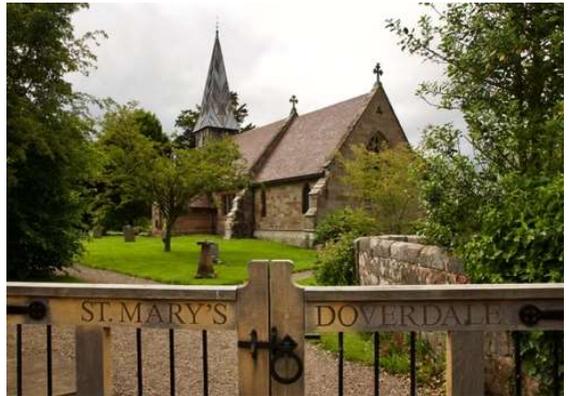


Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**November
2022**



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.



Seven Parishes Service Rota November 2022

Nov 6th	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday 1 st	Hartlebury
	10.30am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
Nov 11th	10.45am	Remembrance	Hartlebury War Memorial
Nov 13th Remembrance	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock.
	9.15am	Remembrance	Doverdale
	10.30am	Remembrance	Elmley Lovett
	10.50am	Remembrance	Ombersley *
	10.45am	Remembrance	Hartlebury
Nov 20th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Ombersley
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
Nov 27th	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	4.00pm	Evensong	Ombersley
	6.00pm	Evensong	Elmley Lovett
Dec 4th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday 1 st	Hartlebury
	10.30am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
HC Holy Communion, CW Common Worship; BCP book of Common Prayer; MP Morning prayer; FS Family Service			
* Meet outside the Lychgate or by Checketts at 10.50			

Rector's Thoughts

*Reverend Stephen Winter
Rector of St. Andrew's, Ombersley and
St Mary's, Doverdale (and five other
churches in the Benefice)*



I always find that this season of the year makes me reflective as autumn moves from the exuberance of the celebration of harvest, the “mellow fruitfulness” that Keats writes about in his rich poem addressed “To Autumn”, and then on into the shortening of the days and the anticipation of winter when we remember our own dead at the end of October at All Souls and the nation remembers its war dead on Remembrance Sunday in November. As a young man I missed the experience of autumn for seven years when I worked in Zambia in a tropical climate in which the length of the day never varies very much and I have a very vivid memory of a walk across the Clifton Downs in Bristol in my first autumn after all that time, going back to the college where I was beginning to train for ordination. A profound hush was descending about me as afternoon gave way to evening and not even the sound of traffic could disturb it. I felt unfolded in that hush.

This tension between the celebration of the richness of harvest and our sense of loss as the days grow shorter lies within each of our hearts as well. As we grow older we begin to become aware that our autonomy and independence are forsaking us against our will, as the Irish poet, John O'Donohue puts it. The bleak dark of winter seems to beckon and however much we might rage against the dying of the light it dies nonetheless.

It is when this bleak awareness begins to grow within us that we need to return to our awareness of the richness of harvest. The harvest is not so much an ending of summer as a fulfilment. Why not pick up an apple, hold it, smell its richness and then bite into it. Of course, you will need to find an apple grown in a garden or purchased from a farm shop to enjoy this to its full extent. Supermarket fruit never quite achieves this experience of ripeness. I wonder too if our own lives can become preserved in the same kind of artificiality and so never achieve their natural ripeness. To quote John O'Donohue again, “if you can come to see ageing not as the demise of your body, but as the harvest of your soul, you will learn that ageing can be a time of great strength, poise and confidence”.

For one who begins to learn this sense of the deep rhythms of life and of the cosmos, not even death need be experienced as an ending but as a fulfilment, a harvest. St Paul speaks of this in his first letter to the young church in the Greek city of Corinth. The body, he says, “is sown in weakness” but “raised in power”. And, he says, “it is sown a physical body” but “raised a spiritual body”. Surely all nature tells us that St Paul is right. Maybe one of the reasons that the modern world finds it so hard to entrust itself to the natural rhythms of life is that it is so wedded to artificial solutions to everything. I wonder if the threats that we seem to be facing of a winter with long periods of darkness forced upon us might even be an opportunity to discover the deep wisdom of faith.

Parish Register: St Andrew’s Church

Wedding

29th September	Thomas Dodge & Vanessa Speakman
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Rota for St Andrew’s Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
Nov 6th	HC	Jane Hill, Angela Randle	Anthony Hughes	Howard Robinson
Nov 13th	Remembrance Sunday	Lynne Hunter, Maureen Callow	-	David Wood
Nov 20th	MP	Hazel Smith, Jenny Batelen	Tony Checketts	Chris Day
Nov 27th	Evensong	tba	tba	Hazel Smith
Dec 4th	HC	Jenny Ransome, Gill Griffiths	Liz Hooper	Anthony Hughes

Holy Dusters:

Nov 11th	Pernilla Asplen, Liz Hooper
Nov 25th	Heather Barningham, Marjorie Workman, Fiona Davies
Dec 9th	Myra Cowdrey, Pernilla Asplen
Dec 22nd /23rd	Fiona Davies, Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham

If you’d like to help, please ring Liz 01905 630837 or Fiona 01905 621176

Flowers:

	Pedestal	Porch
Nov 3rd & 10th	Remembrance Sue Arnold & Julie Hall	
Nov 18th, 25th & Dec 2nd	Margaret Packer	
Dec 9th & 16th	Mary Pritchard	Offers please
Dec 21st/22nd	Christmas Flowers: Date & time tbc	

If you can help with flowers, please contact Sue Arnold on 07816 393460

St Andrew's News

www.st-andrews.church: achurchnearyou.com

This year we had Harvest three times! One with Ombersley school (and parents) in church with Sytchampton school joining through Zoom, our main Harvest in church and a Harvest Celebration in Ombersley Memorial Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch. All excellent events and very different, though we did borrow one of the school songs for the celebration in the Hall...The Harvest Samba. A good time to be thankful for all the different food grown and supplied to us by so many people.

Another thankyou goes to Tim Hopkins for having the area behind the Figard Wildlife Memorial garden tidied so letting in more light. That really is turning into a peaceful space.

As mentioned in the last magazine there will be an open wooden cross in the grave yard, just to the side of the drive where we have been laying named stones in memory of loved ones for the last two years. Something that started in Covid when we couldn't meet, but seems to be appreciated.

The Church Boiler

Unfortunately, an issue with the flue in the chimney not being connected to the boiler itself has resulted in the boiler being decommissioned until the problem is rectified.

We are working as swiftly as possible to find a solution. Until that time we will either have services in the Narthex, or ask you to dress warmly and bring a rug! This is an opportunity to investigate a more eco-friendly way of heating the buildings as far as time and finance allow.

The consequence of the lack of heating has meant we have postponed any fundraising events that were planned to take place before December. Do keep an eye on the website, Facebook page or noticeboard for updates.

Looking Forward

On 27th November, the first Sunday in Advent, we will have a special **Posada Evensong at 4pm** to start Mary, Joseph and the donkey on their journey around the schools and the village.

If you would like to be part of the journey, please contact Jenny Batelen on 01905 621294 - we have a twin set so plenty of people can be accommodated.

Creative Coffee

We are open to anyone so please drop in and say Hello. If you have ideas of crafts or projects or would like to try something, meet people or chat over coffee please come along. Fiona; 01905 621176.

We meet on every second Thursday at 2pm and fourth Thursday at 10.30am. We will be starting different crafts for Christmas so please come and join us.

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The next Parish Magazine is a double issue. Please send information and articles for publication in the **December/January** Magazine by Wednesday 9th November.

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH

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

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 stephenwinter991@gmail.com

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]

Areas for November:

Sunday 6th November – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Longheadland

Sunday 13th November – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View, Abberley View

Sunday 20th November – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton, Sytchampton School

Sunday 27th November – Bell ringers, organists and choirs of our churches



James Homer's Sermon at Ombersley; 18th September 2022

I don't know about you all, but I had not expected to feel such a profound sense of sadness upon hearing of the death of our Queen. Like many, I have only known her on the throne, and despite taking funerals, had probably fallen into the idea that she would be always there. A little like losing one's mother again. And not possibly capable of coming up with anything original that has not been said over the past week or so, I shall be brief.

We also say rather too easily that she has reigned for seventy years, but in reality we need to look further back to her birth in 1926. To all intent and purpose, a completely different world compared to today. We may have had railways and iron ships, but much of the world still operated at the pace of the horse. Letters were even delivered the day after posting, large numbers of people were employed in dirty and hard labour. Communications were more simple, and communities were more tightly knit. Women had only just been given the vote, along with large numbers of men, and even the radio was a bit of a novelty.

And because, like doctors and policemen, journalists all look about twelve, when they say she has ruled through the age of great change, I suspect they are subconsciously thinking of the past thirty or forty years, where in fact her early life saw the great depression, a member of the Royal Family marry a divorcee, the Second World War and her father's death.

She would also have seen the genuine exhaustion, both spiritually, physically and financially that the country went through at the time of her accession. The Queen came to the throne when there was still a remarkable level of formality, and not just within the Royal circle, being a hang-over from George V's time.

Since then like many of her era, she has had to contend with vast changes within society and even her family, not all of them good, including the gradual reduction in influence of our Christian faith. Not easy to deal with, but I suggest that somehow, she has managed on the one hand to retain a sense of stability, as though nothing has really changed, but at the same time quietly caused the Monarchy to alter somewhat to follow some of the trends.

If you will allow me to treat our Monarchy as part of our heritage, then just like our buildings and institutions, she might be seen as having been the glue that held all together the different strands of our way of life together, even though some of them are in tension. In a sense, rather than like the concept of the Trinity, where there are more obvious elements such as the Father and the Son, but the Spirit

has been described as the glue that holds it all together, or to be less otherworldly, the customs, traditions, and at times tortuous history that makes us as a nation what we are today. With an Oxford comma.

It has been remarkable how this event has been affecting to all the different age groups, and would seem to answer a deep-seated need for continuity that the pageantry and the institution through Her Majesty, have provided. The heritage has been living and changing gradually while still retaining the basic and recognisable parts from times gone by.

Even to an atheist, our Queen clearly had a deep faith that helped her through all of the difficulties she faced, whether the gradual diminution of Empire, her family difficulties and even shaking hands with an alleged terrorist, and I suspect why all the suggested readings have been chosen, of which this morning's is one. There is clearly a message in the new Jerusalem that times of pain and trouble can be expected, but our faith should become deep enough to see us through the difficult times in our life.

There must surely have been numerous occasions when she asked herself what was the point, but her sense of duty has been remarkable. Slightly disturbing to watch rather astute politicians praising her sense of duty though.

However, not only did she display that sense of duty, but I suggest she was a living example of someone both living through and being sustained by their faith. Paul's argument about being justified by faith leading us to do good, has surely been shown vividly by our past Monarch. The trials and tribulations during her life, both personally and in terms of the State, surely must mark here out as one of those wearing white robes washed in the blood of the lamb.

While somewhat downplayed by the media hoopla over the past week or so, it is clear that our past Monarch has been a living example of faith at work that truly fitted her as head of our Church and in so doing richly fitted her for her reign as Monarch. But we should also take the message from our reading that the old gives life to the new. Stability, but not static.

Amen and God save the King.

Remembrance Day 2022



Lest We Forget

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month

The Royal British Legion, in conjunction with St Andrew's and St Mary's Churches are organising Acts of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, the 13th November: 9.15 am at Doverdale and at Ombersley towards the 11th hour.

The Parade will commence from the King's Arms carpark at 10.40 for the ceremony at the War Memorial at 10.45. Here the names of the fallen will be read and wreaths laid. The last post will sound and two minutes silence will be observed. A short time of reflection and prayers will follow in the churchyard. All are invited to remain. We shall then proceed into Church for a special Remembrance Service. All those who wish to attend at Ombersley should assemble at the War Memorial at 10.45am.

Acts of Remembrance are open to all to attend, not just Legion members or churchgoers. Please continue to give your support to the Ombersley and Doverdale Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday and ensure that those who lived in the area and gave their lives for their country are never, ever forgotten.

There will be a reduced door-to-door poppy distribution/collection this year, but poppies will be available in shops and other retail outlets. If you wish to buy a poppy and/or donate online you can do this through the Royal British Legion website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

In addition to remembering the fallen, the aim of the Royal British Legion is to provide assistance to ex-service personnel and their families, but of course, it can only do so if it is aware of a need. If you know of someone who may need help, please contact Mandy (the Worcestershire Royal British Legion representative) on 07808261075.

There is still a need for volunteers (you do not need to become a member) for refreshing poppy boxes, the distribution and collection of boxes and storing everything away for next year.

Thank you to all for your continuing support.

World War 1: Parish Council Minutes 1914-1918

Throughout WW1, quarterly Parish Council (PC) meetings continued. With the exception of the following extracts (in italics) directly related to the war, much PC work related to day-to-day items such as footpath damage, drainage and housing. It makes for rather bizarre reading and does not necessarily reflect the momentous years of our history, but everyday life had to continue.

20th April 1915 minutes: *The National Relief Fund: A statement of the money collected in the Parish for the National Relief and other funds in connection with the war was shown to be £81 4s 4d.* What was the fund?

Immediately war broke out, the heir apparent, Edward, Prince of Wales, issued an appeal for this new fund. The National Relief Fund was inaugurated on 7th August 1914 and local committees were set up. Donations reached £1 million in the first week, £3 million in 6 weeks and the final total was £7 million. £1 then was roughly the equivalent of £100 today. The aim of the fund was to support wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors and those unemployed due to the war.

3rd April 1916 minutes: The County Forage Committee: Councillors were read a letter from the County Forage Committee as to the supply of forage in the hands of farmers in the Parish.

What was the forage committee? This was a sub-group of the War Agricultural Committee. In 1915 the British Government launched a food production campaign and committees were set up in each county with the aim of better managing the county's limited wartime agricultural resources.

11th January 1917 minutes: Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee: The councillors were read A letter from Earl Coventry, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, in reference to the Agricultural Relief Fund for Allies, inviting the chairmen of the Parish councils and Parish meetings to organise collection for the fund within their respective areas. Members of the PC were appointed to make the collection, which from the minutes of 17th April amounted to £50 12s 6d. The purpose of the committee was to raise funds for restoration of agriculture in allied countries devastated by the war.

21st January 1918 minutes: The need for Allotments: The chairman read correspondence from an allotment inspector for the food production Department of the Board of Agriculture. He made a further demand for allotments in the Parish and suggested several fields as sites. The council agreed to communicate with the War Agriculture Executive Committee and Lord Sandys, with a view to obtaining fields at the corner of Parsonage Lane and at Oldfield, and these were later adopted as allotments.

In October 1919, post-war, a circular was read from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries calling attention to the amendments of the law relating to allotments contained in the Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919 stating the duty of the Parish Council to provide allotments for the labouring population was extended to the provision of allotments for all residents, whatever their class.... The council were advised to try and obtain them by voluntary agreement, but if unable to acquire land at the suitable rent, to represent the case to the County Council who could acquire by compulsion for the purpose of leasing to the Parish Council.

Under the new Act the PC were under a statutory obligation to provide allotments for an Allotment Association properly constituted. The PC were empowered to purchase fruit trees, seeds, plants, fertilisers or implements required by allotment holders and to sell or hire them to the allotment holders. One such compulsory acquisition was later required for land off Awford Lane for allotments.

16th July 1918 minutes: Coal Shortages: A communication was read from the director of Publicity of the Coal Mines Department of the Board of Trade, who wrote on behalf of the coal controller, calling attention to the serious shortage of coal and asking the council to do whatever they could to increase economy in the use of coal and coke.

The council considered that the prices of coal and coke would make people careful in their usage, but there was a large amount of wood lying about the Parish, chiefly on the estate of Lord Sandys, only fit for fuel and which appeared to be wasting. It was unanimously agreed to call Lord Sandys attention to the large amount of wood lying about this estate, and in the present scarcity of fuel, request his lordship to make the same available to inhabitants.

The minutes of 15th October 2018 state; The clerk read a letter received from Lord Sandys stating that he was endeavouring to get a circular saw in order to produce fuel and that he hoped to have more available in a short time.

At the outbreak of WW1 newspapers warned of coal shortages, and by February 1915 coal production slowed and coal famine was reported. Coal shortages in Britain were caused by lack of available labour as many miners had volunteered to serve in the forces. In addition, France's coal production industries had been hit by the German invasion and they were importing British coal to aid its armament production adding to shortages in Britain.

15th October 1918 minutes: Prisoner of War fund: A letter was read from Lord Coventry on behalf of County Prisoners War Fund stating that the number of prisoners belonging to the County regiments was now 2179. On the basis of rateable value, the number allocated to the Parish was 17, the cost for 12 months being £680. The letter requested the PC accept responsibility of raising the money.

It was resolved that while quite willing to co-operate in whatever scheme be thought best, in the opinion of the council it would be quite impossible to raise so large a sum by voluntary effort, that the fairest way to raise the money would be by rate, but as the powers of the PC were so strictly limited, the council thought that the County Council rate was the proper one to bear it.

At the meeting of the Council on 21st January 2019 the chairman reported that he had written to Lord Coventry informing him of the council's resolution, but since the armistice had taken place and it had brought an end to the need for the fund. Putting a financial perspective on this at that time, the balance of funds held by the Parish Council in April 2014 was only £2 19s 0d and in April 2018 was only £4 3s 8d!

15th July 1919 minutes: Peace: A letter read from the Local government Board enclosing a copy of an order issued by them, sanctioning any reasonable expenses incurred by Parish Councils in connection with the public local celebration of peace.

The council decided to incur no expense in the matter, being of the opinion that anything of the kind be done by voluntary effort. Does anyone know if there were any armistice celebrations in the village? This rather muted response in the Parish records is in contrast to the Victory Day celebrations after World War II, but more of that in a future article.



Ombersley Gardening Club



Summer is over and the weather is becoming cool and damp with darker evenings creeping in, but there's still much to do in the garden as the leaves begin to change colour and fall as winter approaches. Ombersley Gardening Club is starting to prepare the programme for 2023, which will be full of great speakers and some wonderful trips.

Leading up to next year we will be welcoming Andy Pedrick who will join us on the **17th November** and entertain us with a gardening quiz. Following this, the club's Christmas dinner will take place at the Memorial Hall on the **8th December** so we will keep you updated on this.

On **10th December** we are hoping to hold a Christmas floral workshop, which will be full of ideas for decorating your table and home ready for the festive season,

followed on the **14th December** with a self-drive trip to Hanbury Hall for their Christmas Down Memory Lane event.

Now is still a busy time in the garden for clearing up leaves from gutters etc., keeping leaves, moss and twigs for compost and adding organic matter to flower borders. Make sure you have some garden fleece ready to protect your less hardy plants from frost, sort out vegetables and clean and top up bird feeders ready for the colder days - just a few of the jobs to keep us busy.

Come and join us at our next meeting, all welcome. Happy gardening!

Ombersley Walk Group

Next walk: 10am Saturday 10th December

Start and finish at Ombersley Memorial Hall, where car parking is available.

On a bright and sunny day at the end of September, 16 walkers with three well-behaved dogs enjoyed a relaxing autumnal ramble. The five-mile circular trail took us from St Andrew's Church and headed towards the river via Turn Mill, turning left and following the footpath to Lord Sandys' boathouse at Hawford. The trail then crossed the A449 heading for Chatley, returning to the Church along a well-maintained field path.

Our winter outing is planned to leave Ombersley Memorial Hall and head northwards through Uphampton, skirting Northampton, until we reach Tytcheney where we will meander back down towards Millhampton Wood, returning through the allotments to the Hall. The five-mile circular route is pretty flat with just five well-maintained wooden stiles along the way.

After the walk, which will finish around mid-day, hot drinks and mince pies will be provided in the Jubilee Room in the Hall. We are inviting everyone to make a small donation of £1 per head towards the cost of refreshments. Any surplus will be given to the Hall committee as a contribution towards overheads.

Children are welcome. Dogs are welcome too but under close control and on a short lead. Everyone is responsible for their own safety. There is no need to register for the walk. We hope to see you on the day.

Peter Reynolds, Parish Paths Warden, Tel: 07855 441804



Christmas Fair & Market

SAT 12TH NOVEMBER

at OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL



FATHER CHRISTMAS
& FACE PAINTER
HAVE CONFIRMED!

TO BOOK YOUR STALL
CONTACT LESLEY:
cherrytrees.1@btinternet.com

Sandys Road, Ombersley

www.ombersleyememorialhall.co.uk



11AM-4PM

A monthly Update from Ombersley Medical Centre: In September 2022 there have been:

- 2,096 face to face appointments across all healthcare staff
- 1,146 Telephone consultations
- 11,060 medications issued
- 1,591 letters regarding patient care actioned
- 11,502 test results reviewed and actions

A warm welcome to Dr Heidi Brown who is joining us as a permanent member of the team for 2 days a week from 6th October.



Flu Vaccines

Please call the practice to book a flu jab if you.....

- Are over 50
- Are pregnant
- Are a carer
- Are a healthcare worker
- Are living with someone with a weakened immune system
- Have Asthma, Diabetes, COPD, Heart Disease, CKD, Liver disease, a learning disability or some neurological disorders such as Parkinson's



Save the Children

Please come for coffee or tea with Judy Baer at 6 Lord Hill Gardens, WR9 0FG, and choose your Christmas Cards.

Friday 11th November, 10 am – 5 pm

Ombersley Movie Night at Ombersley Memorial Village Hall

Saturday 19th November

The latest blockbuster....

‘Downton Abbey, a New Era’

The Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

Doors & Bar Open at 7.00pm

Film commences 7.30pm prompt

£5 per person, to include an ice cream

Please note:

Pay on the door - Cash only – no credit card facility

Saturday 17th December ‘Finding your Feet’

2023 dates: 14th January, 11th February. 11th March, 15th April

CELEBRATION AT OMBERSLEY GUIDE HUT

On Saturday 17th September, an afternoon Cream Tea Party was held in the Guide Hut in honour of Carol Heath. Carol was celebrating 40 years of Guiding in Ombersley: an amazing achievement in the Guide Association. Joining her to celebrate this momentous milestone were past Guides, parents, friends and associates who, over the years, have come to know Carol in many different capacities.

Sarah Taylor, Secretary, opened proceedings and invited Jo Chester, Droitwich Division Commissioner, to talk about Carol's history in Guiding. Carol's willingness, motivation and sheer determination showed throughout as Jo listed her numerous achievements and successes. Janet Long, Worcestershire County

Commissioner, then presented Carol with her 40 years badge amidst tumultuous applause.

The hut had been beautifully decorated to welcome the guests and a delicious tea of scones and cakes was set out on little tables. Photographs spanning the 40 years of Carol's Guiding adorned the walls and past Guiders had great fun trying to recognize themselves and others.

During the afternoon, four Guides made their Guide Promise to the King, which was special in itself. Also, two girls, Ruby Stephens and Chloe Holbeche had finished their Gold Award. Chloe was unable to attend the event, but was presented with her award by Carol at Guides the following week. Both girls are staying on in Girl Guiding for a while and helping with the planning of Guide nights.

The whole afternoon was extremely enjoyable with much reminiscing and shared memories. Carol, herself, has written a personal message:-

"I would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone for coming to help me celebrate. I was a bit over-whelmed at the time with the flowers, gifts and cards which I received. However, it was so good to see past Guides (some who had not seen one another for over 20 years), talking about their experiences at Ombersley. When opening my cards at home, I was touched by so many lovely messages, to me personally, from past Guides saying how being at Guides had influenced their childhood and made growing-up special to them. This is part of what I have tried to achieve, to make what I call "a mountain-top moment", no matter how big or small, for every girl who attends Ombersley Guides."

Well done, Carol! We are all very proud of you.



Tea & Coffee Shop, Ombersley Memorial Hall

Opening Times

Tuesday 8th November: 2-4pm

Thursday 24th November: 2-4pm

Tuesday 6th December: 2-4pm

Ombersley Women's League



Anja Potze – Fine Jewellery

Anja Potze is the Dutch powerhouse behind Anja Potze Fine Jewellery, an award-winning independent jewellers based on Friar Street in Worcester. Anja will describe her journey from the Amsterdam's respected Vak School of Edelsmeden, via Asprey & Garrard Group, to start her business in Worcester.

Anja specialises in jewellery made from certified diamonds and the finest Tahitian, South Sea and cultured pearls. She will bring a small number of pieces, some of which are for sale on the night.



Thursday 3rd November, 7 for 7.30 p.m.: Ombersley Memorial Village Hall

*Come and join us with a glass of wine or soft drink. Members: free; Guests: £5
RSVP to either: Marie Jones – 07901 522412 or Ann Dorn – 07712 811552*

The Venture In and Hidden Shoes

You may have noticed that the Conservation Trust are undertaking a major refurbishment of the Venture In. Stephen Price (a noted national architectural historian) and I were given the privilege of making an in-depth assessment of the construction of the building and changes over time. The interior has been stripped right back to the core timbers, allowing a rare insight into the methods of construction and allowing some idea of a building date.

Firstly, the date plaque on the outside has suggested a build date of 1430. Unfortunately, it soon became obvious that this was quite bogus. The building started life as a three-bay cross house. The bay stretches across what are now the windows along Main Road and goes back along the narrow lane for three bays. Methods of construction indicate a build date of about 1625 – 1630.

At this time, the centre of the village was at the cross roads of Main Road, and the lane from Droitwich which ran alongside the Venture In and Kings Arms, continuing past the old Medieval Cross in the centre of the crossroads along Church Lane, past Brandons, to the Church. The “new” bypass – the current A4133 to Holt Fleet, was built in 1813 or 1814.

This meant that the Venture In building and the Kings Arms had entrances onto both main roads – West to East and North to South, making them the most important buildings in the village. The Venture In has the remains of a mullion window adjacent to an old doorway opening onto the West – East Lane as well as the current entrance off Main Road. The ground floor would have been a shop with living quarters above. At some stage the third bay was demolished and replaced by a much more poorly constructed bay and finally, possibly in the late 18th century, a brew house or corn store was built at the rear – the current “4th” bay, constructed in brick and painted to look like a black and white building.

In about 1690, the land between the current Venture In and the Kitchen Shop was built on, as an extension to the Venture In. It was behind an infill panel, built at that time, that the horde of shoes was found. Seven rather worn shoes were placed in a bag adjacent to the original chimney breast and then hidden until found 320 years later by the builders. Northampton Museum holds the national data base on “hidden shoes” and were delighted to be told about the find.

Most hidden shoes occur as singles or in pairs and they had never heard of a horde of so many before. The latest view is that shoes, when at the end of their life, may have been hidden as a good luck charm – rather as we tie boots behind a wedding car. Our shoes are of a type used in the middle of the 17th century, which would tie in with their worn state when hidden later. I understand that the Conservation Trust intend to have them conserved and put on display in the Venture In.



Leather ladies' shoes (C17th) found behind a panel in the Venture In

Just out of interest, it was initially thought that shoes were hidden as a charm to ward of witches - apotropaic. We did find one witches' mark in the Venture In. Next to the door from the main bedroom into the second bay upstairs, was a “burn mark” as if someone had held a candle against the timber. It is now recognised that these marks aren't due to taper candle burns, but are deliberate and one of the many marks used as a protection against witches.

David Collier, October 2022

Ombersley Endowed First School



As we move from Autumn into Winter, we start thinking about Christmas and look forward to our forthcoming activities at Ombersley Endowed First School.

Autumn Fun

All the children enjoyed taking part in an Autumn Fun Day in October, with lots of fun activities, dancing and treats. Scooters Holiday club was open over October half-term providing lots of amazing fun activities for children.

Remembrance

The whole school will be learning about Remembrance Day and the sacrifices that some people made for their country during the wars. We also look forward to taking part in the Remembrance Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday at Ombersley Church.

Christmas Preparations

Our Pre-School and Reception children are practicing for their Christmas play ~ which promises to be magical. The rest of the school are practicing for their Christmas Carol service and Nativity.

We are looking forward to holding a Christmas Fayre in school this year on the evening of Friday 25th November.

The choir are practicing for their Young Voices concert in January at the Resorts Arena in Birmingham.

Trips

As part of their World War 2 topic, Year 4 have been on a trip to Hartlebury Museum to find out more about life during the war years.

Pre-School and Reception are looking forward to a trip to *All Things Wild*.

The whole school are very excited about their pantomime trip to see *Beauty and the Beast* at Malvern Theatre in December.

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



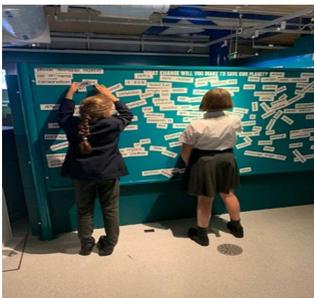
The New School Year: The children have settled back into our normal routines well this term. We are excited to welcome 10 new pupils into Reception Class along with our new Early Years Teacher, Mrs Fairlamb. They have all become very much part of our school already! If any families are still looking for a Reception place for their child, we have spaces, so please give our office a call.



Another new addition to our school, is Bella the school therapy dog who works in the mornings to support some of our pupils with additional needs and also helps out with learning in the classrooms!

New Reception Pupils Open Mornings: For families who are looking for a Reception school place for September 2023, we are holding two open mornings this term on Wednesday 19th October and Tuesday 22nd November. If you would like to join us, please contact our office on office@sytcampton.worcs.sch.uk or telephone 01905 620418 to book a tour.

Key Stage 2 pupils started the term with an exciting trip to the Think Tank Museum in Birmingham on 14th September.



During the trip, our pupils visited the 4K Planetarium, discovered a world of science in the interactive outdoor Science Garden and learned more about Birmingham's industrial past and saw steam engines, trains, cars and planes from yesteryear.

Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Service: The KS2 pupils joined our sister school, Ombersley First School for a virtual memorial service held at St Andrew's Church. This was such a special opportunity for our two schools to join and commemorate the life of a very special and important lady.

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 620441
TREASURER:	L Tarleton - Hodgson	Tel: 07748 968 992
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	
Organists:	Mrs L. Moyse	

FLOWER ROTA: NOVEMBER:- Jean Dowty

CLEANING ROTA: NOVEMBER:- Sue Crow and Wendy Hawkins

DIARY DATES:

LOOKING AHEAD: MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023; St Mary's PCC Meeting at 7pm in Ombersley Church Narthex.

SERVICES

Sunday 6 th Nov 3 rd before Advent All Saints	11.00 a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mr. D.Hawkins Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Job 19 (23-27a), Luke 20 (27-38)
Sunday 13 th Nov 2 nd before Advent REMEMBRANCE	9.15a.m.	Lectors and Sidespeople TBA Led by the British Legion
Sunday 20 th Nov Sunday next Before Advent Christ the King	11.00a.m. HC (BCP)	Lector: Mrs.V.Harris, Mr.J.Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs.A.Chapman Readings;- Jer.23 (1-6); Luke 23 (33-43)
Sunday 4 th Dec 2 nd of Advent	11.00a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.S.Crow Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow Readings: Isaiah 11 (1-10); Matt.3(1-12)
Sunday 18 th Dec CAROL SERVICE	11.00a.m.	Lectors and Sidespeople TBA

TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN

On Friday 9th September, the day after the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, 96 gunshots sounded across the UK in a ceremonial “death salute”, marking each year of the life of the Queen. On the same day, bellringers throughout the nation were encouraged to ring a single toll, 96 times, as the Church of England’s mark of respect. Many churches also remained open for prayer and contemplation.

Here at St Mary’s, Robert Coppini “did the honours” by tolling a single bell 96 times at Doverdale. Well done and thank you, Robert.

A SPECIAL SERVICE

On Sunday September 18th, the eve of the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, a service of Holy Communion was held at St Mary’s. The Order of Service had been especially prepared for this occasion and copies were given to the congregation. This is only the 14th time since the settlement that brought the current form of the Church of England into existence in the reign of Charles II (1660-85), that we have experienced a time of mourning. The chosen lessons from the Books of Lamentations and Corinthians were read by Robert Coppini and Valerie Harris. Revd. Stephen Winter read the Gospel from St John. At the end of the service, the congregation stood to sing the National Anthem.

HARVEST AT ST. MARY’S

Our service of Harvest Thanksgiving, led by Lay Reader, Richard Jeynes, was held on Sunday 2nd October at 11.00a.m. Twenty-two parishioners came together to give thanks for the labours of farmers and growers everywhere for providing food to sustain us through the coming months.

The church looked resplendent with the vibrant colours of Autumn flowers; thank you to Jean Dowty and her team for decorating the church so beautifully. Laureen Moyse, organist, played the stirring Harvest hymns which we have all come to know and love.

After the service, delicious savouries and sandwiches were served with a glass of wine. Fortunately, the warm, dry weather allowed everyone to mingle and chat outside.

Thank you so much to all those who helped make the service such an enjoyable occasion.

MY TRIPS TO LONDON

I went to London on three separate days for the events taking place there, following the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Each day, I caught the earliest possible train from Shrub Hill, Worcester (5.14 am).

On Wednesday September 14th, I went to Whitehall and stood on the Downing Street side, near to The Cenotaph. I arrived there a little before 9.00 am and waited till about 2.50 pm, when the gun carriage bearing the Queen's coffin passed by, having left Buckingham palace at 2.22 pm precisely on its way to reach Westminster Hall at 3.00 pm. I was so fixated on looking at the coffin that I failed to glance back behind it and look at King Charles III and the other members of the royal family!

The next day, I went to the end of the queue for the Lying-In-State. This was in the vicinity of London Bridge. Again, I was there a little before 9.00 am. Contrary to reports that it could take up to thirty hours, it took only six hours to reach Westminster Hall. The time seemed to go by quickly, as it was enjoyable and interesting, talking to fellow-walkers and seeing sights such as The Globe Theatre, The Golden Hind, The Tate Modern and, of course, The Thames. Inside Westminster Hall, the silence, reverence, and the sense of history were awe-inspiring. Also, once we had exited Westminster Hall, one of the ladies I had been talking to, accessed BBC iplayer on her smart 'phone, and sent me, by email, a short video plus a few photographs of some of the time we were in there.

On Monday September 19th, the day of the Queen's funeral, I had company, as Val and Chris Harris's daughters, Rachel and Kate and Kate's son Howard, were with me. Unfortunately, the train arrived late and when we arrived, Whitehall, The Mall and Green Park were all closed and we were "herded" to Hyde Park which had large screens showing the day's events. However, Rachel, Kate and Howard, and I, independently, decided that we did not want to watch on the screens something we could see on the television that evening. So, while they pored over their maps, deciding what to do, I bid them farewell, not expecting to see them again that day and set off, trying to figure out the best direction to walk in. I walked vaguely in the direction of Wellington Arch, without much hope of seeing anything, as so many areas were by then blocked off, even to pedestrians. After a while, I saw a road with people standing against barriers on either side of the road. After making enquiries, I found out that the hearse would be travelling along that

road on its journey to Windsor. Then, I saw Rachel, Kate and Howard again! With all the people around, what were the chances of that happening? I said to them: "Great minds think alike!" I remained with them for the remainder of our time in London and for most of our journey home.

We found a clear spot against a barrier and waited there for over three hours. Although there were no screens nearby, there was a loudspeaker with a soundtrack of the service in Westminster Abbey and of the funeral cortege afterwards with the sound of marching, horses' hooves and the music playing. I found the muffled toll of the bell particularly moving. I was also able to follow the service in Westminster Abbey in a newspaper pull-out of the Order of Service.

Then, we saw the hearse pass by, for a few seconds. This was the one and only time that I saw the coffin being borne by the State hearse. So, from my point of view, I guess the problems and delays worked out alright in the end.

Robert Coppini



Save the Children

Please come for coffee or tea with Judy Baer at 6 Lord Hill Gardens, WR9 0FG, and choose your Christmas Cards.

Friday 11th November, 10 am – 5 pm

The next Parish Magazine is a double issue. Please send information and articles for publication in the **December/January** Magazine by Wednesday 9th November.

Advertisers 2022 Electronic List

A & E Carers – private ear syringing – 07958 360247
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
Alena Morton – Ladies' Personal Trainer – 07857 753340
All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590
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
Castle Farm Designs – wooden garden furniture for sale/hire – 07841 500735
Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472
David Ward Firewood – 07866 441154
Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288
Dorn (M&E) Ltd. – installation of electric vehicle charging points – 07712 811552
E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094
Elite Marquees – 07958 288510
Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671
Fernihough Cars – cars purchased – 07765 240207
Fisher Bodyshop – car body repairs – 01299 333131
Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589
Garden Supplies Direct – 01562 741820

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

Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740

Grosvenor Mobility – mobility aids and furniture – 0808 296 1196

Home Carer, Home Help – 07899 784272

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

Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307

Jonathan Sproule & Sons Ltd – 07973 445048 / 07976 826065

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

Lee Russell Independent Funeral Directors – 01905 347588

MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879

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

Mobile Podiatry/Chiropody – 07989 964854

MSB Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd. – 07769 342897

Ocuplan – long-term eye care – 0121 517 0423

Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

Ombersley Family Dental Practice – 01905 621881

Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)

Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390

Ovengleaners – oven cleaning – 01562 702883

Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Professional Willwriters – Amba Legal Services – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887

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

Quarter Jewellery (The Shambles Worcester) & Malvern Goldsmiths (Belle View Terrace)

RBG Foot Care – Podiatrist – 07791 153276

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

Severn Soaps – hand-made soaps and gifts – 07811949049

S G Electrical – electrical services – 01905 620693

S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011

SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945

Stephanie Cope Mortgage & Protection Advisor – 01299 549820

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

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

Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlenghe Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669

William’s Professional Decorating Services – 01886 888186

Worcester Timber Products – fencing, sheds etc. – 01299 250744

Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500