

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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MARCH 2026

Dear Friends

As I write I have the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics on the TV - what a fabulous fortnight of winter sports in all that lovely snow!

Returning to my thoughts - here we are at the beginning of the Lenten Season - and I wonder, have you ever thought what this season is all about? Karen, a friend of mine messaged me a very thoughtful article which I share with you.

Lent or Borrowed: Lent reminds me I am on borrowed time.

Helpfully, not morbidly, a season in which to reflect this life I live is not truly mine.

Lent is an invitation to let myself be led into the wilderness to be tested, rested and equipped. To discover afresh through solitude the value of friends, through silence the beauty of speech, the art of listening, through abstinence the delight of food and drink, renewing a hunger for time to think.

Lent is an invitation to be rescued again from the wilderness, that of my own making through disobedience or lazy convenience, banished, to where any vision of God has vanished. Or the one in which I am the victim of others, wounded by abuse, rejection and friendly fire, robbed of joy, bereft of desire.

Lent is a season in which I am challenged to hold tight, gripping on to what I know and have known, keeping on, to fight the good fight. Wrestling in the wilderness, enduring the dark night of the soul, so that I may take hold of that for which He took hold of me, eyes on the prize, pressing on to the goal. [Canon Paul Harris Southbourne February 2026]

Quite a dramatic article!

In summary, I would say Lent is about active, unwavering and disciplined, spiritual renewal - stripping away distractions to focus on what matters most - giving the primacy to Jesus Christ; as well as being mindful of Lenten traditions, e.g. fasting, giving alms, and above all praying, I would also like to spend my 40 days considering how I can resist the temptation to keep Jesus to myself, close and comforting, and instead pray for ways and for the strength to **share God with a world that desperately needs to feel the love that radiates from the life, death and resurrection of Christ.**

As we prayerfully develop our Lenten practices, ready for action, may our 'fasts and resolutions' lead us closer to Christ, closer to one another, and please God, closer to the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

ALDERTON

Ruth Elizabeth Lockley 1966-2026 – Steve and Holly; Edna; Rhona, Thomas and Douglas, would like to **THANK YOU** all most sincerely for the kindness shown to them in their recent tragic loss. Your expressions of sympathy are much appreciated and a great support and comfort. **Donations for Ruth pass to: St Margaret's Church, Alderton and the Cheltenham Animal Shelter.**

You're invited to a **LENT COURSE** commencing on **Wednesday 25th February, at 7.30pm**, meeting at **The Vicarage, Alderton**, and thereafter on the **4th, 11th and 18th of March**. Our dear friend **Revd Michael Hand** is offering a **four-session course**, lasting about an hour each time, with poems, pictures and two bits of prose on the following (fairly major) themes:

1. Grief and hope
2. The beauty of landscape
3. Suffering: pre-eminently the suffering of Christ
4. Sadness and joy.

An invitation from Judith Skinner – who joins us in worship in **Alderton and Dumbleton: LENTEN PRAYER – Hear our silence - 2.30 for 3 pm**. Refreshments followed by a time of silent prayer for half an hour finishing with The Peace. Thursday, 26th February and thereafter **5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March**. Venue: **40, Crispin Road, Winchcombe GL54 5JX**; Email: jude.skinner42@gmail.com Mob: 077 098 02633

Tidying up the Churchyard: we will be doing this on **Saturday April 11th at 10am** - and if the weather is poor (based on the rain we've had!) the following Saturday, April 18th. A lot of visitors comment on what an attractive Churchyard we have and it is always great to have people to come and help keep it looking that way, so do join us to help. We are pleased to have a conservation area and a variety of spring flowers so it's good to keep the area looking good.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY- the Great Washbourne **Summer Supper is Friday 19th June!** Please put it into your diary, it would be lovely to be able to welcome you back to our summer event!

DUMBLETON

SONGS OF PRAISE MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE on MARCH 15th at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to join us for this lovely service where the focus is on 'Mothers.' Posies of flowers will be distributed amongst the congregation and some lovely hymns and readings will be enjoyed. Refreshments will be served and a warm welcome awaits you all to this relaxed family service.

The Annual **LENT LUNCH of "SOUP, SARNIES and SWEETS"** will take place in church on **TUESDAY 24th MARCH at 12noon**. Please join us for this occasion where good food and excellent company combine to make lunch an extra special occasion. Everyone is welcome but to help with catering numbers please book your place by contacting Jenny MAHER on 01386 881474 or jennylynnne71@icloud.com by Friday 20th March. Look forward to seeing and eating with you.

A CONCERT WITH THE KENELM SINGERS will once again be taking place in church on **PALM SUNDAY 29th MARCH at 6.30pm**. Following last year's wonderful concert Shelley Everall Hoban will again be bringing her talented musicians and singers to entertain us with '**PALMS TO PASSION**' an Easter meditation of music through the ages. Be assured this is one not to be missed so make a note of the date and come along. Tickets available on the door, (£10 minimum suggested donation, £5 under 18s) with some tickets available from Shelley at church or from Undercroft at Winchcombe Museum. From the proceeds the choir are hoping to make a generous donation to St Peter's Dumbleton and to St Margaret's Alderton. The concert will last approximately one hour after which refreshments will be served for all to enjoy. A glorious evening awaits us.

FLOWER ARRANGERS! Are you one? If you enjoy putting flowers into simple arrangements or a vase and feel you would like to help your church by joining the Flower Rota please contact Jenny (details above) who will give you more information. This only involves placing flowers in church maybe 3 times during a year and the new Rota will be drawn up shortly for the coming church year.

EARLY DATES FOR APRIL! EASTER DAY 5th April. There will be a short **DAWN SERVICE** in the churchyard followed by Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns when it is hoped the weather will permit us to see the sun rising on this very important and special day in the church calendar when we celebrate the Risen Christ!

N.B. The EASTER COMMUNION SERVICE at DUMBLETON will be at 11am this year. Details next month.

WORMINGTON

SPRING CLEANING - A list of jobs will be on the welcome table. Please do try and tick some of them off if you are able to.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS for Easter on Saturday 4th April. All are welcome to prepare some arrangements that can be left in the vestry prior to Easter Saturday.

MEDITATION SERVICE - 2pm Good Friday 3rd April

EASTER DAY SERVICE - 9am 5th April

Wormington PCC AGM Sunday 26th April 7pm - following Evensong. All are welcome to attend.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 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.

1st Mar 1st Sun Lent 2 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON LENT HC	Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17
8th Mar 2nd Sunday Lent 3 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON LENT HC	10.30am ALDERTON LENT HC	Exodus 17.1-7 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42
15th Mar 3rd Sunday Lent 4 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON SONGS OF PRAISE MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE	1 Samuel 16.1-13 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9
22nd Mar 4th Sunday Lent 5 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON LENT HC	10.30am ALDERTON LENT HC	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45
29th Mar PALM SUNDAY Lent 6 Purple	10.30am ALDERTON BENEFICE SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY		6.30PM DUMBLETON A BENEFICE CONCERT WITH THE KENELM SINGERS
5th April EASTER DAY White	6.10am DUMBLETON DAWN SERVICE JH 9am GREAT WASHBOURNE - JH 9am WORMINGTON - CH 10.30am ALDERTON - JH 11.00am DUMBLETON - RP		

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

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