

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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AUGUST 2025



God's Beautiful Creation!

Dear Friends

I was scrolling through the channels, as you do and wondering what to watch when I came across a program titled 'Human.' It's a 5-part programme following early Homosapien's as they step out of Africa and venture into the wider world. It's amazing that they can date a scull going back some three hundred and fifty thousand years ago.

Interestingly, studies show that a substantial percentage of scientists believe in some form of deity or hight power – a research poll found that 33% of scientists believe in God whilst 18% believe in a universal spirit or hight power. Many scientists who believe in God, either as a prime mover or as an active force in the universe, have written eloquently about their beliefs.

Well, whatever they believe, I have to say that seeing the beautiful, glorious African mountain scenery I was reminded of Moses' request to see God's glory when he met with God on Mount Sinai. I quote Exodus 33:18-23, 29-30:

Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory.' And the Lord said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion, but, he said, you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.' Then the Lord said, 'There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.'

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

Reflecting on this reading I notice that all God reveals is his back – better translated as 'where I have just been,' or even 'my footprint.'

When I notice a footprint, I'm noticing where someone has left their mark, their imprint. I would love to see where God has left his mark, his footprint although I won't truly see God's full glory this side of eternity. However, when I look around our world, I see the afterglow of his presence, I get a glimpse of glory.

I see him when I look at creation in all its vastness and smallness, and that is what I saw during those times the presenter stood on the mountain top and the camera spanned over the vastness and awesome beauty of the mountains.

Think of one of the most beautiful places you can imagine. Maybe it's a snow-covered forest, maybe it's the beach or a bustling city with a magnificent skyline. Now, imagine you're inside, looking out of a window at that beautiful place. If you're in the forest, maybe you're in a cabin, peering out at the beautiful pine trees, the window is ornate with clear glass that lets you look at every angle of that view. When you lean up against the window, you can see your soft breath on it, but the view is the breathtaking, captivating part of this experience - the view is what you're there for.

This reminds me of the Bible - the Scriptures are like that window; they allow us to see the character, magnificence and the glory of God; they reveal to us the image of Christ. We glimpse the beauty and majesty of God, his whole heart for us, and we're compelled to seek his face; notice, however, that the Scriptures are not in themselves God - the Scriptures illuminate Jesus for us, but they are not Jesus - they are the miraculous window through which we come to know him more truly.

Whatever beautiful views you may see during the holidays, I hope you get some quality rest and refreshment. Go well, and please do pray for each other, for the Church and the wider world, especially pray for the conflict in the middle east and that Christ's peace and unity might prevail and his love for one another might be the mark of us, his people. Happy Holidays - Love Julia x

NEW HEATING at St Peter's Church, Dumbleton: Please note that work starts on Monday 21 July on the new heating system and will last for about eleven weeks. During most of this time the building will have to be closed to the public for safety and security reasons. It is hoped that church services will be possible depending on the state of the building at those times. However, if the weather is good Services can be held in the churchyard, or we are able to hold Services in Wormington. We'll keep you updated.

ALDERTON

Summer Fair: many thanks to everyone who braved the heat to come to this on the hottest day of the year. At least we didn't have to worry about the rain! There was a lovely atmosphere in the Churchyard around all the stalls and up in the Village Hall where cakes and tea were enjoyed. We're very grateful to everyone who ran a stall and the work that they put into them. The stalls and teas made a brilliant total of £1,451.00 so **thank you**. And another big **thank you** to people who have given money in gift envelopes. Both these monies will be put towards the new church heating system which will be carbon free. If people would still like to donate money to this there are envelopes inside the Church in the wire basket where the newsletters are placed and also in a box in the village shop.

Pet Service; we had a great attendance at this relaxed family service. Dogs, a rabbit, 2 guinea pigs, a chicken and a tortoise. (At the wedding we just had in Alderton, we even had a Shetland pony carrying the paper confetti!)

Harvest Service: will be on Sunday 28th September where you can come and enjoy singing your favourite Harvest songs.

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Many thanks to all who open and close the church, and those on the grass cutting rota or who help with any other jobs.

We are pleased to report that the Great Washbourne SUMMER EVENT was held on a lovely evening at the end of June. Many thanks to all who supported us in any way, either before, during or after the event. We raised just under £1200 which will help greatly with the running/maintenance of our beautiful village church. Special thanks also go to Jane and Neville Kent who let us invade their beautiful garden yet again to enjoy good wine, good food, good music and great company.

Some dates for your diaries - **HARVEST** will be celebrated on **Sunday 21st September**. The service at **12 noon will be followed by lunch at 1 pm**.

The annual **FAMILY QUIZ** will be held on **Saturday 1st November at 6pm** with a hot two course meal. More details to follow.

An **AFTERNOON TEA** will be held in church on **Saturday 25th October** in aid of MacMillan Cancer support. Tickets will be sold nearer the time.

DUMBLETON

HURRAH! work on the new heating system in the church has now started. It is estimated the work will take about 11 weeks. Please see elsewhere in the newsletter regarding services during this period.

ENORMOUS THANKS to everyone who supported the Pig Roast event on the 5th July. Everyone got to sit in the lovely garden this year and enjoy the delicious food. Thanks to all who provided food, raffle prizes and help on the day. Special thanks to Sue and Fred Invine for the use of their garden yet again this year. The evening was a great financial success and raised an amazing £1,924.80 for church funds.

The service on **17th AUGUST at 10.30am** will be a **SUMMER CELEBRATION** which hopefully will be held outside in the churchyard if the weather permits. This is our relaxed service which we hope you will come along to enjoy. Refreshments for you, always follow our services so it would be great to welcome you.

We also hope to see you at the **Cricket Club Fete** where we have a stall ready and set to go again this year in aid of St Peter's church funds.

And finally, don't forget **6th SEPTEMBER** which is the annual church **GIFT DAY**. Join us from 3-5pm to enjoy **"PIMMS, PROSECCO and CAKES on THE GREEN"** More details next month.

WORMINGTON

Auction of Promises with "Pimm's, Wine & Canapes" – **Sunday 24th August 6pm** at Mathew Rose's, 1 Wormington Farm Cottage (in marquee if wet) £10 a head to include a drink and canapes. Organised by the Friends of St Katharine's & Wormington PCC Please contact Angela Piercy for more details: angela.piercy@hotmail.co.uk

Café Church Sunday 31st August – an informal **"Afternoon Tea Service"**
4.30pm – cake and sandwiches – all welcome

WVS events - Silent Disco 2nd August 7pm £10 a ticket, to include headset and a complimentary cocktail – to book contact: wormingtonvillagesociety@gmail.com
Bar Night from 6.30pm 15th August

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2025

Lectionary Year C

3rd August 1st Sunday T7 [Proper 13] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Eccl 1. 2, 12-14; 2.18-23 Col 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21
10th August 2nd Sunday T8 [Proper 14] Green	9.00am WORMINGTON HC CW	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Gen 15.1-6 Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16 Luke 12.32.40
Wednesday 13th August		10.00am ALDERTON 'Said' HC	
17th August 3rd Sunday T9 [Proper 15] Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON SUMMER CELEBRATION hopefully held outside in the churchyard if the weather permits.	Jer 22.23-29 Hebrews 11.29-12.2 Luke 12.49-56
24th August 4th Sunday St Bartholomew T10 [Proper 16] Green	Please see Notice under Wormington News Items	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Isaiah 33.8-13 1 Cor 4.9-15 Luke 22.24-30
31st August 5th Sunday T11 [Proper 17] Green	4.30pm WORMINGTON CAFÉ CHURCH - an informal "AFTERNOON TEA SERVICE" with cake and sandwiches - all welcome		
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

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

Mrs S Reid, 4 Culls Meadow, Toddington

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GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne

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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, Dairyhead, Wormington

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