

OAK HILL PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne, Dumbleton & Wormington)

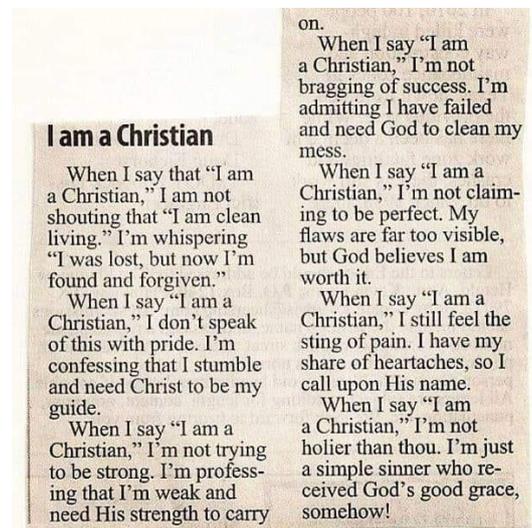
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OCTOBER 2021



Author - Carol Wimmer

Dear Friends

Autumn - a unique and beautiful season. We enjoy bright, sunny, blue-sky days with cool breezes and a nip in the air offering a hint of the bite of winter yet to come. We delight in the magnificent colours of the trees with leaves turning from green to yellow, to gold, to red, and to brown.

We cherish the last bloom of garden roses before the first frost wilts and darkens them into a wintery, death-like sleep. It is in autumn that our evenings grow dark earlier as we fall back an hour in time. The whole fleeting season has an air of anticipation and mystery about it that can turn our minds and hearts to God.

We look with admiration on the sight of the farmers bringing in their harvests.

Harvest – an opportunity to give thanks and to praise our loving Father for all his gifts of food and weather, especially his plants which mature in autumn and nourish us all year.... harvest reminds us that all earth creatures are a community created to praise and glorify God. Nature matures in autumn even without human help. Wild creatures enjoy the fruits of the season. With human co-operation, however, nature glorifies God through cultivated fields, including grain and grapes which make bread and wine.

During this autumnal season I am reminded of the verse - This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. [Ps 118:24]

Such a familiar verse. It's a call and response that has formed part of my mental furniture for many years, and I've taken it as offering uplift, comfort, affirmation, a reassurance that God is good.

However, it's really hard to imagine how I would say these words if I lived in Afghanistan, or a fire-ravaged town in California, or in the Gaza Strip, but one of the things we have learnt here in the UK during these extraordinary times (and it's not over yet....) is how to find blessing in darkness – in a socially distanced cup of tea in your front garden, in the kindness of neighbours we hardly knew, in a phone call, in the love of our families felt even at a distance (though nothing beats a hug), in the freshness and beauty of our hills and fields. And, over the summer, in being able to meet friends again, to go to the pub, and even to go on holiday again. All of these things have given a pleasure that has been heightened by the recognition of how fragile was the life that we took for granted.

Likewise to come back to church and worship together, whilst trying to remember the Church acts as a body. Some people act as eyes, others as ears, and others as the heart, and without everyone working together to grow and learn, the body will not function. We are reminded it's our calling and responsibility to play our role to keep our church body healthy and connected with the community!

More than ever we need to trust that we are all in God's care, that Christ is alongside us and knows what it feels like to be us in every situation we may face, in disaster and grief, in greyness and depression, in ordinariness and in joy.

As I look out at the glorious autumnal weather, my thoughts turn again to all that we have, giving thanks for the harvest, whilst remembering there are people out in the world struggling to provide food for their families, due to conflict and oppression at the hand of another – where sickness and hunger is rife and, in this moment of time, the hit single recorded by Band Aid, 'Feed the World' comes to mind, which leads me to pray to our loving God, that one day all people on earth will live in peace, and will be fed, and will say 'This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.' With love and every good Blessing. Julia

ALDERTON

HARVEST AND FLOWERS IN CHURCH: We had a very enjoyable Harvest and Creation service singing well known harvest hymns. It was great to be joined by children and several pets - four dogs and a rabbit – who were very well behaved. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce for Harvest so do go and visit it while they are still fresh. Also while you are there, take a look at the books on sale - 50p each (in the porch and at the back of the Church) and the cards that show views of the village (on sale inside in the Church)

CHURCH YARD TIDY UP: this will be on Saturday October 9th starting at 9.30am. The churchyard is here for everyone to enjoy some tranquillity and also as a place where all villagers can lay their family to rest. We would therefore love to have support from people in the village to keep the churchyard looking attractive and tidy. Do come and join us to help do this - don't forget to bring your gardening tools! Coffee and biscuits will be supplied!

CAFÉ CHURCH: Join us in **Alderton Village Hall** for a relaxed short service on **Sunday October 31st** at 10.30am to celebrate All Saints Day. Everyone is welcome - both young and old. There will be coffee and croissants served and there might even be bacon sandwiches! We hope some of the children from Oakhill will join us to share some of the songs they have learnt from their day with iSingPop!

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THANK YOU to all who supported the MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday, it was a lovely day, so we were able to be outside in the sunshine for our coffee and cake, over £250 was raised to be shared between the church and MacMillan. Many thanks to Ann for organising it.

OUR THANKS ALSO go to John Welch who took part in the annual Ride and Stride event which took place earlier this month, his final sponsorship total is yet to be confirmed but we do know that it will be a substantial contribution to church funds, thank you John.

OUR NEXT EVENT is a coffee morning at the church on Saturday 6th November 10am to noon, just a chance to get together and perhaps empty those little loose change boxes that many of us have. It would be lovely to see you there.

THE SERVICE OF HARVEST will be held at Great Washbourne on Sunday 17th October at 6pm, we do hope you will join us.

DUMBLETON

THE CHURCH is now opened again on a daily basis from approximately 9am till dusk.

GOOD NEWS! A magnificent total of £2,156.35p was raised at the recent "Gift Day with Teas on the Green." We thank everyone who donated or contributed in any way to help raise this money. The P.C.C. are extremely grateful for your generosity again, as the money will certainly help with the running expenses of our church.

MORE GOOD NEWS! As a result of the money raised with regard to the sponsored walk that Rev Michael Hand undertook recently we have a further £525 for church funds. Thank you to all sponsors and special thanks to Rev Michael for his commitment to aiding our four churches on this long walk.

HARVEST SUPPER SATURDAY OCTOBER 16th, 7pm for 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you to THE VILLAGE HALL for this popular event which of course was sadly missing last year. Hot food and great atmosphere await you. Tickets priced at £12. 50 are available now. Be sure to get yours early as due to the ongoing uncertain Covid situation ticket numbers are being restricted this year. They are available from Jenny Maher 01386 881474.

From the Registers: HOLY MATRIMONY

August 27th. Austin Andrew Richard Garlick and Charlotte Cassandra Malpas

August 29th. David Bryan Mills and Sarah Katherine Jones

September 11th. Keith Rowley and Karen Harris

September 24th. James Alexander Harley and Miyuki Kawamura

BAPTISM. September 5th. Mason Grey

WORMINGTON

The Wormington Village Society's Caribbean evening on the 18th September was a great success and enjoyed by all. It was lovely to be joined, once more, by our Dumbleton friends. We are starting to get back to some normality whilst still observing recommended precautions.

HARVEST SERVICE – Many thanks to all who donated items for the Winchcombe Food Bank and a big thankyou to all who helped to decorate the church. It was lovely to be able to sing Harvest songs at our service. Welcome back Jane!

We will be resuming our **EVENSONG SERVICES** on the 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm and all are welcome from our neighbouring congregations to join us.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2021

Lectionary Year B

ALDERTON WASHBOURNE DUMBLETON WORMINGTON

1st Sun
3rd Oct
Trinity 18
Green
9.00am
HC
10.30am
HC
Genesis 2.18-24
Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12
Mark 10.2-16

2nd Sun
10th Oct
Trinity 19
Green
10.30am
HC
9.00am
BCP
Amos 5.6-7, 10-15
Hebrews 4.12-end
Mark 10.17-31

3rd Sun
17th Oct
Trinity 20
Green
6.00pm
Harvest Service
10.30am
HC x Extn.
Isaiah 53.4-end
Hebrews 5.1-10
Mark 10.35-45

4th Sun
24th Oct
Trinity 21
Green
10.30am
HC
6.00pm
Choral Evensong
Jeremiah 31.7-9
Hebrews 7.23-end
Mark 10.46-end

5th Sun
31st Oct
4 Advent – All Saints
Gold or White
10.30am – Team Wide Café Church, Alderton Village Hall
John 11.32-44 or Matthew 5.1-12

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. Steggle, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton 01386 882049

WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs. 07799035873
Mrs A. Piercy, Dairyhead, Wormington 01386 584416