



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**June
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: June 2026

June 7th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
June 14th	9.00am	HC-CW	Ruchock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
June 21st	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	10.00am	MP	Ombersley
	11.00am	HC-BCP	Doverdale
	4.00pm	Pimms & Hymns	Hampton Lovett
June 28th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
July 5th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.00am	Sunday First	Hartlebury
	10.30am	FS	Elmbridge
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale

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

Morning Prayer: 9.15 on 3rd June at Doverdale and 24th June at Ombersley
Eucharist at Ombersley: 10.00am on 11th and 25th June

SONGS OF PRAISE at St Andrew's to celebrate Music Sunday; 10am on 14th June

Music Sunday is a national event that takes place in many churches in the UK to celebrate the importance of music in worship. Please join us in St Andrew's to sing some old and new hymns and songs. We know that there is so much power in music and words for celebrations and commemorations. If you have a favourite hymn you'd like included, let me know and we'll do our best to include it. Afterwards there will be refreshments. robinson_louise@icloud.com: 07952 692022.

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 June arrives, bringing longer days, gardens in bloom, examinations for some, holidays for others, and the welcome rhythm of summer, we are reminded once again of God's faithfulness in the changing seasons. The Psalmist writes, "You crown the year with your goodness," and even amidst uncertainty, there remains much for which we can give thanks.

Yet it would be impossible to pretend that these are easy times. Many people continue to feel anxious about the cost of living, the pressures on family life, and the pace of change in society. We hear daily of conflict across the world, political division closer to home, and the growing sense of loneliness and isolation that affects so many, particularly the young and the elderly alike. Technology connects us instantly, yet many still long for genuine human connection and deeper meaning.

In such a climate, the Church has an important part to play; not to offer simplistic answers, but to bear witness to hope. Christian hope is not optimism that ignores reality; it is the quiet confidence that God remains present even in troubled times. It is found in acts of kindness, in prayer faithfully offered, in neighbours caring for one another, and in communities that refuse to give in to fear or cynicism.

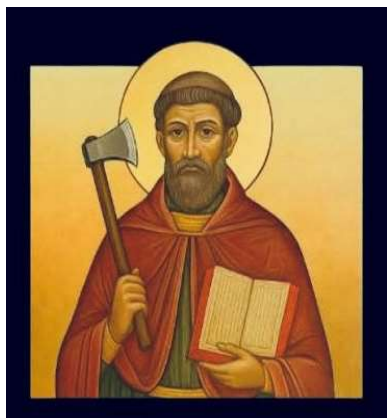
June also brings us into the season of Trinity moving on from the great festivals of the Church that remind us who we are. At Pentecost we celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit, God breathing new life into ordinary people and sending them into the world with courage and compassion. The first disciples did not live in peaceful or settled times either, yet they discovered that faith enabled them not to withdraw from the world, but to engage with it more deeply.

Perhaps that is our calling too. In a culture often marked by outrage and haste, Christians are called to be people of patience and gentleness. In a society where many feel unseen, we are called to notice one another. In days when trust can seem fragile, we are called to be trustworthy. We are called to bring love in the midst of the hate we see too often. The small things matter enormously.

Our parish churches continue to be not only places of worship, but a place of welcome; a place where people mark life's joys and sorrows, seek quiet in a noisy world, and encounter something of God's peace. Whether you are a regular member of the congregation, someone who comes only occasionally, or simply someone reading this magazine from curiosity, please know that you are always welcome in any of our churches.

As summer begins, I encourage us all to make space for rest, prayer, and gratitude. Sit in the garden a little longer. Speak kindly to a neighbour. Put down the phone occasionally and listen attentively to another person. Pray for peace in our world and for wisdom for those who lead us. And remember that even in uncertain times, Christ's words remain true: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." As I always say things will be fine - God is in charge!

Yours in Christ,



St Boniface: Apostle to the Germans and Martyr

St Boniface (who is remembered by the church on June 5th) is remembered as one of the great missionaries of the early Church. Known as the "Apostle to the Germans," he brought the Christian faith to parts of Europe during the eighth century and gave his life in service to the Gospel.

Boniface was born around AD 675 in Crediton, in the county of Devon. At birth he was given the name Winfrid. He grew up during a time when monasteries were centres of learning and prayer, and from an early age he showed a deep love for the Christian faith.

Although his family hoped he would follow a more "ordinary" path in life, Winfrid wanted to become a monk. He entered the monastery at Exeter and later moved to Nursling Abbey near Southampton, where he became a respected teacher and preacher.

Yet Winfrid felt called to more than the quiet life of the monastery. He longed to share the Gospel with people who had not yet fully embraced Christianity. In AD 716 he travelled to Frisia, part of modern-day Holland, but political unrest forced him to return home. He did not give up. Soon afterwards he travelled to Rome, where Pope Gregory II made him a missionary bishop and gave him the new name Boniface, meaning "doer of good."

Boniface spent many years travelling through what is now Germany, preaching, baptising, and establishing churches and monasteries. He was known not only for his courage but also for his wisdom and patience. One of the most famous stories about him concerns the sacred oak tree dedicated to Thor, the Norse god of thunder.

In the town of Geismar, local people believed the great oak was holy and that anyone who harmed it would be struck down by the gods. Boniface decided to challenge this belief. In

front of a large crowd he took an axe and cut down the mighty tree. The people watched in fear, expecting divine punishment, but none came. Boniface used the timber to build a chapel dedicated to St Peter, showing that the power of Christ was greater than fear and superstition. The story became a powerful symbol of the triumph of Christianity in the region.

Boniface also cared deeply about the life of the Church itself. He worked to reform clergy, strengthen monasteries, and encourage faithful Christian living. He founded the Abbey of Fulda, which later became one of the most important religious centres in Germany. Even in old age Boniface continued his missionary journeys. In AD 754, when he was nearly eighty years old, he travelled once more to Frisia to preach and confirm new Christians. While preparing converts for Confirmation near Dokkum in present-day Netherlands, he and his companions were attacked by a band of armed pagans. Tradition says that Boniface refused to allow his followers to fight back, urging them instead to trust in God. He was killed along with more than fifty companions.

According to legend, Boniface raised a Gospel book above his head in an attempt to shield himself from the attackers. The book, said to bear sword cuts, survives to this day. His martyrdom sealed a lifetime of faithful service and missionary courage.

St Boniface reminds us that Christian faith is not only about words but about witness, perseverance, and trust in God. He left the comfort of his homeland to bring hope and faith to others, and his influence can still be felt across Europe today.

Since St Boniface was born in Devon, it seems fitting to put in a traditional recipe from his homeland.

A Taste of Devon: Devonshire Apple Cake

Ingredients

225g self-raising flour, 115g butter, 115g caster sugar

1 egg plus a little milk if needed

450g cooking apples, peeled and sliced, 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan).

Rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs then stir in the sugar.

Add the egg and mix to form a soft dough, adding a splash of milk if necessary.

Place half the mixture into a greased cake tin.

Add the sliced apples and sprinkle with cinnamon, then cover with the remaining mixture.

Bake for about 45 minutes until golden brown. Serve warm with cream or custard.

A simple taste of the West Country, where the young Winfrid first began the journey that would lead him to sainthood.

NEW SERVICES: Why Our Eucharist Looks a Little Different

If you have noticed some changes in how our Eucharist is presented, seasonal variations in the service, or that the full Eucharistic Prayer is not always printed, you are not alone. These choices are thoughtful and intentional, reflecting both the richness of our worship tradition and the practical needs of our congregation.

Honouring the Seasons of the Church Year: The Church's year is not flat or repetitive; it has a rhythm and a story. From the anticipation of Advent, to the joy of Christmas, the penitence of Lent, and the triumph of Easter, each season invites us into a different spiritual focus.

Using the seasonal material provided in *Common Worship* helps us enter more deeply into that story. Some churches within the benefice have been using these seasonal variations for some time, and they enrich our shared worship.

These variations are not merely cosmetic. They shape the language we hear and pray together, drawing our attention to the particular themes of each season. Over time, this deepens our understanding of faith and helps us experience the life of Christ in a more vivid and prayerful way.

Why Isn't the Whole Eucharistic Prayer Printed? Some may wonder why we do not print the entire Eucharistic Prayer each week. There are several reasons for this.

First, *Common Worship* provides a number of authorised Eucharistic Prayers, and clergy may choose among them according to the season or occasion. Printing every possible version would make our service sheets considerably longer and more cumbersome, which can become distracting rather than helpful.

Secondly, there is value in listening. The Eucharistic Prayer is the Church's great prayer of thanksgiving, offered on behalf of us all. Not having the whole text printed can encourage us to engage with it as a spoken prayer, hearing it afresh rather than simply reading along.

At the same time, we recognise that, for some people, having the text in front of them is an important aid to participation. Balancing clarity, simplicity, and accessibility is something we continue to reflect on carefully.

Why a Benefice Version Matters: The Eucharist is not simply "our parish communion"; it is the sacrament of the whole Body of Christ. A shared benefice version of the service helps express that shared identity.

When churches within a benefice use significantly different structures, language, or ceremonial styles, it can unintentionally feel as though several separate congregations are merely sharing clergy, rather than belonging to one worshipping community. A common

liturgical framework helps us experience our worship as something shared, rather than divided into “their church” and “our church”.

At the same time, we seek to honour the traditions and histories of our individual churches, including the continued use of the *Book of Common Prayer* in some places and the retention of familiar prayers and customs.

This also reflects the Church of England’s understanding of common prayer. Liturgy is not primarily about personal preference or local identity; worship forms the Church collectively. Using a shared form of the Eucharist expresses our unity in faith and prayer, while still allowing appropriate flexibility within the authorised richness of *Common Worship*. The aim is not uniformity for its own sake, but to be formed together through a common pattern of worship.

Parish histories, traditions, and local spiritual cultures remain deeply important. Yet a shared Eucharistic service helps us become recognisably one Church, while still allowing room for local character and expression.

Worship as a Shared Offering: On a practical level, my own visual impairment makes it much easier to work from a single, consistent benefice version of the service. It allows me to prepare one clear text rather than several different versions, avoiding the additional difficulty of moving between them. In turn, that helps me lead worship more prayerfully and with fewer distractions.

At heart, these decisions are about enabling all of us to take part in worship as fully as we can: attentive, included, and at ease in the presence of God.

With my thanks for your understanding and your prayers.

Fr. Tim

WHATSAPP GROUP

As many of you will now know, Fr Tim has been registered as partially sighted, which means he is no longer able to drive.

People have been very kind in offering him lifts, for which he is extremely grateful. It has been suggested that we set up a WhatsApp group where Fr Tim can post requests for transport, and those who are able to help can offer lifts.

People can reply either through the WhatsApp group or directly to Fr Tim, who can then let others know when a request has been covered.

If you would like to be included in the WhatsApp group, please send your name and mobile number to Fr Tim on 07901 502675.

St Andrew's News

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

We are now moving through to the end of the Easter season on May 24th (Pentecost) and into 'Ordinary' time. We are sure Father Tim can explain much better than us! Congratulations to Father Tim on his contribution to running a Marathon to raise funds for Endometriosis, did you see him speeding up and down Ombersley with Chloe on May 9th doing his mile? Video evidence is available for any doubters!

Thinking of doubts, one of our services this month considered the disciple Thomas, who wanted to see Jesus's wounds when he appeared after the Resurrection, and Jesus's compassion towards his honest doubt. We also held our annual Rogation service, walking around the Churchyard, observing the green fields and woods and then moving to the Vicarage garden, where a lively robin accompanied our singing.

Our first concert of 2026 with Tarantara raised funds for 'Universal Access' including an attractive ramped access to the West door, and creation of some space at the front for comfortable seating including wheelchair space, by removing a couple of rows of pews. We can then have a mobile 'Nave Altar', which will be of great benefit to Father Tim and several of the congregation who have issues with steps.

The summer wedding season started in style on May 16th and 17th with two weddings and two baptisms followed by another on May 23rd, we wish all the couples long and happy lives together.

On Friday June 12th St Andrew's Handbell Ringers will be having a coffee morning from 10am -12noon ...with bells of course to raise funds for SNOEZELEN in Worcester. This will be followed by a Music Sunday service on June 14th - an opportunity to sing and be joyful with hymns you can choose - more information elsewhere.

Ombersley Social Strollers meet every Wednesday at 10am and walk for 40-60 minutes before a social cup of coffee in the narthex. The routes are not too strenuous. Just turn up and join in, you will be very welcome, including well-behaved dogs.

Also, a reminder that 10am said Holy Communion services will start the on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from June 11th.

At the end of April, we had the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the minutes and reports are in the porch and are summarized in this magazine. At this meeting Fiona stood back as Churchwarden, but promises to still be around! This leaves a space to be filled to help Chris, do ask if you might be interested.

Fiona and Chris

Note : St Andrew's activities and events follow the middle colour section of this magazine.

St Andrew's Church

Baptisms

April 19th: Amelie Gail Cornes

April 26th: Sophie Lynn Noble

Funeral

April 9th: Sylvia Lyes

Interments

April 17th: Edna Turner

April 27th: Doreen Mavis Weston

Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
June 7th	HC-CW	Gail & Phil Filer	Audrey & Geoff Axon	Hazel Smith
June 14th	FS	Tony Checketts, Jenny Batelen	-	-
June 21st	MP	Meg & James Martineau	Jan Berry	Howard Robinson
June 28th	HC-CW	Tony Checketts, Maureen Callow	Anthony Hughes	Fiona Davies
July 5th	HC-CW	Gail & Phil Filer	James Martineau	Chris Day

Holy Dusters

June 5th	Marjorie Workman, Myra Cowdrey
June 19 th (wedding)	Liz Hooper, Heather Barningham
July 3rd	Sally Ludlow, Fiona Davies
July 17th	Helen Daly, Marjorie Workman

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

Flowers

	Pedestal	Porch
29 th May/5 th June	Jenny Ransome	Angela Randle
12 th June/19 th June	Ann Dorn	Julia Grundy
26 th June/3 rd July	Mary Pritchard	Rose Coulter

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

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the joint July/August Magazine by
Wednesday 17th June

Please note that the July/August magazine may not be delivered until the first few days
of July



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

This was held on Tuesday 28th April at 7pm in the Narthex of the church.

At the Vestry meeting Chris Day was elected as the churchwarden for this coming year.

At the Annual Parish Church Meeting:

Louise Robinson and Liz Hooper were elected as the Deanery Synod representatives.

Reports were received from the Rector, Churchwardens; Safeguarding Officer; Treasurer and Deanery Synod representatives

The Electoral Roll officer reported that there are 68 on the roll after this year's revision.

At the PCC meeting following the APCM the following were elected to different roles and the PCC:

Jenny Batelen – Secretary

Lucy Jeynes - Treasurer

James Martineau, Tony Checketts, Alison Want (Safeguarding Officer), Hazel Smith, Kim Day, Fiona Davies are elected members of the PCC

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 June:

Sunday 7th June – Apple Tree Walk, Holt Fleet Road, Parsonage Lane, Dough Bank

Sunday 14th June – Sinton, School Bank, Ombersley School, Hawford, Hawford School

Sunday 21st June – Boreley, Mutton Hall, Comhampton, Dunhampton

Sunday 28th June – Clergy, lay readers and PCCs

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.

SAMOSAS TOYS RAFFLE PLANTS
BOOKS BEER & PIMMS CRAFTS

OMBERSLEY

FETE

BEEES & HONEY GIFTS TOMBOLA

SAT. 27 JUNE

1PM

ADULTS £2 UNDER-12S FREE

BBQ
ELEPHANT
WHITE

TEAS
CHILDREN'S
GAMES

ALL THE FUN OF A TRADITIONAL
ENGLISH VILLAGE FETE

CAKE
STALL

WITH VIKINGS

DOG
SHOW

Activities and Events at St Andrew's

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. Weather permitting, we may take and play with sand outside through the summer. Just drop in, or contact us via Facebook - Stay and Play Ombersley, or on 07837928531

Monday evening Bible study group: The next Meeting will be at **7pm on June 1st** at Wisteria Cottage, and the theme will be Pentecost. The July 7th meeting will be in the Narthex and will focus on St Stephen, from Acts. Drop in or contact Richard 07496 850192.

Creativity Coffee, Company and Craft: First Thursday of each month, £2 per session. June 4th and July 2nd starting at 10.30am. Hopefully, more will be there if just once a month.

Ombersley Quilling and Paper Craft Group: Second and Fourth Thursday of each month at 7.15 pm. Next meetings on June 12th and June 25th.

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!

... Our Mandalas are making progress, but sadly, the crimper wasn't there. As new people join there is always a chance to start, and You Tube provides lots of tips that we try and follow. Contact Fiona on 07837928531 for further information

Forthcoming Events

Friday June 12th, 10-12noon. Handbells and coffee, raising funds for the Snoezelen Charity in Worcester. Details elsewhere.

Sunday September 13th, 3pm

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

October 3rd – a Gin Festival. Plans are underway and the botanicals in the Benefice have been sourced so creation is underway for our own gin.....

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

November: date tbc: West Mercia Police Band

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

The Fête: Saturday June 27th at 1pm

Our wonderful teams of volunteers are working hard getting this ready for you all. We do still need people to man the Toy Stall, if a few of you gather to run it together you will still be able to enjoy the Fête. We also need people to run Children's games: instructions are provided and they are simple to run, and provide enjoyment for children and parents. See poster and other information about the Fête in this magazine.



LOCAL NEWS

June 2026

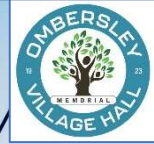
- Due to popular demand we have added 2 more mini plots at the **Community Kitchen Garden** on the Longheadland allotments. We now have 10 parish households growing their own vegetables, fruit and flowers, and all living a few minutes walk away. It is also encouraging to see that the recently installed greenhouse is being put to good use as well (see photo).
- Our local **Brownies and Rainbows** have recently begun to build a Bug Hotel on the plot (photo below), and it was wonderful to see how excited they all were when they walked around with their leaders from their Guide Hut to begin the project. Our gardeners too are excited to hope that any bugs will live there and not on their vegetables! Our Parish residents are welcome to look around the CKG at their own risk. We do have a waiting list for the mini plots. Contact maxdiane@outlook.com



- Do you have a few hours to spare, and would you like to make a difference and help your local community? Then **Sytchampton Village Hall** are still looking for help on the Committee so that this wonderful local asset can still continue to serve our community. All enquiries please to andy.burge@sky.com
- **Saturday June 20th - 150 years of Ombersley Endowed School - 1pm-4pm** - a special day of fun and games. Be part of a memorable day either by attending or volunteering to help. Further information is available in this magazine.
- **Saturday 27th June - Ombersley Church Fête, 1pm-4pm** in the Wedding Field. If you can help please contact Chris Day on 07730 820216. Further information in elsewhere in this magazine.
- Save the date; **Saturday 11th July: Ombersley Car Show** in Hall Memorial Field.

If you have any local news email maxdiane@outlook.com Tel 01905 620350

OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2026/27



11th July – Car Show

10th Oct – Movie Night – The Choral

29th October – Halloween Extravaganza

7th Nov – Movie Night – The Devil Wears Prada 2

28th November – Christmas Fayre



OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 11th June

MOVE WELL – AGE WELL

with Amanda from Me-time Pilates

Pilates is a safe, low-impact exercise that helps seniors improve strength, balance, flexibility, and overall mobility while protecting joints.

Pilates is particularly well suited for older adults because it focuses on core strength, posture, and controlled movement, which are essential for maintaining independence and preventing falls.

If you would like to join in with our "Chair" Pilates session, please come in comfortable clothes. Otherwise please feel free to observe.

For more information

Contact Marie 07901 522412 / Ann 07712 811552 / Di 07714 844938

July meeting is on 2nd July when Martin Davis will talk about the
"House of Sandys" from the Ombersley Court archive

The General Strike of 1926

100 years ago in May, Britain underwent a sociological upheaval, which at the time, was thought might even bring down the Monarchy. From the 3rd May 1926 the whole country ground to a halt. A strike called by the TUC to force the Government to improve the conditions of miners was swiftly taken up by other unions and workers. For nine days, trains and buses stood idle, the engines of heavy industry fell silent, newspapers went unprinted and the hum of daily life seemed to pause for breath.

It all started because the wages paid to miners had fallen dramatically after WW1. Average pay dropped from £6 a week to £3 18s. Rich seams of British coal were used up by the end of the war, increasing the cost to mine. Germany was forced as part of its reparations to provide free coal to France and Belgium, thus reducing the value of coal dramatically. The breaking point came in 1925 when Winston Churchill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reintroduced the Gold Standard, which made exported coal too expensive. Mine owners wanted to pay the miners even less, resulting in the Miners' Federation of GB stating "*Not a penny off the pay, not a minute of the day*".

Despite negotiations between Government and the unions, it was a decision by the printers of the "Daily Mail" to refuse to print an editorial stating "*A general strike is not an industrial dispute, it is a revolutionary movement which can only succeed in destroying the Government and subverting the rights and liberties of the people*", which resulted in the National Strike starting.

Between 1.5 and 1.7 million workers went on strike. Such was the concern of the Government that King George Vth gave a "Crisis Broadcast" on the wireless in order to stabilise the situation and create balance, stating "*try living on their wages before you judge them*".



Most famously one response was for middle class England to man some of the jobs the workers were no longer doing. Trains, omnibuses, printing presses and underground trains were worked by both men and women, often needing a military guard.

The strike petered out on the 12th May mainly because striking workers needed the money. Their conditions of work, however didn't improve until the 1930s, when coal again became necessary for yet another war.

One outcome from all this upheaval was the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act 1927, which banned sympathy strikes, general strikes, and mass picketing, creating a system whereby trade union members had to "opt-in" to paying the political levy to the Labour Party.

Thank goodness, the country learnt from the distress and upheaval of 1926 and never allowed unions to hold the country to ransom again!

David Collier, Ombersley History Group



Community Tea Shop

Ombersley
Memorial Hall



Tuesday 2nd June
Thursday 18th June
Tuesday 7th July

Bottles are needed for the 'Bottle Tombola' at the Fête

Please give bottles (or cans) to either Frank Cody (07785 225489) or Judy Goodman (07502 141098) before the Fête (27th June). Frank or Judy are willing to collect your donations. Bottles can also be handed to Frank or Judy at the Community Tea Shop on 2nd or 18th June.

The History of St Andrew's Ombersley's Handbells by Louise Robinson

I started a Bellringing group here in Ombersley after Basil and Diana Lamb told me about an old set of handbells in St Andrew's Church and it seemed a good opportunity to rescue them, especially as they have had such a long history, and are part of the church's heritage.

There were many bell foundries operating the 19th Century, and our original set of 12 bells were made by Shaw's of Bradford sometime in the Victorian era. We discovered that Shaws went out of business in 1902.

At some point, St Andrew's Church Tower Ringing Master, Sid Duggan, who lived locally, gave the handbells to the Tower Ringers and they were stored in the tower for many years. Basil Lamb remembered them being there when he started ringing at the age of 14, but at that time they weren't used much. Later, Colonel Robinson, who lived at Woodfield Cedars, borrowed the bells and his large family used them to entertain villagers with carols at Christmas. When he died, Mrs Robinson gave the handbells back to the church, but unfortunately one bell was missing.

In the 1970s Sid Duggan left a bequest to improve St Andrew's Tower ringing room, and the handbells were then removed and used by David Mountford. In the 1980s John Huggins paid for a replacement bell to be cast, to complete the set of 12 bells again. After that, sadly, they weren't used for many years, resulting in major deterioration of the leather straps and clappers. They were really difficult to play at this stage in their life.

In 2014 we formed a group of interested players and realising that the twelve bells needed renovating, we took them to Taylor's of Loughborough, one of very few foundries still working in the UK. There major work was done on them; they were retuned and polished, and had new leather straps and clappers fitted. At the same time we added to the collection of bells, building it to two octaves, plus sharps and flats, 25 bells altogether. Later we added several deeper chimes, making three octaves in all. We managed to raise over £2000 to complete this costly project.

Happily, 11 years later, we're still going strong, meeting weekly to learn new music - having lots of fun and companionship while learning new skills. We perform occasionally, especially at Christmas. We also join with other groups for special workshop days and we raise money for charities too. Last year we performed at an event in Catshill and we've been invited back again to entertain with Christmas music this year. St Andrew's Ringers are very proud to carry on the Ombersley tradition of handbell ringing. Please come along at 11.30am on Monday mornings if you're interested in finding out more and having a go. Contact: Louise Robinson 07952 692022

Our next event is on the **12th of June, between 10am and 12 noon**. We're holding a fundraising **Coffee and Cake morning in the Narthex**. There will be opportunities for

people to have a go at playing the bells, with the added bonus of some music performed by the St Andrew's Ringers.

SNOEZELEN is the charity we're supporting. Yes, that's its name!! It's a Worcester based organisation, providing multi-sensory rooms for severely handicapped children and adults. The rooms use sound and light, tactile sensations, smell and movement, providing wonderful experiences for the children and adults, and their carers. There are other activities and hydrotherapy sessions available too. Please see the poster in this magazine for more details. Snoezelen's website is: www.worcestersnoezelen.org.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

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



Ombersley Gardening Club



June with the longest day of the year heralds lighter mornings and evenings and warmer days. June is also exciting for the Gardening Club as members will be visiting Warndon Court on the **2nd June** to look at the gardens and enjoy homemade refreshments. This visit is followed on the **16th June** with a day-trip to RHS Wisley.

Our speaker on the 18th June is Reg Moule where we will have an evening of 'Gardeners Question Time' so come prepared with a variety of questions.

Hopefully, your garden in June will be full of beautifully scented flowers and an array of different shrubs. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators will take full advantage of the sunny days and wonderful flowers. Birds will still be nesting along with hedgehogs and both will be searching for food for their young so it is important during the summer months to leave out water to drink and bathe in.

June is also the time to start watering plants and shrubs depending on the weather. Water is now an expensive commodity so store rain water in butts and other containers, along with using grey water collected from sinks, showers and baths. If using grey water, pour directly onto the soil around the plants and do not spray. Deadhead roses, feed flowering plants and the lawn, put out your bedding plants and outdoor tomatoes, prepare hanging baskets and keep up with weeding!

Summer is the time of colour in the garden with flowers bringing fragrance from freshly cut grass, the smell of lavenders and other flowers, the singing of birds and the humming of the bees. Nature at its finest, so enjoy and bask in your garden's beauty.

We look forward to seeing members and non-members at the club so come along to OMH on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Happy Gardening! Ombersley Gardening Club Committee

Do you have a copy of the 1918 Ombersley Court Sale of outlying properties?

Members of the Ombersley History Group are keen to consult this document for their research into the history of the Court.

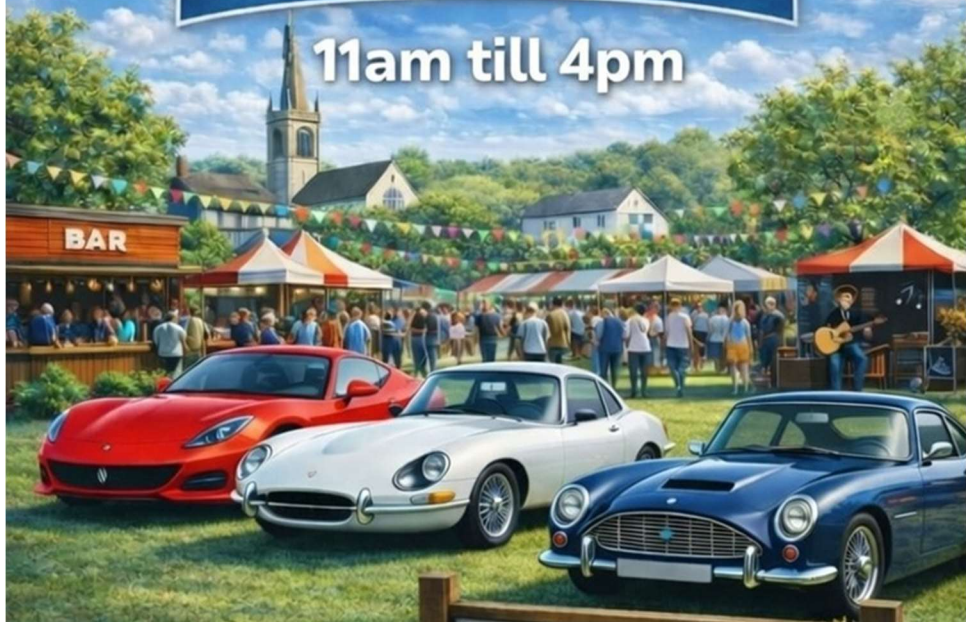
If you have a copy, please email David Collier (drdcollier@gmail.com).

OMBERSLEY

CAR SHOW

11th JULY 2026

11am till 4pm



ENTRY FEE:
ADULTS £3
CHILDREN FREE.

SANDYS ROAD WR9 ODY

CHARITY NUMBER: 202315



In **April 2026** there were:

- 3,341 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 878 telephone consultations
- 179 DNA (Did not attend)
- 17,824 medications issued
- 2,610 contacts regarding patient care requiring action



Have your say

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) is looking for new members! The PPG is a friendly group of patients and practice staff who work together to help shape and improve local services. Whether you have lots of ideas or simply want to share your experiences and support your community practice, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the practice for more information.

at St Andrew's Church **St Andrew's Handbells** in the Narthex (the back bit)

Coffee Morning

Fri 12th June 10am til 12

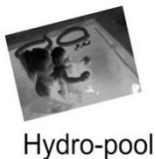
Listen to and maybe try Handbells

raising funds to expand **worcester snoezelen**

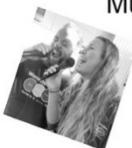
Enjoy

THE BIG BUILD
worcest^{er} snoezelen

A centre offering sensory happiness for people with disabilities and additional needs



Hydro-pool



Music



Art



Multisensory spaces



Stay Connected with Your Parish Council

Visit the Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council website for local updates, meeting information, key documents and useful contact details all in one place.

www.odpc.co.uk

Find information on:

- ✓ Meeting agendas
- ✓ Upcoming meeting dates
- ✓ Minutes, decisions, and actions
- ✓ Local planning applications
- ✓ Road closure updates
- ✓ Expenditure over £500
- ✓ Annual finance audit information
- ✓ Parish policies and procedures
- ✓ Contact details for your local Parish Councillors
- ✓ Contact details for your District and County Councillor

For enquiries, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council
Angie Astley, at clerk@odpc.co.uk

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council

While waiting for your kettle to boil, you can have your say on policing...

Got a spare few minutes? Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has launched a short consultation to give you an opportunity to have your say on the Government's proposals to create 12 'mega police forces'.

As this could be the biggest shake up of policing in six decades, the PCC wants to make sure you can share your views on this change. He will share the public response directly with the Government to consider in their review.

The consultation closes on Monday 15th June. Have your say by visiting the West Mercia PCC website - www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Council

Date	Venue	Time
2026		
Tuesday 9 th June	Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
Tuesday 21 st July	The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm
Tuesday 15 th Sept	Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
Tuesday 20 th Oct	The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm
Tuesday 17 th Nov	Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
2027		
Tuesday 19 th Jan	The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm
Tuesday 16 th Feb	Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
Tuesday 16 th March	The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm
Tuesday 20 th April	Annual Parish Meeting Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
Tuesday 18 th May	AGM (Appointment of Chair/Vice-Chair) The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm
Tuesday 15 th June	Sytchampton Community Hall, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	7.00pm
Tuesday 20 th July	The Narthex, St Andrew's Church, Ombersley	7.00pm

In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to alter dates and venues

All Council meeting Agendas can be found on the Parish Council website

www.odpc.co.uk

For further information please contact Angie Astley, Parish Clerk at clerk@odpc.co.uk

Bromsgrove, Droitwich, & Redditch Weekly Messenger, 16 November 1867

OMBERSLEY: A model village, half a dozen miles from Worcester on the road to Kidderminster; has fine old cross-timbered houses in good condition, and modern ones *en suite*, with pretty gables and ornamental barge-boards; two or three good hostelryes; a park, with grand mansion and live lord therein; and a fine showy church, not forty years old, with handsome spire. Ombersley formerly belonged to the Abbey of Evesham, and once gave its name to a forest, which was cut down in the time of Henry III. A market and fair were granted to the town by Edward III, but there is now no trace of either. Lord Sandys, who resides at the Court, owns the manor and most of the property in the parish – a charitable man, a good landlord, and doesn't meanly sell his game, as so many landlords of Worcestershire do, but distributes it among his tenants and friends, as I am assured by those who know it. Unfortunately, his lordship spends but little time in the neighbourhood, owing to his duties as an officer in the Life Guards calling him from home. . . .

Ombersley has a fruitful soil, chiefly loamy sand, for timber, wheat, beans, barley, peas, potatoes, swedes, and turnips; it is largely fruited, and there are many gooseberry and plum orchards. The Severn and the Salwarpe water the parish abundantly. The acreage is 6759. Agriculture is the chief employment, but some of the women and girls are engaged in gloving and "slop-work" for Worcester tradesmen. Population in 1861 numbered 2474. Their condition is generally good, charities of the parish being numerous; also two free schools, with excellent masters, and no less than six allotment societies, while Lord Sandys lets out some woodland to twenty-eight poor men on most encouraging terms; and the Vicar, Mrs. Moule, of Lineholt, Mr. C. Gardner, Mr. A.M. Campbell, of Tapenhall, and the Church Trustees, let out allotments in various parts of the parish. Moreover, there are many resident gentry - a great blessing to any district...

[Describes the church, completed in 1829] . . . a very decent specimen (by Rickman) of that unenlightened period. It has 875 sittings, of which 172 are free. The walls consist of Ombersley stone, from ancient quarries in the parish. Stone was got from hence to repair Worcester Cathedral after the civil wars, and there was then, as now, a Mr. Croft connected with one of the quarries, and from whence, at the present time, stone is being hauled to Worcester for the same purpose. . . .

Much Roman pottery has been dug up at Hadley Heath Common, on the site of a camp; there were entrenchments and a tumulus at this spot; also clay quarries in Gardiner's Grove, which supplied the pottery works, still visible in one of Mr. S. Tracey's fields. Remarkable names of places in the parish: Pope's Hole, Bumble Hole, Collier's Grave, Devil's Den, Catshall, Coneygree, Hither and Farther Warvil, Barrow-lane, Croces, Portway Plat, Salent Oak, Wharwill, and Underdoms. The names of the hamlets in the parish are Boreley, Dunhampton, Uphampton, Northampton, Sytchampton, Comhampton, Hadley, Chatley, Holt Fleet, Powers and The Hay.

In 1867, *en suite* simply meant attached or adjoining, so the writer was referring to the houses beyond Checketts.

'slop-work' - the manufacture of cheap shoddy clothing or any work of low quality

Transcribed by Pat Niner, Ombersley History Group



Ombersley Endowed First School

Pioneer Trip

Year 4 had an amazing time on their annual Residential trip to The Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer. For some of them, it was their first time away from home. They all took part in many exciting sporting challenges including high ropes, caving, archery, raft building, abseiling, climbing wall, assault course and enjoyed songs and games around the campfire. The whole class were super stars, pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to complete the challenges. We were so proud of them all.



Educational Trips

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic bell boating trip on the Droitwich canal this week. There are lots more trips booked for other classes before half term.

Pre-School are looking forward to visiting Attwell Farm in Redditch. Reception class will be visiting the Cotswold Animal Park. Year 2 are looking forward to visiting Dudley Zoo.

The whole school will be taking part in a day of 'drumming' with Drumlove, where each class enjoy workshops during the day and perform as a school at the end of the day.

The choir are practicing for their morning of singing at The Malvern Theatre, when they take part in The Big Sing.

150 Years of Ombersley School

This year, we are celebrating our 150-year anniversary. We are planning lots of exciting things to celebrate this exciting milestone. One of them is a Family Fun Day on Saturday 20th 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: See the May Parish Magazine for the article about 'Education in Ombersley Parish 1829-1902', based on a report by the late John Silvester.

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:

June 7th and June 21st

PARISH REGISTER

Interment of Ashes: April 27th Eunice Matkin

PEWPOINTS

DIARY DATES:

St. Mary's AGM scheduled for May 13th last, unfortunately had to be cancelled. Apologies for the inconvenience to anyone. The new date has yet to be fixed and will be advertised shortly.

ST. MARY'S PCC MEETING

Members of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council last met on Monday 20th April in Ombersley Narthex.

Rev'd Tim Williams opened proceedings with a short prayer and there being no apologies, the minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Firstly, the appointment of a Safe Guarding Officer was discussed. Rev'd Tim explained that Ombersley's Officer, Angela, was overseeing Doverdale and Robert Coppini agreed to be the link in the event of any problems arising.

Geoff Crow then updated everyone on the West End foundation repairs. Geobear, the original foundation company, has agreed to correct the problems arising and will provide a time plan in due course. Some furniture and flooring at the back of the church will have to be removed so a faculty will be needed before any future works can be undertaken.

Robert Coppini raised some queries about the Articles of Enquiry Form due to be submitted shortly. James Homer offered to go through it with him.

Members heard that as the accounts were not yet ready for approval, the date arranged for the AGM on Wednesday 13th May, will probably have to be postponed.

Future services were then discussed and Richard Jeynes proposed several interesting ideas to both fund-raise and to improve contacts with the local community. It was agreed to discuss these at the next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting concluded with a short prayer.

ROGATION AT ST. MARY'S

The Rogation Service this year fell on Sunday 10th May and churches across the Benefice celebrated this lovely festival.

The origin of the festival is steeped in history: the word "Rogation" comes from the Latin verb ROGARE to ask. Traditionally, it is the day when the church offers prayers for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce our food. It provides a wonderful opportunity for us all to be mindful of our independence on farmers and producers and also of our responsibility to the environment.

Lay Minister, Richard Jeynes, took the service and gave a short address on "Beating the Boundaries"; an ancient custom still observed in many parts of the country. Each boundary post would be beaten to mark it out in the minds of the younger generation while the clergy would pray for the land along the way.

Over past years, congregations at St. Mary's have continued to walk the lanes and to stop at various points for the readings and hymns. This year, however, the cold wind deterred the small group assembled from venturing very far and so it was decided to hold the service inside the church.

Richard adapted the service splendidly with everyone joining in with the readings and singing the hymns unaccompanied. The service concluded with the appropriate hymn "Through all the changing scenes of life".

After the final blessing, everyone was invited to stay behind for the coffee and biscuits, so very kindly provided by Judy Seymour.

Thank you, Richard, for such a lovely service.

SERVICES

Sunday 7 th June 1 st 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 st June 3 rd 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)
Sunday 5 th July 5 th after Trinity	11.00a.m. MP(BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.V.Harris Sidesperson: Mrs. V.Harris Readings:- Zech. 9(9-12) & Matt.11(16-19) & (25-end)
Sunday 19 th July 7 th after Trinity	11.00a.m. HC(BCP)	Lectors: Mrs. Sally Ann Beckett, Mr.J.Chapman Sidesperson: Mrs.A.Chapman Readings:- Isaiah 44(6-8) & Matt. 13(24-30) & (36-43)

Note: Please see the Rector's Letter for 'NEW SERVICES - Why Our Eucharist Looks a Little Different' and setting up a WhatsApp Group to provide transport for Tim.

Damsons

Damson trees fill our hedgerows with wonderful white blossom in April and the black fruits are now typically used to make damson jam or gin. However, historically damsons were used to make dyes and were in great demand by the textile industry as a range of colours could be made from the skins depending on which fixing agent was added to them. For example, the addition of ammonia to 'damson dye' turned the fabric green. Army uniforms in the First World War were dyed khaki with damsons and the blue/grey RAF uniforms were dyed using damson skins in the Second World War.

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the joint July/August Magazine by
Wednesday 17th June

Please note that the July/August magazine may not be delivered until the first
few days of July

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
- 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
- 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