

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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Beautiful World

JULY 2023

Dear Friends

I don't know what you think about prayer, but considering all that is happening in our beautiful world, and indeed our community, there is much to pray for!

I had an interesting chat with a friend recently about prayer and how, first and foremost each day, we should pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us through the day, especially our words and actions. I see then, prayer as a spiritual nutrition; just as the body needs physical food, so the soul needs spiritual food – you need your breakfast every morning and likewise you need a pray each morning to set you up and guide you through the day.

Prayer changes us; however, the Bible goes much further than this; prayer is powerful. It is, as Charles Haddon Spurgeon puts it, 'the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence.' Prayer has the power to change circumstances, other people and even the course of history!

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night thinking about a family member or friend? You know that you need to pray for them, but you're not sure what to say so, maybe you come up with something like this: 'Lord, I pray for this person. I don't know what to say. I just pray for them.' That's how I used to be, never being able to pray 'off the cuff' so to speak. You may have thought it wasn't a very good prayer, but it could have been the most powerful prayer you've ever prayed, that's because Romans 8 tells us, 'And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, for example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words' (NLT). Sometimes a good prayer is a groan, and I can well vouch for that.

So, here are just a few pointers for prayer as we journey through the summer months:

For our school as they do their best for the pupils in difficult times; remembering especially those who are preparing to move to a different school or begin school for the first time.

For the residents of Malvern View residential home as it prepares to close, praying particularly for the residents in their bewilderment, families tasked with finding new homes for them, for those who've been helped in their own homes by that place, and also for the staff.

For our villages and the challenges, they face, and for ourselves, that we may remain open to the Holy Spirit, reflect on all we have experienced lately and learn from it and together seek God's will for our community; and to allow time to listen to what the Lord would say to us.

We pray too for holiday times, for safe travel and refreshing, restoring stays.

But the fact of the matter is that a simple prayer, a groan, or a yearning of the heart might be a prayer that is inspired by God. Let's take our problems and burdens and cast them upon the Lord. God ultimately will have His way. Regardless of how bleak the scenario may be, God can turn it around. Happy Holidays. Julia x

SUE RYDER SPONSORSHIP

Karen and I will be running on Sunday September 10th whilst raising money for Sue Ryder Hospice. Enthuse.com is the fundraising website AJ Bell are setting us up with.

Look for Steve Bowles fundraising page through my Facebook, text / ring 07745 802072 with your details and I'll add you to my sponsorship form or knock on 13, Beckford rd, Alderton to speak with me.

ALDERTON

ART EXHIBITION & SALE & FLOWER FESTIVAL: this will be on **SATURDAY JULY 29th 10am to 4pm**. The Art Exhibition will be in the **Village Hall** and will feature the work of local Artists and Crafts people. The paintings and crafts will be for sale so do bring some cash or a cheque book with you! The Flower Festival will be in **Church** and has the exciting theme of **Alice in Wonderland**. The entrance to both events is free but any donations would be very gratefully received - the Church relies on donations and support at events for its upkeep (this year our 5year inspection of the whole Church building is due) and to cover its running costs. The small **envelope** that you will be given in the Church newsletter can be used for your donation. We will be serving refreshments in the Churchyard all day and there will be Pimm's and other drinks and snacks available to celebrate summer! A SumUp machine will be available to use here in the Churchyard. So, it will be really lovely to see you at this special event - please bring all the family!

GARDEN IN A TEACUP As part of the Flower Festival, we are inviting all youngsters to join in and create a Garden in a Teacup with Alice in Wonderland in mind, so you can really let your imagination run wild. Think Mad Hatters Tea Party, Cheshire Cat, The Queen of Hearts, etc. Prizes will be awarded in two age groups, 7 years and under, and 8 to 11 years. Bring your Teacup creations along to the church anytime on Friday or before 10am on Saturday morning. Please leave them on the pew inside the church ready to be placed in position. Don't forget to add your name so we know who has won. Contact Sian on 07790 342157 for help or more information about either competition.

PET SERVICE this will be on **SUNDAY 16th JULY at 5pm** in the Churchyard or if wet in Church. This will be a short, relaxed service, to include refreshments and we would love to have lots of families coming with their pets. Last year we had a good variety of pets including a baby tortoise and a horse who visited us outside (perhaps that won't fit in Church) So do come and join us with your pets and bring a rug!

CAFÉ CHURCH: will be on Sunday 30th July at 10.30am at St Margaret's Church, Alderton to celebrate the International Day of Friendship. The theme will be on Friendship and being a Refugee. It is a short, relaxed time and we serve drinks and croissants giving a chance for you to chat to people followed by thoughts on what it is like being a refugee and the importance of friendship. And it is another chance to look at the Alice in Wonderland Flower Festival!

RIP Bob Jones: a service to celebrate Bob's life was held on Tuesday 30th May - we send our sympathy and thoughts to Antonia and her family.

RIP Jean Poole: we heard the sad news that Jean died in May - Jean was Revd Clifford Poole's wife who was Vicar here. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Clifford, Robert and Charlotte.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

It was lovely to welcome so many to the Coffee morning in aid of the Russell Trust, the charity that runs the national network of foodbanks, including the North Cotswold Food bank, which we support locally. A total of £280 was raised. **THANK YOU** to Karen for organising it and to everyone who supported the morning.

Café church for Father's Day was well supported, coffee and croissants were good. The informal gathering brought together people from all four parishes, and we look forward to the next Café Church on the 30th July.

THANK YOU to all who joined us last Friday for the Great Washbourne Summer Event. A beautiful evening, good food, good company, great live music, a little horse racing and long cool drinks! Thank you to all who contributed in the preparation of our annual major fundraising event; we don't yet have a total, but will let you know when we do. The good news is that the building contractors have just completed works to make our church watertight again. This has only been made possible by your continued support and generosity for which the community is very grateful. So once again, thank you.

DUMBLETON

SATURDAY 8th JULY 6-10pm. "PIMMS and PIG ROAST" in the garden of Fred and Sue Invine, The Villa, Blacksmiths Lane. Tickets priced at £12.50 have been selling fast so contact Jenny Maher (01386 881474, jennylynne71@icloud.com) if you wish to join this village event in aid of St Peter's Church.

A PCC Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th July at 10.30am at York House, Blacksmiths Lane. Point of contact Christine Day 0957 725587.

The Annual **CHURCH GIFT DAY** with **TEAS ON THE GREEN** will be held on Saturday 5th September. More details next month.

PRE-WAR VINTAGE CARS will be driving through the village between 9.00am and 10.00am on Sunday 16th July.

The Funeral Service for our much-loved friend **DAVID DODRIDGE** took place on Tuesday 20th June. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Mavis and the family would like to thank everyone who joined them for funeral and to let you know that a fantastic £245 was collected at the service and donated to Operation Smile in David's name.

From the Registers: Baptism. 17th June - Sofia Rose ING

WORMINGTON

AGM Friends of St Katharine's Church - 4th July 7.30pm Wormington Farm

WVS BOULES & BBQ

Saturday 15th July from 4pm - land adjacent to the church. There will be a pay bar. All are welcome to come and join in this fun event.

SERVICES FOR JULY 2023

Lectionary Year A

2 nd July 1 st Sun T4 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Jeremiah 28.5-9 Romans 6.12-end Matthew 10.40-end
9 th July 2 nd Sun T5 Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC Trad	10.30am ALDERTON	Zech. 9.9-12 Romans 7. 15-25a Matt 11. 16-19, 25-30
16 th July 3 rd Sun T6 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW Isa. 55.10-13 Rom 8.1-11 Matt 13.1-9, 18-23	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW Isa. 55.10-13 Rom 8.1-11 Matt 13.1-9, 18-23	5.00pm PET SERVICE ALDERTON
23 rd July 4 th Sun T7 Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC BCP	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isa. 44.6-8 Romans 8. 12-25 Matt 13. 24-30, 36-43
30 th July 5 th Sun T8 Green	CAFÉ CHURCH – ALDERTON 10.30am Celebrating International Day of Friendship		

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