

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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FEBRUARY 2025



Dear Friends

When going to my car early one morning [25/1] I was absolutely amazed at the sight of my car windscreen – I didn't want to scrape the ice of it because it was beautifully stunning, hence I took some great photos one of which is above. Looking at the whole screen more closely I could see doves, angels, leaves, people, trees, a reindeer, and other birds. Likewise, when showing my sisters the photos on my iPhone, which you can enlarge, they were also absolutely amazed at the wonderful detail involved! Perhaps you've had a similar experience. A clergy friend asked the question – 'is there a message for you within it.'

Well, I think not, but who knows! Scripture tells us to 'fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal' (2 Corinthians 4.18). It's a comforting reminder that this is a season for renewal and reflection: we're journeying through winter, yet at the start of something new. So even though the echoes of Christmas and New Year celebrations are fading away, we can still live with a deep sense of hope. As we journey through this time of renewal, amongst other issues, perhaps our focus for prayer should be 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 peace treaty between Israel and Gaza! The Lent Course.

As I return to writing I'm watching horrific pictures from Auschwitz as today it's the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz. There is so much to pray for in our world today!

I've also just noticed the appearance of snowdrops bravely bursting through the sometimes rain-sodden or even frosty ground in my garden as I'm sure you have; our gardens whisper a promise that spring is coming, and new growth is on its way.

As we journey through these days ahead may love, hope and peace 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.

Let us pray that throughout the world we will 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. This comes with love and Blessings, Julia x

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our churches are places of prayer and it with this in mind we are considering offering PRAYER MINISTRY amongst our churches.

The ministry of healing [Prayer Ministry] can be incorporated into the main Eucharistic Sunday service. Prayer ministry is not counselling and is not giving advice, it provides the opportunity for individuals to be listened to and heard, and to be prayed with and to receive healing prayer.

It is envisaged that Prayer Ministry will be offered amongst our churches, at the Eucharistic Service, also if requested, Prayer Ministry can be taken into the homes of individuals.

Prayer ministry is not solely for clergy - if you feel called to be one of the Prayer Ministers in your village, please contact Rev Julia Hook – 01242 620636; or julia.hook@btinternet.com for more information.

OAK HILL SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR – with reference to the notice below please note applications are welcome from residents in Dumbleton, Wormington and Great Washbourne - the person doesn't have to be limited to Alderton.

DATES FOR DIARY

ASH WEDNESDAY – 5th March 2025 – an informal gathering with Ashing, 7.00pm, The Vicarage, Alderton; All are welcome.

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, on the following dates: 12th, 19th, 26th March and will conclude on 2nd April. Our dear friend Revd Michael Hand will be leading each evening. We look forward to seeing you.

ALDERTON

OAK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking for a person to become a **FOUNDATION GOVERNOR** (Governors now named Local Advisors) following the retirement of the person who has held the post for 2 successive terms. You need to have some connection with a Church as the school is a Church of England School. It is a rewarding position to be able to support our Village Primary School and Governors/Local Advisors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the local advisory board is aware of the views of parents and the local community. If you are interested or for more details, please contact Rev'd Julia Hook: julia.hook@btinternet.com or 07715 953076.

IN MEMORY OF - if you would like to donate a hymn book in Church in memory of a loved one at a cost of £10, do please contact Helen West – helenmarywest4@gmail.com or 07941 373030.

PRE-ENJOYED BOOKS - there are a wide selection of genres available in Church to buy at 50p each – paperback or hardback. Many of them are in the Church porch but there are also some at the back of the Church. Money can be placed in the wall safe just inside the Church.

CONCERT DATE FOR THE DIARY - Saturday 8th March in St Margaret's Church. Please add the date to your diary for what promises to be a great evening. More details in the next newsletter.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

THANK YOU to all who helped make the church such a beautiful and welcoming place for our Christmas services, which were so well supported it was lovely to see so many people. Our retiring collection for Sue Ryder totalled an amazing £90+ and our sincere thanks go to Fliss Hall who kindly took the service on Christmas Day.

Alderton and Great Washburne Churches would also like to give you advance notice of a Fundraising concert in aid of both churches to be held in March:

Music to Delight present '**AN EVENING AT THE MUSICALS**' on **Saturday 8th March 2025**. Time still to be finalised, but please add the date to your diary for what promises to be a great evening. More details in the next newsletter.

DUMBLETON

NEW HEATING SYSTEM IN ST PETER'S

We are converting the heating system in the church to one based solely on green electricity as part of the Church of England's project to become carbon neutral by 2030. The urgency to do this has arisen because of the major failure of our oil storage tank and the age of the oil boiler.

We are hoping that work on the replacement system will start in the near future, but we are still short of funds. An appeal letter is being distributed around the village asking if anybody can kindly contribute to this project. Any help is greatly appreciated.

We have almost used up the remaining oil in the tank and so are unable to heat the church as well as we would wish. When you come to church, please be aware that you will have to wrap up warm!

FUNDRAISING EVENTS planned for 2025:

- Lent lunches - 18 March and 10 April **TBC**
- Christian Aid coffee morning - 13 May
- Pig Roast - 5 July
- Gift Day - 6 September
- Harvest Supper - 11 October

INFORMAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY SUNDAY 16TH FEBRAURY at St Peter's Church, 10.30am. Do come and join us for this LOVEly event! This is always an enjoyable gathering, and we love to see families so please come and bring your loved ones.

WORMINGTON

Greetings from Wormington. News and updates to follow in the March Newsletter.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Lectionary Year C

2nd Feb 1 st Sun White Presentation of Christ	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE Candlemass	10.30am DUMBLETON Candlemass	Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40
9th Feb 2 nd Sunday Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC Traditional	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-end] 1 Cor 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11
16th Feb 3 rd Sunday Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON Family Service celebrating Valentine's day	Jeremiah 17.5-10 1 Cor 15.12-20 Luke 6.17-26
23rd Feb 4 th Sunday 2 Lent Green	6.00PM WORMINGTON Choral Evensong	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Gen 2.4b-9,15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8.22-25
2nd Mar 1 st Sun 1 Lent Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Exodus 34.29-end 2 Cor 3.12-4.2 Luke 9.28-36 [37-43b]

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

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, Dairymead, Wormington

01386 584416