

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

June 2021



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.

A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end of this on-line issue.



Severn Parishes Service Rota June 2021

June 6th	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC CW	Omersley
June 13th	9.00am	HC CW	Rushock
	10.00am	Family Service	Omersley
	11.00am	HC BCP	Hartlebury
June 20th	9.00am	HC CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Hartlebury
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Omersley
	11.00am	HC BCP	Doverdale
June 27th	9.00am	HC BCP	Elmley Lovett
	10.30am	Songs of Praise	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC BCP	Doverdale

HC Holy Communion

CW Common Worship

BCP Book of Common Prayer

MP Morning Prayer

These are current times going to press, please check on-line or via the weekly email from Nick Wright, the Parish Administrator.

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

16 th April	Arthur John Stephens	Interment of Ashes
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Rector's Thoughts May 2021

It was on the morning of Tuesday the 6th of April, the Tuesday after Easter Day, that I set off from Hampton Lovett with the intention of walking around all seven of the parishes of which I was licensed as Rector in December 2018. I wanted to know if this was a possibility and, as I enjoy a good walk, I wondered just how far I would walk on that day.

I confess that I did not start early. It was 9.30 when I parked my car in the Hampton Lovett Village Hall Car Park. But this proved to give me a happy beginning to my day as I met up with a number of members of the church who

were about to enjoy a walk together with their dogs and who cheered me on my way before setting off in the opposite direction.

And so, the day began with a brisk walk along the road to Doverdale passing the Hampton Lovett industrial estate on my left and soon catching sight of St Mary's church. It was my intention to stop in each churchyard to pray there to make something of a pilgrimage of my day and to pray for each of my parishes. From Doverdale I set off across country hoping to follow footpaths to Ombersley. This proved a little more difficult than I had hoped as a clearly marked footpath through woodland became a dead end but eventually I found my way through and soon caught sight of the spire of St Andrew's, Ombersley.

The sight of church spires and towers throughout the day was to prove an important part of the experience. Each time it was the parish church that would announce to me that I was drawing near to the end of another stage of my journey. I wish that I could say that each village is given its shape by its church, but I cannot. Cutnall Green has no church, for example. But where there is a church it lends a definite shape to that community. And on my day the sight of a spire or tower definitely raised my spirits as I knew that I was about to complete another leg of my journey.

The leg between Ombersley and Hartlebury was the longest of the day as I took the lanes through the Hamptons, down Lincomb Bank and up Chadwick Lane into the village. The views of the Abberley Hills and the Malverns were often a beautiful feature of this part of the journey, but the weather turned decidedly wintry with frequent snow showers skirling about me. I was grateful for the winter clothing that I had decided to bring with me.

After Hartlebury I went on through Elmley Lovett, followed by a meandering way to Rushock via Cutnall Green and then on to Elmbridge arriving there at 6.30 in the evening. By that point I had completed my journey around all seven of my parishes and, according to the app on my phone, I had walked a little over 18 miles. Of course, my journey was not yet completed as my car was in Hampton Lovett and so I trudged my way through the gathering gloom through more snowfalls down the Monarch's Way footpath back to the beginning of my day's journey saying a last prayer of thanksgiving in Hampton Lovett churchyard before removing my snow covered backpack and driving home for a lovely evening meal and one of the Glastonbury beers that my daughter had

bought for my birthday earlier in Lent and which I had been saving for just such an occasion.

Of course, I was tired at the end of the day but it had been an exhilarating experience and had taught me things about the parishes that I have come to serve that cannot be learned driving a car from place to place. One, of course, was the beauty of the countryside in which we live. Another was the quiet. Although I had walked mainly along the lanes between villages, only occasionally trusting my ability to navigate the footpaths, I had not seen too much traffic and much of that was in the form of commercial vans on their way to make deliveries to various homes.

It was a number of years ago now that I was on holiday with my wife in the Dolomite mountains of northern Italy when we encountered about 100 men coming down the path near to the village where we were going to stay for the next few days. We asked about this when we reached the village and were told that in the 17th century there had been a terrible plague and how the people had promised to make a pilgrimage through all of the churches in their valley if they were to be granted deliverance. Ever since that time it had been the custom of the communities to repeat that journey every seven years and we had happened to be there on that day. As the pilgrims arrived in each village they would be greeted with festivities and an act of thanksgiving in the village church.

I have never forgotten this and the thought will not leave me that we should do the same thing. We have all been through a year of the plague and as we look around the world we can see how much worse this might have been. Surely, we should offer thanksgiving for our deliverance. Thanksgiving too for the NHS, the many front-line workers so many of whom we tend to take for granted until we realise just how much we need them and how poorly so many of them are paid for what they give us. And we should offer thanksgiving for each other too. After a year of being cut off from one another we realise how much we need the encouragement of friends and family. Electronic communication has been a blessing but it doesn't make up for real human contact.

So, watch this space as more detail is added to what is now just a thought. In next month's edition of the magazine it should be possible to give details of a

special day of thanksgiving in every parish and I am sure that you will want to be a part of this either as a pilgrim or being a part of festivities in your parish. We have much to be thankful for.

Stephen Winter

Rector of St James Hartlebury
and the Worcestershire Severn Benefice

St Andrew's Parish News

www.st-andrews.church

It has been such a joy to start meeting people in more relaxed groups outside, and now we can start meeting friends and family inside as well.

Services in church are feeling more familiar though we are waiting to see what our new normal will end up being. We would appreciate any ideas or feedback on what is happening that you have liked, or something you would like to see happen.

Embracing the outside more this year meant taking our Rogation Service out into the churchyard and the village. This is a time to focus on our connection to the beautiful God-given world we live in; we paused near fields, water, the 'wildwood' near houses and in a delightful garden. This was all caught by our young camera woman Ellie and has been loaded onto YouTube, in bite size chunks if you would like to check it out. (St Andrews and St James Rogation service - you can click cc for subtitles during the windy bits). We were really thankful that the much-needed rain gave way to a glorious sunny morning, and we moved our coffee afterwards to the sunny side of the church, and then asked 'Why haven't we done this before?'

Looking ahead this leads nicely into ...

'Love your Burial Ground' week from June 5th to June 13th

This is a springboard to start recording the wildlife in our church yards, and perhaps to plan to increase the diversity of plants and animals. Various classes from Ombersley School are going to use this opportunity to explore and record what they can find, Will you join in?

On Saturday June 12th 2-4pm we will have a Tea and Cake stall so you can have refreshment, before or after exploring our churchyard.

As well as joining in Church we still have a congregation on Zoom whom we enjoy meeting. Now that we are allowed to meet inside we would welcome anyone who would like to try their hand with the sound and vision side of church life. This is an area we would like to expand on in the future and would be good experience for anyone of any age. Learning goes both ways on this!

We have also had our APCC meeting since I last wrote, Officers and PCC members have stayed the same, and looking back we realised a lot has happened on spite of Covid, and some advances because of it.

The minutes and reports are on the website under the Documents tab.

Holy Dusters

With the start of regular services there will be a need to dust again!

As the patterns of services have changed over the years we feel it is also time to change the way the cleaning rota is set up. The plan at present is to have a major clean before the first service of each month, with most people coming along and a lighter touch on the third week. This is usually done on a Friday or Saturday.

We do need more people, after all 'many hands make light work'....

Do you like to clean - but not tidy?

Have a chat with a friend?

Enjoy a coffee after a job well done?

Would like to help keep our church looking its best.

We'd love to see you

Ring Liz 01905 620827 or Fiona 01905 62176

Active Coffee

This month we will be back to normal and able to meet inside without restrictions!

The day will be **Thursday June 24th at 10.45am**

However, we can still use our common sense and create a space where everyone can feel comfortable. We can use this meeting to decide what we would like to do for the rest of the year and which day of the week actually suits us best. Please do drop in if you are curious or just like having a chat with busy hands.

We do need more white blankets for our baptism children. If you are willing to crochet or knit a blanket for us please let us know, wool will be provided.

Please let Fiona know if you would like to come to Active Coffee 01905 621176,

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has been contributing to the Foodbank box in the Lychgate. The blue box will remain on the bench there for the moment, so please do add to it if you can.

Parish Picnic: Sunday July 11th

We at St Andrew's would really like to celebrate being able to get together again with a family picnic in the Wedding Field, possibly with a BBQ and cakes, along with a short service with singing (a little like the carols-in-the-carpark) to say thank you to all those who helped us through the last year, and be thankful for the fantastic roll out of the vaccines as well as taking time to remember those we have lost.

We were well ahead of the game; we've found out that the Church of England has designated that weekend as Family Picnic Weekend and Godparents weekend as well....who knew?!

So please gather your family, friends and godparents, a picnic basket and rugs or chairs and tables and join us at about 1pm in the Wedding Field.

More details in next month's magazine.
We'll see you there!

The St Andrew's Singers are now back to rehearsing (in church some of the time). Do you like singing? Would you like to be taught something new? No experience necessary.

If you are interested, please contact Louise Robinson on 01905 620995.



Handbells



Handbells will be starting soon, this is an ideal time to join in as we all restart and try to remember what to do.

If you are interested, please contact Louise Robinson on 01905 620995.

PRAYING THE PARISH JUNE 2021

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know:

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 mail@stephenwinter.net

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, the church is currently open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 10 and 4 using the main door.

Areas for June:

Sunday 6th June – Apple Tree Walk, Holt Fleet Road, Parsonage Lane

Sunday 13th June – Sinton, School Bank, Ombersley School, Hawford,
Hawford School

Sunday 22nd June – Boreley, Mutton Hall, Comhampton, Dunhampton

Sunday 29th June – Clergy, lay readers and PCCs of our parishes

Basil and Diana Lamb

Retirement collection via Crowdfunder

Basil and Diana Lamb have been a formidable team organising everything that happened at St Andrew's Church until recently.

Basil Lamb was appointed Verger of St Andrew's Ombersley in 1988. Diana not only assisted him throughout, but also acted as Church Administrator. Without them, church life quite simply would not have been as fulfilling as it has been. Countless baptisms, marriages, funerals and interment of ashes have been organised by them. Basil has also transformed the churchyard from an overgrown wilderness to how we see it today.

We owe both Basil and Diana a huge debt of gratitude and invite you to show your appreciation of their work for the whole community by contributing to a retirement fund.

If you would like to contribute, please go to

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/retirement-present-for-basil-diana-lamb>

If you prefer to contribute in other ways, please contact James Martineau or one of the Churchwardens.

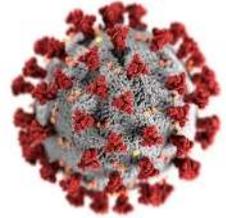
We plan to make a presentation in July.

Please send articles for publication in the joint July/August issue to the editors by 10th June.

A Parish Coronavirus Chronicle

Covid 19 has affected us all in a variety of ways. At the start of the first lockdown on 23rd March 2020, few of us would have anticipated that the following fifteen months would result in further lockdowns and restrictions on everyday life. We would like to compile your experiences during this period as a **historical record of life in the Parish** during this period. The records will be published in the September issue of the Parish Magazine.

Send your submission to the editors by 10th August and please do not exceed 250 words. The editors may not be able to publish everybody's submissions. Please add your name and area e.g. Ombersley, Sytchampton etc.



From the Archive: September 1896

A note from the Vicar, J Webster

Weddings

The custom of scattering rice over a newly-wedded pair is one of very ancient origin, and was associated, as most old customs were, with a religious sentiment, but it is to be feared that in these days, the original idea is, to a great extent lost sight of and the habit is only retained as an excuse for horse-play, which is decidedly out of place in the House of God. If the friends of the bride and bridegroom wish that happiness and the blessing of God shall rest upon the pair during their time of wedded life, it would surely be much better for them to assemble in Church and join reverently in the service, remembering that all services in Church are Divine Services, than to come as though to a show for the purpose of hurling volleys of rice.

Let the scattering of rice as the bride leaves her father's house for her husband's be retained by all means as originally meant, but let the Church where man and wife are joined together in the sight of God be kept holy, and let the marriage service be sanctified for the prayers of all who take part in it.

From the Archive: Christmas Number 1944

Holy Matrimony

The following may be useful for those who do not know the facts:

- Marriage banns require residence by one of the parties in the Parish. Dovedale Parish lies north of a dividing line drawn down the middle of Woodfield Lane and Sytchampton / Awford Lanes.
- To obtain a license, one of the parties must appear in person before the Diocesan Registrar or Surrogate. Saturday is not a good day for this, there might be a delay.
- Canadian and U.S.A. soldiers require the sanction of the Commanding Officer before they can marry. Marriage with an American does not confer American nationality – it is important that girls realise this.
- Anglicans marrying Roman Catholics are required by papal practice to have their children brought up in the faith of the latter. Not a few Roman Catholics marrying English women in Anglican Churches disregard this and allow wives free choice in the matter, and of course, the marriage is perfectly legal in English Law, though outside the British Isles it might be called into question by the Roman Catholic authorities. Mixed marriages present difficulties; much care is needed – and much prayer.

Ombersley Endowed First School

It has been a very busy start to the summer term at Ombersley School. Everyone has returned to school refreshed and ready for an exciting term. We are all looking forward to restrictions being lifted so that we will, hopefully, be able to enjoy some class trips and outings.

The whole school enjoyed a lovely walk to the bluebell woods during May. This annual walk has been part of the Ombersley tradition for many years and is wonderful experience for the whole school.

As part of their topic on Ancient Egypt Key Stage Two, the children are looking forward to an exciting visitor. The children will have an amazing day learning

more about Ancient Egypt, travelling through time with Professor McGinty. Year 2 have been learning about the Antarctic and finding out about what it is like there. They have enjoyed the story of Lost and Found and studied the life of Antarctic animals, particularly penguins. Year 1 are learning about India. They have been doing lots of non-fiction writing about tigers.

Reception are enjoying their work around Traditional Fairy tales and pre-school are learning about people who help us.

The school is very excited about our new field project: The amazing 1-and-a-half-acre field will be a great asset enabling us to extend our carpark and playground. The area should now be fenced off ready for the next part of the development. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in enabling this to happen; especially the farmer for clearing the ground ready for us – we are very grateful!

We would also like to say a very big THANK YOU to the Parish Magazine for their very generous donation. It was a wonderful gift of £1000 towards our school environment. We really appreciate your generosity and will keep you updated about how the money has been spent.

Take Care and Stay Safe everyone!



Ombersley Memorial Village Hall
'Not-For-Profit' Tea & Coffee Shop



June opening dates

Tuesday 8th June 2-4pm

Thursday 24th June 2-4pm

Saturday 26th June 12.30-3pm



For more details see our website and follow our Facebook page
www.ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk

Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council: June 2021 Update

Councillor Retirement

Mike Best who has served on the Parish Council for just over 23 years has decided that the time has now come for him to enjoy more time with his family and friends and step down as a Parish Councillor. During his time on the Parish Council, Mike has held several positions including Chairman and latterly Chair of the finance committee. Mike's experience and knowledge will be greatly missed. However, Mike will still be actively involved with Sytchampton Village Hall, the Major Oliver Charity which is the custodian of the ceramic poppies, and various other village activities.

On behalf of the residents of the Parish, Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council would like to place on record its grateful thanks to Mike and wish him a long and happy retirement.

TOAD: Neighbourhood Plan

We are nearly there!

Our draft neighbourhood plan is now with the external examiner having been through its second round of consultations. We hope to have the examiner's report sometime in July, and provided he gives the go ahead we will proceed to a community referendum in late summer or early autumn. Provided more than 50% of the members of the Parish who vote support the neighbourhood plan, it will proceed to be adopted by Wychavon and begin to carry weight in planning applications and future development. Many thanks to all of you who have engaged in this long process and helped us get this far.

Memorial Gates

It is hoped that by the time the June addition of the magazine is published, the sandstone pillars, gates and ground work will have been completed at the Main Road entrance to the Memorial Field and preparations will be underway for the pathways that will be laid during the summer months.

Future Council Meeting Arrangements

As we move out of the current coronavirus restrictions, the Council will be looking to return to holding face to face meetings. It is vital that any changes are implemented safely and in accordance with Government guidance. In the short term, this may mean that some of our meeting arrangements have to be adjusted accordingly. For the latest information regarding Parish Council meetings, please refer to the Council's website - www.odpc.co.uk



RELIVE YOUR YOUTH
THROUGH SOME OF



THE FASHIONS OF
THE 1960's
WITH OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S
LEAGUE

**COME ALONG FOR AN HOUR
OF NOSTALGIA WITH A TALK BY RUTH LOWE
AND AN EXHIBITION OF MARY QUANT
CLOTHES, MEMORABILIA, MAKE-UP, TIGHTS,
SHOES AND MUCH MORE**

Date

THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2021

Time:

7.30pm

Venue:

**OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL,
SANDY'S ROAD, OMBERSLEY WR9 0DY**

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT PLEASE BOOK
YOUR SEAT WITH:**

**MARIE JONES ON 07901 522412
OR LESLEY WELCH ON 07773 114830**

Veteran, Vintage and Classic

CAR SHOW



More than 60 cars on display

Tea & coffee shop open

BBQ supplied by Knightsgrove Events

Voices Unlimited performances

Stalls selling local crafts

JUNE 26TH @12.30-3PM

**AT OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL VILLAGE
HALL, SANDYS RD, OMBERSLEY**

**£2
ENTRY FEE
CHILDREN FREE**

From the Archives of the Ombersley Parish Council Minutes

ROYAL CELEBRATIONS (1902 to 1977)

Coronation of Edward VII: 9th August 1902

At the annual parish meeting at Ombersley school in March 1902, Lord Sandys presiding as chairman introduced *"the subject of the approaching coronation and hoped Ombersley would be not lacking in local celebration of so important an event, and indicated the way he would like the festivities to take, also stating that both Lady Sandys and himself would be happy to contribute to a fund for the purpose."*

No details of what form the celebrations took are documented in the Parish Council (PC) records, but the minutes of 19th April 1904 state the council formally accepted receipt of four benches. Two were placed at the Cross (this was a public house which used to be situated where the weighbridge hut is now, but was demolished when the road was widened and the roundabout built), one on the Holt Fleet road and one at Oldfield. Sadly, the benches did not fare well over time. The minutes of 25th April 1940 show the Oldfield bench had completely disappeared, the Holt Fleet bench was found damaged in a field and needed repairs before being moved to a new position by the Cross, and the two benches there were re-positioned either side of the telephone kiosk.

On 17th January 1951, the minutes suggest that a blacksmith make one good bench out of the two broken ones by the Cross as part of the Festival of Britain celebrations, and it was placed by the church field. It is not clear whether this occurred as the discussion seemed to favour a bus shelter at this site instead.

Could the bench by the telephone kiosk be a survivor or did all four benches meet their demise? Does anyone know? The two benches currently by the Weighbridge were a later donation.

Silver Jubilee of King George V: 6th May 1935

The Rural District Council offered a grant of £24 16s 0d towards vouchers for non-contributory pensioners, but the PC decided unanimously that *'this should be extended to all people over 70 years, including the contributory classes, as many of them were in just as much need'*. Vouchers were issued for local

tradesman selected by the pensioners as the Rural DC would not permit cash payments. Beakers were given to schoolchildren and an afternoon tea and entertainment for pensioners of the non-contributory class.

Coronation George VI: 12th May 1934

At the quarterly meeting of the PC on 18th January 1937 it was decided the celebrations would be similar to those for the Silver Jubilee of George V with children's entertainment, gifts to pensioners, sports on the Memorial Field and commemorative mugs for the children.

The Rural District Council once again offered a grant and included *'two shillings to be spent on each child attending a public elementary school, but would make no grant for pensioners..... '480 mugs with handles to be purchased at approximately 9d each.'*

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11: 2nd June 1953

These celebrations seemed to involve a lot of organisations. Five different sub-committees were arranged to organise teas, sports, a dance, finance and grants to pensioners.

A letter was also read out at a meeting of the PC on 12th November 1952 *'The County Parish Council association asked if the parish council would join in the Lord Lieutenant's suggestion of a chain of bonfires through the county.'*

The celebrations themselves involved: mugs to be given to children under 15 years of age (40 dozen were ordered from Messrs. Barker Bros of Longton at 16s (80 pence now) a dozen and savings stamps prizes for sports of 7s 6d downwards (or 37.5 pence in today's currency). Two hundred and forty children took part in 19 events including: skittles bowling for a pig (although there was some delay in obtaining the pig due to an outbreak of swine fever at a local farm); tug of war; football in fancy dress costume; fancy dress competition organised by the Girl Guides; flag decorations at the Memorial Field; Church bells to ring at 11am and 12.30pm; ice cream and soft drink sales (a ballot for this concession had been organised amongst local traders and was won by Evertons); teas (700 people were served); every pensioner over 70 years to receive a 7s 6d voucher for local shops (160 were distributed and 158

cashed); fireworks and a bonfire at the Memorial Hall, and another bonfire beacon at Uphampton organised by Colonel Wiggin of Oakhill House.

Additional fund-raising events supplemented the grant money available including: £45 from a cricket club whist drive; £13 8s from a WI dramatic entertainment; £19 from a Sytchampton whist drive. In addition, there were generous donations in kind.

The Memorial Hall and Field were made available free of charge, as was the Wedding Field for car parking. The fireworks were donated and fire protection services for the guide hut were given at no cost. Sound equipment, tables, chairs and crockery were also made available. The PC covered the cost of indemnity insurance. The total expenditure was £155 12s 3d with receipts of £98 13s 6d. The £56 18s 9d deficit was met by the PC.

Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II: June 1977

On 9th November 1976 a meeting was called by the PC with representatives of local organisations to discuss how to celebrate the occasion. A committee was to be formed to co-ordinate the celebrations, suggestions for which included a service of thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, a tea party for children under 5, sports events for children 5-13 organised by the cricket club, a garden party for those over 60 years at Ombersley Court and a dance at the Memorial Hall. The PC was to organise mugs to be given to all children under 13 years, but Lloyds Foundation offered to pay for these. House to house collections would be organised by the British Legion on National Flag Day on 9th May 1977.

A film of the celebrations was made and shown on three occasions in the Autumn of 1977, and a copy was placed in the county archives. Surplus funds of £318 were reported in the minutes of 19th July 1977 with the suggestion that trees be planted in the Parish

Next June, we shall celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Watch out for notices about various Jubilee Events within the Parish.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 620441
TREASURER:	Mr. D. Hawkins	Tel: 620059
SECRETARY PCC:	Mr. G. Crow	Tel: 772850
Sidesmen:	Mrs V. Harris, Mr. C. Harris, Mr G. Crow, Mrs S. Crow, Mr J. Chapman, Mrs A. Chapman, Mrs W. Hawkins, Mrs S. Rees	
Organists:	Mrs L. Moyse, Mr D.Terry	
PEW POINTS		
CLEANING ROTA: JUNE:	Lauren Moyse & Sandie Smart	
FLOWER ROTA: JUNE:	To Be Arranged	
PARISH REGISTER: ST. MARY'S CHURCH		
FUNERAL		
30 th April	Rosemary Patricia Williams	
INTERMENT OF ASHES		
7 th April	Janet Lawson	
SERVICES IN JUNE		
Sunday 6 th .June		
(First after Trinity)11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer Genesis 3 (8-15) - Mark 3 (20-end)		
Sunday 20 th .June		
(Third after Trinity)1 1.a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) Job 38 (1-11) - Mark 4 (35-end)		

CHURCH FLOWERS/CHURCH CLEANING

St. Mary's, Doverdale needs more people to join the flower and cleaning rotas. If anyone has a little time to spare and would like to help keep the church looking clean and colourful for our future services, please call the numbers below to find out more.

FLOWERS: JEAN DOWTY Tel. 01905 620896

CLEANING: SUE REES Tel. 01905 620125

We shall be very pleased to hear from you.

ROGATION SERVICE

Rogation morning, Sunday 9th May, dawned bright and calm after a turbulent week of hail, thunderstorms, wind and even a covering of snow in some parts of the country.

However, 14 parishioners took advantage of the better weather and assembled in the church for a greeting and short address from Lay Reader, Richard Jeynes, before setting off along the lanes to celebrate Rogation in time-honoured style.

Traditionally, Rogation Sunday is the day in the church's calendar when we pray for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce our food. It provides a wonderful opportunity for us all to be mindful of our dependence on local farmers and producers and also mindful of our responsibility to the environment.

We stopped off at various points along the way for appropriate prayers and hymns. Our final destination, Doverdale Mill, was a perfect setting for our reading by a stream or brook. Many thanks, once again, to Mike and Sandie Smart for their warm hospitality.

Back in church, after the final hymn and blessing, *The Friends* served coffee and biscuits outside.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to prepare the service and of course, to all those who came along to support the walk.

SPRINGTIME

The Revd. Kate Bottley recently hosted an inspiring Songs of Praise, celebrating the hope and joy of Springtime. The programme came from the stunning new RHS Garden *Bridgewater* in Salford; the first urban garden for the RHS. A green, open space of over 150 acres has been created by bringing back to life historic, derelict grounds, making it one of the largest gardening projects in Europe. People from the local community can enjoy the open spaces, grow their own food and benefit from world class horticultural inspiration and expertise as well as recognizing and valuing the joys of God's creation.

The story of Christian Faith is rooted in gardens; gardens feature throughout the scriptures. At the start, in the Book of Genesis, the first story of creation, we see a garden created and humankind placed in the garden to tend and nurture it. God created the first man and called him Adam. Adam is actually a play on words and comes from the Hebrew noun ADAMAH, meaning ground or earth. We are created as Adam; we are earthy ones; it is in our nature to have an intrinsic bond with the soil.

Our gardens are full of the signs of Spring. Spring restores the spirit and its wonders never cease to amaze. A few weeks ago, I was fascinated by the painstaking efforts of two pigeons, over a period of several days, to build a nest in our bay tree. After investigating several bushes and trees in the garden, the birds eventually settled for an old nest left from last Spring in the branches of our mulberry tree. They systematically began to take it apart. The pigeons took it in turns to fly back and forth between the two trees with building material for their new nest. I noticed that they always seemed to approach the nest from different angles as though searching for the perfect twig. They ruthlessly selected and discarded until eventually the old nest no longer existed except for a scattering of twigs on the ground below. I ventured to peep into the bay tree and saw the pigeon proudly sitting on the new nest. On reflection, we humans behave in much the same way when we create our "nest". We select and discard and work together to build our dream home.

There are so many ways to appreciate the joys of God's creation as the Revd. Kate Bottley discovered when she listened to the stories of hope from those with whom she spoke.

The general message was:-

“Hope is growing and carrying us forward to a brighter future.”

Valerie Harris

From the Archive: Spring Number 1948

St Mary’s Church, Doverdale

The necessary poles have been planted and the church wired. By Easter Day, if not before, electricity will be available for all purposes, for lighting immediately, for heating as soon as radiators can be obtained. But even with a full complement of the latter, the cost of which will be nearly £100, the building will not be efficiently heated on a really cold day; so that, except in between the seasons, the stove will still be required. It would be a different matter if the church were not so lofty, for it is its cubic content which has to be taken into consideration, not its length and breadth alone. I am hoping, however, that it may work out better than the experts think.

With six hanging pendants in the nave and two concealed reflectors in the chancel, we shall have plenty of light, as also in the churchyard where there are two bracket lamps. All that is required now is a congregation corresponding to the improvements effected, men and women sufficiently appreciative of the amenities provided as to desire to use them regularly every Sunday.

GW Gillingham

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

Readathon

On Monday 26th April we launched a sponsored ‘Readathon’ to support the Charity ‘Read for Good’. This charity raises funds for books for children who are in hospital.



The Readathon runs until Friday 21st May and we will be awarding a book prize to the child who records the most reading on Track My Read in each Year Group. Our target is to read for 20,000 minutes in 4 weeks as we like to set our sights high! Hopefully, this will encourage our children to read more at home at the same time as raising money for a wonderful charity.

Deaf Awareness Week

During the week beginning 3rd May, Sytchampton pupils have been celebrating Deaf Awareness Week. We felt it was important that our pupils understand the challenges that other children face when hearing is impaired, particularly as we have pupils in the school who manage this on a daily basis. Throughout the week, our pupils have been learning some basic British Sign Language and have learnt to sign along to songs. We will be sharing some of these on our social media platforms for everyone to see.

Bikeability

As we slowly begin to build towards normality, we were delighted to welcome the *Bikeability* trainers into school on 6th May. The trainers run a programme that teaches children practical cycling skills and helps them to develop an understanding of how to keep safe when cycling on today's roads. This is such an important life skill, and all of our pupils gained so much from the day!



Advertisers 2021 Electronic List

AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085

AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673

AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058

All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590

Amba Legal Services – will writers – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887

Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913

Andy Pritchard – painter and decorator – 01886 889001 / 07973 783240

Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811

Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634

Bluebird Care – care visits at home – 01386 764830

Bowbrook Gardens – landscaping etc. – 01905 937852 / 07792 613020

CT Building of Ombersley – 01905 620942 / 07973 663442

Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472

Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288

Dorn (M&E) Ltd. – installation of electric vehicle charging points – 07712 811552

Droitwich Gymnastics – 01905 312424

E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094

Eclipse Home Care – 01905 641070

Elite Marquees – 07958 288510

Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671

Fisher Bodyshop – car body repairs – 01299 333131

Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589

GLM Services – general maintenance – 01905 864172 / 07399 024702

Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121

Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740

Home Carer, Home Help – 07899 784272

Hopwood Tree Services – pruning, removal etc. – 07581 742243

Huumankind – residential care – 01905 905130

I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452

J & S Trade Supplies – double glazing etc. – 01886.888024 / 07966 804007

Jack Hobbs – milkman – 01905 455336

Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307

Jonathan Sproule & Sons Ltd – 07973 445048 / 07976 826065

Julie Davis – mobile hair stylist – 01905 427704 / 07977 590087

Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275

King's School Hawford – 01905 451292

Kingsway House - premises for hire - 01905 619877

Leapgate Builders – also mini digger with driver for hire – 07702 053756

Marshall-McKay – kitchen/interior design – 01905 622317 / 07765 447704

Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870

MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879

Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825

Mobile Podiatry/Chiropody – 07989 964854

Ocuplan – long-term eye care – 0121 517 0423

Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

Ombersley Dental Practice – 01905 621881

Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)

Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390

Ovengleamers – oven cleaning – 01275 370571

Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Protex Midlands Ltd – long life wall coverings – 01905 622164 / 07833 965258

Re-Upholstery & Repair Services – 01584 881227

W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692

S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011

SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945

Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050

Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709

Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943

T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075

Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738

The Orchard Tamers – 01886 821328 -

Top Cut Mowing Services – 01905 621 858 / 07802 717057

Town & Country Stonemasons – memorials etc. – 01905 759191 / 07774 198968

Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlenghe Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

Worcester Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500