

POEM FOR THE MONTH

"Footnote to All Prayers"

He whom I bow to only knows to whom I bow
When I attempt the ineffable Name, murmuring Thou,
And dream of Pheidian fancies and embrace in heart
Symbols (I know) which cannot be the thing Thou art.
Thus always, taken at their word, all prayers blaspheme,
Worshipping with frail images a folk-lore dream,
And all men in their praying, self-deceived, address
The coinage of their own unquiet thoughts, unless
Thou in magnetic mercy to Thyself divert
Our arrows, aimed unskillfully, beyond desert;
And all men are idolaters, crying unheard
To a deaf idol, if Thou take them at their word.
Take not, O Lord, our literal sense. Lord, in thy great
Unbroken speech our limping metaphor translate.

C.S.Lewis

"Pheidian fancies" refers to Pheidias, a first century Greek sculptor who is known for his statue of Zeus at Olympia, one of The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Despite the cold weather our Valentine's service was well attended and we were very grateful to Marcus Peel for playing the organ.

The first meeting of the Ashbocking knitting club was also well attended by both experienced and novice knitters. Our aim is to knit a nativity set including donkeys, sheep and characters. This was the inspiration of Stephanie Andrews-Pearce and we thank her for the idea, Louise Peel for hosting, and Brenda Forster for organising the session. Stephanie is knitting extra sheep, so that when the nativity

tableau visits people's homes during Advent, we will be able to give a sheep to each child. Thanks Steph, a lovely idea.

Another wonderful thing about the knitting club is the amount of donated wool. Much of it had been handed down when someone died and it was lovely to receive it for our purpose. We particularly thank the families of Kate Watts and Gwendoline Martindale for their leftovers. Both had been great knitters and many will remember the poppies Kate knitted for Remembrance Day. It is a comforting thought that their memories will live on in our knitting.

The knitting club meets every third Friday of the month at Pantiles, The Green, the next meeting being on March 17th, at 10. Please join us if you would like to knit; novices are welcome too.

With March comes Lent, and we hope the Ashbocking congregation will embrace the Kagera Lent Challenge. Kagera is our linked diocese and is in a poor, rural area of Tanzania. The aim is to raise money to improve the lives of its people and there will be a daily challenge to give, to learn more about them and to pray for them. The challenge starts on Ash Wednesday (March 1st) and on the 2nd we are challenged to donate 20p if the vegetables we eat that day are not homegrown. Everyone in Kagera has to grow their own food. Throughout Lent there is a similar daily challenge. If you would like to participate, and do not have the literature, please contact Catherine Beaumont who can provide it.

Our next family service is on March 12th at 11, when we will celebrate the church's life over the last year and all we have done together. Everyone is welcome to stay for the annual church meetings afterwards. Our next coffee-morning is on March 3rd at Linda and Mick Ellis's house, Dormers, The Green, at 10. This is a change from the details previously circulated.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning Jan and Jon Bates

CLOPTON

On January 18th, the funeral of a wonderful gentleman, Sergio Cavallaro, took place in church, which was full of family and friends who celebrated his life. He had been a dear friend of Peter and Jill Yule and a regular visitor to their home, becoming an adopted uncle to Sebastian and Frederick. Loved and respected by many, he was an insolvency practitioner and helped many people with their debt problems. He was also a business mentor for the Prince's Trust. He was buried in Girvan in Scotland with his son.

We would like to host an evening in the village hall with an interesting speaker on a local history topic. Can anyone suggest a name? If you have any ideas, please phone 737602.

The hobbies group will meet on Wednesday 1st March from 10 until noon in the village hall. This is a small friendly group and not everyone has a hobby, but it is great to share ideas. There is a small charge of £2 to cover the cost of the hall and refreshments. The March coffee-morning is on Wednesday 15th from 10 until noon in the village hall and will be hosted by Beryl Birchmore. Everyone is very welcome.

Doris Main

Church cleaning Beryl Birchmore
Church flowers There are no flowers in Lent

OTLEY

At the end of January Otley church hosted the benefice service which was led by Bishop John Waine, with the help of the Grundisburgh choir and its organist, John Cooper. It was well supported by the eight parishes, with sixty people attending, and many stayed afterwards to enjoy refreshments and socialise.

Catherine led a Christingle family service in early February. She says it was wonderful to have the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers there, taking an active part. They did the readings, and made Christingles, while Catherine explained the symbolism of the oranges, red ribbon, cocktail sticks, dried fruit and candles. All the congregation joined in enthusiastically with her interactive talks, and sang (and even danced) to the songs which added "oomph and joy"!

St. Mary's annual village quiz will be on Saturday 4th March. Doors open at 7pm and questions start at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 8, but smaller teams can join up with others on the night or go-it--alone. £10 per person includes a yummy jacket potato supper. There will as usual be a bar and a raffle. It's always a very entertaining evening. Contact Ruth on 890543 or 07902024976 or email refarnhill@btinternet.com to book a table, or ring Alyson Chilvers tel. 737674 or Ruthie Bullock tel. 890970.

The next monthly coffee-morning will take place on Thursday 9th March at 15 Spring Park, the home of Philip and Betty David, and they are sure to give you a warm welcome.

Following Sally Whiffing's move to Dorset, Brian and Christine Childs have taken over as the parish recorders, so please tell them anything of interest which should be noted for future generations. We wish Sally and Phil good luck in their new home, and thank her for all she did in establishing the local history group here, and for producing such excellent and interesting photographic exhibitions in the village hall.

We are sad to say that Sue King has died, and send our thoughts and condolences to her family. She was a loyal member of the Otley Ladies Handbell Ringers for many years, and her husband George greatly enjoyed accompanying them on their visits.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

2nd March Friendship Club - Chris Parfitt: A Visit to Lhasa

4th March	Quiz Night - St Mary's PCC
6th March	Gardening Club - A Clematis for every Season
16th March	Friendship Club
23rd March	Community Lunch at The White Hart
5th April	Gardening Club "Growing from Seed, and in Containers"
6th/8th April	"Macbeth Gone Wrong" - The Otley Players

Church Flowers: none in Lent

Church Cleaning: 1st week-Karin Upson /3rd week-Nigel Crowley

Sidepersons:

5th March	11.00am	Family Service	Philip and Betty David
19th March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Peter Rogerson
25th March	4.30pm	Informal worship at Countryside	

Treasure Island by Junior TOPS 10/11 February

Arrrrgh, Jim, lad – a very foyn play it were. Actually, there was very little recourse to pirate speak – the humour was more subtle with moments of Monty Python with a very droll Ben Gunn, and even a Bridget Jones moment when the ownership of large knickers was emphatically denied! (By a corpse?).

Recovery from the very few lapses of memory was cleverly and humorously done (or was some of this scripted??) by this cast of children with such a wide age span. There were too many good solo performances to detail here – suffice it to say that all the main characters did very well indeed. The performance of the supporting cast, however, also deserves special praise as their superbly choreographed routines were delivered in a bright and happy fashion with no self-conscious sideways looks for reassurance.

The set – especially of the *Hispaniola* – was well-planned and convincing, if a little difficult to change easily from scene to scene when each one had such diverse settings. There are also areas of the auditorium where dialogue is lost when in competition with musical inputs. Despite this, the play was very well-produced and

directed and clearly engaged the children in a joyful experience, Otley is indeed lucky to be able to look forward to its next generation of enthusiastic young thespians. Thank you and well done everybody. I really do look forward to your next production.

Graham Hudson

TOPS - Macbeth Gone Wrong

Senior TOPS' next performance involves a visit from the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society, who will perform an abridged version of Shakespeare's Macbeth as their entry in the qualifying round of the annual Guild competition. Come prepared for anything! Curtains open at 7.45pm on Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 6, 7 and 8 April. Tickets (price £8.50) are available from Joan Parish tel. 890715. There will be a bar as usual.

News from Otley Under Fives

As we journey into the new year, exciting changes are afoot, with the arrival of our fantastic new manager, Jo, who has a wealth of experience in the pre-school setting. We look forward to Jo taking the helm and, with the aid of her established and committed team, helping our small and friendly pre-school to continue to thrive.

Numbers have continued to blossom at the breakfast club (8.00am-9.00am) and the after-school club (3.15pm-6.00pm) since their introduction in September, as word of mouth spreads. In a secure and relaxed environment, children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of fun activities, from getting messy with arts and crafts, to playing with computer games and puzzles, as well as playing outside with their friends, or simply relaxing with a gripping read. We are also thrilled to announce that children will soon be given the opportunity to have a healthy hot meal as part of their session.

Otley Under Fives still has some grant-funded and paid sessions available for eighteen-month to school-age children. If you would like to talk to us about securing a place for your little one, or if your child is currently at primary school and you would like them to join us for breakfast club or after-school club, please telephone us on:

07850401121 or 07789468853 or e-mail us at: contact@otleyunderfives.co.uk or joregent@sky.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Otley & District Gardening Club

This year the club has a winter break from meetings for January and February, but we decided to blow those winter blues away by arranging an informal lunch get-together in early February at the Otley White Hart. Welcomed by our hostess and chef Lynda, her capable team and a roaring fire, 37 member and guests enjoyed plenty of socialising over a warming and tasty winter lunch.

After our March 6th talk "Clematis varieties for all seasons and situations", our short AGM on April 3rd will be followed by Bob Booker of Ladybird Nurseries giving us the low-down on seed propagation and gardening in containers. We're planning a plant sale evening on June 5th at the village hall. All welcome to these events, contact 890563 for details.

The Reluctant Gardener

The Otley Stompers

We are hoping to establish a regular walking group within the village of Otley and surrounding areas. This will be very friendly and informal and will accommodate walkers of all abilities. Initially the walks will take place on Sunday mornings, meeting in the village hall car park at 9 for a 9.15 departure. To begin with, we will walk local footpaths, but hope to venture further afield as the group becomes established. If there is sufficient demand, we may provide a mid-week walk. If you require any further information, please contact Alyson Chilvers on 737674 or Julie and Andrew Baker (walk leaders) on 890207.

SWILLAND

Annual vestry meeting - This will be held on Sunday 19th March after our morning service about 12 noon. All those in the electoral roll are welcome to attend.

The next **coffee morning** will be held at the Moon and Mushroom hosted by Nicki Gavin on Saturday 1st April from 10am onwards.

The next **Lunar Ladies** is on 13th of March at 7pm and held at the Moon and Mushroom. The speaker will be Mary Hunt who's subject is "Barry's Journey". Mary's son, Barry, has Down's Syndrome and along with Bayer Care have been developing healthy lifestyle options for people with this condition.

Ann Kent

Flower rota There will be no flowers in the church during Lent.

Vacancy at the Moon and Mushroom.

Bar person/ waiter/ress wanted for charming local pub in Swilland. Very pleasant working environment for the right candidate. This is a part-time position at first, requiring holiday cover to be worked out when suitable for successful applicant. Experience not necessary, as full time training will be provided. We are looking for an individual who takes ownership of their work and pride in delivering great service to the customer. This post would suit a local person, as split shifts will be part of the holiday cover, once candidate is fully trained. Good working conditions.

Please call Donna for an informal discussion on 01473 785320.

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

January's weather is usually dark, dismal and cold and this year it hasn't disappointed us. In the early part of the month there were a few days when it rained, but only in small quantities and towards the end we had some sunny days with frost at night. The total rainfall for the month was 1.75 inches, which continues the low monthly rainfall that we had in the last half of 2016.

There isn't a great deal one can write about the weather, which means that my monthly articles are quite short, therefore I intend to include information on life in the Old Days of farming. I deliberately didn't say the "Good old days" as they were by no means always

good, particularly for farmworkers, who had to work long hours sometimes in very unpleasant situations.

I am one of the few surviving people to have experienced farming when horses were the main source of power. We take mains water and electricity for granted nowadays, but not that long ago we had neither and it is very difficult even for me to visualise how we managed. Farms had to have a very large workforce, but the last 60 years have seen more changes in farming methods than in the previous 600. This was driven mainly by WW 2, when the country had to make use of technology and inventions as much as possible in order to survive. During the war, we realised how dependant we were on overseas food supplies and in 1947 the government introduced subsidies and grants to encourage the British farming industry to become more efficient and self-sufficient. This gave the impetus for manufacturers and farmers to improve machinery and methods.

In future editions, I hope to give you a taste of what farming was like in the past for each particular month.

Russell Ling

Editor's note - we will be happy to include any contributions from the world of work, rural or otherwise, past or present.

The man who brought us Thomas the Tank Engine

A reluctant author who created characters loved by millions of children died 20 years ago this month, on 21st March 1997, aged 85. The Revd. Wilbert V Awdry is best known as the writer of Thomas the Tank Engine and 25 other railway books, which at the time of his death had sold an estimated 50 million copies. They have also given birth to toys, games, videos and a television film series. He invented the stories initially to tell his son Christopher when he was ill with measles, and had to be persuaded by his wife Margaret to get them published.

Mr Awdry, who was made an OBE shortly before his death, was a clergyman who ministered in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Birmingham and Cambridgeshire. He was also a pacifist who once lost his curacy as a result. He was always interested in railways, having been fascinated as a child in Wiltshire by listening to steam trains ascending the gradient into the nearby Box Tunnel.

The Fat Controller in the stories is sometimes thought to be a God-like figure, but he was intended as a satire on bureaucracy. For Mr Awdry, the morality of the stories was clearly Christian, and analogies between the Christian faith and the ways of the railway were obvious: the engines are meant to stay on the right track. They pay the price if they go off the rails, but they are always forgiven, and never scrapped.

Asked how he hoped to be remembered, he said he would like his epitaph to say that “he helped people see God in the ordinary things of life, and he made children laugh”.

THE WAY I SEE IT – the strange rise of ‘Post-Truth’

The strange phrase ‘Post-truth’ emerged, the media tell us, as ‘the Word’ of 2016, but as Post-truth, put crudely, is the assumption that nothing we read, see or hear is reliably factual, we may presumably take that claim, too, as unproven.

Thirty years working in the media convinced me, long ago, that quite a lot of what passes for ‘news’ is in fact either fiction or highly decorated fact. Try looking at the newspaper headlines this morning, and then read the story below them carefully. Very frequently the eye-catching headline (‘Fish and chips postpones dementia’) is only true in the sense that someone has said it. The full story (in a responsible paper) finally sets it in context. It’s based on a small piece of research by a group of students in California and professional medical sources have ridiculed the suggestion.

Post-truth takes us further, however. It implies that the ‘truth’ is less important than the impression. This apparently follows from the

dominating influence, certainly with people under 50, of the ‘social media’ – Facebook, Twitter and so on. A great deal of what people post there, to be read often by a huge number of people, is simply fabrication. It is read and passed on not because people think it is true, but because it is interesting, amusing or shocking. Somehow it then becomes part of the social climate. ‘Have you seen the post in Twitter about the lady who sent her dog to school instead of her daughter?’

Post-truth is a menace because it devalues the currency of debate, distorts our decision-making and in the end turns us all into sceptics. Whatever happened to the ‘honest truth’? "What is truth?" Jesus asked Pilate

Canon David Winter

SMILE LINES

Where to Go

- ❖ I have been in many places, but I’ve never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can’t go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.
- ❖ I’ve also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there.
- ❖ I have however, been in Sane. They don’t have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.
- ❖ I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I’m not too keen on physical activity anymore.
- ❖ I have also been in Doubt. It’s a sad place and I try not to go there too often.
- ❖ I’ve been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.
- ❖ Sometimes I’m in Capable, and I seem to go there more often as I get older.



MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes *'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*.

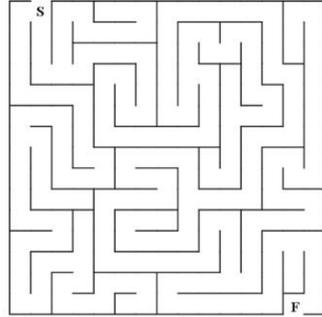
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



What did the north wind say to the east wind?

Let's play draughts



How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?

It is a breeze.

What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?

Thunderwear!

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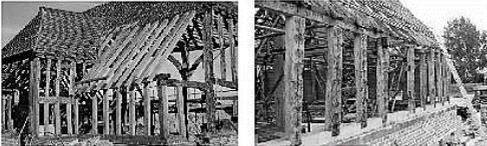
"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter..."

...so this winter sees roaring fires, dark Ales, hearty stews and juicy mussels; And, of course, Christmas. Enjoy Christmas Eve by Candlelight, and then a brisk walk to the pub for a drink at lunchtime on Christmas Day... we are even doing a Slap Up Brunch on Boxing Day. Check our website or ask at the pub for details of all our Christmas celebrations – it would be a shame to miss out.

Merry Christmas Everybody

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