



July & August 2021

# Together in Wotton

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

## Services at our Churches

It is wonderful to be able to meet together for worship; currently still socially distanced so there could be a problem if everybody turned-up at once. What a lovely problem to have!



### **Oliver Memorial Chapel**

Services for July - 10.15am

Sunday 4 July

Preacher Lois Etherington

Sunday 11 July

Preacher Hugh Ferguson

Sunday 18 July

Preacher Lois Etherington

See Facebook page and/or noticeboard for services at a later date.

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

## St Mary the Virgin

### Every Sunday:

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

### Sunday 4 & 18, July: 1 & 15 August

9.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's, North Nibley

### Sunday 4 July & 1 August:

11.15am Holy Communion at Chapel of Ease, Tresham

### Sunday 18 July & 15 August:

11.15am Holy Communion at St Kenelm's

### Sunday 4 & 11 July:

4pm Celebrate! Worship for all at St Mary's

### Sunday 25 July:

Choral Evensong. Details will be on the website and Facebook page

## Open for Prayer in the Tyndale Benefice

At St Mary's we continue to have morning prayer on Monday and Friday at 8.45am

St. Mary's and St. Martin's are open for private prayer on Wednesdays 10 – 4pm.

St. Kenelm's and The Chapel of Ease are open for private prayer each day between 10 – 4pm

**Save the date!** During the weekend of 3, 4 and 5 September, there will be a number of things happening around the Benefice, in celebration of Revd Rachel/Cookie's instalment – where the Archdeacon “installs” her into the Benefice.

### Wotton Baptist Church - updates

- Services at present continue as in previous recent months
- Our new mums group is only during term time, so won't run during the summer holidays.
- Essential building work continues on our hall with completion hopefully by early September.
- We'll be running another Bible Course on Tuesday evenings soon. Details here. <https://wottonbaptist.org.uk/the-bible-course/> (Start date not yet confirmed.)

## Praying for the Churches

In July we remember in our prayers the United Church, and in August the Chapel at Synwell.

The United Church has a Church Meeting on 11 July and hopes for good attendance as members look ahead to the future of United Reformed and Methodist witness in the town. The Church asks for prayers that we may hear and follow God's will for us and that all will find a way in which they can contribute.

Lois writes: We give thanks that we have been able to open the chapel for two services a month and pray that we shall before too long be able to extend these when the restrictions are removed.

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## Camino To COP 26

On **Friday 10 September** Wotton Baptist Church is hosting pilgrims from the *Camino to COP26*. People of faith from across Europe are walking to the climate conference in Glasgow to bear witness to the climate and ecological emergency. One band of pilgrims will start from Bristol, arriving in Wotton Under Edge on their second day of walking. They will be offering an opportunity in the evening for us to come together to explore our responses as people of faith to the climate and ecological emergency. Save the date! Anyone is welcome to join them for a walking for a mile, or a day, or all the way to Birmingham! Further details at <http://www.caminotocop.com/>

Camino to COP Vision:

*We are united by our faith; a faith that we can advocate and influence and be the change that we want for our world. We choose to walk to COP26 as a practice of that faith, an act of connection with the earth on which we walk and the people with whom we walk and the communities through which we pass; and we make our way in kinship with the peoples and creatures of the earth who are suffering and displaced by climate and ecological breakdown. We do so peacefully and lawfully, ready to engage and learn, because we care and we have hope.*

## More News from Blue Coat School



We are coming towards the end of an academic year like no other at Blue Coat Primary School. There have been significant challenges for both staff and pupils associated with COVID and lockdown, both on an academic front but also with regards to wellbeing. Whilst we very much hope that things will be more “back to normal” after the school holidays, we are acutely aware that this may take some time.

Despite all of the challenges, we have still had an abundance of fun at school. As I write this, I can hear the laughter from children who are out at break time and I have returned from a class where I have seen children engrossed in their learning. We are truly blessed to be spending this year with a group of people who cannot help but put a smile on one’s face: the children. As anyone who works with children will attest, they are an incredibly resilient, optimistic and determined group. They have shown our Christian Values of hope, thankfulness and happiness throughout the year, whether they were learning at school or at home.

We have had plenty of reasons to celebrate, just as any other year. Recently, we have been delighted that Maddy in Key Stage 1 has been recognised for her artwork as part of the Diocese of Gloucester’s Reflections in Faith (shown below). This was chosen to be commended among entries from over 300 schools in Gloucestershire. Of her art, Maddy says:



*“My card shows the Easter story. Jesus was crucified on the big cross in the middle. The story doesn’t end there because on Sunday Jesus comes alive again. My picture is the Sunday because Jesus is not on the cross anymore. Flowers and butterflies show it is a happy time.”*

Throughout this year Mrs Blaken has found innovative new ways to ensure that Religious Education has remained inspiring and inclusive for our children. Our Zoom visits from Reverend Morag as well as visitors from other faiths have meant that our children had a wonderful time in their learning.

Many other aspects of school have continued, maybe not as normal but as

close to normal as possible. Mr Brooks has continued with Forest School, in a COVID safe way. Whilst the classes have had longer but less frequent trips



out to our Forest School area, the enjoyment and learning has not diminished in the least. Most recently, Class Green were visited by the Gruffalo and they recreated the dens from the different scenes in the famous picture book. If that wasn't enough, the children then enjoyed a hot chocolate!

We are preparing ourselves for some fond farewells to our Year 6 children as they move on to secondary school in September. They have been a

wonderful year group who have dealt with the challenges of this year exceptionally well. Whilst they have not had time with their Reception "buddies" as previous year groups, they have certainly made the most of their final year at school.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions in Wales they were not able to attend their residential trip but, thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of their teachers, they have had a week of activities in its place. As you can imagine, a great time was had by all! At the same time, we are looking forward to welcoming our new reception class for next year. They shall bring their individuality to Blue Coat next year, where we shall welcome them to our school community. The warm and kindly Christian ethos of the school will provide the best possible start for our new Class Discovery. At the same time, they will provide the school with their talents, interests and personalities.



*Glyn Jones*  
*Headteacher*

## The Singles Space

The Singles Space is a new group for people in Wotton and the surrounding area. All single people are welcome.

- Time and Date: we are meeting on the first Saturday of the month, 11am to 12noon.
- Location: we are meeting at Wotton Baptist Church, either outside or inside, following Covid guidelines.
- Refreshments: coffee and tea are provided by Wotton Baptist Church.

We'd love to see you there and you'll be warmly welcomed.

Contacts for the group are Louisa Lockwood and Judy Breavington via [admin@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:admin@wottonbaptist.org.uk)



### **Episode 9: How can the Bible be from God when it's written and changed by people?**

Listen to this Episode of Two Pastors in a Pub on Spotify :

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/7CNdKOzL1DizbCqcSwLucq?si=eMbcK7ZVSPqVXgPa2H1Jgg&utm\\_source=copy-link&dl\\_branch=1&fbclid=IwAR2liTqhe0weRwRTxLnXlC8v7jW3fVc9gJJP8fb9ApQqFh3xee5arOyk9Q&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/episode/7CNdKOzL1DizbCqcSwLucq?si=eMbcK7ZVSPqVXgPa2H1Jgg&utm_source=copy-link&dl_branch=1&fbclid=IwAR2liTqhe0weRwRTxLnXlC8v7jW3fVc9gJJP8fb9ApQqFh3xee5arOyk9Q&nd=1)