

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Loving Lord of the Last Supper, help us as we try to follow your example in serving others;

Suffering Lord of the Cross, help us to make known your presence and your power to all who suffer;

Risen Lord of the empty grave, help us fill the world with new joy, hope and life;

That all of creation may know and proclaim the deep love of God that is stronger than death.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Our coffee-mornings continue to be well-attended and enjoyed. Our latest one was particularly active preparing the posies to hand out at the Mothering Sunday service, which we held on March 8th. Our next coffee-morning is on 3rd April, Good Friday, and will be at Linda and Mick Ellis's home, Dormers, The Green at 10.30am - all welcome.

The Mothering Sunday service was also well-attended despite there being no heat in the church because of electrical problems. It was enjoyed by all, and with it being a beautifully warm and sunny day, we were able to walk around the outside of the church in ancient tradition and admire the completed work on the church roof. There is still quite a lot of work needed in various areas, but we are delighted with what has been done so far. Thanks go to Hamish Bullough and John Pollard for organizing it.

Following the service we had our annual meetings at which John and Duncan were elected to continue as churchwardens. We thanked Richard Davison, who is now standing down as secretary after many years of service, for all his hard work and dedication,. We welcome Steve Wilson, who has been elected to take on the role. We are pleased to announce that our electoral roll has grown this year to 18 members.

Our Easter Day service on the 5th of April is at 11 o' clock, and will include communion or a blessing for all those who wish to receive it. All are welcome and if you would like to come but have not got transport then please contact me or either of the churchwardens and we will do our best to arrange a lift for you. This also applies to any of our services and coffee-mornings.

Two dates for the diary- Ashbocking and Swilland, who are now joined as companion churches led by Catherine Beaumont, are planning a barn dance for 26th September. - more details and tickets nearer the time. Also, the Suffolk Historic Churches sponsored bike ride is on the 12th September and our coordinator will be John Pollard - more details later.

The confirmation group is going well and will probably continue as a Bible-study group after the confirmation on the 21st June at 4pm at Ashbocking church.

We are very fortunate in that Jan and Jon Bates, who have recently moved into Ashbocking, have very kindly offered to start a daytime Bible group in their home on a

Wednesday morning. This will be held at No 4, The Cottages, Ashley Grange, starting on the 13th May, 10am – 12pm. The group is open to all, whether you have been a Christian for a number of years or are just starting out. Jan and Jon invite you to join them for a cup of tea or coffee with plenty of biscuits and a very warm welcome. Please contact them on 892605 or 0723052901 if you are interested.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

Frank Bernard Titshall 1914 - 2015

Frank was born on June 14th 1914 at Hoo, the second of five children. His father was a gamekeeper at Hoo Hall and also served in the Machine Gun Corps in WW1. Frank went to Charsfield, Monewdon and Easton schools, leaving when he was fourteen. His happy childhood in the countryside led to his great knowledge and love of nature which he delighted to share.

He started work at Turners grocery shop in Charsfield , in 1928, cycling around the villages on his trade bike. After he learned to drive he did the deliveries in a van. He met Jessie his future wife when delivering to Charsfield Hall where she worked. Jessie and Frank married in Clopton Church in 1939 and they were regular worshippers there until failing health in their nineties made it difficult for them to attend.

Frank served in the Royal Army Service Corps in WW2 and, after daughter Shirley's birth in 1943, was posted to the Middle East. He was demobbed in 1946, arriving home on Shirley's third birthday.

Paraffin oil was used by most villagers then and Frank worked for Soames of Clopton Green for many years delivering paraffin. (Jessie told me he used to smell of paraffin so she made him take his clothes off before he entered the house!) He had several more jobs until he retired in 1979.

Frank took great pride in his garden - rows of vegetables, fruit bushes and flowers and not a weed in sight. He used to stand on the busy road clipping his hedge and loved to wave at passers-by.

Jessie went into Baylham Care Home in 2011 and Frank joined her there in 2013. He died there peacefully on February 14th. He will be remembered as a 'perfect gentleman'. He was always smartly-dressed and was never seen without his tie, even when gardening. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

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Please come and join us on Easter Day for our sunrise service at 6.30am in the churchyard. This will be followed by bacon rolls and drinks. A service of Holy Communion follows at 8 o'clock. The next craft-morning will be from 10am until 1pm in the village hall on Wednesday April 1st.

Wednesday 15th April is the date of the next coffee-morning, also at the village hall from 10am until noon and hosted by Pat Graham and Jenny Vince. Everyone is welcome at all these events.

Cleaning for April - Doris Main
Flowers for Easter – everyone

Doris Main

OTLEY

Easter this year will be the first weekend in April. There will be a Messy Church session for the children at 10 o'clock on Good Friday, and the church will be decorated on Easter Saturday, 4th April. Before Mothering Sunday the children had Messy Church when they made posies and decorated biscuits for their mothers. At the same time the Cubs were helping with the planting of a new hedge around the south and west boundaries of the churchyard, and made a very good job of it. The annual church meetings will take place in church at 6 o'clock on Sunday 26th April, when reports will be read and officers elected.

The church bells have recently been overhauled, having not been checked for thirty years. They are in very good condition and only a few 'nuts and bolts' needed replacing. This is a marvellous tribute to the workmanship of those who made the bells so many years ago. Later an extended band of bellringers - 27 in total, including the Debenham Ringers who ring here sometimes - enjoyed a good supper at The White Hart.

We want to remind you that photographs of Otley are required for the calendar which the Otley Church Preservation Trust is producing for next year. Perhaps you photographers are waiting for better weather, but Tess Papworth (tel. 890091) really needs them by June, to start the selection and production process. We are hoping for some lovely, original shots.

To reiterate from last month's magazine, The Otley Players are presenting Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit" on 16th, 17th and 18th April, and tickets - £7-50 for adults and £4 for children - are available from Joan Parish tel. 890715. Be sure to buy them soon because they will sell fast.

The Gardening Club will be meeting again on Monday 13th April for its AGM (very brief) followed by a horticultural quiz composed by Matthew Tanton-Brown from The Walled Garden. This event is returning by popular demand, and members can bring friends, neighbours and relatives to make up teams of four.

The next regular coffee-morning will be held on Thursday 23rd April at Foxgloves, Chapel Road, the home of Geoffrey Mason, where he and his team will be looking forward to greeting you.

Russell Ling has taken over as programme secretary of the Friendship Club from John Jay, who has been organising it successfully for a long time. There will be two summer outings this year, one to Anglesey Abbey at

Stoke-cum-Quy near Cambridge on 18th June, and one to Clacton Air Show on 27th August. Non-members are welcome to join these trips, and places can be booked through Wendy Marshall tel. 892588.

Happy Easter to all our readers.

Rose Rogerson

Church Flowers

Easter - everybody/Joan Parish

Church cleaning:

Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

Sidepersons' Rota:

Apr 5th 11.00am Family Service Nigel Crowley

Apr 19th 9.30am Holy Communion Sue Wilkins

Apr 26th 6.30pm Short act of worship and annual meetings

Village diary:

2nd April Friendship Club AGM

6th April Easter Egg Hunt - Under 5s

16th April Friendship Club - Easter bonnets

16th/17th/18th April "Blithe Spirit" - TOPS

27th April Community Council AGM

2nd May Casino Night - School PTA, 7.30pm
tickets from the Post Office or tel. 890069

OTLEY UNDER FIVES

The children have continued to enjoy outside activities and exploratory games with the muddy-chocolate factory in our safe play-area and have enjoyed painting many objects (and staff) with this medium! We will soon be turning our attention to another fun outdoor activity as we begin to get our vegetable patch ready for planting. The children enjoy

watering and caring for the plants and vegetables, watching them grow, and even better – tasting the fruits of their labour! We are also in the process of moving our learning from the New Year of the Sheep to the spring lambs of Easter and the children will spend some time with Mrs Tomany and Class 1 doing Easter crafts. As well as having lots of fun and eggs-itement, this is one of the great opportunities Otley Primary School is able to offer our children to help with the transition to ‘big school’.

We have the Easter Bunny visiting again this year and will be hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt within the school grounds. If you would like another eggs-cuse for chocolate and would like to join in the fun please hop along on Monday 6th April 10.30am - £2 per child. There will be refreshments and cake available to purchase as well. We look forward to welcoming you and don't forget please check our new website and facebook page and we are always happy to arrange a free trial session. Please telephone 07789 468853 for further information.

Vanessa Osborne

OTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Anthony Ling, Sandra Grant and I have been working closely with BT on superfast broadband, following recent problems with ducting in the Ipswich Road area, when many of our telephone and internet connections suffered. It was a unique opportunity for BT to work with a parish council and we were able to instigate a site meeting with Mr Haag, of Swiss Farm, to discuss routing options. Mr Haag was willing to allow BT to duct along his field edge,

but BT brought in a different contractor and continued their work along Ipswich Road. The works have not gone smoothly but we would like to reassure you that both Tony Barrett and the parish council continue to put pressure on SCC Highways and BT in order to bring faster broadband to the village.

We have also placed orders for a new 'Otley' village sign for the Newlands end of the village and, following concerns by local residents, for two 'beware of pedestrian' signs for the hill leading from Otley Bottom into the village. With one of the main topics of concern within the village being speeding, Highways have also approved our request to purchase a mobile speed sign which can be positioned in 4 locations around the village. Alongside this, Community Speedwatch continues to operate and David Hook is now our representative on a new group - SAVID (Safer Village Driving). This group has been set up for villages to work co-operatively to encourage safer driving and observance of speed limits, in an effort to improve road safety and quality of life. SAVID is currently looking for more members and anyone who is interested should contact David on 890122.

We will be entering the Village of the Year competition for 2015 and Penny Sunaway and I will keep you updated.

Vanessa Osborne, Parish Clerk

OTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The formal federation with Witnesham Primary School is now a year old and is working better than we had all

hoped for. The old governing bodies of Otley and Witnesham now meet as one group and very quickly the understandable concerns of “home” and “away” feelings amongst governors have disappeared and it would be difficult to tell from which old governing body they came from. Governors genuinely have the best interest of both schools in everything they do. Because of work commitments Caroline Manning has recently resigned as a governor and we thank her for her past contribution and involvement.

The budgets for the two schools are still calculated and monitored independently but governors have recently decided to merge the two finance committees into one. These were the last of a number of sub-committees that operated independently of each other.

The 2015 parent survey showed that the school is performing exceptionally well in the fundamentally important areas that are key to its aims and ethos. In many areas parental satisfaction is in excess of 95% which is very pleasing for the School’s leadership

Life at school continues apace. The much acclaimed Dance Spectacular II was held at Trinity Park on 10 March where every child from both schools put on another great show in front of an audience of 500. Mike Crichton, Senior Adviser to Suffolk County Council’s Learning and Improvement Service described it as being “what good schools are all about” and is a “story he will tell at national

level". This is an initiative that everyone involved with the schools should rightly be very proud of.

Children are still representing the school in a number of sporting fixtures. A notable achievement is that of the basketball team, which came 3rd in the small schools group at a recent tournament. And of course, all pupils are working hard in the classroom especially the Year 6s who are preparing for their SATs in May.

Ian Liddell, Chair of Governors

SWILLAND

Our annual meetings were held on 1st March. We are very pleased to welcome Shirley and Andy on to the PCC. Brian Williams is still our only churchwarden, Gill Reidy will continue as secretary and deanery synod representative and I will continue as treasurer. I would particularly like to thank Brian for his hard work on behalf of Swilland Church.

May I wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Flower Rota

5th April	Easter - all help please
12th April	Ann Kent
19th - 26th April	Gill Reidy
3rd -10th May	Jackie Williams

Ann Kent

Rainfall – February

February fill dyke it was not as we only had 1.55 inches of rain. This wasn't quite the lowest that I have recorded; in

2012 it was 0.35 inches, but after March that year, it turned very wet and the year ended with a total of 29.80 inches. February 2015, apart from cold nights and some wind, was quite pleasant with many long days of sunshine, which is unusual for February but welcome none the less. The dry days and cold nights have continued into March and this has retarded early growth in the hedges.

While it is pleasant to have such dry weather we do need rain to replenish the underground aquifers, otherwise there is a possibility of a water shortage later in the year. With the number of houses that are scheduled to be built in this area, I feel that not enough consideration has been given to ensuring a sufficient supply of water to satisfy the increase in population.

Russell Ling

Our volunteers

Many of you do sterling work on a voluntary basis and it would be good to hear about it. I hope the following article by retired doctor Anthony Reidy of Swilland will encourage others to write something.

Charity shops are a prominent feature of our high streets and they rely on a large army of volunteers to run them. I spend half a day a week at the Oxfam bookshop in Woodbridge. There is also an Oxfam general merchandise store in the Thoroughfare. A general manager oversees upwards of 30 volunteers in the bookshop alone. Each volunteer may be responsible for a

section within the shop sorting donations to ascertain their value and keeping the shelves refreshed. Fiction is the biggest seller, with children's books the next most popular. Other sections include biographies, history, books of local interest, cookery, gardening, sailing, natural history, literature, religion and arts and crafts. There is also a section for collectable books.

I was initially assigned foreign languages (a subject I knew little about). German and French books were challenging, enough but trying to sort books in Russian, Polish or Czech was not easy, and in Japanese an impossibility. It was, therefore, something of a relief when the sports section became available, an area much more closely aligned to my interests. The quantity of books donated is large and the quality is such that the customers have been known to enquire if it is a second hand bookshop or if the books are new. I enjoy my contact with fellow volunteers and customers and there have been some magic moments to see the delight on the face of a customer when he or she has stumbled across a long lost and treasured book.

What is seen in the shop is only half the operation. Many books are deemed to be of a more specialist nature or to have a better market if sold on line; my challenging French and German books for example can be advertised on the equivalent foreign language versions of Amazon.

Donated books are a good source of income for Oxfam so spring clean your bookshelves and bring unwanted books

along to the Oxfam bookshops in either Woodbridge or Ipswich. It is possible to park a car to unload books between 9 and 10 am and 4 and 5 pm outside the Woodbridge shop. Taxpayers are encouraged to Gift Aid their donations which gives Oxfam additional revenue. Whilst in the shop it is always a temptation to buy books to replace those that have been donated, a temptation I have yet to overcome!

Anthony Reidy

OTLEY HALL RETREAT DAY PROGRAMME

Saturday 11th April Malcolm Guite – Chaplain at Girton College, Cambridge -‘Mariner! A voyage with Samuel Taylor Coleridge’, opening up spiritual themes of love, loss, recovery and prayer through his poetry.

Wednesday 15th April Gordon Melvin - Enneagram part one

Tuesday 28th April Christopher Chapman - the poetry of Christina Rossetti

Retreat Days cost from £22 and include all refreshments and lunch. Contact [890264](tel:890264) or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further information.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

Do try to read the letter from the Church of England bishops. You can find it at

<https://churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/02/house-of-bishops%27-pastoral-letter-on-the-2015-general-election.aspx>

This is an edited introduction by one bishop

Each day when Parliament is sitting, the duty bishop in the House of Lords prays that the House should “Lay aside all private interests, prejudices and partial affections”, so that it may serve “the public wealth, peace and tranquillity of the Realm, and the uniting and knitting together of the hearts of all persons and estates within the same.”

This prayer points Parliament towards a search for the common good and towards political virtues which reach beyond narrow party-interest, tribalism and short term advantage. The letter seeks to work out the implications of that for the conditions of our day. It recognises the strength and depth of the alienation and disillusion with politics. A new vision is required in which neither the state nor the market can accumulate the kind of unfettered power which divide people from one another and defeat hope and purpose. In particular we seek to resist politics as an extension of consumerism in which parties tailor their policies to attract tightly defined electoral groups, appealing to sectional interests in pursuit of a narrow slice of swing votes.

In this letter we seek to work out these political principles in terms of some major policy areas. We point to the almost intractable inequalities which continue to widen. On immigration we resist the growing appetite to exploit grievances and find scapegoats. We extend these principles to a discussion of Britain’s place in the world, calling for a more open, realistic and informed debate about the realignments of global power and their implications for our country.



JESUS IS ALIVE!

Early on the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they reached the tomb it was open, the big stone that had sealed the entrance was rolled away - and it was empty! They thought that someone had stolen Jesus' body but an angel told Mary what had really happened, that Jesus was alive!

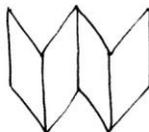
The disciples were all together when Mary arrived back with her news and told them what had happened, but they wouldn't believe her. They were confused and afraid. Sometimes we say 'I can't believe it' if someone tells us really good news. We say 'I'll believe it when I see it with my own eyes' and that is what the disciples said. And when they saw the risen Jesus they believed. Read about what happened that first Easter Day in the four Gospels. And what is the next thing that you do when you hear good news? You want to share it with someone else.

Share the Good News with someone this Easter!

SPREAD THE NEWS

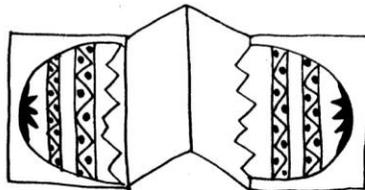
One way you can pass the good news on is to send Easter cards. You could make some of these easy Easter egg cards (the egg is a symbol of new life so that's why we have eggs at Easter). You will need

- a strip of thin card about 10cm by 30cm
- another piece of coloured card for the egg about 9cm by 12cm
- felt tip pens
- a ruler, scissors and a glue stick.



Fold the long strip of card in half and then each half back on itself to make a W shape.

Draw an egg shape on the coloured card and cut round it. Cut the egg in half with a jagged edge and stick it onto the folded card as shown. Decorate it and write your message inside - you could even draw a fluffy yellow chick inside the egg.



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