

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Advent

We,
waiting, hoping, preparing,
penitently, willingly,
bow our knees.

Jesus,
mediator, redeemer, healer,
lovingly, gently
restores us.

Christmas

Jesus
peaceful, hidden, infant,
lowly, gently
enters this world.

Emmanuel,
God with us,
joyfully, openly
welcomes us today.

Graham Hedger

From the production team

Thank you for reading Church Times over the last year. I am very grateful to all our contributors, especially the regulars in each parish. Thank you as well to Amy Waspe for doing all the hard IT stuff that I can't manage and to Ruthie Bullock for dealing with the adverts. Please send your business to all our advertisers where you can and to Gipping Press (our excellent printers). We are very grateful to all of them too.

January's magazine will not arrive until the middle of the month, so please hang on to this one for details of the services. Please may we have contributions by midday on 30th December.

Subscriptions will remain the same in 2015 and I hope you will continue to take the magazine. Do let me have any suggestions for improvement.

James Hall

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

We had a moving Remembrance service on 9 November during which Catherine told the story of Peter Wright and what led to him being awarded a Victoria Cross. Peter's wife, daughter and daughter in law had lent photos and a painting of the hill in Italy which Peter fought for and succeeded in holding.

The Carols by Candlelight service will be at 4pm on Sunday 21 December. We will be choosing carols at our coffee-morning on Friday 5 December at Rex and Nel's house, Chez Onze in Ashbocking, from 10.30 am – or email your suggestions to me on Catherine.beaumont@otleyhall.co.uk. Do join us.

On Christmas Day there will be a crib service at 11 am in church and the Nativity story will be told by the children – costumes will be provided. This will be followed by a short communion service at which all are invited to come for communion or a blessing. Also we will have mulled wine and mince pies.

Help please! We need a new PCC secretary as Richard Davidson is standing down in March. This involves around 5 meetings a year and a willingness to take and circulate minutes etc. No previous experience needed and it should not be onerous. Please speak to me on 07801 342336 if you are interested.

Catherine Beaumont

All "Poppied Out"

Little did I realize what a task I took on when I mentioned to Catherine Beaumont that I was thinking of knitting some poppies to sell for the British Legion. Once word got out on the streets of Otley and Ashbocking, demand was high. We took on extra knitters in the form of Anna ("knitter extraordinaire") Lawson and Sue Surridge.

With an army of sellers, including Catherine, Penny at Otley Post Office, Liz Sherman, Linda Pollard and others, we raised the amazing sum of £441, selling approximately 145 poppies! Well done everyone and thank you! Good teamwork!

Kate Watts

CLOPTON

There were 76 people at the Remembrance Service led by James Hall at the 493rd memorial in Snipe Farm Road. Wreaths were laid by Chris Angwin on behalf of Clopton Parish Council and by Richard Taylor for the 493rd Bombardment Group. Thanks to Richard and Prilly Taylor for the use of the Education Centre after the service and to Julie and Adrian Yallop and family for providing the delicious refreshments and for hosting us at the memorial, which they look after so well.

Dates for December:-

Wednesday 3rd – craft-morning in the village hall from 10am until 1pm. We would like to see more people, so don't be put off by the name, you do not have to do a craft —just come and enjoy coffee and a chat. You will be very welcome.

Sunday 14th - our annual Gift Service at 9.30 am. New or nearly new toys, books and games or new toiletries will be taken to the Ormiston Trust after the service. They do an enormous amount of good work with families in need and our gifts are really appreciated as Christmas can be a difficult time for these families. Come and join us for this short service followed by refreshments. The service will be taken by Clare Sanders.

Wednesday 17th - from 10 am until noon our Christmas coffee-morning in the village hall. Della Hughes and Anne Pryke always make this a special event, so don't miss it! If you have not been to one of our coffee-mornings yet do come and enjoy the morning.

Friday 19th – carol-singing around the village. We meet at 6pm at

Thamaniya and would like lots of people to join us; a good singing voice is not essential. Wrap up warm and help us to raise money for ***East Anglian Children's Hospice***. We finish the evening at the Schurrs for refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies!

Christmas Eve at 6pm. Clare Sanders will lead our annual Candlelight Carol Service. This is always a special service with the church looking lovely by candlelight. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

Christmas morning - 11am there will be a Family Communion led by Jane Hall.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

<u>Church cleaning</u>	Sue Emmerson (Advent greenery only) Christmas - all help please
<u>Church flowers</u>	Beryl Birchmore

Doris Main

OTLEY

On Remembrance Sunday, the rain cleared away just in time for the ceremony at the village war memorial on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and more than a hundred people attended. Jane led the prayers, Peter Rogerson read the roll of honour, and children from the primary school planted a poppy cross as each name was read out. James Kelly spoke the Exhortation, Lieut.Col. Geoffrey Mason read the Kohima Epitaph, and Brian Childs read the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Wreaths were laid on behalf of village organisations, the Essex Regt. and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regt. Last Post and Reveille were sounded on the trumpet by James Symington, immaculate in his uniform, from Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music, and the Scouts and Cubs lowered their banners as a mark of respect. Helen Jay played the keyboard to accompany the hymns and Mike Bullock provided

the amplification system, as well as solemn music before the service began. It was an impressive event for a village like this and thank you to everybody for making it so.

Sally Whiffing again staged her exhibition in the village hall about those from Otley who served in the First World War. It was very interesting. One of the visitors was the granddaughter of Captain Arthur Sherston of Otley Hall, who was killed in the war, and - amongst other papers - she had brought his Military Cross.

Nearly £1,000 was raised from the sale of poppies, and another £435 from the sale of Kate Watts's lovely knitted poppies, so a total of almost £1,500 was sent to the Royal British Legion, twice as much as last year. Victoria Hook thanks everybody who helped with the collection.

The following weekend Otley Players produced "What Did You do in the War?", a collection of comedy sketches and songs from both World Wars, the most hilarious of which was the piece from " 'Allo, 'Allo", or maybe another from "Blackadder"! There were serious moments as well, in James Hall's choice of war poems, and the singing was good with some lovely solo items. After a shepherd's pie supper (at the evening performance) or afternoon tea (at the Sunday performance), we ended with community singing when everybody joined in wartime songs. TOPS showed their versatility with musical as well as dramatic talent, and a large number of people were involved. Both performances were sold out, and they gave us all a lively and nostalgic entertainment.

Discord, the wellbeing singing group which meets at Moat Farm, held their concert of songs from the shows in the church during the October half-term. The choir has 32 members from Otley and the surrounding villages and they raised the wonderful sum of £675, to be divided equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Otley Church Preservation Trust. It is well-recognised that singing is good for you, lifting the spirits, and that is Discord's purpose. Catherine thanked Michael Dann and Benedicta Chamberlain,

whose inspiration it was to invite Michael to form a group in Otley in addition to his choir in Diss. Discord members clearly enjoy their singing and it is a great success. New members are always welcome - the choir meets on Tuesdays at 1.15pm.

The Fireworks Evening, on a fine night, was well-supported, with a good display. Thanks to everyone involved and to Elmers Hardware of Kesgrave for again supplying the fireworks at a concessionary rate.

Otley Church Preservation Trust reached its 20th anniversary in November and celebrated with a small party at Otley Hall. Tess Papworth thanks everybody who bought Christmas cards this year, which have already sold out, raising £350 for the Trust. In the four years that we have been producing cards, a total of £1,160 has been raised. Now she is looking forward to receiving photos of Otley for the proposed 2016 calendar.

The Friendship Club raised £267 for club funds at its Big Jumble Sale and it has also just received a bequest from the late Hetty Berry of £100, a surprise for which members are very grateful.

The church's **Christmas Draw and coffee-morning** in the village hall, and the school's **Christmas Fair** next door will take place on **Saturday 6th December**, so you can call in at both of those. In the evening it is the **Christmas Dinner Dance** (details in the last magazine). We live a busy life in Otley!

The next meeting of the **Gardening Club** will be on **1st December** when Michael Warren's talk will be entitled 'The Passionate Gardener'. Michael is a horticultural photographer who has worked with many gardeners, including Roy Lancaster.

The next **drop-in coffee-morning** will be on **Thursday 11th December** at 36 Church Road, the home of Fred and Jane Woods.

Details of Christmas services can be found in the middle of the magazine. **Carol-singing around the village** will take place on **Monday 22nd December** starting at 7pm in Spring Park – all voices welcome. Wrap up warmly, but there will be a trailer to ferry you for most of the route. We will be collecting for FIND. (Families in Need in Ipswich).

We wish everybody a very Happy Christmas.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

1st December	Gardening Club - The Passionate Gardener
2nd December	Under 5s - Make your own Christmas wreath
4th December	Friendship Club- Christmas dinner 12 noon
4th December	Under 5s - Clairvoyant night
6th December	St Mary's PCC - Christmas draw and coffee morning
6th December	Otley School - Christmas bazaar
6th December	Community Council - Christmas dinner dance
18th December	Friendship Club - Christmas tea party 2pm
18th December	Scouts - Christmas bingo
22nd December	Carol-singing

<u>Church flowers:</u>	Advent/Christmas - everyone
<u>Church cleaning:</u>	Kate Watson/Karin and Brian Upson
<u>Brasses:</u>	Betty David

Sidepersons' Rota

7th December	11.00am Advent Praise	Sue Wilkins
14th December	11.00am Family Praise	David Papworth
21st December	5.30pm Carol Service	Churchwardens
24th December	11.30pm Midnight Mass	Churchwardens

A Living Crib

Come & join Otley's Christmas Eve Celebration –

MESSY CHURCH & A CRIB SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE

This year we are holding the CRIB SERVICE in a real barn. We will tell the story of Jesus' birth by acting it out with the youngsters. Sing, pray and rejoice together – everyone is welcome. There will be real sheep and donkeys! We need Mary, Joseph, shepherds, magi and lots more.

Messy Church and rehearsal = 10.30am

Crib Service = 4pm both on

24th DEC at Warren's Farm Barn, Otley.

Wrap up warm.

For more details and to offer help, contact Jane Hall – 785251

Otley Coffee-Mornings

From January the Otley coffee morning is changing to the fourth Thursday in the month. This means that the first one will be on Thursday 22nd January at the home of Peter and Rose Rogerson, Church House from 10-12 noon. New venues are always needed and would anyone willing to share their home for a couple of hours with a well-trained, cheerful & sociable group of like-minded folks please contact David or Tess Papworth on 890091.



Otley Under Fives

Otley Under Fives continues this term with activities and experiences for the children to help them understand their community. We will be having a visit from the local police at Woodbridge Safer Neighbourhood Team. There will

be nature walks around the village where the children will undoubtedly find lots of fun and enjoyment kicking the fallen leaves and collecting sticks. They will bring leaves and stones back for

painting and printing and will decorate pine cones with lots of glitter for the festive season.

The children and friends from the school enjoyed an Halloween disco with face-painting, spooky music and games in the village hall. We are now busy preparing for the next fundraising evening - Make your Own Christmas Wreath night - which includes a demonstration by local florist, Sue Courtney, and a chance to make your own seasonal wreath or table decoration on 2nd December. Call 07973272185 for tickets or more information. We are also hosting an evening with psychic medium Ryan Gooding (who is well known for his accuracy and has hosted readings with recognised celebrities) on 4th December. Please call 07747698223 for tickets and information.

The chocolate factory continues in the garden with a busy Christmas production-line of muddy mince pies and frosted cakes and indoors, the children are busy cutting out pictures from catalogues of their favourite toys and writing letters to Father Christmas. They will then head off to the local post office where each letter will be stamped and sent on its way to the North Pole!

In addition to our weekly assembly at the primary school we will be joining Class 1 for a day of Christmas crafts and are busy rehearsing songs for this year's Christmas play 'Snowman at Sunset'. We will be ending the term with a party and a visit from a very special person.....

For more information about Otley Under Fives, to arrange a visit and 'Free' trial session, or to talk to the staff please call us on 07789 468853. Our new website will be launching soon which will include news items and fundraising events along with everything you need to know about us. You can follow us and get up to date information on our Facebook page too – don't forget to 'like' us!

Vanessa Osborne

Otley Parish Council

Otley Parish Council continues to tackle planning and highways issues and other points of interest which affect our village and community. David Hook is now our representative on the SAVID group (safer village driving) which is a group of member villages working to encourage safer driving and observance of speed limits, working closely with the Woodbridge Safer Neighbourhood Team. This is in addition to the work of Tony Barrett and the Community Speedwatch Team, who continue to work provide regular reports to both the parish council and WSNT of their findings. Sandra Grant is our representative on the WSNT Safer Neighbourhood meetings and at our request WSNT is continuing to monitor speeding and student problems. Residents are encouraged to report instances of anti-social behaviour direct to the WSNT for action - telephone 101 or 613500. Sandra's reports from the meetings are updated on our website www.otley.onesuffolk.net and most recently the WSNT made us aware that 60-70 travellers are likely to be moved on shortly from Tangham Forest so we would ask that you ensure any meadows or open land have the entrances gated and padlocked.

Following requests for a bus shelter, and with the assistance of Betty Rudderham in collecting signatories, we are pleased to report that we were successful in our application for a shelter at the Newlands end of the village. We now await a schedule of works. You may also have noticed two osmanthus bushes near the war memorial. Russell Ling and Jayne Vaughan are working on landscaping improvements in this area to commemorate the WW1 Anniversary.

We regularly report problems with our local highways and footpaths, including poor road-markings, damaged drains and road signs, and overgrown hedging, but if you encounter anything, please do not hesitate to contact me on otleyparishclerk@btinternet.com. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact Anthony Ling on 890787 or come

to our next meeting on Monday 1st December at 7.30pm in the back room of the village hall.
Vanessa Osborne (Parish Clerk)

SWILLAND

CHRISTMAS DRAW - 6th December - If anyone has counterfoils that need to be included in the draw, may I please have them as soon as possible. There are more tickets available. Any gifts for the prize list will still be much-appreciated. Do come and join us in Witnesham village hall from 12 noon on 6th December for filled rolls, soup and mince pies. The draw will take place at 1 p.m.

Ann Rose, who has lived in Swilland for about 37 years, is moving to Wortham. She will be greatly missed and we would like to thank her for all her help with church and village events and for her friendship to so many people. Whatever the weather, Ann would be seen walking her dog. In her time here she has had Nabs, Bovril, Folly, Fenny and now Floss - all great characters. I am sure she will come back to see us from time to time and will keep in touch with her many friends in the village and round about. James and Jane Hall hosted a little party for Ann and we presented her with vouchers for her to use for her new home. Thank you to James and Jane for this.

On 8th November we had a most successful day clearing the extremities of the churchyard, polishing the brass and cleaning the church. Many thanks to all who helped with this – come and see the fruits of our labour.

May I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

7th - 14th Dec -

Ann Kent

21st Dec -

Decorate for Christmas - all help please

28th Dec - 4th Jan

Gill Reidy

Carol-singing in Swilland

I am seeking carol-singers for the village. You don't have to be good, just willing to add your two-pennyworth to raise the roof of the houses along High Road on Friday 19th December starting @ 7pm. We aim to assemble at the water-tower and then proceed down High Road to finish at the Moon & Mushroom. There, together with a similar group of like-minded warblers whom Nikki Gavin has recruited on our behalf to achieve harmony, we plan to join the merry-makers within and give expert rendering of any carols not already sung. No doubt there will be an opportunity to wet your whistles as well, if you are so inclined. If you can make that time and date and can also come to a rehearsal in the church on Thursday 4th December at 7pm to tune up, then great!

We are going to make a house-to-house collection and give half to the Hospice and put the other half into church funds to give our tired church organ a major refurb, so your efforts will be meaningful. I know many of you are shy, but the village needs both you and your vocal chords! Please sign up either by email bfwdent@btinternet.com or by phone 785726 or [07768 285670](tel:07768285670) to confirm we will be able to raise a good head of steam on the nights concerned.

Brian Williams

KEY ITEMS - WOODBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2014

Marriage: Michael Hatchett led a thoughtful and informative discussion about the Wedding Project and the value of church weddings. Val Jeffreys and Alison Owen of the Mothers' Union shared their experiences of talking to couples at Wedding Fairs.

Synod Meetings - 2015:

Thursday 19 March - St Mary's Church Room, Woodbridge

Wednesday 17 June - Otley Village Hall

Tuesday 17 November - St Felix Church, Rendlesham

Themes from Growing in God will be explored: Growing in Depth; Growing in Number; Growing in Influence; Growing Younger.

Otley Hall Retreat Day Programme

Fri. **5th Dec.** - Archdeacon Ian Morgan 'A day for Advent with music.' 10am-4pm. £22 to include a buffet lunch.

The programme for 2015 will be available to view and book from 1st December 2014 at www.otleyhall.co.uk. Costs will remain at £22 per person to include all refreshments and lunch. Contact Karen on 890264 or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further details.

Rainfall – October

October was a comparatively wet month giving us 3.50 inches of rain. Fortunately there was no St Jude's gale this year. After improvements to the electricity supply carried out during the summer, we should be in a better position to avoid electricity blackouts in future gales.

November has continued with more unsettled weather caused by the jet stream being to the south of the British Isles and thus allowing the low pressure in the Atlantic Ocean to sweep over the top of us. The only good thing to say about this is that the majority of the rain has petered out by the time it reaches Suffolk. Total rainfall for the year has now reached 20.30 inches which is about average.

Russell Ling

Smile Lines

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!" "Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like

for Christmas. The little girl gasped, and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get for Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked more and more moved by what he heard. At last the carollers stopped, and one ventured: "I understand – you are sad because our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmas days." The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

A Christmas Meditation

Lord of pots and pans and things,

Since I've not time to be
A saint by doing lovely things,
Or watching late with Thee
Or dreaming in the dawn light
Or storming Heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals,
And washing up the plates.

Although I must have Martha's hands,
I have a Mary's mind that's free -
And when I clean and cook and care,
It is your face that I see.

I think of how you trod the earth
Each time I scrub the floor,
Accept this meditation Lord,
I haven't time for more

Klara Munkres (adapted)

*Wishing you a
Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year*





ANGELS

We hear a lot about angels at Christmas. A lot of the carols we sing have angels in them – like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'.

Angels are God's messengers and you can read about the good news they brought to the shepherds in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 8-20.

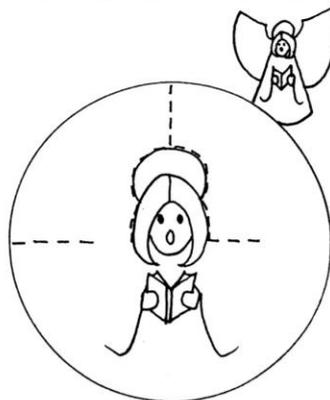
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

You can make a whole host of angels, one for the top of the tree and a row of them, all different sizes, to go on a windowsill. To alter the size simply draw a bigger or smaller circle, you could use a dinner plate or a small tin to draw round. You could even make a giant angel using a dustbin lid!

You will need:

Scissors, thick white paper or thin white card, some felt tip pens and something circular to draw round (use a small plate or saucer to start with).

- Draw a circle on the paper and cut it out. Mark the centre of the circle (lightly fold it into quarters to find the centre).
- Copy the face and features on to the circle and colour them in.
- Mark the dotted lines and cut around them and around the halo and hair as marked.
- Fold the angel into a cone by putting one wing over the other and slotting them together. A little piece of sellotape will hold it firmly.



How do angels greet each other?

They say,
Halo.



What do fish sing at Christmas?

Shark, the herald angels sing.

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