

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

AUGUST 2023



The Spiritual

Dear Friends

Be still and know that I am God! (Psalm 46:10)

Summer is upon us! I'm not sure about you, but I've been taken by surprise that suddenly it is August! As I write this the temperatures compared to the heatwave last year have been much cooler; schools have broken up and the holiday season is upon us.

The summer holiday season can offer us a time to pause, a time to breathe. There are not very many things that I miss from the time when the pandemic forced so many of us to stop, but one thing I do miss is the stillness and the opportunity to reflect. I'm sure that we're all grateful that life events including holidays, weddings and other celebrations once again take place.

Of course, not everyone finds big gatherings or being constantly with others an easy thing, and even for those of us who do enjoy them, we still need some time to ourselves just to be.

But in a busy world, how do we do that?

A person whose life and mission meant he was used to being in the centre of a crowd was Jesus. In many ways he was always surrounded by people – his disciples, his friends, large crowds. We're told in the Bible that the crowds could exceed four or five thousand people. His antidote to this was to 'frequently withdraw to the wilderness to pray' (Luke 5:16). Jesus knew that spending time quietly alone with God was a way to restore and recharge, so that he was able to continue his mission. We have probably all heard in the last couple of years about the restorative power of being out in the natural world. Just going for a walk and noticing nature around us has been shown to be beneficial to our mental as well as our physical well-being.

A lovely place on our doorstep for sitting quietly is in the church grounds. Over the years faithful members of the congregations have given time and energy to create peaceful and beautiful settings. Today, we continue to try and make our grounds an environmentally friendly place for both people and God's creatures such as bees, butterflies, insects and birds. I find taking a few moments to sit and pray - feeling the spiritual ambience around me. re-energises me for the challenges of the day.

In what seems like a 'post-Christian pandemic,' according to the recent census, it was announced on local radio the other morning that people are now '**looking for the spiritual.**'

God's presence is always around us - **and what can be more spiritual than the 'Holy Spirit.'** Jesus promised he'll be with us always even to the end of time and into eternity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God three in one. How spiritually awesome!

Taking a few moments out of a busy day to be still and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit, allows me to enter back into the rhythm of the day with renewed energy. I hope that, in this holiday season, you too will have an opportunity to 'just be' and to sense God's presence around you. Happy Holidays - and may the 'Spirit' be with you. Julia x

ALDERTON

SIMON LUCAS: Pam and Brian's eldest son had his funeral on Thursday July 20th and the church was full with many people standing outside - it was attended by 250+ people. A fitting tribute to a well-loved man.

FUNDRAISING: by the time you read this there will have been the Alice in Wonderland Flower Festival in Church with Gift Day together with refreshments and an Art Exhibition and Sale in the Village Hall. The money that is raised will go to Church funds.

CAFÉ CHURCH: was held the next day after the Flower Festival to celebrate the UNICEF International Day of Friendship with the added bonus of being able to see the flowers again.

BOOKS: don't forget that there are some good quality novels and non-fiction books for sale in the Church - paperbacks and hardbacks both 50p.

The books are in the Porch and also in the back of the Church - the money raised will go to church funds.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

To update everyone as the figures weren't quite ready for the last newsletter. The GW Summer Supper raised a marvellous £1240 which is a huge help towards supporting our local historic church. **THANK YOU** again to everyone for supporting the event.

DUMBLETON

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported us in any way at our recent "Pimms and Pig Roast Evening" We feel all who came enjoyed the occasion despite the atrocious weather. The P.C.C. are delighted to report the event raised the magnificent amount of £1825. for church funds. Our sincere thanks to Sue and Fred Invine for graciously hosting the evening for us.

We also wish to mention and indeed recommend The Arden Pig Roast Company of Evesham who cooked the Pig to perfection and certainly filled us all with delicious pork. Many, many thanks to you all.

ANNUAL "**GIFT DAY with TEAS ON THE GREEN**" is the next **FUNdraising** event and will be held on **SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER** 3-5pm. hopefully in warm sunshine on the green by the church. Please join us for what is always a happy village afternoon with Tea and Delicious Cake. It will be in church if wet. This year we are hoping to hold a "**WINE, CHOCOLATE and SWEETS TOMBOLA**" during the afternoon and would be most grateful for any donations of these items from you. Please contact Gail Braham, (07521 750087) or Jenny Maher, (01386 881474) who will be happy to collect them from you before or until **SEPTEMBER 1st**. Alternatively, they can be dropped at church on one of our Service days (6th or 20th August).

WORMINGTON

WORMINGTON PARISH MEETING - Tuesday 1st August at 7.00pm St Katharine's church

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2023

Lectionary Year A

6 th Aug 1st Sun Transfiguration White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Daniel 7.9-10; 13-14 2 Peter 1.16-19 Luke 9.28-36
13 th Aug 2 nd Sun T10 Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC Trad	10.30am ALDERTON	1 Kings 19.9-18 Romans 10.5-15 Matt 14.22-33
20 th Aug 3 rd Sun T11 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Isa. 56. 1, 6-8 Romans 11.1-2a; 29-32 Matt 15 [10-20]; 21-28
27 th Aug 4 th Sun T12 Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON Choral Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isa. 51.1-6 Romans 12.1-8 Matt 16.13-20
3 rd Sept 5 th Sun T13 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Jeremiah 15.15-21 Romans 12.9-end Matt 16.21-end

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. Steggle, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

01386 882049

WORMINGTON

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

07799035873

Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

01386 584416