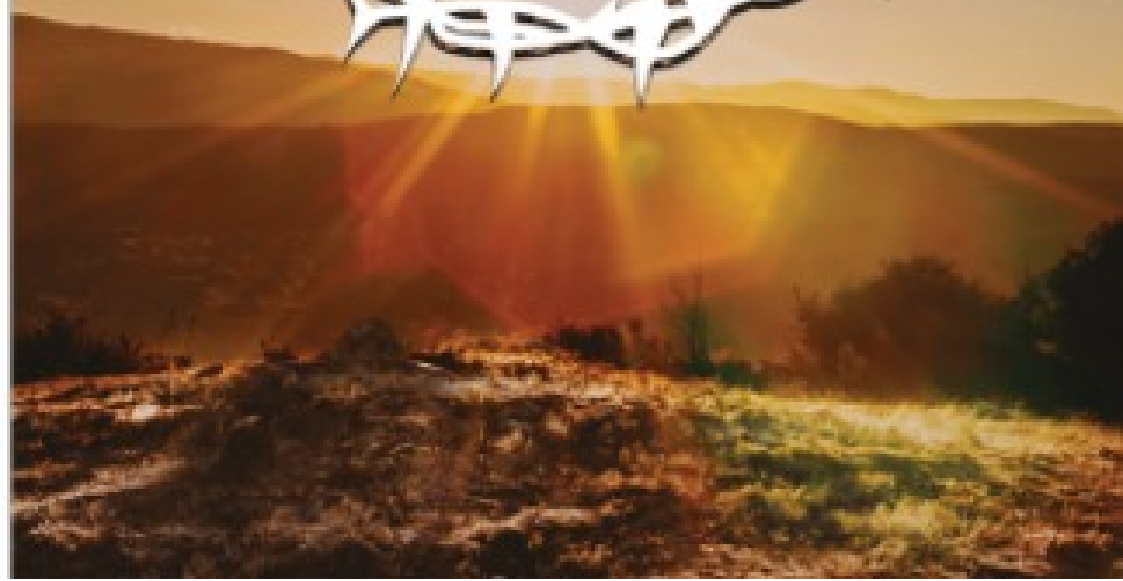




WITH
Easter
COMES **HOPE**



United Alive

Wotton United Church

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

Sunday Worship at 10.15 am



April 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

Diary for April

Remember, there will be quiet prayer in the Hall from 9.30am on Sundays

Sun	1	7am	Easter Sunrise Service, Coombe Hill, followed by breakfast in the Parish Room (p vi)
		10.15am	Easter Day Worship with Holy Communion: Red Phil Summers
Mon	2	10am	United Ramblers meet at the church (p vi)
Tues	3	12pm	Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ann Kennedy
Wed	4	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch club
Sat	7	10-12	Sisterhood Coffee Morning (p ii)
		10-3.30	Glos Circuit Quiet Day at Tewkesbury (p 12)
Sun	8	10.15am	Sunday Worship led by the Worship Group
Mon	9	1pm	Pastoral Visitors' lunch followed by ...
		2pm	... Pastoral Vistors' Meeting
Wed	11	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Ladies' Group
Sat	14	2.30pm	Dryleaze Saturday Club
Sun	15	10:15am	Sunday Worship: Russell Buley
Tues	17	2.30pm	Sisterhood film: "Cranford". All welcome (£1 Charge)
Wed	18	7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship, venue tbc
Thur	19	9.30am	A day of golf at Highnam (p 8)
Fri	20	12pm	(Late) Lent Lunch for Church Mission Society (Parish Rm)
Sun	22	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Rev John Beardsley
		4pm	Our Stories' in the church hall (p ii)
		6pm	Evening Worship at Dryleaze: Rev Phil Summers
Wed	25	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Ladies' Group



“My soul is very sorrowful” says Jesus in the Garden, in Luke’s Gospel. “Even unto death” he adds. Then he hopes that the hour might pass him by. He is tempted to ask that ‘the cup’ he has to drink might be taken away. Jesus longs to be released from the task before him. I suspect he is frightened, tired, maybe a little confused but most of all weary. But not necessarily a bodily weariness that follows physical exertion. Rather his weariness is of the mind; ‘sorrowful, even unto death’. He’s had enough. ‘Stop the world, I want to get off!’ – not an actual quote

from any of the four gospels but fitting non-the less.

But Jesus must endure. To continue into abandonment, torture and humiliating public execution. I cannot begin to understand. The creeds speak of him ‘descending into hell’. For some this is something that happens beyond the realms of death but maybe Jesus’ decent into hell in visible for all the world to see? Hanging on the cross in absolute physical agony and mentally lost. “Why have you forsaken me?” is the question, addressed to God, that indicates Jesus loss of faith. He joins with the psalmist in wondering where his loving heavenly Father has gone. Believing he is ripped from his Father’s presence he descends into hell on earth. His final ‘Into your hands I commend my Spirit’ is less of a statement of faith and, maybe, more of a resigned, spiritual, throwing in of the towel.

And it is that experience that gives real depth to the resurrection hope. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing. Even spiritual despair and physical death. God is at our conception, journeys with us through our lives, watches over us in death, and raises us to new life beyond our imagining. At times we despair, we drift away, we forget the reality of his presence. Be he neither forgets nor leaves, nor gives up hope in us. It is from the very depth of hellish despair and gruesome death that Jesus is raised. We too are raised in him.

And the confident knowledge of God’s love for us, shown to us in Jesus, means we can begin to live an ‘eternal’ life now; today, this minute. Resurrection life is a quality of living that we don’t need to wait for. It is not something that is exclusive to the post-death experience. We are alive in Christ because of the love God has shown to us on the Cross. And in those times when we are despairing we can trust beyond all hope that God will never let us go. When life is just too difficult to bear, when we are desperate for the hour to pass from us and for the cup to be removed yet we know there is no escape we can but trust. It’s not about a warm, fuzzy feeling inside. It’s not

about a shaft of light bursting through the dark clouds. It's a confident understanding that as we endure, God is with us and will see us through to the other side. As we have shared in his suffering, so we will share in his glory.

Christ has died.

Christ is Risen.

Christ will come again.

God bless you in your joys and your sorrows this Eastertide.

Love, *Phil*.

From the Remembrance Book in April



4th	Adam Birdsey	2007	14th	Honor Savage	1998
6th	Peter McGregor	2006	17th	Julia Wheeler	1996
	Basil Venner	2006	24th	Edward (Ted) Farr	2016
9th	Marjorie Sherratt	2005	26th	Nigel Morley	2012
11th	Ronald Heaven	2002	27th	Tony Yeomans	2014
12th	Sis Bleaken	2003	29th	Brenda Tavinner	1981
	Dorothy Brown	1993			

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



We are on Facebook

In fact we have been, for quite a little time, but perhaps you didn't know. Or perhaps you have only recently joined Facebook yourself .

Why not join the Group? The more it's used, the more it will be used, which might sound daft, but that's the way Facebook works. You will find pictures of church activities and last-minute notices such as, for instance, confirmation that the church will be open as usual when it snows, and you will be able to add your own posts and pictures

And the name of the page 'Wotton United Church'. Simple

Who are you? - Pauline Jones



I was born and grew up in Southampton with my brother Peter, who is 3 years younger. My parents and my mother's parents were very active members of Freemantle Congregational Church. Peter and I attended Sunday school and the Youth Group and I assisted in the Sunday school.

For a long as I remember I wanted to be a children's nurse. My ambition was to train at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. In fact I didn't apply to any other hospital. Fortunately I was accepted there. I started at Great Ormond Street in October 1969 along with 48 others. We all lived at a large house near Hampstead Heath for the first 3 months and a bus took us

to and from the Training school. We all got to know each other very well during this time and over 30 of us still meet up in London every five years.

We lived in nurses' homes for the first year. I then moved to a flat in Golders Green with 5 other nurses. We had great times there and lots of parties! This was where I met Malcolm who was to become my husband. He was at Portsmouth Poly with Phil, boyfriend of one of my flat mates. Malcolm had a car and he brought Phil to London. We still meet up with 4 of those nurses and their husbands every year. The fifth now lives in America.

The nursing course included a year at UCH and we ended up with general and children's nursing qualifications, SRN and RSCN. After qualifying I stayed on at GOS as a staff nurse on the private patients' ward. There we received children from all over the world with a wide variety of conditions. I met Michael Aspel when his daughter came in for removal of her appendix. Prince Edward, aged 8, was also admitted while I was there with suspected appendicitis. He arrived together with his nanny and private detective. He was diagnosed with constipation and I had the dubious honour of giving him a suppository!!

I returned home to Southampton to be nearer Malcolm in Portsmouth and worked for 15 months as a staff nurse in the Children's Hospital. While I was there the children's hospital moved from an old building, where my mother had

also nursed, into the 6th floor of the brand new building of Southampton General Hospital.

Malcolm and I married in March 1975 and went on a skiing holiday for our honeymoon. By then Malcolm had graduated and was working for BT in Reading. He was lodging with Gerry who is now a good friend and lives in America. I also moved in to Gerry's house until the purchase of our house had gone through. I was a Sister on the Children's ENT ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital for 3 years and then trained to be a Health Visitor.

By this time Malcolm was working in London and commuting from Reading. We decided to move nearer to London and moved to Tolworth in Surrey 3 weeks before Nicola was born. Catherine was born there 2 years later.

Malcolm's work then took him to Gloucester and knowing that he might have to work in Bristol, we moved to Wotton in 1984. I went back to work part time as a Health Visitor in Tetbury when Catherine started school. In the meantime I trained to be a Breast Feeding Counsellor with the National Childbirth Trust. This proved useful when I went back to work as I became a specialist HV for Breast Feeding in the Stroud area. In this role I helped to start up the Breast Feeding Support group, in Dursley, MOBS, which is still running.

I enjoyed playing tennis and played in the Gloucestershire League for Cam and Dursley until I had to give up due to an arthritic hip. I have since had 2 hip replacements and now have arthritic joints in my back so have been unable to go back to playing tennis but I am enjoying the Thursday evening table tennis! Although unable to do as much as I used to, I enjoy gardening especially taking cuttings and bringing plants on from seed. I am on the Wotton Gardening Club Committee. I also am a volunteer at Bournestream and enjoy introducing new families to this wonderful play area. I am part of the 'Open the Book' team which goes in to Blue Coat School every week, acting out Bible stories in their assembly. This is great fun!

Both of our daughters are married and live within 20 minutes of each other. Nicola and Steve live in Ham near Richmond. They were married last year in Marrakech. Catherine and Stuart live in Claygate, Surrey and have 2 boys aged 3 and 5 years who are very lively and great fun. James is already showing a natural ability for golf! This is great for Malcolm who loves his golf!

We enjoy travelling and have visited my brother and family in Australia several times taking in different parts of Australia during our visit, as well as New Zealand. In the past few years we have enjoyed exploring parts of the UK previously unknown to us. Last year we visited Hull, Durham, Northumberland and Scotland. This year we are planning a visit to Norfolk.

Pauline Jones

Golf Day



Thursday 19 April, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Rodway Hill Golf Club, Highnam. Gloucester, GL2 8DR

You are invited to participate in a Golf Day of Friendship, Fun and Competition. Tee-off is at 10am. Cost is £20 to include a simple lunch and all-day coffee/tea.

Please RSVP to Revd Denise Hargreaves on 01594 825662 or by email at dkah26@icloud.com by **1 April**.

Please note date for booking - you will have to be quick!

Pastoral Visitors' Meeting

Pastoral Visitors' lunch will be at 1pm on
Monday 9 April

Followed by PV Meeting at 2pm



Our Famous Men!

The Men's Group Great Cake Bake made it to the Gloucester Circuit Methodist Church Website. Fame!

Do you ever look at the website? Now might be a good time to start.

<http://www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk/news-may/news/wotton-under-edge-bake-off.html>

Using Silence – Praying on the Hand

As I said in my introductory article, I'm suggesting alternative ways to use the Silence at the beginning of our services. Alternative – not better or worse, just alternative.

'Praying on the hand' is a tricky one. For a start, it's really digging into the archives, to the point where to most people younger than me it is likely to seem new. It is also from neither the Methodist nor the URC tradition; but we're ecumenical nowadays, aren't we?

Also, the full version's a bit long for just one minute, but I'll describe it first, and then explain how to shorten it for a service.

OK.

Sit quietly and comfortably. With your hands hidden in your lap, so that no one can see what you are doing, relax your left hand palm up; with your right index finger touch the tip of your left thumb. Then say inside yourself, deliberately and silently, "In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen"

When I say 'touch', I mean a positive, deliberate movement – not a drifting or a vague gesture, but a definite tap that you can feel. If you get the finger movement right it will give you the 'beat' for the whole prayer, so that you automatically give each phrase plenty of room to breathe, but without pausing: "<touch> / In the náme / of Gód / Fáther / Són / and Hóly / Spírit / Amén". Don't say it broken into words, though, say it deliberately but continuously. And again: say it *silently*. Don't even move your lips. Don't even *not* move your lips.

Now touch the middle joint, the knuckle, of your thumb: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me".

Touch the base of your thumb: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever, Amen."

Now do the same for each finger of your left hand - saying the Jesus Prayer twice because there are two middle joints on a finger.

Now touch the centre of your palm and say the Lord's Prayer as far as "deliver us from evil".

Finally touch your palm at the wrist: "For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever, Amen".

Always pray very deliberately and silently, reaching through the words as far as you can.


If you're doing this in private and there's time, then pray on the right hand as well; but a minute is going to be far too tight even for one hand; you should simply accept that. Don't rush just to fit everything in! When I've tried this I've found it suits me to do the thumb, the middle finger and the little finger, and finish with the wrist – for me, at my speed, that just fits in the minute.

This approach is perhaps a little uncomfortable for those of us accustomed to being warned to 'use not vain repetitions as the heathen do'. The intention, as I understand it, is that by repeating these prayers purposefully in your heart and not in your mouth, the repetition will not be 'vain', that is, empty, but instead will allow you to reach out through the well-known words to God in your heart, and to fill the words with God's presence.

You can, obviously, use different prayers – indeed, it's so long since I was taught this that I am no longer sure that these are the prayers I was taught to use!

Alan Jackson

A Mother Understands



Dear Lord, I hold my hand to take
Thy Body, broken here for me.
Accept the sacrifice I make
My body, broken there, for Thee

His was my body, born of me,
Born of my bitter travail pain
And it lies broken on the field
Swept by the wind and the rain.

Surely a Mother understands Thy thorn-crowned head,
The mystery of Thy pierced hands - the Broken Bread.

G A Studdert-Kennedy

Wednesday Fellowship

The Fellowship Group will meet on

18 April

2 May

Location and subject tbc

All very welcome





An April Anniversary: Catholic Emancipation, 1829

On 13th April 1829, the Catholic Relief Bill was given the royal assent and became law. It was a decisive step towards religious equality in Britain and Ireland, though other battles remained to be fought by both Catholics and Nonconformists. Both of these were

regarded from the 16th and 17th centuries with suspicion as a result of Catholic plots against Queen Elizabeth I and James I and the involvement of the Puritans in the Civil War, the execution of Charles I and the republic which followed under Cromwell. As late as 1688, the Catholic James II was overthrown because he raised fears of a restoration of Catholicism.

“Penal laws” imposed restrictions on both Catholics and Nonconformists, including exclusion from office-holding in parliament and central and local government and from becoming officers in the army and navy. During the 18th century, restrictions on Nonconformists were relaxed – for example, the early Methodists were able to build chapels if they obtained a licence to do so. But the Catholics were more severely restricted, although they could worship in private and priest-hunting died out. They were not legally able to buy or inherit land, for instance.

Acts of Parliament in 1778, 1791 and 1793 removed many of the disabilities which the Penal Laws had imposed on Catholics in Britain, but there was still much anti-Catholic feeling, and the 1778 Act produced a savage reaction in the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots in London in 1780. The whole history of Catholic Emancipation is one of struggle against great resistance. Seats in Parliament and some important posts such as Lord Chancellor were still denied. William Pitt the Younger’s attempts when Prime Minister to secure a general repeal of the Penal Laws were blocked by George III. Also the wars against Revolutionary and Napoleonic France caused a clamp-down on reform of any kind.

By the Act of Union (1800), following the Irish Rebellion of 1798, the Irish Parliament was abolished, and Ireland sent MPs to the British Parliament. But although the Irish population was overwhelmingly Catholic those MPs had to be Protestants. In the 1820’s agitation, headed by Daniel O’Connell and his Catholic Association, campaigned for the admission of Catholics to Parliament. In 1828 the laws excluding Nonconformists were repealed, while O’Connell, although as a Catholic he could not sit as an MP, was elected as MP for County Clare. Alarmed by the growing tension in Ireland, the Duke of Wellington, the prime minister, allowed the Catholic Emancipation Bill,

sponsored by Sir Robert Peel, to pass in 1829. The anti- emancipation cartoon above shows Wellington, accompanied by Peel, kissing the Pope's toe, implying the betrayal of the Church of England to Rome.

Catholics were now on the same footing as Protestants except for a few restrictions, most of which were later removed. For example, non-Anglicans were excluded from Oxford and Cambridge Universities until the 1850s. Nevertheless, 1828-29 led on to the religious freedom and equality which we now take for granted. However, an Act guaranteeing this has never been passed, and in theory a government could impose restrictions in the future. So Barnabas Fund, whose weekly prayer letters for the persecuted church overseas I put on notice-board 5, is campaigning for a law on religious freedom in Britain and is collecting signatures on a petition to the government to this end, which you can still sign if you have not already done so.

A footnote: the events of 1828-29 ushered in the 19th century "Age of Reform", as opponents of Emancipation in the Tory Party helped to bring down the government of Wellington and Peel. This resulted in the more reform-minded Whigs coming to power in 1830. They passed a series of important measures, first of all the Great Reform Act in 1832, which began the extension of the vote leading in the following hundred years to the democracy we have today.

Under the Act of Settlement of 1701, which laid down the succession to the throne, the British monarch must still be Protestant – and an Anglican, as she or he is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Until 2011 the monarch could not marry a Catholic, but that requirement, also going back to 1701, was abolished as recently as 2011.

Philip Revill

Gloucestershire Circuit Quiet Day

Saturday 7 April, 10am – 3.30pm

Tewkesbury Methodist Church

You are welcome to attend the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit Quiet Day, led by Revd Carrie Seaton.

This will provide an opportunity to be reflective, prayerful and imaginative.

Admission is free but please bring your own lunch. There will be an opportunity to visit Tewkesbury Abbey during the lunch break.

For more information please contact Revd Carrie Seaton by email at carrie.seaton@btopenworld.com or on 01684 275410

Celebration of Gifts Weekend 5 – 7 May 2018

We are getting a good response from you about your gifts and talents, but we are sure there are just one or two more who have not yet decided or are hiding their lights under bushels – please could you let us know as soon as possible.

We plan to have a small group of people available to help present the displays to make them look attractive and interesting so please don't worry if you don't feel confident about putting a display together. Next to each display we would like to have a short description of your gift – for example, how you got started, what inspires you, has your gift helped others?

Please give this description to Sue who will be preparing cards to put with the displays, hopefully with your photo included. Either write it out, or email to marsland@waitrose.com to reach her by **15 April**

Thank you for your enthusiasm – it promises to be a really interesting event!

Please make the weekend well known – posters are available now and don't forget facebook and twitter!

Alison Sutton



HEARTWARMED - New work of art

The New Room, Bristol

There is a new work of art in development for the new Heritage Lottery-funded visitor centre at the New Room in Bristol which opened in the summer of 2017.

Destined to be inset over the entrance door leading from The Horsefair into the centre, the window will take the form of a triptych – a three-panel work of art – which will illustrate the remarkable lives of John and Charles Wesley.

The window has been created by artist Andrew Taylor, a Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, who has been working with stained glass for 25 years and has been responsible for the design and installation of more than 60 new church windows.

Methodist historian and volunteer Warden of the New Room Gary Best said: “We have an important story to tell and our new window will provide not just a beautiful and eye-catching focus for the atrium of our new visitor centre but a vivid way of showing why the story of John and Charles Wesley is still so important today



Rota for APRIL							
	1 April Easter Sunday	8 April	15 April	22 April	29 April	6 May	
WORSHIP STEWARD	Ann Revill	Alan Jackson	Philip Revill	Martin Summers	Alison Jackson	Godfrey Marsland	
WELCOME	Margaret & Mike Groom	Jackie Ling	Margaret & John Alderson	Margaret Nickols & Jill Payne	Margaret Jermy	Pat & Richard Bayliss	
TRANSPORT	Trevor Owen	Godfrey Marsland	John Alderson	Alan Pearn	Philip Revill	Alun Davies	
COFFEE	Marion Smith	Pat & Richard Bayliss	Judy Mills	Joy Robinson & Alison Sutton	Jill Polley & Ros Wakefield	Judy Mills	
FLOWERS	Trish Davies	Jane Hayter	Gladys Heaven	???	???	Judy Mills	
SOUND SYSTEM	Martin Summers	Mike Groom	Brian Reeks	Godfrey Marsland	Tim Hayter	Martin Summers	
SCREENS	Philip Revill	Alan Jackson	Reg Clarke	Martin Summers	Philip Revill	Godfrey Marsland	
ORGAN	Sue Marsland	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield	Ros Wakefield (am & pm)	Ros Wakefield	Sue Marsland	
GRASS	John Alderson	Martin Summers	Alan Pearn	Reg Clarke	Trevor Owen	Tim Hayter	



A message from Paul Carruthers: "I'd like to express my warmest thanks for your prayers and messages of support during my recent illness. I am now out of hospital and recuperating at home"

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Ann Kennedy who died recently. There is to be a thanksgiving for Ann's life at the United Church at 12 noon on Tuesday 3 April.

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), Alison Jackson (843072)) Roger Gunning (845232), Graham Jackson (842449)
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@tiscali.co.uk
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 May edition of United Alive by 23 April please to Judy Mills or Ann & Philip Revill