

United Alive

Wotton United Church

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

Sunday Worship at 10.15 am



November 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

November 2018 - Diary

November's Holy Habit is *Biblical Teaching*

Sun	4	10.15am	Sunday Worship - Neil Grecian
Mon	5	10am	United Ramblers
Wed	7	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch Club
		7.30pm	Ladies Group: Guide Dogs for the Blind
Sat	10	10 -12 noon	Christmas Bazaar, Oliver Memorial Chapel
		2.30pm	Saturday Club: Remembrance
Sun	11	10.50am	United Service of Remembrance at St. Mary's followed by Ceremony at the War Memorial
		6pm	Quiet service of Remembrance - Rev Phil Summers
Mon	12	2.30pm	Men's Group: <i>Boys will be Boys - 30 years of trying to police them</i> Judy Mills
Tues	13	9.30am	Shoebox construction and decoration in the church
		2.30pm	Sisterhood: <i>Speaker</i> Mr Ian Emmett (Betty's son)
Wed	14	2 - 4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Summers' Super Soup Supper
Fri	16	9.30am	Shoebox filling in the hall
Sat	17	7pm	Big Quiz Night at the Baptist Church
Sun	18	10.15am	Sunday Worship - Ann Pearce
Tues	20	10 - 2pm	Quiet Day at Dursley Methodist Church
Wed	21	7.30pm	Ladies Group: Entertainment from Rev Philip Hopes
Sun	25	10.15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion - Rev Phil Summers
		6pm	Evening Worship at Dryleaze: Stuart Hobbs
Tues	27	2.30pm	Sisterhood: 84th Birthday Party with entertainment
Wed	28	2 - 4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship at 113A Parklands.



November is dedicated to the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching.

It's not the Bible bit that worries me. I love the Bible. A timeless exploration of humanity's relationship with God over the centuries. Through its histories, letters, songs, stories and poetry we hear God speak. Sometimes clearly and directly, often with a twist or an insight. The Holy Spirit uses the record of our forbears' experience of God to help us explore our own relationship with the Almighty.

From the foundational Jewish Scriptures of the Old Testament to the revelation of God in Jesus told in the Gospels and world changing experience of the Holy Spirit in the letters of the early Church. No, it's not the Bible that worries me.

It's that word 'teaching'. I have had mixed experiences of teaching and teachers. Many are enriching and life affirming. But the odd few are soul-destroying. Sad to say that Biblical Teachers have more than their fair share of soul-destroying ones. Just see some of the endless nonsense that is put out on the internet in the name of Biblical Teaching (please, don't). This month's Holy Habit is not so much about what others have to say about the scriptures but more directly to explore what the Bible has to say to us. So not teaching about the Bible but Bible Teaching. Still not convinced? No, me neither.

How do I know what the Bible teaches? Indeed, the very phrase 'what the Bible teaches' disturbs me. Maybe it's my slightly anarchic approach to life and my underlying mistrust of authority. But I've too often heard people harangued by what others say the Bible teaches. Sometimes in aggressive or abusive ways. I often say to Local Preachers in training: "I'm not interested in what you say the Bible teaches" – which seems like an odd thing to say. But the fact is I could find a hundred books disagreeing with their interpretation. The preachers role is to inspire us to explore the scriptures for ourselves. The scriptures are the foundational document of our faith, we need to know them, be informed by them and about them. But I'm convinced that what the scriptures teach you may be different from what the same scripture teaches me. We may well have different things we need to learn.

It is the application that is important. The reading, the discussing, the meditation and prayerful consideration that is at the heart of Biblical teaching. What does God say to me in these stories and songs? Taking into consideration other people's views and opinions, what do I think? How do the words speak to me? It's not the preacher's task alone. The whole fellowship of the church needs to explore, together and individually, who they are and how they live in the light of God's love revealed to us in the Bible.

But Phil??? What does the Bible teach!!!!??

Two things: Love God; Love your neighbour. There are no greater commandments than these.

Phil Summers

Who are you? - Betty Yeomans

I was born in Padiham, a small weaving town near Burnley. My parents, aunts and uncles all worked in the weaving mill owned by the Noble family. As an only child, I didn't lack playmates as I had cousins living nearby and my oldest friend, Mary, (since we were three years old). Mary and I went to the same infant and junior



school, but I went to the grammar school later on. We both attended the same Methodist Church, Sunday School, Youth club and Girls' Brigade into our teens when boys loomed on the scene. I married at 19 and was Mary's bridesmaid 18 months later just when I was expecting Ian (Mary and Allan have just had their Diamond Wedding and I saw them last Christmas).

I left school at 16 and tried nursing for about 18 months, but it didn't suit my health so my father thought I should leave. I went into office work in my home town, then stayed at home for a while when Ian was born. We moved from Padiham when he was 3 years old to a Victorian house halfway between Padiham and Burnley centre. Lynn came along when Ian was 6 and at school and after a while I opened a wool shop nearby our house. My husband got work in London when Lynn was 3 years old and we sold up and moved to Croydon. It was strange not knowing anyone and the local Methodist church was a life saver. We then moved out to a small village near Redhill, Surrey which was much more friendly. Ian went to Reigate Grammar School and Lynn, now 5 years old, went to the village school.

I became a Civil Servant and went to work at the nearby Police Training School. Our marriage broke up soon after and we had a new civilian boss – Tony Yeomans. As you all know, the rest is history and we had nearly 40 years together. With Tony's job we moved around from Surrey to Cheshire, then Wotton when Tony got moved to Bristol, back to near Southport when he retired, but I yearned for Wotton so we came back. Then there was the chance of a farmhouse near our friends, Pat and Robin, in France – they kept goats, horses and chickens etc. So off we went. Then we had a move to the seaside, where we had many visitors from Wotton. We spent 13 years alto-

gether in France, then as we were getting older and maybe a bit homesick, we came back to Wotton which we always thought of as home.

The rest you will know. We came back in 2010 and sadly Tony died in 2014. I moved into a cottage at the Tabernacle. My children and grandchildren are all abroad so I look upon my friends at Bradley Street as my family and I can't close without mentioning especially Margaret and Rob Carruthers, who have given me so much care over the years.



Shoebox News

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came to the Shoebox coffee morning or made a donation. We raised £55 but would still be grateful for any donations of money or items for the shoeboxes.

This year we are joining with Blue Coat School and Wotton Baptist Church to fill Christmas boxes for 'WEBBox' and all the boxes will go to Albania. We do

not need people to provide us with their old shoeboxes as we have received 50+ flatpack boxes from the association.

On Tuesday 13 November from 9.30am we will be meeting in the church to assemble the boxes and decorate them. (If necessary we will meet again in the hall on Thursday 15 November to complete this job.) On Friday 16 November from 9.30am in the hall comes the fun bit when we fill the boxes with goodies. Still needed are small packs of sweets (with a long best before date) pencil sharpeners, small soft toys, toothbrushes, hair brushes & combs.

We are asked to donate at least £2 per box, which can be gift-aided.

For more details see Janet Davies or Sue Marsland or look at the website www.webassoc.org.uk/mission/webbox-appeal/

Spirit Lifters

Do you have a favourite Bible text that comforts you during difficult times and lifts your spirit? Each month we will print your 'spirit lifters' so please send them to Judy – I will be encouraging you on Sunday mornings! – and hopefully we can all benefit. I have started with one of my favourite texts, particularly appropriate I thought for October's Holy Habit – Gladness and generosity.

Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love that I may sing for joy and be glad all my days.

Psalms 90 v.14

Alison Sutton

Brother and Sisters

Sisterhood: - At 2.30pm on Tuesday 13 November

Ian Emmett, Betty Yeomans' son, will be speaking about the area of North West Spain where he lives. Everyone welcome – not only the ladies.

Sisterhood Christmas Lunch

Monday 10 December 12.30 pm at The Anchor Inn, Oldbury-on-Severn.

If any one is able to help with transport and would like to join us for lunch that would be great - please contact Babs P.

Advertised cost : 2 courses £18.95 or 3 courses £22.00 including coffee/tea and mince pies but the **actual** cost will be £8.95 (2 courses) or £12 (3 courses) as £10 per head is being subsidised by Sisterhood.

Monies and menu choices by Tuesday 13 November please.

Men's Group

At 2.30pm on Monday 12 November Judy Mills will speak to the Men's Group about some of her experiences in the Police Service. She is calling the talk: *Boys will be boys* which is probably politically incorrect ...

All men welcome. (That's politically incorrect too.)



Men's Group Christmas Lunch

The Men's Group will be holding their Christmas Lunch at the Fromebridge Mill on Tuesday 11 December at 12-30pm. Names to Reg or Brian.



Wednesday Fellowship

28 November at 113A Parklands

Biblical Teaching

The Holy Habit for November

All welcome

Sacred Places - Quaker Meeting House, Come to Good, Cornwall

Since declaring its commitment to peace in 1660, the Religious Society of Friends has opposed all wars. World War I was no different and many Quakers resisted the call to arms. Some volunteered for the Friends Ambulance Unit or the Friends War Victims Relief Committee, providing relief from suffering at the front. Others assisted those at home and campaigned for peaceful resolutions. Quakers resisted the introduction of conscription in 1916 and many chose to register as conscientious objectors.

In a small valley not far from Trelissick House & garden and the King Harry Ferry is a small Quaker Meeting House. The site was probably in use from about 1684 but the present Meeting House was constructed from 1710, using some recycled timbers, and windows from another nearby Meeting House. By 1717 it was necessary to construct a gallery (at a cost of £15 10s) as there was insufficient seating.

The Come to Good Meeting House was used regularly until towards the end of the nineteenth century when Friends attended larger buildings in both Truro and Falmouth instead. However, as new Quakers moved to the area, the Come to Good Meeting House became better attended and in 1966 the building was refurbished, whilst retaining its age old atmosphere. There is now a Meeting there at 10.30am each Sunday, and children meet in a separate room, built during the refurbishment.

Built of cob with a thatched roof, the building is Grade 1 Listed. The Quaker website urges visitors to 'bring coats' but says rugs, cushions and tea are provided).



Open for visitors on weekdays during daylight hours, the peace and tranquility both inside and out was little diminished by warnings about the wasp nest in the open linhay. Simple burial stones at the end of the garden somehow added a personal touch: real lives, real people who worshipped in this tiny place.

Postcode: TR3 6QS

Judy Mills

A couple of Thank Yous

Janet & Alan Davies say: Our grandson Oisin would like to thank all the people who contributed to his cake stall. He took £78 and to quote the Holy Habits he was "Glad of your Generosity" Thank you for your support.

Martin Summers says thank you those who volunteered for the grass-cutting rota in 2018. He noticed that they were all men, and hopes the ladies won't be too shy to come forward in 2019.

Reflective Quiet Day Tuesday 20 November 10.00am - 2.00pm at Dursley Methodist Church led by Rev Phil Summers

This trial session will begin with a cup of tea or coffee. Phil will briefly share ideas and thoughts from the Christian tradition and scriptures. This will be followed by a longer period of quiet reflection. Participants may wish to express their thinking through drawing or creative writing, or simply to spend the time in solitude and/or prayer.

A simple lunch will be followed by a gathered conversation where people can share their thoughts or simply listen to others.

Please feel free to ask anyone you think may be interested, from any Christian tradition or none. Please contact Pauline Chidlaw for more details or to book a place as numbers will be limited. 547838. pchidlaw@icloud.com

Remembrance Sunday Rotas

As there is a United Service at St Mary's in the morning, the coffee-makers get the day off. However Stewards, Sound and Screen monitors, Welcome and perhaps Transport will be needed in the evening. If your name is down, please check if you are required and available and make swaps if necessary.

Christmas Appeal 2018

Tools for Self-Reliance

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”

Tools for Self Reliance is a UK based charity working to help relieve poverty in Africa. Working with local African organisations they deliver a programme of tools and training to bring about effective and sustainable change to trades people and their communities.

The primary countries they work in are; Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia



Mary and Martin Summers have been involved with this charity for some time and have been involved in collecting many sewing machines which are refurbished and shipped abroad.

Recipients also receive training, not just in use of their tools, but also in running a small business.

Eating Together

Another Summers' Super Soup Supper

Wednesday 14 November at 7pm -

An informal time for exploration, discovery and chat using our Holy Habit topic for the month – ‘*Biblical Teaching*’.



Please sign up on the notice board if you wish to attend.

Advent Supper Sunday 2 December at 6pm

Supper with time for music, reading and reflection for Advent. Please sign the list to save your place!

More Generosity and Gladness

So, although the Holy Habit for November is something different; I think the idea is that we accumulate the Habits as we go along, not just say 'Done that!' tick them off and forget them.

So we continue with *Gladness and Generosity* even though it is November – and I am sure there is plenty of Biblical Teaching on the subject as well.

My Christmas Present list has been dwindling over the years, but I am *glad* that this has allowed me to be *generous* to those who might not receive as much, and although I wish I was in the habit of doing it all year round this means helping to fill the various boxes and baskets in the church.

Foodbank: according to their website they currently need:

- *Shampoo*
- *Instant coffee*
- *Biscuits*
- *Deodorants*
- *Shaving kit*
- *Adult toothpaste*
- *Adult toothbrushes*

(but please – no more Baked Beans)

*In the run-up to Christmas **Bristol Methodist Centre** holds a party for all their clients and aims to give each one a few gifts. They also have a wish-list of things they need - waterproof coats, tinned potatoes, sugar, drinking chocolate, stewing steak & instant mash; (things they DON'T need - breakfast cereal, soups, tea & coffee)*

For the Christmas Party they ask for puzzle books writing pads individual pks tissues, men's body sprays, men's shower gel, gloves, hats, scarves, individual chocolate bars

All these items will need to be at the Centre by about 10 December.

*The **Traidcraft recycling collection basket** will accept so much more than just jewellery! All items donated are recycled and the money goes to Traidcraft. The items they take is quite extensive: All jewellery: gold, silver (including damaged/single earrings etc), and costume. Watches. All banknotes and coins: any country, any age even outdated and no longer legal tender (got any old £1 coins around?). Stamps, used or new, any country. Stamp collections. Postcard collections. Gadgets: mobile phones. Old film cameras and lenses, digital cameras and any game consoles, laptops, tablets, ipods – working or otherwise.*

Shoebboxes – see separate article. We will be packing them w/c 12 November.

Rotas for NOVEMBER							
	4 November	11 November 6pm Service	18 November	25 November	2 December		
WORSHIP STEWARD	Godfrey Marsland	Ann Revill	Alan Jackson	Philip Revill	Roger Gunning		
WELCOME	Trish Davies	Frances Biggs	Jane Hayter	Margaret & Mike Groom	Jackie Ling		
TRANSPORT	Roger Gunning	Trevor Owen (if needed)	Godfrey Marsland	John Alderson	Alan Pearn		
COFFEE	Hilary & Alan McDermott	-o00o-	Mary & Martin Summers	Wendy & Brian Reeks	Marion Smith		
FLOWERS	Ann Revill	Judy Mills	Reg Clarke	Wendy Reeks	Janet & Alun Davies		
SOUND SYSTEM	Mike Groom	Brian Reeks	Godfrey Marsland	Tim Hayter	Martin Summers		
SCREENS	Alison Jackson	Philip Revill	Godfrey Marsland	Alan Jackson	Reg Clarke		
ORGAN	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield (am & pm)	Sue Marsland		

From the Remembrance Book in November



11	Stella Farr	2004
16	Loui Dauncey Iddon	1995
18	George Timbrell	1972

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

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 **combined December & January** United Alive by **19 November** please to Judy Mills or Ann & Philip Revill