

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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OCTOBER 2026



The River Wye

Dear Friends

Summer seems to be a distant memory as we turn from its associated balmy evenings, holidays and barbecues to autumn and cooler, wetter weather, shorter and days. I, for one, love this time of year when we see the colours of the leaves turning, the [hopefully] crisp mornings and the smell of bonfires and woodsmoke. The vibrant flowers in our garden have taken a back seat to the foliage which is becoming more impressive each day. I don't know about you, but I do like the drawing in of the evenings through the autumnal months.

Autumn seems to find the church waking up again to PCC meetings, some run Alpha courses, discipleship groups all getting going after a summer break and of course we hold our Harvest services and plan for Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas. So many opportunities to present the good news of Jesus and to grow as his disciples.

It strikes me there is one further thing the drawing in of the evenings can underline and that is our hope is in the greater light, the Light that St John tells us is coming into the world. This Light of course is Jesus, and the theme of Light is always strong at Christmas; yet on our darkening autumnal evenings perhaps we can be encouraged to know that Jesus is the light which cannot be extinguished, that darkness cannot put out.

Reflecting on this season of Harvest, did you know that 21st October is Apple Day, which was founded in 1990 by a charity called Common Ground, who wanted to highlight and demonstrate the variety of produce we are in danger of losing. The apple became their symbol of the provenance of our food and rich diversity of wildlife which they work hard to support. Sadly, due to the prolonged drought across large parts of England and the UK, this has severely stressed apple and cider orchards, leading to a poor harvest

The humble apple has been a symbol of myths for centuries; the ancient Greeks believed that the apple was a symbol of fertility, in Norse myth, the apples were understood to bring eternal youth to anyone who ate them and of course, there is the discussion about whether it was an apple Eve picked from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. There are songs, carols and poems all written about apples and there is still a tradition of 'wassailing' to sing to apple trees in the hope of ensuring a bountiful crop in the year ahead – one of my sister's went 'wassailing' recently!

Apples are a very good representation for our lives. Supermarkets spend phenomenal resources on selling perfect specimens of fruit and pressurising farmers and growers to cultivate fruit that is blemish-free. Beauty is only skin-deep and we have to ask whether what might look perfect on the outside is as appetising on the inside. This is not a new dilemma as social media and lifestyle magazines continue to bombard the public with images of 'perfect' bodies and airbrushed celebrities. I believe the UK beauty industry is worth £31.5 billion!

Maybe it would be better for all of us to be more accepting of ourselves and each other, however we come. God made us all in His own image and we are, as they say, "the apple of his eye". The rich diversity and variety of our world should be embraced and encouraged.

As we continue our journey through the Autumnal months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill our hearts, homes and our families with love and peace; let us continue to pray for each other, for the Church, our communities and all nations especially those experiencing conflict, war and famine, and pray that Christ's love, peace and unity might prevail throughout our beautiful God given world. Love and Blessings. Julia x

ALDERTON

Sunday 11th OCTOBER: PET SERVICE at 10.30am - do bring all your pets and the family to our informal relaxed service so we can celebrate the pleasure they bring to us.

Sunday 25th OCTOBER: the **ARCHDEACON** of Cheltenham **KATRINA SCOTT** will be leading our 10.30am service.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER: as usual we will meet at 10.50am at the War Memorial which will be followed by a service in Church.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: this will be on **Saturday 5th December from 2 till 4pm in the Village Hall.**

MEDIEVAL MARKS TALK: tickets for this have all been sold. Sarah is looking into organising another local history talk as this has been very popular.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Great Washbourne's Harvest Festival took place last week in the wonderful warmth of a sunny September day. This is the second year we have been able to gather outside to share our lunch following the service. We were pleased to be supporting the North Cotswold Foodbank.

The Great Washbourne **FAMILY QUIZ** was to be held on 14th November unfortunately it has had to be postponed. The new date for your diaries is **Saturday 10th April 2027**. Please put the new date in your diary, we'd love to see you there.

DUMBLETON

DUMBLETON PCC WISH to say a huge thank you to all who supported the recent Church Gift Day with Teas on the Green which was the usual happy social event held in glorious sunshine. We are delighted to report that the total raised, which includes all donations plus the reclaimable tax on them, amounts to a magnificent £4,400 which will go into much needed church funds. **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

"HARVEST FESTIVAL SONGS OF PRAISE" SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER at

10.30am. Please join us for this wonderful service when we give thanks for the bountiful harvest produced on the land and honour our farmers. Favourite harvest hymns and songs will be sung along with suitable poems and prose. We look forward to welcoming you and serving you with refreshments.

If you have any spare flowers or foliage in your garden suitable for decorating the church for harvest please bring them to church on Saturday morning 3rd October between 10 and 11am

NORTH COTSWOLD FOOD BANK, As is our custom there will be boxes in church from **MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER- WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER** for you to place any donations of food or suitable goods for the Food Bank. Our gifts are always appreciated and received with much gratitude by the food bank staff.

"HARVEST SUPPER" SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 7pm VILLAGE CLUB. This is yet another social occasion to get together and enjoy GOOD COMPANY, EXCELLENT FOOD, and DRINKS from the BAR. This is an annual event which is open to everyone so if you are new to the village or have never been before we would love to see and welcome you. There will be a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets priced at £17 are available from Jenny Maher (01386 881474) who will be delighted to hear from you.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Holy Matrimony: 12th September, Joseph ELLIS, Nina AVITABILE
 19th September, Mark KNIGHT, Jennifer HUNT.

WORMINGTON

During the winter months we are changing the 6pm Choral Evensong Service to a **9am BCP SERVICE.**

MANY THANKS to all who have donated to Food Bank.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2026

Lectionary Year A

If you wish to receive personal prayer for yourself or a family member/friend after the Service, please speak to Julia

4th October 1st Sunday [Proper 22] T18 Green	9.00am GREAT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE	Isaiah 5.1-7 Philippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-end
11th October 2nd Sunday [Proper 23] T19 Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC TRAD	10.30am ALDERTON PET SERVICE An informal relaxed service - do bring all your pets and the family to our service so we can celebrate the pleasure our pets bring to us.	Isaiah 25.1-9 Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14
18th October 3rd Sunday St Luke T20 RED	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC TRAD	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Isaiah 35.3-6 or Acts 16.6-12a 2 Timothy 4.5-17 Luke 101-9
25th October 4th Sunday [Proper 25] Last of Trinity Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC BCP	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW - WITH ARCHDEACON KATRINA	Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-end
1st November 1st Sunday ALL SAINTS WHITE	9.00am GREAT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC FOR ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7.9-end 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

01242 621265

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

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Mrs Jane Harrington, Orchard View, Great Washbourne

07766 483130

DUMBLETON (PCC Secretary and Wedding Secretary)

Mrs T. Steggles, Bracklin, Main St. Dumbleton

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WORMINGTON

Mr J. Evetts, Middle Hill Farm, Saintbury, Worcs.

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

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