

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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MAY 2025

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Dear Friends

Whist watching Handel's Messiah, it inspired me to commence my Foreword – I have to say it was absolutely wonderful having not listened to the whole concert before.

The following morning, I continued putting my thoughts together with the TV on in the background only to hear the very sad news about the death of Pope Francis, I'm so pleased that he managed to greet all the people on Easter Morning, and perhaps that's what he wanted most to do before 'going back to The Father' as they stated when announcing his death. Being such a pastoral and humble Pope, he'll be greatly missed. Prayers are a constant as they prepare for His funeral and the forthcoming Conclave.

As we journey through spring I rejoice in blue skies and warm sunshine alongside the rain, although we haven't had a lot recently; and enjoy the awakening of the spring flowers and realise that the birds had not only found their voices but remembered the tunes as well – the dawn chorus starts about 4.15am at the moment – beautiful!

So much of what we experience daily is not under our control, and yet so much is there for us to wonder at. Someone recently was telling me of the great joy she feels when she visits the part of the river near where she lives and sees the Kingfisher or even sometimes a water vole just fleetingly, for both are rather secretive creatures.

Recently I've made time to see the 'line up' of planets which have been visible to us lately, alongside the beautiful red and on occasion a pink moon and the knowledge they are there helps me to marvel at what has been created, and is even now being created, for our enjoyment, to make us think, to help us worship.

Springtime being the season of Easter when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we first journeyed through Holy Week which always seems a bit special, a chance to reflect on what God, through Jesus, did for everyone, whether they realise it or not; a chance to acknowledge where we fail to live the full life we have been gifted and a chance to experience once again the joy of Easter resurrection with all the promise that offers.

The life of Jesus was one of love and care of all people - the ill, the outcast, the poor and the stranger, his words and actions emphasise this; the feeding of the five thousand or saying 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.' Yet when Jesus was crucified only family and one or two close friends were nearby. There were no Christians or Jesus movement - all the teaching, healing and expounding of the law seemed to have been lost in death, all that concern for the people of God's world seemingly disappearing into darkness. The good news is that in dying for everyone. Jesus also rose for everyone, that is everyone, not just those who had followed him during the previous years of his ministry – Jesus is all inclusive!

Christ was raised from the dead; he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God; in the same way, we can count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The days are longer, plants are blooming, and new life is all around us. The resurrection of Jesus promises new life, to us all; it's up to us to decide how we respond to that gift, individually or together.

Throughout this Easter season and beyond, may you all daily be reminded of the transforming love of God that he has for each of us. Dead to sin; alive to God? Oh yes; bring it on! Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom and new life! Happy Easter Blessings. Julia x

VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY Ringing at Alderton and Dumbleton Churches

The bells of Alderton and Dumbleton churches will be rung to commemorate VE Day on **Thursday 8th May as follows** :

Dumbleton Church of St Peters - a Quarter Peal will be rung in the morning starting at **10.00am**.

Alderton Church of St Margaret - a Quarter Peal will also be rung from **11.00am**.

Both Quarter Peals will be rung by members of Cheltenham Branch of The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers including our Tower Captain. Each Quarter Peal will last for up to 1 hour.

In the evening as part of a National Attempt to get as many of our church bells heard, ringing will also take place by our own band of local ringers as follows:

Alderton Church 18.15 pm until 18.45 pm.

Dumbleton Church 19.00pm until 19.30pm

I hope many of you will listen out and enjoy our bells.

Paul Smith - Tower Captain

ALDERTON

VE DAY 80TH CELEBRATION: Victory in Europe (VE) Day 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. While VE Day itself is May 8th, to support this year's special anniversary, **Bank Holiday Monday 5th May** has been officially dedicated to community celebrations! Therefore, on Monday 5th May we will be holding an afternoon tea for £5 per person to include sandwiches, cakes and tea in **Alderton Village Hall between 3pm and 5pm**. Come and join us to celebrate our Second World War veterans, to both remember their efforts and to honour the freedom that VE Day represents. It will be great to see you. All proceeds will be shared between The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and St Margaret's Church for a new heating system. As it's helpful to know if you are able to come for catering purposes, contact Gill Cogzell - gillian.klapper@gmail.com or Helen West - helenmarywest4@gmail.com but it is fine to turn up on the day.

THE CHURCH SUMMER FAIR this year will be on **Saturday July 12th** - more details in the next newsletter.

THANK YOU to everyone who came along at the beginning of April to help tidy up the churchyard. We really appreciated your help. And thank you to all the people who created flower arrangements for Easter - the Church once again looked beautiful.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

MANY THANKS to all who arranged the Easter flowers in church. It looked lovely. We also much appreciate the help of all those who open and close the church, and those on the grass cutting rota.

The Church AGM was held in April. We discussed some ideas for fundraising for 2025: **The SUMMER SUPPER** will be held in the garden of **Great Washbourne House on the evening of Friday, 27th June**. We will be in touch nearer the time, but any ideas or offers of help would be gratefully received.

The annual **FAMILY QUIZ** will be held at the **end of October/beginning of November**, with hot two course meal. More details to follow.

It is hoped to hold a **MacMillan COFFEE MORNING in September**.

DUMBLETON

MANY MANY THANKS to all who have given so generously towards the **NEW HEATING PROJECT** for the church. The response has been overwhelming and with this money we will be able to contribute over £30,000 towards the cost of the project. The other good news is that we have been awarded a grant from the Church of England as part of their Net Zero Carbon Programme. Watch this space for updates on the project. **THANK YOU SO MUCH EVERYONE!**

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK this month. Firstly, to everyone who arranged flowers and made the church look so beautiful for Easter. Secondly to all who gave to the special collection at our service on Sunday 6th April. As a result, we were able to send a donation of £227.50 to Tear Fund in aid of their Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. **NEXT** the Lent Lunch in church on **APRIL 10th** was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to those who provided delicious Soup and Cakes. £226 was raised for church funds. **THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL.**

A SPECIAL THANKYOU GOES to SHELLEY and THE KENELM SINGERS together with organist JOHN WADE for the wonderful Charity Concert they gave us in St Peter's on the evening of Palm Sunday. The music and singing were delightful and of the highest standard which was truly enjoyed by the people who packed into our church. We thank them for providing the wine and also thank those who contributed the food. The proceeds from the Concert went to the church new Heating Project and amounted to a magnificent £1393. **THANK YOU EVERYONE.**

THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING is on SUNDAY 4th MAY after the 10.30am service. This is your opportunity to learn what the Parochial Church Council have been involved in over the last twelve months and is open to everyone. Please come and hear about our endeavours to maintain and keep our wonderful church going. **THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLL** is complete, and the list is posted in the church.

PENTECOST and INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY will be the focus of our relaxed service on **SUNDAY 18th MAY** at 10.30am. Please come with your children and enjoy this lovely hour whilst hearing some inspiring poems and readings. There is always a warm welcome for you and refreshments to look forward to after the service.

THERE WILL BE A FILM NIGHT on SUNDAY 11th MAY at the VILLAGE CLUB. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and the Bar will be open. We will be showing "THE MIRACLE CLUB" starring Maggie Smith. All proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

DIARY DATE! SATURDAY 5th JULY SUMMER PIG ROAST. More details next month.

WORMINGTON

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with church spring cleaning and flower arrangements. It all helps to make our lovely church so welcoming.

WVS events for May - 2nd May – Bar Night from 6.30pm, 6th May – Board & Card games 2.30pm £1 to include refreshments

17th May – Quiz Night (details to follow), **30th May** – Bar Night from 6.30pm

SERVICES FOR MAY 2025

Lectionary Year C

4 th May 1st Sunday E3 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 9.1-6 [7-20] John 21.1-19
Wednesday 7 th May		10.00am - Alderton 'Said' Easter Season HC	
11 th May 2 nd Sunday E4 White	9.00am WORMINGTON Easter Season HC	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 9.36-end John 10.22-30
18 th May 3 rd Sunday E5 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON [Early] Pentecost and International Family Day Celebration	Acts 11.1-18 John 13.31-35
25 th May 4 th Sunday E6 White	6.00pm WORMINGTON Choral Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 16.9-15 John 14.23-29 or 5.1-9
Thursday 27 th May	Ascension Day		
1 st June 1 st Sunday E7 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 16.16-34 John 17.20-end

CHURCHWARDENS

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