

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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OCTOBER 2025



**Come ye thankful people, come, raise the
song of harvest home.**

Dear Friends

As I type, with the TV on in the background, they are already talking about planting for next spring! I don't know about you, but I do like the drawing in of the evenings through the autumnal months; I also enjoy the vibrant autumnal colours in the trees and in the countryside.

Autumn seems to find the church waking up again to PCC meetings, some run Alpha courses, discipleship groups all getting going after a summer break and of course we hold our Harvest services and plan for Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas. So many opportunities to present the good news of Jesus and to grow as his disciples.

It strikes me there is one further thing the drawing in of the evenings can underline and that is our hope is in the greater light, the Light that St John tells us is coming into the world. This Light of course is Jesus, and the theme of Light is always strong at Christmas; yet on our darkening autumnal evenings perhaps we can be encouraged to know that Jesus is the light which cannot be extinguished, that darkness cannot put out.

This teaching reminds us that Jesus, the focus of our celebrations at Christmas and Easter is also a light through the day-to-day routine of life, not just the best days, but also the normal days and the difficult days, and those of us who are followers may we seek to walk in this light all the days of our life and reflect it to family and neighbours every day. I pray that those of you who are not followers will eventually come to see the Light that is Christ.

Reflecting on this season of Harvest, the traditional British Harvest Festival emerged in Victorian times in Cornwall but in fact it has been variously marked for millennia going back to pre-Christian times. Christians have a profound sense of God the Creator engaging with his creatures and Creation in daily life and work, and our Harvest hymns capture this well and additionally remind us that our own lives are meant to become a harvest of growing faith and kindness to all. Harvest has a universal appeal, and it's also marked in many different cultures.

Celebrating Harvest is somehow deeply embedded in human lives and although few of us are directly involved in agriculture in modern Britain, Harvest has an abiding importance. We remain conscious of the impact of the environment on harvesting food, not only changing farming practices but influencing what we now sow as crops because of climate change. Food miles make us aware of the need to procure foods without harming the world's environment.

The joyful delights of harvest celebrations are coupled with a growing awareness of those who experience food poverty, drought and famine which have been present across the world ever since agriculture developed. Thanksgiving for what we have and generosity to those who lack life's basics is as vital today as ever it was.

Three of our parishes have marked the harvest Festival, with Dumbleton celebrating Harvest on Sunday 5th October. Harvest is a time for everyone to mark with reflection, thanksgiving and generosity, exercised with imagination and knowledge of what it means in the 21st Century. Come ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home.

As we continue our journey through the Autumnal months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill our hearts, homes and our families with love and peace; and as I've said in previous newsletters, please continue to pray for each other, for the Church, our communities and all nations especially those experiencing conflict, war and famine, and pray that Christ's love, peace and unity might prevail throughout our beautiful God given world. Love and Blessings. Julia x

ALDERTON

A service with a difference! Do come and join us in Church on **SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER at 10.30am** for a service led by the **CHELTENHAM CHRISTIAN MOTOR-BIKERS**. It will be good to see you.

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER @ 3pm in church – visitation by the new **Archdeacon Katrina Scott** for a Q & A time – **ALL FOUR PARISHES ARE WELCOME**.

REMBRANCE SUNDAY is on 9th NOVEMBER and starts at the War Memorial at 10.50am followed by a service in Church.

MUSEUM OF THE MOON at Tewkesbury Abbey is a "breathtaking lunar installation by Luke Jerram illuminating the Abbey with light, sound and wonder." This is on from **16th October to 4th November**. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/themoon/>

GREAT WASHBOURNE

An **AFTERNOON TEA** will be held in church on **SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2pm** in aid of MacMillan Cancer support (60%) and St Mary's church (40%). Tickets are for sale in October. £10 for afternoon tea, £12.50 for afternoon tea including a glass of Prosecco. Please contact Karen (07887 597792) or Ann (07964 409771) to pre-book your tickets.

The annual **FAMILY FUN QUIZ** will be held in St Mary's church on **SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 6.30-10pm**. 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 Karen (07887 597792) or Jane (07711 623017). All funds raised will go to the upkeep of our church. We hope to see you there.

DUMBLETON

IT IS GREAT TO REPORT that whilst work on the new heating system is not quite complete we are able to use St Peter's again for our services and is once more open on a daily basis (occasional closure dates may occur whilst work is finalised) We once again say **THANK YOU to Wormington PCC for allowing us to worship in St Katherine's and making us so welcome during our church closure period.**

WE WERE BLESSED with a glorious sunny afternoon for the annual **Church Gift Day** when lots of you came and enjoyed the Pimms, Prosecco and Cakes on the Village Green. **A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported this event or contributed in any way. It is wonderful to report the total raised for church funds was £2,537.

HARVEST SERVICE SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER at 10.30am. Please join us for this joyful service where we give thanks for the bountiful Harvest we enjoy. As in past years we will be supporting the **NORTH COTSWOLD FOOD BANK** and a box will be in church during the week before the service for you to leave any contributions you may wish to make for this cause. Refreshments will be served after the service so we hope to see you then.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11th is the date for our **HARVEST HOT SUPPER at THE VILLAGE CLUB 7pm for 7.30pm.** Always a pleasant social occasion where excellent food and good company are on offer to you. There will be a 50/50 Raffle and of course the Bar is open for you to purchase your drinks. Tickets £15 can be obtained from Jenny Maher (01386 881474) or Gail Braham (07521 750087). We look forward to welcoming you to this years Supper.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony, 12th September Oliver YATES and Allison DUMBLETON

20th September David MEYER and Patthawarin PENGMUENWAI

Memorial Service 23rd September - John WATTON. R.I.P.

WORMINGTON

THANK YOU to all who donated items to the Food Bank. Also **THANK YOU** to all who helped decorate the church for our Harvest Festival.

Date for the Diary - CAROL SERVICE of 6 Lessons and 6 Carols will be held on 14th December - followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2025

Lectionary Year C

Please note, if you wish to receive personal prayer for yourself or a family member/friend after the Service, please speak to Julia.

5th October 1st Sunday T16 [Proper 22] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HARVEST FESTIVAL	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
Wednesday 8th October		10.00am ALDERTON 'Said' HC	
12th October 2nd Sunday T17 [Proper 23] Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW	10.30am ALDERTON FAMILY SERVICE LED BY THE CHRISTIAN MOTOR-BIKERS	2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15 2 Timothy 2. 8-15 Luke 17. 11-19
19th October 3rd Sunday T18 [Proper 24] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC TRAD	10.30am DUMBLETON FAMILY SERVICE	Gen 32. 22-31 2 Timothy 3. 14-4.5 Luke 18. 1-8
26th October 4th Sunday Trinity Last Bible Sunday [Proper 25] Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON CHORAL EVENSONG	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isa 45. 22-end Rom 15. 1-6 Luke 4. 16-24
2nd November 1st Sunday ALL SAINTS [Proper 26] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE ALL SAINTS HC	10.30am DUMBLETON ALL SAINTS HC	Dan. 7.1-3, 15-18 Eph. 1.11-end Luke 6. 20.31

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

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. Steggles, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

01386 882049

WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs.

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

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