

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

APRIL 2024

You do not have to look for anything,
Just look.
You do not have to listen for Specific sounds,
Just listen.
You do not have to accomplish anything,
Just be.

Ann Lewin
And in the looking
And the listening,
And the being,
Find
Me

HAPPY EASTER SEASON

Dear Friends

As I write I hear on the news 'over 130 people killed in a shooting in Russia; the Princess of Wales, has cancer; the funeral of two 15 years boys who had been shot, has recently taken place.' 'Humanity against humanity!'

'The world is looking for a saviour – the world needs a saviour – you and I need a saviour!' The Canadian musician, Lights, expresses this in the lyrics of her song 'Saviour.'

'The night is deafening, when the silence is listening, and I'm down on my knees, and I know that something is missing..... Sooner than later, I'll need a saviour, I'll need a saviour...

Lecrae [Moore] is a rapper, entrepreneur, record-producer, and actor. He speaks for many of us when he says, 'I'm not a Christian because I'm strong and have it all together. I'm a Christian because I'm weak and admit I need a saviour.'

The amazing truth of Christianity is that in Jesus you/we do have a saviour.

I love the song written by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan that celebrates this salvation – I quote: 'Saviour, He can move the mountains, my God is mighty to save, forever, author of salvation, he rose and conquered the grave, Jesus conquered the grave!'

Jesus is the saviour of the world. At Christmas time, we read in Luke 2 vs 11 'The Angel had announced the birth of a 'Saviour.' During this Easter Season, having journeyed with Jesus through Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to that Glorious Easter morning, we celebrate Jesus Christ risen from the grave, offering you and I forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

I was chatting recently with Tom, whilst he was doing the garden – 'people' he said, 'seem to have lost the desire for eternal life.' An interesting point to reflect on. I know that I haven't, have you?

I also recently read an article written by Kate Orson, on the Olympic swimmer, Stephanie Rice, and her recent coming to faith in Jesus. I was quite surprised like Kate, at the hostility Stephanie received on her Instagram, because of this. I quote Kate:

'So many people have rejected God because they think Christianity is just a belief system for people that need some kind of spiritual comfort,' says Kate Orson, reflecting on the response to Stephanie Rice giving God glory for her blessings in life. She says we need to work on translating Jesus to those people, so they don't discard him.

In a brave Instagram post Stephanie, shared her conversion story. She describes how 'The few weeks before turning to God were my lowest yet. I can't tell you how broken I was.

That's when I knew I had to do something different, and I had to surrender it all to God. He saved me. He is putting all the pieces back together again in the most beautiful way. At times it's painful, but I know it will be beautiful. God has already blessed my life so richly and I'm excited to see where He takes me next.'

Reading the comments to Stephanie, made me reflect on how we as Christians have work to do, to share the Gospel, and learn as much as we can about the factual evidence for Jesus's life, death, and resurrection to talk with others.

As the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians, 'the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'

I was pleasantly surprised when watching Song of Praise, for Palm Sunday, it was said, thousands upon thousands have come to faith by watching the Passion play enacted out on the streets in various towns on Palm Sunday. It's telling the 'Jesus story' in both a human and spiritual way.

Let's pray for Stephanie and all new Christians, that they be strengthened against the haters, and the persecution that inevitably comes in the life of a Christian, especially on social media. And let's pray for all their followers, that they might hear the Gospel on their posts, and perceive it not as folly but truth. Likewise, let's pray for ourselves that we are enabled to sow the seed of Christ to all the people we encounter in our lives, through our words and actions.

And on that note please continue to hold in love and to pray for Mark, Oliver and Amy Goodwin, as they prepare to say a final farewell to Josie. She gave so much to so many and was an inspirational Christian. A courageous woman of faith.

Throughout this Easter season and beyond, may you all daily be reminded of the **transforming love** of God that he has for each one of us.

ALDERTON

MOTHERING SUNDAY: we had a lovely Mothering Sunday Cafe Church which was well attended. People enjoyed the short service with small posies of flowers handed out to all people who care for others. Then drinks and cakes were also enjoyed! Over £100 was collected for the Mother's Union.

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP: THANK YOU to all those who came to help to make the churchyard look smart - it looks especially lovely at the moment with spring flowers, particularly the primroses.

LENT COURSE An enjoyable and thoughtful Lent course was had by all those who came along. Thank you for attending.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH AGM: will be on **Sunday April 14th after the 10.30am service.** Please do join us to hear past and future plans for the Church and share your ideas.

FLOWER FESTIVAL AND SUMMER FAIR: is on **Saturday July 27th.** The Flower Festival theme is the Olympics - we have a team of amateur flower arrangers so if you love flowers, please join us - it is fun!

We would also value any helpers for the Summer Fair where there will be stalls in the Churchyard and all-day refreshments in the Village Hall - do contact Helen West - helenmarywest4@gmail.com. This will also be **St Margaret's GIFT DAY** - when we celebrate our Saint and donate money to support the running of our Church.

JOSIE GOODWIN: some of you will have heard the very sad news that Josie has died. After a career in HR she made the decision to become a Vicar and held various roles in the Diocese. Latterly she was Chaplain at the Ladies College. She will be very sadly missed, and our thoughts and love go to Mark, Oliver and Amy. Josie's Funeral with Holy Communion will be on Friday 12 April at Tewkesbury Abbey at 10.30am. All are welcome.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THE GREAT WASHBOURNE FAMILY FUN QUIZ FOR 2024 is to be held at the church on **Saturday 27th April. 6.30pm - 10pm.** It is suitable for all ages - bring your own team of 4-5 or join one on the night. **Tickets: £12 adult (£6 u12s).** This will include a 2-course Hot supper & there will be a Bar. Tickets are available from Jane 07711 623 017. All funds raised will go to the upkeep of our church. We hope to see you there.

ST MARY'S CHURCH AGM will be held at the church on **Monday 29th April**, anyone is able to attend so please do come. **It starts at 7-30pm.**

DUMBLETON

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 10.30am. A FAMILY "SONGS OF PRAISE" SERVICE will be held this morning and we would love to include your FAVOURITE HYMN. Perhaps it is a children's hymn or song, something you sang at school maybe, or a rousing tune that stayed in your head. Please let me know and we will enjoy seeing you and singing it. Please bring your children with you to church, we love to SEE and HEAR the youngsters. My contact details; Jenny Maher (01386 881474) jennylynne71@icloud.com.

FUNdraising FILM NIGHT SUNDAY 21st APRIL 7pm for 7.30pm start at the VILLAGE CLUB. Join us this evening when we will be screening for your pleasure, 'SAVING GRACE' starring Brenda Blethyn, a truly lovely film. No need to book, donation £5 on the door to cover table nibbles. Bar will be open, so do come and support us.

Donations at the two successful Lent Lunches amounted to £266 towards church funds. **HUGE THANKS** to everyone who contributed in any way by making Soup, Cake and attending. Your support is much appreciated by the Vicar and the P.C.C.

From the Registers: Baptism 3rd March, Agatha Margaret EVERS.
7th March, Funeral and Burial, Gerald Leonard PAXTON. R.I.P.

WORMINGTON

A BIG THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL WHO HAVE KINDLY DONATED TOWARDS OUR TURRET REPAIRS - It is very much appreciated. 😊 Grant applications have been submitted and we aim to start the project this summer. 2-night Bat surveys will be carried out in May. Even if bats are not found in the Turret Spire, the report will show what bat activity (and species) are around the churchyard area.

The Church looks lovely for Easter. Thank you to all who helped with the flower arrangements.

WVS Easter Egg Hunt - A big "Thank You" to Sarah and Mark for organising this fun event. Save the date - 27th April Fundraising "Race Night" - More info to follow on the Notice Board and on our Facebook Page.

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

Lectionary Year B

7th April E2 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 4.32-35 John 20.19-end
14th April E3 White	9.00am WORMINGTON Easter Season HC	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 3.12-19 Luke 24.36b-48
21st April E4 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON A FAMILY "SONGS OF PRAISE" SERVICE	Acts 4.5-12 John 10.11-18
28th April E5 White	6.00pm WORMINGTON Choral Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 8.26-end John 15.1-8
5th May E6 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 10.44-end John 15.9-17

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. Stegges, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton 01386 882049

WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs. 07799035873
Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington 01386 584416