

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**March
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

March 2026

March 1st	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday 1st	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Hartlebury
March 8th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Hampton Lovett
March 15 th Mothering Sunday (MS)	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	Breakfast Service	Ombersley
	10.30am	MS Service	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MS Service	Doverdale
	11.00am	MS Service	Hartlebury
March 22nd	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Rushock
March 29 th Palm Sunday	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.30am	FS	Rushock
	11.00am*	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross	Ombersley
April 5 th Easter Sunday	6.15am	Bonfire & renewal of baptism vows	Ombersley
	7.00am	HC-CW	
	7.45-9.00am	Breakfast	
	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmney Lovett
	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale	

*Assemble in the Rectory garden at 10.30am; procession to arrive for service at 11.00am

Morning Prayer: March 11th at **Ombersley**

World Day of Prayer: March 6th: 2pm at **Ombersley**

Mid-week Eucharist at Ombersley at 6pm on 12th and 26th March

Ombersley and Doverdale Services in Easter Week

March 31 st : Tuesday of Holy Week	5.30pm	Gospel Reflection and Evening Prayer	Doverdale
April 1 st : Wednesday of Holy Week	7.30pm	Tenebrae Service	Old Chancel Ombersley
April 2 nd : Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	HC and Watch	Ombersley
April 3 rd Good Friday	10.00am	Walk of Witness	Leaking Well to St Andrew's Church
	12 noon	Meditation	Ombersley

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 March unfolds, the Church moves deeper into the season of Lent. It's a time that can feel both familiar and strangely challenging each year. By now, the initial enthusiasm of Ash Wednesday may have softened, the reality of our Lenten disciplines may be settling in, and the journey toward Holy Week lies ahead of us with both anticipation and uncertainty.

Lent is often described as a "season of preparation" but it is also, more profoundly, a season of truth. It invites us to look honestly at ourselves before God: our loves, our habits, our failures and our hopes. In the starkness of Lent, we are reminded that we are dust and yet, by God's grace, dust that is beloved, redeemed, and destined for resurrection.

In March, the natural world often mirrors this tension. Winter has not fully loosened its grip, yet signs of spring begin to emerge: lighter evenings, budding trees, and new

life pushing through the soil. This rhythm of death and rebirth reflects the spiritual pattern of Lent itself. We are called to let go of what is barren in our lives so that God might bring new growth from within us.

Traditionally, Lent is marked by three practices: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. But these are not ends in themselves. They are ways of opening our hearts more fully to God and to one another. Extra time in prayer helps us listen rather than simply speak. Fasting (whether from food, habits, or distractions) creates space for God's presence. Acts of generosity turn our attention outward, reminding us that faith is lived in love and service. Someone said to me that they were going to give away 40 things during Lent. Spring cleaning the house and the soul.

For Anglicans, Lent also carries a strong sense of pilgrimage. We walk with Christ toward Jerusalem, aware that the road leads through suffering before it reaches glory. Our worship across the Benefice during this season, simpler music, more reflective readings, the absence of "Alleluia", helps shape our hearts for this journey. It is a reminder that some truths are learned best in quietness and humility.

Yet Lent is not meant to be joyless. Even in its seriousness, there is hope. Every prayer prayed, every act of kindness offered, every small sacrifice made is a step toward the new life God promises. The disciplines of Lent are not about proving our worthiness, but about clearing away the clutter that obscures our relationship with God.

As we move through March, let us hold before us the words of the prophet Joel read on Ash Wednesday: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful." Lent is, at heart, an invitation to return: to return to prayer; to return to compassion; to return to the God who never stops calling us by name.

May this Lenten journey deepen our faith, soften our hearts, and prepare us to greet the risen Christ with renewed wonder when Easter dawns. And as we walk together as a Benefice, may we support one another with patience, prayer, and love, trusting that God is at work in each of us, even in ways we cannot yet see.

We have prepared a booklet which will help guide you through lent It lists all the services which I hope you will come to. How about being daring? Why not go to a service in a church you don't normally go to? I also hope that you will make a special effort to attend services during Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day.

Every Blessing



St David – Patron Saint of Wales



On 1 March each year, churches and communities across Wales and beyond remember St David, the humble monk, teacher and bishop whose witness to faith has shaped Welsh Christian identity for more than fourteen centuries.

David, or Dewi Sant as he is known in Welsh, is traditionally believed to have been born in the late 5th century in Pembrokeshire.

The story of his birth is surrounded by holy wonder. According to medieval tradition, his mother, St Non, was praying when she was suddenly overcome with a great light and a sense of awe at the very moment of his birth. The legend also tells that a fierce, raging storm battered the surrounding countryside, yet around St Non's home there was an extraordinary calm, as if creation itself were pausing in reverence. At the same moment, a spring of water miraculously welled up where he was born, a sign that God had set him apart for a special purpose from the very beginning of his life. That spring is still known today as St Non's Well, which can be visited near St Davids, and remains a place of prayer and pilgrimage.

As he grew, David became known for his deep devotion, simplicity of life, and commitment to prayer. He trained at a monastery and later founded his own community at what is now St Davids in Pembrokeshire. His monastic rule was strict: the brothers lived by the work of their hands, ate simple food, and were expected to pray regularly, day and night. Hospitality was central to their way of life, and the monastery became a place of learning and spiritual refuge.

One of the most striking aspects of St David's character was his personal discipline. He is famously known in Welsh as "Dewi Ddyfrwr", David the Water Drinker. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he abstained from alcohol, choosing instead to drink only water. This title was not given as a criticism, but as a mark of respect for his self-control, humility, and dedication to a life of purity and service. Further, it is said that he would stand daily in a cold river up to his waist while praying the psalms, using the physical hardship as a way of deepening his spiritual focus and commitment to God.

St David travelled widely as a preacher, establishing churches and encouraging others in the faith. His most famous miracle is said to have taken place during a large gathering, when the ground beneath him rose up into a mound so that all could see

and hear him as he spoke. Whether understood literally or symbolically, the story reflects the power and authority of his teaching.

In his final sermon to his followers, St David urged them to be faithful in small things: “Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have seen and heard me do.” These words continue to resonate today, reminding us that holiness is often found in ordinary acts of kindness, prayer, and service.

As we celebrate St David’s Day, we give thanks not only for a great saint of the past, but for a living legacy that still inspires the Church in Wales. Like St David, may we seek simplicity, generosity, and a faith rooted in love of God and neighbour.

Welsh Cakes

Welsh cakes were always a staple on St David’s day (and at other times too)

Ingredients:

- 250 g self-raising flour
- 125g butter (cold, diced)
- 75g caster sugar, plus extra for dusting
- 100 g currants, sultanas, or raisins
- 1 beaten egg, pinch of mixed spice

Rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Stir in the sugar, dried fruit, and mixed spice.

Add the beaten egg to bind the mixture into a dough. Refrigerate for 10/15 minutes

Roll out on a lightly floured surface to about 5mm (1/4 inch) thick and cut into rounds using a cutter.

Cook on a hot, lightly greased girdle (bakestone) or heavy frying pan over medium heat for about 3 minutes on each side. You don’t want to cook them all the way through. Dust with caster sugar while still warm.

St Andrew’s News

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

As we write, we are just approaching Lent, which we hope will be a little drier than the start to the year!

In January we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and Father Tim reminded us that the Wise Men were willing to be led in a different direction from the one they had set for themselves. Are we willing to be led in a different direction and what leads us?

Our Christingle service, with its oranges, red ribbon and of course sweets, brightens up the gloomiest of days and we were delighted to have a number of children

attending. The proceeds of the collection and collection boxes for loose change amassed during the year were donated to The Children's Society. If you would like a collection box, please ask and we will find you one!

On February 7th we had our Wedding Preparation morning, and it was a joy to have the Narthex full of couples planning their weddings in our churches in the coming year. This was a morning to find out how the service runs, think about hymns and readings, have a go at a couple of quizzes (only a tiny bit of tweaking) and time to meet and chat with people on the same journey.

We will have had our first games afternoon, which we will assume went well as there are a fair number of people coming... we have even had a request for Monopoly!!! On a time-limit if played...

Father Tim is adding some extra services leading up to Easter: Palm Sunday 29th March service at 11am will start in the Rectory garden at about 10.30 to process in; a Tenebrae in the Old Chancel on Wednesday of Easter week (1st April 7.30pm) and Stations of the Cross around the Benefice, starting at St Andrew's on Sunday 29th at 6pm. Each service will be different so you can follow the cross around the Benefice.

Also, the Walk of Witness on Good Friday (3rd April) will start at the "Leaking Well" at 10am. There will be more, structured stopping points where you will be very welcome to join the Witnesses. We are not missing coffee and cake at Jean Dowty's though! Please join us at any point. Details will be on the Facebook page or A Church Near You.

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, please pop in and see us.

We have had 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. Last month we had a chance to decorate biscuits which I gather carried on at home...

Just drop in, or contact us via Facebook - Stay and Play Ombersley, or on 07837928531

Monthly Monday evening Bible study group: no meetings until after Easter. Instead we have LENT LUNCHESES in the Narthex at 12.30pm with bread, soup and discussion. The book we are using by Catherine Fox 'Living in Hope' will be available.

Creativity Coffee, Company and Craft: First and Third Thursday of each month, £2 per person. March 5th and March 19th at 10.00am. The earlier time to accommodate the Lent lunch discussion group at 12.30pm.

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, March 12th

Do come and try paper filigree / twiddling, 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!

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 07837928531 for more information.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday March 8th: 3pm – ‘Why Not Sing’ - £8

A singing workshop with Liz Hooper, lots of fun and always popular. A chance to sing, taught in an accessible and fun way, with no need to read or understand music. With cake! Information elsewhere in the magazine.

This event has replaced the planned ‘talk’, which is being given to OWL four days before! The Priest Hide talk is rescheduled for October 18th.

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.

Sunday September 13th, 3pm

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

Sunday October 18th, 3pm - The Harvington Priest Hide talk returns!

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

Ombersley School are busy this year so more helpers please, especially to run games. Also help on the day (and cakes) in the tea tent, and of course to set up and take down. We must be due a fully dry day! We are also looking for a small chest freezer for the ice cream stall ...and of course a couple of people to man it and make families happy. Please contact Chris Day.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the April 2026 Magazine by
Friday 13th March

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Wedding

January 24th	Leona Butler & Danny Doe
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Funerals

January 2nd	Glenys Celia Fane
January 20th	Roy Hooper

Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
March 1st	HC-CW	Maureen Callow, Alison Want	Geoff & Audrey Axon	Howard Robinson
March 8th	FS	Tony Checketts, Judy Baer	-	-
March 15th	MP	Meg & James Martineau	Howard Robinson	Angela Randle
March 22nd	HC-CW	Gail & Phil Filer	Chris Day	David Wood
March 29th	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Jenny Ransome	Robert Thornton	Hazel Smith
April 5th	FS	Fiona Davies, Alison Want	-	-

Holy Dusters

March 13th	Fiona Davies, Sally
March 27th	Helen Daly, Liz Hooper
April 4 th (Easter Saturday)	Fiona Davies, Heather Barningham, Marjorie Workman

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	

No flowers during Lent.

Flower Arrangers' Meeting: Friday 13th March at 10.30am. Please come along for coffee, cake and a chat with the team of flower arrangers. If you are interested in joining the flower arrangers' rota, please come and join us on 13th March - you will be most welcome. 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 March:

Sunday 1st March – Racks Lane, Chapel Lane, Bristol Gardens,
Longheadland, Lord Hill Gardens

Sunday 8th March – Uphampton, Northampton, Lineholt, Malvern View,
Abberley View

Sunday 15th March – Doverdale, St Mary's Church, Sytchampton,
Sytchampton School

Sunday 22nd March – Those in our community who work in the NHS

Sunday 29th March - Children and young people in our parishes

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

At St Andrew's Church Ombersley

2pm followed by Tea & Cakes

Please join us and children from Ombersley School
for a service prepared by Women of Nigeria
with the theme

"I will give you rest, come"

Be part of a great wave of prayer
which encircles the globe



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

Easter at St Andrew's

PALM SUNDAY

29th March... 11.00am..... Gathering at the Rectory from 10.45am

WEDNESDAY

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd April... 7.30pm..... 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

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



SAVE A LIFE !

Learn or Refresh your CPR & Defibrillator skills.

Join one of our training sessions run by West Midlands Ambulance Service to refresh or learn new CPR Skills, use a Defibrillator and blood pack training. Young People accompanied by an adult are also welcome.



Tuesday 14th April at Ombersley Memorial Hall (7 – 9 pm)

Thursday 14th May at Sytchampton Village Hall (7 – 9pm)

To reserve your place(s) please email: Clerk@ODPC.co.uk or call 07766 052633

Your village needs your support



In Partnership with Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council

OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Thursday 5 March 2026 – 7 for 7.30 pm
Presentation by Phil Downing from Harvington Hall



Discover the House of Secrets

Harvington Hall is one of the rarest Tudor houses in the country - and its walls hide extraordinary secrets. You may think you know the Hall, but Phil Downing reveals how it was ingeniously altered to outwit priest hunters, uncovering a remarkable story of faith, danger and deception.

Members: Free; Guests £6: Contact Ann or Marie 07712 811552 or 07901 522412

Sunday afternoons at St Andrew's, Ombersley

 WHY NOT
SING AGAIN

with Tea & Cakes



£8 per person
to include Tea

on Sunday 8th March from 3-5pm

*If you've ever fancied having a go at harmony singing and missed last year's **SINGING WORKSHOP** run by Local Community Choir Leader Liz Hooper, here's another chance.*
All songs are taught by ear (no need to read music), all voices are welcome and fun and laughter are guaranteed!

You can 'find your voice' and join with others in learning and singing some great songs in glorious harmony!

For catering purposes, please book in advance if you can
with Liz on 01905 620827 email: lizhooper127@btinternet.com
or Fiona on 01905 621176 email: fmdavies83@gmail.com





LOCAL NEWS

March 2026

- **Spring** is definitely on the way now. Have you seen the beautiful snowdrops in **The Weighbridge Garden** which have been emerging since early February? The 1000 snowdrop bulbs were only planted last March and had been kindly donated to the parish by a local resident. There is also a larger display of snowdrops along Parsonage Lane.
- Time also to maybe consider a **Sponsored Slim in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind** beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 18th), finishing on Easter Sunday April 5th. For a Sponsor Form and further information email: anne.walter1@outlook.com or pop into Chapel End, Main Road, Ombersley where you will be registered with Guide Dogs as a slimming supporter.
- There is a change of date and venue for the **Talk on Priest Hides** by Phil Downing from Harvington Hall. This will now be given to OWL on **Thursday March 5th** in Ombersley Memorial Hall 7pm for 7.30pm. **This will be a ladies only night**, but there will be another opportunity to hear a talk about Priest Hides for all to enjoy in October.
- **Saturday March 7th** – Movie Nights - ‘**Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale**’ will be shown in OMH. Doors and Bar open at 7pm. Film commences 7.30pm - £5 payable on door (Cash or Card)
- **Sunday March 8th 3pm-5pm** St. Andrew’s Association are fundraising by holding a **Singing Workshop** with tea and cake in St. Andrew’s Church. Contact Louise on 01905 620995. Full details elsewhere in this magazine.
- **Ombersley Endowed First School** is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and are inviting ex-pupils to share their memories and photos as part of an aural history project by joining them in OMH at the Tea Shop session on **Thursday 19th March 2pm-3pm**. Information on ‘**Voices of Ombersley School**’ elsewhere in the magazine. If you are unable to attend, but wish to make a contribution then please email Victoria_griff@hotmail.co.uk or contact me on 01905 620350
- **Ombersley History Group** have organized a talk by Adrian Gregson on ‘Ombersley’s History from documents in the Hive Archives’ on **Thursday**

March 26th: 7pm for 7.30pm in OMH See elsewhere in magazine for further details.

- **Save the Date – 14TH April**, ‘A free course on ‘How to use a Defibrillator’” in OMH – Reserve your place by emailing: clerk@odpc.co.uk or see article in magazine for further information.

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



In **January 2026** there were:

- 3,309 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 761 telephone consultations
- 134 DNA (Did not attend)
- 17,621 medications issued
- 2,740 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.



Tea & Coffee Shop

**Ombersley
Memorial Hall**



Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Thursday 19th March 2026 (see Voices of Ombersley School)

Tuesday 7th April 2026

Why we don't all speak in Welsh

If you travel along Boreley Lane and turn up the hill into Woodhall Lane, there is a field entrance on the left, where you can look back towards the West. Not only do you get a marvellous view of the Abberley Tower and the Shrawley Wood Wellingtonias, you can see Woodbury Hill to the left and Abberley Hill towards the right with the Teme valley between. Well worth going at sunset for even more glorious views.

5,000 years ago, Woodbury Hill was the site of a fortified Bronze Age camp and had been successively occupied by the Celts under Caractacus, the Romans and later, the Saxons. However, our story starts with Edward 1st (1239-1307) and his seizure of the entire country of Wales in the 1280s signalling the end of Welsh autonomy. The last Welsh born rulers of Wales were the ap Gryffydd brothers – Llewellyn and Dafydd. Llewellyn died fighting the English and Dyffedd was tortured and killed by Edward 1st. In 1301, Edward's son became the first non-Welsh Prince of Wales; a title still held today by the heir to the throne.

Welshman Owain Glendower (c. 1354-1416) was a descendant of the Princes of Wales and of the royal house of Llewellyn. During the late 1300s - early 1400s he became increasingly frustrated with the oppressive hold the English overlords kept on his homeland and the poverty that resulted. As this oppression increased, so did numerous attempts by the Welsh to throw off the English in the Marches – ill-defined lands between the borders of England and Wales. Owain became the leader of these rebellious forces and by 1405 he had secured most of Wales from the English and styled himself “Prince of Wales”, determined to make Wales an independent country again.

In 1405 Owain Glendower in an attempt to spread his domain, allied with the French who supplied 10,000 men to finally defeat the King of England, Henry IVth. After numerous battles, Owain, possibly after sacking Worcester, encamped on Woodbury Hill on 22nd August. Henry IVth occupied Abberley Hill and for the next 8 days, they faced each other across the Teme Valley. Each day, knights from the opposing factions would meet in the valley and engage in jousting and sword fights, neither side really prepared for a major battle. On the eighth day, Owain woke up to find that all the remaining French troops had left overnight, many having deserted in the previous weeks.

Realising that his fight for Welsh independence was all but over, he gradually retreated into Wales, continually battling with the advancing English army. By 1412 he had rallied enough followers to attack Brecon, where he was captured and released on payment of a ransom. He disappeared after this and despite a huge reward, was never betrayed by his fellow Welshmen and was never seen again. It is thought he died in 1415 aged 56 years.

So, if it hadn't been for the French leaving Owain's army alone to face the English at Woodbury Hill, he might have defeated Henry IVth and eventually ruled over the whole of England as Greater Wales. Byddai wedibod yn stori hollol wahanol!*

*And that would have been a whole other story!

David Collier, Ombersley History Group

From the Parish Magazine Archive

May 1958: The Churchyard

A beautiful and well cared for Churchyard is among the most valuable possessions of a Parish. It contributes to the whole countryside and enhances the beauty of the Church itself.

I want to make it quite clear that my purpose in attacking this task is not to hurt the feelings or sentiments of any, yet I realize that whatever I do, some will take offence. The greatest difficulty in tidying up our Churchyard is the mounded grave that has no kerb or headstone - this makes cutting of the grass by a machine an impossibility. I intend therefore, to level to the ground all untended grave mounds, and to remove all obsolete, fallen and neglected stones. May I have more volunteers? I feel certain that once the grave mounds are levelled, and ant and mole hills are removed, we shall be able to cut the grass more than once a year, which incidentally costs us £30. The machine for doing this work has been delivered and should be in use by the time this is in print.

May I also ask that jam jars are not put on graves. Surely the dead deserve something better than penny jam jars.

Rev. W H White (Rector)

Wonderful Inventions

The Lawnmower and adjustable spanner: Edwin Budding, a Gloucestershire engineer first came up with the idea of a rotary blade lawn cutter after seeing a rotary blade cutting the nap on woollen cloth to give it a smooth finish. Although he patented his device in 1830, it took 10 more years before a machine pulled by animals was created. It wasn't until 1890 that the first totally mechanical lawn mower was invented, powered by a steam engine. He is also credited with inventing the screw adjustable spanner.

Worcester Journal, 18th December 1845

The Mitre Oak

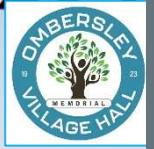
I have headed this communication – The Mitre Oak – from a wish to obtain some particulars (whether legendary or facts) respecting a venerable tree that stands close by the road-side between Worcester and Kidderminster, on the verge of two parishes, Ombersley and Hartlebury, though I believe it is in the latter, and the property of the Bishop of Worcester, which, indeed, may be inferred from its name; and every such episcopal proprietor must regard it with veneration, when no ordinary person can contemplate it. Stupendous in size, and riven by time, its trunk has the appearance of a hollow cave; yet at the return of every spring, it assumes its leafy honours, though not so profusely since (I think) the summer of 1812, when it was visited by a singular disaster.

The incident was briefly as follows: a clan of gypsies, allured by its sheltered situation at the bottom of a rural common, tabernacle within and around it, turning their asses to feed throughout the night on the unappropriated herbage near them. Barbourne's contiguous wood supplying abundant fuel, they kindled a fire unusually large within the cavity of the oak, when the touchwood sides of that interior being very dry, instantly became ignited; and the flames, rushing through the interstices of the trunk, communicated with the branches exhibiting the novel receptacle of a tree, part verdant leaves and part consuming fire.

The few cottages in the neighbourhood were soon drawn to the spot, only to witness, they imagined, the total destruction of their venerated oak; for they were destitute of means to save it. One of them, however, recollecting that a fire engine was at the episcopal residence, little more than a mile distance, proposed fetching it; which proposal was promptly acceded to; while every procurable tub and vessel was immediately brought near and filled with water, to be in readiness for the engine's arrival. In an incredibly short space of time, it was hailed, with rejoicing shouts, descending the common; and proving (as such machines always *should* be) in perfect order, its subduing power was quickly manifested, and the life of the tree preserved.

Two days afterwards, journeying that way, I saw with grief the melancholy change wrought by the disaster, and heard the sad recital of its cause and particulars from some of the spectators. Their artless lamentings and the mournful appearance of the venerable object of their regard, induced me to alight from my carriage for the purpose of taking a pencil sketch of it, with the imagined flames (as described to me) revelling among the branches.

OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2026/27



7th March – Movie Night – Downtown Abbey –
the Grand Finale

28th March – Easter Brunch

11th April – Movie Night – The Roses (2025)

11th July – Car Show

Ombersley Memorial Hall

EASTER BRUNCH

28th March 2026
10am – Noon

Bacon Strata, Sausages, Tomato, Mushroom
served with Tiger Bread
Hot Cross Bun
Unlimited Tea, Coffee and Juice
£8 per Adult

Sausage, Beans, served with Tiger Bread
Pancakes with Nutella or Maple Syrup
Unlimited Juice or Squash
£5 per Child (3-12)

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Mimosa Brunch Cocktail available to purchase
Craft activity for children attending

To book your brunch, contact:
cherrytrees.1@btinternet.com

Raising funds for Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust,
Worcester

SEE YOU THERE!



Ombersley Gardening Club



By mid-March we're ready to welcome the start of Spring.

Birdsong and light mornings, snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are in bloom and new growth is beginning on the trees and hedgerows. What a wonderful world!

March is the time to move any deciduous trees and shrubs. If the soil is workable, fertilise your beds with a layer of compost or general-purpose fertilizer. Prune and feed roses along with wisteria, and Buddleia. Winter clematis can be pruned if its flowered along with the summer clematis varieties before the start of active growth. Prune any rhododendrons on a frost-free day if you feel they need a new lease of life and deadhead Hydrangeas before new growth appears.

Cut back dead foliage from perennials and grasses ready for new their growth and fertilise vegetable beds ready for the growing season. Cut raspberry canes and place mulch around fruit trees and cover strawberries with cloches for warmth and protection.

Mow your lawn if needed, and also prepare the soil for growing new lawn from seed. Tidy up patios to remove slimy patches and as the weather becomes warmer, begin weeding to keep on top of them.

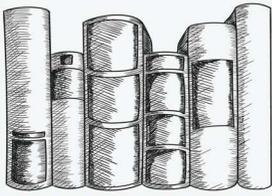
This year the gardening club's **Spring Show** takes place on **March 19th** when we hope the hall will be filled with Spring flowers and plants.

On April 16th, we have an evening with Carol Smith who will be talking to us about 'How to make the best of a small Garden'.

Pond fish can begin to be fed again and ponds cleared of leaves and debris. Carry on feeding the nesting birds and keep water feeders and bowls topped up and ice-free just in case we have any heavy frosts.

The Gardening Club meets at Ombersley Memorial Hall on the 3rd Thursday of the month so if you fancy a taster of what occurs, pop along for a cup of tea or coffee. We look forward to seeing you.

Happy Gardening! Ombersley Gardening Club Committee.



Ombersley
History Group



Ombersley's History from the Archives

An illustrated talk by Adrian Gregson, County & Diocesan Archivist

Adrian leads the team at the Hive which provides access to and expertise on collections, thereby ensuring the long-term preservation of the archive. In his talk, Adrian will discuss aspects of Ombersley's history revealed by documents and maps.

Ombersley Memorial Hall: Thursday 26th March, 7 pm for 7.30pm

Admission: members free; non-members £5 - includes a glass of wine/soft drink

Donations from the Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

Profits accrued over a period of two years from advertising revenue have enabled the following donations:-

St Andrew's Church £8000; St Mary's Church £4000; Ombersley School £1000; Sytchampton School £1000.

St Andrew's intends to put the donation towards improving the West door access.

The cost to individual subscribers is subsidised by advertising revenue and we are grateful for the continuing support of our advertisers.

Can You Help?

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

If you are interested please contact either Maureen Callow or Zillah Pickering (see page 3 of the magazine for contact details).



Voices of Ombersley School

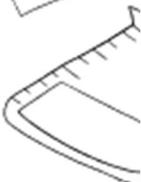
Ombersley Endowed First School is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year!

We would love to invite ex-pupils to join us and share stories and memories of their time at the school, to create an aural history project to be enjoyed by the current pupils.

Are you happy to have your voice recorded? Or be videoed?
Any old photographs etc would be gratefully shared too.

Please join us

Thursday 19th March, 2pm-3pm,
during the Ombersley Community Tea Shop
@ Memorial Hall, Ombersley, WR9 0DY



Ombersley Endowed First School



The spring term is proving to be a very busy time for us all.

The whole school enjoyed a Valentine's Day Disco and on the same day the Friends of Ombersley School organised a delicious fund-raiser by selling 'Krispy Kreme Doughnuts'.

They are also organising a Mothers' Day 'Pop up Shop'.

Scooters

Half term holiday club with Scooters was great fun, there was some fantastic activities and lots of fun and games.

Curriculum fun throughout the school

Early Years children are looking forward to their spring topics and looking at all the new life that spring brings.

Reception children are looking forward their trip to The Sea Life Centre.

Year 1 children have been learning about the Kings and Queens of England.

Year 2 are enjoying learning about The Great Fire of London – the children all built their own Tudor Houses, ready to be burnt down in The Great Fire!

Year 3 have built Egyptian models and are looking forward to their new Roman topic.

Year 4 are studying Ancient Greeks. They enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Malvern Theatre to watch the musical Percy Jackson and the Lightening Thief.

They are also looking forward to taking part in The World Day of Prayer at St Andrew's Church on 6th March.

We continue to enjoy our 'Open the Book' assemblies and having the opportunity to take part.

Book Week

The whole school is looking forward to Book Week, when each class will be studying a favourite book. There are lots of exciting things planned for the week, including dressing up days, competitions and shared reading sessions. We will let you know how it went next month.

With spring now in the air, we can all look forward to new life and all the wonderful new learning opportunities and fun it brings.

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



Here is a roundup of what's been happening in school this month.

RAF Cosford: Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a visit to RAF Cosford to support their learning about World War 2. They took part in a workshop about the Blitz and then spent time looking around the aeroplanes that took part in the war. They had a great time and have really enjoyed learning about this fascinating topic.

SPORTING SUCCESS: Our year 5 and 6 girls recently took part in the RGS Worcester primary netball tournament against local schools and finished runners up! The organisers said *"It was a pleasure to watch your players in action, not only did they demonstrate exceptional skill on the court, but their camaraderie and teamwork were a credit to the school"*.

We're proud of all the girls who represented our little school so brilliantly.

Gymnastics Festival: Year 1 and 2 visited Westacre Middle School to take part in a gymnastics festival. They did a super job of demonstrating their skills and working together as part of a team. We were very proud of how well they represented our school.

All about Bees: Reception have been learning about farms this term, and how our food is made. They learnt about the role of bees in collecting pollen and making honey. This was supported by a visit from Mr Hunt, a local beekeeper, who was able to tell the children all about keeping bees. They were very interested and asked lots of sensible questions.

We will Rock You: In February, we were invited to go to RGS Dodderhill to watch their performance of the show We will Rock You. It was brilliant and we all really enjoyed it. Thank you to Dodderhill for the invitation!

Curriculum Developments: We are currently reviewing our curriculum and have been trialling this in our Year 3 and 4 class. The children are finding out about all aspects of the human body including the science of movement and digestion and the history of how medical care has evolved over time. In Design and Technology, they applied their knowledge of nutrition to designing and making a healthy snack, which they all enjoyed taste testing.

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:

March 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th – no flowers (Lent)

March 15th: Mothering Sunday. Posies on the Altar.

PEWPOINTS

DIARY DATES:

Sunday March 15TH MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE AT 11.00a.m.

Do join us when we meet for this very special service to give thanks to Mothers everywhere.

The children will be invited to collect a bunch of flowers from the altar to give to their Mother.

HOLY WEEK (commencing Monday 30th March)

Tuesday 31st March. Compline at St. Mary's at 5.30p.m.

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday). Walk of Witness to Ombersley. Meet at the Leaking Well at 10.00a.m.

Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday). Easter Holy Communion at 11.00a.m.

Looking Ahead

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

Sunday May 10th. Rogation Service at Doverdale at 11.00a.m.

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

SERVICES

Sunday 1 st March 2 nd of Lent	11.00a.m. MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.S.Crow , Mrs.V.Harris Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow Readings: Genesis 12(1-4a) & John 3(1-17)
Sunday 15 th March MOTHERING SUNDAY: 4 th of Lent	11.00a.m. MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE	Sidespeople: Mrs.V.Harris, Mrs.A.Chapman Readings: Mrs.R.Nicholson, Mrs.V.Harris
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)

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
- 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