



# Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**May  
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: May 2026

May 3rd	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
May 10th	9.00am	HC-CW	Ruchock
	10.00am	Rogation	<b>Ombersley</b>
	10.30am	Rogation	Hampton Lovett
	11.00am	Rogation	Doverdale
	2.30pm	Rogation	Bells Farm Shop
May 17th	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
May 24th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
May 31st	10.00am	HC-CW Benefice Service	<b>Ombersley</b>
June 7th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	<b>Ombersley</b>
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale

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

Morning Prayer: 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Doverdale

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the June 2026 Magazine  
by  
Friday 15th May

# 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,

Towards the end of May we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, often called the birthday of the Church but what exactly was born on that day? It was not a building, nor an institution of bricks and mortar. It was something far more alive, more daring, and more demanding.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they did not suddenly build a place of worship. Instead, they became the Church. Ordinary people were transformed into a living community - one bound not by walls, but by faith, courage, and a shared calling. The Church, then, is not where we go; it is who we are.

If the Church is people, what is it for? At Pentecost, the disciples were sent out into the world to speak, to serve, and to love. The Church exists not for itself, but for others. It is called to bring hope where there is despair, to offer compassion where there is suffering, and to build bridges where there is division. Its purpose is rooted in the life and teaching of Christ: to proclaim good news, to care for the vulnerable, and to seek justice.

And how should the Church behave in today's world? Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit gives not only comfort, but also courage. The early disciples did not remain silent in the face of fear or oppression—they spoke boldly. So too must the Church today.

This means we cannot turn away from the realities of our world. Where there is injustice, the Church must name it. Where there is cruelty, the Church must challenge it. And where there are those who pursue conflict, violence, and war for power or gain, the Church must have the courage to speak out. Silence in the face of wrongdoing is not neutrality—it is complicity.

To follow the Spirit of Pentecost is to be a people who speak truth with love, who stand with the oppressed, and who refuse to accept a world shaped by fear, hatred, or division. It is to remember that the Church is at its most faithful not when it is comfortable, but when it is courageous.

As we celebrate Pentecost, may we rediscover what it means to be the Church - not a place, but a people; not exclusive but inclusive; not passive, but active; not silent, but

Spirit-filled. And may we, like those first disciples, be ready to go out into the world and live what we believe.

Yours in Christ,



## St Augustine of Canterbury

St Augustine of Canterbury stands as one of the most important figures in the history of Christianity in England. His feast day, traditionally celebrated on 26 May (when he is reputed to have died in 604 in Canterbury), commemorates not only his role as a missionary, but also his courage in stepping into an unfamiliar land with a message he believed could transform lives.

Augustine was a monk living in Rome in the late 6th century, most likely part of a community dedicated to prayer, study, and disciplined religious life. His world changed dramatically when Pope Gregory the Great chose him to lead a mission to the Anglo-Saxons in England - a people largely pagan at the time.



Legend has it that Gregory's inspiration came from seeing fair-haired Anglo-Saxon youths being sold in a Roman market. Struck by their appearance, he reportedly said they were not "Angles" but "angels," and resolved that their people should hear the Christian gospel.

Augustine, though initially hesitant and even turning back once in fear of the unknown, ultimately obeyed. In 597, he and his companions arrived in Kent, where they were received cautiously but peacefully by King Ethelbert. Within a few years, Augustine had baptised the king, established a church in Canterbury, and become its first archbishop.

Several legends surround Augustine's mission, reflecting both the challenges he faced and the faith that sustained him:-

**The Miraculous Meeting with the King:** It is said Augustine approached King Ethelbert in the open air, as the king feared Christian "magic." Augustine and his monks

processed with a cross and sang litany prayers. The king, impressed by their humility and sincerity, allowed them to stay.

**The Oak of Augustine:** A later tradition speaks of a great oak tree where Augustine met with British bishops to seek unity between Celtic and Roman Christian practices. Though the meeting reportedly failed, the story symbolises Augustine's desire for unity within the Church. The Oak of Augustine is also known as The Mitre Oak, which is in this Benefice!

**Healing Miracles:** Medieval accounts attribute healings to Augustine, suggesting that his preaching was accompanied by signs that helped persuade others of his message.

While historians treat these stories cautiously, they reveal how Augustine was remembered: as a man of faith, courage, and spiritual authority.

Augustine's life speaks across the centuries in several meaningful ways:-

**Courage in Uncertainty:** He did not begin as a fearless missionary. His hesitation reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision to move forward despite it.

**The Power of Gentleness:** Rather than imposing belief by force, Augustine and his companions lived simply, prayed openly, and spoke respectfully. Their approach won trust - a lesson in dialogue and humility that remains relevant today.

**Building Bridges:** Augustine's mission required crossing cultural boundaries. In a world still divided by language, belief, and identity, his example encourages patient engagement rather than withdrawal or hostility.

**Faith in Action:** His story reminds us that faith is not only personal but lived out in service, risk, and encounter with others.

So, St Augustine of Canterbury's story is not just about the spread of Christianity in England, it is about stepping into the unknown with faith, humility, and perseverance.

His legacy invites us to consider how we respond to unfamiliar challenges, how we treat those who are different from us, and how we live out what we believe in our daily lives.

His journey began in the quiet of a Roman monastery and led to the shaping of a nation's spiritual history, a reminder that even small acts of obedience can have far-reaching consequences.

## Savoury Roman-Style Herb and Olive Focaccia

This bread is simple, nourishing, and perfect for sharing - very much in the spirit of early Christian hospitality. And comes from Rome where St Augustine was born.



### Ingredients

- 500g strong bread flour
- 7g dried yeast
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil (plus extra for drizzling)
- 300ml warm water
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary (or 1 tsp dried)
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 75g black olives, pitted and halved
- A pinch of coarse sea salt

### Method

1. Activate the yeast. Mix the warm water with the honey and yeast. Leave for 5–10 min until frothy.
2. Make the dough. In a large bowl, combine the flour and salt. Add the yeast mixture and olive oil, then mix into a soft dough.
3. Knead. Turn onto a floured surface and knead for about 10 minutes until smooth and elastic.
4. First rise. Place in an oiled bowl, cover, and leave in a warm place for 1–1.5 hours, or until doubled in size.
5. Shape and second rise. Press the dough into a greased baking tray. Dimple the surface with your fingers, then scatter over the olives and herbs. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt. Leave to rise again for 20–30 minutes.
6. Bake at 200°C (390°F) for 20–25 minutes until golden brown.
7. Serve warm or at room temperature - ideal for sharing, much like the communal meals that would have sustained Augustine and his companions on their journey.

This savoury focaccia connects nicely to Augustine's Roman background while also evoking the kind of simple, sustaining food that missionaries and monastic communities have relied on for centuries.

## Fr Tim joins Chloe to raise money for Endometriosis UK

Chloe was originally running the Manchester marathon, however, due to endometriosis flare ups, she has been unable to train so has now changed her plan. She is running the length of a marathon over the month of May in 2026 to raise money for Endometriosis UK.

Endometriosis is a condition that greatly affects her life and those around her. She hopes to bring awareness to this issue, challenge herself and prove that those with 'endo' like her can still achieve amazing things.

I am going to join her "running" a mile on May 9th at 11.00am. We would be so appreciative for any donations and support as this is going to be the hardest thing she's ever done (but the most rewarding). It's not going to be easy for me either! I'm the original couch in couch to 5k and I've done no training!

We will leave St Andrew's Lych Gate in Ombersley and go to the Medical Centre (where I may need some help) and back. If you fancy cheering us on please do so en-route or come to church to see us off and stay for a coffee or tea, or even cheer us on the route and then come for a coffee.

Most of all we'd love a donation. You can either use the QR code below, put some money in an envelope and drop it into the Rectory or give it to Fr Tim or James.

Many thanks.



### St Andrew's News

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

We had a very busy run up to Easter and Holy Week this year with Father Tim completing his first full year with us.

At the end of March, we had our usual Easter Reflection for Ombersley School Year 4s. A very special time as they walk through the story of Easter from Palm Sunday to the Tomb, set in various places all over the church with each section told in character. This was followed by a lively Easter service with the whole school, starting with the Bonnet Parade around the church (the rain just held off) with new songs, lots of

enthusiasm and a talk from Father Tim encouraging us to look at Easter eggs differently.

Our Palm Sunday service started in the Rectory garden this year and processed to the church with singing and a couple of stops; in the evening we had a quiet service for the Stations of the cross. Fourteen candles were extinguished as we moved through the passion with verses from a hymn and reflections from the perspective of the disciples, a very moving service.

Through Holy Week we had a Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) in the Old Chancel - fortunately we had just enough room to sit. Another quiet reflective time with the light reducing after each reading until we left in the dark.

On Maundy Thursday evening, the Holy Communion Service and Watch was the same as last year, leaving the Altar totally bare and dark ready for Good Friday which began with the Walk of Witness. This year it started at the Leaking Well, with prayer, reading and a well-known hymn. Our first stop was at the Dowty's for coffee and cake, all excellent with a new generation adding to the baking expertise. We then moved on toward the village, stopping at different points with readings and continuing the hymn while gathering more people to join the walk. The slightly shorter walk meant we arrived in good time for the 12 noon service of Reflection allowing those in the choir a chance to do both. The choir (SAS) sung very well indeed and the choice of music certainly added to the atmosphere of the service.

The Flower arranging team then moved in and transformed the church into a place of Joy and Celebration, which on Easter morning, bright and early started with a bonfire and service in the old Chancel to renew baptism vows with the newly lit Paschal Candle in place. We then returned to the main church for communion, breakfast and the Family Service followed by an Easter Egg hunt. It was lovely to see more people at each service, and breakfast...though there was still plenty of food left! I also need to mention that the Easter egg hunters missed some!!

We are extremely thankful to all of you who helped everything run smoothly at this busy time of year. There is always so much more happening than most people realise and you are much appreciated.

A slight change this month - there will be no evening communion services on Thursday evenings. In June these will be at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Thursday.

*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.

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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Creative Coffee, Company and Craft:** First and Third Thursday of each month, £2 per session. **May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>** starting at 10.30am.

We are making things for the Fête, either to sell or put on the Gift Tombola. Ideas and enthusiasm welcome! We now have a jigsaw set up in church, which is a happy distraction if you prefer!

**Ombersley Quilling and Paper Craft Group:** Second Thursday of each month at 7.15 pm. Next meeting on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

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. We had a lovely session last month with visitors waiting for bell ringers joining in as well. The crimper is coming out this month... Contact Fiona on 07837928531 for further information

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

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

**Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 3pm** - The Harvington talk returns! - Priest Holes in England.

**November:** date tbc: West Mercia Police Band

**December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>:** A 'Crib' weekend with handbells and craft. Details soon.

## The Fête: Saturday June 27th 2026

More helpers please! We need people to run the toy stall and we have many different games that need volunteers – early birds get more choice! 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.

Ombersley Fête manages to be ‘traditional’ as we have so many of the community willing to help and give their time. We need donations for various stalls – more details elsewhere, but do you have: books for the Book Stall; toys for the Toy Stall; Items for the White Elephant; Nice little bits for the Gift Tombola? Can you make cakes for the Tea Tent or Cake Stall, also jams or chutneys? We will accept all with thanks.

## Rota for St Andrew’s Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
May 3rd	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Chris Day	Liz Hooper	Anthony Hughes
May 10th	Rogation	Gail & Phil Filer	-	-
May 17th	MP	Tony Checketts, Angela Randle	Fiona Davies	Robert Thornton
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Alison Want	Howard Robinson	Liz Hooper
June 7th	HC-CW	Gail & Phil Filer	Audrey & Geoff Axon	Hazel Smith

## Holy Dusters

May 1st	Sally Ludlow, Helen Daly
May 15 <sup>th</sup> (wedding)	Heather Barningham, Fiona Davies
June 5th	Marjorie Workman, Myra Cowdrey
June 19 <sup>th</sup> (wedding)	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham

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

## Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
1 <sup>st</sup> May/8 <sup>th</sup> May	Heather Barningham	Margaret Packer
15 <sup>th</sup> May/22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mary Keys	Helen Daly
29 <sup>th</sup> May/5 <sup>th</sup> June	Jenny Ransome	Angela Randle

New flower arrangers would be most welcome. If you’d like further information, please contact either Jan Berry on 07977 588682; [janeteberry@gmail.com](mailto:janeteberry@gmail.com) or Heather Barningham on 01905 620213; [hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk](mailto:hello@heatherbarningham.co.uk)



## OMBERSLEY FETE

is on Saturday 27th June  
£2 per adult, Under-12s FREE  
STARTING at 1pm... so, time to have  
Lunch from the BBQ as well as Tea  
& Cakes later!

**AND THIS YEAR AGAIN we have VIKINGS!**  
**As always we'll be very grateful for your help at the Fete...**

### You could VOLUNTEER

to help with set-up/take-down or to be on a stall  
Contact Fiona on 07837 928531 or Chris [chrisday567@outlook.com](mailto:chrisday567@outlook.com)  
IDEAS FOR A STALL YOU'D LIKE TO RUN, WELCOME

### or please DONATE items as below

**Homemade Cakes** for Cake stall or Tea Tent - bring on the day  
or Contact Jean 07709 956881

**'Things'** for White Elephant - bring on the day or Contact Pat 07976 941376

**Bottles** for Bottle Tombola (beverages only) - preferably donate beforehand  
Can be collected - Contact Frank 07785 225489 or Judy 07502 141098

**Books** for Book Stall - bring on the day, leave in St Andrew's,  
or Contact Sally 07484 279944

**Toys** for Toy Stall - bring on the day.

New/Nearly New **Gifts** for Gift Tombola - bring on the day  
or Contact Helen 07733 946499

**Plants** or anything 'garden' for the Plant Stall - bring on the day or Contact  
Bryony 01905 620846

**Helping at the Fete is a great way to get to know people in the village**

## 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](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 May:

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Haye Lane, Oldfield Lane,

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Main Road South, Church Lane, Hill Top, Ombersley Court

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Chatley, Woodfield, Hadley and Hunt Green

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Churchwardens

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Parish Council

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.



## Weighbridge – New Planting Scheme

Now that Spring has arrived the parish council have been busy installing new plants to the Weighbridge Green, funded partly by a generous donation from a local villager in memory of a loved one. More plants are to be added, and the scheme designed by local residents, Jim & Maureen Callow, should be completed by the time this magazine has gone to print. The finishing touch will see a new finger post installed on the Weighbridge Green due by the end of June.

*Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council*



## Save a Life



Over 35 people of all ages attended a CPR and defibrillator course run by West Midlands Ambulance Service on 14 April. Participants learned CPR and how to use the defibrillators and bleed kits located at Checketts, Ombersley Medical Centre, Sytchampton Village Hall, Hadley Bowling Green, and the Tennis Centre.

While we hope never to need these skills, attendees now feel confident to act in an emergency.

Thank you to local resident John Cope of Sytchampton, guardian of the village defibrillators, for organising the course.

The course planned for 14 May at Sytchampton Village Hall has been cancelled due to low numbers, but another session will be arranged next year.

*Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council*



SAMOSAS  
TOYS  
BOOKS

RAFFLE

PLANTS  
BEER & PIMMS  
CRAFTS

OMBERSLEY

FETE

BEEES & HONEY

GIFTS  
TOMBOLA

BBQ

SAT. 27 JUNE

TEAS

1PM

ELEPHANT  
WHITE

ADULTS £2 UNDER-12S FREE

CHILDREN'S  
GAMES

ALL THE FUN OF A TRADITIONAL  
ENGLISH VILLAGE FETE

CAKE  
STALL

WITH VIKINGS

DOG  
SHOW

# tarantara

www.tarantara.org.uk



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!

**on Sat 16th May  
at 7.30pm**

**St Andrew's Church,  
Ombersley**

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

**Tickets  
£12**

licenced BAR

**Contact Fiona Davies**

**Phone: 07837 928531**

**E-mail: fmdavies83@gmail.com**

"Tarantara perform the 'complete concert' - as well as their stirring full-choral pieces there are soloists, duets, sextets, barber shop, comedy, etc. all from the ranks of the choir."



## LOCAL NEWS

### May 2026

- **The Garden around the Weighbridge** on the village Roundabout has recently been landscaped. There is an article by the Clerk to the Parish Council, Angie Astley, in this magazine so please read all about it. Angie also gives us the feedback from the recently held **Save a Life talk** held in OMH. You can download **an app called CitizenAID** which contains a reminder of what to do in an emergency. Did you know that there is a **Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015 or SARAH** for short which protects people in England and Wales who volunteer help in good faith? If you act reasonably, within your competence and in an emergency, you are highly unlikely to face legal action. This was very reassuring news to me.
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Ombersley Drama Group** present 'The House Amongst the Willows' at Hartlebury Parish Hall – see advert in this magazine.
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm 'Tarantara' special choir in Church.** See advert in magazine.
- **The Malvern Walking Festival runs from 16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May** and some of the leaders from our village walking group will be taking part. There are info leaflets in the Narthex in Church or contact Peter Reynolds 07855 441804.
- **May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> - Charity Bluebell Cross Country Run** takes place– booking for riders and horse is essential, so please email [gbl@wichenford.net](mailto:gbl@wichenford.net) or **07767 788273**.
- Have you ever wondered what happens to all the 'black bin' waste collected by our refuse lorries? A few village residents recently visited **EnviRecover Incinerator** on the Hartlebury Trading Estate to learn all about the process. It was a very enlightening tour. If anybody is interested, contact [valerie.talbot@severnwaste.co.uk](mailto:valerie.talbot@severnwaste.co.uk). Tel: **01299 251134** to book.
- **SATURDAY JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> - YOUR VILLAGE FETE NEEDS YOU** – Please contact **Chris Day on 07730 820216** if you are able to help run the Children's Games, man the Toy Stall or help with the setting up and taking down of the stalls. Items needed are Bric a Brac, Books, Gift Tombola, Bottle Tombola, Cakes / Homemade Jam, Garden plants, Childrens toys. Please see the article in this magazine for all the contact information.

If you have any local news email [maxdiane@outlook.com](mailto:maxdiane@outlook.com) Tel 01905 620350



## Ombersley Gardening Club



What a beautiful few weeks weather-wise and before we know it summer will be here!

May and June are the time to focus on the transition from Spring to Summer in the garden and gradually exposing young plants raised indoors to outdoor conditions. Leave them 7-10 days outside before planting e.g. courgettes, tomatoes, runner beans and plant in the ground once the risk of frost has passed.

Tidy and weed borders and beds, clean patios and terraces and welcome the season with pots filled with colourful flowers such as primulas, wallflowers and pansies. The arrival of swallows and swifts is upon us with birds nesting and breeding, so please keep feeders and bird baths full.

Bees are now appearing and will be grateful for any small act of kindness. A pot filled with lavender or herbs offers an important food source along with dandelions which are so prevalent at the moment and a shallow saucer filled with pebbles and water would make a safe bee drinking station.

If you're limited for space, pots are an ideal way to enhance and bring colour and edibles to any area. Fill with flowering plants and grow your own herbs, lettuce, tomatoes and radish along with rocket for summer long salads.

At the club's meeting on the **21<sup>st</sup> May**, we welcome Josh Egan-Wyer with his talk 'The very best plants for now'.

On Tuesday **2<sup>nd</sup> June** there is a self-drive event to visit Warndon Court, which has beautiful gardens and wildlife habitats to explore and wonder around. This is followed with a coach trip to Wisley on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. Find out more at the next meeting.

At our meeting on the **18<sup>th</sup> June** we will be welcoming Reg Moule for an evening of Gardener's question time so have your questions ready!

There's lots to look forward to and if you are interested in becoming a member of your local gardening club, pop along for a taster evening. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Happy Gardening! Ombersley Gardening Club Committee*



# OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Our May meeting will be a self-guided day out to Croome Park, WR8 9DW**

The 18th century house sits in breathtaking grounds designed by Capability Brown.

Meet at Ombersley Memorial Hall at 10:00 and expect to return by 4pm. There are car spaces available for those who would prefer not to drive.

The entrance fee is £16.15 or free if you are a National Trust member (don't forget to bring your membership card).

For more information  
Contact Marie 07901 522412 / Ann 07712 811552 / Di 07714 844938  
RSVP BY 30 APRIL PLEASE



In **March 2026** there were:

- 3,362 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 866 telephone consultations
- 171 DNA (Did not attend)
- 19,063 medications issued
- 3,001 contacts regarding patient care requiring action



## Protecting Your Health

The covid spring boosters have started for patients aged 75+ or if they are immunosuppressed. Please call the practice to book in.



The eligibility criteria has changed for the RSV vaccine. All patients over the age of 75 are now eligible for this vaccine protecting against Respiratory syncytial virus. You only need to have this vaccine once. Please call the practice to book in.

# Ombersley Dramatic Society

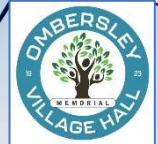
## The House amongst the Willows

The play, written by Robert Scott is a gripping modern thriller and psychological drama centred on secrets, lies and terror.

Hartlebury Parish Hall  
14th-16th May: show starts at 7.30pm

Tickets from Mike Turner 01905 620757/ Chris Marsh 07734247076.  
Also available at Ombersley Village Stores, Hartlebury Post Office and Holt Post Office.

### OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2026/27



**11<sup>th</sup> July – Car Show**

**10<sup>th</sup> Oct – Movie Night – The Choral**

**29<sup>th</sup> October – Halloween Extravaganza**

**7<sup>th</sup> Nov – Movie Night – The Devil Wears Prada 2**

**28<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fayre**

#### Easter Brunch

Many thanks to our incredible special volunteers and to everyone who attended our Easter Brunch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Everyone worked very hard serving the guests with a hot cooked breakfast followed by warm hot cross buns with lashings of butter.

Who was it, that said, you cannot enjoy a 'mimosa' before midday????

Excellent cooking by the infamous Stu and Bernie Booth – thank you.

The event raised £325 for the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust Worcester.



# Making the Main Road in Ombersley safer without changing our village

Over the past six months, the Parish Council has listened carefully to concerns about pavement and inconsiderate parking on Main Road, particularly opposite Checketts and from the island to the vicarage. At busier times, these issues can make it harder for emergency services to move through the village safely and without delay.

We understand how important it is to balance safety with the needs of residents and visitors. The Parish Council continues to look at ways to improve parking provision in the village, although experience shows that unauthorised pavement parking is likely to remain a challenge. A previous magazine article mentioned double yellow lines as one possible option, and we would like to reassure residents that, if introduced, these would not affect Ombersley's status as a village—many villages have similar measures in place.

Worcestershire County Council has been asked to consider whether yellow lines may be appropriate. Any decision follows a careful and structured process, usually taking around 6–9 months. This includes seeking views in the first instance from emergency services, Wychavon District Council, and road haulage organisations. If there are no objections the proposal moves forward, it must also receive support from the County Councillor and be subject to a public consultation. Importantly, residents and local businesses will have a clear opportunity to view the proposals and share their comments before any final decision is made. There is no automatic approval, and community feedback will be a key part of the process.

We will continue to keep residents fully informed and ensure that any updates are shared through future articles in this magazine.

*Thank you, Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council*



## Tea & Coffee Shop

**Ombersley  
Memorial Hall**



**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

# Education in Ombersley Parish 1829-1902

## Extracts from a report by the late John Silvester, April 1997

Governments played no role in education until 1869 and County Councils did not exist before 1888. Up until then, education in Ombersley was the responsibility of nine trustees of a small charity and its costs were met from the rents of a few acres of agricultural land. The charity began operating in 1729 and was known as Richard Lloyd's Charity. It became, in 1874, Lloyd's School Charity and is now the Lloyd's Educational Foundation. Up to 1874, it is referred to in this article as a Charity and after that a Foundation.

Before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the priests appointed by the Abbot of Evesham provided rudimentary education. In general, the most attention went to the cleverest boys destined for a career in the Church. After the Reformation, Church of England priests may have continued the practice, but whatever education was available, it would have been disrupted during and after the Civil War.

By the 1690s, there was a growing movement to make education more widely available. Most of the new schools were founded by the Church of England, but those at Ombersley are not Church Endowed. Here, the impetus came from a group of churchwardens, chief of whom must have been Richard Lloyd. These men, in consultation with Samuel Sandys, the Lord of the Manor, devised a scheme to provide the schools and the necessary revenue to run them. In true Ombersley fashion, this was not done swiftly!

The first move was made by Thomas Tolley of Comhampton (one of the 17 ancient townships of the parish) who left in his will, dated 1701, £20 for the furtherance of education. Twenty-one years later, Thomas Baker of Boreley, left £100 for the same purpose. Both bequests were paid over to Richard Lloyd, who with income from various properties appointed seven trustees. On 17<sup>th</sup> October 1723, the assets gathered by Richard Lloyd were invested in the Trustees and the Richard Lloyd Charity was founded. The stated aims of the Charity were to purchase property and to provide one or more schoolhouses in the parish. Reading, English, Writing and Arithmetic were taught, together with any other subjects the Trustees thought fit. Surplus funds could be used to provide clothes for poor children and to pay a premium to tradespeople to take on pupils as apprentices. Trustees were appointed for life if they so wished. When a Trustee resigned or died, the surviving Trustees met within a fortnight and elected his successor. Thus, a self-perpetuating oligarchy of landowners came to control education.

### **The First Schools 1729-1819**

Richard Lloyd was buried on 23rd October 1729. The Trustees of the Charity appointed three new Trustees and the first school run by the Charity was at Brookhampton. The Trustees met on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1730 when it was agreed that Thomas Tolley's legacy be used to repair the schoolroom cottage at Brookhampton and the rental cottage at Comhampton. In 1730, a Girls School and a Boys School were established in Ombersley.

Plaques are set in the front of both buildings, the Old School House and Old School Garage, respectively.

Teachers came and went, the trustees preferring married couples or brother and sister. The annual salary was eventually £24 per year, with an allowance for coal. Joseph Burraston and his wife Rebecca started in 1771 and remained for 55 years. However, he did blot his copybook in 1772 when an entry in the Trustee minute book reads "Whereas several irregularities and disturbances have arisen from people's assemblies in the schoolhouse, for dancing and other purposes. Ordered that the said schoolhouse be never permitted to be made use of for any such purpose". Mr Burraston was ordered to never let such activities happen again!

### **Ombersley Inclosure Act and its consequences**

As a response to the 1814 Inclosure Act, the Trustees rationalised their holdings, exchanging land for parcels of land closer together. They also, at ruinous expense, purchased the freeholds. In this process, the Trustees acquired a piece of land by the Kidderminster/Worcester Road. It was decided to sell the school at Brockhampton, which had become grossly overcrowded, and build a new one on the site. In February 1827 the school at Brookhampton was transferred to Sytchampton.

### **1826-1868**

These were the last years the Trustees had unimpeded and unquestioned control. The State was beginning to accept that education was too important to be left to private charity. The overcrowding at the Ombersley Schools was becoming a problem with over 160 pupils in 1839. In 1847 an infants' school was built in the village, but the new school did not alleviate the overcrowding. To reduce numbers, no child over 13 years could remain at school. It was also resolved that no child from the northside of the parish could transfer to the Ombersley schools until they were 8 years old and no child under 5 years could start at Sytchampton. The infants' school seems to have closed in 1854.

School hours were long: 8am-12pm in the morning and 1-5pm in the afternoon. A morning school was held on Saturday and the Schoolmaster had to accompany the children to Church on Sunday to oversee their behaviour. There was a one-week holiday at Easter and Whitsuntide and three weeks at Harvest so the children could go gleaning, with 4 weeks at Christmas. In 1851 the Trustees began the tradition, continued to this day, of presenting every school leaver a Bible.

Overcrowding remained and by 1857 there were 121 boys and 113 girls at the two Ombersley schools. In 1868, the Trustees decided to close Sytchampton School and upgrade it. By 1870, 74 boys and 56 girls were being taught at Sytchampton while the number at the Ombersley girls and boys schools dropped to 88 and 87, respectively. Overcrowding was still a problem and there was no room for a play area, so children were sent to play in the streets of the village; much to the distress of the local shop owners.

## **New Rules**

Two Acts of Gladstone's first ministry gave the government a role in the provision of education. The Endowed Schools Act of 1869 was aimed at improving secondary education. In the view of the Commissioner who visited Ombersley, the Trustees of Richard Lloyd's Charity were in need of a shake-up. In 1873, a new scheme of management was drawn up and the necessary finance to build a new school guaranteed. The new school at Ombersley was completed by the Autumn of 1875, the total cost being £2177. 2026 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ombersley Endowed School.

Once Government discovered it had an interest in education, there was no turning back. In 1880, attendance was made compulsory and in 1891, all parental fees were abolished and elementary education became free.

During the time the Charity and Foundation existed, nationally, on average, less than 50% of children received any formal education. It is of credit to the Trustees that nearly 75% of Ombersley children were educated. For about 140 years, they provided the only education on offer.

*MEC, Ombersley History Group*

## **Speeding Traffic in our Village**

Following two serious accidents on the A4133 including a fatality, the Parish Council met with the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and local district and county councillors to press for action.

Over recent years, the Parish Council has worked with Worcestershire County Council to introduce several road safety measures, including school warning signs, 20mph advisory signage with flashers at school times, road markings, white gates and 30mph roundels. Despite this, speeding remains a concern.

The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner confirmed the most recent speed data near Ombersley School is from April 2023 and has agreed to arrange updated monitoring and will share the results with the Parish Council. In the meantime, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team will carry out speed checks using a laser device.

The County Council is also awaiting the Coroner's Report before considering further improvements. In addition, the Parish Council has raised concerns about the right of way at the junctions between the A449 and School Bank and has requested urgent consideration of changes.

We will continue to lobby for improvements and keep residents updated on progress.  
*Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council*

# Ombersley Endowed First School



## Easter celebrations

During the last week of term all the children enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt, with a delicious chocolate egg supplied by 'The Friends' for every child. We enjoyed lots of Easter crafts and activities.

Year 4 were invited to a morning of 'Easter Reflection' at Ombersley Church, where they learnt more about the lead up to Easter.

We all enjoyed our Easter service in church. We walked down to church, then paraded around the church wearing our Easter bonnets for our families to see. Inside the church, the children all read and sang beautifully; it was a wonderful end to our spring term



## Educational Trips

As we look forward to the summer term, we also look forward to some exciting trips and visits:

Pre-School are looking forward to visiting Attwell Farm in Redditch. Reception class will be visiting The Cotswold Animal Park. Year 2 are planning a trip to Dudley Zoo. Year 4 will be going on their annual residential to The Pioneer centre, where they enjoy lots of outdoor activities.

Year 3 and 4 are also looking forward to their bell boating trip on the Droitwich canal.

This year, we are celebrating 150 years of Ombersley Endowed First School. We are planning lots of exciting things to celebrate this exciting milestone. One of them is a Family Fun Day on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June; We welcome everyone to come along and take part in games, stalls, refreshments and much more!

We are also planning an End of Year Whole School Concert for our families and friends.

Note: An article about the history of education and the schools in the Ombersley Parish appears earlier in this magazine.

# Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



Here is the news from our school in April.

We enjoyed celebrating Easter in school was welcomed Father Tim to our Easter assembly on our last day of term.

## **Stay and Play group**

We are excited to be starting a Stay and Play group at school starting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. This will run from 9.15-10.45 and cost £2 per family. We welcome any families with pre-school children from babies – 4 years old. There is no need to book and we look forward to seeing people there.

## **STEM Week**

During the last week of term, we had a week celebrating all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The children took part in a wide range of experiments and really enjoyed discussing and sharing ideas about how and why things happen.

## **Hive Visit**

Our Year 3 and 4 class went on a visit to the Hive and the Infirmary Museum in March. They enjoyed two workshops at the Hive learning how the books are organised and how to find information. They visited the Infirmary Museum to look at how health care has changed over time, which has consolidated the work that they have been doing in history this term.

## **Bikeability**

We had our first Bikeability session of the year in March, when a group of children completed the new Learn to Ride course. This involves learning to ride a bike independently for the first time, and the children did a brilliant job. The Bikeability team will be back later in the term for the children to do their Level 1 course.

We're busy making plans for the rest of the summer term with exciting opportunities for our children including Reception multi-skills festival, KS1 cricket festival, Y3/4 bell-boating day, KS2 end of year production and a whole school trip!

## 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:

May 10<sup>th</sup> (Rogation), May 17<sup>th</sup> (HC)

### PARISH REGISTER

FUNERAL: March 25<sup>th</sup>: Audrey Webb

INTERMENT OF ASHES: April 4<sup>th</sup>: Alan Moyse

### PEWPOINTS

### DIARY DATES:

Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>: ROGATION SERVICE at 11.00a.m. at DOVERDALE. St. Mary's traditional practice of walking along the lanes (weather permitting) to give thanks for the fields and crops. All are welcome to come along and join us.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY

St. Mary's AGM of the Parochial Church Council will be held in Ombersley's Narthex at 6p.m. Officers will be elected for the forthcoming year.

New members to join the council would be welcome. More lectors are also needed and occasional help with flowers at church festivals.

If anyone would like to become involved in any way, please do come along to the meeting to learn more about the general running and upkeep of St. Mary's Church. If you do feel able to help, you do not need to commit to being a member on the church council. We shall be grateful for any offers of help.

## **MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE**

St. Mary's Mothering Sunday Service was, this year, held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mothering Sunday always falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent and provides a wonderful opportunity to give thanks and to celebrate the love of Mothers everywhere. Licensed Lay Minister, Richard Jeynes, took the service and explained how Mothering Sunday began purely as a religious event in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

The word "Mothering" referred to the Mother Church i.e. the main church or cathedral of the region. It was considered important for people to return home or to their Mother Church. Consequently, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their Mother Church. Inevitably, this became an occasion for family reunions and it became a tradition for children, mainly daughters who had gone away to work as domestic servants, to be given a day off to visit their mother and family. As the girls walked along the country lanes, they would pick wild flowers to take to church or to give to their mothers as a small gift.

The first reading from Exodus Chapter 2, told the well-known story of Moses in the bulrushes. Richard demonstrated, with the help of some parents, grandparents and children, the tarring of Moses' basket in order to keep it afloat.

After the blessing of the flowers, the posies were distributed amongst the congregation by the children. Those in the congregation who had a special friend or relative unable to attend church, were invited to take a bunch as well.

Many thanks to Laureen Moyse for leading us through the Easter hymns and to our readers Rachel Nicholson and Valerie Harris.

A special "Thank You", also, to the ladies who made the posies and provided such delicious refreshments afterwards. Also, sweets for the children whose happy chatter was heart-warming to hear: demonstrating the true meaning of Mothering Sunday and the wonderful bond a mother has with her child.

Thank you all so much for coming along to support this very special service.

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

Holy Week celebrations began on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March with a short Gospel Reflection (Compline) at 5.30p.m. led by Rev'd Tim Williams. The ancient office of Compline derives from the Latin word "Completorium" meaning "completion" and consists of prayers at the end of the day. It is, above all, a lovely opportunity for quietness and reflection before rest at the day's close.

This year, on Good Friday, the Walk of Witness started from The Leaking Well, Dunhampton. The group set off with several people joining on the way. Many thanks to Jean Dowty for, once again, inviting the walkers to call in at Woodfield Lodge for refreshments before continuing to Ombersley for the 12 noon service of Reflection at St. Andrews.

On Easter Sunday, parishioners met on a warm, sunny morning to celebrate one of the most important occasions in the church calendar: Christ's resurrection from death on the cross.

The church looked resplendent with the Easter flowers and greenery so "Thank You" to Jean Dowty and her helpers for the lovely decorations. Reverend James Homer led this special service of Holy Communion and began by lighting the Pascal candle and welcoming friends and families gathered together.

The traditional Easter readings and hymns are always a joy to hear so many thanks to our organist and readers.

After the service, the congregation was invited to stay behind for refreshments and the opportunity to mingle and chat. Thank you so much to all those whose help and support with church duties enabled us to enjoy our Easter service of worship and thanksgiving.

## SERVICES

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May: ROGATION	11.00a.m.	READINGS AND LECTORS:- TBA
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> 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)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> . June 1 <sup>st</sup> after Trinity	11.00a.m. MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.V.Harris Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Hosea 5(15)-6(6) & Matt. 9(9-13) & (18-26)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 3 <sup>rd</sup> after Trinity	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs.S.Crow, Mrs.A.Chapman Sidesperson: Mr.G.Crow Readings:- Jer.20 (7-13) & Matt.10 (24-39)

N.B. No service at Doverdale on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

## Adverts May 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
- Starling Executive Travel – 07359 551795 – airport, business, wedding chauffeur services
- 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
- Whitleng 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