

July & August 2022

Together in Wotton

**Christians worshipping and working together in
Wotton under Edge**



The Reverend Lesley Hewish with the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek,
Bishop of Gloucester after Lesley's Service of Licensing and
Installation on 22 May.

Representatives from the other churches and community groups were
pleased to share in the service and the refreshments that followed.

Lesley is no stranger to most of us, but we still welcome her and look
forward to working with her over the next three years.

United Ramblers

The next United Ramblers walk is on Monday 4th July: meet outside the United church in Bradley Street at 10am.

Graham Jackson will be leading a 4 mile walk starting from the Amberley Inn, walking towards Minchinhampton and return. Lunch will be taken at The Amberley Inn.

Please contact Graham if you have a question about the walk. graham.jackson@btinternet.com



I can hardly believe that we are closing in on the end of another academic year at Blue Coat. It has been wonderful to experience a normal (for the most part!) year after the previous ones were interrupted by COVID-19. Like many of you, it has made us appreciate the things that we previously took for granted.

The Year 6 children have just returned from their residential trip to Morfa Bay. This is the first time that they have been allowed to visit since the start of the pandemic and they certainly made the most of their time there! I had the great pleasure of accompanying them for the final two days and saw the fun that they experienced first-hand. The weather in West Wales was more akin to Turin than Tenby, with the sun shining down on our adventurers. This was just as well, as we all needed some warmth after we were subjected to the mud assault course and its infamous "trainer grave yard"! Like the rest of the children, I have just about managed to get rid of the last remnants of muck but the memories will stay forever. We are enormously grateful to the staff who accompanied the children. Mrs Spencer, Mrs Galvin, Miss Cole, Mr Hopkins and Mrs Driver made the residential possible, so I would like to say thank you on behalf of the children.

Our Year 6 children will soon be moving on to pastures new. They have been an exemplary year group who have brought fun and determination to Blue Coat in equal measure. One thing that we know for certain is that they are fully prepared in order to thrive in their secondary schools.

We are also saying farewell to some much loved members of staff. After many years of exceptional service, Mrs Spill and Mrs Dove will be leaving us. Both of them have made a huge difference to countless children during their time at Blue Coat. This is thanks to their expertise as educators as well as their care for each and every child. We shall certainly miss them in future.

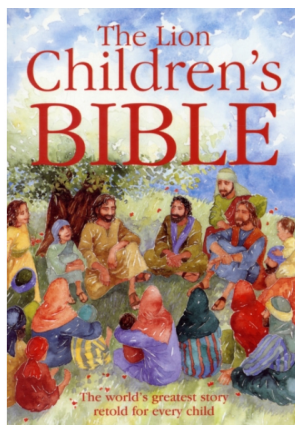
There has been so much going on in the curriculum, it is hard to narrow down what to update you on. We have had trips to cattle country and Caerleon, District Sports track and field competitions, our usual visitors to school from different faiths, a trip to all of our local churches as well as whole year group violin lessons! One of our greatest drivers is to ensure that all of our children experience the fullness of education and culture during their time at school. We seem to be cramming the majority into one term!

Something else that we care deeply about is helping our children to be morally brave individuals. This has been modelled by our own Mrs Arnold, who took part in the 3 peaks challenge, in support of Meningitis. This involves assailing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales in 36 hours. To support

Bibles for Schools 2022

As they reach the end of their time at Junior School, Wotton's Churches are delighted to welcome British and Blue Coat Yr6 pupils to a Leavers' Service at which they are each presented with a Bible, given by Churches Together in Wotton

The British School service will be held at Wotton Baptist Church in mid-July, and the Blue Coat Service a week later at St Mary's.



the cause, the whole school did their bit by wearing orange and assailing their own "summits" and walks to raise money. We are incredibly proud of Mrs Arnold for modelling the importance of working hard to do the right thing.

We have a new academic year on the horizon, with new members soon to be part of our school community. The children who will be in Early Years in September have been coming for stay and play events. Their thirst for learning, playing and friendship makes the school a constantly exciting place to be – even when we say goodbye to our well-loved Year 6 children.

Glyn Jones

Christian Aid Week

Thank you
Wotton!



As promised, we can now announce the total raised for Christian Aid.

The total amount is £3486.39

This is made up of: Shop £1749.24; Street collection £271.00; Blue Coat Cake Sale £151.15; Other donations £300.00; Church service £40; Online donations and card payments £975.00.

A massive thank you from Wotton Christian Aid Committee to all who donated, planted, served in the shop, made soup and especially to those who helped by eating cake! We'll see you all next year.



Churches Together in Wotton

Representatives from all the churches will meet at the Baptist Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 July in order to review the recent joint activities and plan for the future.

If you have anything you wish to say or suggest, please do contact Tom Wharin or Arlene Greenwood at the Baptist Church, or speak to your own Minister. Alternatively, come along to the meeting.



Come as you are,
bring what you can and
take what you need.



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. If we can't help, we will find someone who can!

Monday

- Parent Support Group - 9.15am - 10.45am. A support group by parents for parents.
- Age UK Gloucestershire - a social group for those who are 50+. 11am - 1pm
- Age UK Gloucestershire Help Team - advice on all aspects of later life. The first Monday of each month, no need to book. 11am - 12pm

Tuesday

- Online Skills course - 10.30am - 12.30pm (booking required). This course is full. The next 5 week course starts on Monday 8th August. Call us if you would like to be added to the waiting list.
- Cakes and Ladders - play board games and have refreshments, all welcome (10.30am - 12.30pm)
- Chair Yoga - on Zoom at The Keepers. Come along, no need to book - 2.30pm - 4pm

Wednesday

- Drop in Café - Pay As You Feel - 10am - 12pm
- Craft and Chat with tea & cake - held fortnightly - 10am - 12pm
- Job Club/GEM - help with CVs and employment support - 10am - 11.30am
- P3 drop in - help with a range of issues - 10am - 12pm
- Health Visitor drop in - 6th July - available to weigh babies and answer any questions you have - 10am - 12pm
- PCSO drop in Wednesday 6th July - a chance to ask any questions - 10am - 12pm

Thursday

- Pop up vaccination clinic on 14th July for 1st, 2nd and booster jabs - 10am - 3pm
- Independence Trust and NHS social prescribers' drop in - 11am - 1pm
- Qigong - meditation, breathing and gentle movement. No booking needed - 12pm - 1pm
- Welcome Space - space to talk, be listened to and make new friends - 1.30pm - 3.30pm (call 01453 767999 to book)

- Rhyme with Me - a free session of songs, rhythm, rhymes and fun for 0 - 5 year olds and their accompanying adult - 10.15am - 11am

OPEN

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Call us or pop in: 07585 466418

EXHIBITION

RESTORING PARADISE

Exploring our responsibility
and care for the world

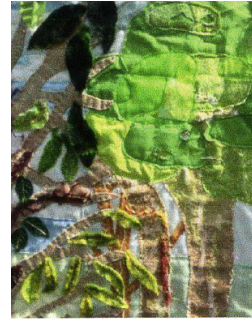
TEXTILE BANNERS

INSPIRING SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS

July 9th-17th

DURSLEY METHODIST CHURCH
Castle Street GL11 4BS

CHRISTIAN
ARTS FESTIVAL



An exhibition of 24 textile banners
on the theme of our
responsibility and care for the world.
All are made by WIs, craft groups,
churches and individuals wanting to
explore the theme creatively.

OPENING TIMES

Weekdays 10am - 2pm

Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Sundays 2pm - 4pm

SPEAKERS

3pm July 9th Karen Binns of
Rory's Well -

Developing Sustainability in
Rural Sierra Leone

3pm July 16th Richard Hellen of
Dursley Climate Action Network -
Developing a Thriving
Low-Carbon Community

FREE ENTRY

Light Refreshments

Light Lunches on
Saturdays



www.restoringparadise.weebly.com



Both sides of the story

Here in Wotton it has always been assumed that people are well off and can afford to contribute to Foodbank.

As inflation hits, it is time to acknowledge that our own neighbours may be those who need help.

Perhaps now it is you or someone you know who needs that help.

Getting help



We work with local agencies who can discuss your circumstances with you and issue a foodbank voucher if you need one.

The agency can also provide longer term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis.

The most important step is to get a Foodbank voucher: to do this, contact a referral agency. They will discuss your situation with you and will supply a Foodbank Voucher where appropriate.

Options include:

- Citizens advice: www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk tel: 0808 800 0510
- Your doctor's surgery
- Your child's school

Once you have a voucher the Agency will contact Foodbank with your details. Please ask your referrer for your voucher number and take this to one of our Foodbank Centres



Giving help



SHOPPING LIST - MAY 2022

FRUIT JUICE

TINNED VEGETABLES

TINNED TOMATOES

COFFEE

RICE PUDDING

TINNED CUSTARD

TINNED POTATOES

UHT MILK

DEODORANTS

NAPPIES SIZES 5/6

Please:

No tea

No pasta

No out-of-date, damaged/
opened or perishable foods

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

No pre-booking needed



Platinum Jubilee Weekend

2 - 5 June

So much work went into making the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations something for Wotton to remember, and the Churches certainly played their part.

Throughout the weekend, St Mary's was open for visitors to look at the displays and flowers.

Children from Blue Coat and British Schools had made flags in Commonwealth colours which hung between the pillars and covered every bare space. There were wonderful, beautiful flower arrangements done by talented people from Synwell Chapel and the Parish Church, while the Baptist Church had a display about the work done in Nairobi by the Dagoretti Corner Childcare Programme, with which they are very closely associated: Kenya being part of the commonwealth. The United Church combined flowers with a display of 'postage stamps', one for each decade of Her Majesty's reign, with information about charities founded during that decade that the church has supported.

Tea and biscuits were on offer, except that in true Wotton fashion, why buy a packet of biscuits when you can put some love into some home-made baking instead? After expenses, there will be sufficient from the generous donations to give some money to a yet-to-be-decided charity.

It was lovely to welcome many walkers on the Cotswold Way, diverting them through the church instead of around the outside, and plying them with coffee and cake.

The British weather helped make the decision that the Songs of Praise service

would be held inside the Blue Coat School, rather than on the field. Tom led the worship, helped by a number of our residents who had personal knowledge or memories of the Queen. Through it all, and especially in the 'interview' with Sue Marsland, the Queen's own steadfast Christian faith shone through.

At the conclusion of the Service, our Town Crier, George Carpenter rounded-off the weekend, as he had started it, with a proclamation.



Jubilee Weekend at the Oliver Memorial Chapel

What a wonderful jubilee weekend we enjoyed. It was lovely to visit St Mary's Church and it was amazing to see all of the displays, so much work had gone into it all. The members of our little chapel really pulled out all the stops and were rewarded by the lovely comments that were made.

On Sunday we held a songs of praise service which went really well. We managed to get a link to America to a dear Synwell girl who emigrated some years ago but still has family here and she loves to keep in touch. We sang her favourite hymn (how great thou art) with great gusto and she was delighted.

It was a very special day finished off with tea and cakes, knowing that we had been truly blest,

Yours in Christ Jesus, from Lois,



Dryleaze House and Court

In company with friends and families Residents celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with a special party tea. Everyone scratched their heads over quizzes and puzzles, including a board of photographs of some folk in their infant days which was headed "Who are we?". Everyone was regaled with excellent refreshments for their efforts.

A number of people had contributed Royal memorabilia for a varied and interesting display. An enjoyable recognition of this unique event.

Mary George

Old Dogs and New Tricks

It recently became necessary for the Editor to purchase a new laptop. At the same time, there was the need for an up-to-date piece of publishing software.

Currently there is a battle to master either, let alone both of these innovations. Once achieved it is possible, just possible, that 'together in Wotton' and the United Church's newsletter 'United Alive' will be much improved. But for now it's a struggle to get it up to the previous standard. Please be patient with me!

Ed.

News from Wotton Baptist Church

As you receive this, a bunch of our kids and youth (50 in total including leaders) are off to Spree South West. This is a hugely popular camping and activity weekend for young people aged 8 to 17 who come with their church or Christian youth/children's group. There is a complete programme of activities throughout the weekend to suit all interests, including five high-quality Christian teaching streams for different age-groups. www.spreesw.org

Look out for an update in the next TiW !

Then there's Holiday Club - see separate poster.

A group from WBC is also going to United this summer 29 July-3 Aug: more camping! www.new-wine.org/events/united22

From their website: *'This summer we'll regather as a family to celebrate everything God has been doing in our lives, churches, and communities. We'll encounter him afresh together and take his blessing back home – to see the nation changed. With impactful teaching, worship, Holy Spirit ministry, community, connection, and transformational encounters with God. There will be programmes for all ages, with New Wine Kids groups and LUMINOSITY for 11-18s.'*

Following this week away Tom will be going on sabbatical until early November.

Praying for the Churches

Some years ago it was decided that throughout the year the Churches would pray for each other, all concentrating on one church for one calendar month.

In July we will all pray for the United Church and in August for the Oliver Memorial Chapel in Synwell.

Sometimes the Churches have specific projects which they ask God to bless: there may be specific problems to be overcome, and fortunately there are times when the church wants to give thanks

'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 September edition should be submitted by 5pm on Monday 22 August