



When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

The sun is shining as I write this, but with a forecast of snow tonight and tomorrow it is obvious that winter has not finished with us yet. Hopefully, by April when this article is published we may be feeling

more spring like. With this in mind, and with Easter Day on the 1st we have organised our spring **churchyard clear-up for Saturday 31st March**. We start at **10am until approx. 12 O'clock**, with refreshments for our volunteers. Even if you can only spare an hour we will be grateful for all the help offered, just to clear up dead leaves or weed the path and tidy round the graves. Please bring your own tools.

Our Easter Day service at Ashbocking is a family service with communion led by Fred and Jane Woods. After a dark time of no flowers in the lead up to Easter, the church will be decorated again to celebrate the risen Lord. Everyone is very welcome to the service and to join us for coffee afterwards.

Unusually, the coffee morning falls after the service date on Friday 6th April, 10:30am at Noreen and Ken Petherbridge's house, Feoffee Farm House, Feoffee Farm Drive, Ashbocking. All welcome to join us for a social morning chatting over a cup of coffee or tea, cake and biscuits.

Our **Flower Show** preparation for the **weekend of 30th June and 1st July** is going well. The next meeting of the committee is on **Tuesday 10th April at 7:30** in the church to plan the positioning of exhibits etc. anyone who would like to help is welcome to join us. We will require people to man the refreshments and book stall, as well as the church. We will also need people to help with the cheese and wine evening on Friday 29th. There will also be a meeting on **Saturday 28th April at 11:00am** in the church for anyone interested in doing an arrangement, even if you have never flower arranged before. It is an opportunity to have a go, the theme of the festival is 'Celebrations'. Come and pick your space to create something beautiful. Children are invited to enter a competition, all they have to do is create a garden on a tray! There will be a small prize for each age category.

On the subject of fundraising, Marcus Peel has generously offered to donate to the church loo and kitchenette fund, a proportion of his

takings from canoeing adventure days booked by people in the community. He can take out groups of people of all ages and abilities for a canoe paddle at Dedham. He assures me that it is very safe, so I may well be having a go too. You can find out more on www.merp.uk or you can book with Marcus on 07780 685727 or e-mail him on marcus@merp.uk

I am very pleased to say that the Knitting Club is starting again under the name of The Knitting and Crafting Club. We hope anyone who likes making things will join us. It is a very relaxed group who Knitted the Christmas Nativity Scene for the church last Christmas. This was enjoyed by our members, some of whom had never knitted before. We would like to learn and share other activities too, so bring along anything you may be working on or rekindle that forgotten project. Our next meetings are on 26th March and 23rd April at Hawthorns, The Green, Ashbocking from 10:00am to 12:00 midday-ish.

The Evening Bible study group are meeting again after Easter, the first meeting in April is on 11th, and then on the 23rd. We start at 7:30pm and finish around 9:30. The evening is led by Rev Cannon Clare Sanders and we will be studying and discussing the Beatitudes. New members very welcome to join us at Hawthorns, The Green. Tel 01473 890836 for more details.

Details of the “Going Deeper” home group Bible study mornings are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Linda Pollard



Church Cleaning: Brenda Forster – extra help appreciated

CLOPTON

We are not having our Sunrise Service on Easter Day this year, but we would love you to join us for bacon rolls and hot cross buns at 9 o'clock followed by our 9.30am Communion Service.

We have several events planned for later this year. There will be a Brass Band concert, our usual Strawberry Tea and on Remembrance weekend we plan to hold a "Poppy Festival" to commemorate one hundred years since the end of World War One. We also plan to dedicate our new kneelers sometime during the year. There will be more details later and we hope that we will get lots of support for all the events.

The Hobbies Group will meet from 10am until noon in the Village Hall on Wednesday 4th April. Everyone is very welcome.

The April Coffee Morning is in the Village Hall from 10am until noon on the 18th and will be hosted by Jenny Vince. Come and enjoy a coffee and chat.

Happy Easter.

Doris Main

Church Flowers: Flowers for Easter - Everyone



OTLEY

It has been a quiet month, partly due to the dire wintry weather, with so much deep snow that at one point the village was cut off, and then the roads were treacherous for three or four days. Thank heavens for our wonderful village shop which kept everybody going and for the White Hart which was open. Both have reached the finals in their sections (best village shop/post office and best community pub) in the Countryside Alliance awards for the east of England, which is great news and well deserved. Judging has already taken place and they are waiting to hear the results so Good Luck to them both.

We are now looking forward to Easter when the Bishop of Dunwich, Mike Harrison, will be coming to celebrate the family communion service with us at 11 o'clock on Easter Day, which will be a special occasion. The church will be decorated the previous day, Easter

Saturday. The Annual Church Meeting, with elections and reports, will take place after the 9.30am service on Sunday 15th April, and we are planning to hold another progressive dinner on 30th June, always a popular event.

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 12th April at Lime Tree Place, Helmingham Road, the home of Brian and Christine Childs where we will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome, as always.

Spring is coming at long last. In the churchyard we have heard lots of new birdsong, notably the persistent song of the songthrush, and we have seen the toads crossing the church path to reach the pond for the breeding season. This is thankfully a far cry from the 6 inches of snow with the footprints of rabbits and moorhens, and a Siberian wind which hit you in the face as you rounded the end of the church. If anybody managed to get some beautiful photographs of the snow, please let us know.

We wish everybody a very Happy Easter.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

2nd April	Under 5s	- Easter egg hunt
5th April	Friendship Club	- Games afternoon
9th April	Gardening Club	- AGM
12th April	Friendship Club	- AGM
24th April	Community Council	- AGM
26th April	Community Lunch	at the White Hart

Church Flowers: Easter everybody/Joan Parish

Church Cleaning: Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

Sidepersons:

1 st April	11.00am Family Communion	Pauline Crowley
15 th April	9.30am Holy Communion	Pauline Crowley

Progressive Dinner Otley



'Save the Date'
Saturday June 30th

OUR FASCINATING LANGUAGE

There is an old pub in Marble Arch London, which used to have gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners who had been tried and convicted were taken to the gallows to be hung. They were transported in a horse-drawn dray and were watched over by an armed guard. The guard would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like one last drink before his demise. If he said yes, this drink was referred to as '*One for the road*'. If he declined the prisoner was considered to be '*On the wagon*'.

Back in history the floor of ordinary houses was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying '*dirt poor*'. The wealthy often had slate or stone floors that would get very slippery when wet, especially in winter. They would therefore spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help them keep their footing better. As the winter progressed more clean dry thresh would be added so that eventually it became so high that when the door was opened it started slipping outside. To stop this a piece of wood was placed in the doorway. Hence a '*threshold*'.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and the guests got the top, the upper crust. So honoured folks began to be called '*The Upper Crust*'.



Otley Village Hall needs you!

Otley Village Hall is run by a group of volunteers, comprising of committee members and representatives from each of Otley's groups and associations, who join together to form Otley Community Council.

We are responsible for the hiring and upkeep of the hall and playing field, and organise a number of events each year, including the Village fete, fireworks and the Christmas Dinner Dance. The represented organisations include FFY, the Parish Council, Under Five's, the Church, PTA, Gardening Club, The Otley Players, Scouts, Friendship Club and more.

We are desperately in need of some new members, and particularly a Secretary. We only meet 5-6 times a year, so the commitment is not too onerous!

If you think you would like to get involved, please give Vanessa Ling a call on 01473 890787 or come along to our AGM on Tuesday 24th April at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Without volunteers to sit on the committee, annual village events may not be able to run, and the future of the Village Hall may be in doubt.

Otley Friendship Club

On the 15th of March we welcomed back Chris Parfitt who visits us every year to give a talk and slide show on one of the many countries that he visits. The photographs that he takes are of excellent quality but what makes his talk particularly interesting is the background facts that he gives that one doesn't get in the TV travel programmes. His talk this time was on India showing some of the

palatial buildings that is rarely shown, as well as the squalor that many of the inhabitants live in. One of the iconic buildings that comes to mind when India is mentioned is the Taj Mahal. Chris gave a very detailed history of the Taj as it is known as well as many photographs. One of the more interesting facts regarding this building is that it is made of white marble, but there are factories nearby which pollutes the atmosphere causing discoloration. The way that the Indians clean it is to plaster it with mud, when this dries and is removed, it brings the marble back to its pristine crispness.

Otley and District Gardening Club



A fingernail-biting week wondering whether we would have to call in the snow-clearers for our 5th March meeting, and also helicopter-in speaker Geoff Hodge - from Peterborough! Happily though, in the event Nature was kind to us and a goodly number of members were able to come and hear him give us his tips and tricks for easy low-maintenance gardening - top tip - a six-inch mulch of readymix concrete! As usual he also brought with him a selection of freebie gardening gadgets for the raffle - and I won first prize! So altogether a very successful evening.

April 9th sees our AGM and then a talk on propagation of seeds and cuttings, by Ann Tweddle. That's sure to be interesting and useful, although by then those hardy annuals who are preparing horticultural items for our Open Plant Sale morning on Saturday 5th May will already be lovingly tending their seeds and plantlets (I hope!). We're hoping that a Saturday morning event this time will encourage lots of local gardening bargain-hunters along for a cuppa, a munch, and much more!

On 14th May Nick Dobson will entertain us with his "Over the Garden Wall" stories of the funny things happening to gardeners on the way to the potting shed. That will be the last club meeting before our summer outing to Pensthorpe Natural Park in Norfolk on Saturday 9th June.

"The Reluctant Gardener"

SWILLAND



The next Coffee Morning is on 7th April at Gina Wilden's house from 10 a.m. Do come and join us.

May I wish everyone a Happy Easter. We have a Holy Communion service at 9.30 a.m. on Easter Day. Let's hope it will be more spring-like by then. The early spring flowers have been lovely. It's wonderful that they survived under the snow.

Ann Kent

Flower rota:

1st April Easter	All Help please
8th-15th April	Jackie Williams
22nd - 29th April	Margo Barker

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

At the beginning of the month it looked as if the old saying February Fill Dyke would come true but after the 15th we had some very sunny days. On the 26th it all went downhill, and the month ended with one of the worst weeks of winter weather that we have had for many years. The snow wasn't very deep, but it was the east wind which blew it off the fields that caused all the blocked roads. Fortunately, this type of weather does not occur very often, and it is only tractors with buckets that can clear these drifts. In 1963 these conditions lasted for the two months of January and February therefore we should consider ourselves fortunate that this year it was only a week. The rainfall for the month was 1.85 inches giving a total of 4.30 inches for January and February.

February in the past could be a very difficult month for farmers as the only field work available was hedging and ditching, if there was a period of wet weather even this could not be carried out. Early in the last century some farmers would lay off their men without pay in wet

weather. One job that could be done in the dry was to mend the holes made by rats and mice in the comb sacks. There was no bulk collection or deliveries then and all grain was transported in comb sacks, so it was essential that they were kept repaired. The smaller holes were stitched up using a large needle with a hessian thread. If they were large, then they would have to be patched from a piece cut out of an old sack. Comb sacks could be hired from merchants but then the farmer would have to sell the grain back to them and possibly at a lower price. Merchants would have their name stamped on the sacks to make sure that they got the same ones back again. Many farmers bought their own sacks and also had their names stamped on them.

Otley Hall Retreat Days

Wednesday 2nd May – Jnanamitra. ‘Inner and Outer Harmony’ – A day of Buddhist teaching and meditation.

Thursday 31st May - Sue Monckton-Rickett. ‘Coming Home to the Loving Father’.

“God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home” Henri Nouwen.

All days will start at 10am and finish at approximately 4pm. Places cost £25 per person and include refreshments throughout the day and a two course buffet lunch.

Please contact Karen on [01473 890264](tel:01473890264) or email events@otleyhall.co.uk to book your place. Details of further events can be found on the website www.otleyhall.co.uk .

Smile Lines

Praying for wheels

A boy was desperate for a bicycle, and his minister urged him to pray for one. A few days later he met the boy on the road, on a new bike, and so he congratulated him on his quick answer to prayer. 'So, will you keep praying?' the minister said encouragingly.

'Oh yes,' the boy replied, 'More than ever. You see, I stole the bike and now I'm praying for forgiveness, and also that I won't get caught.'

Some one-liners

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

My mouth doesn't seem to have a backspace key.

'The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never know if they are genuine.' - St Paul.

Tax collector: the person who has what it takes to take what you have.

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

Phonecall

In the days before WW 2, phonecalls cost two pence. 'Can you lend me tuppence to ring a friend?' a widely disliked MP once asked Winston Churchill. The great man scoured his pockets. 'Here's four pence,' he said. 'Ring them all.'

Definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Children's Corner



Messy Church

If you thought that faith and church are dull, involve sitting still in a cold church and just listening, we hope that 'Messy Church' is something that can change your mind. 'Messy

Church' had a great first year last year with activity-based services where all the family can participate together. This year we are changing to meet every month and will still alternate around four of the village halls in the area – Grundisburgh – Clopton – Hasketon and Otley.

Each Sunday afternoon service is themed on a well-known bible story which we tell as a story. We also sing and have a prayer, but we also have activities that link to the story. Wet fish printing? Bread over a fire? Gardens in an Eggshell? Actime! Nativities? Yes, we've done them all and plenty more besides. They were lots of fun and we always finish up with a sandwich tea to restore the energy levels. We get a good crowd coming but we can always welcome more. As we are catering though, we do ask if you could let us know in advance if you'd like to come. (Details on the website)

This year apart from running monthly we are also going to be offering a one-day children only (sorry grownups) holiday club along the same lines. It's going to be on Sat 21st July and details will be available later in the year.

If you are interested in knowing more, we have a website page carlfordchurches.org/messy-church which has a link to sign up for our monthly emails and this year's programme. – We look forward to hearing from you!

If you or your children have any news, achievements or events to show what the children in our benefice have been up to and would like to include in our new 'Children's Corner', please email to bakergirl174@gmail.com or antreloar@btinternet.com

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