

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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NOVEMBER 2025



Dear Friends

'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,' wrote John Keats about Autumn. Well, we've certainly had the mists, and the fruit trees this year have been laden. We are now definitely in the season of Autumn. But if you read through the rest of Keats's poem, you'll find descriptions that don't tally so well with what we are seeing this year. While the rain was a huge benefit to our gardens after the drought of Summer, we have to admit that this is a pretty unusual Autumn following on from a very unusual Summer.

As we journey through November, the period from All Saints to Advent is a time when we are reminded of the fact that 'no Christian is solitary'. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are days when we reflect on this sense of belonging and remembering. On All Saints' Day we people in whose lives the Church as a whole, has seen God at work. God's work of grace can be seen in the ordinary and extraordinary, as any flick through a dictionary of saints will demonstrate. On All Soul's Day we commemorate the faithful departed, remembering those whom we have loved and are no longer with us; those whom we have known more directly, those saints in our lives who have nurtured us, who gave us life; and made us who we are.

Then we move to Remembrance Sunday, where we explore further the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and self-giving, memory and forgetting. So, November - a time of remembering, of reflecting, of moving towards a renewed hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's son. A birth not announced in best BBC English on Radio 4, but by angels, to an unmarried teenager and her carpenter boyfriend. An announcement made for each one of us, God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to save us. That's worth remembering.

What of our world, sadly, we still see conflicts and fragile coexistence all around the world. We know that the God who gave his Son to bring us reconciliation hears our prayers; we ask him to stir our hearts to join in being peacemakers who cross the borders and barriers, radical in our generosity and welcome. Jesus calls every one of us to love God, our neighbours, ourselves - and our enemies. It's a challenging command, with nobody left out. We're all given the message and task of reconciliation, through this we can learn to approach difference with curiosity and compassion, rather than fear - and begin to flourish together in previously unthinkable ways.

My mind returns to Autumn - just like Nature has four different seasons our lives seem to have different spiritual seasons. Autumn is a time for letting go and releasing things that have been a burden, it's time to practice getting out of the way and letting Jesus take charge of our lives trusting that it is all in preparation for new things God is bringing in, when one day, war and conflict will be no more and our Loving God will indeed 'make all things new' [Rev. 21:5].

As we continue our journey through the Autumnal months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill our hearts, homes and our families with love and peace; I hope you've all had a good 'half term' week; may we all take time to pause, reflect, and be thankful for the peace we have in our nation; please continue to pray for each other, for the Church, our communities and all nations especially those experiencing conflict, war and famine. Love and Blessings. Julia x

ALDERTON

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE: is on **9TH NOVEMBER** starting at **10.50am** at the **War Memorial** where we will have Dan Chandler playing the trumpet for the Last Post and Tom Cullimore will read out the list of soldiers from Alderton who died serving our country in the World Wars, together with prayers led by Rev'd Michael Hand. There will then be a service in Church so please do join us to remember all those brave people who have fought in all situations to protect our freedom and our country.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR: is on **SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER** in the **Village Hall** from **2pm to 4pm**. Here we will have the big raffle, jams and preserves, gift stall, plants, delicatessen, tombola, children's games, Christmas cake raffle, refreshments and we expect a visit from Father Christmas. We also have a lovely range of craft stalls so there is plenty of interest. Come along to get into the Christmas spirit!

If you would like to donate anything for one of the stalls, please contact Helen West 07941 373030.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Christingle, Carol Service and Blessing of the Crib 4pm Sunday **14TH DECEMBER**; **Outdoor Carol Singing** in the **Churchyard** 6pm **Wednesday 17TH DECEMBER**; 10pm **CHRISTMAS EVE**; 10.30 **CHRISTMAS DAY**.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

As I write this, we are looking forward to afternoon tea served in the church in aid of MacMillan Cancer support and St Mary's church. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets to support this event we hope you have a most enjoyable afternoon.

The annual **FAMILY QUIZ** is to be held this Saturday **1ST NOVEMBER** with a hot two course meal. We are very nearly sold out, it starts at 6.30pm, if you would like to join a team, please contact Karen on 07887 597 792

Tickets are £12 and include a 2-course hot supper & there will be a Bar. All funds raised will go to the upkeep of our church. We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Finally, just an advance notice for your diaries that the village **CAROL SINGING** evening will be held in the church on **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER**. Hope you can join us.

DUMBLETON

NEW CHURCH HEATING. We are so pleased to say that the new electric heating system is now in use, most of the work having been completed. Many grateful thanks to the very generous local donors who contributed to this project. Grants from the Benefact Trust, the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, together with a large grant from the Church of England also made this possible.

THANKS to everyone who helped to make the church look wonderful for the Harvest service. **The Annual Village Harvest Supper** was a great success, and heartfelt **thanks go to Jan and Lorraine** who once again took on the challenge of providing a delicious hot supper for everyone. They definitely succeeded! **Thanks also** to those who contributed wonderful desserts for the occasion. A magnificent £900 was raised for church funds.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER. As is the custom now in Dumbleton this service will be taken outside (in church if wet). Please gather at the War Memorial at 10.50am in time for the two minutes silence at 11am after which the service will take place. There will be a collection in aid of the British Legion.

CHRISTMAS TREES in church from **1ST DECEMBER**. Every year we put up decorated Christmas Trees in church (artificial is fine). This is an invitation open to all residents. If you happen to be new to the village and would like to display a tree we would love to hear from you. Any interested parties contact Jenny on 01386 881474 and she can give you more details.

THE NORTH COTSWOLD FOODBANK have sent us a letter of thanks for our Harvest Food donation which weighed in at 49.58kg. Thanks to all who contributed items for this appeal. The Foodbank is getting busier each year, and they have been able to feed many local low-income working families who have found themselves in desperate need. These families are deeply grateful that others would consider them at a very difficult time in their lives.

Diary Date: **21st DECEMBER 4pm, CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**. More details next month.

WORMINGTON

Date for your diary: Sunday 14TH DECEMBER 6PM - SERVICE OF 6 LESSONS AND CAROLS – all welcome. Mulled wine and mince pies served after the service

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Lectionary Year C

Please note, if you wish to receive personal prayer for yourself or a family member/friend after the Service, please speak to Julia.

2nd November 1st Sunday ALL SAINTS 4th before Advent WHITE	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE ALL SAINTS HC	10.30am DUMBLETON ALL SAINTS HC	Dan. 7.1-3, 15-18 Eph. 1.11-end Luke 6. 20.31
9th November 2nd Sunday 3rd before Advent REMEMBRANCE RED	10.50am ALDERTON WAR MEMORIAL FOLLOWED BY HC IN CHURCH	10.50am DUMBLETON WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE	Job 19.23-27a 2 Thess 2.1-5, 13-end Luke 20.27-38
Wednesday 12th November		10.00am ALDERTON 'Said' HC	
16th November 3rd Sunday 2nd before Advent RED	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Mal 4.1-2a 2 Thess 3.6-13 Luke 21.5-19
23rd November 4th Sunday 1st before Advent CHRIST THE KING RED	6.00pm WORMINGTON CHORAL EVENSONG	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Jer 23.1-6 Col 1.11-20 Luke 23.33.43
30th November ADVENT SUNDAY PURPLE LECTIONARY YEAR A	9.00am ALDERTON Said HC for ADVENT Isa. 2.1-5; Rom 13 11- end; Matt 24.36-44	10.30 ADVENT CAFÉ CHURCH GREAT WASHBOURNE	
7th December 1st Sunday Advent 2 PURPLE	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE ADVENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON ADVENT HC	Isa. 11.1-10 Rom 15.4-13 Matt 3.1-12

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