

## OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,  
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,  
Alderton, Tewkesbury Glos. GL20 8NR  
Tel: 01242 620636 [mobile 07715953076]  
email: [julia.hook@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.hook@btinternet.com)

**DECEMBER 2023**



Dear Friends

Where will we be this December, let alone January? Writing for a Newsletter is a tricky business; who knows what could be around the corner; who knows by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, what will be? Internationally, in the conflict that is Ukraine, the violence that has engulfed Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza, or perhaps there may be a new international crisis to be faced? Then what about our own nation and what might be the case within our borders; what about here in the Oak Hill Parishes and, for good measure, the life of our churches; and let's get personal, in our own lives or the lives of a loved one? A great deal can happen in the space of a few months, which is why it is good that December and the birth of Jesus holds us within a framework of certainty. God so loved the world that he gave ... Behold, in the city of David, a Saviour has been born for you. Christ the Lord!

A framework of certainty. It's the paradox of the birth narrative that within the rejection faced by Mary and Joseph; the wandering to find a place for the birth, the visitors who were here and then gone in an instant, the glory of the angels that lit up the sky, but then faded as soon as they blew their trumpets, to a life as a refugee family, is the assurance and the certainty that God has come among us, the Word made flesh for us.

Each year we remind ourselves, before we travel into a new unknown year, that we have the light of Christ to guide us, especially through the difficult, confusing and dark times that may lie ahead. It's not just the light of Christ that we have to guide us, but that most beautiful word we name hope. Hope in and through Christ that does not reveal itself in a vague crossing of the fingers, but of a standing with Julian of Norwich and joining her song of praise: "All shall be well; all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well".

As we then move from 2023 into 2024, Jesus remains our hope. We do not know what a New Year will bring but we do know that He will go with us, walk with us, help us, when we invite Him in. Romans 15:13 says this 'May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him'. This is my prayer for us all this Christmas season and into the New Year. We need to trust in Jesus as we step into the unknown because it is not unknown to him. Hope and trust are twins and God wants us to embrace them both.

As a church we send you our love through our Newsletter. With much to pray for, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Holy Advent, where you experience a time of 'spiritual alertness' to Jesus; a wonderfully blessed Christmas and, taking the babe of Bethlehem in your arms this Christmas let him take you by the hand into the New Year in love. Julia x

## ALDERTON

The **CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS FAIR** is Saturday **2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER** from 2 – 4pm in the Village Hall. People have been very generous with Raffle prizes and items for Sandy's Gift Stall. It would be great to have some of your excellent cooking on the Cake and Savoury Delicatessen Stall which can be brought up on the day and if you have any plants to spare for Joy Edward's stall. There are some excellent Raffle prizes so make sure you have bought some tickets. Father Christmas has said he was coming along and there will be Children's Games. Cakes and refreshments will be available and there will be the usual selection of stalls and some interesting craft stalls. Most of the stalls will need cash (don't forget this is available from the Post Office) and there will be a limited facility of a debit card machine.

Our **CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE** together with the Christingle and Blessing of the Crib is on **SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** at 4pm in Church. The money collected will go to the Children's Society. The Church will be decorated with flowers so do come and see them.

**OUTDOOR CAROL SINGING** will be on **WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** at 4pm in the Churchyard and mulled wine and hotdogs will be served again.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** there will be a late Communion Service at **10PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE** and a **FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30AM**.

**Remembrance Service:** it was great to see over 100 people at this to remember all the servicemen and women who have fought to defend us. And once again we appreciated Rev'd Michael Hand for taking the service, Dan Chandler there to add to the occasion by playing his bugle and Tom Cullimore who read out the names of people from Alderton who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

## GREAT WASHBOURNE

**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - CAROL SINGING IN CHURCH - 6.30pm.** Everyone is welcome to join us in church for this informal evening, followed by mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine. The collection will go to Sue Ryder.

## DUMBLETON

The last newsletter of 2023. Where has this year gone? The P.C.C. wish to thank everyone who has helped or volunteered in any way to keep our beautiful church open for worship during 2023. The church Holy Dusters (cleaners), the Flower Arrangers, the Churchyard workers, the Providers of Food for our fundraising events and to everyone who has supported those events we thank you all one and all.

I am now able to report that the total raised at the Harvest Supper in October was £635. Thank you to all involved with organising and providing food. A special thank you to The Village Club for the use of their premises.

The Candlelit Cafe Church on 5<sup>th</sup> November was a lovely occasion and it is pleasing to report that the collection taken for the Cheltenham Street Pastors amounted to £111.50.

Grateful Thanks to Fred Invine and to all who attended his talk "Dumbleton 1870-1970" It was a super evening and raised a marvellous total of £668 for church funds. The memorabilia was so interesting for everyone to see and look at.

**"A CELEBRATION of CHRISTMAS". DECEMBER 17th at 10.30am.** Please join us for the Annual Carol Service where we will be singing some familiar and favourite Carols alongside some lovely Poems and Christmas Readings. This is a very informal service suitable for all age groups, so we hope to see YOU! Festive refreshments will be served afterwards.

**DECEMBER 24th. The CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE THIS YEAR IS AT 11.30pm.**  
Please see the reverse for information.

Then finally! Come and join us for a BACON BAP with COFFEE or TEA at 10.30am on **31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**. This will be a VERY INFORMAL affair when we will bid farewell to 2023 in a friendly community fashion. Everyone is welcome.

From the Registers: Baptism 12th November Ella Kaye HARRIS  
Burial of Ashes. 8th November. Constance (Connie) May YARSLEY

The P.C.C. **WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE A JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.**

### WORMINGTON

A big "thank you" to Neil Piercy for an enjoyable trek presentation on the 17th November. £396 was raised for the "Friends of St Katharine's" to go towards the turret repairs.

### **SERVICE OF 6 LESSON AND 6 CAROLS - SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 6PM.**

All are welcome to come and join in this lovely service. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. We will be blessing the crib.

Christmas Flowers - Please come and help decorate the church for our Carol Service on Saturday 16th December from 10am 😊

*A very Merry Christmas from Wormington PCC*

**St Mary' Church – Sudeley Castle** - The Commissioners have received proposals from the Bishop of Gloucester and have agreed to publish a draft Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme providing for the church of Sudeley Manor St Mary (a chapel of ease in the parish of Winchcombe with Gretton Sudeley Manor and Stanley Pontlarge) to be closed for regular public worship and gifted for use as a private chapel to the Sudeley Estate for Christian worship in accordance with the rites and customs of the Church of England including parochial services by agreement with the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme. Representations should be sent to: Matthew Crowe, Pastoral and Closed Churches, Church Commissioners, Church House Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Or by e-mail to: [matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org) Any communication received after **Monday 18th December 2023** cannot be treated as a representation.

# SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

## Lectionary Year B

<b>3 Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Sun</b> Advent 1 Purple	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> Advent HC	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Advent HC	Isaiah 61.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-end
<b>10 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun</b> Advent 2 Purple	9.00am <b>WORMINGTON</b> Advent HC	4.00pm <b>ALDERTON</b> Lessons & Carols by 'Christingle' candlelight Blessing of the Crib	Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8
<b>17 Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun</b> Advent 3 Purple	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> Advent HC Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end 1 Thess 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Celebration of Christmas with Readings & Carols and Blessing of the Crib	6.00pm <b>WORMINGTON</b> Service of 6 lesson and 6 Carols and Blessing of the Crib
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> Monday			6.30pm <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> Carol Service and Blessing of the Crib
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> Wednesday		4.00pm <b>ALDERTON</b> Carols in the churchyard	
<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> White	10.00 pm start <b>Midnight Communion</b> <b>ALDERTON</b>	11.30 pm start <b>Midnight Communion</b> <b>DUMBLETON</b>	Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]
<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> White	9.00am in <b>GT WASHBOURNE AND</b> <b>WORMINGTON</b> Family Communion and Celebration	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b> Family Communion and Celebration	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14
<b>New Years Eve</b> <b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> Christmas 1 Naming of Christ White	A very relaxed and informal Service [refreshments included] to welcome in 2024! [Luke 2.15-21] <b>10.30 am - Dumbleton</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Epiphany White	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE</b> Epiphany HC	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON</b> Epiphany HC	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12

### 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