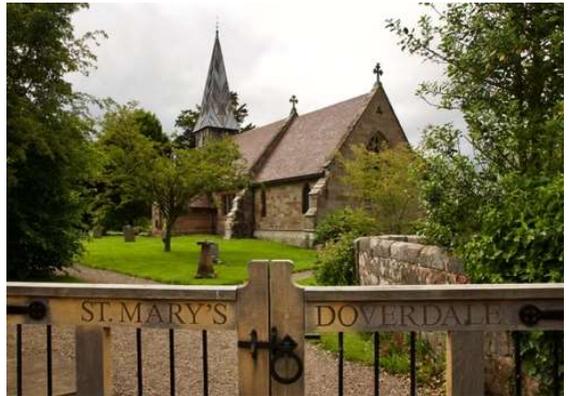


# Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**February  
2023**



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 February 2023

Feb 5th	9.00am	HC CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
Feb 12th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock.
	10.00am	FS	<b>Ombersley</b>
	10.30am	MP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
Feb 19th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	<b>Ombersley</b>
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
Feb 26th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
March 5th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
HC Holy Communion: CW Common Worship; BCP Book of Common Prayer; MP Morning Prayer; FS Family Service			
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> : Morning Prayer: 9.15 Ombersley March 3 <sup>rd</sup> : World Day of Prayer: 2.00pm Elmley Lovett			

## 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 have struggled to write this piece for the parish magazines, which puts some stress upon the editors who have to get their finished copy to the printers in time otherwise people will complain that the magazine has come late to them. I have struggled to write this because it is hard to look forward to the coming year with an easy optimism. If the work of a member of the clergy of the Church of England is to cheer everybody up, then I don't think that I can manage that at the moment. Mind you, there is a certain kind of cheeriness that can be deadening. I often think of a line from John Betjeman's poem, *Death in Leamington*, in this regard. "Oh! Chintzy, chintzy cheeriness, half dead and half alive." What a terrible thing to impose on someone else.

It is going to be a difficult year and yet, for me, it began with something truly joyous. It began with a wedding in Hartlebury. I am always moved by weddings. Whatever is happening in the world two people have chosen to say yes to each other, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. They promise to love and cherish each other until death parts them. When I was ordained back in the 1980s I used, quite often, to hear the stories of people who got married during the Second World War. Some of the stories were quite amusing, such as the couple who had to drag a drunken clergyman out of the pub in order to get him to perform the ceremony. But all carried the sense that in troubled times it was a wonderful thing to find someone who cared about you, and especially about you. I remember taking the funeral of a man who had been a part of the Chindits, a special forces unit who fought behind Japanese lines in Burma. They had to undergo great privations and were always in danger. His family told me that he would encourage his comrades not to give up by reminding them that they had families back home who were waiting for them. No chintzy, chintzy cheeriness here, but a call to something deeper, something more nourishing.

I find it helpful to think about times that have been hard in the past and how people found courage in them, how they even found joy. I am reminded that my roots need to go down deep into something richer than whether I am having a

jolly time or not. I need to go deeper than the distractions offered by the entertainment industry whose main task sometimes seems to be to stop me going deeper into anything.

That work of going deeper into things that really matter is the work of a spiritual practice. It might be a conscious decision to be grateful for life even in troubled times, a decision that you keep on making, especially on difficult days. It might be a conscious decision to seek out beauty in the world and to be grateful for that. It might be a conscious decision to do what good you can in the world. In my private prayer each day I say these words. They give me strength and so I offer them to you.

May I be a bearer of joy, I who am invited to share in the Cosmic Dance! May I walk in faith all the days of my life - confident in your Divine Presence, even in times of trouble, and with assurance for what is and all that is to be. May I have faith in the unfolding of my life, and radical trust in the universe. And in this sense I wish you all a happy 2023.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the March Magazine by  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

### Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

#### Baptisms

November 6th	Alfie James Hartley
November 27th	Harley Maximus Taylor
December 4th	Lilian Louise Mason and Arthur Christopher Mason

#### Wedding

November 12th	Christopher Withers & Alicia Howard
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#### Funerals

November 22nd	Astley Frank Smith
December 23rd	John Smith

#### Interment of Ashes

December 17th	Tony Parsons
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## Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
Feb 5th	HC-CW	Louise & Mark Tarleton-Hodgson	Stephen Winter	Robert Thornton
Feb 12th	FS	Gail & Philip Filer	-	-
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	MP	Audrey & Geoff Axon	Audrey & Geoff Axon	Hazel Smith
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	HC-CW	Claire Gathercole, Jane Hill	Stephen Winter	Jenny Batelen
March 5th	HC-CW	Meg & James Martineau	Stephen Winter	James Martineau

### Holy Dusters:

Feb 3rd	Pernilla Asplen, Fiona Davies, Liz Hooper
Feb 17th	Heather Barningham, Marjorie Workman, Jeanette Horn
March 3rd	Myra Cowdry, Pernilla Asplen, Fiona Davies

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

### Flowers:

	Pedestal	Porch
Feb 3rd, 10th & 17th	Julie Hall	Ann Dorn

No flowers during Lent.

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

## 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](mailto:mail@stephenwinter.net)

Angie Randle 01905 620753 [angierandle@hotmail.com](mailto:angierandle@hotmail.com)

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

### Areas for February:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Apple Tree Walk, Holt Fleet Road, Parsonage Lane, Dough Bank

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Sinton, School Bank, Ombersley School, Hawford, Hawford School

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Boreley, Mutton Hall, Comhampton, Dunhampton

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Shops and businesses in our community



If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, St Andrew's Church is open every day from 10am – using the side door.

## St Andrew's News

www.st-andrews.church: [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)

Welcome to 2023, and we hope February will be the end of the horrible bugs that have been affecting everyone so far.

We had a lovely Christmas season at last, starting with a visit to Owl Hill Farm for the nativity story with a real stable feel. This is a 'special' afternoon laid on for us, so many thanks to the Howell family for their hospitality.

We had more carols as well this year, starting with a charity concert for the Breast Haven Unit in Worcester which included an excellent saxophone quartet playing while we arrived and a soloist entertaining us in the middle. We had our own carols in church, and also this year outside at Lord Hill Gardens, where else in 2023 we ask? It was also a joy to have a very full church on Christmas morning ...and the midnight service was lovely with Revd. Winter bringing his daughters to supply the music. A fitting end to 2022.

We are still in the planning phase for this year, and waiting for heat so keep an eye out in March to see what will be happening.

A date you will have heard about is May 6th for the Coronation weekend, and the Fete this year will be on Saturday June 10th so pop it in you diary now!

### **The Church Heating**

We met the heating engineer from the Diocese and we are now awaiting the report! The gist of the report will be that we move forward with more efficient and controllable electric heating. Fortunately, Tim Hopkins is still lending us his space heater when it's not needed at the Court, so we have been comfortable. Some lay-led services will be held in the Narthex, which is warm.

### **Creative Coffee: First and Third Thursdays at 10.30 am**

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

We started on January 6th and brought together some ideas for the year, and some ideas for the Fete in June - we also followed YouTube instructions on making a 'simple' five- pointed star - we all managed it - just! So, we'll look forward to seeing you on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, February 16th and March 2<sup>nd</sup>; very early in the month so I'll remind you here.



## O Come All ye Faithful



The Saint Andrew's Singers had a busy, enjoyable run up to Christmas 2022. Firstly, we welcomed Lucy, a new member of the choir, who joined us just as we started our busiest time of year. With the problems caused by the condemned church boiler all rehearsals were held in the cosy Narthex on some extremely cold Friday evenings, avoiding the main part of the church at all costs!

On the first Sunday in Advent we led the singing at a thoughtful Advent Carol Service enjoying some carols we don't often get the chance to sing. Later in December we sang at Ombersley Court on two occasions, enjoying Tim Hopkin's generous hospitality and leading some hearty carol singing. We then took part in a charity Carol Concert in St Andrew's Church, where we sang - yes, more carols.

The highlight of the month was the traditional Carol Service, which took place on the morning of the 18th; usually held in the afternoon but.... a certain World Cup Final was taking place then. We finished our extremely busy few weeks with carol singing in the village, on a cool but dry evening, followed by warm hospitality from some residents of Lord Hill Gardens.

How many carols did we sing? At least sixty renditions, with many repeats of favourites. Well done, Saint Andrew's Singers!

*Louise Robinson*



## Ring Those Bells



St Andrew's Handbell Ringers meet regularly on Monday afternoons. A dedicated group of enthusiastic ringers, we have gained confidence in reading and following musical notation, no mean feat when we might have to wait quite a long time to play one or two notes, or have to keep counting and playing almost continuously. We never know what we are going to have to do until we are presented with the music. But we rehearse hard and have lots of fun too.

Leading up to Christmas gave a good opportunity to play some arrangements of well-known carols, plus some newer pieces too. 'Carol of the Bells' was a special piece to learn in 2022, having been written by the Ukrainian composer, Mykola Leontovych. Anyone who has heard this carol knows how tricky it is to perform, but we mastered it! And had the really enjoyable opportunity to perform it in the Memorial Hall, at the December Coffee afternoon.

As is our tradition, we performed at the St Andrew's Carol Service, greeting the congregation as they arrived with a selection of Christmas songs and carols. A lovely conclusion to our 2022 sessions.

*Louise Robinson*

## Wanted! A 'Roving Reporter'

We plan to have approximately a half to full page each month highlighting what's happening in Ombersley and the surrounding Parish. If you fancy seeking out information and putting a few bullet points together please get in touch. Topics reported might include items from various organisations e.g. Village Halls, Churches, Parish Council, Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Guides & Brownies etc., and events raising money for charities e.g. coffee mornings. Please contact Maureen Callow if you are interested. A few examples for February are below.

[Maureen.callow@icloud.com](mailto:Maureen.callow@icloud.com)

### Local News

- Thanks go to the Parish Council for the Christmas trees in the telephone box and outside the weighbridge hut. The latter was sponsored by Cooks Garden Centre.
- The Elizabeth Tree: Take a walk to see the tree. See the Parish Council article in this issue for information.
- Take a walk along Parsonage Lane this month to see the wonderful drifts of snowdrops on the verges.
- Tennis and multi-sports kids camps over February half term. Details on ODTG web site.
- Save the Date: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Church & School Fête.
- Save the Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July: Car Show and Celebration of the Memorial Hall's Centenary.



### A monthly update from Ombersley Medical Centre

In December 2022 there were:

- 1,917 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 983 telephone consultations
- 11,838 medications issued
- 1,645 letters regarding patient care requiring action
- 10,000 test results reviewed and actioned



Happy New Year! If you are looking to make improvements to your health and wellbeing this year, there are lots of ways the practice can support you with:

- Healthy eating
- Increasing physical activity
- Losing weight
- Stopping Smoking
- Reducing alcohol consumption
- Improving wellbeing

Call the practice and book an appointment with our lifestyle advisor.

## Oliver Cromwell and the Battle of Worcester

*An illustrated talk by Howard Robinson at Ombersley Memorial  
Village Hall: 7pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.*

Oliver Cromwell is an historical figure rather like **Marmite**: You tend to either Love him or Loathe him.

Howard will try to dispel quite a few inaccurate myths about this man voted the 6th & 10th Greatest Briton of all time in two BBC Polls taken in 2000 & 2002. Then Worcester, being the scene of the final battle of the so-called English Civil War, was where Cromwell, now finally in charge of Parliamentary Forces after 9 years of waiting, used superb tactics to overcome a largely Scottish Army lead by Charles I's son on 3rd September 1651 in an unsuccessful attempt to regain the throne. Come and hear how he achieved this great victory so near to where we all live.

*Admission £5 includes a glass of wine or soft drink*

## OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

**Severn Freewheelers - the local Blood Bikes**  
A talk by Edward Kendrick



**Severn Freewheelers is a group of advanced motorcyclists providing a free out-of-hours courier service for hospitals in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, North Wiltshire and Herefordshire.**

**They carry human milk, human tissue, pathology and other medical essentials as well as blood.....**

Contact Marie or Ann  
07901 522412/07712 811552  
Guests £5

Members Free.

## Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council

Firstly, we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. As we start a New Year, the Parish Council thought it would be appropriate to share with you the activities that are currently on the Parish Council Agenda.

**Speed Cameras:** Two new speed cameras have been installed, one as you come into Ombersley on the A4133 from Droitwich and one on the Main Road approaching the Memorial Field as you drive out of Ombersley.

We have two more arriving in the next few weeks, one to be installed coming north into Ombersley from the A449 just before the Crown and Sandys and the second one as you come into Ombersley from Holt Fleet by Ombersley Court.

The cameras will give us a great deal of detail on the demographics of vehicles which will be shared with residents and Worcestershire Highways.

**Dragon's Teeth:** Dragon's teeth road marking will be placed as you come from the A449 into the village before you get to the Crown and Sandys.

**Village Gateway:** A village gateway post will be placed as you come from the A449 into the village before you get to the Crown and Sandys with an additional siting on School Bank as you come into Ombersley.

**Zebra Crossing:** A Zebra crossing will be installed across the Main Road from just before the Spitfire development to the Medical Centre.

**Traffic Survey:** We are currently awaiting the results of an in-depth survey undertaken last year by Highways England on traffic using the A4133 from Droitwich to Holt Fleet and Kidderminster. Once we have the results, we will make sure they are circulated to residents.

**The Coronation Bench:** Over the next few months, the seat that is currently next to the telephone box in the village will be moved into the play area in the Memorial Field. Work will then take place to improve the pathway and a new bench will be installed to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

**Parish Council Elections:** Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council is currently made up of twelve residents living in Ombersley and one resident living in Doverdale, together with a Parish Clerk. In May every four years, a new Parish Council is elected. If you are interested in applying to join the PC, details of how to apply will be available in the coming months.

However, if you would like to find out more about the role of a Parish Councillor, please feel free to speak to Anne, our clerk, or any other Councillor.



Councillor Bill Arnold and Councillor Chris Welch planting the tree on a very cold December day in 2022.

### ***The Elizabeth Tree***

The Parish has been gifted an evergreen Oak tree which now sits very proudly on the ridge belonging to Arnold Farms that runs along the side of Millhampton Wood. It has a plaque which reads:

*This Holm Oak was planted in 2022 to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.*

It is estimated that the tree will grow to about six metres in 10 years and will become a major landmark that can be seen for miles around.

See footnote below.

**All about Ombersley:** To keep updated with events, pictures and notifications within the Parish please visit [allaboutombersley.com](http://allaboutombersley.com) which is constantly updated with all the latest information.

**The Parish Council Website:** The Parish Council Website is regularly updated with all matters relating to the PC including the latest planning applications, meeting dates, agendas, minutes of meetings, councillors' details, road closures and council updates.

To contact the PC, the website address is [www.ombersleyanddoverdale.co.uk](http://www.ombersleyanddoverdale.co.uk)

*Footnote:* Holm Oak or Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*) is native to the Eastern Mediterranean and was introduced into Britain in the 1500s. It takes its name from *Illex* (holly) as the young leaves are spiny like holly leaves; older leaves have smooth margins. It has male (catkins) and female flowers and after pollination acorns develop. In ancient Greece, the leaves were used to make crowns to honour people. The acorn is a symbol of fertility and was worn on jewellery to increase the chance of conception.

# Movie Night at Ombersley Memorial Hall

Come and join us for a night at the movies

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Top Gun - Maverick



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dream Horse

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023

'Elvis'

Doors and bar open at 7pm: Film commences 7.30pm

£5 per person: Pay on the door - cash only



**Ombersley Gardening Club**



The Gardening Club Committee hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year as we start our journey into 2023. The weather is unusually mild and spring flowers are starting to poke their heads through the ground ready to bloom as spring approaches. A beautiful time of the year!

The gardening club will be holding the Annual General Meeting with meal on the 16<sup>th</sup> February followed on the 16<sup>th</sup> March by our Spring Show - a must for flower growers.

The speaker on the 20<sup>th</sup> April is Jeff Soulsby who will talk to us all about Spring Gardening and thinking ahead to our Summer gardens and will include in his talk practical propagation.

A few jobs to contemplate doing during January and February, weather permitting, are plant bare root roses, deadhead winter flowering pansies to prevent them going to seed and begin pruning gooseberry bushes, fruit trees and roses while the plants are still dormant.

Don't forget to feed the birds to encourage them into the garden and also make sure water is also available.

The Gardening Club look forward to welcoming members, old and new, in 2023. Happy Gardening!

*Ombersley Gardening Club Committee*



## Tea & Coffee Shop, Ombersley Memorial Hall

### Opening Times

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2-4 pm**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2-4 pm**

### **From the Archive: February 2017** **Do you know your Numbers?**

There are many symbols in the Christian Church. The triangle represents the Trinity. The circle, a perfect shape without start or finish, represents the Divine or eternity. Objects may have a number of sides or there may be a number of them. The 4 sided square or cube, represents the Earth – believed to be solid and unmoving. In the early days of the Church, Saints who were still alive (here on Earth) were shown with a square halo, rather than the perfect, heavenly, circle. Numbers always have significant meanings, so this month, I'm going to count to 10. Look around in any Church, start counting and then think about the symbolism.

1. Divisible only by itself, 1 symbolises the unity and primacy – the oneness of God.
2. 2 refers to the union of Heaven and Earth, the human and divine nature of Jesus and the union of two – Man and Woman into one through marriage.
3. The Trinity is often shown by showing three of things; such as the sides of an equilateral triangle. Jesus spent three days in the tomb, before arising. The number three occurs 467 times in the Bible. For those of you who have read the Da Vinci Code, there are 27 books in the New Testament –  $3 \times 3 \times 3$ .
4. There were 4 evangelists. It also represents solid earth – on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, God created the Earth. There are 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse: Conquest, War, Death and Famine.
5. Jesus suffered 5 wounds on the cross – 4 nails and one spear wound.
6. Man was created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, so the number 6 has come to symbolise Mankind and human weakness, the evils of Satan and the manifestation of sin. 666 is the number of the “end of time beast” of the Revelation.

7. On a happier note, 7 occurs frequently in the Bible (735 times) and is significant as a powerful mystical number. It represents perfection, particularly of God. Some references include God resting on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation, Jacob bowing seven times to his brother Esau as a sign of perfect submission and God ordering that the lampstand for the Tabernacle during the Exodus should have seven branches.
8. The number 8, through the octagon, is a symbol of Jesus unifying God and Earth. An octagon is halfway between a circle (God) and Earth (a square) and acts to connect the two. Thus a pulpit is octagonal, as are fonts, symbolising the coming together of God and earth in a baptism and a preacher bringing the word of God to the earth from a pulpit.
9. Represents the fruits of God's Holy Spirit – faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, long suffering, love, peace, and self-control. 9 is the number representing Angels, as there are 9 choirs of Angels.
10. Is the number of the Commandments.  
The great joy about reading meaning into symbols and number is that, not only do they have a historic and biblical meaning, they can also have any personal significance you may wish to read into them. So next time you are in a Church, look up and around and “Read the Church”!

*David Collier*

Do you have a story to tell?  
Send in articles and any snippets of local interest to the editors.

### **My Great Grandmother's Childhood by Ian Chambers**

*This piece was written as part of a school project by Ian (age 11) in September 1979. Ian is the grandson of the late Phyllis and Eric Baylis who lived in Ombersley at Langham House.*

My Great Grandmother's name is Marion Daisy Baylis. Her maiden name was Bellamy and she was born in 1892 at Strudges Cottage in Comhampton. She is now (1979) 87 years old.

She went to Sytchampton School until she was 13, and then she passed an exam at Holt School to go to college in Worcester. Unfortunately, at this time, she had a disease in her collar bone and it had to be removed. Also, her mother was taken ill and had a long stay in hospital. My Great Grandmother couldn't attend the college in Worcester as she had to look after her father, parents and young brother Frank.



Daisy & Harry Baylis in 1928 with their four children (Frank standing), Bert (sitting on chair), Denis (sitting on stool) and Eric sitting on cushion.

Girls at school at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century wore buttoned boots and white pinafores. The children took bread and dripping or a bacon sandwich to eat as there were no school meals. Once a week, an ex-army Sargeant used to come to Sytchampton School from Worcester to give the children physical exercises in the school yard.

My Great, Great Grandfather, Albert Bellamy, was the best scholar in the school and in 1873 he wrote out a hymn and it was placed in a bottle with coins of the realm and laid under the foundations of the new Sytchampton School.

My Great Grandmother's grandparents had 6 sons and the family bible goes back to 1823. My Great Grandmother used to go to a nearby farm for skimmed milk in a quart can every day. It cost one penny per quart and on a Sunday the family had fresh milk as a treat.

In the summer evenings she sometimes would go for a ride in a horse and cart with all the children from Comhampton to pick violets at Doverdale. All the children used to walk to school and there was a horse-drawn bus from Sytchampton to Worcester. Twice a week there was a coach from Stourport to Worcester. She sometimes caught the coach to Worcester with her grandmother. The coach stopped at the Horn & Trumpet in Worcester city centre and you could have a meal there.

Great, Great Grandmother Bellamy kept bees and she made mead out of the honeycomb. The family also kept pigs in a sty and twice a year they were killed for their meat. The slaughter produced home-cured bacon, ham and pig's puddings. The bacon and ham were hung from the beams of Studges Cottage.

Daisy made all her own clothes and she bought the material from the draper's shop in Ombersley. The shops in Ombersley at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century were: a Sadler, Wheelwright, Tailor, Butcher, Blacksmith and of course the grocers. Now (1979), the only shops are a baker, newsagent, butcher and Evertons (grocer). My Great

Grandmother also remembers that there was a Malt House where beer was brewed and an undertaker.

When her Grandfather died and the funeral was held, his coffin was pushed to Ombersley Church on a bier (a small cart). This cart (in 1979) stands in the entrance to Ombersley Church. The funeral cost £12. The undertaker in Ombersley sometimes borrowed a horse-drawn hearse from Worcester for more expensive funerals.

Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, and both my Great Grandparents, Daisy Bellamy and Harry Baylis, and all the other children were given mugs to celebrate the event as well as a party with lots of food at school. My Great Grandmother also remembers the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 when there was a National Day of Mourning. My Great Grandfather, Harry Baylis, at the age of 10, tolled the bell at Dunhampton Farm as a mark of respect.

*Note: Daisy Baylis was married to Henry (Harry) Baylis who was a chorister at St Andrew's from the age of seven for over 75 years. Harry was an apprentice at the Court Estate before starting his own building firm, H. Baylis & Sons Ltd., which did restoration work for the Court Estate, Himbleton Manor and National trust Properties. Harry & Daisy had four sons, the eldest being Eric Baylis who with his brother Frank carried on the family business until the mid 1980s.*

*The article and photograph were provided by Marie Borthwick, mother of Ian.*

## Ombersley Endowed First School



### Happy New Year

We were very all very excited and happy to return to school after our Christmas and New Year break. The children all returned with smiles and enthusiasm ready to learn about their new topics.

### Early Years

Pre-school are having lots of fun learning all about winter. They are also enjoying the story of Cinderella.

Reception have a brand-new topic all about transport. This is helping them to find out about journeys – their first journey has been about the Arctic. Their dance lessons this half term are all about journeys too.

## **Keystage One**

Year 1's spring topic is learning about explorers. In year 2 they are learning about 'The Wonderful World' They are finding out about lots of different animals from different continents. Both classes have been enjoying Yoga as part of their PE lessons.

## **Keystage Two**

Year 3 have been learning all about Romans and Roman Britain. In year 4 their topic has been Ancient Egyptians. Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed learning dances to fit in with the topics this term.

The choir had a fabulous day and night at the Young Voices concert in January at the Resorts Arena in Birmingham. It was a very exciting day practicing and performing in front of thousands of other children and adults.

There will be lots more to report in the next issue, when we have enjoyed more of our spring term.

## **Sytchampton Endowed Primary School**



### **Olympic Swimmer Assembly**

On 21<sup>st</sup> November, we were joined by Matt Richards MBE for a virtual assembly. Matt won gold at the Tokyo Olympics as part of the men's 4 x 200 metre freestyle relay in 2021. He squeezed us into his busy schedule to talk to the children about the importance of resilience and learning from setbacks. Children from all year groups were able to pose questions and ask Matt about his daily life as a GB swimmer.

### **Santa Dash**

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, thousands of schools up and down the country took part in the National School Games 'Santa Dash' promoting healthy lifestyles and active living! All of our children joined in throughout the day running around the grounds in Christmas jumpers and antlers. We had so much fun!

## **Theatre Superstar**

We are incredibly proud of one of our former pupils, Frankie Stephens, who left us in July 2022. Following a rigorous audition process in the Summer Term, she was selected to perform in the stage show, 'Nativity' at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre as one of the Oakland School pupils. Some of the staff went to watch and Frankie was fantastic! It is wonderful to see our pupils going on to achieve their dreams and realising their talents.

## **Nativity Performance and Carol Service**

We finished off a very busy Christmas Term with a wonderful Nativity Play and Carol Service. We are so proud of all of the pupils who took part. It really helped us all to get into the festive spirit!



Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the March Magazine by  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Parish Magazine Subscription for 2023**

The subscription for 10 issues in 2023 is £6. Please give the money (cash only) to your distributor as soon as possible

## Footpath Wardens

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish is the second largest in Wychavon with some 325 footpaths and 28 bridleways, in total over 100 km of public rights of way. This is a huge area to maintain. Seven years ago, when I joined the team there were half-a-dozen volunteers to keep the paths clear for the enjoyment of walkers.

Over the last few years, that number has dwindled due to ill-health and retirement. Following a recruitment campaign, during the summer, we are now back up to a full complement of trained wardens. Each of us has a geographic area to cover in the Parish with the benefit that we can tackle larger jobs together.

Path wardens are responsible for clearing minor vegetation, mending broken signposts, repairing footbridges & stiles, fixing waymark signs etc. We are also the eyes & ears for the Parish in reporting greater damage for repair or replacement e.g. collapsed footbridges and stiles, footpaths completely overgrown etc. There is probably a volunteer warden living close to you, so if you wish to report any issues, please let me know and I will contact your local warden.

*Peter Reynolds*

*Parish Paths Warden; 07855 441804*

## AGEING - THE BEAUTY OF AN INNER HARVEST

We all eventually grow old and if we don't get there we feel that someone has "gone before their time". It doesn't feel right somehow. But growing old has many challenges just as with all the other stages of life.

So how can we live our later years as well as possible?

This year's Lent Course will explore this question.

We will look at our own experience from the perspective of people of faith from across the ages, wisdom from the Bible, and from John O'Donohue's wonderful book, *Anam Cara* (Soul Friend in Irish).

We will meet over 5 sessions in 2 venues. We will meet on Wednesday evenings at the Cutnall Green tea rooms beginning on Wednesday 1st March and on Thursday lunchtimes in the Narthex at Ombersley Parish Church beginning on Thursday 2nd March.

There will be a light meal of soup and rolls provided and you will be asked to make a contribution of £5 a session to cover expenses with the balance going to a Lent charity.

For more information please look at The Message (the benefice newsletter) or contact Rev Stephen Winter directly at [stephenwinter991@gmail.com](mailto:stephenwinter991@gmail.com)

## **From the Archive: February 1970**

### **Sale of Dunhampton Church Hall**

Official permission to sell the Hall was given back in 1964 by the Diocese. It was acknowledged that little use could be made of the Hall, all services now being conducted in the Parish Church, and since the establishment of the Sytchampton Community Centre, even less demand was made on the Church Hall, which had very limited conditions of hire. It was also realized that a considerable sum of money would be required in the future to be spent on the fabric. Like many other parishes in similar circumstances, we had to make the unpleasant decision to sell the property.

After five years of negotiations and frustrating attempts to sell the property, which had considerable limitations, being without water and sanitation and, above all, being on a main road and denied access, we have at long last been able to dispose of the property. Because of these limitations which I have just mentioned, we were only to obtain £320. After expenses have been met, about £300 will be invested by the authorities for the Parish Church at Doverdale and the interest will go to the current account. We are however, hoping the authorities will allow us to use the money on present essential repairs to the Church, and thus have it all transferred to our current account.

Mt Brook at the adjoining shop and café has acquired the premises. I firmly believe we have done the right thing and that we have got the best price available.

*WH White, Rector*

## THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr R Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr Richard Jeynes	Tel: 620441
TREASURER:	Mrs L Tarleton-Hodgson	Tel: 07748 968992
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	

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

FEBRUARY:- Sandie Smart, Laureen Moyse

### FLOWER ROTA

FEBRUARY:- 5<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Jean Dowty: 26<sup>th</sup> LENT: NO FLOWERS

### PEWPOINTS

We are sad to report the death of Ruth Terry, wife of David Terry, retired organist at St Mary's, Doverdale. David and Ruth moved to Harrogate in December 2021 in order to be closer to their family.

In a recent letter, David spoke of his sudden loss last September after 56 years of marriage. He also said that...." Despite the magnificent organ which I have the opportunity to play here in Harrogate, I miss my services at Doverdale: they were special." We, as a congregation, have missed David too and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this difficult time.

### REMEMBRANCE AT ST. MARY'S

The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November was led by Richard Jeynes. Tony Checketts carried the Standard and presented it at the altar. After the address, the congregation assembled at the War Memorial outside where the names of the fallen were read out and wreaths laid. Two children representing Sytchampton School were amongst those who laid wreaths. After the Last Post and Reveille, the service concluded inside the church.

Below is the account of Robert Coppini's trip to London to attend the Service at the Cenotaph.

Following my trips to London in the days following the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I decided to return to the capital for the Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday November 13th. I travelled down by train on the Saturday and stayed outside all night. I had not booked a hotel room as I wanted to be near to The Cenotaph very early, in order to be at or near the front of the queue. Luckily, the weather was mild and dry and I spent the hours walking up and down Whitehall, but it was so boring watching the hours go by. I thought the night would never end!

At around 4.00, I was moved around the corner near Big Ben, to where there was to be an airport-type security check. I was in the company of a small number of people. We were assured that we would be at the front of the queue! Again, I watched several hours go by, this time by looking at Big Ben, rather than my wrist watch. Eventually, we went through the security and I made a dash for my spot near to The Cenotaph. I was virtually in the same place that I had been in many hours earlier.

All the waiting proved worthwhile, as, just before 11.00 am, the politicians and The Royal Family took their places near to The Cenotaph. Through gaps in the line of soldiers, I had a good view of them all, especially His Majesty King Charles III. This made up for not seeing The King on the day that the coffin of the late Queen was transported from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall, even though he was walking right behind it! Although Whitehall had been almost empty during the night, it was packed by the time of the Service of Remembrance. The music was moving, especially Elgar's "Nimrod", which was played before the Service began. "Nimrod" was a favourite of my late brother, David.

## **CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S 2022**

**CHRIST THE KING:** The Sunday before Advent, November 20<sup>th</sup> celebrates Christ the King. In the absence of Revd. Stephen Winter, St. Mary's welcomed Archdeacon Robert Jones to lead the Communion Service from the Book of Common Prayer. Archdeacon Robert Jones told the 32-strong congregation how delighted he was to have been asked to preach at Doverdale; although he had visited before, this was his first time as officiant. Church Warden, Robert Coppini, assisted with Communion, Laureen Moyse played the organ and Valerie Harris read the Lesson from Jeremiah.

Many thanks to Wendy and David Hawkins for serving coffee and biscuits afterwards when the Archdeacon was able to mingle and chat with parishioners.

**CAROL SERVICE:** The morning of St. Mary's Service of 9 Carols and Readings, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, dawned cold and frosty but very seasonal. The church was beautifully decorated with the traditional holly, ivy and greenery and looked very festive with the twinkling lights from the Christmas tree. Revd. Stephen Winter welcomed the large

congregation and after the Bidding Prayer, the penultimate candle on the Advent wreath was lit: The Candle of Joy, remembering Mary, Mother of Jesus.

The lessons were read by a delightful mix of children and adults and as the Christmas story unfolded, members were invited to people the crib. Thankyou, Laureen, for leading us through the much-loved carols. Delicious mulled wine with mince-pies and stollen were provided afterwards.

A huge “Thank You!” to everyone who helped make the service so enjoyable and memorable. A special “Thank you!” also, to Geoff and Audrey Baker for their very kind donation of the traditional Christmas tree.

Officiating on Christmas Morning at 10.00a.m. was the Revd. John Cox who had very kindly agreed to come to St. Mary’s to take our traditional Service of Holy Communion. Refreshments were served afterwards, thanks to Wendy and David Hawkins.

### SERVICES

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent	11.00 a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mr.D.Hawkins, Mrs.V.Harris Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Isaiah 58 (1-12); Matt 5 (13-20)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent	11.00am HC (BCP)	Lector: Mrs.R.Stacey Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Exodus 24 (12-end); Gospel: Matt. 17 (1-9)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent	SERVICE AT OMBERSLEY 11.00a.m. HC- CW	NO SERVICE AT DOVERDALE
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lent	11.00a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.A.Chapman Sidesperson: Mr.J.Chapman Readings:- Gen.12 (1-4a); John 3(1-17)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 4 <sup>th</sup> of Lent	11.00a.m. Mothering Sunday	Lectors, Readings & Sidespeople TBA

## Advertisers 2023 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  
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  
Brace Developments – house renovations, conversions – 01386 750459  
Castle Farm Designs – wooden garden furniture for sale/hire – 07841 500735  
Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472  
Ceramics at the Croft – pottery lessons – 07897 624792  
David Ward Firewood – 07866 441154  
Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288  
E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094  
Elite Marquees – 07958 288510  
Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671  
Fisher Performance Cars – high quality performance cars – 01299 251444  
Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589  
Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121  
Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740  
Home Carer, Home Help – 07899 784272  
I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452  
Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307  
Jones & Associates – Estate Agents – 01386 291010 / 07496 625205  
Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275  
Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870  
MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879  
MSB Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd. – 07769 342897

Mark Foster Podiatry/Chiropody – 07941 138957  
Marshall-McKay Kitchen & Interior Design – 07765 447704  
Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825  
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  
Ovengleamers – oven cleaning – 01562 702883  
Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500  
Parks Café Droitwich – 01905 776633  
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  
Reynolds Heating Services – central heating installations etc. – 07857  
755340  
W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692  
S G Electrical – electrical services – 01905 620693  
S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011  
SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945  
Severn Soaps – hand-made soaps and gifts – 07811949049  
Shelter-Adams Ltd – home heating experts – 07990 523790 / 07922  
548915  
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  
Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285  
Whitlenge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669  
William's Professional Decorating Services – 01886 888186  
Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500