day of prayer being held in the USA and Canada and took the idea back to Scotland for the first service in 1930. Today around 120 countries take part and the service is translated into more than 90 languages. It all starts on the international dateline in Samoa and then, as the earth rotates, the prayer sweeps across the planet through the Far East, India, Africa and the middle East, through Europe across the Atlantic to the Americas on to the Pacific where it all started and the circle is complete!

Themes for the service are planned by the women in a different country each year and each national committee amends it for their own cultural circumstances. The earliest record I have of the service in Wotton is 1960 – so almost 60 years! In the past it has circulated round the churches but for the last few years has been held at Wotton United Church, mainly for the ease of the facilities.

Next year, 2020, will be Sue Plant's and my twentieth year of planning the service and we both wish to resign from the role. All the material is provided from central office, which is super-efficient at sending out everything in good time and sending extensive guidelines. They produce some excellent material and a superb magazine with a lot of details about the country which is being featured that year. Next year it is Zimbabwe and we know that we have ex-pats from there in our community.

I hope that someone reading this will feel that they can take on organising the Day of Prayer – it can be held at any of the churches. Members of the different churches are invited to take part to make it a truly ecumenical event.

If not, then it will not be happening in Wotton in the future. Please consider this prayerfully and contact either Sue Plant ([mothershipsue@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mothershipsue@yahoo.co.uk)) or me, Sue Marsland ([marsland@waitrose.com](mailto:marsland@waitrose.com)).

*You too can be part of the great wave of prayer!*





Churches Together in Wotton

# HOLIDAY AT HOME

**Tuesday 13 August 2019**

**Wednesday 14 August 2019**

Wotton Baptist Church

10am-3:30pm

Transport can be provided

If you are a senior citizen and would  
like to come, please contact:

Audrey Horder (01453) 521061

Liz Wright (01453) 298004

Sue Hamer (07581) 393317



Holiday at Home is also for non-senior citizens who would appreciate a couple of days of food and fellowship.

Contact any of the above if you, or someone you know, would like to come.



PEOPLE  
POTENTIAL  
POSSIBILITIES

## COMMUNITY-BASED DROP-INS IN AND AROUND STROUD

Get help and Advice on:

\* Applying for benefits \* Tenancy support \* Getting back into education and training \* Dealing with debts \* Accessing community groups \* Staying independent \* Getting in touch with other Agencies

At Wotton Baptist Church  
Wednesdays 12.15 - 1.45pm

Call 01453 750480 for more information



### Messy Church

**Saturday 13 July - 9.20am**

God's Wonderful World - a trip to Holywell Leaze

**Saturday 10 August - 9.30am**

Subject tba

*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](mailto:judy.mills@live.co.uk)*