



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**November
2025**



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.

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



Severn Parishes Service Rota

November 2025

November 2nd	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday 1st	Hartlebury
	11.00am	All Souls Service	Ombersley
	3.00pm	All Souls Service	Elmley Lovett
November 9th Remembrance Sunday	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	9.15am	Remembrance	Doverdale
	10.50am*	Remembrance	Ombersley
	10.45am	Remembrance	Hartlebury
November 11th	10.45am	Remembrance	Hartl'y War Memorial
November 16th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Ombersley
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
November 23rd	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
November 30th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	4.00pm	Advent Carols	Ombersley
December 7th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Advent Service	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale

*Assemble at War Memorial by 10.45am; parade to commence at 10.40am.

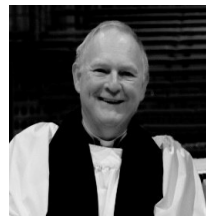
HC Holy Communion; CW common Worship; BCP Book of Common Prayer;

FS Family Service; MP Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer at Ombersley at 9.15 on Wednesday 26th November

Letter from the Rector

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



Dear Friends,

November – A Time to Remember

November is a month of remembrance. The changing of the seasons, the falling of the leaves, and the quiet of shorter days seem to lend themselves to reflection and thanksgiving.

At the start of the month, we celebrate All Saints' Day when we remember with gratitude all those men and women who have faithfully served God on earth, but do not have a feast day of their own. They are the countless, often unnamed, people whose lives have shone with the light of Christ — people who have sought justice, shown mercy, and walked humbly with their God (Micah 6:8).

The following day, All Souls' Day we pause to remember all who have died — our loved ones, friends, and all those who have gone before us into the nearer presence of God. We give thanks for their lives and pray that they may rest in peace and rise in glory.

As the month continues, we come to Remembrance Sunday, when we recall with deep gratitude those who gave their lives in the service of others — in two world wars and in conflicts since. We remember the courage, sacrifice, and selflessness of so many, and we pray for all who still suffer as a result of war and violence.

As I write this, our nation is still reeling from the vile and horrific attack on the synagogue in Manchester, made even more shocking because it took place on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. Such acts of hatred grieve the heart of God. They remind us of the evil that arises when prejudice and division are allowed to grow unchecked.

We must never forget that people of all creeds, colours and backgrounds fought side by side to defeat the evil of the Nazi regime. The best way we can honour those who gave their lives for freedom is to commit ourselves to the work of peace — to speak up against antisemitism, homophobia, xenophobia, racism and hatred in all its forms.

As St Paul reminds us in Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." May that be our prayer and our purpose this November — that,

remembering the saints, the faithful departed, and the fallen, we may also renew our commitment to live as people of light, peace, and hope in God's world.

Yours in Christ,



Why Do We Ask the Saints to Pray for Us?

In the Apostles' Creed, we affirm our belief in "the communion of saints" — the deep and enduring fellowship that unites all God's people: those on earth, those who have died and are with Christ, and all who will come after us. This means that the Church is not just made up of those we see around us, but also includes all who have lived and served God faithfully through the ages.

When we ask the saints to pray for us, we are not worshipping them — worship belongs to God alone. Rather, we are asking for their prayers, just as we might ask a friend or fellow Christian to pray for us. We believe that the saints, being alive in Christ, continue to care for us and to pray for the world. As Jesus said, "He is not God of the dead, but of the living" (Luke 20:38).

It's a way of recognising that love and prayer do not end with death. The saints, who now see God face to face, are part of the same family of faith — and their prayers join with ours before God's throne.

In the Book of Revelation, St John describes the saints in heaven offering the prayers of the faithful on earth to God as "golden bowls full of incense" (Revelation 5:8). This is a powerful image of how our prayers are united with theirs in the presence of God.

So, when we ask the saints to pray for us, we are doing something deeply relational and hopeful: We acknowledge that we belong to one great family of faith; We take comfort in knowing that we are not alone in our struggles; And we affirm our belief in the victory of life over death, through Jesus Christ.

In short — we ask the saints to pray for us because they are still our brothers and sisters in Christ, still part of God's living Church, and their prayers, like ours, rise before the God who loves us all.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the Joint December/January Magazine by Friday 14th November

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Baptism

September 21st	Albert George Beney Pringle
----------------	-----------------------------

Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
Nov 2nd	HC-CW All Souls	Phil & Gail Filer	Angela Randle	Robert Thornton
Nov 9th	Remembrance Sunday*	Kim & Chris Day	-	-
Nov 16th	MP	Maureen Callow, Fiona Davies	Liz Hooper	Louise Robinson
Nov 23rd	HC-CW	Meg & James Martineau	Jenny Batelen	James Martineau
Nov 30th	Advent Carols	Tony Checketts, Jenny Ransome	-	Various
Dec 7th	HC-CW	Jenny Batelen, Angela Randle	Fiona Davies	Anthony Hughes

*Assemble at War Memorial by 10.45am; parade to commence at 10.40am.

Holy Dusters

Nov 7th	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham
Nov 28th	Sally Ludlow, Marjorie Workman, Fiona Davies
Dec 5th	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham

Many thanks to all who help keep the church looking well-loved. If you'd like to help, please ring Liz 01905 620827 or Fiona 01905 621176

Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
Nov 7 th & 14th	Jan Berry Remembrance Poppies	Jean Barns Remembrance Poppies
Nov 21 st & 28 th Wedding on 22nd	Jan Berry	Heather Barningham
Dec 5 th & 12th	Sue Hughes	Andrea Crowther

Please add silk flowers from the boxes if your flowers fade. If you'd like to help, please contact either Jan Berry or Heather Barningham. Jan: 07977 588682; janeteberry@gmail.com
Heather: 01905 620213; hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk

Date for your diary: Decorate Church for Christmas from 10.00am on Friday 19th December.

St Andrew's News

Also find information on

www.achurchnearyou.com , YouTube: 'St Andrew's Church Ombersley' or Facebook

What a lovely Autumn we are having, good to have some rain, but still mild with beautiful colours, and we have a loveliness of ladybirds in the West porch with a huge variety of dots.

We celebrated harvest with a lot of apples this year; every pudding at our Harvest lunch was based on apple, a first we think. Next year we are considering combining the service followed by lunch in and around the church, what do you think?

We have finished the training course for Authorised Lay Leaders, with more improving sessions through 2026. It has been interesting to learn the 'why' of service orders, as well as the reason for certain parts, also gratifying to learn that our pattern of service is good.

Other training sessions are trying to embrace sharing the story of the church and events in a more digital manner - also interesting and we would really appreciate anyone with knowledge in this area who may like to help? Do you know anyone doing a media course who would like some practical experience? Our first step will be to create a public Facebook page where everyone can find out what is happening. Look for 'Ombersley Church, Worcestershire'.

Last but not least, there will be some changes during advent, please see further on.

Fiona and Chris

Stay and Play (Babes and Toddlers): Each Monday Morning; 9.30 to 11am £2 /family

It is lovely to meet new families, but sad to say farewell to those returning to work, or starting school and we wish them well. Luckily some are coming for a second run around!

Join our lovely group of children and adults - please pop in and see us. There's a comfortable space at the back of the church with various toys. Hot drinks and a snack finishing with circle songs. Last month we had a chance to decorate biscuits which I gather carried on at home... Just drop in, or contact us via Facebook 'Stay and Play Ombersley', or call 07837928531.

Monthly Monday evening Bible study group: Next meeting at 7pm on November 3rd

Come and join us on the first Monday evening of each month. For the next session we will continue looking at the letter of James. This month will be chapter 3.

Last month our discussion moved around 'can you have faith without action'? Did the prayer of silent orders count in the past, or was their 'action' in fact the legacy left behind? The letter is attributed to James, a younger brother of Jesus. As such it is possibly one of the earliest recorded Christian writings.

The sessions are very informal and accessible to people of all levels of scriptural knowledge. So, if you're free one Monday evening a month, come along and share our look at the letter of James. You will be very welcome.

Creativity, Coffee and Company

The First and Third Thursday of each month; November 6th and 20th, 10.30am, £2 per session

Ideas have been popping up, one of which is making rag blooms, originally a sunflower, but we are moving toward Christmas and a variation makes a lovely decoration! Quite simple if you would like a go?

Ombersley Quilling Group

The Second Thursday of each month at 7.15pm: Next meeting on November 13th

A newish group where we are all learning together. Do come and try this paper filigree / twiddling. We have started creating a display board in church with reference cards of different techniques before we put it all together for Christmas projects, of course.

Contact Fiona on 07837928531 for more information

Forthcoming Events:

Christmas Variations!

Please keep an eye on posters, banners and digital media and put events on your calendar.

Advent Carols: November 30th at 4pm

A new venture! It is Advent Sunday and a good start to our Christmas journey waiting for the arrival of Jesus. We will sing carols we often miss and send the Posada on the beginning the Advent journey.

Carols Around the Christmas tree: Dec 13th, 6pm

Instead of a small group walking around a small part of the village, we will have the chance for everyone to come together in the wedding field and sing carols around a Christmas tree. Refreshments are at the planning stage!

'Blue Christmas': Thursday Dec 18th at 7pm

A peaceful service for those who need a quiet moment over Christmas time.

Carol Service: Sunday December 21st, 4pm

Christmas Eve, 4pm: A Living Crib Service...with Donkeys

A retelling of the Christmas story with opportunities to dress up and create a living crib. For families and the young at heart.

Christmas Eve: 10pm - the First Eucharist of Christmas

Please note the new time!!!!

We are trying an earlier start this year to see if this suits people better (it is midnight in Bethlehem). We do hope to see you there.

POSADA

You may have heard or seen this word in the run up to Christmas and wondered what it's all about! The word **posada** means inn or lodging, and traditionally, in Mexico, posadas are a celebration of the Christmas story. The celebration takes place on nine nights from December 16th to 24th and commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay where Jesus could be born. Posadas in Mexico feature hot food and drinks, sweets, music, and piñatas.

The Church of England encourages a version of this as a chance to spend an evening with the Nativity characters, storybooks, a candle and more during Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas. In Ombersley this has now become a tradition. Schools and local families sign up to host Mary & Joseph – small, knitted characters.

The characters, storybooks, candle and more will be blessed at the Advent Carol service on 30th November (Advent Sunday) at 4pm and will be received back into church on Christmas morning at the Family Service, when Mary and Joseph can be joined by the Baby Jesus.

If you are a family with young(ish) children/grandchildren, this is a great opportunity to 'take some time out' in the busy run up to Christmas. If you are adults, this is a chance to pause and reflect – there are some cards to facilitate this.

If you're interested in being involved, please contact Jenny Batelen:

email: jenny.batelen@btinternet.com tel: 07503 334598.

If you have hosted in previous years, I hope you will want to continue the tradition.



PRAYING ROUND THE PARISH

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

Rev Canon Tim Williams 01905 978431; rector@w7b.org.uk

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or Rev James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com

[Curate with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



Areas for November:

Sunday 2nd November – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Bristol Gardens, Longheadland, Lord Hill Gardens

Sunday 9th November – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View, Abberley View

Sunday 16th November – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton, Sytchampton School

Sunday 23rd November – Bell ringers, organists and choirs of our churches

Sunday 30th November – All in our community on St Andrew's day

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.

Can you help?

Do you have a few hours spare each month and think you would enjoy being involved in a valuable parish activity? The Ombersley Parish Magazine Editorial Team are looking for additional members to help with the editorial and layout design aspects of the process.

If you are interested please contact either
Maureen Callow - maureen.callow@icloud.com or
Zillah Pickering – zillp@zillp.co.uk

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the Joint December/January Magazine by Friday 14th November

Remembrance Sunday 2025



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 9th November: 9.15am at Doverdale and at 10.40am at Ombersley.

The Parade will commence from the Crown & Sandys carpark at 10.40am (please arrive at 10.20am if collecting wreaths) for the ceremony at the War Memorial at 10.45am. 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. We shall then proceed into Church for a special Remembrance Service. All those who wish to attend the service at Ombersley should assemble at the War Memorial at 10.45am.

Acts of Remembrance are open to all to attend. Please give your support on Remembrance Sunday and ensure that those who lived in the area and gave their lives for their country are never, ever forgotten. 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/>

The Royal British Legion provide assistance to ex-service personnel and their families in addition to remembering the fallen. If you know of someone who may need help, please contact the national helpline number (0808 802 8080). There are local RBL branches in Claines and Droitwich.



Ombersley Memorial Hall

Sandys Road, Ombersley WR9 0DY



CHRISTMAS FAIR & SANTA'S GROTTO

22nd November 2025 11 -4pm

£1 entry, children free

MANY STALLS, HOME BAKED CAKES WITH
REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE, MULLED WINE

TO BOOK YOUR VISIT WITH SANTA, EMAIL:

VisitSanta@ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk



LOCAL NEWS

November 2025

- **Ombersley Walking Group** are planning an Autumn 5-mile circular walk around the Parish on **Sunday November 2nd** - meet at 10am Ombersley Memorial Hall. Further details from Peter 07855 441804.
- Movie Night returns **Saturday November 8th 7pm** - in OMH showing **Mr Burton**.
The true story of Richard Burton's rise to fame from a wayward Welsh schoolboy to international actor. Starring Toby Jones and Lesley Manville. Phone: 07798 797095 for further details. £5 cash payable on the door.
- **Remembrance Sunday 9th November** FULL ROAD CLOSURES will extend from the northbound A449 down to the island at the bottom of School Bank. This measure will be enforced between 10.30am-11.30am. Access and diversions will be in place directing traffic into the village via Haye Lane.
- The recent **Apple Pressing Day at the Memorial Hall** last month was very well attended and this year they generated 270 litres of juice for the community - this amount was up on last year. The Worcester Orchard Workers Transition are also pleased to announce that there has been an offer from a local couple in the village to undertake the job of being the local 'tree warden' for the Millenium Orchard behind the Crown & Sandys Hotel. The job entails walking round the orchard on a regular basis and reporting any broken or damaged branches. All the new trees that were planted early on this year have taken well. If anyone else is interested in helping then please contact Tony - tonys.clarke58@yahoo.co.uk
- **Saturday 15th November 7pm** in OMH: **Charity Quiz Night** masterminded by Sue and Rick. See advert elsewhere in this magazine. Email; petrasilvester1@gmail.com to book your place.

- **Ombersley Gardening Club – Thursday 20th November** in Memorial Hall at 7.30pm - a talk presented by Carl Sadler called T'he Miserable Old Trugger'. Sounds fun!
- If you are dividing your perennials this month. could you please consider donating some to the **Community Kitchen Garden** on the allotments. Plus, we still have one mini-plot available for use by a local resident. Details from Diane: 07798 797095.
- **Saturday 22nd November 11-4pm Christmas Fair & Santa's Grotto** in the Ombersley Memorial Hall. Please book in advance for your tickets for a visit to see Santa on email; VisitSanta@ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk
- **Save the dates for CHRISTMAS FUN:** more details next month.
Saturday December 6th 2pm: Charity "Blue Lights" Service in St Andrew's Church.
Saturday 13th December 6pm: Xmas carolling in the Wedding Field.
Sunday December 14th 2pm: Childrens' Movie 'The Grinch' with a visit from Santa. See advert later in magazine.

If you have any snippets of local news, email maxdiane@outlook.com or phone 01905 620350.

OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE



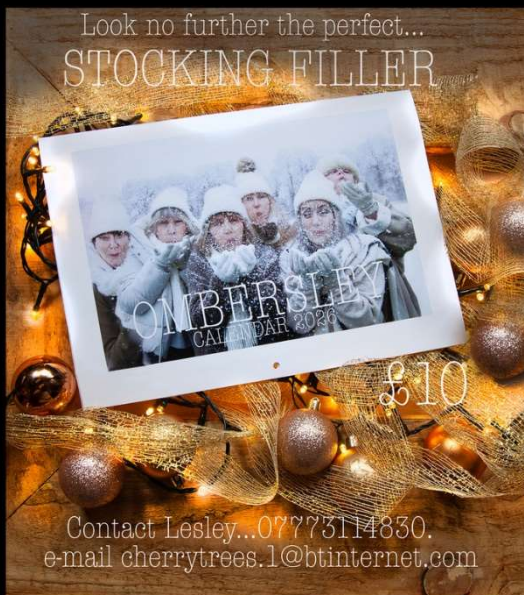
Thursday 6 November 2025 – 7.00 for 7.30pm
Talk by Peter Tomlinson entitled

'From Tiswas to Toff'

A career that took the creator of Tiswas back to 1974. The man who got the first bucket of water, to the wearing of fancy dress and sword 30 years later, then military uniform and finally a county chain. A most bizarre career journey!

Members: Free, Guests: £6: Contact Marie or Ann 07901522412 / 07712 811552

Thursday 4th December - the usual Prosecco on arrival, turkey baps, mince pies and brandy sauce, secret Santa. Fun and laughter guaranteed. Bring your friends.



all proceeds to
DROITWICH FOODBANK
and
THE MAGGS DAY CENTRE

THANKYOU

Another fabulous Quiz Night masterminded by Sue & Rick

Saturday 15th November at Ombersley Memorial Hall

doors and bar open at 7pm; ticket at the door, £20

-tables of 8 players

-fish & chips supper and snacks included

licensed bar, raffles

No problem if you prefer to play with fewer players per team or like to be joined up with a team.

It has not yet been decided which organisation will be the recipient of the raised money, but it will definitely be a worthy cause.

Please email Petra Silvester to book your place

petrasilvester1@gmail.com



Ombersley Gardening Club



Autumn, with its ever-changing colours is such a beautiful time of the year. The leaves begin to fall carpeting lawns, paths, roadways and the countryside, a sure sign that winter is on its way.

Tulip bulbs now need to be planted ready for a wonderful display in the Spring, along with roses and fruit trees. Dahlia tubers, gladioli and canna lilies will need to be lifted and stored away. Protect plants against the cold and frost if you haven't already done so and lift pots off the ground to prevent them becoming water logged. Prune raspberry bushes to the ground for a good harvest next year along with gooseberry, blackcurrant and redcurrant bushes.

Clear away all finished summer plants and cut down faded perennials. Clear leaves and debris from the lawn, giving it maybe its last mow of the year - aerate and feed it along with trimming the borders to prepare it for the winter months ahead. Tidy leaves and fallen debris from ponds making sure something is in place to stop the pond completely freezing over.

At the club's last meeting, a wonderful evening was spent with Nick Bailey from Gardener's World and we now look forward to welcoming our last speaker of the year, Carl Sadler who will be entertaining us with his talk 'Miserable Old Trugger' on the **20th November**. This will be followed by the last event of 2025; the Gardening Club's Christmas dinner, which will be held on the **11th December** and is always a great evening.

With the colder weather arriving, be sure to help out our wonderful wildlife which may struggle to find food and water. Keep birdfeeders, hedgehog food and water vessels and containers topped up, clearing away ice when necessary.

Now is the time to collect holly and store it safely away for Christmas wreaths and garlands before the birds eat all the berries.

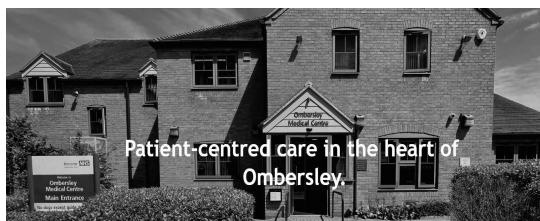
We hope to welcome you at the last talk of the year in November and look forward to seeing you then.

Happy Gardening! Ombersley Gardening Club Committee.



In **September 2025** there were:

- 3,111 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 749 telephone consultations
- 198 DNA (Did not attend)
- 17,122 medications issued
- 2,710 contacts regarding patient care requiring action



Flu season is here — protect yourself and those around you by booking your flu vaccine today. It's quick, safe, and the best way to avoid serious illness this winter. Appointments are now available, so don't wait — call the practice or book online to secure your slot.



Free NHS Health Checks – Looking After Your Health

Did you know that if you're aged 40–74, you may be entitled to a free NHS Health Check? It's a simple check-up to spot the early signs of conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. The Health Check only takes about 20 minutes and can help you understand your risk, make healthier choices, and stay well for longer. Contact the practice today to book your appointment.



Tea & Coffee Shop

Ombersley Memorial Hall



Tuesday 4th November 2-4 pm
Thursday 20th November 2-4 pm
Tuesday 2nd December

Wonderful Invention

The Biro or ball point pen: A Hungarian- Argentinian Laslo Biro was fed up with the blotting and smudging which came with the use of fountain pens. He was inspired by the use of quick drying inks used in newspaper printing presses. In 1938, he patented his design of a small roller ball bearing which distributed the ink onto paper. The first biros were produced in 1944 under the name "Eterpen". The pen's reliability and practicality especially at higher altitudes led to its use by the RAF during World War II.

Wychavon – what matters MOST to you?

Cleaner Streets, Safer Spaces, Better Leisure

Wychavon District Council's Residents' Survey 2025

Wychavon's annual Residents' Survey is a chance for residents to tell us what matters most to them about life in Wychavon. As a thank you, entrants will be entered into a prize draw to win one of four £100 vouchers to spend at a local business of their choice. The survey is brief and straightforward to complete – it takes approximately 10 minutes – but the feedback received will help us understand what's working well, what needs improvement, and how satisfied you are with council services.

Your views have already led to real improvements, like shorter wait times on the Wychavon Council Tax phone line and better appointment booking. What will you help change next?

The survey is open until 9th November. Go to:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PTCPart/>

OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

8th November – Movie Night – Mr Burton

22nd November - Christmas Fair

6th December – Movie Night – Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy

14th December – Matinee How the Grinch stole Christmas





More Wonderful Inventions

The Paperclip: The first bent wire clip was patented in 1867 by Samuel Fay, but wasn't the shape we know today and was used to attach paper to fabric. The modern "Gem" paperclip is attributed to William Middlebrook of the Gem Manufacturing Company in the USA, who patented a machine to produce the clip in 1899. The original designer of this shape clip is not known, but a Norwegian, Johan Vaaler, patented a dissimilar design in 1899 and Norway now claims him and Norway as the birthplace of the modern paperclip.

Sellotape: Richard Drew invented the first transparent adhesive cellophane tape in 1930, whilst working at 3M. He also invented masking tape a few years earlier. It came about as there was a need in the burgeoning car manufacturing business, for efficient masking of areas when painting motorcars.

From the Archive

Ombersley Parish Magazine Summer 1945

Rector's Letter: Air Raid Precautions (A.R.P.)

The equipment kept at this port has now been returned to Droitwich, and I am very glad to be quit of it all, especially the gruesome winding sheet which gave me the shivers every time I looked at it lying on one of my study tables. From 1940 onwards, being so conveniently situated in the very centre of the village, the Rectory has been increasingly been used as a dump, and the accumulation of impediments scattered around several rooms, has defied all attempts at dusting. The eight evacuees, who at intervals stayed here, gave far less trouble, at least they kept themselves and their rooms tidy. But there is tidying up a 'junk shop' and I marvel that my household did not revolt long ago.

All that is over now and there is peace. One can move without getting mixed up in pump piping, or tripped up by buckets and sandbags. One can also breath freely an atmosphere untainted by the odours of anti-gas clothing and ointment, gas masks and dubbin, used bandages, iodine and all the nostrums of 1st Aid – smells which the strongest tobacco failed to decontaminate.

Nevertheless, strange to say, I regret that the post is closing down, for I shall miss the excitement of it all, to say nothing of the real pleasure it gave me to welcome the wardens as often as the siren sounded, and one by one (with a wager on the first), they reported for duty. They did not always relish being knocked up at one or two a.m., still less so when the 'all clear' coincided with their arrival at my front door. But, by and large, I think that like myself, they have enjoyed the thrill of A.R.P. and bear me no grudge for having called 'em out so often or put on so many 'exercises'. As a part reward for past services, the authorities will, for a consideration, hand back some of the equipment as follows:

- S. Pumps 7/6. Useful for spraying fruit trees, motor cars or the neighbour's cat.
- Rattles 2/6. Fine for scaring birds.
- Super-buckets 1/6. Extra-large and strong.
- Anti-gas clothing. Make good waterproofs.
- Hatchets, belt, blue hurricane lamps etc. at greatly reduced prices.

GW Gillingham

The early days of “The Wireless”

You may remember listening to the wireless as a child: perhaps hearing Mrs Dale tell off her GP husband Jim (1948), or being shocked when Grace Archer died trying to save her horse “Midnight” (1955). You may have “listened in” on a crystal radio receiver, which worked without any external power source - a wonder to me when my father and I made one in 1966. The story of the start of wireless broadcasting goes back long before that.

Creating radio waves by spark induction developed during the last 10 years of the 19th century, culminating in Marconi’s inaugural transmission across the Atlantic, from Cornwall to Newfoundland on the 12th December 1901. It wasn’t until Christmas Eve 1906 that an American, Reginald Fessenden, made the first audio broadcast. Ships at sea heard him playing ‘O Holy Night’ and reading a passage from the Bible.

It was this ability to broadcast to ships that encouraged the British Navy to develop radio, as prior to that, ships relied on line-of-sight communication, by flag or lights. During the First World War, the British Government requisitioned private wireless equipment from the few pioneers developing it, regarding further development as a national secret.

After the war, America had developed radio technology without restriction and with the discharge from British Forces of troops used to using radio, the British Government realised that the “cat was out of the bag”. The first public wireless broadcast in England took place on June 5th 1920, in Chelmsford when the Marconi Company broadcast Dame Nellie Melba singing, the performance sponsored by “The Daily Mail”. This was heard as far away as Europe. Their broadcasting station “2MT” was initially for 30 minutes once a week. Soon a sister company started in London – the famous “2LO” station.

Initially the GPO (General Post Office) was concerned about unregulated broadcasting, but in 1922 took matters in hand by setting up the “British Broadcasting *Company*” and broadcasting as “2LO” introducing the famous “London Calling” by-line. The first Director-General (note the military allusion) was Lord Reith whose founding principles were famously “to inform, educate and entertain”. The Radio Times appeared first on the 28th September 1923 as the BBC’s official guide to broadcasts.

At this time, most people “listened in” using crystal wireless receivers with headphones. Valves, which could amplify radio waves and audible sounds were being developed before and during the First World War, but remained expensive and complicated to use. However, as the 1920s progressed they became cheaper and more technically advanced. Battery driven valve sets attached to “horn” loudspeakers started to be more common. Families could listen together!

Valve technology continued to improve. Additionally, by 1930, many homes were being connected to the new National Grid and mains powered radios using high quality “moving coil” internal speakers appeared. Built into decorative polished wooden

cabinets, they were no longer a scientific toy, but now part of elegant living room furniture.

The Government of the day realised that, for the first time, they could speak to the entire nation simultaneously and instantaneously. This was used to the full in the Second World War when broadcasts presenting favourable news were made to the nation. The Nazis responded with defeatist broadcasts by “Lord Haw Haw”; William Joyce an American Nazi sympathiser living in Germany. A cunning plan by the Germans, foiled by the English who treated his broadcasts as a comedy show. During the war, replacement radios and spare repair parts became scarce. The Government, recognising the power of broadcasting, directed manufacturers to produce standard “Utility Radios” at a price of £12 3s 4d – about £630 in today’s money.

The large, cumbersome and not easily portable wireless of the first 50 years of the 20th century met a sudden demise in 1957 when the Sony company produced the tiny TR-63, the first non-valve radio using transistors. At the same time as “The Tranny” became available, young people became “Teenagers” and a new type of music, called “Pop” hit the airwaves. The world was never to be the same again, and one wonders what Lord Reith, with his high founding principles, would have made of “Ru Paul’s Drag Race” (if you haven’t seen this programme, DON’T look it up!).

The stimulus to write this article follows a recent OHG visit to Robert Thornton’s early wireless collection and his fascinating talk about the history and social impact of wireless broadcasting. I owe him due recognition and thanks. *David Collier*



Top left: BTH horn
loudspeaker, 1924
Top middle: Fellows
loudspeaker, 1924
Top right: GEC All Electric 3,
1931
Bottom left: Marconiphone
portable, 1929
Bottom right: Revophone
crystal set, 1924



Ombersley Endowed First School



We enjoyed our Harvest Festival service in the school hall; each class shared their own Harvest song with the rest of the school. Our families were very generous with food donations, which we sent to the Droitwich Food Bank.

As we move from Autumn into Winter, we start thinking about Christmas and look forward to our forthcoming activities at Ombersley School. The Early Year children will be having an exciting visit to see Father Christmas, whilst the rest of the school are looking forward to a morning at a pantomime.

Transition Trips

Year 4 enjoyed a fabulous morning at Westacre Middle School. They spent the first half of the morning baking cupcakes and the second half using a computer coding programme. We are also in the process of arranging a session at Witton Middle School.

P.E.

The whole school have benefitted from P.E. coaches across the years. We are looking forward to another coach after half term who will teach a variety of P.E. lessons. Year 4 have enjoyed the first half-term of swimming lessons and Year 3 will be going swimming after half-term.

Remembrance Ceremony and Service

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 our Christmas Fayre in the school on the evening of Friday 27th November. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



We have been enjoying the start of autumn in school, and it has been great to see the children getting outside and using our lovely outdoor area.

Harvest Festival

We celebrated Harvest Festival in school at the beginning of October. The children shared songs, poems and artwork they'd been learning in class and enjoyed performing for their parents and families. Our collection was for Droitwich Food Bank and we were delighted to be able to donate over 110kg of produce to this excellent cause.

International Week

We've had lots of fun celebrating International Week in school during October. Each class has learnt about a different continent, finding out about the countries, language and culture of some different places in the world. We have particularly enjoyed sampling some international food!

Handball Tournament

Our Year 5 and 6 children did a brilliant job representing the school at a Handball Tournament at a local secondary school. They played fairly and were really supportive of their team mates.

Quiz and Fizz

Our PTA are holding a festive "Quiz and Fizz" at Ombersley Memorial Village Hall on Friday 5th December. Tickets are available to book – please email [sytchta@outlook.com](mailto:sytchpta@outlook.com) to reserve a space. We'd love to see you there.

Open Days

If you have children or friends who will be starting school in September 2026 we would love to hear from you. Our open days this term are on **Wednesday 12th November and Tuesday 2nd December**. Please call the school office on 01905 620418 to book an appointment.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the Joint December/January Magazine by Friday 14th November

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 07553 810080
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	
ORGANIST:	Mrs L. Moyse	

FLOWER ROTA:

November 9th & 16th: Remembrance Poppies. Please contact Jean Dowty on 01905 620896 if you have time to help occasionally with church flowers.

PARISH REGISTER: ST. MARY'S CHURCH

FUNERAL: July 9th, ANNIE BEATRICE HOLMES

BAPTISM: October 5th, ORO MARC MOYSE-HESKINS

PEWPOINTS

Diary Dates: Sunday 9th November at 9.15am. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Looking Ahead: Sunday 21st December at 11.00am. ST. MARY'S CAROL AND CRIB SERVICE.

ST MARY'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A short PCC meeting was held on September 24th in Ombersley Narthex.

Rev'd Tim Williams opened proceedings with a short prayer. After the apologies had been heard, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed and any matters arising were dealt with.

Safe-guarding Officer, Louise Tarleton-Hodgson, reported that all the necessary policies had been adopted and Geoff Crow, providing an update of the current situation with regard to the West End foundations, reported that a solution to the cracks was yet to be received from the contractor.

Treasurer, Louise Tarleton-Hodgson, then gave a report on finance and informed members that work on the church car park could now go ahead without needing a faculty. It was proposed that Leapgate Builders be offered the work of repairing the potholes and spreading a gravel topping over the whole car park as close as possible in size and colour to the existing gravel.

Future services were then discussed. Harvest Festival was finalised for Sunday 19th October at 11.00am and St Mary's Carol Service for Sunday 21st December at 11.00am.

There being no other business, the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 1pm in Ombersley Narthex. The meeting closed with a parting prayer.

SERVICES

Sunday 9 th November: Remembrance Service	9.15a.m.	Reading and Sidespeople TBA
Sunday 16 th November 2 nd before Advent	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mrs.A. Chapman Sidesperson: Mr.J.Chapman Readings:- Mal. 4(1-2a) and Luke 21 (5-19)
Sunday 23 rd November Next Before Advent (Christ the King)	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mrs.S.Crow Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow Readings:- Jeremiah 23(1-6) & Luke 23(33-43)
Sunday 7 th December 2 nd of Advent	11.00a.m. MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mr.R.Coppini Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Isaiah 11(1-10) & Matt. 3(1-12)
Sunday 21 st December: CAROL SERVICE	11.00a.m.	Sidespersons: Mr.G.Crow, Mr.J.Chapman READERS: TBA

Advertisers August 2025

- AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085
- APM Decorators – 07784 483192
- AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058
- Agile Property Repairs – general maintenance, painting – 07784 483192
- 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
- CdbC Home & Property Maintenance – 07706 166816
- CW Home & Garden Maintenance – 07821 044507
- David Ward Firewood – 07866 441154
- Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288
- Droitwich Spa Hospital – private consultations - 01905 79333
- Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671
- Fusion Plumbing & Heating – 07773 395803
- GLM Property Maintenance – building and garden – 07399 024702
- Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121
- Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740
- E J Gumery – funeral services – 01905 22094
- I & S Stoves – wood burning stoves etc. – 01886 812452
- J & A Tree Services – trees, hedges, fencing etc. – 01299 250575
- Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307
- Jones & Associates – Estate Agents – 01386 291010 / 07496 625205
- Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275
- Kemble At Home – live-in, visiting and respite care – 01432 382017
- Lee Russell Independent Funeral Directors – 01905 347588
- 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 Pest control & Gardening Services – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825
- Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

- 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
- Phoenix Fostering – 07957 987461
- Pippa's Vintage Tea Set Hire – tea sets and accessories - 07731 929910
- Precision Pressure Cleaning – patios etc. – 07951 885745
- W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692
- S. Fox Services – property & garden maintenance – 01299 851388 / 07711 162464
- S. Fox Services – registered chimney sweep – 01299 851388 / 07711 162464
- S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011
- SJ Rayner (Cars) – quality used cars – 01562 820131
- SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945
- Salt Way Silver – silver jewellery classes – 07845 826415
- J Sanders Countryside Services – fencing, ground maintenance etc. 07837 181920
- Shelter-Adams Ltd – home heating experts – 07990 523790 / 07922 548915
- Simply Upholstery Ltd – bespoke furniture – 07973 470674
- Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050
- Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709
- Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943
- T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075
- Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738
- The Ear Clinic – earwax removal – 07731 474750
- The Tranquility Tree – holistic therapy – 07848 865709
- Whitlunge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669
- Worcester Computers – custom build, repairs etc. – 01905 759111
- Worcester Hearing Centre – hearing tests & aids, earwax removal – 01905 617803
- Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500
- Worcester Mobile Earcare – ear wax removal – 07545 282902