

OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne,
Dumbleton & Wormington)

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FEBRUARY 2026



Hopes and Dreams - prayers
from the pupils of Oak Hill School

Dear Friends

As I write I am reminded of our reading from The Acts of the Apostles where we read about the conversion of St Paul. St Paul had one goal in mind – he was straining with all his might to obtain that goal - and that was to know Jesus Christ; no wonder he had such a lasting impact on the world because it makes a real difference when you know what your goal in life is and then give yourself unreservedly to that goal. We don't always fulfil our dreams, but having a compelling goal is surely a vital ingredient in an effective and successful life. I pray that the pupils from Oak Hill school will fulfil their 'Godly' hopes and dreams.

In my experience, some Christians don't have a clear understanding what God expects from them, some seem to be going through the same monotonous routine every day, but without a purpose and no real goal. I read that Swiss psychologist Carl Jung wrote: 'most of the people I see, suffer not from physical illness but from spiritual aimlessness, they have lost their aim and sight of who they really are and what is really valuable.'

Not so St Paul, who says 'I want to know Christ, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

This leads me nicely into the season of Lent!

It can be helpful to think of Lent, as a sort of medicine, especially if you feel you're suffering from spiritual aimlessness; it's an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, reign in other facets of our personality and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus – Spring clean of the soul if you like.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on the 18th of February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' – the sign of the Cross made on the forehead which is a mixture of Ash and Holy Oil blessed at a special service by the Bishop. We are holding an Ashing Service **in Alderton at 7.00pm, on the 18th February** where we shall be using the 'Blessed Ash.' All are welcome.

Having been 'ashed' the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God – perhaps making a vow to do something 'spiritually extra' every day such as spending more time in prayer or reading your bible more regularly.

Lent reminds us that we walk with Jesus on the way to the cross, and, as St Paul has it, being mindful too of Jesus's choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully, leading to eternal life; and it helps us to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus. We need all the 'Strengthening medicine' we can get especially, at present, living in such a troubled world.

You're invited to a 4-week Lent course commencing on Wednesday **25th February, at 7.30pm**, meeting at **The Vicarage, Alderton**, and thereafter on the 4th, 11th and 18th of March.

During this coming Lenten season, let us give the primacy to Jesus Christ; may Jesus be the centre of our life, at all times, in every relationship, every decision, every action, every word and each longing of the heart; may Jesus lead us to live a life of spiritual richness rather than gaining what this world can offer.

As we prayerfully develop our Lenten practices, ready for action, may our 'fasts and resolutions' lead us closer to Christ, closer to one another, and please God, closer to the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

ALDERTON

CHURCH ELECTRIC HEATING PROJECT: the initial stage of this has been completed - National Grid have put in a phase 3 cable which provides a bigger electric current for the electric pew and wall panel heaters. The next part of the work will start in April after Easter to allow the bats to roost - we have to wait until then because of advice from the Bat Conservation Society having spotted several bats in Church and other evidence of them. However, this ties in well with the start of spring as then we first of all have to have the gas heating system taken out - not something to be done in winter. After this all the new heaters will be put in.

The PCC would like to **THANK EVERYONE** in the community who has kindly donated money to this project and for supporting our fundraising events this past year from which the money has been put towards. It is certainly very much appreciated.

CHURCH CLEANING [good exercise!]: it would be great if we could have a couple more people on the cleaning rota as we have a few less people on it now. Each turn only comes round 3 or 4 times a year and it doesn't take long, so it isn't onerous. If you are able to help please email Helen on helenmarywest4@gmail.com or ring her on 07941 373030.

BOOKS: just a reminder that we have an excellent selection of books in the Church porch - hardback and soft back at the brilliant value of 50p each!

GREAT WASHBOURNE

The new year is upon us, and the PCC's thoughts have turned to organising our community events for this year, including the **VILLAGE QUIZ Quiz** and the **SUMMER SUPPER**. If anyone has any new ideas, or can offer to help in planning, organising or implementing please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you as we meet to make plans. Jane 01177 623 017. We look forward to seeing you at one of them later in the year!

DUMBLETON

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1st 'CANDLEMAS and CHRISTINGLE' SERVICE at 4pm. (Please note NO 10.30am Service today). Please do join us for this lovely service of Candlemas to celebrate when Jesus was presented at the Temple. We will also include the handing out of the Christingles for the children and the collection will be sent to The Children's Society who aid and help vulnerable children and young people. Everyone is very welcome especially families, please come and support this worthwhile charity. Refreshments included after the service.

ADVANCE NOTICE. TUESDAY 24th MARCH. LENT LUNCH, "SOUP, SARNIE and SWEET". We are doing only one lunch this year but planning to make it more substantial so make a note of the date and be ready to book your place soon.

ADVANCE NOTICE AGAIN! PALM SUNDAY EVENING 29th MARCH. After last year's brilliant concert, **THE KENELM SINGERS** will be entertaining us again this year. More details next month.

From the Registers: 18th January, Holy Baptism. **Arthur HERBERT**

WORMINGTON

A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated items for the Ukraine Appeal. You can still make donations direct to St Peter's Winchcombe until the 7th February.

The PCC's thoughts have now turned to organising our community events etc; our first PCC meeting of the year is on Monday 16th February 6pm at Dairyhead.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Lectionary Year A

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

1st Feb 1st Sun White Presentation of Christ	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE CANDLEMAS	4.00pm DUMBLETON CANDLEMAS WITH CHRISTINGLES	Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40
8th Feb 2nd Sunday 2 Lent Green	9.00am WORMINGTON BCP HC	10.30am ALDERTON HC CW	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-end
15th Feb 3rd Sunday 1 Lent Green	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE HC CW	10.30am DUMBLETON HC CW	Exodus 24.12-end 2 Peter 1.16-end Matthew 17.1-9
18th Feb Ash Wednesday Purple	7.00pm ALDERTON SERVICE OF ASHING		
22nd Feb 4th Sunday Lent 1 Purple	9.00am WORMINGTON LENT HC	10.30am ALDERTON LENT HC	Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11
25th Feb Wednesday	7.30pm THE VICARAGE, ALDERTON LENT COURSE		4 th , 11 th and 18 th March
1st Mar 1st Sun Lent 2 Purple	9.00am GT WASHBOURNE LENT HC	10.30am DUMBLETON LENT HC	Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17

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

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WORMINGTON

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