

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



Changed by love

Dear Friends

Last Sunday, someone asked me why we had the red altar cloth in November. I was happy to say it's because we're in the 'Kingdom Season'. I remember last year at this time I suggested that we're always in the kingdom season if we claim to be a Christian, but sometimes it doesn't feel as though we're living in the kingdom of love, peace, joy and compassion. Those qualities are always to be found I know but living in the world as we do it is often easy to focus on what is going wrong in so many places and forget to look for the positive.

'It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives...Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.'

Philippians 1:15 and 18

From time to time, we probably all think how nice it would be to live in a perfect world where everyone agreed with everyone else. We could then get on with living our Christian lives with the confidence that what other people said was a mirror image of our own thoughts. But the reality is people disagree on almost every subject and Christian faith attracts the complete spectrum of reactions. There are people who love every word we speak, and others who hate it with a passion. And, as Paul observed, in our reading above, people speak in a whole variety of ways. Some are loving and gracious, others are bitter and divisive. It's all very confusing, but Paul drew a strong and interesting conclusion. Amid all the confusion he recognises that what really matters is that the name of Jesus is being preached. Of course, I am sure he would have preferred everyone to speak of Christ in the same way as he did but recognised that in the real world, we have to get on with the confusions that come with it.

As we journey through Advent taking us to Christmas Day, and I am really grateful that our very secular country still stops for Christmas and pays so much attention to it. My reasons are exactly the same as Paul's. I fully recognise that many people will just see it as a holiday, or a season to make a lot of money, but I love the fact that in our post-Christian and materialistic society we are given the opportunity to promote the fact of Jesus' birth. More people attend church over the Christmas period when compared with the rest of the year, and millions more will sing carols that clearly affirm the good news. I think we ought to stand with the apostle Paul and rejoice.

How do you react when people speak about Jesus in a way that you dislike? Let us pray that our loving Father, will help us to do everything we can to help people hear about the good news of Jesus.

Likewise, let us continue to pray for all areas of conflict in our world today and for those who suffer at the hands of another; defending the rights of vulnerable people is integral to Christian faith – remembering Christianity is about our personal relationship with our loving God, through his Son Jesus, and what we do to others matters to him, as it should do to us.

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

As 2024, draws to a close, an enormous **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped or volunteered and supported St Margaret's during the year.

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTINLGE on **Sunday 8th December** at 4pm. Do come and join us for this informal special service where you can enjoy singing some of our lovely Christmas Carols. The money raised will be for the Children Society which supports vulnerable children in the UK. The Church will be decorated for Christmas and we would be very pleased to see you.

The CHRISTMAS FAIR is in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th December from 2pm to 4pm. Drinks and lovely cakes will be served and there will be Children's Games together with a visit from Father Christmas. There is an excellent raffle, a super large gift stall, tombola, cake, preserves and delicatessen stall, and a variety of craft stalls. We look forward to seeing you!

CHURCHYARD CAROL SINGING will be on Wednesday December 18th starting at 6pm. Another opportunity to sing your favourite Christmas carols! At the end we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies and chocolate and cakes for the children.

THE PRELOVED CLOTHES SALE that was held in November has raised £140 for the Church (and an equivalent amount for Alderton Acorns) so **MANY THANKS** to Victoria Draper and her Team for holding this and for raising money for the two village organisations.

BLESSING OF THE CRIB Sunday December 22nd at 10.30am - do bring your children along to take part in the Christmas story. **Midnight COMMUNION** 11.15pm;
CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION AND COMMUNION 10.30am

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THE VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE will take place at the church on **Friday 20th December at 6pm**. This will be a really informal evening of carol singing and we welcome people of all ages to join in. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have supported the church in any way over the past year, your help is much valued and the **THANK YOU** is sincere, we could not keep the church open without it.

DUMBLETON

We will soon be saying farewell to 2024, where has this year gone? The P.C.C. wish to extend enormous thanks to everyone who has helped or volunteered and supported St Peter's during the year. Thanks to all the church cleaners, flower arrangers, churchyard volunteers, food providers at our social events and to everyone who attended these events. It has all helped to keep our church functioning and we thank you all.

CANDLELIT CHRISTINGLE AND CAROL SERVICE 15th DECEMBER at 4pm. Please join us for this Annual Service which this year will be by CANDLELIGHT AT 4PM. This is a wonderful relaxed Family Service at which we hope to see you all. It is especially magical to see the children collect a Christingle, so do bring them along to participate. Well known Carols will be sung and readings telling the wonderful Christmas story will be read after which MULLED WINE and FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS will be served. See you there.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE this year is at 10.pm Please see reverse of newsletter for further information.

BACON BAPS PLUS OTHER REFRESHMENTS will be served at yet another annual relaxed service on **29th DECEMBER** at 10.30am. This has become a favourite short service at which we say a fond farewell to 2024 and look forward to the coming year. A time to chill out after the bustle of Christmas and celebrate the DAWN OF 2025. Come along for your breakfast at this Cafe style service. A warm welcome awaits you.

From the Registers; Internment of Ashes, **PAULINE ELIZABETH BARRETT**

WORMINGTON

Ukraine Shoebox Appeal

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who donated items for this Appeal. 8 full boxes were provided for 4 boys 5-9 yrs and 4 girls 5-9 yrs.

Next Board Games Afternoon - 2.30pm in the church Sunday 8th December

SERVICE OF 6 LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH BLESSING OF THE CRIB - 6PM SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER. All are welcome to this lovely service. Mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.

Church Flower decoration for Christmas will take place on Saturday 14th December. All welcome to help. If you are unable but willing to provide flowers, please leave in the vestry. Many thanks.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2024

Lectionary Year C

1st Dec Sun Advent 1 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Advent HC	10.30am DUMBLETON Advent HC	Jeremiah 33.14-16 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end Luke 21.25-36
8 Dec 2nd Sun Advent 2 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON Advent HC	4.00pm ALDERTON Lessons & Carols by 'Christingle' candlelight	Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6
15 Dec 3rd Sun Advent 3 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Advent HC Isaiah 12.2-end Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	4.00pm DUMBLETON Candlelit Christingle & Carols	6.00pm WORMINGTON Service of 6 lesson and 6 Carols and Blessing of the Crib
18th Dec Wednesday		6.00pm ALDERTON Carols in the churchyard	
20th Dec Friday		6.00pm GT WASHBOURNE Informal Service of Carols with Blessing of the Crib	
22nd Dec 4th Sun Advent 4 Purple		10.30am ALDERTON Advent HC with Blessing of Crib	Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45 [46.55]
Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th Dec White	10.00 pm start Christmas Eve Communion with Blessing of the Crib DUMBLETON	11.15 pm start Midnight Communion ALDERTON	Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]
Christmas Day Wednesday 25th Dec White	9.00am in GT WASHBOURNE AND WORMINGTON Family Communion and Celebration	10.30am ALDERTON Family Communion and Celebration	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14
Sunday 29th Dec Christmas 1 White	A very relaxed and informal Service [refreshments included] to celebrate the dawn of 2025! – Reading Luke 2.41-end 10.30 am - Dumbleton		
5th January 2025 1st Sun Epiphany White	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Epiphany HC	10.30am DUMBLETON 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 07711 623 017
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