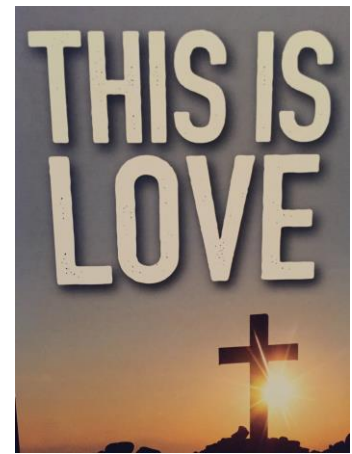


OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR
Tel: 01242 620636 [mobile 07715953076]
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APRIL 2023



Dear Friends

I have a ceramic ornament on our bedroom windowsill. The letters spell out the word 'love' which I bought a few years ago from Poundland. The trouble is that nine times out of ten when I draw back the curtains it falls off the windowsill. Most times it bounces but a couple of times one of the letters has broken off. I am not very good with glue so the repairs I've made mean we have been left with a far from perfect 'Love'. In fact, you can clearly see the cracks, and every time I pick it up from the floor it reminds me that human love is far from perfect and that there can be cracks in even the best of relationships.

If we want to see perfect love then we must look to our God who loves each and every one of us with a complete, all-encompassing sacrificial love. We are reminded of this especially at Easter.

Reading a Billy Graham article recently he says: 'God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.' He goes on to quote from 1 Peter 2:24 'God shows His love for us, when Jesus deals with the problem of our sin on the cross.' 'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.'

Jesus died in our place to bear our sin and guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin and to set us free from death. He didn't simply die for one person, but for every individual in the world, but if you or I had been the only person in the world, I'm sure Jesus Christ would still have died in our place. That's how much God loves you and me. Such amazing love demands a response.

We discussed recently at one of our Lent evenings, that Christianity, is relational. It's about our own personal relationship with Jesus. It's about us taking up our cross and following Jesus on the road to new life and Eternity; it's about connecting with Jesus day by day and being transformed by him, and in these difficult times we do need to stay close to him, trusting that he is the hand in the darkness that will never let us go.

I am writing this as I am surrounded by new life and new beginnings. There are lambs in the field, spring flowers in the hedgerows and the trees are beginning to bud. This Easter as we focus again on God's amazing love in sending Jesus to die in our place, I pray that this will be our new beginning; to accept His love and show it in our lives and our relationships as we work together to further his kingdom.

As Christians, we are to be 'Catalysts' for Jesus. When we move the focus of our lives from our own needs to the needs of others, a liberation is achieved. A force is set free inside us that can transform lives, that force is genuine love, and for those who receive it, unmistakable. When we want possessions, people or knowledge, just for ourselves, we block the flow of love and compassion in the world, and everyone suffers as a result.

I pray that love and hope be poured out upon us all through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us amongst the Oak Hill Team of Parishes, and in the wider world, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. And so, amid these most challenging times and all that surrounds us, in faith, not fear may we all know God's presence, love and peace as we journey through Holy Week, Easter Day [and the hope it brings through our Risen Lord] and the Easter Season. With love and Easter Blessings, Julia x

THANK YOU to all who came to our LENT COURSE. We've had some very enlightening and interesting conversations.

ALDERTON

SPRING CLEANING: we would really appreciate any help to make the Church look gleaming ready for Easter so if you can do a little anytime from 1st to 6th April, that would be great. There is a list of jobs on the small table inside the Church.

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION SERVICE: 7th April - 12noon in church. [1hr]

EASTER FLOWERS: anyone who would like to help, please come along on Easter Saturday, 8th April starting at 10am.

EASTER SERVICE in Alderton will be at 9.30am - all are welcome.

EASTER MONDAY 10TH APRIL - why not come and enjoy a full Afternoon Tea in Alderton Village Hall from 2.30 to 4.30pm, to make a special end to our Easter celebrations? The tea will include savoury bites, finger sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and a selection of homemade cakes, served on vintage China. The price will be £12 with Prosecco or £10 without and £5 for children under 10 years. (Gluten free available) The money raised will go to the Church's upkeep. For tickets, contact Sarah H on 07989 048123 or Helen W on 07941 373030

CORONATION CELEBRATION [MAY] - arranged by the VH Social Committee - please see Village Newsletter for details.

SATURDAY 13TH MAY: Matthew Clayton and his Severn's Eight Chamber Choir are kindly singing at a **CONCERT** to raise money for the Church. There is a paying bar and drinks will be served from 6.30pm and the concert will start at 7pm with canapés being served at the end of the singing. Tickets priced £7.50 will be available from Helen 07941 373030, Gill 07746 970438 and Sarah 07989 048123.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

FAMILY QUIZ, Saturday 15th April 6.30pm - 10pm, will be held in **THE CHURCH** and is suitable for all ages, so do come along with family and/or friends, teams of 4 or 5, or join a team on the night. £12 per ticket (£6 for the under 12s). There will be a two-course hot meal, a bar and raffle with all proceeds going to the upkeep of the church. Please contact Jane 07711623017 for tickets.

ST MARY'S CHURCH AGM will take place at the Church on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend, please join us to find out a little more about what we are planning. Ideas for community events (the Coronation, for example), and for fund raising events are always very welcome.

CORONATION SERVICE SUNDAY 7th MAY A Special Church Service at 9.00am will be held to mark the Coronation of King Charles 111.

As many of you are aware, over the last few years we've been trying to save for a major roof repair, we are pleased to say that we have now been able to contract a firm to carry out those works, starting in the very near future. A huge **THANK YOU** for your continued support towards the fund - we are very grateful.

DUMBLETON

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 11.15AM Please note change of time for this service.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place after the church service on **SUNDAY APRIL 16th**. The meeting will be preceded by a short meeting to elect **CHURCHWARDENS** and the P.C.C. will be delighted to hear from any persons who may feel they would like to take up these positions or offer their help to our church in any other way. The meeting is open to all parishioners so please join us.

CORONATION SERVICE SUNDAY 7th MAY A Special Church Service at 10.30am will be held to mark the Coronation of King Charles 111, you are all invited.

AND THEN AT 3PM THERE WILL BE A

CORONATION CELEBRATION TEA SUNDAY 7th MAY! This is yet another splendid Royal occasion not seen in our country for 70 years **SO IT MUST BE CELEBRATED!** Following the fantastic Jubilee Tea, you all provided last year, a similar event will take place at the above time and date. The venue is **THE VILLAGE HALL**, and all the essential details will drop through your letterbox during April. **HOWEVER**, your help is needed to provide a wonderful tea for this party. If you can offer sandwiches, savouries, cakes, pastries or indeed anything suitable for the table please contact Jenny Maher (01386 881474) or jennylynn71@icloud.com who will be delighted to hear from you.

HEARTY THANKS to everyone who supported the following events: **TWO LENT LUNCHESES** which raised £435 for church funds. **CAFE CHURCH MOTHERING SUNDAY** which raised £250. A cheque for this amount was sent to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

WORMINGTON

MEDITATION SERVICE - St Katharine's Church - 2-3pm Good Friday 7th April

WVS EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday 8th April - Please register at the WVS marquee adjacent to St Katharine's Church between 2.00 and 4.00pm - £2 per child.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS for Easter would be welcomed on Saturday 8th April.

WORMINGTON PCC AGM Sunday 14th May 7pm in church - all are welcome to attend.

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2023

Lectionary Year A

2 nd April 1 st Sun PALM SUNDAY Red	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Lent HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Lent HC	Palm Gospel Matthew 21.1-11 or Passion Reading – Matthew 26.14-end of 27
6 th April Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Eucharist – 11.00am Gloucester Cathedral All are welcome		
7 th April Good Friday Red		12noon 1hr Meditation ALDERTON 2.00pm 1hr Meditation WORMINGTON	From Mark's Gospel
8 th April Easter Eve	Confirmation Service [Eucharist] – 8.00pm Gloucester Cathedral With the confirmation of a member of our Choir - All are welcome		
9 th April EASTER DAY White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter FC 9.00am WORMINGTON Easter FC	9.30am ALDERTON Easter FC 11.15am DUMBLETON Easter FC	Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
16 th April E2 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 2.14a, 22-32 John 20.19-end
23 rd April E3 White	9.00am WORMINGTON Easter Season HC	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 2.14a, 36-41 Luke 24.13-35
30 th April E4 White	9.00 am 'Said' Easter Season HC Alderton		

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