

## **PRAYER FOR THE MONTH**

Give us, O God, the vision that can see your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we continue to pray with understanding hearts. And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

*Written from space by Frank Borman (American astronaut)*

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISHES** **ASHBOCKING**

With the start of another year in Ashbocking it is good to reflect on the year just gone. 2015 was very busy year for All Saints Church. We were able to do vital work to the roof, thanks to fund-raising events and grants; a prayer-corner was established in the church; we had the wonderful experience of a confirmation and baptism service, when nine people from Ashbocking and Swilland were baptised and/or confirmed. We also had a most enjoyable harvest barn dance attended by over a hundred people.

Nothing would have been done if it wasn't for people's enthusiasm, hard work and goodwill, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

2015 also saw us become companion church to St Mary's, Swilland, giving us the opportunity to support one another at services and events.

We have grown in number considerably and are now looking to grow in faith. This is being demonstrated by the two house groups, which will continue to meet in the coming year. Jan and Jon Bates' house group starts again on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> January and then on every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. All meetings will be held by kind permission of Andrew Gaught at Manor Farm, The Green, starting at 10:00 until 12:00. 'Going deeper' is the aim and the group will

continue to study Mark's gospel. For further information please contact Jan or Jon on 01473 892605 or 07423 052901.

The evening house group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm starting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, then on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. This group is led by Catherine Beaumont and will focus on studying characters from the New Testament. Meetings will be held at John and Linda Pollard's home, Hawthorns, The Green, which is accessed via Ashley Grange. For further information please contact Catherine on 07801 342336 or John and Linda on 01473 890836.

It has been so lovely to see so many people attending coffee-mornings, with more than twenty at December's. The coffee-morning for January is on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> at Sue and Mike Surridge's house, 9 Nelson Close Ashbocking at 10:30am.

**Our service on Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am will be about baptism** and we are delighted that Isaac Andrews-Pearce will be baptised into the Christian faith and welcomed by our church family. Sharon Chenery and Pam Simons are on cleaning-duty for the service.

We must start fundraising again this year. As with all historic buildings, All Saints requires a constant programme of maintenance, and, although we were able to have the nave roof repaired last year, it is now apparent that the north side of the chancel roof needs similar work. We are also considering installing toilet facilities and an area for serving refreshments. Fund-raising can be fun and does involve a large number of the community, but it is hard work, not only to do but to come up with fresh schemes that will give the required results. If anyone has any ideas that we can consider please do let Duncan Bray or John Pollard know.

If anyone would like to attend any of the house groups, church services or coffee mornings but requires transport please phone John and Linda on 890836 and we will do our best to arrange a lift.

**Christmas carol singing** – we had a jolly time carol-singing around Ashbocking village. In two hours we were only able to get to half the village so we are thinking through how we might do it differently on 2016. Andrew took us to The Moon and Mushroom on his tractor and trailer and we sang in the pub with the Swiland carol-singers. Altogether we raised £330, which will split between the local children's hospice, Christian Aid and an X-ray machine for a hospital in Senegal.

We had 82 people at our **Carols by Candlelight**. People enjoyed the adult nativity that was created by the superb readers. It was great to have Isaac Andrews-Pearce as our baby Jesus. He joined us again on **Christmas Day** for a nativity with communion - a lively service with 54 present, including 15 children. The collection will be given to the United Nations Refugee Agency, remembering Jesus' own time as a refugee in Egypt.

This excellent magazine now costs £8.50 for the year, so please can you have the money ready for our collectors/deliverers. Many thanks and Happy New Year!

*Linda Pollard*

## **“GOING DEEPER” HOMEGROUP**

We have moved to **Manor Farm** across the road on the Green, at **Ashbocking**, where we have plenty of room to welcome any newcomers. We study the Bible, pray, and encourage each other to “go deeper” in our faith in Jesus together.

**Normally** we meet every **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10.00am, but in January** we shall meet **only on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**.

For more details call Jan or Jon Bates on 01473 892605

## **CLOPTON**

Anita Llorente (daughter of Peggy Martin) died in St Elizabeth Hospice on 3rd December after a long battle with cancer. Anita was a very private person and throughout her illness she showed great courage, never complaining and always remaining positive. She was

kind and compassionate and had a great sense of humour. We send our condolences to her husband Peter.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service led by Jane was most enjoyable and the church was full (with extra chairs needed!) The mince pies and mulled wine afterwards gave people a chance to meet friends and neighbours. The service on Christmas morning led by Jane with a sermon by James was also well attended.

The Holy Communion service on Sunday 10th January at 9.30 am will be held at Thamaniya, Shop Road and a WARM welcome awaits everyone.

The January Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 20th between 10am and noon at the Village Hall. Linda and Bob Tye will be the hosts. Start the New Year by joining us - everyone is very welcome. If you find it difficult to get to the hall phone 737602 and someone will come to collect you.

On Saturday 23rd January between 2 and 4pm, Clopton will be holding a 'good old fashioned jumble sale' in the village hall to raise funds for this year's Midsummer Fete being held on Sunday 19th June, which, in turn, raises money for a chosen charity. Tea, coffee and cake-type refreshments will be available to buy, together with tickets for a raffle. If you have made space for Christmas presents or are having an early spring-clean and have items to give us, please contact [cloptonfete@gmail.com](mailto:cloptonfete@gmail.com) or telephone [01473 737454](tel:01473737454).

Weekends in January can be drab and boring so add the date to your calendar and join us in the village hall for a fun get together and a rummage!

We shall be holding a flower festival on the Bank holiday weekend of 28th May. If you would like to help in any way - making a display, helping with teas, cleaning, baking a cake etc., please ring 737602. The theme will be 'My Favourite Book.'

*Doris Main*

**Church cleaning**  
**Church flowers**

Doris Main  
Charmaine Williams

## OTLEY

We celebrated Christmas during the mildest winter on record, with primroses in bloom and even a thrush singing his spring song. The church was nearly full for the candlelit service of lessons and carols, taken by Clare and Jane, and was beautifully decorated. It is such a special occasion. The singing was excellent, led by Sue Wilkins's choir, and they sang one of Sue's own compositions, "The Shepherd's Carol", which was lovely. Mince pies and coffee were provided afterwards and the collection of £218 was taken for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal, which the government has pledged to double.

The crib service again took place in the barn at Warrens Farm beneath a large illuminated star. 135 people attended, including nearly fifty children, wrapped up warmly to sit on the straw bales. The Nativity story was enacted by the children, with a real baby, Johnathan Clow, whose brother Jake was one of the three kings, and Daisy Lord took the part of Mary. The donkeys happily munched hay in the stable, and there were also two sheep in their pen, which the children loved. Very many thanks to Ian and Alyson Chilvers for providing and preparing the barn. The collection of £290 was sent to FIND.

Carol-singing this year was organised by FFY at the village hall around a brazier. Their collection was sent to The Children's Society as will be the one from the Christingle service on 7th February. And finally, the midnight Communion was taken by the Archdeacon of Suffolk, the Venerable Ian Morgan, and attended by forty people. The collection from the midnight service amounted to £144 for church funds.

THANK YOU to everybody involved in the Christmas celebrations - the clergy, the wardens, the organists and musicians, the bell-ringers, the flower-arrangers and decorators, the Ellis family for the magnificent tree, the bakers of mince pies and brewers of coffee, and anyone else I have left out.

Earlier in December the Christmas Draw made £450 for church funds. Thank you to everybody who attended and donated prizes, and especially to the magazine distributors who raised the majority of the money from sales of tickets. We are very grateful for their support. Our next event will be the quiz on 27th February, the same format as before but a new quiz master! More details in the next magazine.

The Christmas dinner/dance went very well, with a disco and delicious dinner, and raised almost £1,000 for the Community Council.

Thank you to everybody who bought Christmas cards to support the work of the Otley Church Preservation Trust. We sold a record 905 cards, producing a profit of £380 for the Trust, and orders came from as far afield as London, Cornwall, Scotland and Jersey.

Looking forwards, Junior TOPS will be performing "Aladdin", the musical Disney version, on 5th and 6th February and tickets will be available at a cost of £6 for adults and £3 for children from 01473 735398.

The first drop-in coffee morning of the year will be held here at Church House on Thursday 28th January, where everyone will be very welcome. Regulars, please invite someone new.

In the month before Christmas Otley produced another clutch of babies born within a few weeks of each other - Faye, born to Emma (nee Wilkins) and Dave Flint, Chloe to Claudia and Mark Gannon, Elliott to Clare and David Free, Johnathan to Carly and Simon Clow, and Isaac to Laura and Peter Kemp. It is really wonderful news and many congratulations to you all.

We also congratulate Russell Ling on his Inspiring Age Award, presented to him recently by the Lord Lieutenant, the Countess of Euston. A report said "Over the last 70 years Russell has undoubtedly helped make Otley the strong community it is and a safe and desirable environment in which to live." Among his many

achievements it cited his service on the parish council, his contribution to the building of the village hall, setting up the Otley Church Preservation Trust, and rationalising and improving the village's footpaths. Thank you Russell and well done!

We wish all our readers a very happy and healthy New Year.

*Rose Rogerson*

### **Sidepersons' Rota:**

**17<sup>th</sup> January** 9.30am Holy Communion Penny Clark

**24<sup>th</sup> January** 4.30pm Evening Prayer at 36, Church Rd,

### **Otley and District Gardening Club**

Our next meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and our guest speaker is Maike Windhorst with his topic "Outdoor Vegetables through All Four Seasons". On Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> our guest speakers will be Sarah Cook and Jim Marshall and their talk is "Horticultural Snippets"

### **1<sup>st</sup> Otley Scout Group**

1<sup>st</sup> Otley Scout Group would like to wish readers a Happy New Year and thank everyone who supported their Christmas Bingo evening. Well done to Claire Cole, whose 'full house' won her the top prize of a duck (kindly donated by Gressingham Foods). The evening raised around £500 which will go towards ceiling and lighting improvement works in the Scout hut. We would like to welcome you to our next bingo evening on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January in the hut at 7.30pm.

### **40 Years of Scouting in Otley**

It doesn't seem possible that it was 40 years ago when Keith Short and I were asked to start something for the youth of the village by Fiona McInness, We were serving with the Territorial Army at the time and immediately dismissed a youth club, but we had both been involved in Scouting in our younger years and it too had a uniform, set aims and good discipline. So we set out on that road, and although Keith had to move from Suffolk, I received so much support from the Otley community that not only did Scouts flourish, but in due course so too did Cubs and, many years later, Beavers. I was single then but whenever help was needed, a young lady called Christine

was always there; the rest is history. I believe she feels she married Scouting, not me.

I have so many memories, but will limit myself to just one event from a summer camp. It was at Sweffling and was so hot that sometimes we were reduced to sitting still in the shade of our tents. Leaders Ben Dine, Andy Byam, Carl Paternoster and I were doing just that in the cool of the grub shelter when the mournful wailing of a youngster floated across the field. We investigated and found one of the younger Scouts in a state of great distress. It became apparent that the Scouts had found a dead mouse and the youngster had picked it up, whereupon the other boys had then convinced him that dead mice carry the plague. The lad now truly believed he was dying. All's well that ends well; he didn't die and he's now a strapping young man at university (although he is still receiving counselling for extreme trauma, but that's by the way).

Parents are crucial to the success of any Scout group, and I have always been blessed with super parents, who have done anything and everything, from fund-raising to transporting Scouts and equipment over many miles, and from helping at camps to assisting at evenings in the hut. Whenever I've needed help, someone has always stepped forwards.

Group Camp in September was to my farewell camp as Group Scout Leader for 1<sup>st</sup>. Otley, Martyn Osbourne is my very able successor and I wish him many happy and rewarding years in that position. At the camp we went caving – yes, caving on Otley playing field – we did backwoods-cooking and waffle-making on an open fire, rosette-making, badge-making, digger-driving, learnt about guns and crossbows, made a monkey-bridge and enjoyed marvellous food. If I've omitted anything, I apologise. The logistics of all this took a lot of teamwork and I thank all those who planned and worked so hard to make it happen. The camp-fire on Saturday evening was the climax and Christine and I were overwhelmed at the generosity of people associated with the group, whether past or present, whether members or supporters. I was literally moved to tears and I thank all

those who contributed so generously towards our leaving gifts; they will be cherished for ever.

I thank the Lord for the leaders who have run Otley Scout Group so well and for His overseeing of it all these years. I pray that it will continue to sow seeds of Christianity in the future and that the Holy Spirit will work in young and older hearts alike, bringing people to a faith in Jesus Christ.

*Yours in Scouting, Brian.*

### **World Leprosy Day**

This year the Leprosy Mission is supporting people in Nepal who lost their homes in the April earthquake. Although Nepal is no longer headline news, there is still much work to do and people who are already disabled by leprosy are destitute. The Leprosy Mission hospital in Anandaban is the only hospital for miles around, but it suffered structural damage. St. Mary's Church in Otley has a longstanding connection with this charity and our collection on January 17th will go to the Leprosy Mission.

### **SWILLAND**

Happy New Year to everyone. We are very fortunate to have escaped the flooding that is causing such problems in other parts of the country. Here it is unseasonably warm. Daffodils are already flowering together with snowdrops, primulas, aconites, daphne, viburnum, hellebores and the occasional camellia.

We had an excellent congregation for our carol service. Thank you to those who decorated the church and cleaned it up after the redecoration. The organ is partly back and should be fully restored very soon. We look forward to hearing it again. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our organ fund.

On the Friday before Christmas a large crowd of us sang carols in the village ending up in the Moon and Mushroom. Over £300 was raised for our chosen charities. 25 people came to our Christmas Day service.

## Flower rota:

3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Jackie Williams
10 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Margo Barker
24 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Ann Kent
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Gill Reidy

*Ann Kent*

## RAINFALL – NOVEMBER

One can sum up November as warm wet and windy. Apart from a short spell of dry weather in the second week there was rain every other day and the total for the month came to 2.90 inches. The most notable weather event was the gale on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The warm weather has upset plant life and a number are coming into flower unusually early; it's going to be interesting to see what happens if we do get a spell of "proper" winter weather.

*Russell Ling*

## Protecting Our Birds

We recently discovered a chaffinch sitting rather sadly on our patio, after a while it died and with no visible signs of wounds or injury we were concerned to discover why. The RSPB was really helpful and explained that unfortunately there is a virus called trichomonosis, which is decimating chaffinch, greenfinch and sparrows, and that one of the major areas of infection is via bird-feeders in our gardens.

What to do? They suggest cleaning or changing all bird-feeders weekly and also cleaning under them with a weak solution of bleach and water. To wash the feeders, soak them in a bucket of warm soapy water with a dash of bleach added, leave overnight and rinse with clean water in the morning and allow to air-dry. Clean bird-baths daily and regularly give them a weak solution of bleach, rinsed afterwards. Does this sound like a lot of hard work? Maybe, but it's worth it if we are going to save these delightful birds.

The RSPB does not want us to stop feeding the birds, as we provide a valuable source of food, especially during the winter months, but

ask that we stay vigilant and spread the word about how to protect our bird-life.

### **"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

Fundraising concert for the Teenage Cancer Trust by the Suffolk Singers, with music to suit all tastes, ranging from light gospel to Simon and Garfunkel. Entertainment includes The Blue Notes, a vibrant teenage jazz trio. Saturday 23 January at Woodbridge Community Centre, 7.30pm to include a light supper. Please bring your own drinks. Tickets £12.50 by phoning 01473 635525, or from Browsers Bookshop and Woodbridge Violins.

### **SMILE LINES**

Keep an eye out for signs in foreign countries that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning!

Romania: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

Russia: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Italy: If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

Spain: Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark: In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

*With thanks to 'Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad' by Charlie Croker (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99)*



## THREE KINGS

Does Christmas seem long gone? Well, Christmas doesn't really end until Twelfth Night, 6th January. In the past all the 12 days of Christmas used to be celebrated with feasting and parties. January 6th is also the Feast of the Epiphany, which is the day on which the wise men, led by the star, arrived at Bethlehem. At Christmas we sang about Three Kings but we don't really know who they were, kings or wise men or where they came from – you can check the details in St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2.



We do know that they brought very expensive symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for Jesus, not the usual things that you would give to a small baby. Traditionally the gifts have a special meaning: gold is for a king; frankincense (sweet smelling incense) is for God and myrrh (a spice used to prepare bodies for burial) for mortal man.

## GOLDEN ANSWERS

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letters GOLD (well, can you find any words that began with frankincense or myrrh?). Answers at the bottom of the page.

Can you say which GOLD is ...

1. a small bird?
2. kept in an aquarium?
3. made from sugar and used in cooking?
4. a source of wealth? 
5. a tall yellow flower?
6. ate the three bears' porridge?
7. won by a winner at the Olympics?
8. a 50th wedding anniversary?

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**What do you call a camel that's got three humps?**  
Humphrey.

**Who rides a camel and carries a lamp?**  
Florence of Arabia.



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Answers: 1.gold finch 2.goldfish  
3.golden syrup 4.goldmine 5.golden rod  
6.Goldilocks 7.gold medal 8.golden wedding