

February 2023

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping and working together in
Wotton under Edge



Preparing for Lent

It might seem that Christmas and Epiphany are barely over but it's now time to turn our thoughts to Lent.

Ash Wednesday is on 22 February (so pancakes on Tuesday 21).

We will be meeting together in groups and will be following The Prayer Course II (<https://unanswered.prayercourse.org/>). Look out for details!

Watch out too for details of the Lent Lunches held weekly and raising money for different charities

#WARMWOTTON

WARM MEETING PLACES ACROSS THE TOWN

Day	Where	What
Mon	The Keepers, Symn Lane 9am-4pm (after school drop in 3pm-4pm) 11am-1pm	Hot drinks and disabled access Age UK Social Group
Tues	Baptist Church, Rope Walk 9.30-12noon	Art group hot drinks
	The Keepers, Symn Lane 9am-4pm	hot drinks, hot lunches served (12.30pm) and disabled access
	The Library, Ludgate Hill 10am-1pm & 2pm-6pm	hot drinks, Wi-Fi and disabled access
Weds	United Church, Bradley Street 12noon-4.30pm	Hot drinks, cake, light lunches and disabled access
	The Library, Ludgate Hill 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm	hot drinks, Wi-Fi and disabled access
	The Keepers, Symn Lane 9am-1pm	Hot drinks, disabled access and Community Cafe 10am-12noon
Thurs	Baptist Church, Rope Walk 10am-11.30am	Toddler group
	The Keepers, Symn Lane 9am-4pm	Hot drinks
Fri	The Library, Ludgate Hill 10am-1pm & 2pm-6pm	Hot drinks, Wi-Fi and disabled access
	The Keepers, Symn Lane 9am-1pm 11.15am-12noon	Hot drinks and disabled access Cakes and ladders
Sat	The Library, Ludgate Hill 10am-1pm	Hot drinks, Wi-Fi and disabled access
Sun	Baptist Church, Rope Walk 12noon-1pm & 6.30pm-8pm	Hot drinks Youth club (evening)
	Wotton Town Council, Youth Centre, The Chipping 1pm-4pm	Hot drinks, cake, TV, Wi-Fi, toys, books/magazines, games

Contacts

Gloucestershire Household Support Fund
Call - 0300-123-5550
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/household-support-fund-find-out-more-and-apply/>

The Keepers Hub to find out about weekly activities, groups, skills sessions and visiting professionals
Call - 07585466418
<https://www.thekeepers.org.uk>

The Keepers Hub - Community freezer
Call - 07585466418
<https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/community-freezer>

QR codes



Other info

The Baptist Church, Rope Walk
Anyone is free to use the shower/Wi-Fi or have a cuppa whenever the church is open.
Call - 01453 844726 or email - admin@wottonbaptist.org.uk

The Keepers Hub
For more information or to Speak to anyone.
Call - 07585466418 or email - thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com

The **UTEA** programme has several free events every month (mostly on a Friday evening), all are welcome to attend. There is a bar but no obligation to buy drinks. Keep an eye on the programme and website for more info.
<https://www.utea.org.uk>



What's on in February?

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

Parent Support Group - a support group by parents for parents. 9.15am - 10.45am

Citizens Advice - to book an appointment for 6th and 20th February call 0800 800503. 10am - 2pm

AgeUK Gloucestershire - a social group for those who are 50+. 10am - 1pm

Job Club - help with CVs and employment support. Drop in, no booking required. 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Laptop follow up course - a 6 week course to cover the basics of using a laptop. If you would like to be put on a waiting list for future courses, please call us on 07585 466418. 1.30pm - 3.30pm

After School Drop in - reading, games and food available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. 3pm - 4pm

Tuesday

Barnardo's Steps Ahead - come along to the baby group where you and your baby can socialise and meet other families. For families with babies and young children born between March 2020 and March 2022. 9.30am - 11am

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Tuesday Lunches - come and join us for a warm meal, open to all and PAYE. Support available. For more information please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12.30pm - 1.30pm

The Keepers' minibuses service is also running on Tuesdays to provide transport from your home to the hub. For more information please call 07585 466418 or pop in to The Keepers.

Wednesday

Drop In Cafe - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. 10am - 12pm

Craft and Chat with tea and cake - held fortnightly on 1st and 15th February. 10am - 12pm

P3 Drop In - help with a range of issues eg. housing, debt, and benefit support. No booking needed. 10am - 12pm

Health Visitor Drop In - available to weigh babies and answer any health queries. 10am - 12pm

Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop in - pop in and talk to Rachel. 10.30am - 11.30am

Wotton Area Neurodivergent Support Group (MANS) - a support group for ND adults and parents/carer of ND children including Autism, ADHD, PDA, Dyslexia etc. The next meeting is on 22nd February. 7pm - 9pm

Talk Club - a new talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. Meet in the hall at the place on list. February. 7pm - 9pm

Thursday

Wotton Area Breast Support Group - anyone touched by breast cancer is invited to drop in and meet others who know just how it feels. The next meeting is on 16th February. 10am - 11am

PCSO Drop In - a chance to ask any questions or share any concerns on 9th February. 10am - 12pm

Clean State Drop in - enabling people to have a chat with Millie on 2nd and 16th February. 10am - 12pm

Cookery - a 4 week 'Healthy eating on a budget' cooking course. 10.00am - 11.30am on 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd February. Call us on 07585 466418.

Art Shape - a 6 week creative arts course. 9.30am - 11.30am

Confidence with Literacy - a new 3 week course to improve your confidence with reading and writing. Call us on 07585 466418 or pop in to book a space. Starting 29th February. 1pm - 2.30pm

Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' Drop In. 10am - 1pm

Change - meditation, breathing and gentle movement. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. 12pm - 1pm

Welcome Space - run by the Independence Trust and CGL. 10am - 11.45am. To book call 01453 767990 or book. 1.30pm - 1.50pm

Friday

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open - come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

Rhyme with Me - a free session of songs, rhythms, rhymes and fun for 0-5 year olds and their accompanying carers. 10.30am - 11.30am term time only.

Cakes and Ladders - play board games and have refreshments. All welcome. 11.50am - 12.30pm

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:
9.00am - 1.00pm

Call us or pop in:
07585 466418

We have meals in our community freezer - available to anyone, for any reason, on a 'Pay As You Feel' basis. It's important to us that everyone is included, the hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations. www.thekeepers.org.uk Reg Charity No. 119221

NEW COURSES AT THE KEEPERS

- To book a space, pop in to see us or call 07585 466418.
- ART SHADE** - a 6 week creative arts course starting on Thursday 26th January 2023. 9.30am - 11.30am
- CONFIDENCE WITH LITERACY** - a 3 week literacy course starting on Thursday and February 2023. 1pm - 2.30pm

Blue Coat unites with other schools across the region and further afield



Our Y5 and Y6 Future Leaders are delighted to be taking part in the Archbishop of York National Younger Leaders Award. This is the third year that Blue Coat School have been nominated to represent the Diocese of Gloucester in this nationally recognised leadership award scheme. We meet five times a year virtually with pupils from around the country discussing themes such as: the teachings of Jesus, being the change you want to see: salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13), and the 'Great Commission' given by Jesus in Matthew 28.

'The National Younger Leadership Groups is formed out of a partnership between the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Team and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership. The joint priority is to focus on the voice of young people, develop student leadership and grow in faith amongst young people. In connection with this, the Church of England's new vision and strategy, led by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, has a focus on 'growing younger', which makes regular consultation and engagement with children and young people for the future vision of the church an absolute necessity.

The groups help develop leadership skills and character virtues for young people through a year-long online leadership development programme, allowing them to be catalysts for positive change within their schools, communities, and churches. Additionally, young people are provided with a platform to engage with, and contribute to, the strategic development of the Church of England.'

So far sessions have focused our pupils to consider 'what church would you like to see?' and secondly 'what does it mean to LOVE?'. In this second online session pupils were asked to reflect on love in three ways: loving God, loving others and loving ourselves. In our virtual breakout rooms we met with pupils from primary schools in Yorkshire and Nottingham to discuss how sometimes loving others isn't always easy. We talked about what can get in the way of achieving this and looked at finding solutions to overcome these barriers.

Toby said 'some of the questions in the breakout room were deep. I had to put my head down and think. Jasmine commented 'the discussions put us out of our comfort zone, it made us think of things we don't usually get asked about'. Senen said 'we learnt why loving is important. We talked about loving up (God), loving out (others) and loving in (ourselves) and gave examples of how this looks like in our own lives'.

Leaders of the sessions update the website with the views shared by our young people. For the latest updates please follow this link to read the summaries from the sessions that have taken place so far:

<https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/projects/nylg>

As well as connecting with friends virtually, Ignite Club pupils have been meeting people in our local and wider community. On Christmas Eve they took part in the Christingle Service held at St. Mary's Church. Anna and Henry led the opening prayers, Harry delivered the first Bible reading and Luke arrived on a scooter bearing the Christingle ... noted as being the coolest Christingle Angel never to be seen! Thank you, Anna, Luke, Henry and Harry, we felt very proud of you.



On Friday 20th January, Ignite Club travelled to Gloucester to be to be part of the special Christingle Service hosted by The Bishop, The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek. This was the fourth Schools Christingle for The Children's Society held at the Cathedral and Ignite Club has attended each one, bringing together schools from across the diocese to celebrate the light of Christ and to give thanks for the work of the Children's Society. We are delighted to be included and felt very proud to present a cheque amounting to £55.00 toward the charities fundraising appeal.

Ignite Club meet every Thursday after school during term time and are blessed to have our church leaders running the sessions, working together to guide our young people in their spiritual journeys.

The Blue Coat community wish readers of 'Together in Wotton' a very Happy New Year and we look forward to sharing our monthly news with you throughout 2023.
Jane Blaken



Talking of Christingle ,,,

There was a lovely buzz in St Mary's on 23 December as people came to 'Mingle before Christingle'. To drink coffee and eat mince pies and join the conveyor belt of orange washers, orange trimmers, orange ribboners, jelly-tot softeners (15 seconds in the microwave), jelly-tot stabbers and sultana stabbers, making-up the Christingles ready for Christmas Eve.

The amount raised here and at the two St. Mary's Christingle Services was £1000 plus whatever was donated online using the QR code (the team is still trying to find out exactly how much that was),

All money raised goes to The Children's Society.

A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way.

Praying for the Churches

In February we are all asked to pray especially for the Oliver Memorial Chapel; for its Pastor Lois Etherington and for the committed, faithful congregation.

Well done WBC!

Wotton Baptist Church is proud to have been given a Bronze Eco Church award! This is in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in the following areas - worship & teaching, management of buildings & land, community & global engagement, and lifestyle.



Another interesting walk in the Severnside area, led by Alison Makepeace.

10.00am Meet at United Church and travel to Oldbury -on-Severn, BS35 1QA.

10.30 Meet in car park opposite the Anchor Inn next to the track that leads to the Sailing Club. I will meet you there.

Walk along the banks of the Severn past the Power Station, around the withy beds, along the road via Ham Lane and back into Oldbury.

12.30-1.00pm Lunch at the Anchor Inn. We can order at the table but I need numbers by midday on Saturday 4 February, so please let me know if you would like to join us.

The walk may be wet underfoot so recommend walking boots or wellingtons. Length about 3.5 - 4 miles.

Alison M.

07813 965160



**United Ramblers
Monday 6 February**



**Live at The Star
Friday 10 February
7pm**

Matt, Tom & Karen will be trying weird drinks as usual, discussing whether the UK is a Christian country and taking questions from the curious

Bottle Tops

Those of us who buy supermarket milk are hopefully getting used to the translucent tops on the bottles nowadays: getting used to looking at the label as we can't just grab the bottle with the green top. The change is good news environmentally as coloured caps were far more difficult and costly to recycle. But where does this leave the charities that look to gain from collecting and recycling caps?



Currently all the tops that you pass onto Margaret Carruthers or leave at the United Church or the Ark go to someone in Gloucester who then sends them, (only when it is sensible to do so), to a recycling point in Portsmouth. We have checked and yes, they can still use them so please, unless and until we tell you otherwise, do go on collecting.

**“I have heard about your faith”
World Day of Prayer Service
Friday 3 March at 11am
St Mary's Church**

**To be followed by a Lent Lunch to raise funds
for the Day of Prayer charities**



The material being used comes from the women of Taiwan and is entitled 'I have heard about your faith' (Ephesians 1, 15 - 19)

The artist Hui-Wen HSAIO used several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream. Praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

The Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill. Two endangered species. Are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people – confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the 'Kingdom of Orchids'. Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.

"The subject of my art always depicts the relationship of mothers, women, and people. In my exhibitions I compose my artwork to express my observation, gratitude and faith."



**Join in the wave of Prayer that
circles the World on this day!**

All welcome.

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

All material for the March edition please by 5pm on Monday 20 February