

POEM FOR THE MONTH

The Revival

Unfold! Unfold! Take in His light,
Who makes thy cares more short than night.
The joys which with His day-star rise,
He deals to all but drowsy eyes;
And, what the men of this world miss,
Some drops and dews of future bliss.

Hark! How His winds have chang'd their note!
And with warm whispers call thee out;
The frosts are past, the storms are gone,
And backward life at last comes on.
The lofty groves in express joys
Reply unto the turtle's voice;
And here in dust and dirt, O here
The lilies of His love appear!

Henry Vaughan (1621-1695)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

We have moved from winter into spring and are in the season of Easter. On Maundy Thursday some 60 people from across the benefice shared a Passover meal and informal communion service at Otley Hall. This was an extremely meaningful evening enjoying food and worship together. We would like to thank Jane Hall for her inspiration in putting this together and thank her team of helpers as well.

The Ashbocking Easter service and baptism was very well attended, and we would like to thank the flower arrangers for making the church look beautiful. As well as celebrating the risen Lord, we shared in the baptism of Sam and Grace Smith, whose grandparents had come

over from Ireland especially for the occasion. We welcome the two children into the church family and look forward to their ongoing spiritual journey.

See the poster below for our next service. During Christian Aid week envelopes will be delivered to your door and collected by church representatives prior to the service. Our coffee-morning this month is on Friday 5th May at Otley Hall, 10 -12 and will be in the hall itself, not the conference room, which has a quiet day at the same time. **This venue is different from the one originally published.**

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning: William Napper/Janice Williamson

Join us at
All Saints Church, Ashbocking

On May 14th 11.a.m.

For our special Service with



Guest speaker: The Revd. Jenny Haggar.

Jenny has recently left church ministry and is now much involved with ecumenical Christian activities, one of which is the work of Christian Aid.

Everyone is welcome!

CLOPTON

I wholly endorse what Linda Pollard has written in the Ashbocking notes about the Passover Supper at Otley Hall on Maundy Thursday – a wonderful evening without a hitch! Too many people to name, but well done all of you, particularly Jane.

The hobbies morning will be on 3rd May from 10am until noon in the village hall. Everyone will be made very welcome - you don't need to live in Clopton. The coffee-morning is on Wednesday 17th, also from 10am until noon. It will be hosted by Penny Moon and Sue Emmerson. Please come and join us.

On Friday 19th May there will be an informal meeting at 7pm in the village hall for people to look at all the heritage materials that we have gathered about Clopton. If anyone has any old documents such as bills, house details etc. we would love to see and share them. We would also like to try and name the fields in the village. Refreshments will be served.

Doris Main

Church Cleaning: Audrey and Chris Barker
Church Flowers: Doris Main

OTLEY

Linda and Doris have written about Maundy Thursday's Passover supper at Otley Hall. Otley people were essential to the catering and admin., so thank you David (who prepared a wonderful lamb tagine for 60) and Linda Peek, Ruth Farnhill, who fell and suffered a nasty gash to her head when getting things ready, Penny Clark, Ruthie Bullock, and, at the very last minute, Alyson Chilvers, who nobly stood in for the injured Ruth. Jane, Catherine and Clare also contributed to the catering as well as the worship. Well done and thank you to all of you. Tradition, fellowship, Old and New Testaments, food, drink and worship combined in a very moving way. The financial surplus from the evening, £75, has been given to the diocesan Lent Kagera appeal.

On Good Friday, Messy Church was held in the village hall, where some 40 adults and children from across the benefice enjoyed a variety of activities, helped along by hot cross buns and bacon rolls.

The morning ended with the telling of the Easter story and worship. Thank you to Mark and Sandra Cresswell for coordinating it all.

We celebrated Easter morning in a joyful communion service in a church beautifully decorated with spring flowers. In the absence of an organist, thank you to Ruth and Jonathan Farnhill for providing the music on piano and clarinet.

On a more prosaic and sad note, there has been fly tipping in the churchyard, with a bath being dumped behind the mower shed. This is antisocial, disrespectful of consecrated ground, an ecclesiastical offence and shocking. The PCC will have to pay to have the bath removed, so please be vigilant and report any unusual activity.

The next drop-in coffee morning will be held on Thursday 11th May at Grange House, the home of Russell Ling, where you will receive a warm welcome.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

4th May	Council elections
4th May	Friendship Club - lunch at Wendy Marshall's home, 10 Newlands
8th May	Gardening Club "Planning and Growing Winter veg"
15th May	7pm Parish Council AGM and Annual Parish Meeting
18th May	2.30pm Friendship Club - Erik Punak, Songs and Stories
25th May	Community Lunch at the White Hart

Church Flowers: Joan Parish/Betty David

Church Cleaning: Philip and Betty David

Sidespersons:

May 7th	11.00am Christian Aid Family Service	Betty David
May 21st	9.30am Holy Communion	TBC
May 28th	6.30pm Evensong	Karin Upson

Otley & District Gardening Club

At our AGM on April 3rd, long-time Club Secretary Jenny Vince finally hung up her committee trowel (having properly cleaned it first, of course). She will be a hard act to follow. Emma Coomber takes up that challenge with enthusiasm, and we bid her a warm welcome. The Club decided to continue with our winter meetings break, with our season now running from September to June excepting January and February. It was also decided that the Club will participate in future Remembrance Day services by the laying of a memorial wreath.

At our 8th May meeting Pauline Harper will tell us about planning and growing winter vegetables, and on June 5th we're having a plant sale evening starting at 7 pm at the village hall, with refreshments available. Entry is free and open to all. Please ring 890563 for details.

The Reluctant Gardener

Otley Under 5's

Otley Under Fives have had an action-packed April with lots of fun Easter-themed activities. Children thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty when making an array of salt-dough ornaments in After-school Club, and budding Van Goghs relished the chance to cover their creations in a cacophony of colours.

Pre-schoolers had a whale of a time when visiting Otley primary. With older children on hand to help, they were able to make a variety of Easter-themed crafts ranging from glittery Easter egg cards to pop-up chicks. The whole experience proved fun and exciting for pre-school and primary children alike and should certainly help those children who start school in September to make a smooth transition.

We have space at Otley Under Fives and the before- and after-school clubs, so if you're looking for a safe and fun environment for your children to spend some time, please get in touch.

Macbeth Goes Wrong – The Otley Players, 7th April

Producing a play where everything goes wrong might seem to offer scope for accommodating any unintended errors as they would be

hidden in the general mayhem of every director's nightmare of absentee players, loss of voice, props and scenery with malicious minds of their own, and so on. However, I think comic timing and much else would be at risk unless the 'real' players were truly accomplished in their performance as intended by the writers and this was indeed the case. Who would have believed that the title character (Hayley Gavin) really had lost her voice and had to act with voiceover input from Jane Hall offstage? Hayley's actions and synchronisation were expertly blended and this could easily have been what the writers intended. It wasn't and had to be put into effect without any rehearsal. Well done, both.

This must have been a very difficult play to produce and direct not least because scenes were played as seen from the auditorium, from behind the set and from offstage. It took time for me to appreciate this aspect of the production but, once grasped, I was able to follow the unfolding of the series of disasters more easily. It also became apparent that it was futile to try to follow the story of Macbeth – the humour was all in the unravelling of the best efforts of the amateur group's attempts to stage it against all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (to quote the Bard from another play).

It is very difficult to single out members of the cast for special mention – all performed so well. I do, however, think newcomer John Lewis's performance as Mr Peach was masterly and William Hunt's 'patter piece' was amazing – how many words per minute, I wonder? This production really stretched the talents of the group and I thoroughly congratulate them on the result. Well done, all.

Graham Hudson

Christian Aid Week In Otley

This annual fund-raising event will be held from 14th May to 20th May. Donation envelops will be delivered to each home prior to this period, and collected by volunteers a few days later. It will be greatly benefit the total collected if donors also complete the Gift Aid form attached to the envelope. A special Christian Aid themed service will be held in Otley Church on Sunday, 7th May 2017. Christian Aid's mission is

to 'Follow in Jesus' footsteps, and love every neighbour. To help people in poverty out of poverty.' Please give generously, thank you.

Emma Coomber

Why help Otley Village Hall?!

It would be great to have some extra help with running our village hall and with events organised by Otley Community Council that are such a feature of Otley life, such as the summer fete, fireworks night, flower show and the Christmas dinner dance. New ideas are always welcome and whether you are an organiser, cake- maker, fixer, starter or finisher, we will value your help in enabling Otley to be the thriving community that it is. We also need a new chair to lead our friendly committee, as James Hall deserves a rest and it is time for fresh blood and new ideas. We are willing to meet in the pub if that makes OCC sound more appealing!

If you can join our team please call James on 785251 or me on
We look forward to meeting you!

Amy Cranfield and the rest of Otley Community Council

Otley Fete

Our village fete will be on Sat. 1st July. Please save the date. The next planning meeting is at 8pm in the White Hart on Tues. 9th May. All welcome.

SWILLAND

Our bi-monthly coffee-morning was hosted by Nikki at the Moon and Mushroom on 1st April. We spent a very pleasant time chatting at a table outside. Thank you, Nikki, for your hospitality. The next coffee-morning is on 3rd June at my house, Red Court, from 10am. Our Easter Day service was well attended. It was lovely to have flowers back in the church and thank you, Helen, for playing the organ and coping without the foot pedals.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers:

7th - 14th May

Jackie Williams

21st-28th May

Margo Barker

4th – 11th June

Ann Kent

Swilland AGM Report

We looked back over 2016 at our recent annual thanksgiving service which was followed by our annual church meeting. There was much to give thanks for, in particular, Catherine's ministry, her enthusiasm and her challenging us to be positive about our future at Swilland. We are also grateful to Clare and other members of the ministry team who have helped led our worship. Singing along to CDs has its limitations, so Sundays when Helen Jay or Fred Woods have played our refurbished organ have been much appreciated.

The away day with Ashbocking last April was a memorable day enabling our congregations to grow together in so many ways. Our coffee-mornings are now established and a valuable time for all members of our village to meet and chat. The autumn churchyard clear-up brings us together again and we thank all those who support it and the other regular annual events – the Christian Aid collection, Christmas draw and carol singing round the village.

We now have two churchwardens as Andy Ling has agreed to join Brian Williams in that role. Our PCC was re-elected with the addition of Gina Wilden. We recorded thanks to all those who give of their time to enrich the life of St Mary's whether keeping the accounts, arranging flowers or maintaining the churchyard.

Our next long-term project is the provision of a toilet and kitchen facilities and whilst there will have to be some serious fundraising and application for grants, our finances are in good shape, so we can take the preliminary steps for this undertaking.

Gill Reidy

Lunar Ladies

The next meeting is at 7pm on **Monday 15th May** at The Moon and Mushroom, Swilland. The speaker is Betty Trinder, whose subject is "From policing Luton to ministering in Norfolk - hatch, match and dispatch!" Betty is very, very funny, so it will be a great evening with a lovely meal after her talk. We are always looking for new members of our jolly group, so if you have those Monday evening blues please

do join us and meet new people. Contact Gina Wilden on 785577 or email Gina.wilden@btinternet.com

Men's Group

The next Men's Group meeting will be at the Moon & Mushroom on Monday May 22nd at 6.30pm. **Brian LeDont** will tell us some **Tales, Traumas and titillations from the Tooth Face**. The lowly Men's Group facilitator (performing under his pseudonym) will recount different aspects of 50 years as a dental surgeon, encompassing time working in not only university, hospital and practice locations, but also in the highlands of New Guinea and the tropical rain forest of Malaysia, where he encountered life at its most basic and was asked to treat infinitely worse conditions than any encountered in mouths in rural Suffolk. Knowing him, we can also expect the funnier side of dentistry. Numbers please as usual for supper either to Donna at the Moon [donnamariewishart@gmail.com] when she emails you, or to Brian on 07768 285670 or bfwdent@btinternet.com.

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

This March has been the warmest since 1938 and the rainfall continues to be low with only 1.15 inches. If this continues, a water shortage is distinctly possible, as the reservoirs are only 60% full. The last time that we were in this situation was in 2011-2012, but then from April onwards it was very wet; it remains to be seen if this pattern repeats itself in 2017.

March used to be the month for spring drilling - mainly barley and oats, with perhaps some spring beans. Some of the barley went for malting, but the majority was milled for the animals as were the oats and beans. If the autumn was too wet to drill all the wheat, some spring varieties were grown, but the yields were much lower. All yields of cereals were much lower than they are today; wheat would produce about 1.5 tonnes an acre whereas today we expect 3.5 to 4. This increase has been the result of the use of fertilizer and improved varieties of seed. The other crops grown were turnips for sheep and mangles or later fodder beet, which was chopped up for the cattle during the winter months.

Before drilling, the soil had to be broken down into a tilth, so that a seed bed could be made. What ploughing and winter frosts had started was completed with heavy harrows pulled by three horses (later by the old standard Fordson tractor). The Smyth drills in most common use were made in Peasenhall and had what were known as Suffolk coulters to make a furrow in the soil for the seed to drop into. Lighter harrows drawn by one horse were then taken across the line of the drill at right angles to cover up the seed. Barley drilled after March was known as cuckoo barley and didn't yield as well.

Russell Ling

Editor's note - we will be happy to include any contributions from the world of work, rural or otherwise, past or present. Book, film etc. recommendations and reviews, letters and articles of local interest will also be gratefully received.

Retreat Days at Otley Hall in June

Monday 5th June - Tennyson: From the Moated Grange to the Holy Grail – led by Malcolm Guite. We will spend the day reading and appreciating Tennyson's poetry from the early Mariana in the Moated Grange, set in a place very like Otley Hall, to the great poems of doubt and faith like In Memoriam, and onto his beautiful reflections of the stories of Arthur. We will discover how much of it is fresh and relevant to our own times. Copies of all poems and extracts will be provided.

Tuesday 13th June - A day with the Lord's supper – Led by Andrew Dotchin

Thursday 22nd June - Reading Aloud/Allowed - Jane Hall

Do you sometimes wish you had more time to read? This day is about allowing yourself to relax with prose or poetry, fact or fiction, an old favourite, something you've always wanted to start or would like to share with others. There will be chances to hear words that have inspired others & to read alone in beautiful surroundings – do bring a book with you.

This is a workshop and the day will run from 10am - 5pm.

Ticket price includes a free garden pass to use during the 2017 season, allowing you to continue your reading exploration at Otley Hall!

All days cost just £25 (unless otherwise stated) to include all refreshments and a two course buffet lunch. They run from 10am – 4pm (unless otherwise stated). Contact Karen 01473 890264 or email events@otleyhall.co.uk Website www.otleyhall.co.uk

SMILE LINES

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, ‘I finally figured out what the Bible means!’ His father smiled and replied, ‘What, then?’ The son replied, ‘It stands for “Basic Information Before Leaving Earth”.’

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country... ‘Is there anything breakable in here?’ asked the postal clerk. ‘Only the Ten Commandments,’ answered the lady.

Morning prayer

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, ‘Good morning, Lord,’ and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, ‘Good Lord, it’s morning.’

Money

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: ‘I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it’s still out there in your pockets.’



St DUNSTAN

Dunstan (909 - 988) was the most popular saint in England for nearly two centuries, being famous for many stories about defeating the devil.

A story tells how as a monk Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's horse. This caused such pain, and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door.



They say that is why people still hang horse shoes over doorways.

St Dunstan is the patron saint of blacksmiths and bell ringers as well as goldsmiths and silversmiths. His Feast Day is 19 May, which is why the date year on the hallmarks on gold and silver runs from 19 to 18 May, not the calendar year.

NOT JUST ON YOUR FEET....

The answers to these are all something you could wear on your feet, but the word also means...

1. A sure-footed pack animal
2. A thin sharp knife
3. A wobbly dessert
4. A poisonous snake
5. Isn't safe on ice
6. A gymnastic move
7. Equipment used to move water
8. An Irish accent
9. Part of a car used for storage
10. A sports coach



What do you call a shoe that looks like a banana?
A slipper.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?
A horse.



Answers: 1 Mule 2 Stiletto 3 Jelly
4 Moccasin 5 Slipper 6 Flip flop
7 Pump 8 Brogue 9 Boot 10 Trainer

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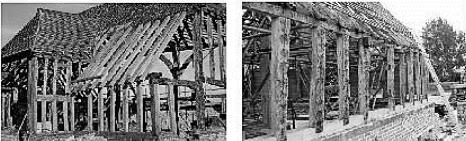
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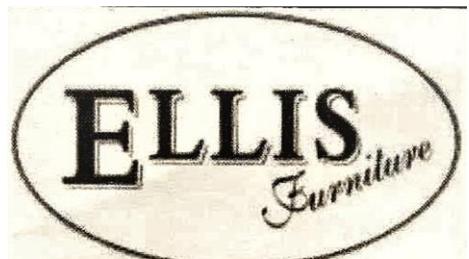
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