



June 2022

# Together in Wotton

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Christians worshipping and working together in Wotton under Edge

## Open The Book needs you!

Do you have a passion to share God's Word? Enjoy working with children? Can spare a regular time, about an hour, to volunteer on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon?

For about 20 years now, the two primary schools in Wotton, have had a team of Christians from the local churches going into each school on a regular basis.

Based on The Storyteller Bible written by Bob Hartman, each story is read aloud to the children during collective worship. A variety of story telling methods are used. We encourage participation from the children.

If you want to know more details, contact Karen Dover – 07770892323 or Val Smith – 07729885457.

The British School team, led by Karen, go in on Wednesday afternoon during term time.

The Bluecoat School team, led by Val, go in on Thursday afternoons.

We would be very pleased to hear from you.



## Holy Histories Holiday Club

### See poster for technicolour details!

Each day we will learn about different characters from the Bible. There will be

- Songs, Drama and Games
- Prayer space
- Art & Crafts
- Jokes and Dressing-up
- Not forgetting the gunge machine, who will get gunged this year?? (Tom Wharin needs to be!)
- And lots more and loads of fun!

We are looking for ;

Helpers in the groups - Red Group- Reception/ Year 1, Yellow Group - Year 1 (older) Year 2, Green Group - Year 3/Year 4, Blue Group - Year 5/Year6.

Help with registration ( first thing )

Gunge maker – coloured custard basically

BBQ helpers (on the Thursday at the end of HC)

If you are interested or indeed just need to know more info, please contact me on [karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk](mailto:karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk) or 07770892323

### United Ramblers

**Monday 13 June**



The next United Ramblers walk will be on **Monday 13 June** (not the usual first Monday of the month) and will be led by Rob Carruthers.

It will be an approximately 4 mile flat walk in the Frampton on Severn area to include the lakes.

Leave the United Church at 10am.

Lunch will be at the Fromebridge Mill.

Contact Rob for further details:  
[robert.carruthers@care4free.net](mailto:robert.carruthers@care4free.net)

### Praying for the Churches

In June we are asked to remember especially in our prayers, Holy Cross Catholic Church

# HOLIDAY CLUB IS BACK!



**HOLY**

**HISTORIES**

**Sunday 24 July - Thurs 28 July**

**10am - 12:30pm**

**Registration starts 9:45am on Sunday**

**For those finishing Reception – Year 6**

**Contact Karen Dover:**

**01453 844726**

**karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk**

**Forms available at [wottonbaptist.org.uk](http://wottonbaptist.org.uk)**

**No pre-booking needed**



I am honoured to have been asked to write in this month's edition of this newsletter on behalf of Blue Coat. First, a little introduction about myself, I am Mr Evans one of the newest additions to the Blue Coat teaching staff, having started in September. I teach in Milepost 2 and have been incredibly fortunate to teach and hopefully inspire the young minds of Wotton-under-Edge.

It has been a month or so of transition for Blue Coat, from winter into spring and with the fortunately dry weather we have been having, summer is not too far around the corner. For Blue Coat, it is a time of happiness and hope as the warm air starts to get filled with bird song, insects and the laughter of the children enjoying the outdoor spaces. Mr Haynes is working ten to a dozen making sure the school site is looking at its glorious best, whilst Mrs Wharin and her team of play coordinators are making sure that playtimes and lunchtimes are full of outdoor learning through play and exploration.

In the classrooms, Year 6s are preparing incredibly well for the up-and-coming SATs whilst the rest of the school are starting the summer term with a skip in their step, hungry for learning after a restful Easter Holidays. To give an example of this, in Milepost 2, we are making the most of the weather by basing both our English and our Art about the great outdoors. We are studying Andy Goldsworthy, the land-art based sculptor in Art, designing and making our own sculptures using natural materials from the great-outdoors. Running alongside this, we are studying poetry in English, reading the likes of Joseph Coelho, Pie Corbett, and Michael Rosen. Our final piece of writing aims to be a nature inspired shaped poem taking inspiration from the school site.

The students of Blue Coat have been incredibly busy outside of school as well as in, we have had representatives in local hockey and football finals, as well as competitions from further afield. During our Star Achievers assemblies on a Friday afternoon, the hall is full of children wanting to share their achievements from their activities away from class. This is incredibly refreshing to see after what has been a very tough few years on children's involvement in out-of-school activities.

As a new teacher to the school and the area, I have found Blue Coat and Wotton-under-Edge to be an incredibly welcoming community. There is a real sense of community from the overwhelming attendance of the iSingPop concert to the smiles and waves from residents when walking the children through the town. It has been a pleasure to get to know the town and I am excited to see where the rest of the summer term takes us as a school community.

*Mr Evans  
Teacher of Class Equality (Y3/4)*

## Experience Storytelling

25 & 26 June 9.30 - 4.30  
Wotton United Church

Join Rev Phil Summers as he explores the telling of stories. Using well known Bible stories as a starting point participants will learn to tell stories in a relaxed and fun environment.

Phil will help develop techniques for learning and telling stories. We will learn from each other as we hear each other's unique tellings.

For those able to attend worship at Wotton United Church on the Sunday morning there will be an opportunity to share your work with the wider congregation.

The workshops are suitable for beginners and experienced tellers. Cost £35 for the two days to include lunch, tea, coffee and cake. Please email Jane, [janegraywallis@hotmail.com](mailto:janegraywallis@hotmail.com) for a booking form. If you are busy at your own church on Sunday please don't let that stop you from coming: On the Sunday come and join us after your service.

- Read with Me has started a new group 'Rhyme with Me' at The Keepers. A free session for 0-5 year olds (with their accompanying adult) running from 10-10.40am every Friday. Pay As You Feel. refreshments are available afterwards, with time to chat with the volunteers and other parents/guardians.
- Weekly Drop-in Café - The Keepers' drop-in café is open 10am - 12pm on Wednesday mornings. Everyone is welcome to come and see us for a drink, chat and piece of cake - all pay as you feel! Every week there are visiting professionals - in June, these include our local PCSO and Neighbourhood warden. A representative from P3 is there every week who can help people navigate the benefit system - including any Ukrainian guests in our area.
- Recycling - We have a new recycling bin at The Keepers! Provided by Wotton Lions, you can now drop off your unwanted spectacles, pill blister packs and hearing aids.
- Pop up vaccination clinic on 7th June 10am - 3pm - 1st, 2nd and booster jabs available.



See website for more information: <https://www.thekeepers.org.uk/>

## **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June 2022**

*So, if 'together in Wotton' is about the Churches and the Christians in Wotton, what is all this fuss about the Queen?*

*Well, The Sovereign holds the title 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England'. These titles date back to the reign of King Henry VIII, who was initially granted the title 'Defender of the Faith' in 1521 by Pope Leo X. When Henry VIII renounced the spiritual authority of the Papacy in 1534 he was proclaimed 'supreme head on earth' of the Church of England. This was repealed by Queen Mary I but reinstated during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who was proclaimed 'Supreme Governor' of the Church of England.*

*The Queen's relationship with the Church of England was symbolised at the Coronation in 1953 when Her Majesty was anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and took an oath to "maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England".*

*There is no doubt that Queen Elizabeth has lived and served by Christian principles and she makes no secret of her deep Christian faith. She is a fine example to the rest of us. And although she is only head of the Anglican Church, I am sure that Wotton's Christians of other denominations will be happy to help celebrate her long reign and give thanks to God for her wisdom and grace.*

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### **The Jubilee and the Oliver Memorial Chapel**

On Sunday 5 June we will have a Songs of Praise Service at 10.15am and we invite anyone with a favourite hymn to come along with a brief reason why they have chosen it.

The service will be followed by tea and cakes.

Please let us have your choice by the week before so that we can put it all together. All are welcome to come along and why not bring a friend?

Praise be to the Lord!

*From Lois.*



Churches Together in Wotton presents

# Jubilee Songs of Praise

Hymns, Royal Reminiscences and Scripture  
Readings to celebrate the Jubilee

**3pm Sunday 5 June**

**Bluecoat school field**

(access via the side footpath, in hall if wet)

**Please bring a picnic blanket or folding chair**



## **Churches Together remembers - the Queen and Commonwealth**

Please make time to visit St Mary's Church during the Jubilee weekend, where there will be displays and flowers from the churches and the schools on the theme of Wotton's Churches and The Queen and Commonwealth.

The church will be open: Thursday 2 June - 2pm - 6pm

Friday 3 June - 9am - 6pm

Saturday 4 June - 9am - 6pm

Sunday 5 June 1.30 - 6pm

Refreshments will be available 2pm - 4pm on Thursday and Sunday: 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm on Friday and Saturday.

*The Wotton Directory bills this as a Flower Festival, but it is more than that!*

NB Any Oasis that is used is likely to have already been in church stocks and will be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way, as will the water that it has been in - See February's tiW



*After 70 years, might we learn the truth?*

The Queen's Handbag ?

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
Marmalade sandwiches or maybe jam,  
Some sausage rolls, or slices of ham,  
A cup of tea, piece of cake,  
Strawberries, raspberries, a custard lake?

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
Flip flops, sun cream, a floppy hat,  
A bikini, a towel, a cricket bat,  
A deck chair, a parasol, a flask of tea  
An inflatable boat to sail on the sea?

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
A garden fork, a red wheelbarrow,  
A packet of seeds, an enormous marrow.  
A bag of compost, a garden swing,  
A lawnmower, daffodil bulbs and a ball of string.

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
A string of pearls, a glittery crown,  
Tennis shoes, rubber boots, a long blue gown,  
Pyjamas, a toothbrush, rollers for hair,  
Story books, biscuits and a teddy bear.

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
Treats for corgis, mints for the horse,  
Dog leads, pooper scoops and a ball of course,  
A saddle, a blanket, long brown boots,  
An apple, a carrot and pony nuts.

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
A photo, a tablet, an ipod, a kindle,  
A biro, a purse and some keys to jingle,  
Red lipstick, pink powder a brush and comb,  
A notebook, some pencils, a telephone.

What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
Sweets for the children, lollies and candy,  
Popcorn, crisps, chocolate, french fancies.  
Jelly, icecream, cup cakes, bananas,  
Crisps, doughnuts, flapjack, pizzaaaaas.



What does the Queen carry in her bag?  
A penny, a camera, a single rose.  
A hankie ready to blow her nose.  
What does she take everywhere she goes.  
The truth is - nobody knows!

*Sue Marsland April 2016  
To celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*

### **Bottle Top Recycling**



Briefly: the Editor had it pointed-out to her that she didn't actually say what people should do with their bottle tops. Well, they can be left at the United Church or with Judy Mills.

So please do keep collecting.



### **Tea and Chat**

While you keep coming, we'll keep cooking!

An informal get-together with cake

2.30 - 4pm, every Wednesday afternoon

United Church, Bradley Street

All Welcome.

*Never wanting to leave blank pages, and without enough material to fill them, the two pages of advice from John Wesley may at least provide a little amusement. Outdated? You decide.*

## JOHN WESLEY'S ADVICE ON HOW TO PREACH

1. Always suit your subject to your audience.
2. Do not preach more than twice a day during the week or three times on Sunday.
3. Choose the plainest texts from the Bible to preach on.
4. Take care not to ramble from your text but to keep close to it.
5. Be sure to begin and end at the time appointed... People imagine the longer a sermon is, the more good it will do. This is a grand mistake... the Methodist rule is to conclude the service within an hour.
6. Speak justly, readily, clearly... Clearness in particular is necessary... because we are to instruct people of the lowest understanding. . . Constantly use the most common, little, easy words (so they are pure and proper) which our language affords.
7. Beware of clownishness... Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.
8. Never scream. Never speak above the natural pitch of your voice.
9. Take care to avoid anything awkward or affected either in your gesture or pronunciation.
10. Don't just say *'I read only the Bible'* in order to preach, read the most useful books, and that regularly and constantly... at least five hours in twenty-four... or return to your trade.
11. There is no need to throw away old sermons just because they are old - the best can be reused.
12. Never preach without doors when you can with any conveniency preach within.



## John Wesley's *Directions for Singing*

*(A selection of advice which he wrote in the index  
of his publication Select Hymns, 1761)*

Sing *lustily* and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength.....

Sing *modestly*. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or as distinct from the rest of the congregation that you may not destroy the harmony but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear harmonious sound.

Sing *in time*; whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it..... And take care not to sing too slow.....

Above all sing *spiritually*. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature.

In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing and see that your *heart* is not carried away with the sound but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.







Even as this is being written the Baptist Church Hall has been converted to the Christian Aid pop-up shop. Soup is being heated for lunches; coffee and cakes are being sold and served and buyers are perusing the wonderful selection of



books that have been donated. Outside, the gazebo is shading the selection of

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/wotton-under-edge-ca-group-or342902>

plants; jigsaw puzzles and yet more books. So, I'm sorry, if you haven't already visited, you've missed it. For this year at least. But you were warned: it's been in the last two editions of 'together in Wotton'!



But don't despair! You can still donate online, and, as you won't be receiving anything (other than a 'thank you') for your giving, you can tick the 'Add Gift Aid box, and the government will give your tax to CA.

Hopefully in the next edition you will be able to read how much the Wotton Christian Aid group has raised: this year the charity needs your donations more than ever.

'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)  
All items and articles for the July and August (joint) edition should be submitted by 5pm on Monday 20 June