

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR
Tel: 01242 620636 [mobile 07715953076]
email: julia.hook@btinternet.com

JULY 2024



Dear Friends

Some of you may remember former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly who famously said, 'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'

This last week we have seen the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which I dare say, is being watched by millions across Europe and the world; yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As St Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For followers of Jesus the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives and yes to the good things, yes to God's plan; sometimes God's plan is surprising and can involve new approaches which can be very exciting but also rather puzzling. Jesus's approach was based on grace rather than law and many were excited though some were puzzled, particularly some of those in authority.

Not only are the Euro's on, Wimbledon commences next Monday [1st July], the General Election take place on the 4th July, plus this is also an Olympic year. With so much sport taking place this gives us a chance to reflect on sport and its relationship to faith. All too often sport is thought to be in competition with faith, especially when you consider how many sporting activities now take place on Sunday mornings; for many people today when given the chance to prioritise, sport trumps Church.

For my own 'faith journey' there was no tension between sport and Church. As a child, every Sunday morning, I went with my siblings, for the Sung Eucharist at 10.30am. I fell in love with Jesus Christ through the beauty of the liturgy and music of the Church and when old enough my sister Pat and I joined the choir for Choral Evensong. However, it was during my late teenage years and early twenties I lost my way in the wilderness of life and would occasionally attend church, although I still believed and prayed to Jesus.

Today there's an organisation named KICK that seeks to enable children both to attend church and grow in their Christian faith and play sport, do dance and physical activity, it seeks to feed body and soul.

Reflecting on the sport/faith parallels is a good tool for self-assessment about how committed we are to the life and worship of the Church when compared to the passion football fans have for their sport and teams.

In the Olympics we will see ambitions fulfilled and dreams shattered. People who have trained their bodies and minds will give their all, some will know glory and some disappointment. May we cheer them on and be inspired not solely to physical activity – though that is good for us – but also to consider how we train and discipline ourselves in the Gospel. Gold medals represent passing worldly glory but, as St Paul says, we strive after something much greater - he preached the death, resurrection, and lordship of Jesus Christ, and he proclaimed that faith in Jesus guarantees a share in his life. : so, with humility we join with him saying, ‘Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.’ (Philippians 3.12).

As we continue our journey through the summer months, I pray that God will move powerfully among our nation, and especially through our elected government! May the gift of God’s Holy Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your families with love and peace, and with the schools, colleges and universities breaking up very soon, I wish you all happy holidays! Julia x

ALDERTON

A PET BLESSING SERVICE will be held on **Sunday July 14th in Church at 10.30am**. Our Church is very happy to welcome dogs to any service, but this one will include any pets that you would like to bring!

In the past we have had ferrets, a parrot, cats, rabbits, a tortoise and even had a horse who we joined in the Churchyard at the end of the service and obviously dogs. So please bring them along to this enjoyable and **informal gathering** where you will have a warm welcome.

FLOWER FESTIVAL, SUMMER FAIR AND GIFT DAY is on **Saturday 27th July from 12pm to 4pm**. These events will be in the Church and Churchyard with a great range of cakes and hot drinks being served in the Village Hall. Come along and see what the Flower Festival theme is this year - the entry is free but donations would be welcome to help in the upkeep of our lovely Church building. There will be a wide variety of stalls - some craft stalls and games and face painting for the children. There will be Pimm’s, Beer, Prosecco and soft drinks served, together with strawberries and cream and some savoury snacks in the Churchyard. There will be a RAFFLE and if you are able to donate a prize, please drop it at Tania Mills 25A Willowbank Road or Annie Martin at Church Cottage, St Margarets Road. And the Alderton Handbellies will be playing a variety of their songs at 12pm and 2pm. Please remember to bring your CASH! We have a SumUp machine in each place but cash will be easier for us! It will be great to see you.

GIFT DAY: Just a word about the purpose of Gift Day. The church is the oldest listed building in the village and whilst obviously used for Sunday services, it is also the focus for christenings, weddings and burials. The Church and Churchyard are places for quiet reflection, and we all want to see our church continue as a living organisation.

The church is blessed by having many volunteers but inevitably there are running and maintenance expenses. This year we are undertaking some repairs following the 5 yearly review of the state of the building and grounds. Income is all locally generated and mainly comes from service collections and fund-raising events but the church operates on a fairly tight budget and we welcome the generosity of villagers on an annual basis to donate much needed additional support. So do please support us if you can. There are envelopes inside the church newsletter for St Margaret's Annual Gift Day. These can be handed in outside Church on Saturday 27th July (12 - 4pm) or anytime, any day in the wall safe just inside the Church or put in a box which will be left in the shop after July 15th.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

As this is being written, the Great Washbourne **SUMMER EVENT** is taking place. Just to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us in the organisation of the event, and to those who will be supporting us on the evening of **FRIDAY 29th JUNE** by attending. **THANK YOU**. Fingers are crossed for a dry warm evening in which to enjoy, good food, good wine, good entertainment and great company. We are looking forward to it.

DUMBLETON

Tickets for the '**PIMMS, PLATTERS, AND PUDDING**' event on **6th July** at The Villa, Blacksmiths Lane are still available priced at £12. Please contact **Jenny Maher on 01386 881474** if you are interested in joining this fun evening.

The next **FAMILY SERVICE** will be held on **SUNDAY 21st JULY at 10.30am**. The theme is "**FRIENDSHIP**" and we can assure you of a very **FRIENDLY** welcome if you come and join us for this **RELAXED SERVICE**. Refreshments are served after the service.

Date for your Diary: The P.C.C. will be running a **FUNdraising stall at the Cricket Club Fete on BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY AUGUST 26th**. Our stall will be "**Hats, Bling & Scarves**". If you can help with contributing any suitable items for this stall we will be most appreciative. Donations to **Jenny Maher (01386 881474)** All monies raised for church funds.

From the Registers:

Holy Matrimony Benjamin Thomas JEFFS, Katy Anne MORGAN. 8th June 2024

WORMINGTON

TURRET REPAIR UPDATE: Funding secured £33k awaiting grant decision from National Churches Trust due in July. Current shortfall £7k. Again, many thanks to **all** who have contributed to date. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me angela.piercy@hotmail.co.uk 01386 584416

Bat Survey Report received - 3 bats observed roosting in spire. Need for Low Impact Licence from Natural England. Bat boxes required to be sited on a tree south/southeast/southwest of church. Anticipated commencement of work September with scaffolding erected in August for carpenter to take measurements of structures to be made.

WVS: Bar nights - village marquee: 5th July and 27th July. From 6.30pm card payment only. **Future events:** "Annual Boules and BBQ" 13th July from 4pm
"Wine Tasting with complimentary cheeses" 17th August

SERVICES FOR JULY 2024

Lectionary Year B

7th July T6 [Proper 9] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Ezekiel 2.1-5 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13
14th July T7 [Proper 10] Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW	10.30am ALDERTON ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE	Amos 7.7-15 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29
21st July T8 [Proper 11] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON FAMILY SERVICE	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Ephesians 2.11-end Mark 6.30-34; 53-end
28th July T9 [Proper 12] Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON Choral Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	2 Kings 4.42-end Ephesians 3.14-end John 6.1-21
4th August T10 [Proper 13] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Exodus 16.2-4; 9-15 Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35

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 07711 623 017

Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne 07766 483130

DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

Mrs T. Steggle, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton 01386 882049

WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs. 07799035873

Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington 01386 584416