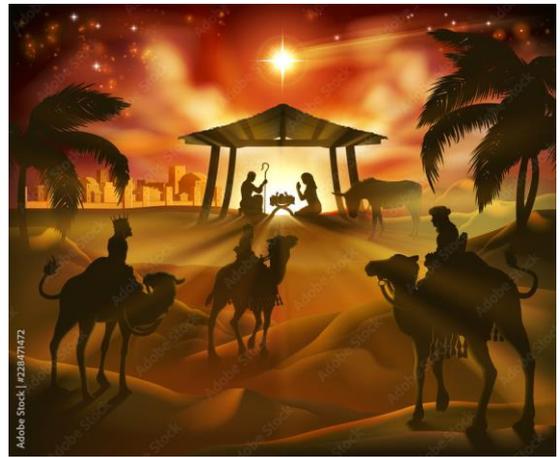


## OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,  
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,  
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**JANUARY 2022**



Dear Friends

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who took part or attended our wonderful Carols Services, Carols in the Churchyard, our Midnight Service and Christmas Day Services – a God-filled journey! Likewise a grateful thanks for your generous donations to the various charities we support.

I'm praying that you've had a wonderful Christmas, surrounded by family, friends, and the **supernatural joy** that comes from reflecting on the birth of Christ. As a lifelong lover of stories, I'm always listening to the lyrics of the songs we sing – and Christmas carols are no different. This year, I was particularly struck by a line from the classic carol, "O Holy Night": *A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.* The coming of God to Earth through His Son means a tired world gets to celebrate with eternal joy... a sentiment that transcends far beyond just the holiday season! How many people have you met this year alone whose souls are craving that thrill of hope?

During these last few days, whilst searching for a particular book, I came across a large, rather old looking family Bible which once belonged to my mum. As you often find with precious historical books, tucked inside its front cover were several yellowing clippings cut out of newspapers. One clipping was from a speech by the Rt Hon Winston Churchill. Churchill wrote:

'Sunday is a divine and priceless institution. It is a necessary pause in the national life and activity; it is essentially the day of emancipation from the compulsion and strain of daily work. It is the birth-right of every British subject.'

Strong words from a strong man. Journeying through a time of celebration and festivities, that is as it should be, [thank the Lord, we were able to meet up with family, this Christmas]. However, it seems clear that what many people want is something quite simple: they want a rest! Churches know that Sundays these days cannot always be a time of rest, precious and free from 'daily work'.

Many of course, have no choice about working on a Sunday. But churches also know the value of holidays – that is, going back to the origin of the word 'holiday' -

'holy days', times of different focus and times of respite from the chaos often going on around them and of which they all too frequently feel a part.

Christmas was, I hope, a holiday time for you and your family, a time of rest and respite for you this year. That's why many of us are trying hard to create new times of 'necessary pause' and rest within the often seven-day working week.

Vital down time where you can stop, rest and listen in the company of a family of friends who are seeking the same kind of oasis from daily work as you might be. Part of the recent series of lockdowns this last year has been the deliberate opening of churches for times of reflective prayer. Times when no one will bother you and times when you can be truly alone with your prayers and private thoughts.

A distinguished French priest once described such silent times as being times **when he looked at God and God looked at him, and they had a private conversation together**. That seems such a pleasant, unassuming, unpressurised way of describing a sacred time that I am glad to say we can offer at our Oak Hill churches as they are all open during day time hours. Or if Sundays are free, why not give church a try - we try hard to give you a warm welcome and be places where everyone knows they are noticed, valued and cared for.

As we navigate the ongoing situation with Covid-19, I do pray that you may find 'silent times when you look at God and he looks at you, giving rise to an opportunity of holding a private conversation.' Needless to say, my Prayers for you all are a constant and my blessing for each of you personally at this time. May your lives be filled with 'supernatural joy', the 'thrill of Hope' and the Peace of the Christ-child as we journey in love through a new year, and I wish you all a year of experiencing the wonders of God's love. **With Love Julia x**

### **ALDERTON**

**CANDLELIT CAROL AND CHRITINGLE SERVICE:** we had a lovely service which was very well attended and it was great to see the children there. We all enjoyed singing the well loved carols and hearing the Christmas story which ended with some being sung by the Christingle candlelight. The collection was for the Children's Society charity who support disadvantaged children and a fantastic £195.50 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came and for their generosity to the Children's Society.

**OUTDOOR CAROL SINGING IN THE CHURCHYARD:** it was a cold afternoon but 70 people including lots of children met up to sing carols and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. The story of the Nativity was read out and the children placed the figures in our new crib which was blessed by Julia. It was enjoyable being able to meet socially but safely together. A collection for Winstons Wish raised £64.20. Thank you to everyone who braved the chilly weather - it was good to see you.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** we had a good turnout for our Christmas Fair - we decided because of the Covid situation to have a few less stalls and not serve refreshments -

but certainly hope next year that we can have things going back to normal. But we had a very successful afternoon with a lovely range of stalls and a great raffle - the result of which made £2128 for church funds.

### **GREAT WASHBOURNE**

It was lovely that so many people were able to join us in the Churchyard for carols and mulled wine. Many thanks to Karen for playing for us, it was great to be able to get together in this way.

Thank you to all for the lovely flower arrangements which decorated the church to celebrate Christmas, it looked so welcoming for the service on Christmas morning.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting St. Mary's Church over the last difficult year. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022 and look forward to seeing you at our January services and to some social events as soon as restrictions allow.

### **DUMBLETON**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** everyone. May we once again thank everyone who helped in any way in 2021 to keep our church up and running, we are extremely grateful.

**JANUARY 2nd.** We invite you to join us for this relaxed service at 10.30am. Sadly due to the latest rise in Covid cases we have abandoned the bacon baps we planned to serve at the beginning of the service. However we hope to serve coffee after the event.

**CAROLS and CHRISTINGLE** service on December 19th was a beautiful Candlelit occasion and the collection amounted to £260 which will be forwarded to The Children's Society to help with their valuable work.

**THE CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE** raised the magnificent sum of £180. Thank you to all who supported this. The lucky winner was Graham Whybrow. We feel sure he will enjoy his prize.

**FROM THE REGISTERS:** Revd Nicholas Adrian Lees Carter. R.I.P. On a sad note the Revd Nick Carter passed away on 29th November and his funeral took place here in Dumbleton on December 22nd. Revd Nick served as vicar of our parishes from summer 2009 to Easter 2017 until his retirement when he and his wife Angela moved Brecon.

### **WORMINGTON**

**PCC MEETING** - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in church

Many thanks to all the volunteers who give of their time to clean and flower arrange for St Katharine's throughout the year

A special **THANKYOU** to **Tim Risdale** who has now retired from mowing the churchyard, that he has been doing for **well over** 10 years. He will be a hard act to follow.

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL Wormington PCC**

# SERVICES FOR JANURAY 2022

## Lectionary Year C

|  | <b>ALDERTON</b>      | <b>WASHBOURNE</b>   | <b>DUMBLETON</b>          | <b>WORMINGTON</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2022      |                      | 9.00am<br>Epiphany HC                                       | 10.30am                   |                   |
| <b>Epiphany</b><br>White                             | Isaiah 60.1-6        | Ephesians 3.1-12  | Matthew 2.1-12            |                   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun<br>9 <sup>th</sup> Jan           | 10.30am<br>HC        |   | 9.00am<br>BCP             |                   |
| <b>Baptism of Christ</b><br>White                    | Isaiah 43.1-7        | Acts 8.14-17  | Luke 3.15-17, 21-22       |                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun<br>16 <sup>th</sup> Jan          |                      | 9.00am<br>HC  | 10.30am<br>HC             |                   |
| <b>Epiphany 2</b><br>White                           | Isaiah 62.1-5        | 1 Cor 12.1-11   | John 2.1-11               |                   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun<br>23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan          | 10.30am<br>HC        |   | 6.00pm<br>Choral Evensong |                   |
| <b>Epiphany 3</b><br>White                           | Neh 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12.12-31a   | Luke 4.14-21              |                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun<br>30 <sup>th</sup> Jan          |                      | 4.00pm Team Wide Church Service by Candlelight<br>Dumbleton |                           |                   |
| <b>Presentation of Christ at the Temple</b><br>White | Malachi 3.1-5        | Hebrews 2.14-end  | Luke 2.22-40              |                   |

## 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