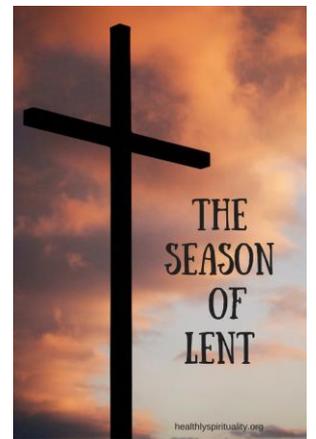


OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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MARCH 2022



Dear Friends

In a time which is still filled with uncertainties locally, nationally and internationally, and still to have the privilege of praying to and with a God who holds everything in his hands remains a source of hope and strength, and there is certainly much to pray for, as I'm listening to the news on the Radio with talks of bombs and people fleeing to escape them. Archbishop Justin and Archbishop Stephen have written a letter, inviting us all to join in prayer for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

Perhaps it is at times like this that we can be most open to gaining insights as to what it is to pray, what it is to hear the Lord's voice and to remember that it is indeed a great privilege to stand before God on behalf of others, and that we do not do this in isolation is extra-special.

The last two years have inevitably caused us to become preoccupied with our own survival, grappling with the challenges of the pandemic. The history of the last few decades has also obscured the presence of Christ within the church for many reasons. The challenge for us is how to turn that around in the UK, here in the Gloucester Diocese and indeed our own community of Oak Hill.

Recently I came across this 'Vision Statement':

'The primary aim of all Christian mission is to present the person of Jesus Christ, to make him visible so that he may draw all to himself. This can only be done by enabling people to see Christ in his humanity, in the Christ-likeness of other human beings and in a church that actually is his body.'

The above is based on a statement in a book by Bishop John V. Taylor on our calling as 21st-century Christians. 'Making Jesus visible' acts as a reminder of what is at the heart of the vision.

This suggests to me that our witness to Jesus is not simply about the way we live our own lives, allowing others to see some measure of Christ-likeness in our own lives, but also about how we live as a community of faith together, allowing people to see Christ-likeness in the church that is his body. There is a challenge in this for us all. The vision outlines four priorities to enable this to happen:

* deepening our friendship with God through increased prayer;

- * encouraging one another to more confident discipleship and being active in Everyday Mission in order to transform the community in which we live;
- * being more engaged with the wider community by better understanding their needs and being more responsive in active service;
- * modelling a gracious, inclusive and welcoming church community based on a culture of care, openness and non-judgmentalism that embraces all ages and all peoples.

It starts with each and every one of us **paying attention to our prayer life and to our journey of discipleship** – are we continuing to grow as disciples or have we become stuck in a religious rut? I would like to encourage you to use this Lent to ask yourselves these questions and to allow God to renew your prayer life and revitalise your journey of discipleship that truly reflects the likeness of Christ.

I believe that 2022 holds some wonderful opportunities for us to grow as individuals and to grow as a community, but we need to be ready and willing to co-operate with the work of God in our lives enabling the power of the Holy Spirit to work within us and between us, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. This comes in prayer, with love and every good Blessing, Julia x

DATE FOR THE DIARY – Wednesday 23rd March, during the day Bishop Rachel is visiting the Winchcombe and Tewkesbury Deanery, after which an Evening Service is planned in St Michael's Church, Bishops Cleeve at 7pm – **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

ALDERTON

LENT COURSE – this will be held every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm in the Vicarage through Lent. At the 1st one on Wednesday March 2nd there will be the opportunity to be 'Ashed'.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: there will be a Cafe Church service for all 4 parishes at 10.30am in **Alderton Village Hall** on Sunday March 27th. This will be an informal service where all ages are very welcome and drinks and croissants will be served with an opportunity to chat to everyone. Bunches of flowers will be given to Mums and some craft activities available for the children (and adults!) There will also be an opportunity to listen to several of the iSing Pop songs that the Oak Hill pupils learnt before Christmas that all 4 parishes contributed to.

EASTER MONDAY CREAM TEAS: these will be held in the Village Hall on Easter Monday, April 18th in the Village Hall. More details to follow in April's newsletter.

BOOKS AND CARDS IN CHURCH: just a reminder that there are a wide range of books for sale, all priced 50p and handmade cards available in Church.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Great Washbourne will be holding a **FAMILY FUN QUIZ** in St Mary's Church on Saturday 9th April from 6.30pm to 10pm. As in previous years, this is suitable for all

ages and we hope you will come along with your friends (teams 4-5 or join one on the night). Tickets cost £12 adult (£6 kids) to include a hot 2-course supper and are available from Jane or Karen in Great Washbourne. Please email Jane Kent (cjanekent@btinternet.com) or Karen Cox (rupert.cox@btinternet.com) to book your table. There will be a pay bar and raffle. All proceeds are to the church. And please make sure you have Friday 24th June, the Great Washbourne Summer Event in your diaries.

Discussion for social and fundraising events, including the Queen's Jubilee, are in the planning stage, any offers of help, or new ideas would be warmly welcomed.

DUMBLETON

LENT LUNCHESES. There will be two Lunches held in church this month at 12 NOON on TUESDAY 8th MARCH and THURSDAY 31st MARCH. Please join us for a convivial lunch of Soup, Bread, Cakes and Tea or Coffee. These lunches are open to everyone but we do ask that you pre-book your place by contacting Jenny Maher (01386 881474 or by email to jennylynne71@icloud.com). We hope to see you as these are always enjoyable occasions and are the first lunches we have been able to do for two years.

FILM NIGHT SUNDAY 13th MARCH 7pm for 7.30pm start. Hurrah we are once more holding a Film Night at the VILLAGE CLUB and will be showing the great "WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY" starring David Tennant. Join us, get a drink in hand and enjoy a super feel good movie. No need to book simply turn up. Entrance on the door £5. All profits to Church Funds.

A **P.C.C. Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 15th March at 2pm at the home of Tricia and Paul Steggles.

There is to be a **NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION ON 23rd MARCH** which marks two years since the start of the first Lockdown re Covid 19. As we begin to try and live more normally, people will have many emotions regarding the Pandemic. The church will be open for anyone who may wish to have a few minutes of quiet reflection. A Prayer Tree will be standing on the Font should you wish to write a Prayer or Reflection to tie to the tree. Paper and pens will be provided.

From the Registers. Holy Matrimony 5th February Sean Patrick MADDEN and Laura Jayne FREEMAN.

WORMINGTON

"**VALENTINE TAKEAWAY**" - Many thanks to all who supported our takeaway. £172 was raised for the PCC.

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING A list of spring-cleaning jobs is on the table by the memorial plaque in the church. We welcome as many volunteers as possible to come and help the regulars to give St Katharine's a spruce up! Please put your name against jobs you are able to do.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS for Easter would be welcomed on Saturday 16th April.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2022

Lectionary Year C

	ALDERTON	WASHBOURNE	DUMBLETON	WORMINGTON
1 st Sun		9.00am	10.30am	
6 th Mar		HC Trad	HC CW	
Lent 1				
Purple	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Romans 10.8b-13		Luke 4.1-13

2 nd Sun	10.30am			9.00am
13 th Mar	HC CW			HC BCP
Lent 2				
Purple	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3.17-4.1		Luke 13.31-end

3 rd Sun		9.00am	10.30am	
20 th Mar		HC CW	HC CW	
Lent 3				
Purple	Isaiah 55.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-3		Luke 13.1-9

4 th Sun	10.30am - Mothering Sunday Service [Readings TBC]			6.00pm
27 th Mar	Alderton Village Hall - All are welcome			Evensong
Lent 4				
Purple	Psalms 127	2 Corinthians 1.3-7		John 19.25b-27

1 st Sun		9.00am	10.30am	
3 rd April		HC Trad	HC CW	
Lent 5				
Purple	Isaiah 43.16-21	Philippians 3.4b-14		John 12.1-8

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. 07799035873
 Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington 01386 584416