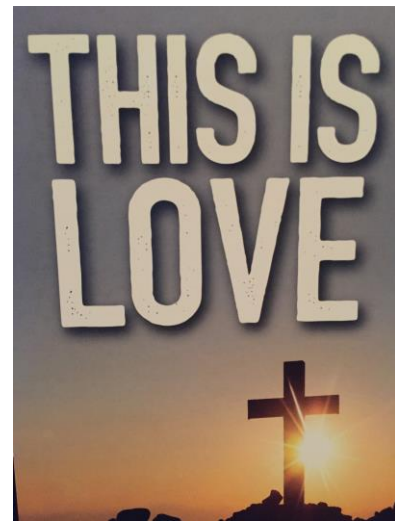


OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR
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MARCH 2024



Dear Friends

This morning [25th Feb] I returned to my 'home church' of 18 years - All Saints, in Pittville. It was lovely to see my 'old friends' and interesting to meet and chat to Fr David, their new priest. It's also interesting to reflect on the years I worshiped there - to think that when women were first ordained as priests, my initial comment was 'I will never receive Communion from a woman priest!' Even now, All Saints Church is still not in support of women priests, and yet, some time ago now, I was called from out of that church to be a priest. At least there is one thing we all believe in and that is Jesus Christ.

If you're celebrating the Easter holiday this year, which I pray you are - make a point to reflect on the fresh beginnings and optimism that it symbolizes - one that expresses the true meaning of Easter; let us remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the love it represents.

I don't know about you, but I still send Easter cards [yes you can still find them in shops, especially the charity shops!] and they're an excellent way to convey my wishes and greetings to loved ones, even if they have no faith! They're visually appealing and can be customized to include a personalized message, and when choosing a card, I consider its relevance to the spirit of Easter, its visual appeal, and its appropriateness that will convey my message effectively and make my loved ones feel special on this occasion.

As I write the song 'What the world needs now is love sweet love,' comes to mind; some of you may remember this was first recorded in 1965 by Jackie DeShannon.

Jesus came to love. That was - and is - his essential mission - not to die, not to suffer but to love and if it should be - as our Lord knew it would be - that loving involved suffering - he would not stop loving.

With the conflict between Israel and Islamic factions making the headlines [much to pray for], I am also mindful of Christians in so many countries, who still suffer for their faith; for those who mourn the loss of those who died in all the conflicts, terrorism & hate-filled violence and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for those who have watched others live with pain & die; for those, who now are living with illness, fear and pain.

Jesus acknowledges the inescapable fact of all suffering. On behalf of others, he confronts and challenges and heals it; ... for himself he would not avoid or evade it. Following Jesus, from what I have experienced, means that we do not suffer alone but that our Lord is with us, somehow, he seems to absorb the suffering in himself.

As we journey through this season of Lent, I am reminded Easter celebrates Jesus' supernatural resurrection from the dead, which is one of the chief tenets of the Christian faith. Paul writes that, for those who trust in Jesus's death and resurrection, 'death is swallowed up in victory.' The First Epistle of Peter declares that God has given believers 'a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'. Christian theology holds that, through faith in the working of God, those who follow Jesus are spiritually resurrected with him so that they may walk in a new way of life and receive eternal salvation, and can hope to be physically resurrected to dwell with him in the Kingdom of Heaven. I pray that all your hearts will be opened to this promise of new life.

Likewise, as we journey through our earthly life, in our beautiful, but troubled world, may the miracle and true meaning of Easter bring you new beginnings, renewed faith and fill your hearts with joy and hope. Julia x

LENT COURSE An enjoyable and thoughtful evening was had by all those who came along to our Lent Course last Wednesday. Our course continues on **Wednesdays, commencing at 7pm**, here at The Vicarage, being led by Revd Mike Hollway. All are welcome.

ALDERTON

MOTHERING SUNDAY on March 10th at 10.30am - this will be an informal relaxed Café Church service in the Church at Alderton. We welcome people young and old to join us where there will be small bunches of flowers handed out and after the short service, there will be drinks and cakes. We hope to see you there!

EASTER SUNDAY: is on **31st MARCH** and to enable all 4 Churches to have a service, our one in Alderton will be at **9.30am**. Beware - this is when we move to British summer time! The Church will be decorated with many flowers so do call in and have a look.

IN MEMORY: if you would like to have a hymn book labelled in memory of someone you have loved and lost and make a donation, please contact Helen West - 620587 or helenmarywest4@gmail.com

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Churchyard tidy up is planned for **Saturday March 16th starting at 10.00am**. We would love to have help with this to ensure that our Churchyard is an attractive and tidy place to be and enjoy. It has even been positively mentioned in a national newspaper! By taking care of the Churchyard and planting primroses, cowslips and wild flower seeds, it is making it a very attractive area. The more the merrier and we will even provide a drink and biscuits!

GREAT WASHBOURNE

The Great Washbourne **FAMILY QUIZ** will be held on **Saturday 27th April** at the church. Please pop the date into your diaries, more details to follow nearer the time.

St Mary's Church AGM will be held at the church on **Monday 29th April**, everyone is invited so please do come if you can. It starts at 7-30pm.

DUMBLETON

LENT LUNCH WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH at 12noon in Church. This will be our second and final lunch for 2024 so please come and enjoy some Heartwarming Soup, Delicious Cakes and plenty of coffee or tea amongst friendly company. Please book your place with Jenny Maher (01386 881474) jennylynne71@icloud.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

We are holding a **FAMILY SERVICE on SUNDAY 17th MARCH** at 10.30am to which you are warmly welcome. As it suggests this will be a more relaxed service and we would love to see you and your children attend, so please join us. It matters not how much noise the little ones make, in fact the more noise the better we like it, so don't be afraid to bring them.

EASTER DAY SERVICES 31st MARCH. So that all churches in our group are able to have a service, times of services have to be changed. This year there is to be a special short DAWN SERVICE in Dumbleton. We will meet at the church at 6.00am to observe the SUNRISE on what will hopefully be a gloriously sunny EASTER DAY. We are hopeful that some of you may take up the challenge and jump out of bed to join us and watch the sunrise on this Holiest of days. We are also celebrating Easter Day with a Service of Family Communion at 11.15am. Please see reverse of newsletter for all Easter Day Service times.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN SATURDAY 23rd MARCH. 10am. Our regular Church Cleaners do a magnificent job but for Easter we like to have a SPRING CLEAN doing extra jobs which are not normally covered. If you can spare an hour or two to help (many hands make light work) it would be appreciated. Bring a duster and some polish and maybe a bucket and you will be in business. Thankyou in advance.

A new **Flower Arrangers Rota** is about to be organised. If you feel you could provide an arrangement in church a couple of times during a year I would love to hear from you. I hasten to add these do not have to be in any way professional, a simple vase of flowers would be very welcome. Please contact me, Jenny Maher (contact details earlier in this newsletter) if you would like to be included a.s.a.p. Many thanks.

From the Registers; Internment of Ashes 14th February.
Reverend Nicholas (Nick) Adrian Lees CARTER. R.I.P.

WORMINGTON

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE KINDLY DONATED TO DATE TOWARDS OUR TURRET REPAIRS – It is very much appreciated.

WORMINGTON PCC AGM 24th March 6.50pm in church after Evensong – all are welcome to attend.

CHURCH SPRING CLEANING We have some volunteers from National Gas coming on the 11th March to help tidy up the churchyard and assist with some Spring Cleaning in the church. A list of outstanding spring-cleaning jobs will be on the table by the memorial plaque in the church from the 12th March. We welcome all those who can help to see what still needs to be done. Thank you in advance.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS for Easter would be most welcomed by Saturday 30th March.

WVS EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday 30th March – register at St Katharine's Church 10am-12pm £2 per child. For more info contact Sarah Hughes: wormingtonvillagesociety@gmail.com

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

Lectionary Year B

3rd March 1 st Sunday Lent 3 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Lent HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Lent HC	Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22
10th March 2 nd Sunday Lent 4 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON HC BCP	10.30am ALDERTON Café Church For Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35
17th March 3 rd Sunday Passiontide Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Passtiontide HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Informal Family Service for Passiontide	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
24th March 4 th Sunday PALM SUNDAY Purple	6.00pm WORMINGTON Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON PALM SUNDAY HC	Liturgy of The Psalms or Liturgy of the Passion may be read
28th March Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Eucharist – 11.00am Gloucester Cathedral All are welcome		
29th March Good Friday Red		12noon 1hr Meditation ALDERTON 2.00pm 1hr Meditation WORMINGTON	From Mark's Gospel
31st March EASTER DAY White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter FC [JH] 9.00am WORMINGTON Easter FC [CH]	6.00am DUMBLETON Dawn Service [JH] 9.30am ALDERTON Easter FC [RP] 11.15am DUMBLETON Easter FC [JH]	Dawn Service: For readings see Order of Service Isaiah 55.1-11 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
7th April E2 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Exodus 14.10-end;15.20-21 Acts 2.14a, 22-32 John 20.19-end

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 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, Dairy mead, Wormington 01386 584416