

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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SEPTEMBER 2024



Angels in Heaven

Dear Friends

I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful August and that you feel refreshed and energised. As our summer holidays come to an end, we pray for all young people who have received their exam results and for all who will be returning to school and further education in the following weeks. May they face their challenges and joys with equal courage and enthusiasm and help them to follow the way of truth and compassion. Amen.

Not only does September herald the start of a new school year, but it also sees the start of a busy time in the Liturgical Calendar as we begin to look ahead to the end of Ordinary Time to the Kingdom Season, Advent and Christmas. The dates for all special services over the coming months will be found in this Newsletter.

Angels was an interesting discussion I had recently with various people on separate occasions and as I prayed about it, I felt God directing me to words of scripture from Psalm 34:7 which were: **'For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who trust and believe in him.'**

What are your thoughts on Angels?

The world of angels is a vast, intelligent, powerful, invisible world of mysterious spirit beings. In the troubled times in which we're living, it certainly gives us hope to know there are God's angels around us, angels watching over us, and angels guiding us.

Throughout the Bible we find stories of angelic intervention, and one of the most known stories of angelic deliverance is that of Peter, whom King Herod put in prison for preaching the gospel. Herod also had imprisoned James before Peter and had put him to death.

The great apostle found himself chained to guards in a Roman prison, and it was a relatively hopeless situation. So, what did the church do when they faced this crisis? Did they organize a boycott of all products made by Rome? Did they picket the prison? Did they organize a march? No, the Bible says they began to pray, and in answer to their prayers, God dispatched an angel who literally opened the door for Peter's deliverance. When we pray, God may send angels to bring the answers to us.

The Book of Daniel gives us an interesting behind-the-scenes look at angelic involvement in the prayer lives of God's people. The prophet was praying on one occasion, and immediately, his request was heard in Heaven, and an angel was dispatched with the answer, but while the angel was on his way to Daniel, an apparently high-ranking demon power opposed him. This angel sent from Heaven was unable to subdue this demon power, so the Lord called out one of the higher-ranking angels, Michael, and sent him to intervene and set the other angel free. Meanwhile, Daniel wasn't even aware of what was going on, all he knew was that he offered his prayer to God, but instead of getting an immediate answer, he waited and waited.

How fascinating! Sometimes we pray for something that we believe is the will of God, something that we think God should do, and then we wait and wait; we might be praying for the salvation of a loved one, for physical healing, or for divine guidance, yet we hear no answer, and we falsely conclude that God isn't listening, but we never know what is going on behind the scenes, there may be an angelic battle happening, even while we're praying.

For twenty-one days, this angel was hindered, but finally, the praying prophet received an answer. This Old Testament account makes clear that delays are not necessarily denials; if something doesn't happen as quickly as we would like it to, it doesn't mean that God isn't listening; it just may be that something else is happening.

We don't know how many times angels intervene in our lives, getting us out of tight situations, protecting us from harm, and even speaking directly to us; they are indeed, as Billy Graham referred to them, God's secret agents.

A dear friend of mine Anne tells of an interesting experience:

'Four people from the church we attended in Shaftesbury, including our vicar, made a short pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk to pray for a teenage friend of our vicar who was very ill with cancer. On the way home the car suddenly stopped on a pedestrian crossing in the middle of Cambridge. No one in the car had enough knowledge about car engines to begin to understand what might have gone wrong, but they managed to push it into the car park of a nearby factory where upon a person appeared, lifted the bonnet, fiddled for a few seconds with something inside, closed the bonnet and walked away and just seemed to disappear. They didn't speak a word or even give a smile. There was no time to say, 'thank you'. The car started immediately and was fine for the whole of the considerable journey home.'

Much to ponder on, in fact in the church calendar this year we celebrate St Michael and All Angels on Sunday 29th September.

How many of you remember the film 'It's a wonderful Life' I have to admit every time it's on TV, I watch it.



As we commence our journey through the Autumn months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your families with love and peace. Julia x

ALDERTON

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE: will be in Church on **Sunday September 22nd at 10.30am.**

This will be a relaxed service where we will be singing favourite harvest songs and listening to Harvest readings. There is a list in Church of the Harvest Hymns so if you would like to choose one, do put your name against it. The Church will also be decorated for Harvest so if you can't make the service, do go into Church to see them - the Church is open in the day.

Olympic Flower Festival, Summer Fair and Gift Day: held on July 27th made a brilliant total of £2,621. This will be so useful as we keep on maintaining the Church after its five yearly inspection and paying for all the usual costs like we all have for our homes such as insurance, utilities, mowing machines! **THANK YOU** to all who ran stalls, helped on the day and to everyone who came to support us.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST Sponsored Walk/Ride/Cycle: is on **Saturday September 14th** and is also known as the Sponsored Ride and Stride (<https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>). If you would like to take part in this, please contact Mike Newman themidnightgardener@hotmail.co.uk who will supply you with details.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOWLES FAMILY - Alderton: A big hug and thank you to all the members and helpers of St Margaret's Church, for the beautiful flowers, for your kindness and support shown to me and our family after the loss of Malcolm, it is genuinely appreciated, also thank you Julia for your visits to our home and allowing me to write this heartfelt message for the Church News Letter. Love to all from Wendy Bowles and Family.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

HARVEST FESTIVAL will be held at the church on **Sunday 20th October at 6pm**. A bring and share harvest supper will follow to which everyone is invited, please put the date in your diary.

St Mary's will be hosting a **CAFÉ CHURCH 'ALL AGE SERVICE'** for the four churches on **Sunday 29th September** - do join us at 10.30am for a relaxed breakfast and very informal service in the church; everyone is welcome.

DUMBLETON

SATURDAY 31st AUGUST IS OUR "CHURCH GIFT DAY WITH TEAS ON THE GREEN" served from 3-5pm. You will have already received a letter in this respect so please come and join us for this lovely social event. It will be in church if wet.

THE MONTHLY FAMILY SERVICE will be on **SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER at 10.30am**. This month our relaxed service will be marking the **"INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE"** a subject so important to us all. Please bring your children and friends to collectively show our hope for **WORLD PEACE** in our time. Of course, don't forget the service on **1st SEPTEMBER** when we will be singing more of the hymns recently chosen by yourselves.

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER will be the **HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE** at 10.30am to which we invite you to come and give thanks for this year's bountiful harvest. The church is always beautifully decorated with fruits and flowers for all to enjoy and there are always light refreshments at the end.

SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER is the date set for this year's **HARVEST SUPPER** another enjoyable social event in your churches calendar. Once again, we will be holding the supper at the **VILLAGE CLUB** starting at 7pm and extend an invitation to you all to come along. Tickets priced at £15 will be available mid-September from Jenny Maher (01386 881474) jennylynne71@icloud.com. We really hope to see you as this is one of our main **FUN**draising events. The Bar will be open for you to purchase your drinks.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Holy Matrimony 23rd August, Alexander Dimitri **DARLOW**, Danielle Louise Richardson.

WORMINGTON

TURRET REPAIR UPDATE - Scaffolding is now in place for works to start this month. Please exercise caution when visiting the church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE - Sunday 22nd September 6pm. All are welcome. There will be refreshments after the Service. Flower arrangements are welcome on Saturday 21st.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Lectionary Year B

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| 1st Sept T14 [Proper 17] Green | 9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad | 10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW | Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9 James 1.17-end Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23 |
| 8th Sept T15 [Proper 18] White Blessed Virgin Mary | 9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW | 10.30am ALDERTON HC CW | Isaiah 61.10-end Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 1.46-55 |
| 15th Sept T16 [Proper 19] Green | 9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW | 10.30am DUMBLETON Family Service For The International Day Of Peace | Isaiah 50.4-9a James 3.1-12 Mark 8.27-end |
| 22nd September T17 [Proper 20] Green | 6.00pm WORMINGTON Harvest Festival Service | 10.30am ALDERTON Harvest Songs of Praise | Harvest Readings |
| 29th September T18 [Proper 21] White St Michael and All Angels | 10.30am GREAT WASHBOURNE Café Church | | |
| 6th October T19 [Proper 22] Green | 9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad | 10.30am DUMBLETON Harvest Festival Service | Genesis 2.18-24 Hebrews 1.1-4; 2,5-12 Mark 10.2-16 |

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 07711 623 017
Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne 07766 483130

DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

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WORMINGTON

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