

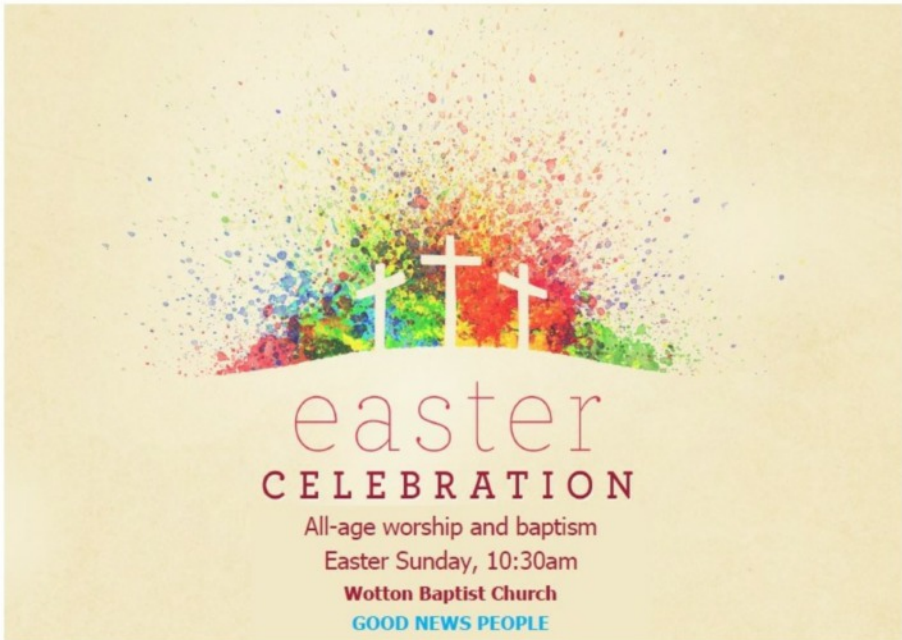


April 2018

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping & working together in Wotton under Edge

Celebrating Easter in the Churches of Wotton



As the Baptist Church rejoices in the Resurrection of Jesus with a Service of Baptism, see the last page for details of all Easter Services in the town



Messy Church at St. Mary's

Saturday 14 April

9.30 – 11 am

Breakfast, activities and worship for all ages



COFFEE MORNING

WOTTON UNITED CHURCH HALL

in Bradley Street

Saturday 7 April 10 am - 12 noon

Raising funds for "Wotton Swimming Pool" and "Wotton Visually Impaired Club"

There will be various stalls selling a variety of items, so please come along and support these worthy charities.

Any donations, including homemade cakes, for the sale will be really appreciated.

Contact :- Mary Summers 01454 294920 / Babs Pearn 01454 260649

Pages of Faith

Our monthly get together to scrapbook and journal our Faith. The next session will be on Friday 25 May (no scrapbooking in April) at the United Church Hall 9:30 - 12:30. The cost is £5, tea, coffee and cake are there to give you energy. Materials are free for your first session and thereafter a small charge. Not quite sure? Why not give me a ring or pop in to see what we are about.

Jane Gray-Wallis(521218 or 07855 535717)

Our stories.

Come and explore Bible stories in exciting ways. Held at the United Church once a month 4 - 5:45pm. Our next session is 22 April with Rev Phil Summers leading. We cater for primary school children. Want to know a bit more? Give me a call.

Jane 07855 535717

Sat 28 April
7:30pm
Wotton Baptist Church

Variety Show
Featuring local artistes

Tickets
Adults £4
Children £2
Includes Refreshments

Tickets available from Wotton Coffee Shop 320411 or Jan Shipton 844257
Proceeds to Dagoretti Corner Street Children Programme

The Persecuted Christian Church

Town Hall Teas for Open Doors

On **Sunday April 29th**, the afternoon Town Hall Tea will be in support of the work of Open Doors, an organization whose mission is to support the church in those parts of the world where just to be a follower of Jesus invites persecution. This can involve being denied employment, being treated as 2nd class citizens, sometimes being thrown out of home or community, and in extreme cases results in imprisonment or death.

Please do come and enjoy tea/coffee with delicious cakes and learn more about the reality of life for believers in many countries and support this cause.

Chris Lowther

Secondly:

Those who have attended the House Group Meetings on Prayer will be familiar with the guidance

“Get informed, Get inspired, Get indignant, Get together”

In our intercessions, we are urged to not just 'pray for Syria', or 'pray for Christians in China', but to make ourselves aware of the facts, so that our prayers can be more specific.

For some years the United Church has supported the Barnabas Fund which works to support persecuted Christians worldwide, and Barnabas produces a monthly Prayer Focus Update. It is not easy reading.

Amongst communities and countries included in the most recent bulletin:

Pakistan - Patras Masih, a 16-year-old Christian from Lahore, has been arrested and charged with “blasphemy” by Pakistani police, after an allegedly insulting post appeared on a Facebook group page under his name. He was charged after a twelve-hour mob protest, which forced the local Christian community to flee their homes.

Give thanks that police intervened to protect Christian property from mob violence. Pray that the flimsy case against Patras will be swiftly overturned and that his family (who have been forced to go into hiding) will be able to return to their home in Lahore and resume their life.

Syria - Kurdish militia in Qamishli, northern Syria, have kidnapped Christians to use as conscripts and sprayed graffiti on to Christian properties to mark them for confiscation. Seven Christians were abducted by Kurdish security forces on 19 January . Local representatives managed to negotiate the release of six of them, but at the time of writing, the whereabouts of a 20-year-old young man named Saliba is still unknown.

Pray protection for Syrian Christians in Qamishli and other towns under Kurdish control, that the Lord will be their refuge and fortress (Psalm 91:2). Ask that Saliba will be quickly released and will not be forced to fight.

Kenya - Al-Shabaab militants murdered three Christians in an attack on a primary school compound in the village of Qarsa, north-east Kenya on 16 February. Armed men forced their way into a house within the compound of Qarsa Primary School before dawn. Two Christian teachers, Kevin Shari and Seth Oluoch Odada, were shot dead. Seth's wife Caroline was also brutally murdered. The couple had only recently married.

Lift up in prayer Christian brothers and sisters facing Al-Shabaab attacks in north-east Kenya. Pray especially for the families of Kevin, Seth and Caroline that they will know the comfort of Christ in the midst of their troubles.

The full Prayer Focus Update can be found at <https://barnabasfund.org/>



Prayer - Life

We are nearing the end of the **Lent House Groups** and the Prayer Course that we have been following. So where do we go from here?

Was it a useful exercise to put behind us, or can we continue to use what we have learned? Or, like one group, does it seem worth carrying-on with meetings, even though the Course has ended?

The House Groups all differ they have a different mix of ages and genders. In some the members are more comfortable with each other and more open.

When it comes to prayer it is clear that different people find different things work for them; some can sit in silent contemplation, listening to or speaking with God for long periods. Others need to move about to have some earthly sensory input. Some like to pray alone; others in company.

We are looking at developing this theme; looking for ways in which we can pray more and more effectively, and although for convenience this will probably mean in one or other church building, ideally it would (as most things already are!!) Be open to and supported by all the Churches.

If you're interested, talk to each other about it - and watch this space.

The postponed **Lent Lunch** will be held on 20 April
12 - 2pm in the Parish Room
Proceeds to Church Mission Society



Celebration of Gifts

The United Church

Bradley Street

Wotton under Edge. GL12 7AR

Celebrating God's Gifts!

May 5th – 7th 2018

SATURDAY MAY 5TH 10 am – 4pm

Refreshments & light lunches

SUNDAY MAY 6TH 12 – 5pm

Cream teas

MONDAY MAY 7TH 10am – 5pm

Refreshments & light lunches

Displays of Hobbies, Crafts,
Art, Handiwork , Talents
and gifts of all kinds – those
hidden things we all can do

FREE admittance – donations towards Christian Aid

The future for Churches Together in Wotton?

The **Churches Together AGM** will be held at the United Church at 7.30pm on 30 April and as in previous years will include a shared meal.

As well as reviewing 2017 a new Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected. At the moment there is a question mark over who will take on these roles, and hence a question mark over the future and existence of the Forum.

Everyone is welcome at the AGM, and you needn't worry about being landed with a job unless you are part of the Forum. Each church may have up to three representatives on the Forum, so, on the other hand, if you feel you are called to take a part in Churches Together in Wotton, speak to your Minister or one of the existing Forum members about vacancies in your Church.

It may be that, following the AGM, there will be no Forum. The work of God in the Churches will continue, but it will be less easy for them to work together. Please pray that God's will is done.

A reminder that the **Walk of Witness** will start from the Oliver Memorial Chapel at 9.30 on Good Friday.

On Sunday the **Easter Sunrise Service** will be held on Coombe Hill at 7am and will be followed by breakfast in the Parish Room, provided by St Mary's.

Judy Mills

Praying for the Churches

In February we remember especially in our prayers, the Anglican Church of St Mary the Virgin.

The Benefice includes the churches of Ozleworth, North Nibley and Tresham as well as Wotton under Edge

The Clergy team comprises Revd Canon Rob Axford, Revds Christine Axford, Morag Langley, Peter Marsh & John Evans & Revd Canon Iain Marchant, and Sue Plant is a Licensed Reader.



United Ramblers

Easter Monday 2 April 2018 (Visitors welcome)

Stinchcombe walk

- Leave Wotton United Church @ 10am
- Park at Stinchcombe Village Hall (GL11 6AW)
- 5 mile walk up the main Berkeley to London stage coach road onto the Cotswold Way loop around Stinchcombe Hill.
- Excellent views on a clear day of the Severn Valley, Forest of Dean, Hay Bluff as well as other prominent places.
- Lunch at "The Old Spot" in Dursley.

Leader Alan Pearn (01454 260649)

EASTER WEEK FILMS

27, 28, 29 & 30 March

Showing at Wotton Baptist Church, FREE



Tuesday
27th March
7:30pm



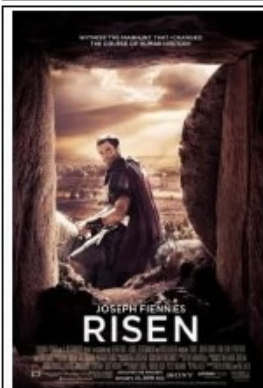
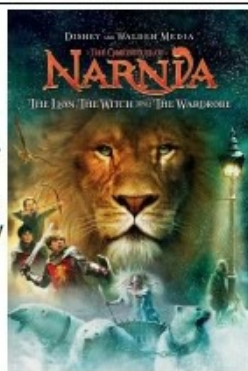
Based on the best-selling novel, *The Shack* takes us on a father's uplifting journey of discovery. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack spirals into a deep depression that causes him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack in the Oregon wilderness.

Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

Thursday
29th March
7pm



During the World War II bombings of London, four English siblings are sent to a country house where they will be safe. One day Lucy (Georgie Henley) finds a wardrobe that transports her to a magical world called Narnia. After coming back, she soon returns to Narnia with her brothers, Peter (William Moseley) and Edmund (Skandar Keynes), and her sister, Susan (Anna Popplewell). There they join the magical lion, Aslan (Liam Neeson), in the fight against the evil White Witch, Jadis (Tilda Swinton).



Wednesday
28th March
7:30pm



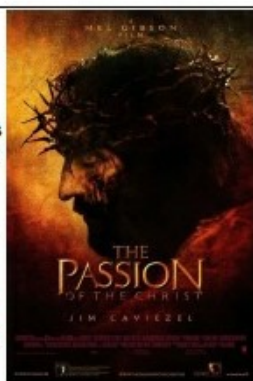
Roman military tribune Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) remains set in his ways after serving 25 years in the army. He arrives at a crossroad when he's tasked to investigate the mystery of what happened to Jesus (Cliff Curtis) following the Crucifixion. Accompanied by trusted

aide Lucius (Tom Felton), his quest to disprove rumors of a risen Messiah makes him question his own beliefs and spirituality. As his journey takes him to places never dreamed of, Clavius discovers the truth that he's been seeking.

Friday
30th March
7:30pm



In this version of Christ's crucifixion, based on the New Testament, Judas expedites the downfall of Jesus (Jim Caviezel) by handing him over to the Roman Empire's handpicked officials. To the horror of his mother, Mary (Maia Morgenstern), Magdalen (Monica Bellucci), whom he saved from damnation, and his disciples, Jesus is condemned to death. He is tortured as he drags a crucifix to nearby Calvary, where he is nailed to the cross. He dies, but not before a last act of grace.



Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Everyone is welcome at all of these Services

Monday 26 March	7pm	Stations of the Cross	St Mary's
Tuesday 27 March	7.30pm	<i>The Shack</i> film	WBaptistC
Wednesday 28 March	10.45am	Blue Coat School Easter Service	St Mary's
	7.30pm	<i>Risen</i> film	WBaptistC
Maundy Thursday 29 March	5.30pm	Maundy Thursday Mass	Holy Cross
	7pm	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> film	WBaptistC
	7.30pm	<i>Holy Communion of the Last Supper followed by Watch of Prayer</i>	St Mary's
	7.30	Maundy Thursday Communion	WUnitedC
Good Friday 30 March	9.30am	Walk of Witness (CTiW)	Oliver Mem Chapel, Synwell
	12 - 3pm	At the Foot of the Cross	St Mary's
	3pm	Good Friday Service	Holy Cross
	7.30pm	<i>The Passion</i> film	WBaptistC
Saturday 31 March	5.30pm	Holy Saturday Vigil Mass for Easter	Holy Cross
	8pm	Ceremony of Easter Fire	St Mary's
Easter Sunday 1 April	7am	Easter Sunrise Service (followed by breakfast at the Parish Room) (CTiW)	Coombe Hill
	8.30am & 11am	Easter Day Mass	Christ the King, Thornbury
	10.15am	Easter Day Worship and Holy Communion	WUnitedC
	10.30am	Easter Day Worship with Baptism	WBaptistC
Easter Monday	10am	Easter Monday Mass	Holy Cross

The Quakers will meet as usual at 10.30am on Sundays

News sheet produced on behalf of Churches Together in Wotton. If you have any comments, or would like items included in future issues, please see your church reps or contact Judy Mills email judy.mills@live.co.uk