

SERVICES FOR MAY 2017

ALDERTON WASHBOURNE DUMBLETON WORMINGTON

1st Sun 9.00 am 10.30 am
 May 7th P.C. C.W. Mattins
 Easter 4

White Readings: Acts 2 42-47; 1 Peter 2 19-25; John 10 1-10

2nd Sun 10.30 am 9.00 am
 May 14th P.C. C.W. P.C. C.W.
 Easter 5. M. Newman

White Readings: Acts 7 55-60; 1 Peter 2 2-10; John 14 1-14

3rd Sun 8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm
 May 21st HC B.C.P. P.C. C.W Evensong.
 Easter 6 Mrs.McIlwraith

White Readings: Acts 17 22-31; 1 Peter 3 13-22; John 14 15-21

4th Sun 10.30 am 9.00 am
 May 28th P.C. C.W. H.C. B.C.P.
 Easter 7 Mrs. C.Edelston

White Readings; Acts 1 6-14; 1 Peter 4 12-14, 5. 6-11; John 17 1-11.

1st Sun. .9.00 am 10.30 am
 June 4th P.C. C.W. Mattins
 Whit Sunday

Red Readings: Acts 2 1-21; 1 Cor. 12 3b-13 John 20 19-23

Wednesdays. Evening Prayer 4.30 pm May 3rd Toddington; 10th Hailes; 17th Snowhill;
 24th Stanway; **31st Gt. Washbourne**

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

DUMBLETON

Mr C. Matthews, Yew Tree Cottage, Dumbleton 01386 881383

WORMINGTON

Mr. J.Evetts, Wormington Grange, Wormington 01386 584353
 Mrs. A. Piercy, Dairymead, Wormington 01386 584416

THE OAK HILL GROUP OF PARISHES

(Alderton, Gt. Washbourne, Dumbleton & Wormington)

During the Vacancy would Parishioners please contact one of your Churchwardens (see back page) for Baptisms, Banns, Marriages or Funerals

MAY 2017

During the Vacancy the foreword will still be provided by Guest Writers

An exciting arrival is due in Winchcombe this month. Their first blue plaque will be installed on Gloucester Street to commemorate the life and work of Christopher Merret.,

Christopher was born in Winchcombe and was interested in a huge array of different subjects. He compiled one of the first ever lists of the plants, animals and minerals of the UK in his book "Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicarum" published in 1666. He was one of the first British scientists to suggest that fossils were the preserved remains of living plants and animals through the action of an "earthen fluid". His most notorious achievement (for which he is being honoured with a blue plaque) is that he wrote the first ever description of how to add sugar to wine or cider to induce a secondary fermentation so that becomes fizzy. I doubt that Christopher Merret ever had the thought that 350 years later his work would be so important that it would be commemorated—he just worked hard at what interested him, getting on with the job.

Over the coming weeks you may notice more young people about during the daytime than usual. Please spare a thought for them. They are most certainly teenagers on study-leave preparing for important exams. They probably do not think that their work will ever be commemorated but, hopefully, they are getting on with the job and working hard, even if the subjects don't really interest them that much. Who knows, maybe some of them will go on to university to discover or document something that's really world-changing and important?

May also brings the Christian celebration of Christ's ascension. Jesus worked hard and diligently through life. Yes, he was a gifted teacher. Yes, he lived an exemplary life. Yes, he healed many people. But none of this was enough to make him particularly memorable two thousand years later. It did make a hate figure for religious and political authorities in first century Palestine. It is unlikely that he would have been remembered had it not been for his first arrest, death and resurrection.

On Ascension Day the same Jesus, who had endured torture and agony resulting in his death on Good Friday, who rose to life again on Easter Day, met Mary at the tomb, walked the road to Emmaus, let Thomas touch his hands and side and cooked breakfast for his friends on the beach, became the ascended Jesus at home with God the Father.

When we celebrate Easter and Ascension, we are remembering humanity's redemption through that one, extraordinary, life of self-giving love. We commemorate it not with a blue plaque but by opening ourselves to Jesus so that his work in the world may continue through us

St. Teresa of Avila memorably said:

*Christ has no body now but yours,
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
 Yours are the eyes through which he looks
 compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses the world.*

*Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body
Christ has no body now on earth but yours*

Fliss Hall (reader in training).

BISHOP MICHAEL - a message from Bishop Rachel

“It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that Bishop Michael died peacefully at home on Monday evening, April 17th, following a special Easter weekend with all the family”.

We thank God for Bishop Michael’s ministry in this Diocese. May he rest in peace

THE REV'D JULIA HOOK An announcement from The Ven. Phil Andrews, Archdeacon of Cheltenham

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Revd Julia Hook (currently House for Duty Team Vicar in the Winchcombe Team, with particular responsibility for Gretton) has agreed to take on the role of House for Duty Team Vicar in your four parishes.. This will be in place of, not additional to her current role.

Please do keep Julia in your prayers as she prepares for this new chapter, as well as Nick and Angela as they prepare to move on.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 14th –20th. There will be a House to House collection in the villages during the week. Please give as generously as you can to this very worthwhile charity which helps the poor and poverty stricken worldwide.

ALDERTON

Easter Flowers - many thanks to all who helped with the beautiful flower arrangements in the Church for the Easter Festival

Flower Rota. There is a new one on the leaflet shelf in Church, so if you would like to arrange the flowers one week or more, please sign against the week(s) you would like to do them. If you would like someone to arrange flowers for you, to mark a special occasion please contact Carla (620600). We do need more help with the flowers during the summer months.

Easter Monday Cream Teas. The sum raised in the Village Hall from the cream teas and stalls was an amazing £700. well done to everyone, especially Ros for organising the event and not forgetting the support it received.

Churchyard. While our Churchyard will never quite match Dumbleton’s, we have had a superb array of daffodils (now going over), and a welcome splash of tulips. The conservation area is looking full of promise with primroses, cowslips etc. Many thanks to Ros for her work on this, and to Phil, who often gets forgotten, but does laborious work mowing the area.

Bishop Michael. Alderton folk will remember his visit to us some ten years ago when he came and opened what he called ‘The Other Building’ (our toilet/tool shed block)

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

MOTHERS’ UNION

It was good to have our two Diocesan presidents with us last month and to have a new member enrolled

Our meeting this month will be on Thursday 25th May (Ascension Day) at 2.30 pm at Beryl’s house. We will be making plans for the Coffee Morning in June

GREAT WASHBORNE

AGM—this was held on March 31st . All the Officers and PCC members were re-elected. **The Family Fun Quiz** held last month was very much enjoyed by those who came along. Sadly we did not have as many participants as in previous years but we were able to make £360 for Church funds Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

The Great Washborne Summer Supper on Friday 23rd June will be held in the garden of Great Washbourne House starting at 6.30 pm. Some local Cheltenham musicians will be providing us with light jazzy music during the evening. A supper of roast pork (veggie alternative available) with all the trimmings and salads will be served, strawberries and cream for dessert, with a bar, raffle, tombola and other entertainment. Tickets will be available from Jane (01242) 620291, Karen 620633 and Carla 620600 or on the door. Adults £12 children £6. All proceeds to Church funds.

Late Church Spring Clean Come and lend a helping hand on Saturday 27th May starting at 9.00 am.

The PCC meets on Wednesday 10th May 7.45 pm Orchard View.

Evening Prayer will be said in St Mary’s Wednesday 31st May 4.30 pm.

DUMBLETON

Coffee mornings at the Cricket Pavilion—just one this month 16th May 10.30—12 Noon. Open to all who would like to come along.

Annual Church Spring Clean. Thanks to the A team they did a brilliant job.

At the AGM in April Charles Matthews was appointed Churchwarden, and the appointed members of the PCC were Gail Braham, Jenny Maher, Susan Megson, Paul and Tricia Steggles, Michael Strode, and Betty Thompstone was co-opted.

The Lent Lunch held on **March 28th** raised £156.25 in donations which was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee for the Yemen appeal.

The collection on Sunday 19th March raised £107.25 for the East Africa crisis appeal. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

Easter Day. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making the church look so beautiful for the Easter Service and to those who provided refreshments after the service. It was wonderful to to have such a full congregation from all four churches to say a fond farewell to our Vicar Nick and his wife Angela as they prepare to leave and embark on their retirement. We wish then every happiness in the years ahead..

Quiz Night We hope you will come and join us for a Fun Quiz on Saturday 20th May in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. David Roscoe is the Question Master. This is a fund raiser for the Church so we are hoping many people will come along. Teams up to 6 people @ £2.50 per person. There will be a Bar and a Raffle. Nibbles provided. Please contact Jenny Maher (8881474) or Tricia Steggles (882049) to book your place.

The next PCC meeting on 23rd May at 7.30 pm venue t.b.c.

Holy Baptism

9th April—Isla Beau Prior

Holy Matrimony

8th April—Dion Harold Veale and Chloe Louise Dominique Walshe

WORMINGTON -

Church Spring Clean. Many thanks to all who helped with the spring cleaning of the church and floral decorations for Easter.

Christian Aid Week—14th –20th May.

WVS Lunch on Monday 22nd May 12 noon St. Katherine’s Church. £5.00. Come along for a tasty meal and get together. Please let Angela Piercy know by Friday 19th May 01386584416.