

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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SEPTEMBER 2023



Give us today our daily bread.

Dear Friends

I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful August and that you feel refreshed and energised. Not only does September herald the start of a new school year, but it also sees the start of a busy time in the Liturgical Calendar as we begin to look ahead to the end of Ordinary Time to the Kingdom Season, Advent and Christmas. Along with our normal Sunday morning services, there are a number of other services with a specific focus such as our Harvest, Remembrance Service for Departed loved ones, Advent and Christmas Services. All of these services provide a great opportunity for us to invite friends and/or neighbours to come to Church with us. In fact, we are entering what is termed by some in the Church of England a 'Season of Invitation'. We are happy to call ourselves a welcoming Church and I truly believe that we are, but we also need to be an inviting Church, where we encourage others to come along with us. It takes a lot of courage for someone who hasn't been to church before or hasn't been for a long time to walk into church for a service, this is why it is so important that we invite people to come along with us. As a first step, it is often a good idea to invite people to a specially themed service that perhaps they might have an interest in, perhaps the Harvest Songs of Praise, or the Service of Remembrance for the Departed or maybe a Carol Service. I wonder if, during this Season of Invitation, there might be someone that you could invite. Why not pray about it and ask God to put someone into your mind who may well be longing to come to Church but are too afraid to walk through the doors on their own. If you enjoy being a part of our Church community and worshipping here amongst the Oak Hill Parishes, why not share that joy?

The dates for other special services over the coming months will be found in this Newsletter.

Prayer and waiting on God was a discussion I had recently, and as I prayed about it, I felt God directing me to words of scripture from Jeremiah 29 which were *'Then you will call on me. You will come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart.'*

When I looked up this passage in the Bible, I was amazed to find that they follow on from words that have been such an encouragement over the last few years which I hope are familiar to you... *'I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.'*

This seems to me to be more than a pure coincidence. It is God perhaps wanting to fulfil his desire for us and that we need to stop and spend time praying, reading the Bible and listening. So, over the coming months this will be my focus and maybe yours? I am going to wait on God, to allow Him to guide me [us] forward. Can I encourage you all to join in with this time of praying and waiting? I'm planning to set aside one Sunday evening a month, for those who are able, to come together for corporate prayer - nothing too onerous, and a glass of wine to end the day.

More important than that is your commitment to holding our Church in prayer whether it is collectively or in your prayer time at home. I will endeavour to put some resources and ideas for prayer into my weekly email to help you with this. As a Church community and in our own personal relationship with God we should seek to discern where and what he is calling us to as individuals, a community of faith, and a Church serving the community amongst the Oak Hill Parishes. With my love and prayers Julia x

ALDERTON

Art Exhibition and Sale and Flower Festival: We had a very successful double event at the end of July and want to **THANK EVERYONE** who came along and for their support and generosity at them.

We had lots of positive comments, and we were very lucky with the weather which allowed us to serve a range of refreshments outside. - hooray! **THANK YOU** to **Nigel Roe** for organising the Art Exhibition and to **the artists and crafts people** who exhibited and allowed their creativity to be sold and to **Tania** for her inspirational ideas to portray Alice in Wonderland as a Flower Festival. **Not forgetting** all the flower arrangers, refreshment providers and furniture movers - all very much appreciated. The sale of the art and craft items and refreshments served at the Flower Festival together with donations at both places made £1780.17.

THANK YOU also to those who contributed to the Gift Day - we really appreciate the support we have had from the Village at these events. The Church is due their 5 yearly Building Inspection in the autumn so the money raised will be very useful for any repair works that we have to carry out to ensure we keep the Village Church in a good condition.

Harvest: there will be a **HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE** on **Sunday September 24th** at 10.30am when the Church will be decorated with autumnal colours and will be an opportunity to sing your favourite harvest hymns.

If you would like to buy any dried or tinned products to leave at Yaris (who should be back!) or brought to the Church - these will go to help people at the North Cotswold Food Bank.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

The church continues to be open daily for private prayer and the Food Bank Collection box for the North Cotswolds Foodbank is to be found at the back of the church should anyone wish to donate. **THANK YOU** to all those who have already so kindly given produce.

Looking forward, a date for your diary is **SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER**, an early evening service for **HARVEST THANKSGIVING** followed by **HARVEST SUPPER**. More details to follow.

DUMBLETON

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER. 3-5pm "ANNUAL GIFT DAY WITH TEAS ON THE GREEN" (or in church if wet). We hope to see you at this happy FUNdraising Village event.

HARVEST FESTIVAL "SONGS OF PRAISE FAMILY SERVICE" SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER 10.30am. We need your help and participation for this lovely service when we give thanks for this year's Harvest and for the bountiful food we eat. Please give some thought on which is your **favourite Harvest Hymn** then let Gail Braham (07521 750087) know what it is and we will include the most popular 5/6 hymns in the service.

This is an informal Family Service so we would be delighted for children to bring along a Harvest Picture to show or a Harvest Poem to read. Do come along and help to raise the roof of our church with some rousing singing.

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER - REVD MICHAEL HANDS will be participating on a sponsored 23 mile walk for which there is a Sponsor Form on the small table inside the church should you wish to sponsor him. Revd Michael will be known to many of you as he occasionally takes a service in Revd Julia's absence. The money raised will be split 50/50 between our church and The Historic Churches Trust.

WORMINGTON

WVS RACE NIGHT Saturday 2nd September

WVS Quiz Night Friday 15th September - details of both events will be emailed and put on Facebook,

24th September **HARVEST CREAM TEA** in the marquee from 3pm - All welcome

24th September **HARVEST SERVICE** in Church at 6pm - All welcome and do stay for a glass of wine and nibbles after the service.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Lectionary Year A

3rd Sept 5th Sun T13 [Prop 17] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Jeremiah 15.15-21 Romans 12.9-end Matt 16.21-end
10 th Sept 2 nd Sun T14 [Prop 18] Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC Trad	10.30am ALDERTON	Ezek 33 7-11 Romans 13 8-end Matt 18 15-20
17 th Sept 3 rd Sun T15 [Prop 19] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Gen 50.15-21 Romans 14.1-12 Matt 18.21-35
24 th Sept 4 th Sun T16 [Prop 20] Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON HARVEST EP READINGS TBC	10.30am ALDERTON HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE READINGS TBC	Jonah 3.10-4.end Phil 1.21-end Matt 20.1-16
1 st October 5th Sun T17 [Prop 21] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE READINGS TBC	Rev 21.9-14 Heb 12.18-24 Matt 21.12-16

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. Steggles, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

01386 882049

WORMINGTON

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

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

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