

## OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

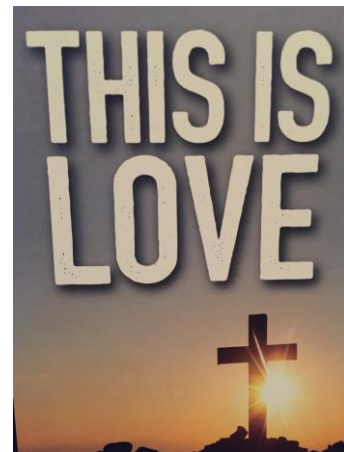
(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,  
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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**APRIL 2026**



Dear Friends

Spring at last, blue skies and warm sunshine; enjoying the awakening of the spring flowers and realising that the birds had not only found their voices but remembered the tunes as well; so much 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 over last few evenings, alongside the beautiful new 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 is also the season of Easter when on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> April Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where it's believed that Jesus rose from the dead for all people. 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; 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 rose for everyone - that is everyone, not just those who had followed him during the previous years of his ministry.

Believing that God has provided this world, believing in the actions of Jesus, or just believing that creation is precious, calls for a response on our part. Perhaps taking a new look at everyone around us, with this bringing a springtime in how we act and react to those whom we meet, not just friends but also those who are struggling- the sick, the prisoner, the homeless, the immigrant and the refugee. Often such people are in their own winter, desperately looking for light in their lives, a new spring.

As I write the conflict in the middle East is again making the news headlines. I'm mindful of Christians in so many countries, who still suffer for their faith; for those who mourn the loss of those who died in all the conflicts, terrorism & hate-filled violence and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for those who have watched others live with pain & die; for those, who now are living with illness, fear and pain. Much to pray for!

Also on the news is the Enthronement of the New Archbishop of Canterbury the Rt Revd and Rt Hom Dame Sarah Mullally, taking place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - again much to pray for especially with regard to the worldwide Anglican Communion, some of whom are not in support of women priests, let alone a woman Archbishop.

Throughout this Easter season and beyond, may you all daily be reminded of the transforming love of God that he has for each one of us, and as we journey through our earthly life, in our beautiful, but troubled world, may the miracle and true meaning of Easter bring you new beginnings, renewed faith and fill your hearts with joy and hope, and may the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us as a team, enable us to bring God's love to all we meet. With love and Happy Easter Blessings, Julia x

## **LENT COURSE**

Thank you to all who have come to join us during these first four weeks of Lent; many thanks also to Revd Michael Hand for leading through thoughtful sessions enjoyed by all.

## **ALDERTON EASTER SERVICES**

**GOOD FRIDAY:** this will be at 10am

**EASTER DAY:** this will be at 10.30am - do see the back of the newsletter for alternative times at other Churches.

**CHURCH OPENING:** the installation of the new electric heating will start on **Wednesday April 8th and it is expected that it will take 3 weeks to complete.** Therefore, for health and safety reasons the church will unfortunately have to remain locked during this time. We will put a notice up in the noticeboard when the work is completed and when the Church will be re-opened. **Because of this, the service that should be in Alderton on Sunday April 12th will be held in St Peters Dumbleton at 10.30am** - with grateful thanks to their PCC. It will have to be decided nearer the time whether the service on Sunday April 26th at 10.30am will be able to be held at Alderton.

**CHURCH BOOK SALES:** thank you for the donations of books you give and books you buy - because the church will be closed for a few weeks, please wait to hand any donations for the moment until the work is finished.

**CHURCHYARD TIDY UP:** this will be held on **Saturday 11th April** and we will start at 10am and most people finish at lunchtime. If you can't make it on that day, do feel free to do some when you are able. Please bring any equipment such as something to kneel on, a trowel, a bucket, secateurs. We really appreciate all the help that you can give.

**CONCERT IN CHURCH:** Music for a Summer Evening on **Saturday May 9th at 6pm:** **The North Cotswold Singers** are a c.30-strong choir based in Willersey, with a wide-ranging repertoire of songs and a passion to share the joy of singing! They are directed and accompanied by husband-and-wife team Paula Evans and Chris Long, two professional musicians from Pershore with extensive backgrounds in performance and music education, in classical, contemporary, folk and other musical styles. Their current repertoire includes music by The Beatles, Bob Chilcott, Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo and Tomas Luis de Victoria alongside traditional English and Scottish folksong and popular favourites: a North Cotswold Singers concert is an entertaining and moving experience, suitable for all ages and tastes! There will be a paying bar and light refreshments - tickets at £10 are available from Helen West [helenmarywest4@gmail.com](mailto:helenmarywest4@gmail.com), Gill Cogzell [gillian.klapper@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.klapper@gmail.com) or Tricia Steggles [triciasteggles@icloud.com](mailto:triciasteggles@icloud.com)

## **GREAT WASHBOURNE**

**THANK YOU** very much to those who have signed up for the rota for churchyard mowing and for locking and unlocking the church. We get a surprising number of visitors to the church who are always appreciative of the fact we are open and that it is so well maintained.

Just a reminder that the **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING** is being held on **Thursday 9th April at 7pm** in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend, and it would be great to see you and to hear any ideas for future village events. Don't forget, the date for the Great Washbourne **SUMMER SUPPER is Friday 19th June!** Please put it into your diary, it'll be lovely to see everyone there.

## **DUMBLETON**

**EASTER DAY APRIL 5th. DAWN SERVICE at 6.00am.** Please join us in the churchyard for this short service when we hope the weather will allow us to watch the **SUNRISE** on this important and very special day in the church year. This has now become an annual event in Dumbleton and is certainly a spiritual occasion for those attending. Refreshments will be served in the form of Hot Cross Buns and Tea/Coffee.

**EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at 11 am.** Although this service is a little later than normal, we hope you will join us to celebrate and sing to the **RISEN LORD** on this Easter Day. A warm welcome awaits everyone.

**NORTH COTSWOLD FOODBANK.** There are boxes inside church where gifts of food for the Foodbank can be left up until Easter. Our contributions are always received with gratitude by the staff at the Foodbank in Winchcombe.

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 11.45am.** Rev Julia and Dumbleton Parochial Church Council warmly invite you to the **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING** when you can hear what has been happening in your church during the past year and put forward any ideas or suggestions you may have. Everyone is welcome and the meeting will take place after the 10.30 am Service. We would really like your support and to see you there. NB If anyone feels they would be interested in learning about taking on the role of **CHURCHWARDEN** then please contact Paul or Tricia Steggles on 01386 882049

Date for your Diary: **SUMMER PIG ROAST 29th June.** More details next month.

## **WORMINGTON**

**A MEDITATION SERVICE** will be held in church on **Good Friday 3rd April at 2pm.** All are welcome to attend.

**EASTER DAY SERVICE - 9am 5th April led by Chris Haslam**

**WORMINGTON PCC AGM – Sunday 26th April 7pm in Church**

**THANK YOU** to all who have helped with spring cleaning

**EASTER FLOWERS** Flower arrangements would be most appreciated on **Easter Saturday 4th April.**

**FOOD BANK - A big "THANK YOU"** for contributions that have been taken to the Winchcombe Food Bank.

# SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

## Lectionary Year A

29 <sup>th</sup> March <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Purple	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> Benefice Service for Palm Sunday		
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 6.30pm	The Kenelm Singers are delighted to present: "PALMS TO PASSION" an Easter meditation of music through the ages. <b>ST PETER'S DUMBLETON</b> - This is a Charity Concert.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday	<b>Maundy Thursday Eucharist - 11.00am GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL</b> All are welcome		
3 <sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday Red	10.00am 1hr Meditation <b>ALDERTON</b>	2.00pm 1hr Meditation <b>WORMINGTON</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup> April <b>EASTER DAY</b> White	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> Easter FC [JH]  9.00am <b>WORMINGTON</b> Easter FC [CH]	6.00am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Dawn Service [JH]  10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> Easter FC [JH]  11.00am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Easter FC [RP]	Isaiah 65.17-end Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 Or Matthew 28.1-10
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday E2 White	9.00am <b>WORMINGTON</b> Easter Season HC	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> [ref Alderton Notices] Easter Season HC	Exodus 14.10-end;15.20-21 Acts 2.14a, 22-32 John 20.19-end
19 <sup>th</sup> April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday E3 White	9.00am <b>GREAT WASHBOURNE</b> Easter Season HC	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Easter Season HC	1 Peter 1.17-23 Acts 2.14a, 36-41 Luke 24. 13-35
26 <sup>th</sup> April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday E4 White	9.00am <b>WORMINGTON</b> Easter Season HC	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> Easter Season HC	1 Peter 2.19-end Acts 2.42-end John 10.1-10
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday E5 White	9.00am <b>GREAT WASHBOURNE</b> Easter Season HC	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Easter Season HC	1 Peter 2.2-10 Acts 7.55-end John 14.1-14

### CHURCHWARDENS

#### ALDERTON

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

01242 621265

#### GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

07711 623 017

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