

Prayer for the month

O Divine Presence, as winter palls and wearies, be with all those who are only just keeping their faith alive, those whose hope has run dry, and those who have fallen into despair.

Give them tangible signs to believe again in things invisible. And when all seems grey and our spirits are parched, may we find droplets that lead to the source of your thirst-quenching love.

Tess Ward

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CLOPTON

Since November new recruits have been attending weekly practices at Clopton to learn and develop skills in bell-handling. It is pleasing to report that all have gained satisfaction and enjoyment as they begin to master the art and on December 22nd, with help and support from members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers, the new recruits rang for their first Sunday service. On January 11th a group of ringers from the Guild rang a full peal on the newly-restored bells. It would be good to have a few more people keen to learn to ring and so if you are interested please call David Stanford on 01394 384017.

A coach-party from Norfolk on a mystery-tour joined us for the January coffee-morning. (The coach-driver warned them not to talk about football!) They enjoyed their visit and thank you to everyone for making them so welcome, by chatting to them, making sure they all had cups of tea and coffee, and clearing up afterwards. When they left we all had another cup of coffee and relaxed - glad that coaches do not come every month! However, they have promised to visit again when we hold an event in Clopton.

The February coffee-morning is on Wednesday 19th from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Della Hughes and Vicky Smith. Everyone is welcome.

The heritage centre should soon be available in the church for people to use. More details next month.

Doris Main

Church cleaning Audrey and Chris Barker
Church flowers Beryl Birchmore

OTLEY

First of all, thank you to our bellringers who rang out the old year and rang in the new on New Year's Eve. It is a great tradition at Otley and much appreciated, I am sure, by all who heard them.

The Friendship Club celebrated Christmas in style. They began with a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, cooked by Wendy Marshall and her team, and children from the primary school came to sing to them. Then, two weeks later, they had a Christmas tea when James and Jane Hall entertained them with monologues, Nick Ling sang and played his guitar, and Fred Woods played the piano. It was very successful and both events were greatly enjoyed by everybody.

I have reviewed the church visitors book for 2013 and found that fifty people signed it, more than last year. There were the Wilsons from Ohio, USA ('many ancestors buried in this churchyard'), Mr Narasimhan from India ('revisiting my son's marriage church' - he is Sarah Crowley's father-in-law), and others from South Africa and Berlin. Tony Redman was making the quinquennial inspection of the church, Rachel Sloane of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust was here on the day of the sponsored bike-ride, and Kev and Jayne Jackson, who were married here on 19th May, wrote thanking everybody for making it a wonderful day. Others commented on the 'beautiful west door' and the 'bench ends' - there are many different reasons to visit the church.

In November TOPS produced "Who Killed the Holiday Rep?", when the audience had to guess whodunit, accompanied by a delicious

dinner, and now they are rehearsing a farce for April, "Cat on a Fiddle". Meanwhile Junior TOPS are producing the musical "Around the World in 80 Days". They are one of the first groups to stage this and it might even be a world premiere! Performances will be on Friday 7th February at 7.15pm, and Saturday 8th at 2.15pm and 7.15pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £2-50 for children and can be obtained from Lorraine Sutcliffe tel. 735938.

Gardening Club will be meeting again on 3rd February when Michael Perry, the new products development manager of Thompson & Morgan, will be speaking about 'New, different and unusual plants'. Michael researches plants from all around the world, and has recently launched the TomTato!

The next coffee-morning will be held on Thursday, 13th February at the home of Philip and Betty David, 15 Spring Park, where there will be another bookstall for Age UK. Everybody is welcome there.

We are very sorry to report the death of Perry Crewdson after a long illness. Perry was one of the original trustees of the Otley Church Preservation Trust and he was responsible for the fine publicity material. He will be remembered with great affection by many here, and we send love and sympathy to Daphne and his family. There will be a service of thanksgiving to celebrate his life, at Otley church at midday on Friday, 7th March.

We also send our condolences to Mabel Watson and her family on the loss of John. He gave great service to this village, being a governor of the primary school for twenty years or so, some of them as chairman. He was also a parish councillor and chairman of the Witnesham branch of the Royal British Legion.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

7th/8th Feb.

"Around the World in 80 Days" - Junior TOPS

23rd Feb.

FFY Car Wash

<u>Church flowers</u>	Sue Courteney
<u>Church cleaning</u>	Phil and Tig Sweet
<u>Brasses</u>	David and Tess Papworth

Sidepersons' Rota

2nd February	11am Family Service	Karin Upson
9th February	11am Morning Praise	Richard Treloar
16th February	9.30am Holy Communion	Jane Woods

780 Reasons to say "Thank You"

Why 780? Because that's the number of Christmas cards that were sold this year in aid of Otley Church Preservation Trust. This resulted in a profit of £277 for the Trust. In the 3 years since we have sold these cards, a total in excess of £800 has been raised towards the maintenance of our magnificent church.

To all those who purchased cards, thank you. For those who viewed the cards but weren't inspired by the designs (not many of you thankfully!) I will try to produce something that appeals to you more this year, and for all those who might have purchased but didn't see any cards, I will improve my marketing skills. Together we will endeavour to break the £1,000 barrier in 2014. Don't forget that we will welcome any photos suitable for a future card design. Thank you for your invaluable support.

Tess Papworth

Otley Under Fives

New for Tuesday afternoons starting Feb 25th is 'Rhyme Time'. Come along with your little ones 0-5 yrs and your singing voice, for an interactive song session. 2 to 2.45 pm - finish in time for school pick-up. Refreshments for all. £2.00 per session, payable each week. Otley Under Fives is located within the grounds of Otley Primary School.

We are also running craft sessions throughout the year - please keep a look out for the next one. Each will have 20 places available. Suitable for 2 1/2 years and upwards. Please contact Otley under fives staff Mel and Michelle for more details 07789 468853.

We offer pre-school sessions for children of between 18 months and school age. Contact the above number for admission details or email contact@otleyunderfives.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Future Church Social Events in Otley.

Please enter these dates in your diaries.

Saturday 15th March - Annual church quiz and supper. This very popular event will follow the pattern of previous years with teams of 8 competing for fabulous prizes. Further details will appear in next month's magazine.

Saturday 21st June - A progressive supper is planned. A wonderful summer event - superb food in a range of venues around the village, all on the longest day of the year.

Otley Hall Retreat Day

Monday 17th March - Christopher Chapman

'Finding strength in the Lord.' Exploring the words of the ancient 'St Patrick's Breastplate'. A day of deep silence.

Christopher is a retired Church of England priest, who now enjoys sharing his faith with local churches on Sundays, and leading retreats and quiet days on themes which reflect on historical people and events in a contemporary way. The ancient prayer known at St. Patrick's Breastplate has been an inspiration for many generations of Christians over the centuries and during the day we shall explore some of its ideas through worship, silence, addresses, and activities to see how they can help us today.

The day will cost £22 per person to include a buffet ploughman's lunch. To book a place please contact Karen on [890264](tel:890264) or email – events@otleyhall.co.uk

SWILLAND

In David Kent we have lost a true gentleman and faithful servant of the community and church. His death early in January is a sad loss and we send our very best wishes and sympathy to Ann, Wendy, Heather, Tim and all David's family. He was buried in the churchyard on 10th January and in the afternoon, some 220 people attended a service of thanksgiving to remember his life. We hope to include a proper tribute in a future edition of the magazine.

Church Flowers

2nd - 9th February

Kim Shaw

Rainfall – 2013

The final total for 2013 was 24.65 inches, which is about average and certainly less than in 2012, when it was 29.80 inches. An extra five inches of rain can make a very great difference during the year and 2013 will certainly be remembered for having a dry summer, yet in the last three months we had 8.50 inches. In 2011 we had only 18.40 inches in total, but the summer is not remembered in the same category as 2013 for being very dry, the reason being that the rainfall was fairly evenly spread over the whole year. The difference between a wet year and a dry year therefore depends not so much on how much rain we get, but on the time of year in which we get it.

Russell Ling

SMILE LINES

Explaining romantic attraction A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time." The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!"

Miscellaneous observations on life...A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to overtake them.

You can't have everything - where would you put it?

Love is grand. Divorce is a hundred grand.

There is nothing safer than flying. It's crashing that's dangerous.

Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.

The trouble with referees is that they just don't care which side wins.

Marriage is not a lottery. In a lottery you have a chance.

The difference between men and women Because he is a man, when the car isn't running very well, he will open the bonnet and stare at the engine as if he knows what he is looking for. If another man shows up, one of them will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start."

Because he is a man, when a household gadget stops working, he will insist on taking it apart, even though he'll have to pay someone to put it back together.

Because he is a man, you don't have to ask him if he liked the film. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, he didn't.

Because he is a man, he thinks what you're wearing is fine. He thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it - looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can't you just come now?

Our Page

BERNADETTE

In February 1858 Bernadette was 14 years old and lived with her family in the little town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees in France. While she was out collecting wood to keep the family warm

Bernadette had a vision of St Mary, the Mother of Christ. The lady in blue and white appeared 18 times in all and

asked Bernadette to tell the priests to make a procession to the grotto where she appeared and to build a chapel there. At first the priests didn't believe Bernadette's story because she was only a poor, uneducated girl.

People who were ill came to bathe in the spring of water that appeared at the Grotto and in time a large church was built. And still today pilgrims from all over the world visit the shrine.

What happened to Bernadette? She became a nun. When they asked her if she was sad that the visions had ended she answered: 'I was like a broom. When the sweeping is finished you put it behind the door and forget about it.'

WATER WORDS

All the answers to this Bible Quiz are to do with water. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where the disciples fished (Mark 1).
2. It parted to allow Moses and the Israelites through (Exodus 14).
3. Jacob met his future wife here (Genesis 29).
4. Paul was on his way to Rome when this happened (Acts 27).
5. How Jonah travelled when the sailors threw him overboard (Jonah 1).
6. The river in which Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3).



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Why was Moses hidden quickly?

It was a rush job.

What do you call small rivers that flow into the Nile?
Juveniles.

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1. Sea of Galilee
2. The Red Sea
3. at a well
4. he was shipwrecked
5. in a large fish or whale
6. River Jordan

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