

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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FEBRUARY 2024



Tewkesbury

Dear Friends

It's interesting how Love seems to be one of the most overused words in the English language. We use it to refer to so many different things, so many different emotions and feelings of affection. These days love is such an elastic word that we stretch it to cover, for example, when we talk about how we 'love' ice-cream, how we 'love' a particular performer or style of music and of our 'love' for a particular person. We have love letters, love songs and love stories.

But writing to the earliest Christians in Corinth St. Paul writes of a different understanding of love. He writes that this is what authentic love is like: 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' And in his first letter St. John writes: 'This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters!'

The point is that true love is giving; true love is sacrificial and true love reaches out with commitment and action for the sake of others. In short, true love means giving another person what they need and not what they deserve; and this is just how it is with God. The message of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter is that God loves us so much that he gives us the mercy and forgiveness that we need rather than the condemnation that our refusal to acknowledge him actually deserves.

Throughout the world we see a quest for true love [Valentines Day coming up], this is because God, who is the source and the origin of authentic love, made us with a need and a hunger for love; He made us that way so that we could respond in love to him and from that loving relationship love would flow out to other people. The self-giving love that St. Paul writes about is the very nature of God; it comes from God; and it begins to be expressed through us only as we come to him in faith and receive the self-giving love of his sacrifice for us in the cross of his Son Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel; this is the good news of God's great power and of the fulfilment of his eternally loving purpose.



As we enter Lent, let's turn our whole heart to God; let us try to make time to draw closer to him in prayer, to fast in solidarity with those struggling to put food on the table and to give generously of the gifts we have. May love and hope be poured out upon us all through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and between us as a team, enabling us to bring God's love to all we meet. With love and Blessings, Julia x

FOCUS FOR PRAYER: Please remember to pray for...

All who have suffered because of extreme weather events. All of us looking forward to the Spring, especially farmers and gardeners. Victims of injustice throughout the world. The Lent Course.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 14th February 2024 - an informal gathering with Ashing, 7.30pm, The Vicarage, Alderton; you could choose to take your nearest and dearest out to a Valentine's meal with a big ash cross on your forehead!

LENT COURSE

I am looking forward to hosting a Lent course here at The Vicarage. The course will be on Wednesdays, 7 for 7.30pm, starting on 21st February. Please confirm by email - or just turn up!! I look forward to seeing you.

ALDERTON

MOTHERING SUNDAY on March 10th at 10.30am - this will be a relaxed Café Church service.

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

BOOKS: don't forget there are books available to buy in the Church Porch and at the back of the Church - adults and some children's - all priced 50p. Donations of good quality books welcome but in small quantities please. Many thanks for all donations and purchases.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Churchyard tidy up 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!

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Some dates for your diary. The Great Washbourne Family Quiz will be held on Saturday 27th April at the church and our Summer Supper is to be on Friday 28th June at Great Washbourne House. More details to follow nearer the time.

St Mary's Church AGM will be held at the church on Monday 29th April, anyone is able to attend so please do come. It starts at 7-30pm.

DUMBLETON

THANK YOU to all who supported the lovely candlelight service for **CANDLEMASS** with **CHRISTINGLES** on January the 21st. The amount of the collection was £108.

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY firstly our **Morning Service** will be Refreshments @ 10am followed by an informal service for Lent @ 10.30am.

Secondly, the evening will see the return of our **FUNdraising FILM NIGHT** at the **VILLAGE CLUB**. We will be showing a wonderful film starring Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves titled '**THE LAKEHOUSE**'. 7pm for 7.30pm start, £5 on the door. The Bar will be open for your drinks. Nibbles will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Once again, we are planning to hold **TWO LENT LUNCHESES** in church this year. The first of these is on **TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY at 12 noon**. Please join us for this social **FUNdraising** event when a Hearty Soup will be served followed by Delicious assorted Cakes together with hot drinks. The lunches are open to everyone and it is helpful for catering if you would please book your place with Jenny Maher (01386 881474) jennylynne71@icloud.com. The second lunch will be on Wednesday 6th March.

WORMINGTON

BCP Service on the 2nd Sunday is Book of Common Prayer with traditional language. There are no hymns at this service so it should last about 40 minutes. Do come and join us for this Communion Service.

The 4th Sunday is Evensong at 6pm.

A reminder that we have a **BOOK EXCHANGE** facility in the church. Please do come in and have a look at what is available. If you don't have a book to exchange then a donation to St Katharine's would be most appreciated.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Lectionary Year B

4th Feb 1 st Sunday 2 Lent Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14
11th Feb 2 nd Sunday 1 Lent Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC TRAD	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	2 Kings 2.1-12 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9
18th Feb 3 rd Sunday Lent 1 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Lent HC	DUMBLETON Refreshments @ 10am followed by informal service for Lent @ 10.30am	Genesis 9.8-17 1 Peter 3.18-end Mark 1.9-15
25th Feb 4 th Sunday Lent 2 Purple	6.00pm WORMINGTON Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON Lent HC	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Romans 4.13-end Mar 8. 31-end
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

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.

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Mrs A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington

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