

United Alive

Wotton United Church

Methodist & United Reformed
Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge

Sunday Worship at 10.15 am



July & August 2018

OUR PURPOSE

To worship God
and to serve Jesus Christ
in our community and the wider world
by communicating Christ's message
in word and action;
growing in faith; welcoming all ages;
showing care, friendship and love;
working with other churches

To accomplish all this through prayer
and the power of the
Holy Spirit

July 2018 - Diary

Sun	1	9.30am	... and every Sunday - Prayer in the Hall
		10.15am	Sunday Worship & Christening - Revd Stuart Radford p12
Mon	2	10am	United Ramblers meet at church p vii
Wed	4	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch Club
		7.30pm	Ladies' Group: Helen & Arthur Barry's 'home movies'
Thur	5	12 noon	Thanksgiving Service for the life of John Gowers
		7pm	...and every Thursday - Table Tennis in the Hall
Sun	8	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Phil Dazeley
Mon	9	7.30pm	Churches Together New Covenant - open meeting - United Church Hall p ii
Tues	10	2.30pm	Sisterhood: last meeting until September
Wed	11	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship tbc
Sat	14	2.30pm	Dryleaze Saturday Club
		2 - 4.30pm	St Mary's Summer Fête p vii
Sun	15	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Revd Phil Summers (Café Church)
			Sunday Club barbecue at the church - all invited p10
Mon	16	9.30am	British School Leavers' Service at Wotton Baptist Church
Wed	18	7.30pm	Ladies' Group - Anthony Young entertains (last meeting until 12 September)
Sun	22	10.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion: Revd Robert Riddell
		6pm	Evening Worship at Dryleaze House: Stuart Hobbs
Wed	25	10.30am	Blue Coat Leavers' Service at St Mary's
		2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship tbc
Sat	28	9 - 12 noon	Amnesty Street Collection p4
Sun	29	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Stuart Reed
Tues	31	All Day	Holiday at Home - Day 1 p6
Wed	1	All Day	Holiday at Home - Day 2 p6



From September to July we shall be looking at Holy Habits. Based on the book 'Holy Habits' by a friend of mine, Andrew Roberts we will spend each month (excluding December) looking at a different Holy Habit. 'What is a Holy Habit?' you may well ask. (Have I said 'Holy Habit' enough now?) Andrew has looked at a passage that occurs in the book of Acts that describes the activities of the early church...

Acts 2:42-47 Revised Standard Version (RSV) 'And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.'

From this passage he has drawn out the ten Holy Habits. Ultimately the exploration of Holy Habits (can I just type HH) is a look at discipleship. And discipleship is simply looking at what it means to learn from Jesus and live a life modelled on His.

'What are they?' I hear you cry. The ten HHs (that's Holy Habits for those who weren't paying attention earlier) are...Biblical Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, Prayer, Giving, Service, Eating Together, Gladness and generosity, Worship, Making more disciples.

Throughout the year we will look at these topics in our Sunday services, fellowship groups and bible studies. (We will miss out December to concentrate on Christmas). As yet they are in no particular order, but I hope as we explore each HH we will allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ the Son.

For those who want to be more prepared for the year ahead please get a copy of 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts, published by Malcolm Down Publishing. It is simply written and easily accessible, filled with life stories and reflections. It's not a dry theological tome – well worth looking at (not that theological tomes are not worth looking at, it's just that this isn't one).

It'll be great to look at our lives together and see what inspiration and guidance we can glean from those early disciples as they formed a church that shared the good news of Christ that changed the world. We still have a part to play in the church's developing story.

God bless,

Love, - Phil.

Amnesty Street Collection - 28 July

As always Ros requests some help with this between of 9am and 12noon. The morning can be split into 30-minute slots, or less to suit the volunteers.

Although there are those who have helped year after year, they are not always available, so even – or especially - if you haven't taken part before, you will be most welcome. Contact Ros Wakefield for more details or to offer help



Wednesday Fellowship

Meeting 11 & 25 July subject to confirmation

There will be no meetings in August. Instead, as in previous years there will be a series of weekly Summer Socials - see below

All welcome

Who are we? - Where are you? Apologies that this popular feature is missing for the second month running. It will be back in the next edition, promise! Ed.

Summer Socials

Once again we will meet on (mostly) Wednesday evenings throughout August. The socials start at 7pm and finish with an epilogue around 9pm.

The dates are as follows:

- Thurs 2 August - Table tennis & indoor bowls evening at the church
- Wed 8 August - Rob & Margaret
- Wed 15 August - Graham & Anne-Marie
- Wed 22 August - Alison & Alan
- Wed 29 August - Ann & Philip



Who will run the Café?

Can't have a café without a cuppa - and can't have a cuppa without a biscuit.

It was decided at the recent Church Meeting that the people on the Coffee Rota on Café Church days would be asked to prepare coffee to be consumed before the service (as well as after) and that we would use Traidcraft biscuits (paid for out of Church funds).

Next dates for Café Church are 15 July & 12 August

An August Anniversary: Lammas



As this United Alive covers two months, and I haven't got time to write two articles, I'm skipping July and landing on 1 August, which is the traditional day for celebration of Lammas, falling half-way between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox, though it may be later in August. I wasn't really aware of Lammas until I came to the United Church and started to read Alan's notices, which mention "Lammas tide"

in August. Please tell me where I get things wrong, Alan!

First, Lammas is nothing to do with lambs! ("Lamb Mass"?). It is the celebration of the beginning of the grain harvest, while the Harvest Festival marks the end. It has been important in prehistoric times, among the Greeks and Romans, and not least the Jews – see Exodus 23 verse 19 and other references in the Old Testament, where it is called "first fruits". The offering of a tenth of the crop became the basis of the tithe for the support of the clergy in the medieval church.

A bountiful harvest was a cause of grateful celebration, given the unpredictability of nature and the shortage of food which often preceded it. This explains the celebration at the beginning of harvest, while with greater food security we have become used to giving thanks at the end of harvest, when "all is safely gathered in."

However, in northern Europe the celebration goes back to a pagan festival of the Celts, called Lughnassadh (Lughnasad): Lugh, or Lug, was the Celtic Sun God and bringer of light, and thus the giver of harvest. Lugh, as John Barleycorn, is the living Spirit of the corn, or grain. As the corn is cut so John Barleycorn is cut down also. He surrenders his life so that others may be sustained by the grain, so that the life of the community can continue. He is both eaten as the bread and is then reborn as the seed returns to the earth.

To the Anglo-Saxons it was Lammas, from "hlaefmass" or loaf-mass. The church took over Lammas, as with many other pre-Christian festivals, but some of the traditional celebrations have a pagan origin and survive among modern Wiccans. The cutting of the first sheaf and baking of the first loaf of a new harvest, given to the gods, was a great symbolic offering of the first and best of the harvest. The first sheaf would often be ceremonially cut at dawn, winnowed, ground and baked into the Harvest Bread which was then shared by the community in thanks.

The last sheaf was also ceremonially cut, often made into a 'corn dolly', carried to the village with festivity and was central to the Harvest Supper. This last sheaf would live in the home, often above the fireplace or hearth, until the next

harvest. In some parts of Europe the tradition was to weave the last sheaf into a large Corn Mother with a smaller 'baby' inside it, representing the harvest to come the following year.

When Christianity adopted Lammas, the custom was to bring a loaf from the first fruits into the church (see picture) which would be blessed and used for the eucharist. In the 20C Lammas customs fell into decline, but some festivals are held, such as puck Fair in County Kerry and Reek Sunday in County Mayo in Ireland. Eastbourne marked Lammas last year with a two-day festival with Morris dancers, a parade, food and crafts, storytellers and a special-edition Lammas Ale.

You could celebrate this year with a meal at the Lammastide Inn near Berkeley! Nowadays we are so separated from the production of our food that many children don't know that bread comes from wheat grown in fields or that milk comes from cows. Perhaps we should. Perhaps we should revive Lammas, while keeping Harvest Festival, to remind ourselves that we still depend on the bounty of God's earth.

Philip Revall

P.S Lammas Eve, 31 July, is Juliet's birthday in *Romeo and Juliet*. "Come Lammas Eve at night shall she [Juliet] be fourteen." She thus was born before the festival, which is significant since her life ended before she could reap what she had sown and enjoy the bounty of the harvest, in this case full enjoyment of her love with Romeo

Holiday at Home needs You

Holiday at Home is being held a couple of weeks earlier this year on 31 July / 1 August. It will be held at the United Church as usual, but we have to thank Holy Cross and Synwell who are making all the arrangements.

Margaret Carruthers is going to be the liaison person from the United Church and she will very soon be putting-up lists for volunteers for providing food, helping in the kitchen, helping with transport and acting as 'hosts' - seeing to the Holidaymakers' every need!

If you can help, please do. On the other hand, if you think you should receive an invitation, and you have not done so by mid-July, please speak to Margaret.



Giving God thanks for life; remembering those who have left this earthly life and those who mourn.

A Christening! On Sunday 1 July we welcome the extended Davies family (and there will hopefully be quite a few of them!) for the christening of Janet & Alun's 4-year-old grand-daughter Brooke Evans.

A Birthday! Although a woman never likes to admit to her age – and I really don't want to admit to being 70, I have decided that as I can't avoid it, I'm going to try and embrace it and would like to celebrate with a party! I would like to invite anyone who can make it up the Old London Road to come and enjoy a cream tea and cakes on Saturday, 4 August, any time between 3 and 7 pm. If you would like to come and enjoy the lovely views of Wotton and surrounding countryside, but are worried about how to get here and fear that the hill might be too much, please let me know and I will make sure that we arrange transport. If you could RSVP by writing your name on the list on the noticeboard that would be really helpful for catering purposes. As it said on a friend's similar party invitation: your presence is the only gift I need! I appreciate it's holiday time, but if you are able to come, I would love to see you and share my special day with you.

Alison Sutton

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of John Gowers who died on 14 June. An ex-submariner, John played a huge part in the town, running the fish shop (I suppose it kept him in touch with the sea) and pet shop and standing for many years on the Town Council. Within the Church, both John and Beryl worked tirelessly and with good humour, and are already greatly missed. Service of Thanksgiving at the United Church, Thur 5 July, 12 noon.

On Thursday 21 June we celebrated the life and service of Revd Lewis Reynolds who died in May. Lewis was evacuated to Wotton from Birmingham in the 1930s and was adopted by Redvers Reynolds and his wife Ethel, never losing his Birmingham accent. He studied for the ministry whilst working as a postman, but served in a non-stipendiary role. His humility and empathy made him a popular choice to conduct funerals and christenings, where his love of children was always obvious. Lewis died peacefully on 25 May, a couple of weeks before his 90th birthday. We continue to remember in our prayers his wife Mary and their son Andrew and family.

Rotas for JULY

	1 July	8 July	15 July	22 July	29 July
WORSHIP STEWARD	Ann Revill	Philip Revill	Alan Jackson	Martin Summers	Alison Jackson
WELCOME	Kath Wilkes & Dorothy Hill	Trish Davies	Frances Biggs	Jane Hayter	Margaret & Mike Groom
TRANSPORT	Alun Davies	Jill Polley	Roger Gunning	Trevor Owen	Godfrey Marsland
COFFEE	Brenda Cary & Jacky Ling	Marion Smith & Trish Davies	Sandra & Trevor Owen	Hilary & Alan McDermott	Pauline Jones & Anne Rees-Simkins
FLOWERS	Marion Smith	Reg Clarke	Ann Rees-Simkins	Jane Clare	- oOo -
SOUND SYSTEM	Godfrey Marsland	Tim Hayter	Martin Summers	Mike Groom	Brian Reeks
SCREENS	Philip Revill	Reg Clarke	Alan Jackson	Philip Revill	Alison Jackson
ORGAN	Ros Wakefield	Sue Marsland	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield (am & pm)	Sue Marsland
GRASS	Alan Pearn	Reg Clarke	Trevor Owens	Tim Hayter	John Rees-Simkins

Church Flowers



The flower rota has a few gaps over the summer.

Artistic ability not necessary - there are some skilled flower arrangers who can help.

If you would like to donate some flowers or the money to buy some, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a particular date, please fill in a space on the rota.

Your flowers will later be taken to someone who will appreciate them

and AUGUST

5 August	12 August	19 August	26 August	2 September
Godfrey Marsland	Ann Revill	Alan Jackson	Philip Revill	Roger Gunning
Jacky Ling	Margaret & John Alderson	Jill Payne & Margaret Nickols	Margaret Jermy	Pat & Richard Bayliss
John Alderson	Alan Pearn	Philip Revill	Alun Davies	Jill Polley
Mary & Martin Summers	Wendy & Brian Reeks	Judy Mills	Marion Smith	Pat & Richard Bayliss
- oOo -	- oOo -	- oOo -	Jackie Ling	Marion Smith
Godfrey Marsland	Tim Hayter	Martin Summers	Mike Groom	Brian Reeks
Godfrey Marsland	Reg Clarke	Alan Jackson	Philip Revill	Godfrey Marsland
Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield	Ros Wakefield	Sue Marsland (am & pm)	Ros Wakefield
Peter Sutton	Alun Davies	Richard Bayliss	Brian Reeks	John Alderson

Meet the Neighbours



We have invited all the residents of Bradley Street to a cream tea on Sunday 12 August from 3 – 5pm. You are all invited too, to just chat and offer friendship, no more. If anyone could offer to help please speak to Sue Marsland asap and offers of homemade jam would be appreciated. I am planning on having a scone bake after the morning

service – that way they should be fresh and tasty!

Sue



Church Summer Barbecue

Sunday 15th July after the morning service.

We plan to eat at about 12:30 if you are hurrying from somewhere else and we will be all done in plenty of time for you to get back home for the cup final at 4pm.

Please sign up to the list in church so that we know how many sausages to purchase. There is no charge but a basket will be put out for donations if you feel able. The Mums and Dads and I will be preparing and serving the food after which I will be passing among you to ask for volunteers from the church to clear up.

It is an opportunity to see what the children have been up to over the past year and to spend time socialising with each other. Please feel free to invite friends. Just be sure to sign them up on the list.

If wet - don't panic sauzies will go in our very capable ovens. There will also be ice cream and cake. What's not to like. I can't wait. See you there.

Jane Gray-Wallis

Recycle recycle recycle - our church is full of boxes

And now we are adding one more

Any of the below items can be sold for the benefit of Traidcraft. Soon you will see another collection box somewhere around the United Church Premises – please fill it up!

Jewellery – unwanted gold & silver including damaged items; costume jewellery & watches

Coins & currency – Banknotes & coins, UK or foreign of any age.

Mobiles phones, Video, digital & wet film cameras; SatNavs, Games consoles & games, iPods, laptops, tablets etc

Stamps – loose single stamps, albums, collections. Also postcard collections.



Not forgetting our boxes for Foodbank items, for the Bristol Methodist Centre; magazines for Pennwood Lodge; greetings cards for Babs; bottle tops - are we still finding a home for milk bottle tops?

August 2018 - Diary

Wed	1	All Day	Holiday at Home - Day 2 p6
			Reminder - there is NO Lunch Club in August
		7.30pm	Summer Social p4
Thur	2	7pm	...and every Thursday - Table Tennis in the Hall
Sat	4	3 - 7pm	Alison S's Birthday Tea at The Butts
Sun	5	9.30am	... and every Sunday - Prayer in the Hall
		10.15am	Sunday Worship: Alan Jackson
Mon	6	10am	United Ramblers meet at church p vii
Wed	8	7.30pm	Summer Social p4
		2-4pm	Baby Café
Sat	11		Reminder - there is NO Saturday Club in August
Sun	12	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Worship Group (Café Church
			Meet the Neighbours - Cream Tea p9
Wed	15	7.30pm	Summer Social p4
Sun	19	10.15am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: Rev Phil Summers
Wed	22	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Summer Social p4
Sun	26	10.15am	Sunday Morning Worship: Bryan Oosthuysen
		6pm	Evening Worship at Dryleaze Hse: Margaret Marshall
Wed	29	7.30pm	Summer Social p4

Dates for your Diary

31 July and 1 August

7 October

13 October

11 November

2 December

Holiday at Home

Harvest

Aspects of Discipleship

Remembrance Sunday – St Mary's followed by a more reflective service in our church later in the day

Advent Supper

In Remembrance



Giving thanks for those who have lived and died in the faith of Christ

July

3 Nancy Marsh 1978
 10 Richard Cary 2009
 14 Lucy Gabbatis 1993
 15 Ron Hicks 1999
 18 Rose Robinson 2014
 21 Isobel Hardie 2016
 30 Dorothy Hale 2010
 30 Joy Thorne 2010
 30 Ella Hale 1978
 31 Bob Richardson 1986

August

2 Margaret Benning 2014
 6 Myrtle Wytchard 2013
 9 Edna Fairbrother 2012
 10 Clifford Carter 1991
 15 Irene Thomas 2005
 16 Ken Biggs 2016
 20 John Whitehead 2003
 31 Bernard Ling 2008
 31 Elsie Collins 2013

MINISTER	Rev Phil Summers, 21 Kingshill Road, Dursley GL12 4DQ. Tel: 01453 542565. email: philsum41@gmail.com
LEADERSHIP TEAM	Rev Phil Summers, Martin Summers (01454 294920) Sue Marsland (844110), Graham Jackson (842449), Alison Jackson (843072)) Roger Gunning (845232),
TREASURER	Tim Hayter, 88 Parklands, W-u-E GL12 7NR. Tel. 845520. email: tim.hayter@mypostoffice.co.uk
BOOKING	Pauline Jones, 55A Parklands, W-u-E GL12 7NR. Tel. 843708. email: pj55a@hotmail.co.uk
NEWSLETTER	Judy Mills, 1 Wotton Crescent W-u-E GL12 7JZ. Tel. 842421. email: judy.mills@live.co.uk . OR Philip or Ann Revill, 55 High Street, Wickwar, GL11 8NP Tel. 01454294466 email: pandarev55@gmail.com
NOTICES	Alan Jackson, 6 Old Town, W-u-E GL12 7DH Tel. 843072. email: notices@wottonunitedchurch.org uk
WEBSITE	www.wottonunitedchurch.org.uk

Items for the **September** United Alive by **20 August** please to Judy Mills or Ann & Philip Revill