

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

You are the potter and we are the clay.

Somehow or other we have held together until now.

We are still carried by your mighty hand and we are still carried by your three fingers, Faith, Hope and Charity, with which you support the whole great bulk of the earth, that is to say, the whole weight of your people.

Cleanse our reins and hearts by the fire of your Holy Spirit and establish the work that you have wrought in us, lest we return again to clay and nothingness.

William of St. Thierry (approx. 1080 - 1148)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Congratulations to Mike Surridge, who was part of the World Championship Hockey England over 70s team, which beat Holland 2-1 on 15 June at The Hague (good to know we can beat the Dutch at something). Even better, Mike scored the winning goal. Also congratulations to Jon Last and Bev Johnson, who have got engaged and will be marrying next year, and to John and Linda Pollard, who have another grandchild, bringing them to a total of 5. All of the Pollards' daughters were married at Ashbocking church.

Catherine was interviewed by Rachel Sloane for Radio Suffolk about the history of Ashbocking church and this was broadcast on the weekend of 12/13 July. Many thanks to all the auction team who are working hard to get the auction of promises evening ready for all the village and those who are coming to support us.

The service on 13 July was about holidays and taking time out. We were each given a peacock feather and Catherine did a

meditation to teach us about looking carefully at nature to gain peace and stillness in our busy lives.

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

The strawberry tea at the end of June was very well supported and the weather did not deter lots of people from coming to support us. We held the first strawberry tea in 1995 so this was the twentieth year of holding the event. The strawberries were donated by Arthur and John Barham. Over fifty people enjoyed strawberries and cream and some delicious home-made cakes. Thank you to the Barhams, all who made cakes and to Katherine Deacon who came back to Clopton to hull all the strawberries. We raised £311.50. All left over bric-a-brac was given to the St Elizabeth Hospice shop in Wickham Market.

Those learning bellringing meet at the church on Friday evenings at 7.30pm. If you would like to try your hand, please contact David Stanford on 01394 384017. There is no obligation to continue if it is not for you!

Thank you to the Otley ringers who come to ring for our service on the fourth Sunday of each month.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored bicycle ride is on Saturday 13th September. It would be great to have some riders from Clopton this year. We would also like to have offers from people to sit in the church to record the visiting cyclists. Please phone 737602 if you would like to help.

The next craft-morning is on Wednesday 6th August in the village hall from 10am until 1pm. You don't need to live in Clopton - everyone is very welcome. Phone 737805 for details.

Our August coffee-morning is on Wednesday 20th August from 10am until noon in the village hall.

Church cleaning
Church flowers

Audrey & Chris Barker
Doris Main

Doris Main

OTLEY

The fete took place on a very warm and sunny afternoon and was well supported. There were some new stalls and attractions, including the chance to take an alpaca for a walk, and Otley College had brought some horses. There were amusing classes in the dog show and Julie Baker's dog won supreme champion; the egg throwing contest was won by Jake Spalding and his father; the Gym Club gave a good display; and there were tug of war competitions for children and adults, so plenty of real entertainment! In the evening there was a barbecue, with music provided by Nick Ling's band, enjoyed by everybody there, before a thunderstorm brought the day to a close, as indeed one had started it at 5.30 am. The following day was wet, so we were indeed blessed.

The progressive dinner was very successful with 28 couples taking part, the highest number yet, which amounted to seven supper parties taking place simultaneously. A lot of people decided to travel by bike and they could be seen speeding through the village, trying to get to the next course on time! You don't know where you are going to eat or who you are going to meet, so it is an evening of surprises, and we all finished up at the Lings for coffee. Thank you to Vanessa Ling and Ruth Farnhill for the intricate organisation involved. £560 was raised for church funds and another dinner is planned for September next year.

The sponsored bike ride for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 13th September. Sponsorship forms will be available from James or from the back of the church. Now that cycling is enjoying such a wave of popularity, it would be great to think that a few new people would take to their bikes

for this cause. As a reminder, your sponsorship money is divided equally between the Trust, which gives grants for repairs to churches and chapels, and the individual church which you nominate. It is a very pleasant day, visiting different churches with your picnic in your saddlebag, so please give it some thought.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be held on Thursday 14th August at Grange House, the home of Russell Ling, from 10 o'clock. He will make you very welcome there, as always.

Warm congratulations to Rebecca Upson and Wolfgang Schuster who were married here in early July, and we wish them a long and happy life together. They, in turn, want to thank everybody from Otley for all the cards and good wishes which they have received.

Finally, we hope everybody has a very happy summer holiday.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

7th August	Friendship Club - Mr Morrison
21st August	Friendship Club - Outing to Blacksmith's Cottage Nursery
29th/30th August	'Tunes 2' Songs from the shows
31st August	Friendship Club 50 th anniversary celebration 4 - 7pm, visitors welcome

Church flowers: Gerry Senior / Rose Rogerson

Brasses: Betty David

Church cleaning No cleaning

Sidepersons' Rota

17th August	9.30am Holy Communion Jane Woods
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SWILLAND

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored bicycle ride will be on 13th September from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please put this date in your diaries. We hope to have some cyclists from Swilland. Nearer the time I will prepare a rota to man the church - if you are able to help with this, please let me know. I have all the sponsorship forms - please ask me if you need one.

Another reminder for our **Harvest Festival** on 21st September at 11 a.m. This will be held in the barn at Red Court. Bishop John Waine will be preaching and music will be provided by the music group - cello, flute, viola, clarinet - with Wendy Gourlay on the keyboard. Do put this date in your diaries.

Ann Kent

Church flowers

3 rd – 10 th August	Jackie Williams
17 th - 24 th August	Kim Shaw
31 st August	Ann Kent

RAINFALL – June

In May we had a considerable quantity of rain but June has now evened up the total for the two months with 1.10 inches most of which fell in the last week. It was an excellent month for haymaking with plenty of warm sunshine.

Those of you who watched Springwatch from Minsmere on the TV will have seen the pictures of a cuckoo that laid its egg in another bird's nest, leaving the owners to bring up its offspring - the cuckoo's method of getting out of a time-consuming job. I haven't heard the cuckoo in Otley for some years, so numbers must have declined. An old country saying goes something like this: The cuckoo comes in April; in May it starts to lay; in June it changes its tune; in July it prepares to fly; in August fly it

must; if it waits till September, it will never remember; if it leaves in October, it will never get over.

Russell Ling

Otley Hall Retreat Day Programme

Tuesday 5th August - Manwar Ali - 'Understanding Islam'

Tuesday 21st August - Jackie Sears - 'People of the way' - walking with God; a day of deep silence.

An exploration of our Christian life and journey as 'People of the Way' and what that means for our life with Jesus today.

Details of the speakers were in July's edition. Both days run from 10am-4pm and cost just £22, to include all refreshments and a buffet lunch. Please contact Karen on 890264 or events@otleyhall.co.uk

SMILE LINES

How prayer reaches God - An anxious mother went to seek help from her minister. "How do we know if our prayers are heard by God?" she asked. "My 10 year old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven." Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's omniscience and omnipresence....but still the mother looked worried. Finally he asked her why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God. The mother explained: "Because instead of saying 'amen', when she finishes, she says 'click, send'."

Seaweed - Where does seaweed go to look for a job in the summer?

The 'kelp wanted' section.

Oops - Memory is what tells a man his wedding anniversary was yesterday.

Drowned - Sadly, my friend drowned this summer in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.

Wrong water - A mother was watching her four year-old son playing outside in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He was walking back and forth across the pool with an expression of great concentration on his face, and making big splashes. Suddenly, the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop water out of the pool with a pail. "What's wrong, dear?" asked the mother.

"My teacher said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work," he replied.

Smile - What is a smile? It's when you laugh in a whisper.

Aug. 4 St.Sithney - a saint who preferred mad dogs to women

You know how some men find women's interest in romance and clothes hard to cope with? Well, Sithney (or Sezni) should be the patron saint of all such men.

According to a Breton folk legend, Sithney was a hermit of long ago, minding his own business, when one day God told him that he was going to make him the patron saint of girls. Sithney was horrified. He foresaw a future where thousands of young women were forever plaguing him to find them good husbands and fine clothes... the thought appalled him. So Sithney begged God for some other job, something more peaceful than dealing with young women. "Very well," said God. "You can look after mad dogs, instead."

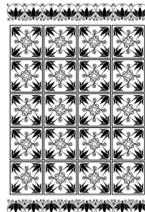
Sithney replied cheerfully: "I'd rather have mad dogs than women any day." And so it was. Since that time, young women have pestered other saints for husbands and fine clothes, while sick and mad dogs have been taken to drink water from the well of St Sezni, patron of Sithney, near Helston in Cornwall.

NOBODY'S PERFECT



None of us are perfect, we all make mistakes. But Jesus came to tell us that God is always ready to forgive and pardon our mistakes. God forgives, but we often make the mistake of holding on to what went wrong – and when we do this we are doubting God.

There is a tradition that people who make patchwork quilts and those who weave Persian carpets both share: every piece they make has a mistake in it. The idea behind this is that only God is perfect and if the quilt or rug was perfect then its maker would be trying to be equal with God, and that would be a sin. Sometimes you have to look very closely to see the mistake in the pattern.



Like the quilter and the weaver, we should blend our mistakes into the pattern of our lives, not ignoring them but using them to remind us of God's love and forgiveness.

SEW, SEW

The answers to all of the following are types of fabric or cloth. Can you say which fabric is...

1. One of the Channel Islands?
2. What felt is made out of?
3. Named after a town in France and used to make strong trousers?
4. Made from flax?
5. A jockey's racing colours?
6. A single stocking?
7. A fabric woven in little blocks?
8. The coat of an animal?
9. What an artist paints on?
10. Woven in a Scottish pattern?



What kind of clothes are you going to make with all these tea bags?

Baggy tea shirts.

I bought a carpet in mint condition today.

As good as new, do you mean?

No, it has a hole in the middle.

Answers: 1.Jersey 2.wool 3.denim 4.linen 5.silk 6.nylon 7.gingham 8.fur fabric 9.canvas
10.tartan

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