



September 2021

# Together in Wotton


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

## Tyndale Benefice Celebration Weekend "From Darkness to Light" 3-5<sup>th</sup> September



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
5pm Oriana Singers plus refreshments on North Nibley School field  
6pm Peal of Bells at St. Martin's, North Nibley

See [wottonparishchurch.org.uk](http://wottonparishchurch.org.uk)  
or  St Mary's Wotton for full details of each days events



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
10-12pm  
Coffee & cake plus music  
St. Mary's, ~~Wotton~~  
10am Walk from Tresham to Alderley (meet at Well Hill, Tresham)  
2/2.30pm Walk or bike to North Nibley (meet at St. Mary's/~~Coopers~~)  
From 5.30pm  
BBQ, music, parachuting teddies\*  
St. Mary's

\* Bring your own teddy/cuddly toy, no more than 100g or 20cm



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
11.15am Holy Communion  
Alderley  
3pm  
Rev'd Rachel Cook (Cookie) Licencing and Installation  
St. Mary's  
(book your seat\*\*)

\*\* email [office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk) to book

*Plus at St. Mary's – displays by local groups & churches plus artwork by primary schools*



Serving the Parishes of Wotton-under-Edge with ~~Ozleyworth~~, North Nibley and Alderley (including Tresham)

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 5pm**  
**North Nibley – School Field**  
Oriana Singers with Refreshments  
Bring rugs or chairs  
**6pm** Peal of Bells at St. Martin's

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12pm**  
**St. Mary's Church**  
Tea/coffee & homemade cake  
With piano accompaniment



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 10am** Meet at Well Hill, Tresham (just up from the spring)  
A group walk from Tresham to Alderley  
Refreshments in Alderley

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Meet at St. Mary's for walk  
**2.30pm** Meet at Conygres layby for bike ride  
A group walk/mountain bike ride from Wotton to North Nibley.  
6 miles. Lifts are available up to Conygres layby - email [teresa.pottinger.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:teresa.pottinger.t21@btinternet.com)  
Refreshments at St. Martin's, North Nibley.  
Families are responsible for their children.



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> From 5.30pm** St. Mary's Church & driveway  
BBQ; Round the Edge Choir  
Parachuting Teddies – bring your own cuddly toy (around 100g) & watch them (from the ground) parachute from the top of the tower (parachutes will be provided!)

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> When St. Mary's is open**  
Displays by churches, WAMA & health care professionals.  
Artwork by local primary school children. See if you can spot the candle you coloured in!

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 11.15am** St. Kenelm's, Alderley  
Holy Communion Service

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 3pm** St. Mary's  
Installation & licencing service for Revd Rachel/Cookie  
*It will be a busy service, please book your seat by email – [office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)*

# Tyndale Benefice Celebration Weekend

"From Darkness to Light"

3-5<sup>th</sup> September

MORE INFORMATION



## Praying for the Churches

In September we remember in our prayers the Wotton Quaker Meeting. Wendy Barber has sent the below report.

### Wotton Quaker News

Wotton Quakers plan to resume Meetings for Worship in the clubroom at 10.30am on 5 September and thereafter on 1st and 3rd Sundays each month as long as further restrictions are not imposed.

Throughout the pandemic we have "met" remotely with little technology but simply sharing a reading by email in advance of keeping the silence wherever Friends are, which has included homes, gardens, a regular group in St Mary's churchyard and numerous other places where Friends have been at 10.30am on a Sunday. We have found this enables a real sense of connection without excluding those who are not keen on "zooming". We plan to continue this practice when we begin to meet in person as a means of sharing worship with those unable to attend in person as many Friends are more frail and less confident meeting than before the pandemic.. Some of us were able to enjoy a joyful meeting followed by a shared lunch in our Friend Robert's garden in August but our garden meeting planned in June was rained off sadly.

Those of us more confident with technology have valued "meeting" Friends via zoom for learning, sharing and worshipping in groups which can include Friends from across the globe. In particular our recent 3 week festival of Faith and Fellowship on the theme "For our comfort and discomfort: living equality and truth in a time of crisis" which gave us a rich variety of sessions particularly on climate justice, anti-racism and gender diversity.

*Wendy Barber for Wotton Quaker Meeting*

### **TWAM - Tools with a mission**

We have established a new link with TWAM to collect tools for refurbishing and sending to Africa. They now accept electrical items eg drills, screwdrivers etc but not computers or monitors. Garden tools are welcomed as are sewing machines (electric or hand), fabrics and sewing notions like needles and threads. Godfrey Marsland will be pleased to collect your items and take them down to Kingswood, Bristol when he has a car load. Please contact him to make sure that what you are offering is acceptable and also for a convenient time for him.



Godfrey Marsland 01453 844110 or [suemmarsland@gmail.com](mailto:suemmarsland@gmail.com)



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK  
YOUTH TRUST  
*Be the change you want to see*

## News from Blue Coat School

**We are incredibly proud of Rory** for achieving the National Young Leaders Award. Rory was not only chosen to represent our school but also to be a spokesperson for the whole of the Gloucester Diocese. During the online sessions, which were held at various times throughout the year, Rory was asked to contribute his thoughts and opinions about all sorts of issues, including social justice, diversity and the environment. Pupils from across the country were able to work collaboratively on projects that will help shape the future of the Church of England.

When asked about the most rewarding part of the experience, Rory replied:  
“I have learnt that leadership is not about having an important position or a posh title, it's about action and leading by example. You can be a leader at any age. “



Throughout the programme, Rory grew as a person and his humility and ability to see things from other viewpoints was a joy to see!

As well as Rory, our reception children in Class Discovery achieved their Young Leaders Award at the end of

the Summer Term. Following a carefully designed series of sessions, the children set about 'being the change they wanted to see' in their homes, school and community. The award explored the theme 'Small Steps Big Changes' and empowered our pupils to make a difference to those around them, whilst helping them develop key leadership skills and character virtues. Teaching and learning resources were provided, and challenges were set in school to practice and develop three important characteristics: kindness, perseverance and teamwork. In celebration of completing the award, the children painted colourful rainbows which have been displayed in the Ark Coffee Shop window for all to see.

As we look forward into the future, Blue Coat School pupils and staff are excited about what this new school year will bring.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Jane Blaken



## Oliver Memorial Chapel

It is lovely to at last be able to have the chapel open for services whilst still with caution. We are now able to have more services as some of our visiting preachers are returning.

The chapel is well known for its singing so it gives us great joy to be back. We keep the doors open and some of the neighbours have commented that they enjoy hearing it.

Plans are in place to have a display for welcoming Revd Rachel Cook and harvest is on the horizon - we will celebrate it perhaps on a smaller scale than usual.

With God's blessings from Lois.

## Camino To COP 26

**7.30pm - Friday 10 September (tbc)**

As you will have read in the last 'together in Wotton, On Friday 10 September Wotton Baptist Church is hosting a group of people walking the "Camino to Cop" event, ending up in Glasgow for the forum later that month, and it is hoped they will be talking about why they are doing this for anyone to come along and listen. This is to be confirmed, but is planned to be at the Baptist Church at 7:30pm.



## Parachuting Teddies

from 5.30 pm on  
Saturday 4 Sept.

**Bring your Teddy or Doll or Action Man, up to 500g weight,  
to St Mary's Church drive.**

**We will fit him/her with a suitable parachute  
and launch him/her from the top of the Church Tower!**

**See him/her gently glide down back to you!**

The science behind it (or is it Roger?):

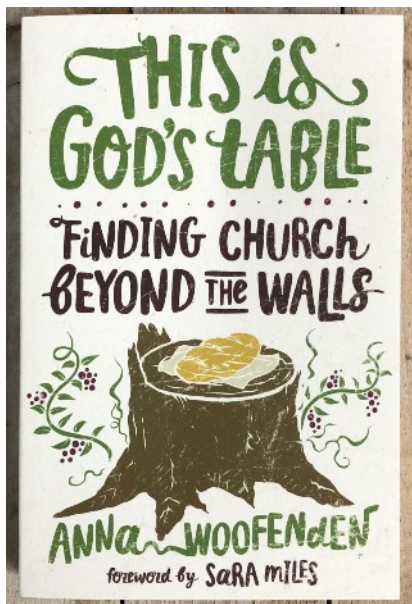
An interesting time recently saw 5 teddies of varying sizes drift gracefully down from the top of St Mary's Church tower, each on its own parachute. Through these "test flights", we extended the acceptable size of teddy that could "enjoy" such an experience. The earlier initial "flights" could only use an upstairs bedroom window as the launch pad, limiting the size of teddy to around 100g. With the availability of commercial waste bags from Stroud District Council, via the Ark Coffee Shop, larger parachutes were made that comfortably supported a teddy of 562g weight. A lightweight control line had to be attached to each teddy and managed from the ground to guide the teddy to land gently in the churchyard, among the gravestones, rather than sail merrily off towards Coombe and beyond!

So now all is ready to make a contribution to the Tyndale Benefice Celebration Weekend, 3– 5 September, celebrating our move from the darkness to the light as the Covid pandemic subsides and life returns to a new "normal". The weekend will culminate with the formal licencing and installation of our new vicar, the Rev Rachel Cook (Cookie). From 5.30pm on Saturday there will be a barbeque, singing and the parachuting teddies – come and enjoy yourselves!

*Roger Wyse*

## **“This is God’s table – finding church beyond the walls”**

by Anna Woofenden



Anna is the Protestant chaplain at a college in the States but this book tells of her experience of creating a garden church. She had dreamed of creating an outdoor church where all would be welcome and she finds her plot in an outskirts suburb of Los Angeles – a rundown area, the plot is dirty and overgrown, has a huge plastic dinosaur which gets named Dino, and the most unlikely place to ‘build’ a church. With a number of friends she clears the area, sets up an old tree stump as an ‘altar’ and starts to create a garden around it. There is too much to tell here but the garden thrives, food is produced and many people on the fringes of society are welcomed to eat and share in worship. Obviously she had her challenges, not least her trust in God. I found it challenging myself knowing that there are

people like the ones Anna was reaching all over the world and I admire her courage. We have a garden here at the United Church which we endeavour to keep tidy but what for? We respect the area where loved ones have been laid to rest and we hope that is a source of comfort but what about the rest? We know that sometimes people use our garden for ‘recreational’ purposes and we tut tut when we see an empty wine bottle but is there a way we can make our garden a useful space where the lonely, the friendless and those just needing ‘space’ can be welcomed? Just some thoughts – please borrow the book if you wish.

*Sue Marsland*

*As a PS to this – at the United Church on 15 August Phil Summers preached about the Bread of Life and opened a discussion about bread; there is a wonderful chapter in this book about just that!*

## **Baptism - it's what Baptists do!**

Good News from Wotton Baptist Church.

We are excited to be holding 3 adult baptisms on Sunday 5 September (it's all happening in the town that day!): all are welcome to attend the service at 10.30am.

We started a hybrid format for our services after 19 July, with people meeting in person to sing (masked) in church, while the service was relayed over zoom to those who still wanted to stay at home, and this has worked well. We plan to continue this format for as long as needed in the Autumn, with the idea of encouraging people to attend in person when they feel comfortable to do so.

As many of you will have noticed as you pass down Rope Walk, the Baptist Church Hall has been undergoing some major renovation works in recent weeks, and these will continue through September. It will mean we have a new heating system, new floor and a warmer building to use, but until everything is finished we can't be precise about when groups such as Little Fishes, the baby group, the Baked Bean Homework Club, Pulse or the Art Group will be able to start up again in the hall. Sorry to be vague, but you know how building work can extend for longer than you think ...

*Diana Baker*

## **Elsewhere in our churches:**

At Holy Cross we are slowly getting back to more in church. We can now have 15 in church at once although at the moment no plans to return to 'normal'. Hopefully there will be more news in September. We are still anxious about the number of Covid infections rising again.

At the United Church we continue to seek for a balance; allowing people to worship freely yet safely. Masks are optional, but we ask that if you wish to sing, you do wear a face covering. The chairs remain spaced so that a good degree of social distancing is still possible. We now enjoy a cup of coffee together after the service but try to exercise caution as well as good hygiene practices during all that we do together





## Churches Together in Wotton

Representatives from the churches had a socially-distanced meeting on 12 July. It is lovely that this is now a low-key sharing of information as the churches are working together without the need for a formal committee

It was reported that the Year 6 Leavers all received their Bibles, but sadly the British School Leavers Service, performance and party all had to be cancelled at the very last moment due to a positive Coronavirus test.

The Bibles were this year purchased through our own bookshop, keeping trade convenient, local and helpful.

Tom W Phil S and Cookie meet regularly and will seek to have someone from Holy Cross join them.

The rota for the main events shared by all churches has been updated: in the immediate future the Baptist Church will arrange for the Christmas card to be sent to all houses in the town, and Holy Cross will arrange the 2022 World Day of Prayer Service in March.

Holy Cross will also arrange the readings and prayers for the Good Friday Walk of Witness, with WBC providing the coffee and hot cross buns. The United Church will lead the Easter Sunrise Service and we hope to see Phil Summers there now he knows where he has to go! This will be followed by breakfast at St Mary's.

### Recycle - Reuse

**Stamps, bras & coffee pods** can all be recycled at The Keepers. Coloured **milk bottle tops** can also be recycled - maybe not at The Keepers, but please do collect them and details of where to recycle will be circulated soon

**Kit Out the Nation** is a month long Make a Difference campaign (Saturday 4 September – Saturday 2 October) aimed at taking in and distributing unwanted, good condition sports kit and getting it to children and teenagers who need it. You will be able to drop off unwanted **sports kit (either clothing or equipment)** to The Keepers. Local schools will collect it from us to distribute to children and young people who will be able to make good use of it.

# **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

## **(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**



### **Press Release**



### **“I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU”**

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text “I know the plans I have for you” from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children’s and - for the first time - young people’s activities.

All this work will come to fruition on Friday 4 March 2022 when services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. We will use modern technology to reach those unable to access a service but hope to be able to extend a welcome and hospitality once released from lockdown.

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)



Come as you are, give what you can and take what you need

Come on in ..... We're open!

As restrictions lift, so we have opened our doors. The Hub is open, and our friendly receptionists are here to say "Hi":

\* Monday, Tuesday and Thursday : 9.00am - 4.00pm \*

\* Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm \*

Whilst we are open, you can now also contact us by phone by calling:  
07585 466418

You can pop in to have a cup of tea and a chat with our lovely volunteers, find out about groups, support and services in the area, collect food from our freezer or our dry provision store, donate food, swap a book, or recycle stamps, bras, coffee pods and much more!!

### **The Community Freezer**

We have food in our Freezer (Freda): Keepers' cottage pies, cheesy pasta (with separate veg pot) and sticky toffee puddings! It is all Pay as you Feel - you may be able to pay more for your meal to cover those who need to pay less.

The freezer is now open whenever The Keepers is open. Just pop along and select what you'd like.

It's a community freezer so open to everyone in the community - there are many reasons why people come to get meals...you may not be able to cook at the moment, you may be working long hours and don't have time to cook, you may be unsure of what to cook for your family, you may be recently bereaved.... or it may be because you are excited to try our new options.

There is so much more happening, see [www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk) or call in to find out how you can help or be helped. It's a community thing!

## 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)



## Tea and Chat

United Church Hall, Bradley Street  
Every Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30pm

An informal get-together for anyone who would like a cuppa and some company for a couple of hours.

Bring your knitting, or a puzzle or a game. Bring yourself.

'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)