

## OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,  
Dumbleton & Wormington)

Vicar: Revd Julia Hook, The Rectory,  
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**OCTOBER 2023**

### **Ode to Autumn**

Dear Friends

'Season Of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' says John Keats in his 'Ode to Autumn'. Perhaps, like me, you had to study the poem for your English Literature exam, and isn't it strange how those things stick with you?

As I jog in the fields around the village, with the hint of autumn in the atmosphere, apples and leaves falling from the trees, the colours of the trees beginning to turn, those words come to mind.

Mellow fruitfulness, slow ripening. In many ways that phrase could be used to describe a journey of faith. Not everyone has a sudden conversion experience, where they hear a heavenly voice speak to them. For some people faith is something that develops slowly, almost unseen, and unrecognised, until we somehow notice that something has happened, whilst the rhythm of life goes on.

Walking around our four lovely church buildings recently I was very aware of those who had worshipped in those buildings over the centuries. Those who had celebrated their important family occasions in the churches; those who had given so much of their time (and often money) to support the work of the church, the ministry and mission of God's people in these places.

A Bible passage that comes to mind is from the letter to the Hebrews:

'therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God'. (Hebrews 12: 1&2)

I was very aware of that 'great cloud' of all those who had gone before us and silently gave thanks for them and for all that they have given to us; all the ways in which their lives have blessed ours. I was also aware that we are the inheritors; the ones who take up the baton and run 'the race that is set before us.' We should feel encouraged by all those who have gone before, perhaps thinking of them cheering us on and we should look to Jesus, placing our trust in him, as we move forward in faith during these most difficult times. All that is still to come, all that we still have to do, all those who are still to join us; all of this is built on the foundations laid by those who have gone before us.

Mellow fruitfulness, slow ripening, also brings to mind the Harvest Season. October [and September] is the time when we gather together to give thanks to God for all the abundant gifts given to us in creation. We have celebrated three lovely harvest festival Services, including Oak Hill School's harvest Service, and we have another two this month, one in Dumbleton and one in Gr Washbourne. I do hope you will be able to join us for these and all our other seasonal services, if not for our regular Services, it would be lovely to welcome you. Happy harvest season to you all. With my love and prayers Julia x

## **ALDERTON**

**SPONSORED WALK:** A huge thank you to Rev'd Michael Hand for taking part in the annual sponsored walk. Michael walked in the heat to 13 different Churches in the area. The sponsored money that he has raised is shared between each individual Church that he called at and the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. Once again we are so grateful to him for doing this.

**HARVEST:** we had a very enjoyable Harvest Songs of Praise, singing all the lovely harvest hymns and doing so in the Church, beautifully decorated with flowers of all shades of colours and a basket of different types of grain - a reminder of how lucky we are to have such a range of food and nature. Thank you to all who provided and created the arrangements. Oak Hill School came to Church for their harvest service and the children brought a very generous amount of tins and dried food, which together with Sunday's donations, will go to North Gloucestershire's food bank.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** will be on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at the War Memorial.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** will be in the afternoon of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Village Hall.

## **GREAT WASHBOURNE**

Our **HARVEST SERVICE** will take place at the church on Sunday **15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 11.30am. This will be followed at 12.30 by a two-course lunch to which everyone is invited. A donation to the North Cotswolds Foodbank of money or food would be much appreciated. Please let Jane (07711 623 017) know if you would like to join us.

## DUMBLETON

**CHURCH GIFT DAY** and Teas on the Green. We were lucky with the weather and all who came enjoyed the sunshine along with the delicious cakes on 2nd September. A total of £1,562 was raised for church funds. Many thanks to you all.

Also, we are pleased to confirm that Rev'd Michael Hand completed his 23mile walk on what was the Hottest day of the year and raised £290 from sponsorship within our church. This will be split equally between St Peter's and the Gloucs Historic Churches Trust. Well done Michael and many thanks to you, and to everyone who supported you.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER** at 10.30am. Please join us for this happy occasion. There will be a box in church for the collection of non-perishable food items until Monday 2nd October after which time the food will be taken to the North Cotswold Food Bank, Winchcombe.

**HARVEST SUPPER SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER**, 7pm for 7.30pm. All are most welcome to join us for our Annual Harvest FUNdraising event for church funds. This year a traditional "PLOUGHMAN'S and PUDDING SUPPER will be held at The VILLAGE CLUB where the Bar will be open all evening. Tickets priced at £14 are available now from Jenny Maher (01386 881474) or email, [jennylynne71@icloud.com](mailto:jennylynne71@icloud.com). This is always a very happy social event, and we look forward to welcoming you.

**MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE. "ALLELUJAH" 23rd October.** 7pm for 7.30pm start. VILLAGE CLUB. Come along and watch with us this deeply moving, warm, uplifting, funny film. Sounds like a good laugh to me, and what could be better than a good film on a Monday night. The BAR will be open. No need to book £5 on the door with nibbles provided. Great value! See you there.

**FROM THE REGISTERS:** Holy Matrimony. 16th September Christian Ritchie WHEELER, Lucy Ann WATERHOUSE

## **WORMINGTON**

Thank you to all who supported the Race Night, Quiz evening and Cream Tea in "Our tent on the Green!" Fun was had by all and a big THANK YOU to all who organise and help with the events. **WVS AGM** - 30th October in St Katharine's Church at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Many thanks** to all who donated items for the **North Cotswold Food Bank**. We are seeing increasing numbers attending our centres, so all the produce will be put to good use in helping families facing difficult times.

A lovely **Harvest Service** was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to the flower arrangers and a special thank you to Henry for ringing the bell and reading, so eloquently, the Harvest poem.

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2023

### Lectionary Year A

1 <sup>st</sup> October 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun T17 [Prop 21] Green	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE HC CW</b>	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE READINGS &amp; POEMS</b>	<b>Ezek 18.1-4, 25-32 Phil 2.1-13 Matt 21.23-32</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun T18 [Prop 22] Green	9.00am <b>WORMINGTON HC Trad</b>	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b>	<b>Isaiah 5.1-7 Phil. 3.4b-14 Matt 21.33-46</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> October 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun T19 [Prop 23] Green	11.30am <b>GT WASHBOURNE HARVEST SERVICE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH</b>	10.30am <b>DUMBLETON HC CW</b>	<b>Isaiah 25.1-9 Phil. 4.1-9 Matt 22.1-14</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> October 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun T20 [Prop 24] Green	6.00pm <b>WORMINGTON CHORAL EVENSONG</b>	10.30am <b>ALDERTON</b>	<b>Isaiah 45.1-7 1 Thes 1.1-10 Matt 22.15-22</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> October 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun T21 [Prop 25] Green	<b>SAID COMMUNION 10.30AM ALDERTON BIBLE SUNDAY</b>		<b>Neh. 8.1-4a [5-6]8-12 Col. 3.12-17 Matt 24.30-35</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> November 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 4Advent	9.00am <b>GT WASHBOURNE HC CW</b>	4.00PM <b>DUMBLETON CAFÉ CHURCH FOR ALL SAINTS &amp; BONFIRE NIGHT</b>	<b>Rev 7. 9-end 1 John 3. 1-3 Matt 5. 1-12</b>

### 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, Dairy mead, Wormington

01386 584416