

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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FEBRUARY 2022



Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Dear Friends

I don't know about you but whenever I am out and about, I nearly always pop into the local church. Whenever I spend time in church perhaps just sitting there praying I am nearly always joined by someone just passing by who has popped in for a moment of quiet, to tend a grave, or to light a candle for someone for whom they want to pray. Of course, as we know, a church is more than bricks and mortar. It's a community of people who, together, live in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. There's a church at the heart of every community and many puts its faith in action. Churches run food banks and night shelters, host exercise classes, organise farmers markets, and so much more.

Church buildings belong to everyone and are often one of the oldest buildings in the community, and in rural areas they may be the only community building. These communities often use their churches in imaginative ways. Just outside Gloucester, in the tiny hamlet of Rudford, the church is used for monthly quiet days along with the Victorian school room next door. In other places the church is also the local post office, and here amongst the Oak Hill Parishes, our churches will again be hosting coffee mornings, Lent lunches, Quiz night, Valentine Takeaway meals delivered amongst the community and Summer Events. Perhaps one can even host an egg rolling competition down the aisle on Easter day!

Occasionally, whilst sitting quietly in a church, I have thought about the teamwork involved behind the scenes. How many of us have thought about what it means for us to be part of a team, especially if we are part of a Benefice of 4 churches? Do we even feel part of a wider team of churches? Teamwork in the church is more than just how parishes are set up and organised, it's about working together collaboratively and recognising and valuing all that the members of the body of Christ have to offer. Therefore, whether you work in a bank, a school, a shop, take care of children at home, keep an eye on neighbours, care for elderly relatives, or volunteer in the community, you glorify God. Every member of church is called to serve God as circumstances and abilities allow.

Every member is a witness of Jesus Christ working in this world, that means both ordained and lay members, this is part of our Christian calling, part of our mission. **Every member is ministering**, being led by Christ to work and serve in the world. Some people are better at sharing the gospel in words; some are better at sharing it through their work, and when Christians work together, they can often be even more effective than they would be alone.

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 through Holy Communion.

One of the first tasks Jesus does when he begins his ministry is to gather a team to share the work. Those first disciples were a mixed bag, they quite often misunderstood and got it wrong, they fell out with each other and jostled for position. Being part of a team isn't easy, but it's what God calls us to be, and how God calls us all to minister in this part of his world and, personally, I find it so worthwhile and rewarding, and a privilege. Hope springs eternal - those first disciples got there in the end, with amazing results.

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. As we continue to journey out of the worst of the pandemic we plan to hold a **LENT COURSE** at the Vicarage, commencing at 2pm on Wednesdays, the first being the 2nd March [Ash Wednesday] and thereafter weekly, taking us through to Holy Week. It includes fellowship, prayer and discussion followed by refreshments. For further details or if are you able to come, please do contact me - 01242 620636 or email julia.hook@btinternet.com. If the day/time is not suitable, then an evening session may also be possible.

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

ALDERTON

Sunday February 13th at 10.30am St Margaret's Church: we are holding a **VALENTINE'S DAY SERVICE** with a focus on loving relationships between family and friends. So we do hope you will join us for an informal service and at the end - a glass of wine! We look forward to seeing you there.

CHURCHYARD: Tom has cleared away the ivy and brambles from the church wall along Church Road which allows the lovely Cotswold stone wall to be seen again.

He has also finished cutting the conifer hedge alongside the path - so the churchyard is looking smart ready for spring.

RIP - Margaret Stocker 16th December 2021; **Joyce Kierans** 12th January 2022

GREAT WASHBOURNE

DATES TO PENCIL INTO YOUR DIARIES:

Saturday 9th April, the Great Washbourne Family Quiz night.

Friday 24th June will be the Great Washbourne Summer Event.

The PCC will be meeting on Tuesday 1st February to discuss other social and fundraising events for the year ahead, if you have any ideas, please do let us know we'd love to hear them. (Jane 620291)

DUMBLETON

TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY! Here is an invitation for you to come to our first **COFFEE MORNING** in two years! We look forward to welcoming you and your partner/ family/ friends to this event which will be held in Church from 10.30am to 12noon. Please come along to this FUNdraising event and enjoy a drink, a piece of cake, and a friendly chat. We look forward to seeing you.

DATE FOR DIARY:

LENT LUNCH! We will be holding a Lent Lunch in church on **TUESDAY 8th MARCH** at 12noon. Please make a note of the date. More information to follow next month.

WORMINGTON

Wormington PCC - "VALENTINE TAKAWAY" Friday 18th February

Two courses £12.50 a head. Deliveries to Wormington and Dumbleton between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Please contact Angela Piercy 01386 584416 angela.piercy@hotmail.co.uk for menu. Orders by Monday 14th February.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Lectionary Year C

	ALDERTON	WASHBOURNE	DUMBLETON	WORMINGTON
1 st Sun		9.00am	10.30am	
6 th Feb		HC Trad	HC CW	
Ascension of Queen Elizabeth II				
4 before Lent				
Green	Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-end]	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11	

2 nd Sun	10.30am			9.00am
13 th Feb	Valentine Day Service			HC BCP
	[Reading TBC]			
3 before Lent				
Green	Jeremiah 17.5-10	1 Corinthians 15.12-20	Luke 6.17-26	

3 rd Sun		9.00am	10.30am	
20 th Feb		HC CW	HC CW	
2 before Lent				
Green	Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end	Revelation 4	Luke 8.22-25	

4 th Sun	10.30am			6.00pm
27 th Feb	HC CW			Choral Evensong
Sunday before Lent				
Green	Exodus 34.29-end	2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2	Luke 9.28-36 [37-43a]	

1 st Sun		10.30am	10.30am	
6 th Mar		HC Trad	HC CW	
Lent 1				
Purple	Deut. 26.1-11	Romans 10.8b-13	Luke 4.1-13	

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