

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Oh God, how long must I call for help before you listen?
How can you let this wrongdoing go on all this fighting and quarrelling? Wicked people are getting the better of good; it's not right, it's not fair!

I will wait quietly for God to bring justice. Even in the midst of disaster I will be joyful, because God is my saviour.

Based on Habakkuk

TWENTY YEARS ON

Although I have been to London many times, I had never been to St Paul's Cathedral, until May 3rd this year when I joined with several hundred women priests, all of whom had been ordained 20 years ago; the first women in the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury joined us for a photo on the steps of St Paul's, a purple dot in a sea of white cassock albs and, I have to say, a fair amount of grey/silver hair..

We met in festive mood in Dean's Yard Westminster, the same place we had gathered on a cold and dark November day in 2013, waiting for the result of the vote - the contrast could not have been greater! From there we set off in procession, through Parliament Square, where the traffic was stopped for us, along the Embankment to St Paul's!

After photos on the steps of St Paul's, we entered the cathedra to an extraordinary 20 minute standing ovation. I was the last to process in, wheeling a priest who had been our assistant chaplain at university, who had felt faint during the 40 minute photo call - the congregations hands must have ached!

In a highly symbolic way, the bishops of the Church of England, entered wearing cassock albs and white stoles, no copes or mitres, but dressed just as the women priests were dressed; and the Archbishop, processed in holding the Gospels, taking the role of the

deacon, the assistant to the president, an unnamed woman priest. In his sermon, he apologised for the pain that had been caused and gave thanks for the witness of the women who had waited so long, before being priested. I sat next to Joy Rapley- which seemed so fitting and appropriate.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of a congregation of thousands, some 300, who couldn't get into the cathedral, watching on a large screen in Paternoster Square. I shan't forget my first visit to St Paul's, though in truth it wasn't the architecture that wowed me, but the occasion.

Clare Sanders

APOLOGIES to David Free, Evergreen Garage and Debbie (mobile hairdresser) for inadvertently omitting their adverts last month. I hope we will be forgiven and that readers will want to support them even more.

James Hall

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

We held a **Rogation service** on Sunday 11th May. Rogation means 'to ask' and so, during the service, we asked for God's blessing on our crops and our endeavours. In January, at the Plough service, some of us brought things that mattered to us and asked for God's blessing on them – jobs, families, community, voluntary work, and seeds. We also visited the Mitchells' fields during the service, where the readings included the parable of the sower.

The **tickets for the Auction of gifts and promises have now gone on sale**: they are £3 (inclusive of a burger or sausage), which we hope you will agree is good value for an evening's entertainment plus some food! Sarah Wilson (785213) has the tickets, which are

being offered to every household, or you can buy them from the Crockery Barn or Otley Village Stores.

Our June service (**Sunday 8th June**) will be a celebration, thanksgiving and blessing of **Pets**. Feel free to bring your pets to the church for the service, which will start at 11:00 am.

Catherine Beaumont and Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

Jessie Titshall, aged 99, a resident of Clopton throughout her life, died on 25th April. Her funeral was at Clopton church on May 15th. We send our sympathy to her husband Frank and all her family.

On June 1st a peal will be rung for the veterans of the 493rd Bomb Group when they visit the church. It is 70 years since they were stationed here. Jack Rude, one of the veterans and a great supporter of Clopton church, has just celebrated his 90th birthday and will there to hear the bells.

Arthur and John Barham have been maintaining our churchyard for 50 years this year. They work very hard to keep it in immaculate condition. Clare will be presenting them with long-service certificates as a token of our appreciation.

Work on the heritage centre has been delayed, but we hope to have most of the reference materials in the church by the end of June. The next meeting of the Heritage Group will be in the church on Friday July 4th, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and if you have any photos, old bills or stories about Clopton in the past, please bring them to share.

The next craft-morning will be on Wednesday 4th June in the village hall from 10am until 1pm. More details from Della on 737805.

Several years have passed since Clopton held a village fete, so the Midsummer Fete on Sunday 22nd June promises to be a great event. There will be lots of attractions, sideshows, teas etc. A team of people have been working hard to make sure it is a success, so come with family and friends to support us. It will be at the village hall from 12noon until 5pm.

The annual strawberry tea will be held at Thamaniya, Shop Road, from 2.30 pm onwards on Saturday 28th June. Any donations of cakes or prizes will be very welcome.

The coffee-morning will be at the village hall on Wednesday 18th June from 10am until noon. It will be hosted by June Hughes and everyone is welcome.

Doris Main

Church Cleaning in June
Church Flowers in June

Beryl Birchmore
Sue Emmerson

Jessie Titshall 22nd January 1915 – 25th April 2014

Jessie was born at Ipswich Road Cottage, Clopton, the third child of William and Amelia Smith. The Smiths were a traditional Suffolk family of farmworkers mainly caring for the horses, Amelia being a tailoress.

Jessie was christened at Clopton church and later sang in the choir and along with her mother was always on the church cleaning and flower rotas. From the age of five to fourteen years she attended Clopton school, achieving well and passing the eleven plus. Amongst her treasures she kept very carefully a beautiful sampler that she worked at the age of twelve years. She was a proud member of Clopton Girl Guides and often recalled memories of the outings. At the age of fourteen Jessie left school and went into service at Charsfield Hall, remembering leaving

home with her possessions in a tin box. It was here that she met Frank, love blossoming amongst the dark leafy lanes.

Jessie married Frank in Clopton church in November 1939. No photographs were taken at the church but immediately afterwards the main party were taken by Soames transport to Ipswich for studio photographs before returning to Rose Cottages, Clopton for the reception. After the war Jessie and Frank made their home at Rose Cottages and lived there ever since.

Daughter Shirley became a teacher and lives near Bury St Edmunds with husband Mike – also being married in Clopton. Jessie was very proud of her grandchildren Victoria and Jason and her great-grandchildren Thomas – christened in Clopton church – Amelia, James and Joseph.

OTLEY

Easter at Otley took the usual pattern of a sombre service on Good Friday, followed by a joyous celebration on Easter Day. Lots of children, and some parents had attended a session of Messy Church where they had made an Easter garden, which was on display, and the church was beautifully decorated with spring flowers.

At the beginning of May, the Revd. Bruce Wakeling was installed by Bishop David as an honorary canon at the cathedral, in recognition of his long service to the church. This is a great honour. Bruce was ordained in 1977, was the rector here from 1989 to 2000 and, since then, has been the rector of Rushmere St Andrew. The special service was attended by James in his official role as diocesan registrar, the Crowleys and John Jay, and afterwards visitors were invited to see one of the four original copies of Magna Carta, on loan from Lincoln Cathedral.

Jane Hall, with others, is organising the Big Lunch at the playing field on Sunday, 1st June. This is part of a national event initiated

by the Church, following on from the success of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, to give communities a chance to celebrate together. It will be a fun day for everybody of all ages and starts with a service for pets on the field at 11. You can read the programme for the day in last month's magazine; please bring your own picnics and we shall hope for fine weather.

Also, we are planning another progressive dinner on Saturday, 21st June. Please let Vanessa Ling know if you would like to take part (tel. 890787). The cost will again be £10 per head. This is always a good opportunity to see old friends and meet new people.

Congratulations to Jimmy Wightman, very well-known in the bell-ringing fraternity, who celebrated his 80th birthday in great style. For the occasion, a full peal (which takes over two hours) was rung at Otley by a group of ringers from local churches, and a quarter peal at Clopton by the Otley ringers. There was also a party here after bellringing practice, with cake and champagne, attended by other ringing friends. Happy birthday, Jimmy, from all of us.

Sally Whiffing and the Otley History Society staged a most interesting exhibition of information and photographs of those villagers who served in World War I, and also the shops and businesses in the village at that time. The village hall was packed with visitors, some from as far as Sussex, who enjoyed meeting up and exchanging memories and snippets of information. A lot of people who have moved away are still very interested. If anybody else can remember more details about the First World War, or the shops and businesses in Otley, Sally would be glad to hear from you, (tel. 892030). She is continually compiling information.

The last event of the Gardening Club for this season is the visit to Cambridge Botanic Gardens on 28th June. This is a heritage listed garden with 8,000 plants from all over the world, and a guided walk has been arranged. After a summer of tending our own gardens, the club will meet again in September.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be held on Thursday, 12th June at Pheasant Cottage, Otley Green, the home of Tessa and Chris Brown, where everybody will be welcome.

We are sorry to report that Mary Webb has died, and send our sympathy to her family and to her many friends here in Otley. Her husband Len was treasurer of the Scouts and she was an enthusiastic supporter of all the events in the village. Two years ago she even carried an Olympic torch with Geoffrey Mason for a short distance. We shall remember her for her determination and great sense of fun.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

1st June	The Big Lunch
5th June	Friendship Club - coffee morning at Wendy Marshall's home at Newlands
19th June	Friendship Club
21st June	Progressive Dinner - St Mary's PCC
29th June	FFY Car Wash
12th July	Village fete
26th July	OtleyFest

<u>Church flowers</u>	Claire Courteney/Valerie Pitchers
<u>Church cleaning</u>	Brian and Karin Upson
<u>Brasses</u>	Betty David

Sidepersons' Rota

1st June	11am Pet Service at the playing field and Big lunch	
8th June	11am Morning Praise	David Papworth
15th June	9.30am Holy Communion	Sue Wilkins
22nd June	6.30pm Evensong	Karin Upson

From Aubrey James

I wish to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards and good wishes received during my period of

hospitalisation. Although at one time active in village life, deteriorating hearing have made me something of a recluse in recent years.

"Often we stand at life's crossroads and view what we think is the end, but God has a much bigger vision, and he tells us it's just a bend." (*Helen Steiner Rice*)

SWILLAND

The dog walk held on 26th April was a great success, with about 40 people and their dogs taking part. Ann Rose had organised a very good route, which went into Otley, well-marked with yellow ribbons.

The total distance was about 5 miles. A few people did a shortened route. At the end there was a ploughman's lunch in the barn at Red Court where other people unable to walk joined us. I would like to thank Ann Rose for masterminding this event and to all those who helped in any way, including by cleaning the barn, as I was unable to do this after my operation. We raised about £345 towards our appeal

We are going to use the barn again on 21st September when Bishop John is coming to preach at our harvest festival. Please put this date in your diaries.

The work is due to start on the tower in mid June. We have raised enough money, which is a great tribute to all those who have contributed to our appeal. Thanks to Brian's hard work we have obtained several grants. We are now working towards the renovation of the organ.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota

1st - 8th June

Jackie Williams

15th, 22nd, 29th June

Ann Kent

RAINFALL – April

The dry weather that we had in March has continued into April and rainfall for the month amounted to .50 of an inch which gives both March and April only 1.40 inches in total. The lack of any ground-frosts during the winter to break down and weather gardens and fields that have been rough dug or ploughed, added to the drying effects of sun and wind, brought a need for rain to help produce a good tilth for sowing and planting. Hedges seem to have been in continuous bloom for the last two months and now at the end of April the hawthorn (may) is in flower.

Russell Ling

Otley Hall Quiet Day Programme

Tuesday 1st July Liz Kirby - 'Art and meditation'

A practical session in meditating on passages of scripture or images and letting the Holy Spirit lead us into creativity.

Monday 14th July Magdalen Houlihan - 'Images of Prayer'

In faith and through a number of images we will allow Jesus to answer the questions that lurk within our hearts and so lead us further along in our spiritual journey.



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Suffolk Singers

On Saturday 28 June in St Michael's Church, Framlingham the Suffolk Singers will be performing the pieces prepared for their participation in the Choir of the World Competition at the Llangollen Eisteddfod just two weeks later. The evening starts at 7 and will be shared with their music director, Claire Weston, who will in turn be

singing items with which she thrilled a capacity audience at her recent recital, accompanied as always by John Hutchings. Tickets £8 (to include refreshments). Call 01473 635525 or Hall Farm Butchers, Framlingham.

Smile Lines

Better by half

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: “You are better-looking than half the women here.”

Reasons for marriage

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, “Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?”

“Not really,” I replied.

“Did you marry him because he was good-looking?”

“No, not that either,” I replied.

“Did you marry him for his money?”

“Definitely not,” I laughed. “He didn’t have any.”

“So,” he concluded sadly, “you just felt sorry for him.”

Gardening

Overheard at my gardening club meeting: “I never knew what compost was until I met my husband.”

Marriage

During a heartfelt chat with her friend about relationships, my wife sighed and said, “You know, if something happened to Lloyd, I don’t think I could ever marry again.”

Her friend nodded sympathetically. “I know what you mean,” she said. “Once is enough.”



St ALBAN

St Alban, whose special day is 22nd June, was the first English martyr, the first English person to be killed for the Christian faith.

He lived in Verulanium which was an important Roman settlement in Hertfordshire. At the time the Romans were persecuting followers of Jesus and Alban was brave enough to shelter a travelling Christian priest. Exchanging clothes

with the priest so that he could escape, Alban was arrested.

When asked to prove his loyalty to Rome and the Emperor by making offerings to the Roman gods, Alban declared his faith in 'the true and living God who created all things'. He was condemned to death and had his head cut off.

All this happened a long time ago but St Alban is remembered today in the name of the place where he lived and died: Verulanium was renamed the city of St Albans.



THE FIRST

All the answers to this Bible quiz are the first: either the first thing in a list or the first person to do or be something.

1. The first man (Genesis, chapter 2).
2. The city where Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts, chapter 11).
3. The first bird Noah sent out of the ark (Genesis, chapter 8).
4. The first woman (Genesis, chapter 3).
5. The first person to see Jesus on the first Easter Sunday (John, chapter 20).
6. What happened on the first day of creation (Genesis, chapter 1)
7. Israel's first king (1 Samuel, chapter 10)
8. The first of the four Gospels (New Testament)

What is a forum ? Two-um plus two-um !

Why didn't the two 4s feel like dinner? Because they already 8.

Answers: 1.Adam 2. Antioch 3.Raven 4.Eve 5.Mary Magdalene 6.God made light and dark
7.Saul 8.Matthew

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