



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**April
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: April 2026

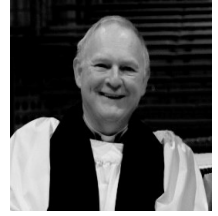
April 1st	7.30pm	Tenebrae Service	Ombersley
April 2nd	7.30pm	HC and Watch	Ombersley
April 3rd	12.00pm	Meditation	Ombersley
April 5 th Easter Sunday	6.15am	Bonfire & renewal of baptism vows	Ombersley
	7.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	7.45-9.00am	Breakfast	Ombersley
	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
April 12th	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	9.00am	HC-BCP	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
April 19th	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Ombersley
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
April 26th	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
May 3rd	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale

HC Holy Communion; CW Common Worship; BCP Book of Common Prayer;
FS Family Service; MP Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer: April 8th at Doverdale; April 29th at Ombersley

Mid-week Eucharist at Ombersley at 6pm on 9th and 23rd April

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,

By the time you read this, we will probably already have journeyed through Holy Week and celebrated the great feast of Easter. Nevertheless, the joy of Easter does not belong to one single day. The Church continues to rejoice in the resurrection throughout the whole Easter season, proclaiming with confidence and delight: *Christ is risen!* Easter is the heart of the Christian year. It is the celebration of life stronger than death, hope stronger than despair, and light stronger than darkness. In the resurrection of Jesus, we see that God's love is never defeated. The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and a new future has begun for the whole world.

Yet the joy of Easter cannot be separated from the solemnity of Good Friday. There is no Easter Day without Good Friday. Before the empty tomb comes the cross. Before the resurrection comes the suffering and sacrifice of Christ. On Good Friday we stand quietly at the foot of the cross and remember the depth of God's love shown in Jesus, who gave himself for the life of the world. Because of Good Friday, Easter joy is not shallow or fleeting. It is not the sort of happiness that depends on everything going well in our lives. Rather, it is a joy that has passed through sorrow and suffering and still emerges victorious. The resurrection tells us that even in the darkest moments, God is at work bringing new life.

Scholars who study the history of the first Easter often suggest that the most likely date of the crucifixion was 3 April in either AD 30 or AD 33. Interestingly, 3 April also happens to fall on Good Friday this year. However, we should remember that the calendars we use today are not the same as those used in the first century. Changes in calendar systems over the centuries probably means that this coincidence is just that—a coincidence rather than an exact anniversary.

What matters far more than the precise date is the truth the Church proclaims: that Christ died, and that Christ is risen. As Christians we continue to celebrate that victory over death with joy and gratitude. May the hope and joy of the risen Christ fill your hearts and homes throughout this Easter season and always. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

With every blessing,



St George, Patron

- of **Countries & Regions:** England, Georgia, Portugal, Catalonia, Aragon, Lithuania, Palestine.
- of **Cities:** Moscow, Beirut, Genoa, Ferrara, Freiburg, Ljubljana, Qormi, Gozo.
- of **Professions & Causes:** Soldiers, knights, scouts, archers, riders, farmers, as well as those suffering from leprosy and the plague.

Every year on 23 April we remember Saint George, a figure whose name is inseparable from England. His red cross on a white background flies from churches, public buildings, and indeed has appeared on lampposts and roundabouts and his story—especially the famous legend of George and the dragon—has inspired art, literature and faith for centuries.

Yet one of the most interesting facts about St George is that, if he existed as the historical figure people believe him to be, he was almost certainly not British at all. Most early traditions place George's birth in Cappadocia, a region that is now part of modern-day Turkey, during the late third century. His father is believed to have been a Roman army officer, and George himself followed the same path, serving as a soldier in the Roman army under the emperor Diocletian.



During this period the Roman Empire was increasingly hostile to Christians. According to Christian tradition, George refused to renounce his faith during the persecutions ordered by Diocletian. For this, he was arrested, tortured and eventually executed around AD 303. His courage and faith made him one of the most venerated martyrs of the early Church. Devotion to him spread rapidly across the eastern Mediterranean and later throughout Europe.

The connection between St George and England came much later. By the Middle Ages, crusaders travelling through the Holy Land encountered devotion to the saint and brought stories of him back to Europe.

In the 14th century, King Edward III adopted St George as the patron saint of England and placed the newly founded Order of the Garter under his protection. From that time on, George's red cross became closely associated with the English nation. Prior to this the primary patron saint of England before Saint George was Edmund (born in Germany). As the Anglo-Saxon King of East Anglia, he was martyred by Vikings in 869 AD for refusing to renounce his faith. His cult was majorly centred in Bury St Edmunds - back to George. It is a curious historical twist that the national saint of England was almost certainly a soldier from the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. In that sense, St George reminds us that Christianity - and indeed much of our heritage - has always been international.

The most famous story about St George, the slaying of the dragon, appeared centuries after his death. The tale tells of a town terrorised by a dragon that demanded human sacrifice. When the king's daughter was chosen as the next victim, George confronted the beast, defeated it, and led the people to faith in Christ. Whether history or legend, the story symbolises the triumph of courage, faith and goodness over evil. For us Christians, the dragon often represents sin or fear, and George's victory reminds believers to trust in God when facing their own trials.

Today St George is not only the patron saint of England but also of several other countries and regions, including Ethiopia and Georgia. His story has travelled far from the lands where he first lived. Perhaps that is the most fitting legacy of all. The man honoured as England's patron saint reminds us that the Christian story has always crossed borders—bringing people of many cultures together in faith.

A Taste from St George's Homeland

Since St George likely came from the region of modern Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean, it seems fitting to include a dish from that part of the world. One classic Turkish dish associated with that region is İmam Bayıldı a traditional stuffed aubergine dish whose name humorously means "the imam fainted" - supposedly from delight at its flavour. This is similar to a recipe to one I saw earlier, at the time of writing, on Master Chef - The Professionals.

İmam Bayıldı (Stuffed Aubergines)

- 2 large aubergines
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 tsp sugar
- Olive oil (generous amount)
- Fresh parsley, salt & pepper



Method

1. Slice the aubergines lengthwise and lightly fry in olive oil until softened.
2. In another pan, cook the onion slowly in olive oil until soft.
3. Add the garlic, tomatoes, sugar, salt & pepper and simmer for about 10 minutes.
4. Place the aubergines in a baking dish, open them slightly and fill with the tomato mixture.
5. Drizzle with more olive oil and bake at 180°C for about 30 minutes.
6. Sprinkle with parsley and serve warm or at room temperature.

This simple vegetarian dish is typical of the flavours of the eastern Mediterranean—rich with olive oil, vegetables and herbs.

St Andrew's News

Also find information on www.achurchnearyou.com , YouTube: 'St Andrew's Church Ombersley' or Ombersley Church Worcestershire on Facebook

In this very troubling time with war rearing its ugly head, please know that the church is open every day and you are more than welcome to drop in to pray for our world and the safety of people affected, or to just find a moment of calm.

When sitting to write for next month's magazine, it seemed that March should have been a quiet month leading up to Easter, but not a bit of it! We mentioned the Games afternoon last month, which was lots of fun and participants covered a wide range of ages (nearly 80 decades). We played a number of games, proved Monopoly can be played well and jigsaws are enjoyed a lot. We have been asked if it will happen again – the answer is yes, probably in the Autumn.

We had another 'Why Not Sing' afternoon, which was very successful and proved a lot of people like to sing, and pushed the Narthex to its limit for numbers singing. Again, we were asked if we could do this more often...we will see.

There was a training morning for the Benefice for new Communion Assistants and we welcome Liz Hooper and Tamsin Baylis to the St Andrew's Team; thank you.

We have also hosted the Deanery Synod, which was very convenient for our Reps, and we also a chance to welcome Bishop Hugh who explained his vision for reaching young people wherever they are.

On March 6th it was our turn to host the World Day of Prayer, a beautiful service written by the women of Nigeria and held everywhere around the world on the same day! Year 4 of Ombersley School joined in and led us in two songs in Native Nigerian and they were excellent!

Earlier the same day we had a visit from the Reception class at Sytchampton School. They were very interested in learning about the church and not bad when trying the microphones too! We also had a chance to look at the Old Chancel and the Céline Figard garden. I fear there were some damp feet after that!

Our 'Open the Book' teams have been busy in both schools, though the award of the month needs to go to Marjorie Workman for her portrayal of Samson - she even got a spontaneous round of applause!

There are several services through Holy Week: a new 'Stations of the Cross' service at 6pm on Palm Sunday, and a tweak to the Tenebrae service on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Old Chancel.

After the 6.15am Bonfire and 7am service on Easter Day, there is our Easter Breakfast from 7.45 to 9.00am with sausage, bacon, bakes and muffins as well as cereal toast and marmalade. We would love to have you join us.

We wish you a Happy Easter!
Fiona and Chris

Stay and Play (Babes and Toddlers): Each Monday Morning: 9.30-11am £2 /family. Join our lovely group of children and adults, so please pop in and see us.

We have a lovely group of very young people, some aged in weeks rather than months. 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 on 07837928531

Monthly Monday evening Bible study group: The next Meeting will be at **7pm on May 11th** as we won't meet on the Bank Holiday. This will be held at Wisteria Cottage, on the Main Road next to the Dentist. We will continue discussing the Prophets, starting with Elisha. Do drop in or contact Richard on 07496 850192.

Creativity Coffee, Company and Craft: First and Third Thursday of each month, £2 per session. April 2nd and April 16th; back to starting at 10.30am.

We are beginning to think of things to make for the Fête, either to sell or put on the Gift Tombola. Ideas and enthusiasm welcome!

Ombersley Quilling and Paper Craft Group: Second Thursday of each month at 7.00 pm. Next meeting on April 9th.

This evening session is only lightly attended. Please contact us if you would be interested if it was at a different time or on a different day.

Do come and try this paper craft or card making etc. This Year will give us an opportunity to work on longer projects, and include other crafts, for those who prefer not to twiddle! Any ideas for craft lessons we could do will be gratefully received.

As there is a short 6pm service before this group meets, the start time has been brought forward to 7pm to save a big gap between the two. Contact Fiona on 07837 928531 for more information.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday May 16th, 7.30pm

Tarantara! A rather special choir, which we have had before, but quite a while ago. A lively range of music: tickets £12, and there will be a bar. Contact Liz 620827 or Fiona 07837 928531. See advert elsewhere in magazine.

Sunday September 13th, 3pm

An organ recital by Keith Hearnshaw: always a popular event - tickets £10

Sunday October 18th, 3pm - The Harvington talk returns! - Priest Holes in England.

November: date tbc: West Mercia Police Band

December 5th and 6th: A 'Crib' weekend with handbells and craft. Details soon.

Let us not forget The Fête! Saturday June 27th 2026

More helpers please! We need people to bake for the tea tent, and of course to set up and take down. Many thanks to the people who have already volunteered to supply a freezer, and who have offered to be our Ice cream team on the day!

We also need people to run various children's games, we have all the kit - it just needs the people and is always lots of fun. Maybe you would you prefer to be a free spirit and move from stall to stall letting those manning it have a break? Please contact Chris Day on 07730 820216.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the May 2026 Magazine by
Friday 17th April

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Funeral

February 17th	Phillip Sanders
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Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
April 2 nd 7.30pm	Watch Service	Chris Day	-	-
April 3 rd 12.00pm	Meditation	Tony Checketts	-	-
April 5th	FS	Fiona Davies, Alison Want	-	-
April 12th	FS	Robert Thornton, Jenny Ransome	-	-
April 19th	MP	Tony Checketts, Judy Baer	Fiona Davies	Jenny Batelen
April 26th	HC-CW	Hazel Smith, Angela Randle	Liz Hooper	Chris Day
May 3rd	HC-CW	Gail & Phil Filer	Marjorie Workman	Anthony Hughes

Holy Dusters

April 4 th (Easter Saturday)	Fiona Davies, Heather Barningham, Marjorie Workman
April 17th	Myra Cowdrey, Liz Hooper
April 30 th /May1st	Sally Ludlow, Helen Daly
May 15th	Heather Barningham, Fiona Davies
June 5th	Marjorie Workman, Myra Cowdrey

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

Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
Friday 3 rd April (Good Friday)	Decorate Church for Easter from 3pm	
Friday 17 th April	Remove Easter Flowers	
17 th /24 th April	Sue Arnold	Margaret Packer
1 st May/8 th May	Heather Barningham	Margaret Packer

We would welcome new flower arrangers, so pop along on after 3pm on Friday 3rd and meet the team - we'll be there decorating the church for Easter.

If you'd like further information, please contact either Jan Berry or Heather Barningham.

Jan: 07977 588682; janeteberry@gmail.com

Heather: 01905 620213; hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk

PRAYING ROUND THE PARISH



If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know
Fr Tim Williams (Rector) 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 April:

Sunday 5th April – Lincomb, The Winnalls, Acton, Mount Pleasant

Sunday 12th April – Sandys Road, Wellington Road, Chestnut Walk, The Hamptons

Sunday 19th April – Main Road North, Oakfield Road, Woodhall Lane/Close, Faber Orchard, Deans Walk

Sunday 26th April – Ombersley Medical Centre

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.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH VESTRY MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2026

This will be held on **Tuesday 28th April at 7pm** in the Narthex of the church. The first part (vestry meeting) is solely for the purpose of electing the Churchwardens for the year and anyone who is on the civic electoral roll can vote. Churchwardens traditionally represent 1) the bishop and 2) the people.

The second part of the meeting includes the voting for the Parish Church Council (PCC) – you must be on the Church electoral roll to participate in that vote. If you wish to register for the Church Electoral Roll please contact Kim Day (Electoral Roll Officer - kimday2343@gmail.com) or Jenny Batelen (Secretary – jenny.batelen@btinternet.com).

There is also the account of the year's activities (including to the church fabric), a financial report, safeguarding report, deanery synod report, electoral roll report and the opportunity to ask questions about any of these areas.

As always, with any church function, there will be refreshments! Please join us.

Easter at St Andrew's

PALM SUNDAY

29th March... 11.00am..... A service of Holy Communion
Gathering at the Rectory from 10.45am

PALM SUNDAY

29th March... 6.00pm..... Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAY

1st April... 7.30pm..... Tenebrae
In the Old Chancel

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd April... 7.30pm..... A service of Holy Communion
Followed by a 'Watch' until 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY

3rd April... 10.00am..... Walk of Witness (families welcome)
from The Leaking Well (meet 9:45)
to St Andrew's Ombersley

GOOD FRIDAY

3rd April... 12noon.... Reflection for Good Friday
in St Andrew's

Easter Sunday

6.15am..... Easter Bonfire &
'Sonrise' Service
in churchyard & Old Chancel

7.00am..... Short Communion
Service in St Andrew's

7.45-9am..... Easter Breakfast

10.00am

Easter Family Service

with Easter Egg Hunt
in churchyard afterwards



tarantara

www.tarantara.org.uk



a concert

by this fantastic locally based choir who have given performances in aid of charities all over the Midlands and from Devon to Scotland, Swansea to Norwich and even to Spain!

Their repertoire spans songs from musicals to the classics, from old to new, from serious to not-so-serious!

at **St Andrew's Church**
Ombersley

Tickets

£12

Sat 16th May - 7.30pm

licensed BAR

Contact Fiona: 07837 928531 or fmdavies83@gmail.com

The St Andrew's Association - raising funds for proper ramp access at the West Door.

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 18th April 2026

7pm - 11pm

Ombersley Village Hall

£14 per person

Generous ploughman's sharing platter included with each ticket

Ploughman's platter to consist of a variety of cheeses, ham, bread, sausage rolls, crisps & salad.
Dietary requirements can be catered for, please let us know when booking your tickets!

Teams of up to 6 people

For more information or to make a booking please contact us at [sythpta@outlook.com](mailto:sytchpta@outlook.com)

Licensed Bar Available
Serving a selection of alcoholic and soft drinks
Cash & card payments accepted





Main Street South. The building in the foreground on the top image is now Checketts deli and bistro. The two gentlemen on the bottom image are standing outside the Kings Arms. Note the telegraph poles with many cross branches and wires. Before telephones, they were part of the main line telegraph service from Gloucester on to Worcester, Wolverhampton to the North.

Ombersley was a holiday destination in the mid 19th to early 20th century and many postcards of the village and surrounding area were produced. The images have been kindly reproduced by John Ringe from postcards in his collection. All bear a postal stamp between 1905 and 1915.



LOCAL NEWS

April 2026

- **The Parish Council** have asked Cooks Garden Centre to begin landscaping work around **the Weighbridge** on the roundabout this month. You might want to check on its progress as you walk around our village and admire the newly planted garden. We are also due to have some pieces of **Outside Gym Equipment** installed in the Memorial Field this Spring – Great for Keeping Fit!
- Another change to our village being considered by the Parish Council – this one is controversial as it is the proposed installation of **Double Yellow Lines** on the road opposite Checketts. Will this signal the end of Ombersley being known as a village? Do we need them? Why do we need for them? Who should pay the cost of dealing with the problem and policing the vehicles? If you would like to voice an opinion on this or any other issue in the parish then why not come to the **O & D Parish Council AGM on April 21st in the Church Narthex at 7.00pm**. The first 15 minutes of the meeting are open to questions from parishioners at the discretion of the Chairman, 5 minutes per person.
- **Mobile Library Service** is still available for all to access on the 1st Friday in the month. **Ombersley** stops at The Hamptons 10.45-11am, **Sytchampton** 11.05-11.20am at the Bay Trees. See worcestershire.gov.uk/mobilelibrary
- **Thursday April 2nd: 7pm for 7.30pm in OMH** – Ladies Fashion Show organized by OWL. Members free, guests £6, cash. Further details in this magazine.
- **Saturday April 11th last Movie Night** of the season showing **The Roses (2025)** starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Coleman. It is a modern re-imagining of the 1989 classic The War of the Roses, a dark comedy. Doors and bar open at 7pm: £5 payable on door.
- **Tuesday April 14th in OMH 7-9pm** - A free 'How to use a Defibrillator & refresh your CPR skills'. Please book by email: clerk@odpc.co.uk or phone **07766 052633**. You can also book this course, **May 14th** in Sytchampton Village Hall.
- **Sunday April 19th – 10.00am Spring Walk** with Ombersley Walk Group. Start and Finish at Ombersley Memorial Hall. Phone **07855 441804** for further details or see article in this magazine

Happy Easter!

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



Ombersley Gardening Club



As we prepare for a new gardening season the few sunny days have made it easier to get out and start preparing for what we hope will be an amazing summer of colour in the garden. Planting up now will help make sure they become well established before the summer begins.

Mulch borders to lock in moisture and add coffee grounds to the compost in small amounts - this will help your plants thrive and will enhance your garden's health and productivity. Perennials are a gardener's best friend coming back year after year adding greenery and vibrant colours.

With small gardens you can plant flowers and vegetables in pots and window boxes, hanging baskets and raised beds for an array of colour and edibles throughout the summer season. If you're planning a wild flower garden to entice bees and butterflies, prepare the soil by raking and removing weeds and stones and after what hopefully is the last frost, sow seeds raking the surface lightly to ensure they are in contact with the soil.

On the **16th of April** we welcome our speaker Carol Smith who will be talking to us on 'How to make the best of a small garden'. On the **21st May** Josh Egan-Wyer will be advising us on 'The best plants for now'.

After the ravages of winter, feeding can transform tired lawns giving your grass a green and healthy-looking appearance. You can buy child and pet friendly feed easily now too. As always, remember to look after wildlife with food and water.

Ombersley Gardening Club holds its monthly meetings on the third Thursday of the month when you will be welcome to join us. The committee would like to wish everyone a Wonderful and Happy Easter.

Murder Mystery Night

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Murder Mystery night held on the 21st February. The audience was entertained by a cast of local amateur detectives and suspects in unravelling this "Whodunit at the Village Hall" followed by a splendid fish & chip supper.

Thanks to everyone's support, the evening raised £1225 which has been donated to St Paul's Hostel in Worcester

OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2nd April 7.00 for 7.30pm at
Ombersley Memorial Hall



Fashion show hosted by Sassy Boutique, Charles St. Worcester

Join us for an evening of style, elegance and inspiration.
Discover the latest collections and find your perfect look from
brands such as: John Charles, Frank Lyman, Glitz & Sonia Pera.

Styles include, Occasion wear, Evening and cocktail dresses,
Cruise wear and Day wear plus accessories.

Members Free, Guests £6: Contact Marie 07901 522412; Ann 07712 811552; Di 07714 844938



In **February 2026** there were:

- 3,009 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 915 telephone consultations
- 183 DNA (Did not attend)
- 16,218 medications issued
- 2,509 contacts regarding patient care requiring action



YOUR NHS HEALTHCHECK

An **NHS Health Check** is a free check-up designed to help spot early signs of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and some types of dementia. It's quick, simple, and can give you reassurance—or early advice to help you stay well for longer.

You're eligible if you're aged 40–74 and haven't already been diagnosed with one of these conditions. If you're in this age group, please contact the practice to book your Health Check and take a proactive step towards your long-term health.

Ombersley Walk Group

Spring Walk: 10.00am Sunday April 19th

Start and finish at Ombersley Memorial Hall where parking is available



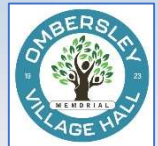
Our spring walk is planned to head eastwards towards Nunnery Wood on the edge of Westwood Park. The trail takes in a small section of the Monarch's Way, a 625 mile, long distance footpath that traces the escape route allegedly taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. Our 5.5 mile circular route is pretty flat with just two well-maintained wooden stiles to cross.

After the walk, which will finish around 12.30, drinks and biscuits will be provided in the Jubilee Room at the Hall. We are inviting everyone to make a small donation of £1.50 towards the costs of refreshments. Any cash 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 MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2026/27



11th April – Movie Night – The Roses (2005)

11th July – Car Show

29th October – Halloween

Make a Difference in Our Community – Become a School Governor!

Ombersley Endowed First School is looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our governing body. If you are passionate about education and want to help shape the future for our children, we would love to hear from you.

- **Role:** Foundation Governor (Voluntary)
- **Term:** 4 Years
- **Commitment:** Approx. six full governing body meetings per year, plus committee meetings.

What we are looking for:

We are seeking people from diverse backgrounds with skills in IT, technology, teaching & education, premises' management, health & safety and project management, but most importantly, a desire to contribute to the school's success.

What you will do:

- Help set the strategic direction and ethos of the school.
- Ensure the school is accountable for its performance.
- Support the headteacher and staff to improve pupil outcomes.

Why join us?

This is a rewarding, voluntary role that allows you to give back to the community, gain new skills, and support the next generation.

How to apply:

Please contact Simon Grainger-Lloyd, Co-Chair of the Governing Body on sgraingerlloyd@ombersley.worcs.sch.uk or 07738 834378 (0900h – 1800h).

Please note that a DBS check will be required for this role.

HADLEY BOWLING MONDAY CLUB

We invite new members both male and female. Couples welcome.

We meet at The Bowling Green, Hadley on Mondays and Fridays
at 5.30 pm from April to October.

For further details contact David Brownridge by email at vernhouse@btinternet.com
or text 07984037517.

Bellringing

Bellringing has been in the news of late, well on Radio 4 anyway. There have been a couple of pieces recently, one about attempts to revive what is perhaps seen as a dying art, and one rather more upbeat about the young ringers' competition held recently in Birmingham. Of course, there's also **Bells on Sunday** at 5.43am every Sunday if you get up that early or, if like the rest of us you go and search for it on BBC i-player.

There have been periodic recruitment drives usually headed up by the Central Council of Church Bellringers, most recently "Ring for the King" to recruit ringers in time for the Coronation, and before that some may remember the drive to recruit ringers for the start of the millennium. Also, more locally, we had our recent appeal to raise funds for the recasting of Ombersley's tenor bell.

So, you're thinking, *What's bellringing about* and even if you're not I'm going to tell you anyway!

About Bells:

The two things that often surprise people are the size and weight of typical bells as well as their age. At Ombersley our tenor (heaviest) bell is 16.5cwt (bellringers still use hundred weights), around 850kg (so over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ton); The lightest bell is 6cwt, around 300kg. Ringable bells can be lighter than that, but some are considerably heavier. The heaviest bell hung for change ringing is the tenor at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral at a whopping 82cwt (over 4 tons, approx. 4175kg).

Church bells can be of considerable age but still used for the purpose for which they were made. Many bells date from before the Reformation. Obviously, their age is often only known approximately. I learnt to ring at a tower in Derbyshire with one bell dating from around 1400 which makes it very nearly contemporary to the building of the tower and there are two more from 1580 and 1604.

The sort of bellringing we practice is a peculiarly English pursuit which is also found in pockets more globally, but the heartland is England. Why, would take someone more knowledgeable than me, but I believe it is connected with the Reformation.

English change ringing or full circle ringing does just that; the bells are rung with their mouths in the air swinging a full circle until their mouth is in the air again. This is achieved by means of wheels attached to the bells and a rope running around the wheel of each bell.

Whilst the heartland of change ringing is England, it is also practised in Scotland, Wales and Northern and Southern Ireland. It spread to Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, and South Africa. It seems that the towers are less densely packed the further away one gets from England. There are towers in Scotland but relatively few, the most Northerly being Inverness Cathedral. Whilst the development and spread owes quite

a lot to the Anglican church it is now by no means exclusively so - various other denominations have bells as well as some secular towers, Manchester Town Hall being possibly the most well-known.

About Ringing:

So, having bells hung for full circle ringing, what do we do with them? I should first mention that we start with the bells ringing what we describe as “rounds”, that is the bells ringing in a descending major scale (i.e. lightest to heaviest). Normally the minimum number of bells would be three, the maximum for many years being twelve and that was so when I learnt to ring. However, now there are several rings of up to sixteen bells. Normally if there are more than five bells there is an even number of bells; i.e. 6, 8, 10 or 12.

We don't ring tunes. We ring “changes” hence the term “change ringing”. There are two ways that we do this: what are called “call changes” is when a conductor calls the numbers of two bells which swap and the bells continue to ring in that order with those two bells swapped until another pair are swapped and the sequence changes again. The other option is what are called “Methods”. These look, when written down, rather like an ECG printout and are a “map” of the changes in sequence showing the route of a particular bell. Some of these have wonderfully esoteric names such as Primrose Surprise, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and April Day.

What then, do people get out of bellringing? There are probably as many answers to this as there are ringers: the challenge of learning complex methods is interesting; the challenge of ringing heavy bells; the endurance of ringing peals (ringing for around 3 hours); my own favourite is the opportunity to ring on outings around the country or whilst visiting other towns and getting to see into the areas of churches that few people get to see – the view from the triforium at some cathedrals or in some cases the inside of the roofs.

Bellringing is a peculiarly welcoming hobby and with very few exceptions a ringer can turn up on a practice night in any strange town and be made welcome. It is practised by a wide cross section of people from different walks of life and different ages.

We are always on the lookout for anyone who would like to learn. Like anything worthwhile it takes a little time, but the effort will be repaid, and if we had two or three additions we could in time expand our repertoire into more interesting methods. Anyone interested should contact me either by e-mail marshallpaul@btinternet.com or phone 07751 357 284.

About Ombersley Bells

There is a very detailed history of the bells on the church website which I don't propose to reproduce in its entirety. Some of the bells predate the current church and were

moved from the old church tower when the new (present) one was built; some were cast/recast at that time.

- The lightest (or treble) bell was cast in 1682 by Bagley
- 2 was cast in 1828 by John Rudhall (when the bells were moved)
- 3 was cast in 1682 by Bagley
- 4 was cast in 1828 by John Rudhall (when the bells were moved)
- 5 was cast in 1682 by Bagley
- 6 (or Tenor) had been cast in 1828 by Rudhall but cracked quite recently and a replacement was cast in 2024 by Taylors of Loughborough. We were lucky enough to travel up to see the casting.

Paul Marshall, Tower Bell Captain



Tea & Coffee Shop

Ombersley Memorial Hall



Tuesday 7th April 2026

Thursday 23rd April

Tuesday 5th May

Memorial Hall – Weekly Playground Inspection

Every week in the Summer the Parish Council undertakes a visual inspection of the play area to highlight any concerns from a health and safety perspective. Maybe a piece of equipment has broken, or some wood is sticking out, or something needs to be replaced. We have a tick sheet of things we need to check, which on completion is sent to the parish clerk for recording.

We are looking for more volunteers to help us to complete the weekly checks in the Summer, and monthly in the Winter. If you are interested and can give an hour of your time once a month, please contact Angie Astley the parish clerk at clerk@odpc.co.uk

Ombersley Endowed First School



Book Week

We all had a wonderful Book Week; each class chose a 'Favourite Book' to read and study for the week. They linked their stories to other areas of the curriculum and had lots of fun immersing into the stories.

During the week the children took part in lots of home challenges and fun activities including designing their own book cover and taking a photograph of themselves reading in an 'extreme place'.

On Monday, every class had Storytime outside. On Tuesday they brought their pre-loved books to swap for a new one, and they brought a cuddly toy to school to read with on Wednesday. For World Book Day on Thursday, everyone in the school dressed up as their favourite book character – they all looked fantastic – everyone was a winner!

On Friday the children voted for their favourite animation to watch next week. At the end of the day, we invited parents and grandparents into school to share a book with their child. It was a lovely end to a lovely week.

The Friends organised a 'Mother's Day' craft activity for the children to create something beautiful for their moms. We also celebrated 'Red Nose Day' by wearing something red.

Trips

Year 3 had a fantastic morning at RGS in Worcester. They enjoyed learning French by taking part and enjoying lots of fun activities.

Year 4 sang beautifully at The World Day of Prayer service in Ombersley Church. They behaved impeccably and we were so proud of them.

Reception children are looking forward to their visit to the Sealife centre. Other classes also have summer trips to look forward to.

Easter

The whole school is starting to practice for our Easter service at Ombersley Church. This is always one of the highlights of the year, when we all wear Easter bonnets and parade down to Church to perform Easter songs and readings for our parents. With lots of other fun activities to look forward to as well!

Scooters Holiday club is available during The Easter Break – get in touch with school for details.

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



Here is the news from our school in March.

OPAL Play

Since January we have been participating in the OPAL play programme. This involves providing lots of different activities for the children to access at lunchtime play. Recent additions have included giant bricks, digging, stone painting and wooden planks to make roads for toy cars. As the weather starts to improve, we have lots of plans to use our fields including having a water play table and a den building area.

Brambles Church Visit

The Reception Class had a visit to Ombersley Church to support their learning about places where people worship. They looked at the different areas of the church and got to ask lots of interesting questions about the things they had seen.

Visit to Dodderhill

Our Year 5 and 6 classes had an exciting visit to Dodderhill School. They got to spend a morning taking part in a food technology session and a chemistry lesson. The activities were practical and engaging. The children had a super time and very much enjoyed eating the pizzas that they made. Thank you Dodderhill for inviting us.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day this year by making egg box books. The children were extremely creative in coming up with some designs and it was great to see their ideas. On the day itself we made zigzag story books retelling different stories, and learnt about the importance of illustration with a visit from a children's book illustrator.

PTA Quiz Night

The next PTA quiz night will be on Saturday 18th April at Ombersley Memorial Village Hall. See advert elsewhere in magazine. Tickets are available now by emailing [syтчpta@outlook.com](mailto:sytchpta@outlook.com)

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the May 2026 Magazine by
Friday 17th April

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 07553 810080
TREASURER:	TBA	
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:

April 5th / 19th: Easter flowers

PEWPOINTS

DIARY DATES:

HOLY WEEK (commencing Monday 30th March). See service rota for Easter Services.

Monday 20th April. PCC Meeting (to approve accounts) at 6p.m. in Ombersley Narthex.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday May 10th. Rogation Service at Doverdale at 11.00a.m. St. Mary's traditional practice of walking along the lanes (weather permitting) to give thanks for the fields and the crops.

Wednesday 13th May. Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's PCC at 6p.m. in Ombersley Narthex.

N.B. There will be no service on SUNDAY 3rd MAY. St. Mary's will be having a service of ROGATION on SUNDAY 10th MAY and the usual Holy Communion Service on SUNDAY 17th MAY.

SERVICES

HOLY WEEK Tuesday 31 st March	5.30p.m.	COMPLINE at St. Mary's, Doverdale
Friday 3 rd April GOOD FRIDAY	10.00a.m.	WALK OF WITNESS FROM THE LEAKING WELL TO OMBERSLEY
Sunday 5 th April EASTER SUNDAY	11.00a.m. Easter Holy Communion	Lectors: Mr.J.Chapman, Mrs.S.Crow Sidespeople: Mrs.A.Chapman, Mr.G.Crow Readings:- Acts 10(34-43) & John 20(1-18)
Sunday 19 th April 3 rd of Easter	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mrs.A.Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Acts 2(14a) & (36-41) & Luke 24(13-35)
Sunday 10 th May ROGATION	11.00a.m.	READINGS AND LECTORS:- TBA
Sunday 17 th May 7 th of Easter	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.V.Harris, Mr.J..Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Acts 1 (6-14) & John 17(1-11)

N.B. No service at Doverdale on Sunday 3rd May.

Happy Easter to all our Readers



Adverts (electronic) 2026

- AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085
- APM Decorators – 07784 483192
- AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058
- Alena Morton – ladies' personal trainer – 07857 753340
- All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590
- Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913
- Andy Pritchard – painter and decorator – 01886 889001 / 07973 783240
- Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811
- 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
- Elgar Kitchens – kitchen retailer – 01905 640013
- 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
- E J Gumery – funeral services – 01905 22094
- 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
- Kidderminster Roofing Ltd – 01562 748270
- Lee Russell Independent Funeral Directors – 01905 347588
- MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879
MSB Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd. – 07769 342897
- Mark Foster Podiatry/Chiropody – 07941 138957
- Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870
- Dr Moore Aesthetics – skin boosters, fillers etc – 07870 273378

- Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)
- Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390
- Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500
- Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314
- 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
- SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945
- Salt Way Silver – silver jewellery classes – 07845 826415
- J Sanders Countryside Services – fencing, landscaping etc – 07837 181920
- Shelter-Adams Ltd – home heating experts – 07990 523790 / 07922 548915
- Sparkle & Clean – house, office cleaning – 07471 672988 / 07790 031218
- Spice Fusion – Indian restaurant – 01905 622 222
- Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050
- Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709
- Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943
- Tails of Sinton Green – Dog grooming etc. – 07941 606194
- Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738
- The Ear Clinic – earwax removal – 07731 474750
- The Tranquility Tree – massage, reflexology – 07848 865709
- The V12 Vault Ltd – indoor car storage – 01299 544123
- Top Cut Mowing Services – 01905 621858 / 07802 717057
- Viking Pest Control – vermin and pest control – 01299 821106
- VRS Midlands – VW group specialists plus general services – 01299 544123
- Whitlenge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669
- Worcester Business Services Ltd – book at village store (Ukrainian refugee, Ombersley)
- Worcester Computers – custom build, repairs etc. – 01905 759111
- Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500