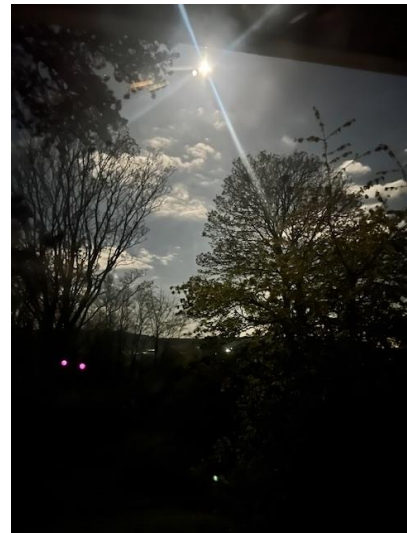


OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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MAY 2024



Dear Friends

As I write, I took this beautiful photo of the moon on my iPhone, not quite a full moon, but awesome!

In giving, we receive; most of us I'm sure have heard this saying.

An extraordinary thing happened to me today. I was in a shoe shop earlier today and in the process of buying a pair of summer sandals. Having put the shoes on the counter to pay, I moved away for a few moments and on returning, I was told my shoes had been paid for! Fortunately, the person hadn't left the shop, and I asked why, there was no need. I asked her name, which was Kim. She said she had just won a little money and that she has a friend who's a vicar, and her friend never seemed to have any money as she gives it away to help others. 'I'm sure you do' she said. Well, I have to say I felt very humbled, and after chatting for a little while longer, she left the shop.

I'm sure most of us help others, in both our giving and our doing.

I recently read with interest Bishop Robert's article on giving - extracts below:

'Our giving probably begins with a strong sense that we do so because we belong. We belong to our local community, and we have a commitment to our shared life. We want to work together and play our part according to our ability, in ensuring its activity and ministry - the ministry of the whole people of God; lay and ordained, voluntary self-supporting and stipendiary.'

'Those of us who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, our giving comes not just from belonging to our community, but our belonging in Christ. We give because of our understanding that all we have and all we are is itself a gift given by to us by God; we give because the nature of the God we serve in Jesus is one of self-offering, in short, giving is simply what we, as Christians, do.'

'This does beg a question. We give because it is what we do, but what does our giving do?'

'We might begin with our commitment to the work of the church, the ministry of the community to which we belong, our offering of pastoral care for the gathered congregation and the wider community. We may be motivated by wanting to share the life that we have ourselves in Jesus Christ by what we do.'

'In the offering of worship and of Holy Communion in particular, where we're gathered to read and reflect on the scriptures and receive Communion we encounter God, are changed, and sent out in service, therefore, we give because it is simply what we do; what we give to, is the very work of God which engages the whole of who we are and everything we do, as we seek to make the love of God known, and work for the coming of the Kingdom of justice, mercy and peace; by giving, through the ministry of God's church and our worship, we join with the work of God who in Jesus comes to live with us, defeat death and bring life.'

Generosity is a beautiful characteristic in people, not just financially, but also in what we do for others. We love and admire generosity. My mother used to urge us as children, 'Always be generous.' In giving we find ourselves blessed as we bless others, it's quite an awesome feeling, isn't it? When we give to others, it brings about an inner warmth; in giving, we receive!

Very soon we commemorate the descent of that generous gift from God - Pentecost - the Holy Spirit, which comes in full power and is poured out on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, his son, and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world. As Christians, through our baptism in Christ, we accept the forgiveness of our sins and, with hearts open, receive the Holy Spirit so we can do the work of discipleship that awaits each one of us.

May the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your families and I pray that you are showered with the choicest blessings of Jesus Christ.

Julia x

ALDERTON

Easter flowers: **THANK YOU** to everyone who created lovely flower displays to celebrate this special festival and for the time they put into them. The Church looked really beautiful with the variety of arrangements in spring flowers.

FLOWER FESTIVAL AND SUMMER FAIR: this will be on **SATURDAY 27th July from 10.30am to 4pm.** The Flower Festival theme will be the Olympics and will be held in Church.

There will be a variety of stalls in the Churchyard and then refreshments will be served all day in the Village Hall. If anyone would like to help on the day, either with the flowers (we are all amateurs!) or with refreshments contact Helen West

(helenmarywest4@gmail.com) or Sarah Hughes (Sarah.hughes@rocketmail.com)

This will also be St. Margaret's Gift Day.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

FRIDAY 27th JUNE 6.30pm - is our annual **SUMMER SUPPER EVENING**. Please put in your diary we'd love to see you there. More details will follow in June.

DUMBLETON

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place after the church service on **SUNDAY 5th MAY**. The meeting will be preceded by a short meeting to elect **CHURCHWARDENS**. Julia our Vicar and The Parochial Church Council will be delighted to hear from any persons who may feel they would like to take up these positions or offer their help to our church in any other way. The meeting is open to all villagers so please join us. The meeting will commence at approximately 11.45am.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who decorated our church for Easter. It looked truly wonderful. **Also, THANKS** to those of our congregation who arrived to take part in the **inspirational Dawn Service on Easter Day**. It was a very spiritual experience, and we witnessed a fantastic Sunrise. Afterwards, coffee and Hot Cross buns were enjoyed by all.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!! SATURDAY 6th JULY is the date of our **SUMMER EVENT** which will once again be held by kind invitation of Fred and Sue Invine at The Villa, Blacksmiths Lane. More details next month.

From the Registers: Funeral on 22nd April, of local resident and friend **PENNY COOK**. **R.I.P.**

WORMINGTON

It has been agreed there will be no Choral Evensong in Wormington on Sunday 26th May, usually held at 6pm due to **THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**, the Most Revd Justin Welby, who will be coming to the Diocese of Gloucester over the May Bank Holiday, Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, to join in with our mission and vision.

The weekend ends with a celebration diocesan **Eucharist service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm, on the 26th MAY**. There will be a multi-sensory play area for children and people of all ages are invited to join in with this joyful service of celebration and thankfulness.

We are being encouraged to take a picnic to have either before or after the service in the grounds of the Cathedral.

SERVICES FOR MAY 2024

Lectionary Year B

5th May E6 White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Easter Season HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Easter Season HC	Acts 10.44-end John 15.9-17
Thurs 9th May Ascension Day	Licensing of the new Team Vicar – Revd Benjamin Gwyn Williams United Benefice of the parish of Bishop’s, Cleeve with Southam (including Woodmancote and Cleeve Hill), and the parish of Woolstone with Gotherington and Oxenton. 7.30pm St Michael & All Angels Church, Bishops Cleeve – All are welcome		
12th May E7 White	9.00am WORMINGTON Easter Season HC	10.30am ALDERTON Easter Season HC	Acts 1, 15-17, 21-end John 17.6-19
19th May Pentecost Red	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC for Pentecost	10.30am DUMBLETON Pentecost & International Family Day Service	Acts 2.1-21 John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
26th May Trinity White	Gloucester Cathedral Eucharist service at 3pm see Wormington notice above	10.30am ALDERTON HC for Trinity	Isaiah 6.1-8 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17
2nd June T1 Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC Trad	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Deuteronomy 5.12-15 2 Corinthians 4.5-12 Mark 2.23-3.6

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
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