

OAK HILL PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne, Dumbleton & Wormington)

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AUGUST 2021



Earth, Wind, Rain and Fire

Dear Friends

‘And they call the wind Mariah’ - a song I heard the other day which is from the 1950s. It comes from the Musical ‘Paint your Wagon’. ‘Away out here they’ve got a name for Wind and Rain and Fire. The Rain is Tess, the Fire is Joe, and they call the Wind Mariah.’

I think that when I first watched this film it was my first introduction to the Classic concept of everything being made from combinations of the four Elements: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire. (I could argue that since ‘Paint your Wagon’ is about the California gold-rush then Earth is implicit.)

Many ancient cultures such as the Greeks, the Egyptians, Persians, Babylonians, Japanese, Tibetans, and Indians had those Elements in one form or another in their philosophies. Sometimes there was a fifth Element, for example Void, or Space, or Aether. (This latter is from where (eventually) we get ‘Ethernet’.)

We now accept that there are more than a 100 Chemical Elements, which are made up of particles we call Protons, Neutrons, and Electrons combined in different ways, and these particles are made up of other more exotic particles also combined in different ways.

The ideas of Earth, Water, Air, and Fire and our modern Scientific Theories of the universe are attempts at trying to answer the question ‘How are we here?’

The other Big Question is ‘Why are we Here?’ Our Christian belief is the way for us to begin to understand this. Professor David Wilkinson (who gave this year’s Michael Perham lecture) sets this out well in his book ‘God, Time, and Stephen Hawking’.

As Christians we believe that God is the sole creator of the universe; that God is the source of order in the universe; that God puts relationship at its heart.

We find all of these brought together in the person of Jesus, in His life, His death, and His resurrection. His teaching tells us how God is (in as far as we can understand that). The way he lived shows us how we should live. His death tells us about self-giving love, and His resurrection shows us that God wants an **eternal relationship of love and worship with each and every one of us, for ever.**

This comes to you, your families and your friends with love, and with prayers that you will indeed experience God’s love in your lives, as we begin to meet again slowly and cautiously with others in person, sharing worship, discussion, and perhaps more importantly simply building and renewing relationships, having conversations about how it has been, how we are and how those closest to us are. Happy Holidays! Julia x

The offer of a Sponsored Walk for the Oakhill Parishes, by Michael Hand - For some 13 years, I have had what I feel to be a great privilege, the privilege of taking services (I think across the whole range of ceremonies: Holy Communion, Evensong, baptisms, weddings ,funerals) in the Churches that the Revd. Julia Hook now leads with such care and enthusiasm.

Julia is now allowing me to give some expression to the gratitude for the privilege by undertaking for the churches in Great Washbourne, Alderton, Dumbleton and Wormington a sponsored walk that will take me, over three days in September, along the Thames Path from Oxford to the source of the Thames near Cirencester.

I already know well the landscape through which the river flows. Even now there are very few houses in what is still, a flood plain; the unthreatening atmosphere is so quiet and peaceful as to have a deeply mysterious and almost timeless feel to it. It is an area of remote memories: not so much 'three men in a boat' as of William Morris.

This begins to sound like escapism: but I do hope a long walk can raise much needed money for churches that I know still mean much to the communities in which they are set.

Any offer of sponsorship would mean a great deal to me. There are now sponsor forms in all four churches. Michael Hand.

ALDERTON

Hillbillies Concert: We're looking forward to the Hillbillies event on Saturday August 21st at 6pm - it will be fun to be able to celebrate, hopefully in the sunshine. Please note that this is a ticket only event - there will be no tickets available at the gate. In case of cancellations, you could ring Helen West 07941 373030. There are a very small number of tickets left.

Church Services: Although legal requirements have changed regarding Coronavirus, it has been decided that we will continue with the same arrangements that have been in place already. We will encourage mask wearing and continue with social distancing.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

The Memorial service for Carla will take place in St Mary's church on Friday 6th August at 2pm followed by afternoon tea. Please contact Jane Kent if you plan to attend, so we are aware of numbers, on 01242 620291 or by email cjanekent@btinternet.com.

The planned Wine & Cheese fundraising evening has been moved to Saturday 14th August, due to a date clash with the rearranged Hillbillies concert. This will be at 6.30pm in the garden of Great Washbourne House. Tickets will be £10 per head, to include cheese platter, accompaniments & one glass of wine. There will a raffle and bar.

Hope you might come & join us. Advance purchase of tickets would be appreciated so we have an idea for catering, but you can just turn up on the night. Please contact Jane Kent (01242 620291) or Karen Cox (01242 620633) for tickets.

DUMBLETON

SERVICES AT ST PETER'S. Following the guidance from the Government effecting 19th July onwards and because of the continuing high infection rate, it has been decided until further notice to carry on as before, but what were legal requirements are now our recommendations: wearing face coverings when in church, the use of hand sanitiser, and social distancing between groups etc. Please look at our web pages for more information and updates.

(stpetersdumbleton.org.uk)

SUNDAY 1st AUGUST. There is to be a special service at 10.30am for the official presentation by The Arts Society of their report on the fabric and furnishings of our Church. This is a wonderful comprehensive survey of the history of the building and its contents and took their dedicated volunteers a massive amount of time to complete. We are exceedingly grateful to The Arts Society to have this amazing record.

JENNY HUNTERS GARDEN PARTY 6.30pm SATURDAY 14th AUGUST. £12.50p Tickets are now available for this very popular event from Jenny herself (01386 882796) or from Jenny Maher (01386 881474) Price includes Canapés. There will be a Wine Bar and a Raffle.

The Revd Michael Hand is very kindly doing a sponsored walk in September to raise money for the four churches in our benefice. There is a sponsorship form in the church, but if you would like to sponsor Revd Michael in support of St Peter's Dumbleton then please contact Tricia Steggles (01386 882049)

We are very pleased and grateful to announce that we will be receiving a grant of £9,000 from the Bishop's Council of the Gloucester Diocese to cover our losses in 2020 due to the pandemic. We still continue to pay out more than we receive in 2021.

Election of Churchwardens at the Annual Vestry Meeting 20 July. Sadly no-one was willing to officially undertake the Churchwarden roles. Other church council members will continue to cover for these duties. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Gail Braham, Christine Day, Jenny Maher, Paul Steggles, Tricia Steggles and Michael Strode were appointed to the church council.

From the Registers: 18th July: Baptism of Rex William Robert Faulkner.

4th August: Funeral Service – Patricia Mary Spooner ['Trish'] RIP

WORMINGTON

Many thanks to all who supported the **NHS TEA PARTY** held on the village green on the 5th July. We raised £200 for NHS Charities together.

Café Church will be held at St Katharine's Church on 29th August at 10.30am. Weather permitting, the refreshments will be served in the marquee. Fun activities organised. All are welcome to join in. For further information please contact: - angela.piercy@hotmail.co.uk

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2021

Lectionary Year B

	ALDERTON	WASHBOURNE	DUMBLETON	WORMINGTON
1 st Sun 1st Aug Trinity 9 Green		9.00am HC	10.30am Morning Prayer	
		Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15	Eph 4.1-16	John 6.24-35
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2 nd Sun 8th Aug Trinity 10 Green	10.30am HC			9.00am PC Trad
		1 Kings 19.4-8	Eph 4.25-5.2	John 6.35, 41-51
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3 rd Sun 15th Aug Trinity 11 [The Blessed Virgin Mary] White		9.00am HC	10.30am HC	
		Isaiah 61.10-end	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 1.46-55
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4 th Sun 22nd Aug Trinity 12 Green	10.30am HC			6.00pm BCP HC
		Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18		John 6. 56-69
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5 th Sun 29th Aug Trinity 13 Green				10.30am Team Wide Café Church
				Ephesians 6.10-20

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