

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**October
2024**



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

October 2024

October 6th	9.00am	HC-CW	Hampton Lovett
	10.30am	Harvest	Elmbridge
	11.00am	MP	Doverdale
	12.00pm	Harvest Service & Lunch	Ombersley Memorial Hall
	2.30pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	Bells Farm Shop
October 13th	9.00am	HC-CW	Rushock
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	11.00am	Harvest	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Hartlebury
October 20th	9.00am	HC-CW	Elmbridge
	10.00am	FS	Ombersley
	10.00am	MP	Hartlebury
	11.00am	Harvest	Doverdale
	11.00am	Harvest	Rushock
	6.00pm	Evensong	Hampton Lovett
October 27th	9.00am	HC-BCP	Elmley Lovett
	11.00am	HC-CW	Ombersley
November 3rd	10.00am	Sunday 1st	Hartlebury
	11.00am	All Souls Service	Ombersley
	3.00pm	All Souls Service	Elmley Lovett

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

FS Family Service; MP Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer at Doverdale: 9th October at 9.15am

Please send articles/reports for inclusion in the November Magazine
no later than Saturday 12th October

St Andrew's News

www.st-andrews.church www.achurchnearyou.com

Harvest is a lovely time of year to celebrate and today there is a nip in the air, but the sun is still warm and the countryside looks beautiful.

We have said a final farewell to Rev'd Stephen Winter who is now going on a very long walk in Spain! He and Laura did a 'practice walk' around all the churches in the Benefice (which is a good 20 miles) to say a final goodbye.

For the time being we are 'in Vacancy', but not abandoned. Our wonderful administrator has been liaising with the Diocese, Rev James Homer and our excellent Readers to make sure all our churches are supported during the next few months. There may be the odd adjustments so keep your eyes peeled for changes. One will be our Harvest lunch on a First Sunday of October at the Memorial Hall, more details elsewhere.

Rev'd John Cox was with us in September and challenged us to be more proactive looking after our planet. Richard Berry, (lay Reader) took our Harvest Festival service in September, and will be with us for All Souls and Remembrance. As a treat we will have the Archdeacon with us on Advent Sunday, which is actually on December 1st this year! Please pray with us for a successful and suitable candidate application in the next few weeks.

The Bell is back! Nearly a year after the damage was found we now have all minor repairs accomplished as well as a new floor, with many thanks to Andy Horn and Iain Graham for that, and the whole team for their incredible work raising the funds needed ...and the bell. See article from Andy Horn elsewhere in the magazine.

It looks like another busy season ahead with many activities and events planned, so do come and enjoy them.

Harvest lunch on Oct 6th at 12 noon in Ombersley Memorial Hall

As we have done recently we will give thanks for the Harvest with readings, prayer and song led by Rev'd James Homer. We will then join together for a Ploughman's lunch. Bread, cheese and pickle will be provided, but please bring a little something to add to the feast. ALL are welcome. Donations of food for the Foodbank and money for Farming Community Network who support Farmers in Crisis will be welcome.

<https://fcn.org.uk/>

Holy Dusters

We would really appreciate two or three more people to replace those who are now 'retiring'. It is not too strenuous, and only every 4-6 weeks.

Stay and Play (0-3yr)

Each Monday Morning until Christmas, 9.30 to 11am, £2 /family

We have some lovely youngsters who have joined us this year. 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 is via Facebook, Stay and Play Ombersley.

Bible Discussion Group

October 7th, 7 - 8.30pm and on the first Monday of each month

Led by Richard Berry, we will talk about the previous Sundays' readings, though sometimes we don't manage them all. Please just come along if you are interested, or ring Richard on 07496 850192.

Creative Coffee

On October 3rd and 17th, 10.30 am, £2 per session.

We spent far too much time chatting at our first session to do much planning, but had a little look at making Dorset buttons, quietly quilled with needles of different types at work too. Harvest bunting may have already happened, but we can always have another go if you would like to join in. Please contact Fiona on 07837 928531 for more information.

Ombersley Craft Group

7-9 pm on 2nd and 4th Thursdays. The next evening sessions will be on the 10th and 24th of October.

Unfortunately, the deadline for the magazine was after the first meeting back in September so we have yet to fix what is happening on the 10th...why not come along and find out? More information on Facebook 'Ombersley Craft Club'

Looking Ahead

Sunday October 20th 3pm: West Mercia Police Band with tea and cake
£8 a ticket, pay on the door, but please book so we have enough cake

Sunday December 1st: Service will be taken by Archdeacon Mark Badger.

The Posada is coming! St Andrew's will be sending out the nativity characters on their journey round the parish from Advent Sunday (1st December) to return for the Family Celebration in St Andrew's church on Christmas morning at 10.30am. If you wish to

take part – families, singles, couples, young and old – and host the ‘family ’for an evening, please contact Jenny Batelen
email: jenny.batelen@btinternet.com tel: 07503 334598

Saturday December 7th 2.30pm: Retired Fire-Fighters Carol Service
The Collection from this will be split 50:50 between St Andrew’s Association and the Retired Fire-Fighters Charity

Sunday December 15th at 4pm: St Andrew’s Carol Service (not all the same carols!).
The Collection from this will go to a Charity for the Homeless, a local one if possible.

Wreaths for Remembrance Day

Chris Day is liaising with Droitwich RBL to supply wreaths for all Clubs, Groups, Businesses and Societies to be laid at the War Memorial on November 13th.
Please contact him ASAP for details.
Mob. 07730820216 or email chrisday567@outlook.com

PRAYING ROUND THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know:
Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com
or Rev James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com
[assistant curate with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



Areas prayed for October:

Sunday 6th October – Apple Tree Walk, Holt Fleet Road, Parsonage Lane, Dough Bank

Sunday 13th October – Sinton, School Bank, Ombersley School, Hawford, Hawford School

Sunday 20th October – Boreley, Mutton Hall, Comhampton, Dunhampton

Sunday 27th October – All in our community who mourn

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.

Parish Register: St Andrew's Church

Baptisms

August 4th	Libby Mae White
August 18th	Albert Jack Miles

Wedding

August 10th	Jonathan Edwards & Sian Bevand
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Funeral

August 7th	Edna Audrey Shepard
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Interment of Ashes

August 16th	Edna Audrey Shepard
August 16th	Anna Juhasz

Rota for St Andrew's Church

Date	Service	Sidespeople	Intercessor	Lector
October 6th	Harvest Service followed by Lunch Ombersley Memorial Hall, 12.00pm			
October 13th	FS	Audrey & Geoff Axon	-	-
October 20th	MP	Jane Hill, Tony Checketts	Jan Berry	Anthony Hughes
October 27th	HC-CW	Howard Robinson, Angela Randle	Liz Hooper	Robert Thornton
November 3rd	All Souls	Jenny Batelen, Liz Hooper	Marjorie Workman	Hazel Smith

Holy Dusters

October 4th	Liz Hooper, Fiona Davies, Myra Cowdrey
October 18th	Marjorie Workman, Heather Barningham
November 1st	Fiona Davies, Myra Cowdrey, Liz Hooper

If you'd like to help, please ring Liz 01905 630837 or Fiona 01905 621176

Flowers

	Porch	Pedestal
11 th October	Angela Randle	TBA
25 th October	Rose Coulter	Maureen Callow
8 th November	Sue Arnold & Julie Hall: Poppies; Remembrance	
22 nd November	TBA	Jan Berry

We would welcome anyone interested in helping. Please contact Jane Hill:
hill4family@icloud.com or 01905 620192



ROVING REPORTER - OCTOBER 2024

TIME TO ENJOY THE LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE

- **Ombersley History Group** on **Thursday 10th October 7pm** in Ombersley Memorial Hall have organised local TV celebrity Philip Serrell to give us a talk on **Tales from the Sales**. Sounds intriguing!
- **JUICING DAY** – Juice Your Apples or Pears on **Saturday 12th October** at **Ombersley Memorial Hall Car Park, 11am-3pm** - Just take along your fruit and clean containers in which to collect your juice. Donations for running costs would be appreciated.
- **OMBERSLEY MOVIE NIGHTS** - Recommence on **Saturday October 12th** at 7 pm in Ombersley Memorial Hall. Opening Movie will be **'A Haunting in Venice'** starring Kenneth Branagh. Further dates and details in the magazine.
- **St. Andrew's Association** on **Sunday October 20th at 3pm** have organised for the **West Mercia Police Band** to return and play in St Andrew's Church. Tickets £8 to include tea and cake. See advert in magazine for contact information.
- **Ombersley Medical Centre** are helping the homeless by having a **WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE**. Please donate any spare hats, gloves, scarves and socks by putting in a box which will be in the Medical Centre Reception area. **Collection box available until October 31st**
- **Are you looking for a new hobby?** Then maybe consider joining **Ombersley Drama Club** either on the stage or behind the scenes. Contact Chris Marsh 01905 774200 or Mike Turner 01905 620757 for more information.
- Ombersley Parish Council are planning to install a **NEW outdoor table tennis table** in the Memorial Field in October, weather permitting. Just bring your own bats and ball.

- **Ombersley Memorial Hall** are fundraising for Ombersley School **on Thursday October 31st 4pm-6pm**, with a **Halloween Extravaganza**. Trick or Treat in a safe environment. See advert in magazine for further details.
- There is an important article in this month's magazine. Look for the **Thank You Letter from Yurii** for everyone in Ombersley.
- Lastly, **Ombersley Gardening Club** have been discussing the **Globe Artichoke query** I posed in last month's magazine which arose at the Summer Gardening Club Show. There might be a new category next year so the globe artichoke can be presented either as a vegetable or a flower. Problem sorted?

If you are planning any special fund-raising events either as an individual or as a club or have any snippets of local news, let me know. Email; maxdiane@outlook.com or phone 01905 620350

Tenor Bell Update

On the 25th September, Whites (Bellhangers) returned with the newly recast and tuned tenor.

Over the ensuing two days, the bell and headstock were restored to the position within the bell frame along with reinstating the headstock on the 4th bell. The clappers were replaced into all 6 bells. What remained was replacing the four hatches, refitting the pulleys and ropes, and putting everything in place to enable the bells to be fully functional.

I hope when you read this, all will have been completed and full ringing recommenced. Unfortunately, the clock will stay out of action for a little while longer.

In my article in the September parish magazine, I appealed for further contributions to support this restoration work. I am now pleased to announce that through your generosity, including a significant anonymous donation, donations from the Ombersley Conservation Trust, the Sandys Trust, the Richardson Foundation and the W & DCRA belfry repair fund, we have reached our target. Very many thanks.

Andrew Horn; Tower Captain, St Andrew's Church.

Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council: October 2024

September saw Councillors reconvene following the summer break, although as you'll have read in last month's article, I use the word 'break' loosely given their continued sterling efforts behind the scenes!

With the maintenance and repairs to the Weighbridge hut now complete, work has continued to equip the interior with furnishings sympathetic to when it was last in use as the Weighbridge office back in the early 1950s. With the hut now ready to open its doors once more, this time as a 'drop-in' facility for local groups, do be sure to peek through the door window when you're next passing to be transported back in time. (For further information please contact the Clerk, contact details below).

As mentioned in last month's article, we're always keen to respond to requests from residents, and I'm pleased to report last month saw an order placed with Wychavon District Council for both replacement and new dog fouling and litter bins in the village, including the addition of a dog foul bin at Turn Mill, a popular spot for dog walkers. Keep an eye out too for new bins in both the play area and Memorial Hall field.

Have you ever wondered who's responsible for the clearing of drains and ditches, vegetation and fallen trees in the Parish? If so, the answer is our Parish Lengthsman, Paul Brewer, who I'm sure you'll notice over the coming months, hastily clearing debris from our drains to keep them free-flowing. When it comes to the clearing of weeds, leaves, lawn mowing and all things gardening, Ian Ballard is our Parish Gardener. Between them, both Paul and Ian play their part in keeping the village and Parish running smoothly and looking tiptop, so next time you're passing, be sure to say hello!

Also, Councillors conduct a weekly inspection of the play area, to ensure the safety and maintenance of the equipment, so if you do spot any equipment in need of TLC, do please bring it to our attention. The same is true of any other furniture or fixings in the village, as was the case when a damaged pane of glass was reported to the Clerk in the bus shelter opposite the Doctors' Surgery, which was swiftly actioned and repaired.

And finally, don't forget to keep an eye on All About Ombersley and on social media for updates of what's on in your Parish, one example being an apple pressing event on the 12th October at the Memorial Hall between 11am and 3pm.

New ideas and suggestions are always welcome as to how the Parish Council can improve your village and parish.

Contact details for Councillors can be found on village noticeboards. Alternatively contact the Clerk, Anne Scadding at clerk@odpc.co.uk or call 07731 929910.



Christmas Fair

23 NOV 2024 | ENTRY £1.00
11am until 4pm

**Crafts, Mulled wine, Local artisan produce
MEET SANTA & MUCH MORE!**

Ombersley Memorial Hall, Sandys Road WR9 0DY

Pre-book your visit with Father Christmas
VisitSanta@ombersleyhall.co.uk

YOU ARE INVITED

to Ombersley Memorial Hall on
Sunday 6th October at 12noon

for an informal service of

HARVEST CELEBRATION

followed by



All are welcome!

A SHARING PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH



Bread, cheese & pickle provided -
do bring your own additions and drinks if you wish

Contact Fiona - 07837 928531
for more details

We will be taking a collection for the Farming Community Network charity

FCN THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

A voluntary organisation & charity that supports
farmers and families within the farming community

www.fcn.org.uk

Sunday afternoons at St Andrew's • Concerts with Tea & Cakes



West Mercia Police Band



Sun 20th Oct. *Returning by popular request...*

3pm

Music from Classics to Big Band and
traditional tunes you will know

£8 including
Tea & Cakes

under-16s free

To Book: contact

Louise on 07952 692022

robinson_louise@icloud.com

or Fiona 07837 928531

fmdavies83@gmail.com

or on the door



This concert is part of events organised by the St Andrew's Association

OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Sandys Road, Ombersley, WR9 0DY

31st October – 4-6 pm



Pumpkin competition, Fancy Dress, Fun Games and Facepainting

£3 per child

Hot dogs and refreshments available

Pre-booking required:

Contact cherrytrees.1@btinternet.com

Ombersley
History Group



TALES from the SALES

Philip Serrell; Auctioneer, Antiques Expert & TV Presenter will talk about some of his saleroom experiences.

Ombersley Memorial Hall, Thursday 10th October, 7pm for 7.30

Admission: Members free; Non-Members £5 (cash only) includes a glass of wine or soft drink



OMBERSLEY MOVIE NIGHT – 2024 FILMS

**Doors and Bar Open at 7pm, Movie Starts at 7.30pm
£5 entry on the door (Please note – cash payments only)**

12th October “A Haunting in Venice”

Kenneth Branagh plays detective Hercule Poirot. Set in post-World War II Venice on All Hallows’ Eve. When one of the guests is murdered, the detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

9th November “One Life”

Based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton, who attempted to help groups of Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee.

7th December “Going in Style - 2017”

Going in Style stars Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, Alan Arkin and follows a trio of retirees who plan to rob a bank after their pensions are cancelled.

21st Dec Matinee: “Wonka”

Wonka stars Timothée Chalamet in his early days as a chocolatier Willy Wonka, a central character in the 1964 novel Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. Also stars Rowan Atkinson, Olivia Colman and Hugh Grant.

Tea & Coffee Shop



Ombersley Memorial Hall



**Tuesday 8th October 2-4 pm
Thursday 24th October 2-4pm**



Ombersley Gardening Club



Already we're heading into Autumn and wondering where Summer has disappeared to! We see the leaves changing colour showing us their beautiful autumnal colours as they get ready to fall, the days becoming shorter and suddenly much colder and the swallows and swifts departing to warmer shores.

Now is the time to be tidying up the garden and thinking along with patios and pots about brightening them all up with some colourful winter foliage and flowers. Heathers in purples and white and cyclamen with their dynamic red, pink and white flowers add a touch of brightness and warmth. Also, the deadheading of spent flowers and the pruning back of shrubs to encourage more growth is another job to consider.

It's the perfect time to plant bulbs while the soil is still warm for a wonderful display in the Spring and to sow seeds for early blooms next year. Clear away finished crops and plants and plant garlic and onions ready for harvesting next year.

Our next meeting of the club takes place on the **17th October** when we welcome Darren Rudge with a talk entitled '**Cutting down the Workload**'. Followed on the **21st November** with a talk on '**Totally Tulips**' by Pip Smith.

Members please make a note that the club's Christmas Meal is on the 12th December, which will be here before we know it!

We look forward to seeing members old and new at our next meeting and if you haven't tried your local gardening club, come along and see what you think and be sure of a warm welcome.

Happy Gardening!

Ombersley Gardening Club Committee

A monthly update from Ombersley Medical Centre



In August 2024 there were:

- 2,199 Face to Face appointments with clinicians (GPs, Nurses and Pharmacists)
- 748 telephone consultations
- 135 DNA (Did not attend)
- 12,379 medications issued
- 3,260 letters regarding patient care requiring action
- 13,455 test results reviewed and actioned



Flu and Covid Vaccines

Patients can now book their flu vaccinations if they fall into one of the eligible categories below.

To book your flu jab please call the surgery on 01905 622900 or by using the link that has been sent to you via text message.

If you are unsure if you are eligible for the flu jab, please contact the practice to confirm.



FLU VACCINES

Protect yourself this winter by booking your flu jab here at the practice



You can contact the practice to book your flu jab if you are

- Aged 65 years or over
- Turning 65 before the end of March 2025
- Currently pregnant
- Under 65 with a weakened immune system
- A carer



OMBERSLEY WOMEN'S LEAGUE



The Hidden Meaning of Handwriting

Thursday 3 October 2024 – 7.00 for 7.30pm

Join professional Graphologist Sandra Grayson as she delves into what your handwriting can say about you. Don't worry, your secrets are safe as Sandra will be using famous signatures, including Megan Markle and Prince Harry, to name just two examples of what handwriting can uncover.

Settle back and see how easy it can be to spot an egotist or a celebrity with hidden emotions.

Members: Free. Guests: £6. Contact Marie or Ann 07901522412 /0771281152

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE FIGHT RISE OF 'FRIGHTENING' 100MPH STREET CAR RACING

Force says events attended by hundreds of spectators leave residents in distress at loud noise and dangerous driving. **Guardian headline February 2024**

In 1890: THE OUTCOME OF A TROTTING MATCH Reported in the Worcestershire Chronicle, 9 August 1890

Herbert Sidney, a brewer's pupil, of Britannia square, Worcester, was summoned for furiously driving a horse and carriage at Ombersley and also with cruelly driving a horse early on the 17th ult.* Mr. Tree defended.

JOSEPH ATKINS said that on the day in question he saw defendant in a skeleton cart driving at the rate of 15 or 16 miles an hour. The horse was in a dreadful state, the sweat rolled off it, and it panted very badly. Defendant drove to the danger of the public. He believed defendant was engaged in a trotting match with another person.

THOMAS CHANCE said he saw two skeleton traps and a man on horseback pass his garden. The horses were trotting very fast and appeared to be racing. After the carts passed him one of the horses went into a gallop. He considered the carts were going at a dangerous pace. In reply to Mr. Tree, witness said when they came back, the horses were in a very distressed condition.

WILLIAM PREECE, postmaster, of Ombersley stated that hearing a noise he went outside his house and saw a cart with a wheel off. There was another trap, which defendant drove. The horses were very distressed and he had never seen horses so distressed in his life. The sweat ran off the horses like water out of a watering can. He called it gross cruelty to the horses the way they had been over-driven.

Mr. TREE said that the essence of the charge was that the horses were driven to the danger of the public. He submitted that at five o'clock in the morning, when the driving was taking place, there was no one about in the country roads, and, therefore, there could not have been any danger to the public.

Mr. HERBERT PRESTON, Lowesmoor, stated that defendant and a Mr. Wilson and himself went out at four o'clock in the morning for a drive. Defendant and Mr. Wilson were in traps and witness rode. It took them three quarters of an hour to go seven

miles and a half, and there was no racing. Neither of the horses was distressed, nor did they perspire very much. There was not the least danger to the public.

In answer to the Deputy Chief Constable WITNESS admitted that Mr. Wilson had a mile start, and that witness was at the third mile stone to take the time. He knew the defendant's horse had trotted 14 miles in 55 minutes, and he knew that Mr. Wilson's horse had done two miles in eight minutes.

Frank S. Wilson, the driver of the other horse, was summoned for a similar offence. When in Ombersley village one of the wheels of the cart came off, and the defendant was thrown out. The horse was injured by getting its leg over the shaft. The evidence was the same in both cases.

Mr. SIDNEY gave evidence for the defence. He denied that he was going at more than 11 miles an hour. His horse was not distressed. In reply to the magistrates' clerk, he said he had backed his horse to do 14 miles an hour, but it would only do that when pressed, and on this occasion it was not pressed at all.

The Bench thought it was clearly proved that the horses were racing, and that it was dangerous to the public, and therefore they were fined £1 each and costs. Both cases of cruelly driving the horses were withdrawn on defences paying the costs. Sidney had to pay altogether £2. 11s., Wilson £2. 9s., and Mr. Preston, who was similarly summoned, was ordered to pay the costs 6s.

**ult* (in the month preceding the present).

Researched by Pat Niner, Ombersley History Group

SOS in Hallow

No, there's not been an emergency in Hallow! SOS stood for the "Super Ounslow Special". Later on, that became "Success On Success", and finally "So Obviously Superior".

So, what was "so obviously superior," and why Hallow? In 1927 an interesting character called Len Vale-Ounslow set up a motorbike factory in Hallow. This was the heyday of British motorcycling with famous names such as Ariel, BSA, AJS, Brough, Matchless and Triumph, to name but a few, with the Midlands, especially Birmingham and Coventry, as the main centres of production.

Len was born in Sutton Coldfield, probably in 1900, the eighth of nine children to Frank, a master builder, and Emily, owner of a brass foundry in Hockley. In 1908 his brothers built a prototype aeroplane to which they strapped 8-year old Len and launched him down a steep slope. The flight ended with Len crashing to the ground and remaining unconscious for days. It is to this that he attributed his daredevil attitude to life and motorcycling.



ManxNortio

The family business moved to Worcester and Len managed a branch in Hallow. He soon started building motorbikes for his friends, before starting a production factory. However, there was no gas supply to Hallow, so Len used a new technology of welding tubes to make a frame instead of brazing lugs to steel tubes. This significantly lightened his bikes compared with others and gave improved performance. It is the method still used today and owes its development to the work Len did in Hallow.

Len rode in most of the speed and reliability trials, which were popular in the 1920s and his daredevil attitude to risk gave him the success he needed to promote his motorcycles.

S·O·S
Motorcycles for the Discriminating Rider.
 The machine you will choose for its Superb Steering and Road-holding, its excellent finish and ability to withstand rough usage.
S·O·S MOTORS Ltd.
 Hallow, WORCESTER.

Model C. 342 c.c. Villiers.

Models from £35 Easy Payments Arranged.

To S·O·S Motors Ltd., Hallow, Worcs.
 Please send me by return a catalogue of S·O·S Motor Cycles
 Name
 Address
 Id. stamp if unsealed.

Finally, in 1932 the factory moved to Birmingham as getting raw materials to Hallow proved an increasing problem. Production continued until 1939 when World War 2 put an end to the manufacture of the “SOS”.

In 2005, Len Vale-Ounslow claimed to be the world’s oldest motorcyclist, riding down the Mall on his hundredth birthday to meet the Queen. Interestingly, he had also claimed to be 100 in 1999 when newspapers reported him as the “oldest motorcyclist” and again in 2003, when he claimed to still be 100. He was awarded an MBE in 1995, and appeared on an episode of “This is your Life”. He was still riding motorbikes until he was 102, finally dying in 2004 at Hallow.

THANK-YOU LETTER FROM YURII

Living in Ombersley

September 2024

My name is Yurii, and I am a Ukrainian refugee who came to Britain after the Russian invasion. I've lived in Ombersley for the past two and a half years, attended RGS, passed my A-Levels, and now I'm going to the University of Sussex in Brighton to study computer science.

Before I leave, I thought it would be a great idea to write a thank you article in the parish magazine about how grateful I am for the luck and opportunity to be living in a lovely place like Ombersley. After the invasion of Ukraine, I have lived with Sue and Rick Johns and got the chance to know many more wonderful people in the village.

From the start I was invited to various events and festivities which made me realise how strong and connected the local community is. Everyone seems to get involved and support each other. I felt included and respected by people of all ages. Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club gave me the chance to learn how to play tennis and attend regular practices. I had a really good time and made some of my first friends and connections there which I really value.

Local people gave me the opportunity to earn some pocket money by helping with various small jobs like watering plants or lawn mowing, even looking after tortoises. At all times, there were people checking up on me curious to know about how my family is doing and my personal well-being. Countless times I was offered support, financial or emotional, and on a few occasions people took me out for dinner, and I appreciated the opportunity to try tasty food from our local pubs.

There were things I couldn't have done on my own. For instance, with my passion for basketball, I wouldn't have been able to go to practices if I didn't have people who volunteered to give me a lift. What impressed me even more is that it would always be late evening hours, despite it being a normal time to have your dinner, they still showed up for me.

Whenever Sue and Rick were away, I was kindly invited to stay with other village friends who I ought to mention. Max and Diane Seivewright, Sally-Ann and David Beckett, Sally Robertson-Smith and Steve Johnson. Many thanks for allowing me to live with you as long as it was needed I really appreciate it.

I've never seen a community like this before and I'm always happy when somebody asks me, something like, where do you live in England because I get an opportunity to tell them all about a wonderful place called Ombersley. I have received so much help since leaving Kyiv in 2022 that I hope one day to be able to pay back and help others in need.

Note:

Sue Johns has written a book about Yuri's journey here. There's information on the website 'Leaving Ukraine/How Putin's Invasion Changed One Boys Life'. The book will be published in November (details in the November magazine).

Itinerant Preachers in Ombersley



Church Lane (1899) looking towards the old crossroad and Hilltop Lane with the King's Arms on the right. Brandons can be seen in the foreground on the right. The wall on the left was demolished to build what is the present-day garage. The caravan with "Evangeliste Home and Abroad" on the back was home to itinerant preachers, who toured the countryside at that time.

Photograph from Arthur Turner's Collection in the Hive

The Battle of Gheluvelt or how the Worcestershire Regiment saved the First World War from being lost to the Germans.

In 1914, the Germans invaded France. Their aim was to overwhelm the French and British Armies, bypass Paris and seize the Channel Ports. Only the British Army remained at Ypres to stem the advancing German Army and save the Channel Ports and Paris.

The crux of the Battle of Ypres hinged on the village of Gheluvelt, in Belgium, which was the last position held by the British, preventing a major breakthrough by the German Army and the collapse and rout of the Allied Forces.

By noon on the 31st October, the Queens, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Welsh and the Kings Royal Rifles had been overwhelmed. Gheluvelt had been lost and a gap opened in the British lines. So serious was the situation that orders had been prepared for a general retreat of the British Army.

The Second Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was the last reserve, all other forces having been committed and lost. At 1pm, the order came to save Gheluvelt. The Battalion advanced through the straggling and wounded men retreating, over decimated terrain and up onto the ridge overlooking the village. Immediately the German artillery targeted them and over 100 men were wounded or killed. Down the slope of the ridge the remaining men charged into the German forces, who were concentrated in the grounds of the village's chateau. Overwhelmed by the ferocity of the Worcestershires' attack, the German forces retreated. Gheluvelt had been saved and the line restored.

If the Worcestershire Regiment had not turned the battle, routing the Germans, there would have been no obstruction to the German Army taking Northern France and the war might have been lost. It is rare that the action of one unit can exert such a profound influence as did this now famous counter attack.

The 2nd Worcestershires, commanded by Major E. B. Hankey went into action with about 370 men, of whom 187 were killed or wounded. Gheluvelt Park on the Barboune Road, out of Worcester stands as a memorial to their bravery on that day.

David Collier, Ombersley History Group. From an article on The Worcestershire Regiment Website: www.worcesterregiment.com, where more information can be found.

Ombersley Endowed First School



Welcome Back

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year. The children were all very excited to come back and be welcomed by their new teachers in their newly painted classrooms.

As well as welcoming our new children into Ombersley, we have also welcomed some new members of staff across the school; we hope they will be very happy with us.

We are enjoying our lunchtimes even more this autumn as we have started to follow OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning). This scheme has transformed our lunchtime play. There are different zones and activities for children to enjoy, including Lego and small world characters, sports games, reading and colouring and sand play. As we progress, we will be adding lots more zones and activities.

Early Years

Pre-School and Reception children have had a fantastic start back to school. They have been enjoying their time in the tipi and the tree house as well as in our new hall. They will be learning 'All about Me' in their new topic.

Key stage One

Year One are settling into their daily routines very well. They are looking forward to finding out about the History of Toys.

Year Two are also settling into new routines. They are looking forward to beginning their new history topic looking at technology over the past fifty years. They are looking forward to their first trip of the year to Avoncroft Museum to learn more about their topics.

Key stage Two

Year three are looking forward to their exciting new history topic about The Stone Age. They are also looking forward to an exciting trip to Bishop's Wood to learn more about the Stone Age.

Year Four are looking at the geography of our local area. Both classes are enjoying tennis lessons at the tennis club just next door, as well as swimming lessons at Droitwich Leisure centre.

Wrap around Care

Scooters club have had a very busy start to the year with a very happy breakfast club and after school club.

Sytchampton Primary School

Welcome to a new term here at Sytchampton Primary School. We said Farewell and wished good luck to Mrs Richards at the end of last term and I am now the Acting Headteacher while the Governors recruit a substantive headteacher.

I feel very privileged to be working in such a lovely school with a dedicated team of long-serving and new staff providing for our wonderful children and families. Having only really ever seen the school 'in passing' I am amazed by what its tiny frontage conceals – such extensive beautiful grounds and buildings, providing a wonderful learning environment. We have had a great start to the new term and welcomed children into reception and across the school. They have settled in and it is wonderful to see new friendships beginning.

We very much want the school to be at the heart of its community and we welcome visitors and partnerships. If you have any time and talents that you would like to share with our children, please contact me through the school office. At present, we are particularly looking for keen gardeners who may be able to support our children in looking after our fabulous environment.

We have our Open Day on Wednesday 9th October for any local families who may be looking for a school place for Reception intake 2025. Please contact the office on 01905 620418 to book a tour with various times available throughout the day. If this date does not suit then we are more than happy to accommodate potential families at another convenient time. Please call us to see what we can offer your family! For more information see our website – www.sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk

We can also help any families with Year 4 pupils who may be looking to continue their Primary Education before moving into a secondary school for Year 7. If you are looking for options for Year 5/6 then please arrange to visit us.

I am looking forward to being able to report back on our adventures through the term, but for the time being I will just share with you our new school creed, which encapsulates what we are all about!

Catherine Brogan; Acting Headteacher

This is our school, a place for all of us,

A place where we grow and learn together, with **respect** for everyone,




A place where we are **honest** with ourselves and others,
so that mistakes can be put right,

A place where we support each other to have the **determination** to succeed,
when things are difficult,

A place where we are **kind** to each other and to our environment,
so that everyone can flourish,

A place where we can **believe** in ourselves,
and be the best that we can be,

This is our school, a place for all of us



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr. R. Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr. Richard Jeynes	Tel: 07553 810080
TREASURER:	Mrs. L. Tarleton-Hodgson	Tel: 07748 968992
SECRETARY PCC:	Mr. G. Crow	Tel: 772850
SIDESMEN:	Mrs V. Harris, Mr. C. Harris, Mr G. Crow, Mrs S. Crow, Mr J. Chapman, Mrs A. Chapman	
ORGANIST:	Mrs L. Moyse	

FLOWER ROTA: October: Harvest Flowers

PEWPOINTS

PARISH REGISTER:

FUNERAL

August 28th at Wyre Forest Crematorium. RAYMOND CHARLES SMITH

INTERMENT OF ASHES

September 12th: DENNIS FINNEGAN

DIARY DATES

Sunday 20th October at 11am at St. Mary's. HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE.

Light refreshments will be served after the service so please do come and join us for this special festival of thanksgiving.

Monday 28th October. PCC Meeting at 7pm in Ombersley Narthex

FAREWELL TO STEPHEN

St. Mary's celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 18th August was Stephen Winter's last service at Doverdale before his retirement.

It was a morning of mixed emotions: a feeling of sadness at saying "Farewell" to Stephen, but also one of gratitude for his 6 years of ministry with us. The service was very memorable and uplifting especially Stephen's sermon exhorting us to live

boldly, but to remain good Christians at heart. A good message for both young and old.

Twenty people went up to receive Communion, amongst them, Elizabeth, the youngest member of the congregation whom Stephen had prepared for Confirmation during his time in the Benefice.

Many thanks to Richard Jaynes for providing music and accompaniment for the chosen hymns.

Just before the final blessing, Geoff Crow and John Chapman presented Stephen with a garden voucher and card on behalf of everyone at St. Mary's and thanked him sincerely for not only being with us as our Vicar, but also as our friend.

After the service, refreshments were served outside in the churchyard where everyone could raise a glass to Stephen and wish him and his wife, Laura, a very long and happy retirement.

SERVICES

Sunday 6 th October 19 th after Trinity	11.00a.m. MP (BCP)	Lectors: Mr.R.Coppini, Mrs.V.Harris Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings;- Gen.2 (18-24) & Mark 10(2-16)
Sunday 20 th October 21 st after Trinity	11.00a.m. HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE	Lectors:- Mrs.R.Stacey, Mrs.A.Chapman Sidespeople: Mr.J.Chapman. Mr.G.Crow Readings:- T B A
Sunday 10 th November 3 rd before Advent	9.15a.m. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	READINGS AND SIDESPEOPLE TBA
Sunday 17 th November 2 nd before Advent	11.00a.m. HC (BCP)	Lectors:- Mrs.V.Harris, Mrs.S.Crow Sidesperson: Mrs.V.Harris Readings:- Daniel 12 (1-3) & Mark 13 (1-8)

Note: No service at Doverdale on November 3rd.

Adverts (electronic) 2024

- AJ's Window Cleaning Services – windows, gutters etc. – 07809 730085
- APM Decorators – 07784 483192
- AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673
- 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
- Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634
- 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
- GJS Dillon House Surveyors – 01905 676169
- Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288
- Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671
- Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121
- Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740
- E J Gumery – funeral services – 01905 22094
- I & S Stoves – wood burning stoves etc. – 01886 812452
- J & A Tree Services – trees, hedges, fencing etc. – 01299 250575
- Jenny Davis Fitness – fitness classes – 07886 726102
- 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
- Lee Russell Independent Funeral Directors – 01905 347588
- MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879
- MSB Plumbing & Maintenance Ltd. – 07769 342897
- Manor Hill House Ltd. – Wedding & Events venue – 01527 861 1200
- Mark Foster Podiatry/Chiropody – 07941 138957
- Marshall-McKay Kitchen & Interior Design – 07765 447704
- Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870

- Mick Miles Pest control & Gardening Services – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825
- Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295
- Ombersley Family Dental Practice – 01905 621881
- Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)
- Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390
- Ovengleamers – oven cleaning – 01562 702883
- Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500
- Parks Café Droitwich – 01905 776633
- Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314
- Precision Pressure Cleaning – patios etc. – 07951 885745
- Protex Midlands Ltd – long life wall coverings – 01905 622164 / 07833 965258
- RNA Heating Ltd – central heating maintenance – 01299 40515 / 01299 405158
- SJ Rayner (Cars) – quality used cars – 01562 820131
- Reynolds Heating Services – central heating installations etc. – 07857 755340
- W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692
- S G Electrical – electrical services – 01905 620693
- S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011
- SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945
- Sage Skin – skin care products – 07715 571139
- Salt Way Silver – silver jewellery classes – 07845 826415
- Shelter-Adams Ltd – home heating experts – 07990 523790 / 07922 548915
- Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050
- Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709
- Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943
- T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075
- Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738
- Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285
- Whitlenge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669
- Worcester Computers – custom build, repairs etc. – 01905 759111
- Worcestershire Imaging Centre – MRI scans – 01905 771500
 - Worcester Mobile Earcare – ear wax removal – 07545 282902