

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2016

THE OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne, Dumbleton & Wormington)

ALDERTON

WASHBOURNE

DUMBLETON

WORMINGTON

Vicar: Rev'd N Carter, The Vicarage, Alderton, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 8NR
Tel: 01242 620238 email: cdevildodger@aol.com

1st Sun 9.00 am 10.30 am
Jan. 3rd P.C.C.W Mattins
Christmas 2

White Readings: Jer. 31 7-14; Eph.1 3-14; John 1 10-18

2nd Sun 10.30 am 9.00 am
Jan. 10th P.C.C.W P.C.C.W
Baptism of Mrs.R.Smith
Christ

White Readings: Isa. 43 1-7; Acts 8 14-17; Luke 3 15-17, 21-22

3rd Sun 9.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm
Jan 17th P.C.C.W P.C. C.W Evensong
Epiphany 2

White Readings; Isa. 62 1-5; 1 Cor.12 1-11; John 2 1-11

4th Sun 10.30 am 9.00 am
Jan. 24th P.C. C.W. H.C. B.C.P.
Epiphany 3 M. Newman

White Readings: Neh. 8 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12 12-31a; Luke 4 14-21

5th Sun 10.30 am
Jan. 31st P.C. C.W for
Candlemas the 4 Churches

White Readings: Mal. 3 1-5, Heb. 2 14-18; Luke 2 22-40

Wednesdays Evening Prayer 4.30 pm, **Wormington 6th**; Buckland 13th; Gretton 20th
Alderton 27th

CHURCHWARDENS

ALDERTON

Mr. M. Newman,, 18 Courtiers Dve, Bishops Cleeve 01242 675028
Mrs. S. Reid, 4 Culls Meadows, Toddington 01242 621265

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Mrs. C. Edelston, 18 Dibden Lane, Alderton 01242 620600
Mrs. J. Kent, Washbourne House, Gt. Washbourne 01242 620291

JANUARY 2016

Dear Friends,

Well. That's it! All over for another year! We have, no doubt, gone through the normal Christmas family rituals. The family meal, the family presents, the family arguments, the family guilt trips have left us tired, overweight, and for many, short of money. Dad has his new socks for the year, Mum has her perfume and a new vacuum cleaner. The children love and cherish the cardboard box in which an expensive present arrived! All is right with the world, and we can breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over until next August.

But of course it isn't right with the world. I could write a light and breezy New Year Letter, in which I gloss over everything that is sad and horrible and destructive, but I'm not a fool and I know you are not fools, and we know deep down that the world is hurtling out of control in so many ways. The question is 'Do we have the power and the zeal to turn things around or begin to turn things round in 2016? Perhaps it's easier to stick our heads in the sand and try to pretend it just isn't happening. Or perhaps, as many people are doing, grit their teeth, look after their own loved ones, and let the rest of the world go hang!

In conversation, both serious and light hearted, I know many people of my age and over, who have expressed the thought that they are glad they lived when they did. Is this a case of wallowing in nostalgia? Is this a case of remembering times that never existed? Or do they have that deep down collective memory of times that were better in so many ways? If one talked with each generation, each generation would tell a different story. Apart from the very young, surely, we all agree we just can't go on as we are doing? My New Year Wish is that 2016 will see changes which secure the world's future. Hasn't the world seen enough wars, enough violence, enough cruelty? Or is it the curse of mankind that he is for ever to destroy all that is good and noble and beautiful.

We have worshipped the Babe in the Manger. Something that is pure and beautiful; something at which to wonder and gaze upon, but man turns its back on the lovely and in the next few months nails it to a cross. Even if you are not 'religious' you can surely grasp the symbolism?

I wish you all well for the New Year.. I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, and Healthy New Year. I wish one extra thing for us all...HOPE. May it be a year full of new possibilities, new growth, and peace. If we can't wish all those things for each other...what is the alternative?

Best wishes to One and All,
Rev'd Nick

TEWKESBURY AND WINCHCOMBE DEANERY - Epiphany Carol Service on

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

THANK YOU

There are many thanks to be given out at this time. Thank you to all who decorated our churches for the Christmas Season...each in their own way looked lovely. Thank you to all who organised the Church Services, and to those who conducted them...I especially love the participation of the children ...parents you must be very proud of your little ones. My favourite memory? The Blessed Virgin Mary, dropping the Baby Jesus in the crib and hurtling out of church for a call of nature!!!! Thank you for mulled wine and mince pies, thank you for remembering my Birthday and putting brandy in my church coffee! Thank you for the Carols and Christmas songs. Thank you for the increased numbers who attended our Services. In short...thank you for making Christmas for me and many others. If I have not thanked anybody who contributed...it's not bad manners ..its bad memory.

A REMINDER..... I am now going to burst into song 'It's beginning to look a lot like Easter'. Early this year...Easter Day is on Sunday March 27th! Oh Lord that means our greedy supermarkets will already have stocked up with Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs.

I remember the time we had different and separate seasons!

Rev'd Nick

North Cotswold Food Bank Many thanks to all who have donated food items and/or donations to the Food Bank for Christmas—it has been greatly appreciated. Your generosity has given those in need a happier Christmas. Thank you very much.

Church Leaflet Distribution. Many thanks to all the volunteers in the four villages who deliver a church leaflet to every house each month, in all seasons and in all weathers. Your help continues to be greatly appreciated.

ALDERTON

The Christmas Special held on Dec. 5th made an incredible £1413.00. Many thanks to all stallholders who worked so hard, and to all those who provided fabulous raffle prizes, gifts and cakes for the stalls and tombola. Father Christmas in his grotto was a huge success with the children, and as always, the carol singing proved popular and kept the link with the church.

The Christingle Service. As a result of the Candlelit Christingle Service, £126.55 was sent to the Children's Society. Many thanks for the support this Service received

Christmas Card Distribution Thank you to both the young and elderly who delivered the cards round the village. A total of £28.50 was made for church funds.

Church Flowers. Many thanks to all who helped to decorate the church for the Festival and to all who help with the flower arrangements throughout the year. Your efforts are always applauded!

The Crib with Children & Carols Service. This was very well attended and we do thank all the children who took part and for the generous collection of £125. This has been divided between Megan Webb's volunteering trip to Ecuador, in aid of giving street children an education and Ollie Wakeman's trip to Malawi to spend time in a Community Project. We wish them well and look forward to hearing of their experiences when they return.

Evening Prayer will be said in St. Margaret's at 4.30 pm on Wed. 27th January.

R.I.P.

December 17th - Philip Henry Witheridge

GREAT WASHBOURNE

Informal Carol Service. How lovely it was to have so many families and friends at this Service. Many thanks to the children who took part - such a lovely way to begin the Christmas festivities.. After the Blessing of the Crib all enjoyed meeting socially over a Glass of mulled wine and refreshments.

Christmas Day Service. It was lovely to have Canon Stanley Finch to preside at this Service and to have a good congregation.

The PCC meets on Wednesday 27th January 7.45 pm in Great Washbourne House.

DUMBLETON

Lynda and Charles Matthews Coffee Morning on 2nd December at Yew Tree Cottage raised sufficient to cover the purchase of Christingles and refreshments for the Christmas services, with £100 remaining which they propose to donate to the charity 'Help the Heroes'.

Carols and Christingles by Candlelight collection on 16th December, raised £239.19 for the Children's Society. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way, especially to the families and children and the Decibelles for their enjoyable performances and readings.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: Sunday December 20th raised £239.93: £143.96 has been sent to The Acorns Children's Hospice and £143.97 to Save the Children for their Child Refugee Crisis Appeal.

The Christmas Services have in total raised £527.12 for charity. Many thanks to all for this generous giving.

The Dumbleton Tuesday Coffee Club donated a magnificent £300 to St. Peter's in 2015.

The Friendly Coffee Mornings which are held fortnightly at the Cricket pavilion, in aid of the church refurbishment will resume on Tuesdays 12th & 26th January 10.30 am—12 noon.

The PCC meets on Tuesday 12th January 7.30 pm Yew Tree Cottage

Holy Matrimony

December 20th—Martin Anthony Stevenage and Lucy Ann Taylor

R.I.P

December 22nd - David Vaughan

WORMINGTON

Thank You. A big 'Thank You' goes to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to arrange the flowers and clean the church during 2015. The church looked lovely for our well supported Carol Service on the 20th December.

A Very Happy New Year to all from Wormington PCC.

'Albert's Cheese and Wine' evening Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful evening held at Wormington Grange on 27th November. £1924.91 was raised for the upkeep of St. Katharine's Church. We thank John Evetts and Annie for allowing us to hold this event at their lovely home.

The PCC meets on Monday 25th January 7.30 pm Fairways.

Holy Baptism

December 13th - Isla Wakley

WVS Lunch - Monday 18th January. Come and enjoy a sociable two course meal followed by tea/coffee at £5. Open to all and to be held in St. Katharine's Church. Please