

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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SEPTEMBER 2025



Late summer's evening stroll

Dear Friends

I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful August and that you feel refreshed and energised. As our summer holidays come to an end, we remember the children moving up to the next class, and those year 6 children at Oak Hill School who will be heading to Secondary School this month. We pray the changes they will go through will be exciting, challenging and full of opportunity. We pray for all young people who have received their exam results and for all who will be returning to school/University and further education; we pray they may all face their challenges and joys with equal courage and enthusiasm and help them to follow the way of truth and compassion. Likewise, we pray for all our younger children attending school for the first time and for the Acorn Playgroup. Amen.

And here we are, journeying into the final quarter of 2025! Our villages are looking at their best in the blazing heat, despite the lack of rain to keep our gardens lush. The ancient stone of our churches simply glow in the clear light and radiates heat into the evening long after the sun has set. We mustn't forget how this warmth feels for it will be gone when the seasons change. This reminds me that a kindness, a word or gesture, has the same effect of warming the heart long after it is delivered, for Jesus calls us to love one another, and that it's this shared love that will sustain us and bring us peace in bleaker times.

Our villages have seemed a bit quieter when it's hot; we may be finding shade in our gardens or perhaps taking a trip further afield, but we still look out for each other; dropping in for a chat or watering plants and feeding pets when the neighbours are away, and the reunions and retelling of travel tales are joyous!

At present I continue to see walkers in the villages. It's always fun to engage with them, finding out a little about what has brought them here. Sometimes a tradition of meeting and walking around these parts, sometimes looking for a new experience but always pleased to feel the history and peace of our communities and tradition of continuous worship over many generations.

As ever, it's been joyful to attend many of the summer events in all four villages with all the familiar favourites; raffle, tombola, village teas, Pimm's, plants and the white elephant etc., in fact I will shortly be off to the Dumbleton Cricket Club for the Summer Fair, after attending great events in Alderton and Wormington, yesterday.

A stronger benefice-wide collaboration has grown over time. We are 4 parishes working together more closely, exploring how we can share gifts, opportunities and resources and we enjoy benefice-wide worship in the form of Holy Communion, Café Church and informal Family Services. It's great that when someone can't come along to the 10.30am Service in their own village, they will come along to the 9am Service in another village – thank you.

Of course, we're all welcome to worship wherever we'd like at any time, but it's special to get together! Please note – **children and pet dogs are very welcome**, in fact if any parents would like to set up a Sunday Club of worship, fun and games, please do contact me, **or join us in our morning worship, it would be great to have children involved in our services – e.g. welcomers, reading, saying their own prayers etc., or feel free to make yourself at home in our children's areas, move around as you need to and don't worry about the noise, we all worship in our own way!**

After months of dry weather, the fields around us are parched, let us be mindful that it's been a difficult year for farmers who are facing reduced crop yields due to the prolonged lack of rain – much to pray for, alongside the continuing conflicts in the middle east.

I noticed the first blackberries the other day, quietly ripening in the hedgerows, a small, familiar sign that the seasons are already turning. As we commence our journey through the Autumn months may the gift of God's Holy Spirit fill your hearts, homes and your families with love and peace; please continue to pray for each other, for the Church, our communities and all nations, and that Christ's love, peace and unity might prevail throughout our beautiful God given world. Love and Blessings. Julia x

DATE FOR THE DIARY – MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLE CLUB will be leading our Service on Sunday **12th October at 10.30am in Alderton.**

ALDERTON

St Margaret's proposed new electrical heating system: THANK YOU to everyone who has made a donation towards this for which we are really grateful - this has got off to a good start. We have also had some success with two small grants and are in the process of applying for others. We still however have some way to go so any other donations would be appreciated. As a reminder, cheques should be made payable to Alderton St Margaret's PCC or if you would prefer, cash. This can be dropped at Helen West or Joy Edwards's house or there is a box in the shop or in the wall safe as you go into Church on the LHS. There are gift declaration envelopes in the Church porch.

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE: this is on SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER in St Margaret's Church. If you would like to choose a favourite Harvest hymn, please contact Gill Cogzell on gillian.klapper@gmail.com or Helen West on helenmarywest4@gmail.com. The Church will once again be decorated with some lovely Harvest arrangements so do come to look and enjoy them.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

HARVEST will be celebrated on **SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER**. The service at **12 noon** will be followed by a bring and share lunch in church (or outside if the weather is kind) at 1 pm. All are welcome.

An **AFTERNOON TEA** will be held in church on **SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER** in aid of MacMillan Cancer support (60%) and St Mary's church (40%). Tickets will be sold in October. £10 for afternoon tea, £12.50 for afternoon tea including a glass of Prosecco. Please contact Karen (07887 597792) or Ann (07964 409771) to pre-book your tickets.

The annual **FAMILY QUIZ** will be held on **SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER at 6pm** with a hot two course meal. More details to follow in October newsletter.

DUMBLETON

THE WORK on the new heating system in St Peter's continues and whilst we have been unable to hold our services there, we have been using the lovely St Katherine's church in Wormington for which we sincerely give **OUR THANKS**. We hope it will not be too much longer before things get back to normal.

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER will see us holding the '**CHURCH GIFT DAY with PIMMS, PROSECCO and CAKE on THE GREEN**' from **3pm-5pm**. Please come and join us for this lovely social event which you can see has a slight twist this year from the normal Teas on The Green. The Gift Day envelopes will arrive in your letterbox soon.

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER is the **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**, and this will be the focus of our relaxed service this month. Please come and help us hope and pray for a much longed for peace in our troubled world. As always, a warm welcome awaits you and hopefully, we may be back in our own church so refreshments will be served.

Events for October:

HARVEST SERVICE SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER at 10.30am. The church always looks beautiful for this service, **THANKS** to the flower arrangers, so join us to give thanks for the bountiful harvest we in this country always enjoy. Familiar and favourite harvest hymns add to this joyful occasion. We will be supporting the North Cotswold Foodbank, and a box will be placed in church during the week before the service for any donations you wish to make. A list of useful items will be there too.

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER is the date for the annual **HARVEST SUPPER** which once again will be held at the **VILLAGE CLUB at 7pm**. There will be a **HOT** Supper for you to enjoy along with delicious desserts to follow. A 50/50 Raffle will be held, and the bar will be open for the purchase of drinks. Tickets will be on sale soon from Jenny Maher 01386 881474, jennylynne71@icloud.com. Gail Braham 07521 750087.

WORMINGTON

Auction of Promises/Pimm's/wine and Canapes - A big **THANK YOU** to Mathew Rose for holding this most enjoyable event. Also **THANK YOU** to our lovely bar couple and all who helped with the canapes. A fantastic sum of £3000 has been raised to help restore the funds in the Friends' and PCC accounts following the £50k repair and restoration of the church turret. Many thanks also to all who contributed to the Promises.

HARVEST SERVICE - 28TH SEPTEMBER 6pm - Refreshments will be served after the service.

WVS events - Wine and Cheese Tasting - FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER in the marquee from 6pm. 5 Wines and Cheeses (and non-cheese option) Tickets £25 a head (£15 for cheeses only). Limited numbers so please **book early by 5th September** via email: wormingtonvillagesociety@gmail.com

It has been a pleasure hosting the Dumbleton Congregation whilst their heating system is being installed. Please feel free to join us again at any of our services.

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Lectionary Year C

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

7th September 1st Sunday T12 [Proper 18] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Deut. 30.15-end Philomon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33
Wednesday 10th September		10.00am ALDERTON 'Said' HC	
14th September Holy Cross Day 2nd Sunday T13 [Proper 19] Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Numbers 21:4-9 Phil. 2:6-11 John 3:13-17
21st September Matthew, Apostle 3rd Sunday T14 [Proper 20] Green	12NOON GT WASHBOURNE HARVEST SERVICE followed by a bring and share lunch	10.30am DUMBLETON FAMILY SERVICE celebrating the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE	Proverbs 3:13-18 2 Cor. 4:1-6 Matthew 9:9-13
28th September 4th Sunday T15 [Proper 21] Green	6.00pm WORMINGTON HARVEST RESTIVAL	10.30am ALDERTON HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-end
5th October 1st Sunday T16 [Proper 22] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HARVEST FESTIVAL	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

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

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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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