



November 2020

Together in Wotton

*Christians worshipping, working and social distancing together in
Wotton under Edge*



All Souls

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Time to remember those that you have
loved but see no more

An opportunity to come and have a lighted
candle to commemorate your loved one

(prayer sheets available to use and take home)



Picture Credit: the Church of England

St Mary's Church
Sunday 1st November
2.00–4.00

RSVP to the Parish Office indicating your arrival time (so that
we can adhere to COVID restrictions) - 01453 842175 or
wotvicsec@btconnect.com

**Plus...an opportunity to add the name/s of your
loved ones to a list that will be placed on the
altar during the morning service**

Please contact the Parish Office on 01453 842175 /
wotvicsec@btconnect by Wednesday 28th October to add a
name to the list

All social distancing & face coverings rules to be adhered to

Hello from Class Opportunity at Blue Coat School



Hello, we are Class Opportunity, one of the Year Five/Six classes at Blue Coat School. We are writing this piece as we come to the end of our first half term back in school and it is good to have a chance to reflect on our term together.

We adapted quickly to the new regimes that were put in place to keep us safe and we have loved being back in school and able to learn with our friends. There have been challenges and there are lots of things that we miss about school life pre-Covid. We miss the fact that we can't meet together as a whole school for Worship and that we were not able to have our usual Harvest Festival in the Church. We miss the fact that we can't sit in the school hall to eat our lunch and that we can't play with our friends who are in different classes. But, having said all this, we are very grateful that we are able to come to school each day to learn and have fun.

One of the special moments in Year Six is when we are introduced to our reception 'buddies' and we have our wonderful Welcome Service in St Mary's Church. Unfortunately, we were unable to do this in the traditional way this year but fortunately we have become very good at adapting. So, instead of going to the Church we were able to meet our buddies at a socially distanced Welcome Service on the school field. We are very lucky that Mrs Murray had a stage installed on the field in June and it is perfect for occasions like this. We were delighted to be able to welcome Reverend Morag to be part of this. We made cards and painted pebbles and these were given to our buddies in what was a lovely service. We take our role as Year Six Buddies very seriously and we love having the responsibility of looking after and helping the youngest children settle into life at Blue Coat. We very much hope that it will not be too long until we can meet properly and take part in more buddy activities.



School life has certainly changed for all of us but we are optimistic about the future.

Like all children in Years Five and Six we have begun to think about SATs and we are working hard to prepare ourselves. Looking to the future, we very much hope that we will be able to go on our Year Six residential to Morfa Bay in June and we would love to be able to put on the traditional Year Six production in July. We don't know if these events will go ahead so for the moment we are just enjoying being back together as a class.

We wish you all well. Best wishes from Mr Knill, Mrs Galvin and all of Class Opportunity.

So, who's this new vicar then?



A short introduction from Rev'd Rachel Cook

Hello Everyone

I'm Cookie (Aka Revd Rachel Cook) and hubby and I (Aka Matt) are very excited to be joining you all in the new year when I am licensed as Vicar of the Tyndale Benefice.

Where to start to let you know a bit about us?

Well, I have been an RAF Chaplain for a few years and whilst I will remain Reservist,

Matt and I felt that God was asking us to take a leap of faith and apply for this Parish Priest post. The rest is history and now, as we wait for me to finish full time military service and for the wonderful new Vicarage to be finished, it is good to reflect on all the great things which I am sure we will experience with you when we join the community with our family and myriad of animals. Matt will also be working from home, so a first for him too.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We have been to Wotton and the surrounding villages a few times and have experienced the local hospitality and friendliness of all the local people.

We are hoping you will be able to join us for my licensing when it happens, but obviously we are all under COVID regulations for the time being.

Either way, January cannot come soon enough for us and we will be delighted when we can meet you all in (socially-distanced) person.

Blessings.

Cookie.

Praying for the Churches

In November we pray especially for **Wotton Baptist Church**. When asked if there were any particular needs Tom wrote: "Prayers for wisdom as we explore ways of getting back together would be appreciated."

Wisdom is something we all need !

Remembering All Souls at St Mary's Sunday 1 November

A slightly different All Souls this year due to COVID restrictions. Our normal 10.15 morning prayer service is being taken by Archdeacon Hilary and she will be placing the list of names on the altar during the service.

In the afternoon (2 - 4pm) the church will be open for people to come and have a candle lit for them for their loved one and there will be prayer sheets available.



ONLINE

THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Hundreds of churches. Thousands of people. One Big Quiz.

tearfund

Saturday 14 November
7:30pm on zoom



Register: admin@wottonbaptist.org.uk or 01453 844726
Donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wotton-baptist-church>
Suggested donation £5 per person. All proceeds to Tearfund.

In our churches: -

Update from St Mary's:

The Harvest Festival on Sunday 4 October was a quietly joyful occasion as we gave thanks for all God's gifts to us and blessed the large number of bags full of food for the foodbank. Thank you to all who contributed and to those who took the donations to the foodbank collection point.

Every year on a Sunday close to All Souls' Day (November 2) St Mary's has a service for those who are grieving. COVID safety has meant a different approach this year. Elsewhere in this magazine, you will find an invitation to come on November 1 We will miss the delicious tea and cakes in the Parish Room that usually followed the service and look forward to the time when we can meet safely for such refreshments.

There will be no Remembrance service in the church this year. The Town Council are organising a very small ceremony at the War Memorial; please keep that in your prayers. However, the Morning Service on that day will be at the earlier time of 9.30 so that we do not interrupt the ceremony at the War Memorial.

November 29 is the start of Advent for 2020, and we will mark that in the morning service with a specially written liturgy.

The Church continues to be open for private prayer on Wednesdays from 10.00 to 5.00 though as the nights draw in, the doors will close nearer to 4.00pm. We have just started to offer a service of Holy Communion on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9.00. To enable services to happen requires a team of people prepared to clean the church in line with the guidelines - thank you to the group of people who are giving of their time for the safety of all.

God bless you

Morag

The **Oliver Memorial Chapel building** is at rest for the present but the chapel is very much alive .We had two funerals within a couple of weeks of each other for the passing away of two popular and much loved men of the community of Wotton. We would have loved to have them at the chapel but with the present situation it was not possible, Therefore we were at Westerleigh Crematorium and took the chapel with us.

For me it was such a privilege and an awesome responsibility and made me feel very humble to be invited to conduct the services a real honour. I was aware that I was not alone. Chapel members, neighbours and friends helped in practical and especially with prayers, The result being that I knew I was being carried and from the comments afterwards I pray that I was able to be of some comfort and hope to these dear grieving families, that will stay with them through the dark days ahead, As Christians let us remember, we are never

alone. Jesus makes it possible for us to draw near to God. He fulfills his promise to give us His Holy Spirit to be with us forever,

May God's blessings be upon us all, wherever we are.

Lois Etherington.

At the **United Church** we are used to having visiting preachers. We do understand that some of these, ordained and lay ministers, may not feel comfortable with visiting other congregations and we are fortunate to be in a position to use a mixture of 'live' and recorded prayers, music and reflections, and not least Phil Summers' own Gospel readings.

The numbers attending Sunday Worship have not been huge - just as well, as we couldn't accommodate more than about 40.

The year 2020 is the 50th celebration of the union between the Tabernacle Congregational Chapel and the Wesleyan Methodists, but of course many of our planned celebrations are either on hold or have been changed. On Sunday 18 October our service was led by Revd Phil Summers and was a celebration of that unity, while on display were a good number of sewn panels to celebrate the last 50 years of our United Church. The plan had been to come together to produce one new banner - instead church members have produced individual pieces of work which will be joined together. You could say they will be 'united'.

We are continually looking for ways to reassure those who might be uncertain about attending church, but oh! the Methodists amongst us do miss singing!

Judy Mills

Holy Cross Church continues with Thursday morning Mass at 9:15am and a Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday at 4:30pm. Father George comes from Christ the King, Thornbury to say these Masses and we are very grateful to him. More Masses are available in Thornbury where the church is bigger and can accommodate more people socially distanced. At Holy Cross we can have ten people, or more if they are from the same household. We are continuing to book our places online.

For those not able to get to church there is a wealth of services online both live and recorded. These include Masses, talks, prayer and worship sessions, The Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All can be very powerful and I think these will continue to be used more when the pandemic is over.

We are hoping to have a social Quiz on Zoom in the coming weeks.

We continue to keep in touch with those not on the internet by phone and book places at Mass for them if they wish. It looks as though we will be continuing to do this for a while. Fortunately Wotton is a friendly place and there is help for those who need it.

Kate Barlow



Recycling Milk Bottle Tops



Thank you to everyone who is keeping me supplied with bottle tops! Since The Ark reopened they have been reappearing, I am still taking them when I can to the Lush shop in Broadmead, Bristol and they send them to a factory in Poole where they are turned into such things as plastic pipes, wood substitute, flower pots, rubbish bins, or formed back into non-food application bottles. This is not a charity, but it does avoid tops going to landfill while recycling them into useful items.

The plastic milk bottles with green, blue or red tops are the most common, but some others of the same size and pattern, orange, yellow or possibly other colours may be eligible. The vital thing is the HDPE number 2 in the recycling triangle on the inside of the top. It would be a help to me if you bring in plastic bottle tops to check them to confirm that they are **HDPE 2**. I have to take out others, which is time-consuming!

Philip Revill

Remembering Iain Marchant



Many of you will be aware that on 11 October Iain's son James and Revd Pete Marsh took on a cycling challenge to raise funds for Christian Aid - a cause always very close to Iain's heart.

When the original challenge to be held in the Forest of Dean was cancelled, the boys (?) planned a local route - which inevitably included many stiff climbs!

Sadly the full details were received too late to go in October's 'together in Wotton' but

the good news is: it's not too late to donate. At time of writing the original target of £1000 has been passed and stands at £1678. Can we make it to £2000? Or more?

Donations can be made on www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamespeter2020

Margaret Carruthers is walking 1000 miles

Many of you will know Margaret. She decided, as she turned 80, to raise money for Hope For Tomorrow, a charity funding mobile cancer treatment units.

Margaret's WalkUpdate:

Thank you to everyone who has supported my 1000 mile walking challenge, your encouragement is much appreciated.

When you read this I will have walked over 500 miles so less than another 500 miles to go!

The fundraising has gone well too with over £3000 raised so far. I have really enjoyed the walking with Rob and family and friends.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/margaret-rob

Margaret



The Ark Coffee Shop has a very good range of Christmas cards and Advent calendars including small quiz Advent Calendars. There are also Christmas biscuits etc. Please support the Ark and shop locally.

Currently the Ark is open 9am - 12pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am - 12.30pm on Saturdays

'together in Wotton' is produced on behalf of all the Wotton under Edge Churches. Items and comments are welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Judy Mills judy.mills@live.co.uk