

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Lord and Saviour, while nature lies dormant and waiting, may we learn to stop and rest in stillness, watching and waiting for your coming among us; in this month of darkness, kindle the flame of your presence in our homes and in our hearts; make the trinity of love, joy and peace a reality in our lives, our churches and our world; and as the Christmas story is told again, be born in us and abide in us today.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES ASHBOCKING

The Remembrance Sunday service this year was led by Catherine and the list of those who died was read by Liz Stegman. The service was even more poignant by an amazing display at the back of the church provided by Derek Pheasant of war memorabilia, including photos and stories. Much of it had local interest, especially for one member of the congregation, who found several family members included. We thank Derek for providing such a meaningful display and for sharing his knowledge.

Our coffee-morning in November was very well-attended and the next is on **Friday December 4th** at Nell and Rex's home, Chez Onze, The Green, Ashbocking at 10:30am.

We shall go **Carol Singing** around the village on **Friday 18th December**, starting at the Crockery Barn entrance at 6pm and finishing at Nelson Close. We will be collecting door to door for charity. ALL WELCOME. We will finish the evening at The Moon and Mushroom, where we will join singers from Swilland. There will be a rehearsal at Swilland Church on Monday 14th at 7:30pm.

We plan to **decorate the church on Saturday 19th December**, starting at 10:30am. If you have any ivy or holly or surplus baubles (large enough to show up on a large tree), please bring them with you. At 2:00pm we will meet to clean the church.

The **carols by candlelight Service** is on the 20th December at 4pm, **Please note that the Christmas Day nativity service this year is at the earlier time of 10:30am.** There will be a nativity play with a short communion/blessing. Please bring your children and grandchildren! And continue to do so in 2016 – we shall celebrate Jesus' baptism on 10th January in our 11 am family service.

Linda Pollard

ASHBOCKING HOMEGROUP

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 10.00am till 12.00 noon

December Wednesday 2nd and 16th

At 4 The Cottages, Ashley Grange, Ashbocking IP6 9JH

Call Jan or Jon Bates for more information: 892605

CLOPTON

Myrtle Archer, a long-time resident of Clopton, died on 4th October. She was one of the group of people who worked tirelessly to raise funds to build the village hall. She held coffee-mornings and was always involved in all the events that took place in the village. She was married to Freddie for 66 years and had lived in Clopton all her married life. She was a Land Girl during the war working on Martins Farm.

Juliet Bellfield died on 12th October. She was the chair-person of MacMillan Cancer Support for many years and had raised nearly a million pounds for the charity. She was always busy organising fund-raising events, finding hundreds of volunteers to help on flag days, to be Santa or one of his helpers etc. Juliet never failed to write and thank everyone after the events and always had time to spare for anyone who needed a friendly ear.

We send our deepest sympathy to Freddie, Peter and their families.

The Remembrance Sunday service led by James at the 493rd Bombardment Group memorial was very well-attended. Thank you to Prilly and Richard Taylor for providing the Education Centre and to Julie and Adrian Yallop and family for the wonderful refreshments.

The Hobbies Group meetings have been cancelled due to lack of support. It may restart next year if we can get enough people to make it viable. Phone Della on 737805 if you are interested.

Advance notice! There will be a jumble sale in the village hall at the end of January to raise money for the 2016 Fete. Now is the time to start sorting out all the things you do not need! Full details will be in the January magazine.

The next coffee-morning is on Wednesday 16th December and is our special Christmas one so do come and join us. It will be hosted by Della Hughes and Anne Pryke, who always make it fun. Our carol service will be on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Please come and join us. There will be mince pies and mulled wine after the service.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas!

Doris Main

Church cleaning

Beryl Birchmore

Church flowers

Sue Emmerson plus all

The 9.30 communion service on 10th January will be at Thamaniya, Shop Road.

OTLEY

On 1st November Jane and Catherine led a service for All Souls to remember those who had died in the benefice during the past year. Ten families were represented and said they found it helpful and comforting. Two weeks later Jane led a service of peace and reconciliation after the dreadful terrorist attacks in Paris, which coincided with the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry and the cathedral. It has been a sombre time.

On Remembrance Sunday we gathered at the village war memorial as Clare led the prayers and Peter Rogerson read the Roll of Honour while boys from the primary school planted a poppy cross as each name was read out. James Kelly, representing the Essex Regiment,

who served in Korea, read the Exhortation, and Geoff Partridge (who served in Egypt with the Royal Military Police during the Suez crisis) spoke the Kohima Epitaph. Martyn Osbourne, the new Group Scout Leader, read the lesson. Wreaths were laid on behalf of organisations in the village and the Scouts lowered their banners as Last Post was sounded on the trumpet by Guy Nichols from Ipswich. Helen played the keyboard and Mike Bullock provided the sound system and solemn recorded music. The proceedings were organised by Peter, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, who saw active service in Aden, following the format originally devised by Geoffrey Mason, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who served in India, Aden and Kenya. We were sorry that he was in hospital and unable to be present. £1,090-75 was raised from the sale of poppies for the Royal British Legion and Victoria Hook would like to thank everybody who helped her with the collection.

TOPS produced their Evening of Entertainment with sketches from "The Vicar of Dibley" and "Keeping up Appearances", greatly enjoyed by the audience. There was a delicious supper cooked by Wendy Shepherd, and also a quiz, won by Jane Hall, Phil and Tig Sweet and Chris and Audrey Barker; it was a lovely relaxed evening.

Despite earlier rain, the Fireworks Evening went very well, with lots of families there to watch the excellent display. A special 'thank you' to Mark Robinson, who has organised the fireworks for several years, and is now standing down.

The Christmas Draw and coffee-morning will take place on 5th December at 10.30am, and the School's Christmas Bazaar (with Father Christmas) starts at 11.00am on the same day, so you can catch both of these events - and then go to the Christmas dinner-dance in the evening!

Details of the Christmas services can be found in the middle of the magazine. The Crib service rehearsal is at Warrens Farm 10-11.30am on the 22nd and the service itself at the farm at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. The church will be decorated in time for the carol

service on 20th December at 5.30pm (please note the new time). The Friendship Club will be celebrating in style, the Scouts will have their post box for Christmas cards in the Post Office (more details below), and we wish a very Happy Christmas to all our readers.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

- 3rd December** Christmas dinner - 12.00 noon Friendship Club
5th December Church Draw and coffee-morning 10.30 am
School Christmas Bazaar - 11.00am-1.00pm
Dinner/dance – 7.30 pm Community Council
8th December Make a Christmas wreath with Sue Courtney
£15 to include all materials Under 5s
17th December Christmas Bingo - The Scouts
Church flowers: Advent no flowers/Christmas everyone
Church cleaning: Kate Watson/Karin and Brian Upson

Sidepersons' Rota:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 6th December | 11.00am Parade Service | Ruthie Bullock |
| 20th December | 5.30pm Carol Service | Peter Rogerson et al |
| 24th December | 4.30pm Crib Service | Ruth Farnhill |
| 24th December | 11.30pm Midnight Mass | Karin Upson |
| 3rd January | 11.00am Family Service | |

Come and join Otley Youth Club for family carol-singing....



16th December 2015 6pm - 8pm at the village hall car-park. Dress warmly. Yummy refreshments. For more info, contact Kelly 890006 or Jane 785251. (There will be no singing from the trailer this year).

1st Otley Scout Group Scout Leaders: We are looking for parent helpers for both Beavers and Cubs to join us, to support our growing group by bringing new skills to sessions, and even taking part and engaging the children in a little interactive piece on hobbies, etc. Help can be in the form of attending once or twice a year, or more frequently, depending on time available. The children really

enjoy meeting new people and learning about interesting things, and this helps them towards achieving their challenge badges. For more information please contact me on 01473 892180.

Bingo will be on 17th December in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from me at 5 Pearl Close (892180) and also from Scout leaders and the Post Office. Refreshments will be available, as last year.

Our post box will be in the Post Office again to send Christmas cards (within the parish of Otley only) at 20p each, with the last posting on 11th December and delivery on 12th December.

Martyn Osbourne



Otley Under Fives

The children at Otley Under Fives' eagerly await Christmas. Father Christmas will visit the group in December and the children will join Class One at Otley School for a Christmas craft get-together. The Christmas play, always an opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements with family and friends, is being rehearsed.

The children continue to be out and about. The treasures gathered during walks round the village have transformed our building into an autumnal wonderland with an array of reds, oranges and yellows on the walls. Glittery firework- and Catherine-wheel pictures complete the decoration. This term we were thrilled to be selected to participate in the 'Golden Mile', a health and physical activity initiative which will see the setting receive specialist training on keeping active.

We are hosting an evening of wreath-making with a local florist on 8 December at the village hall – mulled wine and mince pies will be served. An end of term Christmas party will be held for the children on 18 December. For more information about Otley Under Fives, to arrange a visit and free trial session or to talk to a member of the

team please call 07789 468853, visit our Facebook page or our website: www.otleyunderfives.co.uk

Otley White Hart Book Club

New members are very welcome. We are a very relaxed and friendly group meeting at 7pm every 2nd Wednesday of every month at the White Hart. The book for December 9th is: "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach. January 13th's book is: "To Brave Every Danger" by Judith Cook.

Otley and District Gardening Club – please see the note in Grapevine (centre pages).

SWILLAND

Ann Kent is away enjoying a well-earned holiday in Australia and has asked me to write this month's news.

We had a good turnout for the church work-party on 7th November. Rain was forecast, but we were lucky and managed to dodge the heavy stuff. Many hands made light work and we soon had the churchyard looking pristine. Thank you all for giving your time and working so hard.

The next day the Royal British Legion and members of the parish attended a short but moving Remembrance service led by Jane Hall, which brought home the level of our indebtedness to those who gave their lives during those times of conflict.

Lots of news was exchanged between volunteers at the work-party and thank you to Gill Reidy for welcome refreshments. We took up the vestry linoleum floor-covering, which was probably laid between the wars. It filled 2 dustbins with its remnants. As expected, there was rot beneath the lino, so another item goes on the list for replacement. Upkeep on St. Mary's is like painting the Forth Bridge!

The floor under the organ is also due for the same treatment. Over the last few years the tilt of the organ has moved from outwards to

inwards - one of the clues that expedited the organ's removal for its long-awaited refurbishment.

As a result of fundraising efforts and with the continuing monthly generosity of a select band of parishioners, we now have enough money for refurbishment of the organ. A firm of restorers came in October to take it away, leaving the wooden carcass that could not be sectioned without damage, up against the wall of the chancel. A carpenter inspected the floor and found rot, so we hope that in the next few weeks and before the newly-restored organ is returned, he will craft a new floor for its base.

At the same time we are scheduled for redecoration of the nave and chancel walls in traditional breathable distemper, which is of course not used much these days except in medieval buildings and so is (surprise, surprise), much more expensive than normal paint. However, by using it, damp in the walls should be less.

The annual Christmas Draw will be at 12 noon in Witnesham village hall on the second Saturday in December (12th) rather than the traditional first. Draw tickets will be available up to the day of the event from Gill Reidy on 785716, so please sell a book or two to friends and family. Every penny helps, and as my grandmother used to say to me with monotonous regularity; "Look after your pennies and the pounds will look after themselves." If you have any wanted or unwanted gifts (we aren't fussy) that would serve as prizes in the draw or that we can sell, please contact Gill or me (785726). There will be soup and sandwiches and lots of things to buy that might just be right for a little Christmas present for Aunty or Uncle.

After a great evening last year, we are having another carolling venture on Friday 18th December. There will be a practice at the church on Monday 14th at 7.30pm, but if you miss the practice you will still be very welcome on the night. We intend to start at Swilland Mill, proceeding along High Road in a leisurely manner down to the Moon & Mushroom. As you would naturally assume, within the said hostelry and to restore ourselves after the gruelling trek, we will make

further merriment. We have been told we only managed to half-raise the roof last year and Nikki Gavin, the landlady, is fully expecting to make an insurance claim for a new roof this year.

As a result of some chin-wagging at the churchyard work-party between Catherine Beaumont and our newest resident to the village, Gina Wilden, it was agreed that we will embark on our carolling after a snifter of mulled wine at 6pm at Gina's house, Red Brick Cottage, 7 High Road, for **10 minutes only**. In so doing it is hoped that throats will be adequately oiled and tuned, whilst singers will still be able to walk a straight line. We will be collecting for the Hospice, so please, when you hear our dulcet tones outside your door, open up, join us in song, and reward our harmonious efforts with your generosity to that worthy cause.

We hope the organ will be back and installed by Sunday 6th December with a communion service at 9.30am in a shiny decorated church, but if not, there is a carol service at 11am on Sunday 20th, when it definitely should be back. Please come along. On Christmas Day there is a family communion service at 9.30 am. Let's fill the church, so please join us to celebrate Christ's birth. The first service in 2016 will be communion at 9.30am on January 4th.

Brian Williams

RAINFALL – OCTOBER

The dominant feature of the weather this autumn has been the mild westerly winds, for which we must thank our old friend, the jet stream. October has followed a similar pattern to September with short spells of rain followed by a comparable periods of dry and fine conditions. The result of this has been one of the most colourful autumn leaf-changes on the trees that I can remember. While the warm weather has cut heating bills, it doesn't cut the grass, which, with the weeds, has kept growing. Rainfall was 2 inches, giving us a total for the year so far of 20.40 inches, which is about the average for ten months.

Russell Ling

DEBENHAM GROUP PRACTICE

Last month, over 38 hours of clinical time was lost – this equates to an incredible 228 potential appointments lost. If you do make an appointment that you later decide you do not need or want to attend, please contact the surgery to let us know so that it can be offered to a fellow patient.

On behalf of the Practice, I would like to thank the members of our PPG who supported us so well at the recent flu clinics. They also held a raffle which raised £835 over the three days and, as a result, we have been able to purchase specialist foetal heart monitors for each of the three surgeries. These will be of great benefit to the clinical team and undoubtedly avoid the need for some patients to have to go to hospital.

In order to support the development of our staff and to help them provide the best possible service and level of care to our patients, we provide regular training one afternoon per month, during which time the surgery and dispensary will be closed. These dates will be advertised on our website and notices put up in advance at the relevant surgeries.

Steve Bloomfield-Business Manager

SMILE LINES

Santa's sleigh - I remember when Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer, and pulled up in front of the toy factory. 'Have you passed?' I asked.

Father Christmas pointed to the front of the sleigh. 'See for yourself!' he called proudly. 'No-el plates!'

Footballer's carol - A football supporter's favourite Christmas song? 'Yule never walk alone'.

.... think Christmas crackers!

What did the pack of Walkers say to the Skips?

Merry Crispmas.

What do you call a snowman with a suntan?
A puddle.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
A mince spy!

What carol is heard in the desert?
Camel ye faithful!

How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?
A merry Christmas to ewe!

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?
They both drop needles.

AT THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR OF CHURCH TIMES

Subscriptions will be due in January and I'm afraid we need to increase the price to £8.50 a year.

Thank you to Gipping Press, Amy Wasp and Ruth Bullock for helping produce the magazine and to all our distributors, readers, advertisers and contributors. Can we please have material for January's edition as soon as possible after Christmas, so that it can be with the printers by 4th January. Delivery will be later than normal.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

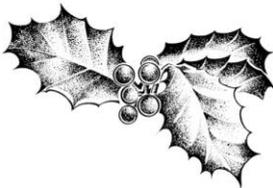


HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus – the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



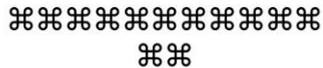
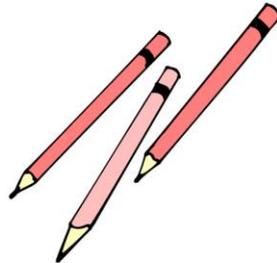
Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

What do elves sing to Santa?

Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!



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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

The Pub is the Hart of the Village...



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