



July & August 2018

Together in Wotton

Christians worshipping & working together in Wotton under Edge



Christian Aid Week 2018

Christian Aid Week already seems a long time ago, but it has taken a while to gather in all the boxes and reach a total. This year the Week raised £4066 from the shop and house-to-house collection, £200 down

from last year, but the total for the year is up £74 at £5054, which is a wonderful result from a reduced number of volunteers.

Thanks for this go to Mary Downs who led the effort, and to Peter and Alison Sutton who did much of the physical and administrative work. But also to the representatives of all the town's churches who contributed labour, cakes and soup throughout the week : also to John Downs who ran the plant stall, and to the Baptist Church, who gave up their schoolroom for the week. Some of the committee (myself included) are beginning to feel their age, and we would dearly love to find some younger and more active volunteers for next year

Christian Aid is a wonderful opportunity for the churches to do together what Jesus told them to do, outside the walls of their buildings and regardless of doctrinal differences. Being seen to co-operate under the British Council of Churches to provide practical help for the hungry, the refugees and disaster victims is one of the most important things the churches can do, in an age when many think they are irrelevant.

As a result, the work can go on across Africa, South America, South East Asia and the Middle East, largely by co-ordinating the efforts of local churches, village and farm co-operatives, with a minimum of expensive expatriates to absorb the funds, and out of reach of corrupt governments. This has been going on since 1946, and we pray that it will continue until the spectre of world hunger has been abolished.

Iain Marchant.

Forward - Together

When the Wharin family moved in to Wotton eight years ago, it was immediately clear that the relationships between Christians in the various churches in Wotton were already extremely positive. Churches together in Wotton, set up in the late 1980s to facilitate relationships between the churches has clearly been very successful organising a long list of regular activities. Outside the formal arrangements of CTIW there is a wide range of other inter-denominational activities: open the book, the Ark, Christian aid week, the remembrance service, Wotton foodbank and community bank.

At the AGM of Churches Together in Wotton on 30th April 2018, we discussed how to find a way forward to protect and encourage these excellent Christian relationships and activities without the necessity of a formally structured CTIW which has become difficult to manage. It was suggested that a small group of representatives from each of the churches should get together to formulate a covenant between the churches and a plan to continue as many of the above activities as possible with a new lighter framework. Last Tuesday, Julie Ashby, Kate Barlow, Jackie Excell, Robert Maxwell, Phil Summers and I met together to put together a proposal.

Alison Evans, the county ecumenical officer tells me that there is no bar to our participation in Churches together in Gloucestershire or Churches together in England if we adopt our own covenant in place of a constitution. This is our proposal for a Wotton Christian Covenant:

We, the Christians of the Trinitarian churches in Wotton commit to:

- Encourage and support one another in Christian mission and discipleship
- Speak positively of one another in public
- Explore and seek to understand our differences and similarities
- Pray together and for each other
- Be alert to new opportunities to act together
- Work together with other groups and individuals seeking the good of the broader community
- Encourage the Clergy to meet regularly

The group came to the conclusion that we could run the majority of the activities currently co-ordinated by CTIW, using a small group of one representative from each church plus the editor of 'together in Wotton' meeting twice a year. The full proposal will be circulated by the end of June to interested parties (including forum members) before consideration at a meeting for all interested on **Monday 9 July at the United Church at 7:30pm**. After this meeting, an edited proposal will be circulated to the relevant church meetings for approval.

Do contact me or any of the members of the above group if you have any questions about this process.

Tom Wharin



Messy Church at St. Mary's

Messy Church will be at the Fete on 14 July
11 Aug - Messy Forest Church at St Mary's
Breakfast, activities and worship for all ages

LINK SATURDAYS

Church and community together

EVERY 1ST SATURDAY

10-12:30

Wotton Baptist Church Link



**CHARITY OF
THE MONTH**

**DEBT
ADVICE**

cma

Freedom from debt
Hope for the future



**FREE
TEA/COFFEE
& CAKE**



**CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITY**



**DIFFERENT
ACTIVITIES
EACH
MONTH**



Meet local people - make new friends

www.wottonbaptist.org.uk

**This month - includes details on how to book
your place: - see below**



Wotton Baptist Church Holiday Club

Monday 30 July—Friday 3 August

10am-12:30pm (registration 9:45am on Mon 30)

For all children who have finished Reception to Year 6

*Registration forms can be downloaded
from www.wottonbaptist.org.uk and completed in advance -
1 per child - to speed up registration on the first day.*

*NB: Completing this form does not guarantee a place at holiday
club, parents/guardians will still have to queue on the first day,
when registration opens at 9:45am.*

**For more info contact Karen Dover on 01453 844726
or karend@wottonbaptist.org.uk**

Not just chip pans and cats up trees

As Christians, it is our duty and privilege to care for the vulnerable members of our Community, not just in our Churches, but all of God's children. Do you know someone: - in your church, in your street, in the town, who would benefit from the services below? If so, please contact Ceri, or give them her details.

As a community fire station, the Wotton crew not only respond to emergencies but are also engaged in a wide range of community safety initiatives.

Ceri Cockram is the Lead Community Safety Advisor in Wotton Under Edge and part of her role is to provide free Safe and Well visits in the community, covering the fitting of free smoke alarms, fire safety and escape plan advice, tailored to individual needs, and working closely with partner agencies to ensure that vulnerable people have all the support they require to remain safe and well in their own homes.

Ceri is asking that people be made aware of the services they are able to provide to the community and how to contact her. As a retained (on-call) station, there often isn't anyone personally at the station, so she would really like to make sure that people know how to make contact and access their range of free services.

Contact details are below. Please feel free to contact me by email or on my mobile.

Ceri Cockram
Firefighter and Community Safety Advisor
Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Wotton Under Edge Community Fire Station, Symn Lane
Mob: 07817320781
www.glosfire.gov.uk

Bibles for Schools

As our young Year people leave Blue Coat and British Schools on their way to Senior schools, they all attend a Leavers' Service, either at St Mary's (10.30am, Wed 25 July) or at the Baptist Church (9.30am Mon 16 July) and are presented with Bibles, given by all of Wotton's Churches.

These Leavers Services are truly a time for celebration: - it is amazing how quickly a hesitant member of the Reception classes becomes a confident 11-year old, ready to move on to the next stage of their life.

Both services welcome all families, friends and visitors.

St Mary's Church Fete

Saturday 14th July 2018

2:00pm—4:30pm

Live Music Stalls Games BBQ Teas Cakes
Pimms Plants Books Raffle Tower Tours

All Welcome!



The current list of priority needs for Foodbank includes:

- Conditioner
- Men's shaving kits
- Instant Coffee
- Toilet paper
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meat
- UHT Milk

There are collection boxes near the tills in Co-op and in most of the churches

Praying for the Churches

For July and August we are asked especially to pray respectively for the United Church and the Oliver Memorial Chapel at Synwell.

As well as the regular congregations, we give thanks for the visiting preachers on whom both churches depend, but also remember the church members who through illness or infirmity are no longer able to attend Sunday worship.

Pages of Faith

The next session of Pages of Faith will be on Friday 20 July & Friday 17 August, 9:30 - 12:30. Cost £5.

Please book with Jane Gray-Wallis(521218 or 07855 535717)



United Ramblers Monday 2 July

The United Ramblers walk on Monday July 2nd will be just short of 5 miles We will begin in Alderley and follow the Cotswold Way, we leave it to reach Hillesley. From there we head for Wortley and return via the Cotswold Way to Alderley. The walk has a few ups and downs but nothing too steep. Meet at the church at 10am, lunch will be at the Royal Oak in Wotton and as we need to order before we leave Wotton, can everyone who intends to stay for lunch please come to the church rather than go direct to Alderley. Parking at Alderley is in the lane opposite the church.

Leader:Rob Carruthers 07910123297

Monday 6 August - Rob will also be leading the August walk,exact route yet to be planned. Please contact Rob nearer the date if you hope to join him but haven't received an email.



**Life Together:
Intentional Communities as Church**

Stroud Methodist Church c/o: St Alban's Church, Parliament Street, Stroud, GL5 1QH

24th July 2018 12 – 3pm

An afternoon of discussion and reflection on the
theology and practice of community

Speakers: Revd Inderjit Bhogal, Revd Simon Topping

Free. Lunch provided. All welcome.

For more info: simon.topping@methodist.org.uk 01453 764818

St Mary's Tea and Cake Fundraisers



**Saturday afternoons
2- 4.30pm**

7 & 21 July, 4 & 18 Aug

On the Church Drive or in the Parish Room