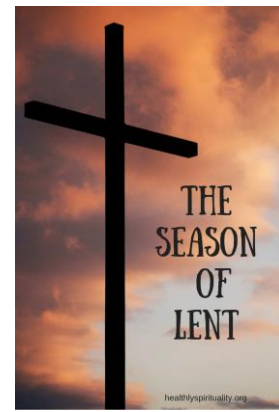


OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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MARCH 2023



Dear Friends

In 2020, there was the pandemic. In 2022, the invasion of Ukraine. And now, a tragedy on an almost unthinkable scale in Turkey and Syria. It wouldn't be possible to summarise the turmoil of the last few years. But I don't think it would be too hard to summarise how we are all feeling: Perhaps tired.

It can be a weary thing, to live in such relentlessly tumultuous times, but the seasons continue to turn, and we find ourselves arriving at Lent once more.

As I write on this day of Ash Wednesday, our Lenten journey begins taking us to Good Friday and the pain of the Cross, yet with the hope of **EASTER DAY** on the horizon. It's a time to examine our spiritual lives – to lean over and look into that dark pool of weariness and see what might be held within.

When John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus, his call that resounded around the wilderness was: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (Matthew 3:2, ESV)

It's a call that Jesus himself repeats at the start of his own ministry (Matthew 4:17). The word 'repent' here is, in the original Greek, *metanoéo*. It literally means to change the way you think; to shift your mind, purpose or inner self.

Is change possible? Can our circumstances change? Can we ourselves change? Can this fragile and fearful world change?

Jesus believes in change. He calls us to it. 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Or, to paraphrase: 'Things don't have to be this way; Spirit is here – God is on the move.'

In our weariness it can be all too tempting to say, 'this is just the way things are'. Despair sees only closed doors, but faith is open to the possible. Practical support must go hand in hand with the spiritual.

There is much going on in the world that might bring us to despair. We live at a time where many people are facing critical conditions. The climate emergency and world food crisis has left many people struggling, both here at home and across the world. The challenge to us this Lent is to see things with a different and more daring vision - for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; a better world is possible and is breaking through in countless ways every day.

This Lent, let us repent, let us believe that things can be different and let us re-commit ourselves to being part of that change. Amid this suffering, we can come together as a community to listen to the Lord; to turn again to our compassionate God and begin to work for a better world for all people.

As we enter Lent, let's turn our whole heart to God; let us try to make time to draw closer to him in prayer, to fast in solidarity with those struggling to put food on the table and to give generously of the gifts we have. May love and hope be poured out upon us all through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us as a team, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. With love and Blessings, Julia x

LENT COURSE commences on **WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH** and thereafter over the next 4 weeks. Using the 40 Daily Reflections titled Dust and Glory, as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York explain, we are invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Each evening includes fellowship, prayer, discussion and refreshments. All are welcome.

ALDERTON

Dates for your diaries:

CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE: we will be smartening up the Churchyard on **SATURDAY** morning **25th MARCH** starting at 10am. We would really appreciate if you would come and join us to ensure we keep it looking as good as ever! Many thanks.

The proposed date for **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** is after the morning service on **SUNDAY 26th MARCH**. The Electoral Roll will be updated before this date so if you would like to be included on this years Roll please contact Helen West who will be happy to give you all the information you need. Those already on the Roll need do nothing.

EASTER MONDAY 10TH APRIL - AFTERNOON TEA: Please join us for Afternoon tea & Prosecco on Easter Monday! We'll be serving tasty finger sandwiches, savoury bites, warm scones with cream and jam and a selection of delicious, homemade cakes with a glass of Prosecco and cafetiere coffee or pots of tea for just £12 per person from 2.30 until 4.30 in the Village Hall, Alderton. All proceeds to St Margaret's Church funds. For tickets please contact Sarah Hughes on 07989 048123 or Helen West on 07941 373030

SATURDAY 13TH MAY - SEVERN'S EIGHTH CONCERT in the Church starting at 6.30pm - more details to follow. Kindly arranged by Matthew Clayton.

SATURDAY 29TH JULY - ART EXHIBITION AND SALE in the Village Hall and a Flower Festival in the Church with all day refreshments - more details to follow.

FLOWER ARRANGERS - THANK YOU to all of you who make the Church look so attractive - it is much appreciated. I am sure you will enjoy decorating the Church for the Flower Festival with the theme of Alice in Wonderland! **THANK'S ALSO** to all the **CHURCH CLEANERS** - again we are very grateful.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THE FAMILY FUN QUIZ Family Fun Quiz will take place at the Church on **SATURDAY 15TH APRIL** 6.30 - 10pm. The quiz is suitable for all ages - bring your own team of 4-5 or join one on the night. Tickets: £12 adult/£6 (u12s). This will include a 2-course Hot supper & Bar.

Tickets are available from Jane 07711623017. All funds raised will go to the upkeep of our church. We hope to see you there.

DUMBLETON

THANK YOU once again for your generosity at our Candlemas and Christingle Service following which a cheque for £229.40 was sent to The Children's Society. A fabulous result.

CAFE CHURCH MOTHERING SUNDAY 19th MARCH. Please join us at 10.30am for this special service for Mother's Day. No need for breakfast simply come and enjoy lovely refreshments with tea/coffee in a very relaxed atmosphere which makes it a service ideally suited for everyone, especially children. A warm welcome awaits you.

LENT LUNCH 23rd MARCH at 12noon. This is the date for our second lunch in church and we look forward to welcoming you. As always, a hearty soup will be served with bread, followed by a selection of cakes. These are always enjoyable occasions and are open to everyone. Please contact Jenny Maher 01386 881474, jennylynn71@icloud.com to book your place.

FUNdraising FILM NIGHT SUNDAY 26th MARCH 7pm for 7.30pm start. Another chance for you to come and enjoy a film and a drink at the VILLAGE CLUB. Our offering this evening is "KEEPING MUM" starring Patrick Swayze (cert 15) Usual charge of £5 on the door and nibbles on your table. These are great events which help to raise much needed funds for your church so please come along.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place after the morning service on **SUNDAY 16th APRIL.** The Electoral Roll will be updated before this date so if you would like to be included on this years Roll please contact Jenny Maher who will be happy to give you all the information you need. Those already on the Roll need do nothing.

R.I.P. IRENE GRIFFIN. It is with sadness we report the passing of Irene who we believe was the oldest resident of Dumbleton having reached her 100th birthday on 29th December 2022. Irene arrived in the village from Yorkshire as a Land Army Girl aged 18 and spent the whole of her adult life here after meeting her husband Ron in Dumbleton. She was a widow but maintained her independence and lived at No 1 The Palaces until just last year when she went into care at Broadway.

WORMINGTON

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING: A list of spring-cleaning jobs is on the table by the memorial plaque in the church. We welcome as many volunteers as possible to come and help the regulars to give St Katharine's a spruce up! Please put your name against jobs you are able to do.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS for Easter would be welcomed by Saturday 8th April.

WVS EASTER EGG HUNT over the Easter Weekend - Details to follow

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2023

Lectionary Year A

5th Mar 1 st Sunday Lent 2 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON LENT HC	Gen. 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5; 13-17 John 3.1-17
12th Mar 2 nd Sunday Lent 3 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON LENT HC	10.30am ALDERTON LENT HC	Exodus 17.1-7 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42
19th Mar 3 rd Sunday Lent 4 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON CAFÉ CHURCH FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY ALTERNATIVE READING	1 Samuel 16.1-13 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9
26th Mar 4 th Sunday Lent 5 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON LENT HC	10.30am ALDERTON LENT HC	Exodus 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45
2nd April 1 st Sun PALM SUNDAY Red	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE PALM SUNDAY HC	10.30am DUMBLETON PALM SUNDAY HC	Palm Sunday Liturgy

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

Mr. M. Newman, 18 Courtiers Drive, Bishops Cleeve

01242 675028

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

01242 621265

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

01242 620291

Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne

07766 483130

DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

Mrs T. Steggles, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

01386 882049

WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs.

07799035873

Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

01386 584416