

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR
Tel: 01242 620636 [mobile 07715953076]
email: julia.hook@btinternet.com

JANUARY 2026



Dear Friends

I have been wonderfully inspired by all our wonderful Carols Services, Carols in the church [should have been in the Churchyard], our Midnight Services and Christmas Day Services – a God-filled journey! Thank you to all who took part or attended. Likewise, a grateful thanks for your generous donations to the various charities we support. Yet, Christmas doesn't finish on 25th December. We continue to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and indeed right through to Candlemas on 2nd February. Epiphany, 6th January is the great celebration of the arrival of the Wise Men as they come to worship Jesus.

Reflecting on the Christmas story, I always say that I never tire of hearing the story – to remember and celebrate what happened 'in those days' and 'in that region.' However, when you think about it, Emperor Augustus and shepherds are as real and present in these days and in our nation as they were in those days and in that region, and human dignity needs being restored and affirmed.

I don't want to just hear the then and their story of Christmas, I want to live a here and now story of Christmas - don't you? What good is it to us if Jesus was born in Bethlehem if he is not also born anew in us? What good is it to us if the shepherds find him lying in a manger if we do not also find him lying in the manger of our lives; what does the manger of our lives look like these days; what does the manger of this country's life look like; what are you and I seeing and feeling?

Is it darkness or violence - this Child is the Light of the world; the Prince of Peace, who says put away your sword!

Is it hunger or thirst - this Child is the Bread of Life, the Cup of Salvation.

Are you afraid or lost - this Child is the Good Shepherd.

Are you grieving and sorrowing - this Child is the one who will say, I am the resurrection and the life; do not let your hearts be troubled.

Are you feeling alone or abandoned - this Child is the one who will say, I am with you always.

Do you see corrupt power - this Child will cleanse the temple.

Do you see arrogance and power grabbing - this Child is the one who will say, whoever wants to be great must be servant of all.

Do you see need and pain in the world - this Child is the one who will say, do to others as you would have them do to you.

Are you looking for trustworthy leaders - this Child is the one who will say, 'Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.'

What does it mean for this Child to be laid in the manger of yours and my life, here and now, in these days in this nation and in this world? It has consequences and implications for how we live and how we see and treat one another and ourselves. Over time, I have asked both congregations and friends, what will you do with this Child and where will you let him take you - how far will you follow him and what will you allow him to do with your life?

Our answers to these questions tell a Christmas story that happens in these days and in our time. As we start a new year, what's your here and now Christmas story?

There is much to pray for in our world today. We do not know what the New Year will bring but we do know that Jesus will go with us, walk with us and help us, when we invite him in. Happy New Year, dear friends and may 2026 be filled with abundant light and blessings, and may you experience the supernatural joy, the hope and warmth of God's love on your journey. With Love Julia

ALDERTON

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our congregation, friends and fellow villagers!

CHRISTMAS FAIR: It was great to have the Fair well attended which gave it a lovely atmosphere, so we really appreciated people joining us. It raised an excellent £3,000 which will be put towards the new Church heating system and for the upkeep of our heritage building. Thank you to everyone for your kindness in giving your donations, for attending, for helping and for the craft makers that produced excellent things to buy!

CHRISTMAS CAROL AND CHRISTINGLE CANDILIGHT SERVICE a great attendance with a good variety of carols sung, Christingle oranges handed out and £359.53 was raised for the Children's Society - a very generous amount.

MUSICAL SUPPORT: as John had his accident, we have been very lucky to have been helped out by Matthew Clayton who played at our Carol Service having practised with the choir. Also, Shelley Everall who again practised with us and played at one of our services. And as a late request, Matthew Birch from Dumbleton who really kindly played at our Christmas Eve Service before going back there to play. **Thank you** for making it more special to have you all playing.

CAROL SINGING: because of wind and rain we had this in the Church but again we enjoyed singing favourite carols and warming up with mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. From donations, we made £73 for the Samaritans - **Thank you** again.

CHURCH FLOWERS: we are lucky to have such talented flower arrangers who ensure that the Church always looks attractive and especially at the big festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas - **Thank you**.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

It was lovely to see so many people in church over the Christmas period. The carol singing raised a grand total of £70 for Sue Ryder. **Thank you** for joining us, to those who helped lead the evening and to Karen for playing.

It was great to greet so many to our service on a wonderfully crisp and sunny Christmas morning led by Fliss Hall, a thought-provoking start to Christmas Day!

We also wanted to take this opportunity to say **thank you** for all the support the church receives from the community, mowing, hedge trimming, locking and unlocking, cleaning, flowers, fund raising; so many people help in so many ways, all of which make it possible to keep our very special place open. It is much appreciated. A very Happy New Year to all our community in Gt Washbourne.

DUMBLETON

A HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR to you all from the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's. We wish to say **thank you to** everyone who enhanced the church with such beautifully decorated Christmas trees, they created a wonderful atmosphere for our Christmas Services. **Thanks** also to Clare Lee for the fabulous altar flower arrangements she always produces for us, they are much appreciated by everyone who sees them.

Finally **thank you** to Matthew Birch who, because John our regular organist is still recovering from his accident, Matthew stepped in at very short notice to play the organ at both Christmas services. Matthew you are a STAR! We truly hope all who attended these services enjoyed them.

CANDLEMAS WITH CHRISTINGLES SERVICE on FEBRUARY 1st at 4pm You are warmly invited to join us for this special service where we hear of baby Jesus's presentation at the Temple and Christingles are handed out. The collection will be donated to **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** who help children and vulnerable young people. This is always a lovely service which is especially suited to children of any age so please bring along the family to enjoy it and take part. It's always a pleasure to have, and to hear, children, in the church. Refreshments will also be served.

FROM THE REGISTERS: Holy Baptism December 14th. Arabella Rose WHEELER

WORMINGTON

A lovely Carol Service on the 14th December was attended by 36. Many thanks to all who read lessons and poems. Mulled wine and mince pies were welcomed after the service together with conversation and merriment. The church looked very festive with the decorations and candle lights.

Christmas Day Service was also well attended by 41 and again thanks to all the children who helped make the service so memorable and enjoyable.

A very Happy New Year to all our community in Wormington and the wider Oak Hill Benefice. We welcome you all to our 2nd and 4th Sunday BCP Communion services at 9am. Evensong will commence again on the 4th Sunday after Easter.

A big "Thank You" to all our church Flower/Cleaning rota ladies. The church always looks so welcoming. With our best wishes - Wormington PCC

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026

Lectionary Year A

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

4th Jan 1st Sunday Epiphany White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Epiphany HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Epiphany HC	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12
11th Jan 2nd Sunday Eph 1 Baptism of Christ White	9.00am WORMINGTON BCP HC	10.30am ALDERTON Epiphany HC	Isaiah 42.1-9 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-end
18th Jan 3rd Sunday Eph 2 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Epiphany Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Epiphany Season HC with Baptism	Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Cor 1.1-9 John 1.29-42
25th Jan 4th Sunday Eph 3 White	9.00am WORMINGTON BCP HC	10.30am ALDERTON Epiphany Season HC	Jer 1.4-10 Acts 9.1-22 Matthew 19-27-end
1st Feb 1st Sun White Presentation of Christ	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Candlemass	4.00pm DUMBLETON Candlemass with Christingles	Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40

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.

07799035873

Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

01386 584416