

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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JULY 2026



BEACH BAPTISMS

Dear Friends

As I write at 9.35am I hear on the news that the Prime Minister has resigned and, interestingly enough, there was 'EU music' being played further down the road from No 10 as the PM announced his resignation! It's 10 years ago that this country made the momentous decision to come out of the EU! We are journeying through an Amber warning heatwave soon to become a Red warning!

On the other hand, I read – 'In a time of such uncertainty, with so much bad news around, the beach baptisms are a sign of great hope for everyone,' said Tim Matthews of Love Church. He adds that God is 'on the march' in a range of contexts. 'We've got people getting baptised from refugee migrant backgrounds, people who have new age backgrounds. We've got young folks who have been open to the spirit of God, just in extraordinary ways.'

Over 1,200 people gathered on Bournemouth Beach, to watch 30 new believers from 14 churches be baptised in the sea.

Even larger crowds are expected for the second beach baptism Sunday, taking place next week. The event, now in its second year, has drawn crowds and believers from Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. The BCP Church collective expanded the baptisms to two weekends this year, due to popular demand.

It was only a month ago that I attended a baptism in church and it took place in a swimming pool!

On reflection I am more than happy to baptise in a pool should anyone wish to be baptised [Christened]. Some years ago, in Winchcombe, the Curate at the time and I used a friend's swimming pool to officiate a few baptisms, with many people attending this wonderful occasion. Please do let me know if you and/or your children would like to be baptised, all are welcome!

Well, with holidays (for many) just round the corner, and holidays (for others) a recent memory, let me remind you about the 'theology of recreation'.

My dictionary defines 'creation' as the act of 'creating' - the creating of the universe regarded as an act of God' so when we say we are 'created' we're saying that we believe someone made us, we're not here by chance, we are a 'creation'. Someone made us - and Christians believe that 'someone' is God.

What about REcreation'? Does this literally mean that we are 'made again'? According to the Concise Oxford that's exactly what it means. It defines 'recreation' as the processor or means of refreshing oneself. But the footnotes to this definition, tracing the process by which the word came into English, point to something much deeper. The word 'recreation' comes ultimately from words that mean 'to create again', to 'renew'.

Our creator God knows how we tick; he ordained rhythm of work and rest. Jesus underlines this rhythm, in conflict with the religious leaders of his day; they criticise Jesus for breaking human rules about the Sabbath and Jesus responds that the Sabbath was given as a gift to humankind.

So, if you've had a recent holiday, I hope it brought you REcreation. And if you're about to go on holiday, I wish you REcreation. I pray your holiday will bring you moments of renewal, whether that's walking the hills, snorkelling off a lovely bay, reading a good book or on a tennis court; I'm reminded of Rowan Williams' definition of prayer. The former archbishop likened prayer to sunbathing; the love of God is always there, pouring out towards us - all we need to do is to put ourselves where that light and warmth can get to us.

Have a lovely summer; may England do well in the World Cup; and as we continue our journey through the summer months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your families with love and peace. Julia x

ALDERTON

The Summer Fair is **on SATURDAY 18TH JULY from 1.30 to 4pm**. Once again there will be a good variety of stalls in the Churchyard and refreshments in the Village Hall. Stalls include a Pimm's stall, jams and preserves, strawberries and cream, children's games and a variety of other craft stalls.

Donations to the stalls would be very welcome - plants (Joy Edwards) raffle prizes (church) tombola prizes (John Williams) before the event and cakes on the day to the village hall. . Sue Bennett is collecting any preloved gifts for her stall - contact her on 07768 974253 if you need things collected or drop them at 10 Fletcher Close, or ring Helen West 07941 373030. Items can also be left in the Church which is open every day. Don't forget to bring cash to the event - we have a card machine up in the Village Hall but cash is needed for all the stalls.

THANK YOU to everyone who helps with Church activities - the lawnmowers, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, newsletter deliverers, the choir and music director, the bellringers, the clock winder and the fundraisers - all always much appreciated. Happy Holidays!

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Great Washbourne Summer Event last Friday. It was so lovely to see so many old friends and to meet and make new ones. We were, as usual, helped by so many people in making the evening a success and a magnificent total of £1252.60 was raised which will help to keep the church running for 2026. Thank you to all who contributed in such a myriad of ways, we can't keep the church open without your help.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Harvest Lunch **20th SEPTEMBER;** Family Quiz on **14th NOVEMBER.** More details to follow. Happy Holidays!

DUMBLETON

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Pig Roast on June 27th. A total of the amount raised will be given next month.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5th "ST PETER'S CHURCH GIFT DAY with TEAS ON THE GREEN" 3-5pm. This is the annual event where we ask the Village for donations in aid of St Peter's Church Funds. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy tea (or coffee) and delicious cakes sitting on the green by the church. It is always a friendly social afternoon enjoyed by all.

Please come and help us to raise the much-needed funds towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

AND YET another date for your Diary! **SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER. 'HARVEST SUPPER' at the VILLAGE CLUB.** More details nearer the time. Happy Holidays!

WORMINGTON

Annual WVS games and BBQ SATURDAY 18th July. Arrive from 5pm; BBQ from 5.30pm Bar open 6pm. A fun event for all ages. Happy Holidays!

SERVICES FOR JULY 2026

Lectionary Year A

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

5 th July 1 st Sunday [Proper 9] T5 Green	9.00am GREAT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Zechariah 9.9-12 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-end
Wednesday 8 th July		10.00am ALDERTON 'Said Service' HC	
12 th July 2 nd Sunday [Proper 10] T6 Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isaiah 55.10-13 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23
19 th July 3 rd Sunday [Proper 11] T7 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON MATTINS	Isaiah 44.6-8 Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
26 th July 4 th Sunday [Proper 12] T8 Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON CHORAL EVENSONG	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	1 Kings 3.5-12 Romans 8.26-end Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
2 nd August 1 st Sunday [Proper 13] T9 Green	9.00am GREAT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC WITH BAPTISM READINGS TBA	Isaiah 55.1-5 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

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GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

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Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne

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DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

Mrs T. Steggle, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

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WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs.

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

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