

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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FEBRUARY 2023

22nd February 2023

**Lenten Journey; a time of
Reflection and Renewal**

Dear Friends

Please see below a message from Bishop Rachel:

'It was a great privilege to be with you on Sunday morning - please do thank everyone who worked so hard to create such a hospitable and welcoming space in which we could gather to worship and fellowship. I so enjoyed being with you and am deeply grateful for your ministry. There was a real sense of joy and belonging together on Sunday - thank you'

Thank you so much to everyone who came to Alderton for our Epiphany Season Service, last Sunday [22nd Jan], it was a lovely occasion! Thanks also to all involved in preparing the church and those who provided the after-service refreshments. As followers of Jesus our weekly worship gives us an opportunity to come together and strengthens us for service. It enables us to praise God in song and prayer. It helps us seek guidance, through prayer or contemplation from God regarding how we are to serve in the coming week. It nourishes us for what we are called to do,

I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in and support of the life, mission and ministry of our four parish churches. We are all an integral part of the Parishes and I am very grateful for the various ways that we use our varied resources of time, finance, talents, 'brain' and 'brawn' to support and enhance God's presence and work among us and in our communities, especially in these trying times. We thought that the 'Financial Crisis' was bad enough but now we are facing a triple whammy: economically, politically and climatically. Given the rather astronomical increase in the cost of gas and electricity, we all, in some way - the church included, have to review our finances.

One thing to be very grateful for is that Coronavirus is no longer causing the thousands of daily deaths that occurred at the height of the pandemic. The vaccines may not be preventing transmission but are reducing the effects of infection. A downside seems to be that transmission of other viruses also suppressed during the lockdowns, including flu and the common cold, which are currently bouncing back.

Scripture tells us to 'fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal' (**2 Corinthians 4.18**). It's a comforting reminder that this is a season for renewal and reflection: we're journeying through winter, yet at the start of something new. So even though the echoes of Christmas celebrations are fading away, we can still live with a deep sense of hope.

At the moment, the appearance of snowdrops bravely bursting through the rain-sodden ground in our churchyards and gardens whispers a promise that spring is coming and new growth is on its way.

We are soon to begin our journey through Lent, taking us to the pain of the Cross, yet with the hope of Easter day on the horizon. We plan to hold a Lent Course on Wednesday evenings, the first being the 1st March, and thereafter over the next 4/5 weeks. It includes fellowship, prayer and discussion followed by refreshments. For further details or if you are able to come or even lead a session, please do contact me - 01242 620636 or email julia.hook@btinternet.com.

Also, amongst the Oak Hill Parishes, our churches will again be hosting coffee mornings, Lent lunches, Quiz night and Summer Events.

As we journey through these days ahead may love and hope be poured out upon us all through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us as a team, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. With love and Blessings, Julia x

ALDERTON

With Reference to Bishop Rache's recent visit to Alderton, to lead us in worship, please see above.

As Julia, also said - 'Given the rather astronomical increase in the cost of gas and electricity, we all, in some way - the church included, have to review our finances.'

Rest assured we are always so grateful for your continued support for our church. It is hoped to put in place fund raising events this coming year e.g. **Easter Cream Teas; Concert; Art Exhibition and Sale and Flower Festival**. More details to follow nearer the time.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

North Cotswold Foodbank - **MANY THANKS** for all who contributed to the Christmas hampers, a weight of 41.82kg was collected and this was very gratefully received. If anyone would like to contribute on a regular basis there is a collection box in Alderton shop. Once the church is opened daily again, we will put a box there.

We are always so grateful for your continued support for our church, the next fundraising dates for your diaries are;

FAMILY QUIZ - Saturday 15th April

SUMMER SUPPER - Friday 23rd June. More details to follow nearer the time we hope to see you there.

DUMBLETON

To everyone who attended the Carol Service in December and the New Year Cafe Church on January 1st we are pleased to say that a cheque for £250 was sent to the Children's Society in December and then following the Cafe Church a cheque for £110 was forwarded to The Magic Breakfast Appeal. **THANK YOU** to all for your wonderful generosity in aid of these two worthwhile charities.

FILM NIGHT is booked at the Village Club for **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19th**. Do come and join us in watching the heart-warming film "HOPE FLOATS" starring SANDRA BULLOCK (certified PG) This is a FUNdraising event and as always the Club will be open at 7pm for you to purchase a drink ready for a 7.30pm start. £5 on the door, no need to book and nibbles will be provided on your table. See you there!

LENT LUNCHESES! There are to be two lunches held in church, the first of which is on **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28th at 12noon**. These are open to everyone so don't be afraid to come and enjoy this social get together. We will be serving some Hearty Soup, Bread and Delicious Cakes. It is helpful if you book your place so that we can cater correctly so contact Jenny Maher 01386 881474, email jennylynne71@icloud.com to book in. The second lunch will be on **Thursday 23rd March**. Details next month.

TEA TOWELS! Are you in need of a tasteful gift for someone or even for yourself? Then we have a supply of delightful Tea Towels which we feel sure you will love. They depict a picture of our beautiful church and are being sold at £8 each, two for £15, or the bargain buy of three for £20. Please contact Gail Braham, 07521 750087 for more information or better still to buy some.

If you enjoy going out for an occasional lunch then you may like to consider joining the **VILLAGE MONDAY CLUB** which is re-starting after a three year absence due to Covid. It simply involves going to a local pub for lunch once a month, usually on a Monday, and lifts are arranged for anyone who does not drive. To be included or for further information contact Jenny Maher on 01386 881474.

A service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of our much love friend **LYNDA MURIEL MATTHEWS** was held in church on 11th January 2023. R.I.P.

WORMINGTON

BAPTISM REGISTER: Sunday 15th January - Henry Charles GIDDY
A lovely service attended by over 100 adults and children

A reminder that we have a **BOOK EXCHANGE** in the church. Please do come in and have a look at what is available. If you don't have a book to exchange then a donation to St Katharine's would be most appreciated.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Lectionary Year A

5th Feb 1 st Sun 3 Lent Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Isaiah 58.1-9a, [9b-12] 1 Cor 2.1-12 [13-end] Matthew 5.13-20
12th Feb 2 nd Sunday 2 Lent Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC Trad	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Gen. 1.1-2.3 Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-end
19th Feb 3 rd Sunday 1 Lent Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Exodus 24.12-end 2 Peter 1.16-end Matthew 17.1-9
26th Feb 1 st Sun Lent 1 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON HC with the Imposition of Ashes	10.30am ALDERTON HC with the Imposition of Ashes	Gen. 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11
5th Mar 1 st Sun Lent 2 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON LENT HC	Gen. 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5; 13-17 John 3.1-17

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