

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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APRIL 2025



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

Dear Friends

Please see below the message from **Bishop Robert**, following his recent visit to our Benefice:

"I found myself at dusk on Ash Wednesday some three weeks ago driving through the Cotswolds on my way to preside at the Eucharist and to receive and to offer the imposition of ashes in one of our village churches. It was a glorious evening, at the end of what had been a glorious day, one full of sunshine and of the early promise of spring and new life, with the colour of daffodils and snowdrops just beginning to emerge. Such a glorious day, yet one seemingly at odds with so much of the news with its reports of war, of sanctions and tariff, so much so that the words of Psalm 42 verse 14 came to mind 'Why are thou so heavy, O my soul: and why art thou so disquiet within me.



The service in which I shared was similarly glorious, simple, well attended, a community bound in love and service being invited again to the observance of a holy lent by prayer, acts of service, self-examination and fasting that we might learn to be God's people once again. Quietly, simply in that service, we received in ash the sign of the cross on our foreheads, and again my thoughts turned to the gloriousness of the day and the heaviness of my soul, the ashes speaking so powerfully of my failure to follow the way of Christ and of the brokenness of our world, the brokenness of our nations and communities and live

Turning again to the psalms I joined in crying out 'from where will my help come' a question answered by 'my help comes from the Lord' (Psalm 121 v 1 - 2). There was indeed the cold ash of the mess of our lives and our world, and yet that ash was placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. That ash was placed, where once, when we were baptised, the sign of the cross was made as the priest proclaimed, 'Christ claims you as his own'. Christ loves you and calls you to life and will never abandon you. The ash was dark, yet its sign was not of despair or abandonment, but of the cross and of the promise of redemption, the promise of love that overcomes death and darkness.

As I drove home from that service, through the darkness of the night, I found that my heart was not quite so heavy, for like the snowdrops and the daffodils making their first appearance to herald spring, I had seen, I had experienced in the worship in which I had shared, the glimmer of God's love in Jesus Christ shining through the ash in the cross I had received.

I should not be surprised of course. The very word 'Lent' itself comes from the old English 'lenticen' meaning the spring season. This is a season of hope, of encouragement of renewal, that brings us to the cross and opens the way to the dawning light of resurrection.

So I find myself this Lent looking for these signs of hope, looking for God at work in our communities, our world, even in the mess, that I, that we, may indeed be renewed and that we may indeed learn to be God's people once again, people of hope, of courage, who know that the love of God in Jesus Christ is far more powerful than any darkness."

I conclude: 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 Happy Easter Blessings, Julia x

Our **LENT COURSE** continues on the 2nd April [Poetry being the theme] 7 for 7.30pm, The Vicarage, Alderton, many thanks to our dear friend Revd Michael Hand for leading us.

ALDERTON

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Concert "Music to Delight" – it was great to see the Church filled with you all and you said how much you enjoy their voices and their range of songs. And thank you to everyone who made food for the evening. The profit was shared between St Margaret's Church, Alderton and St Mary's Great Washbourne and each made £603 – Alderton's money will be put towards a new heating system. Thank you also to the singers and the pianist for giving us such excellent entertainment.

CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE will be on **Saturday April 5th** starting at 11am to enable you to go to the Plant Fair and Coffee morning at 10am first! We always smarten up the Churchyard before Easter and we would really appreciate any help from people. Visitors often say what a lovely churchyard it is so do come along with any gardening tools and hopefully it will be a warm day – and we will supply you with another coffee and biscuits!

Easter flowers: as it always is, the Church will be decorated for Easter Sunday so do come in and have a look at them – they last for quite a while in the building and the Church is open every day.

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 momentous anniversary, the **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 a plate of 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.**

GREAT WASHBOURNE

We would just like to add our '**THANK YOU**' to all those who supported the concert at Alderton, we are so glad so many people enjoyed the evening, and the money raised is gratefully received.

THE CHURCH AGM is being held at **Great Washbourne House at 7-30pm on Tuesday 8th April**. We will be discussing all sorts of things, as well as the AGM business, so if you would like to join us, please do, everyone is very welcome. If you have any fundraising ideas or other suggestions and can't join us, feel free to pop them through the letter box. We are always open to new ideas.

THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to cut the churchyard grass or unlock the church over the summer months it is much appreciated.

The next date for your diary is the Great Washbourne **SUMMER EVENT** to be held at Great Washbourne House on **FRIDAY 27th JUNE**. Please do add it to your diaries, more details to follow.

DUMBLETON

MANY THANKS to all who have contributed items of goods and food for the North Cotswolds Food Bank Easter Appeal. These will be greatly appreciated and delivered to the Food Bank by the deadline date 31st March.

LENT LUNCH THURSDAY APRIL 10TH at 12noon in CHURCH. Please come and join us for this annual event where a choice of warming HOT SOUP will be on offer for you to enjoy. This will then be followed by a selection of DELICIOUS CAKES with plenty of tea and coffee to go with them. This is always a lovely social occasion which is open to everyone. To help with catering it will be appreciated if you pre-book your place with Jenny Maher (01386 881474) or jennylynne71@icloud.com.

The **KENELM SINGERS** will be performing a **Choral Concert "ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING"** on **PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13th at 6.30pm in CHURCH.** This promises to be a really lovely evening with a variety of Palm Sunday Hymns and Choral Music. This is a fundraising event in support of our Heating Project. Donations on the door please. Refreshments including wine will be served. We look forward to greeting you.

SUNRISE SERVICE EASTER DAY SUNDAY 20TH APRIL. Following the success of last years' service when those who attended witnessed a beautiful sunrise, we are hoping you will once again rise early and come to this short act of worship which includes simple refreshments. Please meet in the churchyard at 5.50am. Hopefully the weather will be in our favour, but the service will take place whatever, come rain or shine. Details of the other Easter Day services are on the reverse of this newsletter.

A NEW ELECTORAL ROLL is currently being prepared. If you wish to be included on the Roll please contact Jenny Maher who will let you have the necessary forms to fill in. The Roll is open to all Parish residents and also non- residents. The closing date for joining the new Roll is **SUNDAY 13th APRIL 2025.**

THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETINGS will take place following the 10.30am service on **SUNDAY 4th MAY.** You are invited to attend and discover what your Parochial Church Council have worked on, and towards, during the past twelve months. This meeting provides a good opportunity for parishioners to put forward their ideas for either helping or offering their practical support for St Peter's. We extend a warm welcome to everyone.

WORMINGTON

OUR CHURCH TURRET has finally been restored and looks splendid. Thank you to Highgate for doing such a thorough job. An event will be planned to celebrate this and a big thank you to all who have contributed financially. We await the final invoice!

A MEDITATION SERVICE will be held in church on Good Friday 18th April at 2pm. All are welcome to attend.

EASTER EGG HUNT – Saturday 19th April 9.30-11.30am £2.50 registration in church. All are welcome to take part in this annual fun event.

SPRING CLEANING - a list of jobs is on the welcome table. Please do try and tick some of them off if you are able to. With many thanks

EASTER FLOWERS Flower arrangements would be most appreciated on Easter Saturday 19th April. If you are happy to donate flowers for arrangements, please put them in the vestry or give them to Angela Piercy.

FOOD BANK - A big "Thank You" for contributions that have been taken to the Winchcombe Food Bank. Further donations would be appreciated and will be taken to Winchcombe on the 15th April.

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

Lectionary Year C

6th April 1 st Sunday Lent 5 Passiontide Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Passiontide HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Passiontide HC	Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8
13th April 2 nd Sunday PALM SUNDAY Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON Palm Sunday HC	10.30am ALDERTON Palm Sunday HC	Liturgy of The Psalms or Liturgy of the Passion may be read
13th April 6.30pm	The Kenelm Singers are delighted to present: "ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING" MUSICAL MEDITATION for Palm Sunday and Holy Week – 6.30pm St Peter's DUMBLETON This is a Charity Concert.		
17th April Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Eucharist - 11.00am GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL All are welcome ST PETER'S CHURCH, WINCHCOMBE 7.30pm Eucharist Service		
18th April Good Friday Red		12noon 1hr Meditation ALDERTON 2.00pm 1hr Meditation WORMINGTON	From Mark's Gospel
20th April EASTER DAY White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter FC [JH] 9.00am WORMINGTON Easter FC [CH]	6.00am DUMBLETON Dawn Service [JH] 9.30am ALDERTON Easter FC [MH] 11.15am DUMBLETON Easter FC [JH]	Dawn Service: For readings see Order of Service Isaiah 65.17-end Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 Or Luke 24.1-12
27th April 4th Sunday E2 White	9.00am WORMINGTON Easter Season HC	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Exodus 14.10-end;15.20- 21 Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-end

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

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GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

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Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne

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DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

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WORMINGTON

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

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairy mead, Wormington

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