



# Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**December  
2025-  
January  
2026**



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

December 2025 & January 2026

December 7th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Advent Service	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
December 11th	6.00pm	Eucharist	<b>Ombersley</b>
December 14th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	<b>Ombersley</b>
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Hampton Lovett
December 19th	6.30pm	Carol Service	Hartlebury
December 21st	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	11.00am	Carol Service	Doverdale
	4.00pm	Carol Service	<b>Ombersley</b>
	6.30pm	Carol Service	Elmley Lovett
December 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service	Rushock
	4.00pm	Christingle	Hartlebury
	7.30pm	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	10.00pm	Christmas Eucharist	<b>Ombersley</b>
December 25th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	10.30am	FS	<b>Ombersley</b>
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
December 28th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
January 4 <sup>th</sup> 2026	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>

January 8th	6.00pm	Eucharist	<b>Ombersley</b>
January 11th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	Christingle Service	<b>Ombersley</b>
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
January 18th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	10.00am	MP	<b>Ombersley</b>
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
January 22nd	6.00pm	Eucharist	<b>Ombersley</b>
January 25th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
February 1st	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday 1st	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>

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

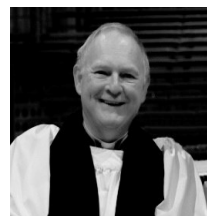
FS Family Service; MP Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer at 9.15am: Ombersley on 21st Jan; Doverdale on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb

## 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,

As we approach the final weeks of the year, our journey through Advent invites us to slow down and pay attention. Yet this can feel like a tall order when life speeds up around us — school events, shopping lists, travel plans and all the demands December brings. Even so, Advent gently draws us back to what really matters: to watchfulness, to hope, and to the quiet expectation that God is drawing near.

In our churches, the Advent candles mark this steady movement towards Christmas. With each new flame, the growing light reminds us that even the smallest spark can push back the darkness. It is a message our world needs. Many around us face uncertainty, anxiety, or loneliness at this time of year. Yet into such places, Christ comes — not with fanfare but with compassion, not with force but with vulnerability.

At Christmas we celebrate that extraordinary moment when God entered human life as a child. The stable at Bethlehem was far from perfect — draughty, cluttered, and hardly silent — yet it became the setting for God's greatest gift. There is deep comfort in that truth. It tells us that Christ is not deterred by our imperfections; He meets us where we are, in the midst of ordinary days and complicated lives, offering peace, hope, and the reassurance that we are loved.

Some say the Christmas story is just that — a story. But when I visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, I was convinced that this was a holy place where something remarkable truly happened. I left with my face glowing; I had encountered something profoundly sacred. And those who know me will know that I'm not prone to flights of fancy.

As we move into January and celebrate Epiphany, our attention shifts to the wise men who travelled far in search of the Christ child. Their journey was long, uncertain, and probably uncomfortable, yet they followed faithfully the light they had been given. In a world often searching for meaning, their story encourages us to keep seeking God's presence — in prayer, in Scripture, in one another, and in the everyday blessings we might easily overlook.

The gifts of the Magi also speak powerfully to us as a new year begins. Gold for a king, frankincense for worship, and myrrh foreshadowing his suffering and death: together they remind us that Jesus is the one who reigns with justice, who draws us into the presence of God, and who shares the full depth of human life. As we step into 2026, what gifts might we offer Him? Perhaps renewed time for prayer, small acts of kindness, a willingness to forgive, or the courage to pursue what is good and true.

January often encourages us to take stock — to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. None of us knows what lies ahead, but we can trust the One who walks with us through every season. The God who came to us in Bethlehem continues to guide, strengthen, and surprise us with grace. As I look back, Mary and I are deeply grateful for the warm welcome we have received — and for the harvest meals! As I look forward, I'm excited to discover what God has in store for us.

Mary and I wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas. May you and your loved ones know the deep peace of Christ this Christmas, the guiding light of His

presence through Epiphany, and the renewing hope of His love throughout the New Year.

With every blessing,



## **Something New and Exciting**

Starting in December we will start some weekday Eucharists. The Pattern will be 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10am at St Mary's Hampton Lovett and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6pm at St Andrew's Ombersley. This will be a quiet, said service and a chance to deepen our discipleship as well as a chance to meet up with people for a chat.

## **St Andrew's News**

Also find information on

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) , YouTube: 'St Andrew's Church Ombersley' or  
Ombersley Church on Facebook

Another year draws to a close, and a New Year beckons.

During November we remembered those lost in wars old and new, as well as people who have died more recently. On December 18th we will have a quieter service for anyone who needs a moment closer to Christmas to step aside, reflect and remember.

During Advent, a time of waiting for the potential of Christmas we also have a few new services and events. Hopefully you will have come to the Advent Carol service to start your journey and found some little - used carols to enjoy.

Christmas services are listed in various places, and we will also be starting a new regular evening Holy Communion service on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6pm, starting on Thursday December 11th.

We are really looking forward to Carols around the Christmas Tree on Saturday the 13th at 6pm in the Wedding Field. There will be food and drink to give us a special lift though the dark evenings. Our other new service will be a Living Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm - two donkeys will be visiting, and you are welcome to come dressed up to build a Christmas Tableau. We will not worry about how many Marys or Josephs we end up having!! Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 10pm this year and

Christmas Morning at 10.30 with carols, prayers, our interactive story and, of course, chocolates!

In 2026 we will be celebrating a Christingle Service on the second Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, another moment of light as the days begin to lengthen and when we raise money for the Children's Society.

Fiona and Chris thank you all for your support through the year, and wish you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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

Join our lovely group of children and adults - please pop in and see us. We have a lovely group of very little people this month, aged in weeks rather than months....so gorgeous! There's a comfortable space at the back of the church with various toys. Hot drinks and a snack finishing with circle songs. Just drop in, or contact us via Facebook 'Stay and Play Ombersley', or call 07837928531.

**Our last session 2025 will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Back on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

**Monthly Monday evening Bible study group.**

**Our next meetings will be at 7pm on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 and January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 at Wisteria Cottage, Main Road (next to the dentist).**

During the next sessions we will finish looking at the letter of James. One of the earliest of the New Testament writings, it still has a definite feel of the Old Testament God...please discuss. 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, 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; 10.30am, £2 per session**

**Next sessions are December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>**

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 meetings - December 11<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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. 2026 will start with learning and using more techniques.

Contact Fiona on 07837928531 for more information

## **Forthcoming Events:**

### **Christmas Services**

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

#### **Carols Around the Christmas tree: Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 on offer will include mulled wine, hot chocolate (with or without Baileys) and sausage rolls.

#### **Retired Fire Fighters Carol Service: Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

This is a fundraiser with all donations shared. There will be refreshments afterwards. (Note Different Date).

#### **'Blue Christmas': Thursday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

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

#### **A traditional Carol Service: Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>, 4pm**

This service begins Christmas week and brings Christmas spirit to the fore.

#### **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.

**Christmas Day: 10.30am.** A wonderful family service with interactive story and our traditional chocolate showing at the end.

**Happy Christmas Everybody!**

# Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

## Wedding

October 24th	Robert Smith & Laura Rogers
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## Interment

October 28th	Madeleine Davies
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## Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
Dec 7th	HC-CW	Jenny Batelen, Angela Randle	Howard Robinson	Anthony Hughes
Dec 14th	FS	Howard Robinson, Tony Checketts	-	-
Dec 21st	Carol Service	Alison Want, James Martineau	-	Various
Dec 24th	Living Crib	Tony Checketts, Judy Baer	-	-
Dec 24th	HC-CW	Chris Day, Fiona Davies	Chris Day	Fiona Davies
Dec 25th	Special FS	Hazel Smith, Tony Checketts	-	-
Jan 4th	HC-CW	Meg & James Martineau	Angela Randle	Hazel Smith
Jan 11th	FS	Gail & Phil Filer	-	-
Jan 18th	MP	Robert Thornton, Tony Checketts	Anthony Hughes	Jan Berry
Jan 25th	HC-CW	Jenny Ransome, Maureen Callow	Jenny Batelen	Marjorie Workman
Feb 1st	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Hazel Smith	David Wood	Robert Thornton

## Holy Dusters

Dec 5th	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> / 20th	Fiona Davies, Liz Hooper, Marjorie Workman
Jan 5th	Any volunteers?
Jan 16th	Marjorie Workman, Sally Ludlow
Jan 30th	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham



If you'd like to help, please ring Liz 01905 620827 or Fiona 01905 621176

We had a lovely 'Thank you Tea' at the Hall when all the Flower Arrangers and Cleaners had a chance to get together, courtesy of the PCC. Thank you to Heather Barningham for organising it.

## Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
Dec 5th & 12th	Sue Hughes	Andrea Crowther
Dec 19th from 10.00am	Christmas Flowers	
Jan 3rd - Feb15th	Plant arrangements	

Remove Christmas flowers on January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10.00am. 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](mailto:janeteberry@gmail.com)

Heather: 01905 620213; [hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk](mailto:hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:rector@w7b.org.uk)

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

or Rev James Homer 01299 851637 [ajfhomer@btinternet.com](mailto:ajfhomer@btinternet.com)

[Curate with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



### Areas for December:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Lincomb, The Winnalls, Acton, Mount Pleasant

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Sandys Road, Wellington Road, Chestnut Walk, The Hamptons

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Main Road North, Oakfield Road, Woodhall Lane/Close,  
Faber Orchard Deans Walk

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Families represented by all in our community

### Areas for January:

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Haye Lane, Oldfield Lane

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Main Road South, Church Lane, Hill Top, Ombersley Court

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Chatley, Woodfield, Hadley and Hunt Green

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Those who have moved into the parish

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.

## **Christingle Service**

On **Sunday the 11th January at 10am**, one of the loveliest events we hold in St Andrew's Church is taking place. It's the annual traditional Christingle service. During this very informal, child-friendly service you can construct your own Christingle, using an orange, a candle, small sweets and fruits and a red ribbon to wrap around the orange. All the candles are then lit, one by one, as we stand in the main aisle of the church. A moment for reflection on Jesus, the light of the world.

The service is linked with The Children's Society, a charity that supports young people who, for reasons beyond their control, are in great difficulty in their lives.

During the service there will be a collection in aid of this very worthwhile charity.

Please come and join in, bring your children and grandchildren, everyone's welcome.

By the way, If you already have a special Children's Society Collection Box you've been collecting money in for the past year, it's a good opportunity for you to bring it with you so that your donations can be sent off to The Children's Society).

## **Yew tree in St Andrew's churchyard**

The large yew tree in front of the church has been a concern for many years, particularly the effect it has on the fabric of the building. The branches have, at times, reached to within about a metre of the main window. The close proximity has created a micro-climate that adversely affects both the window and the surrounding stonework. It is likely that the roots are also close and there is a risk to the 200-year-old foundations, which are far less substantial than modern requirements. Now that this window has been restored at great expense, we need to take steps to prevent further damage.

Last March, the PCC was granted permission by Wychavon to fell the tree. We have since obtained quotations and have accepted one from the owner of a local sawmill who will make use of the main trunk. Because of this, his quote was much lower than the other three we received. A Faculty has been applied for from the Diocese; once granted, the tree will be felled.

As someone had previously written, this is a rather sad case of the wrong type of tree planted in the wrong place. The PCC intend to plant a suitable replacement tree in a more appropriate place within the churchyard.

## THE GREATEST SING - 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026

An all-day event hosted by the BBC's Malcolm Boyden to be held at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern.



**The Greatest Sing** is an all-day event, where one thousand participants will spend the day learning a medley of songs from *The Greatest Showman* and then perform it the same evening. Other acts will also take part in the evening show to raise money for a very special cause.

Whether you sing in a choir, or just in the shower, we need your voice to make this truly **The Greatest Sing** and raise money for a local charity, **The Anna Wilkinson Mockingbird Trust**. The Trust organises days and evenings out for young people between 16-24 years who live in the West Midlands with a cancer diagnosis. Treats include live events, meals, theatre visits and safari lodge stays with family and friends.

Tickets to take part in **The Greatest Sing** are £28 each, with an option to buy an event T-shirt (£10) when you book. Audience tickets for the evening are £10. If you can't make it but would like to support us, you might sponsor a chair for £10. Tickets are on sale now at [bit.ly/thegreatestsing](https://bit.ly/thegreatestsing) or through the charity's own website [www.theannawilkinsonmockingbirdtrust.co.uk](http://www.theannawilkinsonmockingbirdtrust.co.uk) where you can also find out more about us and what we do. Charity number 1169674.



### Tea & Coffee Shop

**Ombersley  
Memorial Hall**



**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

**Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the February 2026**

**Parish Magazine by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January**



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

Share the JOY of Christmas  
at St Andrew's this year



Sunday 30th November 4pm

**Advent Carols** – sharing the carols  
we often miss ... & sending out the Posada



Saturday 13th December 6pm

**CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

In the 'Wedding Field' by the church



Sunday 14th December 2pm **Festive Carol Service**  
in aid of Retired Firefighters Charity with refreshments after



Thursday 18th  
December 7pm

A peaceful Service for those  
who need a quiet moment  
during the Christmas season

Sunday 21st December 4pm

**The Carol Service**



Christmas Eve

4pm **A 'Living Crib Service'**   
in St Andrew's... with donkeys!

10pm  
please note  
different time

**Christmas Holy Communion**



Christmas Day 10.30am

An Informal Service,  
Carols & Story  
for Christmas Morning



# OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL



## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2025-2026

**6<sup>th</sup> December – Movie Night – Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy**

**14<sup>th</sup> December – Matinee How the Grinch stole Christmas**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Movie Night - Mission Impossible the Final Reckoning**

**21<sup>st</sup> February – Murder Mystery Evening**



**JOIN US FOR**

**How the**

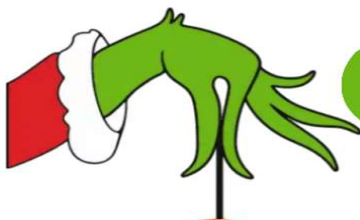
**Grinch**

**Stole Christmas**

**Matinee**

**DEC 14TH**

**2pm**



**Santa  
will be  
there**

**At Ombersley Memorial Hall,  
Sandys Road, WR9 6DY**

**3yrs – 12 yrs £5 each with  
accompanying Parents FREE  
General Public £5**

**RVSP [Cherrytrees.l@btinternet.com](mailto:Cherrytrees.l@btinternet.com)**

Made with PosterMyWall.com



## LOCAL NEWS

### December 2025 / January 2026

#### DECEMBER 2025

- **Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night** will be showing '**Bridget Jones - Mad About the Boy**' in Ombersley Memorial Hall. Bar & Doors Open 7pm; Film commences 7.30pm, £5 cash payable on the door.
- **Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Carols around the Tree. 6pm** in the Wedding Field. Refreshments will be available. Further details elsewhere in the magazine.
- **Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> – Children's Matinee Movie 'The Grinch'** with a visit from Santa. Doors Open 2pm. Please email for tickets on [cherrytrees1@btinternet.com](mailto:cherrytrees1@btinternet.com); 3-12yrs old £5 each with accompanying Parents FREE. General Public £5
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 11.00am** St Mary's Church in Doverdale are holding their Carol & Crib Service.
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 4pm.** St Andrew's Church will hold their Carol Service at 4.00pm.
- **Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve in St Andrew's Church for families with young children there will be a **NEW EVENT - Living Crib Service at 4pm with Donkeys!** In the evening, the First Eucharist service of Christmas will be at **the new time of 10pm.**
- Lastly, as this is the Season of Goodwill, we would like to mention a 'Go Fund' account which has been set up by the family of a little girl called **Frankie Hotham** who lives in Ombersley so that they can access life changing treatments abroad. Frankie has cerebral palsy with developmental delays and is currently non-verbal. You can read her story and maybe **Help**

**Frankie's Dream of Talking & Walking** by going to

<https://gofundme/58fef32b6> or Contact ;

[jameshotham@btopenworld.com](mailto:jameshotham@btopenworld.com)

## **JANUARY 2026**

- **Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> – 10am. The Ombersley Walking Group** have organized their Winter Walk. Meet in OMH. Details elsewhere in magazine.
- **Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night** returns with 'Mission Impossible The Final Reckoning' in OMH. Doors & Bar open 7pm, film commences 7.30pm.

•

***Diane and Max would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a***

***Healthy New Year***

If you have any snippets of local news, email [maxdiane@outlook.com](mailto:maxdiane@outlook.com) or phone 01905 620350.

## **Ombersley Walk Group**

**Next walk: Sunday 4th January 2026**

**Meet at Ombersley Memorial Hall where parking is available**



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. We have prepared a 5.5 mile circular route that is pretty flat with just three stiles to cross.

After the walk, which will finish about midday, drinks and biscuits will be provided in the Jubilee Room at Ombersley Memorial Hall. We are inviting everyone to make a small donation of £1.50 per head towards the cost of refreshments. The surplus will be given to the hall 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, 07855 441804*



**OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE**  
**Christmas 'Get Together'**  
**Thursday 4th December at 7 for 7.30 pm**  
**Ombersley Memorial Hall**

We are taking bookings for our annual Get Together.  
Come and enjoy a glass of Prosecco, Turkey Baps, Mince Pies and brandy sauce.  
**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SECRET SANTA GIFT WORTH £5.**

**Fun and laughter guaranteed**  
Members Free. Guests £8

***January 8<sup>th</sup> 2026: 7pm for 7.30pm***  
***Sean Sparke will present***  
***"My cardiac journey from a 10 minute walk to a 200 mile***  
***charity bike ride"***

Members free; Guests £6: Contact Marie or Ann or Di  
07901 522412 / 07712 811552 / 07714 844938

**Parish Magazine Subscription**

After four years without a price increase, we are increasing the subscription for  
**10 issues in 2026 to £7.**

The magazine is subsidised by advertising so please continue to support the businesses that advertise with us. The advertising rates for 2026 will remain at those for 2025.

Please give the money (cash only) to your distributor either before or when the February magazine is delivered.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

to all of the volunteers who distribute the magazine throughout the Parish.



## SYTCHAMPTON FOLK DANCE CLUB

Our Folk Dance Club has this year been celebrating 50 years of dancing at Sytchampton Village Hall. The Celebrations have included a boat trip in May, a train trip in September and a Sunday afternoon Celebration Tea Dance to which we invited many past members, and of course our current members.

Our club is one of the most successful clubs in the Midlands and we regularly get between 50 and 60 dancers each Wednesday. Come and join us at Sytchampton Village Hall on a Wednesday, 8-10pm (DY13 9SY - off A449).

We welcome both beginners and experienced dancers. Perhaps you have simply enjoyed a Barn Dance and if you want to learn more, come and join the fun. You don't need a partner, we swap around and help each other. We always have live music and our callers walk through each dance and call while we dance.

Our website is: <http://www.sytchamptondanceclub.org.uk>

Further details: John Evans 01384 897179 [goodevans.thenook@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:goodevans.thenook@yahoo.co.uk) or Liz Stanton [liz@the-stantons.uk](mailto:liz@the-stantons.uk)

## WORCESTERSHIRE WEDDING PROS WEDDING FAYRE

*Worcestershire Wedding Planner*

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL  
**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**



Meet Lindsay,  
our dedicated  
wedding planner

**FREE ENTRY**

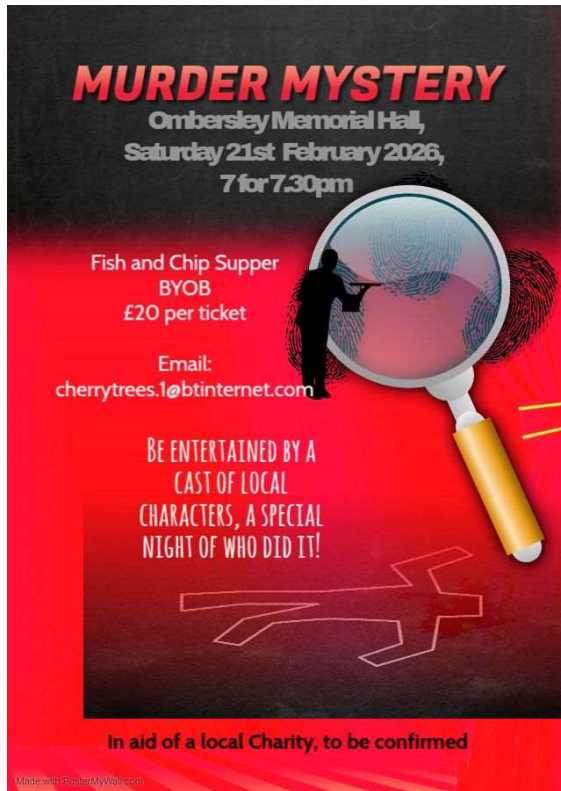
**DRINK ON ARRIVAL  
NIBBLES & CANAPÉS**

**12 - 4PM**



View the hall  
and meet local  
wedding suppliers

**SIGN UP AT [WWPOMH.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWPOMH.EVENTBRITE.COM)  
OR COME ALONG ON THE DAY!**



## Halloween Sponsorship: Is This You?



We have hosted two well attended and successful Halloween Parties to support our local Ombersley Endowed School

We are now hoping to gain sponsorship support to purchase a Halloween Banner to help improve the promotion of this family event.

If this is You - please contact [hdaly001@gmail.com](mailto:hdaly001@gmail.com)



## Ombersley Gardening Club



2025 nears its end, Halloween and Bonfire Night have now gone and the colder weather and darker nights are creeping in. As we wake to morning frosts and mists and the chance of snow there are still plenty of jobs to be done in the garden to keep you busy in December and January. Heading towards the shortest day of the year with limited daylight hours, we need to grab the chance of good weather and spend some time in the garden pruning fruit trees and acers if necessary.

Move pots and planters to shaded areas and cluster them together to help protect the roots from frost. Make sure plants and shrubs are prepared for the frosts and cold weather. Spread fresh gravel or grit around alpine and rockery plants and continue to mow the lawn if still growing. Harvest any holly you may need for garlands and wreaths and stand it in a bucket of water until needed. As spiders come in from the cold, place conkers on window sills and shelves to keep them at bay.

Please don't forget to look after our wildlife as the weather becomes colder and food becomes scarce, especially for our feathered friends. Place uncooked oats, raw peanuts, walnuts, soaked dog kibble and baked potatoes outside; these are just some other foods besides bird seed that can mean birds survive the winter.

Looking back over the past year the Gardening Club has welcomed some amazing speakers, not least Nick Bailey from Gardener's World whose talk in October was a huge success.

December is the month when the club celebrates the end of the year by holding their Christmas dinner to start off the festive season. This will be taking place on the **11<sup>th</sup> December**, so members book your places!

On **January 15<sup>th</sup>** we welcome our first speaker of the New Year when Pip Smith will give a talk entitled 'Garden Design - Is there room for a Mercedes, pool and pony'. February brings our AGM along with a meal.

As the year comes to its end all that is left now for your Gardening Club committee to do is to wish everyone a Wonderful and Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

*Happy Gardening! Ombersley Gardening Club Committee.*

# The origin of some of our best loved carols



Carol singing may have started in Roman times when Christian-themed songs began to compete with pagan songs celebrating the winter solstice. The earliest known carol is “The Angels Hymn” which dates from 129 AD. Over the centuries as Christianity took hold, Christmas carols changed from a solemn celebration of the Nativity to more joyful and secular themes. By the Medieval Ages, carols such as “God rest ye merry gentlemen”, the “Coventry Carol” and “While shepherds watched their flocks by night” had appeared, reflecting this change.

In 1880, the first Christmas Carol Service was held in Truro by Edward White who later became Archbishop of Canterbury. It was in 1928 that the Choir of King’s College, Cambridge first broadcast their carol service over the wireless (that’s a radio for anyone under the age of 65!).

So, I thought it would be interesting to look at the origins of some of our best loved carols:

**O Holy Night:** In 1847, Placide Cappeau, a wine-seller from Southern France, was asked by the local priest to write a festive poem to celebrate the renovation of the church organ, which had been seriously damaged by flooding. Cappeau felt it should be accompanied by music, so asked his friend Adolphe Adams to write a tune.

**Silent Night:** Originally written in German, “Stille Nacht” was composed in 1818 by Franz Gruber with lyrics by Joseph Mohr. It was translated into English in 1859. In 2011 it was declared an “intangible cultural heritage” by UNESCO. During the famous Christmas truce of 1914, it was sung from the trenches across no-man’s land by both English and German forces.

**In the Bleak Mid-winter:** Based on a poem by Christina Rossetti, this carol was written sometime before 1872 in response to a magazine request for a Christmas poem. The poem became recognised as a carol after it appeared in the English Hymnal in 1906, with music by Gustav Holst.

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing:** The lyrics for this carol were written by Charles Wesley, one of the principal leaders of the Methodist movement. Mendelssohn wrote the music. Wesley was born in 1707, the eighteenth son of his parents. Over his lifetime

he wrote over 6,500 hymns some of which are still mainstays of the English Hymnal, such as “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” and “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”.

**O Come All Ye Faithful:** No-one knows exactly who wrote the lyrics, but candidates include King John IV of Portugal and John Wade, who published the first printed version in 1751, whilst Handel and Gluck have been suggested as the composers. However, it is most probable that it has been sung by Cistercian monks since the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel:** Originally written in Latin, this carol was translated into English in 1851 by John Mason Neale for “Hymns Ancient and Modern” when it was first combined with its famous music. The hymn has its origins over 1200 years ago in monastic life. This hymn is usually sung in the 7 days before Christmas Eve.

**Coventry Carol:** “Bye-Bye Lul-ly, Lul-la, Thou Little Tiny Child.” The oldest known text was written down by Robert Croo in 1534 and comes from the Coventry Mystery Plays, originally performed by the city guilds. The lyrics refer to the “Massacre of the Innocents” by King Herod, taken from Chapter Two in the Gospel of Matthew, when Herod ordered the slaughter of all infants in Bethlehem under the age of two. Supposedly it was sung as a lullaby by the mothers of the doomed children.

**O Little Town of Bethlehem:** Following a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rector Phillips Brooks wrote the text to the hymn after he was inspired by the views of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine. Three years later in 1871 his church organist Lewis Redner wrote the melody for the local Sunday school children’s choir.

**Once in Royal David’s City:** Written in 1848 by Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the Anglican Primate of Ireland. She is also remembered for her hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”.

**The Holly and The Ivy:** The association of holly and ivy predates Christianity and as the only greenery available in winter would have been used in pagan midwinter festivals. The carol has varied in words and tune since mediaeval times, but the version we know today was collected in 1909 by the English folk song collector, Cecil Sharp, from a woman called Mary Clayton in Chipping Campden.

Of course, the most famous Carol of all, was written by a certain “Noddy” Holder in 1973, a song which went straight into the No.1 position in the charts for Slade. Merry Christmas Everyone!

*David Collier, Ombersley History Group*



In **October 2025** there were:

- 4,365 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 888 telephone consultations
- 191 DNA (Did not attend)
- 18,823 medications issued
- 3,104 contacts regarding patient care requiring action



As we head into the festive season, we'd like to wish all our patients and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your kindness and support throughout the year — it really means a lot to our team.

Please note that the practice will be closed on the official Bank Holidays over the Christmas period, but we'll be open as normal on all other weekdays. If you need medical advice while we're closed, please contact NHS 111 or, in an emergency, dial 999.

We're currently seeing an increase in flu and COVID-19 in our local community. If you're eligible, we strongly encourage you to book your vaccinations as soon as possible to help keep yourself and your loved ones well this winter.

Stay warm, stay well, and enjoy a peaceful festive break.

From the team at Ombersley Medical Centre.



## Ombersley Pie

**Contribution from the late Lord and Lady Sandys, Ombersley Court, to the Recipe Book (Ombersley Pie) compiled by Sue Hughes and Maureen Callow in 2009 to raise money for the Memorial Hall.**

This is definitely a dish for a special occasion and assumes that the combined ingredients of *oysters* and *beef* would be appreciated and well-liked by guests. It has been a great favourite for luncheons at shooting parties at Ombersley Court in an earlier generation i.e. in Edwardian days, a century ago.

### *Ingredients (serves 6)*

2 dozen sauce oysters; 2 lbs good quality beefsteak

1 egg yolk; tablespoon flour;  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint (425 ml) beef stock

1 tsp each of salt and pepper;  $\frac{1}{2}$  cupful of chopped parsley; Sufficient puff pastry or shortcrust pastry to cover the pie dish

### *Method*

1. Cut the beefsteak into thin slices approx. 3 inches (8 cm) square.

2. Beard the oysters, then blanch the beards in the oyster liquor, which must be reheated, seasoned, strained and added to the gravy in the pie just before serving.
3. Place an oyster on each slice of beef and roll up lightly.
4. Mix the flour, salt and pepper together on a plate.
5. Dip the rolls of meat in the mixture, then place in the pie dish.
6. Sprinkle the rest of the seasoning mixture, together with the chopped parsley between the layers of meat.
7. Pour in enough beef stock to three-quarters fill the pie dish.
8. Make the pastry and roll out to a suitable thickness.
9. Lay a border round the edge of the pie dish, and having wetted it, cover the pie with the same pastry. Moisten and press the edges well together.
10. Make a hole in the centre of the top and brush the surface with the egg yolk.
11. Bake the pie in a hot oven (200°C, 400°F or gas mark 6) until the pastry has risen and set.
12. After this, the pie should be cooked more slowly for up to 2 hours in total.
13. Before serving, pour the oyster liquor, which has been prepared earlier, through the hole in the top of the pie.

This is all part of an ancestral interest in unusual and tasty flavours among cooked dishes. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire sauce owes its origin to spices of India and Bengal, introduced to the tables of the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century via my ancestor, Lt General, The Lord Sandys.



*The photograph of a shooting party held at Ombersley Court in December 1910 is from a family album. It sets the scene for the hospitality that was to follow, given in the recipe for Ombersley Pie.*



# The Weighbridge History

This late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> Century black and white hut is featured in many publications and is a familiar landmark to so many people travelling through Ombersley.

The Weighbridge Hut used to house the official and measuring equipment for the operation of a public weighbridge.

Originally the hut sat on what is now the pavement outside Cresswells, the house opposite with the weighing platform in the roadway. It was run by Mr Rea who lived at Cresswells and who ran a small garage and petrol pump from his back garden.

The hut and weighbridge were moved to its present, less hazardous position, when the road junction was altered and the roundabout installed in 1935. The corner by which it now stands was the former site of 'The Old Cross' public house, which was demolished. The weighbridge was finally closed in 1977 having run at a loss for some time. The weighing mechanism was removed and the pit in front of the hut filled in during 1979.

One of only two surviving weighbridge offices in the county of Worcestershire, the hut has been placed on the Historic Environment Record and is an iconic feature of Ombersley village. The County Council own the hut and part of the site, with the Parish Council owning the rest.

The trough in front of the hut was donated by Lord Sandys and the benches on the site were gifts. One came from the Ombersley Women's Institute and the other from the British Legion to commemorate the golden jubilee of the local branch. The 'plague stone' trough is also situated on the site.

The Parish Council and Ombersley Conservation Trust have recently provided funds to refurbish the building and converted it once again into a working office to be used by the community of Ombersley.

*Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council 2025*

*The information above is now on a plaque outside of door of the Hut.*



***The Christmas tree and lights outside the  
Weighbridge Hut have been kindly donated  
by Cooks Garden Centre, Stourport.***





# Ombersley Endowed First School



We had a very successful and busy Open afternoon in October with lots of new prospective families coming around to visit our school.

## **Remembrance**

We were honoured to take part in the Remembrance Ceremony at Ombersley Church. Year 4 children learned more about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies by reading and studying the World War 1 poem 'Flanders Fields'

## **Sport**

The whole school have enjoyed PE lessons with Coach Callum this half term. They have also been able to take part in several after-school sports clubs.

Year 3 have enjoyed swimming lessons this half term too.

## **Trips**

As part of their Stone Age topic Year 3 has a fabulous trip to Bishop's Wood. The children learnt how to be hunters and gatherers as well as learning to build their own shelters.

As part of their Christmas treat pre-school and Reception have a trip planned to 'All Things Wild'. The rest of the school will be going to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Malvern Theatre in December.

## **Christmas Preparations**

We are all practicing our acting and singing skills ready for our Christmas Nativities and performances – it is always so magical to perform in St Andrew's Church for our families and friends.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Cluster Carols at Tibberton First School. When we return to school, we look forward to our Christmas Fayre put on by 'The Friends', including a special visit from Father Christmas.

We are really excited about giving "The Posada" a home for a few days; the children always love taking part in retelling the Christmas Story and sharing the Nativity characters.

# Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



The days are getting shorter and the weather is turning colder, which can only mean one thing... Christmas is coming! We have several exciting things coming up as we head towards winter.

**Christmas Tree Festivals:** This year we are displaying trees at both the Claines Church and the Worcester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festivals. Our children are hard at work creating stars to decorate the trees and we look forward to displaying our children's work to a wider audience.

**Christmas Tree Lighting:** On 1<sup>st</sup> December we will all be gathering around the school Christmas tree. Children will be singing some festive songs and hot chocolate and popcorn will be provided as festive snacks. This should be a fun event to get the festive season started.

**Christmas Concerts:** We have just started rehearsing for our Christmas Concert 'Children of the World' which we will be performing on 10<sup>th</sup> December. This year we are putting on a whole school performance which we are all really looking forward to.

**Cross Country:** Our Year 5 and 6 children did a great job representing our school recently at the RGS Cross Country tournament as part of the School Games initiative. They did a super job and worked really well as a team.

**Open Days:** If you have children or friends who will be starting school in September 2026 we would love to hear from you. Our final open day this term is on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Please call the school office on 01905 620418 to book an appointment.



**The Editorial Team wish all our readers a Happy Christmas  
and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year**



## 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:

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Flowers.

January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> - Flowers.

Please contact Jean Dowty on 01905 620896 if you have time to help occasionally with church flowers.

### PARISH REGISTER: ST. MARY'S CHURCH

**INTERMENT OF ASHES:** November 12th, CICELY HARRISON

**FUNERAL:** November 12<sup>th</sup>, ALAN MOYSE:

Cremation at Wyre Forest Crematorium followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Doverdale

### PEWPOINTS

#### Diary Dates:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.00am. ST. MARY'S CAROL AND CRIB SERVICE.

Do come along to this lovely Christmas celebration of the story of Jesus's birth and join us for mulled wine and mince pies after the service. ALL ARE WELCOME

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

2026. PCC Meeting on TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup>.JANUARY at 1pm. In OMBERSLEY NARTHEX.

### **REMEMBRANCE AT DOVERDALE**

On Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, commemorative services were held across the Benefice to honour those who had fallen in past conflicts.

Our own service at St. Mary's was held at 9.15a.m. with Licensed Lay Reader, Richard Jaynes, leading the service and providing the music for the chosen hymns. The Standard Bearers were Robert Coppini and Tony Checketts.

The service started in church and continued outside at the War Memorial where wreaths were laid by representatives of local organizations and children from Sytchampton School.

The words of the Kohima Epitaph were read by Doctor David Brownridge.

### **HARVEST AT ST. MARY'S**

St. Mary's Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00a.m.

Despite the rather dismal weather, the glorious Autumn flowers and foliage transformed the church with their vibrant colours; thanks to the flower ladies who had been very busy, as usual, creating magnificent displays for all to enjoy.

Licensed Lay Minister, Richard Jaynes, welcomed the congregation who had come together to give thanks for the labours of farmers and growers everywhere for providing food to sustain us through the coming months.

During the service, the children present were invited to join Richard as he illustrated the theme of Harvest. He asked them to select and name, from his Harvest Box, the fruit and vegetables, which he had grown at home. They all had great fun!

The readings and Harvest hymns which we have come to know and love, were read and sung with the usual enthusiasm. Thank you to our readers, Sally-Ann Beckett and John Chapman.

After the service, delicious savoury nibbles, sandwiches and sweet treats were served with a glass of wine. A lovely opportunity for everyone to stay behind and mingle and chat.

Thank you so much to all those who helped in any way to make the service such a special and enjoyable occasion.

Thank you, also, to our congregation of all ages who came along to support us in our recognition of all those involved in farming and agricultural communities.

### SERVICES

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December  2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> December: CAROL SERVICE	11.00a.m.	Sidespersons: Mr.G.Crow, Mr.J.Chapman  READERS: TBA
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December  CHRISTMAS DAY	11.00a.m.  HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.S.Crow , Mr.R.Coppini  Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow  Readings: Isaiah 52(7-10) & John 1(1-14)
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> .January  EPIPHANY	11.00a.m.  MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mr. J.Chapman  Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris  Jer.31(7-14) & John 1(1-18)
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany	11.00a.m.  HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.S.Crow, Mrs.V.Harris  Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow  Readings:- Isaiah 49(1-7) & John 1(29-42)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)  3 <sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany	11.00a.m.  HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mr.J.Chapman, Mrs.A.Chapman  Sidesperson: Mr.J.Chapman  Readings:- Isaiah 9 (1-4) & Matt.4(12-23)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February: 4 <sup>th</sup> of Epiphany: (CANDLEMAS)	11.00a.m.  MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.V.Harris  Sidesperson; Mrs.V. Harris  Readings:- 1 Kings 17(8-16) & John 2(1-11)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February  Sunday next before Lent	11.00a.m.  HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.A.Chapman, Mrs.S. Crow  Sidesperson; Mr.J.Chapman  Readings:- Exodus 24(12-end) & Matt.17(1-9)

## Advertisers

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- APM Decorators – 07784 483192
- AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058
- Agile Property Repairs – general maintenance, painting – 07784 483192
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- Droitwich Spa Hospital – private consultations - 01905 79333
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- Fusion Plumbing & Heating – 07773 395803
- GLM Property Maintenance – building and garden – 07399 024702
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- Mark Foster Podiatry/Chiropody – 07941 138957
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- 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
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- 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
- Whitlenge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669
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- Worcester Mobile Earcare – ear wax removal – 07545 282902