

POEM FOR THE MONTH

The Lent Lily

'Tis spring; come out to ramble
The hilly brakes around,
For under thorn and bramble
About the hollow ground
The primroses are found.

And since till girls go maying
You find the primrose still,
And find the windflower playing
With every wind at will,
But not the daffodil,

And there's the windflower chilly
With all the winds at play,
And there's the Lenten lily
That has not long to stay
And dies on Easter day.

Bring baskets now, and sally
Upon the spring's array,
And bear from hill and valley
The daffodil away
That dies on Easter day.

A.E. Housman

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Ashbocking has generally been quiet since Christmas but the coffee morning in February at the Ellis' house was well attended as was the family service and communion. Well done to all who attended the service as it was incredibly cold in the church despite the heating!

With the hope of future improvements in the church which includes the heating issue we are once again thinking of fundraising.

This year we are planning a midsummer flower festival, on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July. This will be preceded by a cheese and wine evening on the Friday night to kick things off. Entrance to the festival over the weekend will be free but we are hoping for people's donations, however the cheese and wine reception will be ticketed, news of how to get them will be available in a later edition.

Please put the dates in your diaries, we would love to see you. Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend. We are having a Flower Festival meeting in the church on Saturday 28th April at 11am for anyone who would like to help and/or have a go at decorating the church. There will be a garden in a tray competition for children too. Everyone is welcome to come and find out more.

The next church service is a family service on March 11th at 11am, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to which you are all invited. Tea and coffee will be available.

The next coffee morning is at Linda and John Pollard's house, Hawthorns, The Green, IP6 9JX (situated at the end of Ashley Grange), at 10:30am.

Linda Pollard

Church Flowers:

There are no flowers during Lent

Church Cleaning:

John and Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Fred Archer who died on January 19th 2018. The following tribute was written by his daughter Jenni Wood:-

Fred was born in 1925 and raised in Charsfield. He first attended Charsfield school and then Wickham Market school from the age of eleven to fourteen.

On leaving school he worked on a chicken farm at what is now known as Moultons in Clopton. When that was sold he went to work at F J Martin's farm in Shop Road, where he stayed for over twenty-five years. It was here that he met his wife Myrtle to whom he was very happily married for nearly sixty-seven years until her death in 2015.

Their first home was a Nissan hut in Manor Road where two of their three children were born. Later they moved to a house in Rouse Hall Estate where their third child was born. This was their home for over fifty years until they moved to a bungalow just a few yards up the road.

Fred was a quiet man who enjoyed pottering about in his garden and whittling away in his shed making things, miniature wheelbarrows being his favourite. He was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren being especially pleased to welcome his great grandson Taylor just after coming out of hospital in June after being seriously ill. The last six months were quite hard for Fred, but he managed to stay in his own home until the end, passing away in hospital shortly after being admitted on 18th January. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. The funeral was held in Clopton Church on 26th February.

The next Hobbies Morning will be at the Village Hall on the 7th March from 10am until noon. Everyone is welcome.

Our monthly Coffee Morning is on 21st March from 10am until noon at the Village Hall. Come along to meet and make friends, you are welcome even if you do not live in Clopton!

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their magazine. The fee goes towards the costs of publication and not to any of the churches.

Doris Main

Church Flowers: There are no flowers in Lent.

OTLEY

The Christingle service was highly enjoyable and a great success, with a total of 55 adults and children attending. The 1st. Otley Scout Group had collected £47.15 in their candle boxes for The Children's

Society and the church added a further £22.85 so that a grand total of £70 was sent. Our thanks to everyone who attended and made it such a lively and interesting service. If any parents would like to be included in our group email, to learn about future children's church events, please contact Amy at bakergirl174@gmail.com.

The village quiz once again proved to be a successful evening and was great fun. Julie Baker and her friend Tania Hannay were excellent quizmasters, pitching the questions at just the right level so everybody was able to display their knowledge about something, but the more challenging questions really got the grey cells working. For example, most people knew how many pedals a grand piano has but how many knew who the 2nd Pope was? (Answers at the end of the report!) The 'Lost Cause' were the winners, comprising Malcolm and Liz Smith, Judy and Malcolm Wardlaw, Dick and Jill Knight, Richard Treloar and Will Carver. They now have the winners' cup to cherish (and clean) for a year. The usual appetising jacket potato supper was provided by Ruth Farnhill, Penny Clark, Ruthie Bullock and Alyson Chilvers, with assistance from Karin Upson. Many thanks to them and to Olivia Bullock and George Chilvers for manning the bar. £440.00 was raised for church funds.

After celebrating Christmas in style with a tea party as well as their Christmas lunch, the Friendship Club have now started their new season. Details of March meetings are in the Village Diary. They meet on the 1st. and 3rd. Thursday of every month in the Village Hall at 2.00p.m. They have an exciting and varied programme of events booked for 2018 including several speakers and outings. They are also catering for the 'inner man' (and woman) with a dinner, coffee morning, cream tea, lunch and B.B.Q plus the usual Christmas meals. New members are always welcome, please contact Russell Ling 01473 890276.

On March 8th. the coffee morning will be hosted by Philip and Betty David. This Welsh household will just have celebrated St. David's

Day and although they can't offer you 'a welcome in the hillside' be assured they will offer a warm welcome to 15, Spring Park from 10.00a.m. onwards.

Some of you may have noticed the distinctive green Commonwealth War Grave sign on the church gate. Most people know about war cemeteries abroad but less widely known are the 300,000 war graves here at home, on 12,300 sites. So that people know about war graves in their neighbourhood the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has begun a project to erect signs indicating where the war graves are located. We have one such grave in St. Mary's churchyard, on the west boundary. It is the grave of Arthur Edward Garnham of the Suffolk Regiment. Arthur was born and baptised in Otley and his family home was in Gibraltar Rd. He died in the Military Hospital in Harwich in 1916 as a result of wounds sustained during the conflict. That is why he is buried in his home village and not abroad.

By the time you read this we will be very close to Easter. We have a special celebration in church on Easter Day April 1st. when the Bishop of Dunwich, Mike Harrison, will be leading a Family Communion at 11.00a.m. Everyone will be warmly welcomed, and we hope you will stay and chat with Bishop Mike over refreshments after the service.

Spring is definitely on the way; there are a pair of tawny owls calling, very loudly, to each other in the churchyard.

Quiz answers: 3 and Pope Linus

Tess Papworth

Village Diary:

- 1st March** Friendship Club – Easter bonnets
- 5th March** Garden Club – Low Maintenance Gardening with Geoff Hodge
- 8th March** Otley Coffee Morning at the home of Philip and Betty David of 15 Spring Park, Otley

15th March Friendship Club – Chris Parfitt with another travelogue

22nd March Community Lunch at The White Hart

Church Flowers: There are no flowers in Lent

Church Cleaning: 1st/2nd Week Karin Upson

3rd/4th Week Nigel Crowley

Sidepersons:

4th March 11.00am Morning Worship David & Tess Papworth

18th March 9.30am Holy Communion Angela Treloar

25th March 7.30pm Evening Praise

at the home of Pauline and Nigel Crowley of 10 Spring Park

26th March 7.00pm Compline and Address TBC

1st April 11.00am Family Communion Churchwarden et al

Defibrillator ‘Live’ in Otley - A defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of Otley Village Hall. This purchase, from Community Heartbeat Trust, has been made by Otley Parish Council with the help of Councillor Robin Vickery’s Locality Budget, which we are most grateful. The defibrillator is in a locked cabinet, requiring key pad code access. In the event of an emergency you should ring 999 and they will issue the code.

48 residents attended the awareness session that was provided by Community Heartbeat Trust. This was a successful evening demonstrating the use of defibrillators and explaining how the equipment works along with the benefits of saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. The response to the evening was very positive and helped raise confidence. This was a very welcome purchase and a great asset to the village. It is hoped it is never needed but it reassuring to know the back-up is there.

The Parish Council intend to follow this up with further first aid training in the future. We are also hoping to get VETS –Village Emergency Telephone System up and running for those who may need support during an emergency, particularly those on their own, disabled or vulnerable. More information on this will follow in due course.

Dog Fouling - Otley Parish Council would like to make a polite request to dog owners to please clean up after their dogs. This includes footpaths around the fields. It is an offence to leave dog mess and very unpleasant for other members of the public. There are several dog bins around the village which allows owners to 'bag it and bin it', however, it has been brought to the parish council's attention that some dog owners are bagging it then leaving it in hedges and ditches. This is not acceptable and dog owners should please take it home and dispose of appropriately.

Clothing Bank - The clothing bank based at the village hall car park is regularly used by kind donors of clothing. It is regularly collected and emptied of donations. On the occasion when residents find the clothing bank full please do not leave bags outside the bank. Members of the Community Council and Parish Council keep a check if the bank becomes full before it is due to be collected and emptied and contact the following number: 08000 902 321. Anybody is welcome to ring the number and help keep the village hall car park tidy and donations clean and dry. Thank you!

Rachel Green Otley Parish Clerk- 01473 892109

The Wizard of Oz

In early February Junior TOPS gave the village some wonderful performances of The Wizard of Oz. The company did this musical 10 years ago and this is the first time they have repeated a show, but with a completely new cast. We regularly have the film version each Christmas, so it was great to have the stage version in our own village theatre.

I saw the show on the Saturday evening. The props did not do what they were supposed to do during the first half of the show and the cast did not follow some of the script exactly, but the actors improvised with the full and enthusiastic support of the audience.

All the backstage team, i.e. stage crew, props team, costume team, lighting, front of house team and the bar team helped to make the show a great success and many came on to the stage to take a bow

at the final curtain. The Saturday evening performance had a full house. I hope the earlier performances were as well attended.

The cast really enjoyed performing and it is great Junior TOPs gives them the opportunity to do so in the village. Thanks are due to all the production team who have worked with the cast of nearly 30 over the winter months. We can all look forward to their next production.

Philip David

News from Otley Primary School

The Headteacher, Mrs Hubbard-Whitehead, has given governors notice of her intention to retire at the end of this academic year after 11 years of outstanding service to both Otley and Witnessham Primary Schools. I would formally like to thank her for the fantastic service that she has provided to the schools over that period of time and in ensuring that a thriving small village school with an excellent reputation has been maintained at the heart of our community. We all wish her a long and happy retirement.

Following a rigorous interview process Mr Richard Benstock has been appointed as the next Executive Headteacher of the Federation. Mr Benstock will officially take up his post on 1st September, but he will be visiting the school on a regular basis over the coming months as he gets to know the staff, parents and children. I know that he is looking forward to the challenge in leading the Federation to the next stage of its development. Mr Benstock is currently Deputy Headteacher at Murrayfield Primary Academy in Ipswich.

Anyone who has been past the school recently can't have failed to notice the building working going on. Work has started on the construction of the combined new school hall and replacement Under 5s facility. This work is due to be completed by 31 August and will provide much needed and enhanced facilities for both parties. The project is being partly funded by the Sec 106 education contribution received from the Hubbard's site developers and partly by Suffolk County Council directly. There will undoubtedly be disruption in the

coming months, but the result will be well worth it. From the plans it looks like a stunning building is going to be built.

Ian Liddell, Chair of Governors

Otley and District Gardening Club

As the dark days of winter gradually give way to the lengthening hours of daylight, tender plants of the species Gardenium Clubus Otleyii x Ashbockingensis are emerging blinking into the weak February sun. Seeking their first solid sustenance of the new year, some 28 hardier specimens gathered together in front of a blazing log-fire at the White Hart Inn, to take on valuable nourishment while exchanging stories of their experiences over the deep midwinter. Suitably replenished and re-energised, they disperse to their gardens to clean and prepare their tools and horticultural weapons for the forthcoming gardening campaign.

At our first club meeting of the year on 5th March we look forward to gardening expert Geoff Hodge entertaining us with a high-energy tutorial on low-maintenance gardening, and our short AGM on 9th April will be followed by Ann Twedde giving us the secrets of seeds, planting and propagation. By then many of us will certainly have already started in earnest sowing and planting for our 2nd Open Plant Sale on 5th May. This year we've made it a Saturday morning event so that more people are able to come along, have a cuppa and cake and take advantage of the terrific horticultural bargains sure to be available.

With two club outings and another evening meeting to squeeze in before the summer, it will be another lively season for the Gardening Club. Why not come along and join us? All are welcome to our meetings, contact 01473 890563 for details.

The Reluctant Gardener

FFY Fun For Young

FFY runs every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in Otley Village Hall years 6 - 11. We are in our 13th year and we would like to say 'THANK YOU' to our church for supporting us both financially and emotionally! We

have a great bank of volunteers and have on average 25 young people attending the sessions; we partake in many different things from First Aid, Dodge Ball, sport with Elatus Sports, Litter pick around the village, our annual beach trip and much more. Contact Amy Cranfield 01473 890329 for more info.

SWILLAND

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 3rd March at Red Court from 10 a.m. Do come and join us. The following one will be on 7th April at Gina Wilden's house, 7 High Road Swilland. We are hoping to have one on the first Saturday of each month.

Easter Sunday is on 1st April when we will have a Family Communion at 9.30 a.m. Services during Lent can be found in the Grapevine. There will be a working party on Saturday 24th March from 9 a.m. to 12.30pm to tidy the churchyard and clean the Church. Many hands make light work! Please come and help us. Refreshments will be provided.

If anyone has not paid their subscription for the Church Times, please may I have £8.50 as soon as possible. *Ann Kent*

Flower rota:

18th February – 25th March

Lent – No flowers

1st April Easter

All Help please

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

In 2017 the rainfall was lower than normal, but I have always found in the past it usually equals itself out eventually. This year has started dull and damp with 2.45 inches for January but there is plenty of winter weather to come.

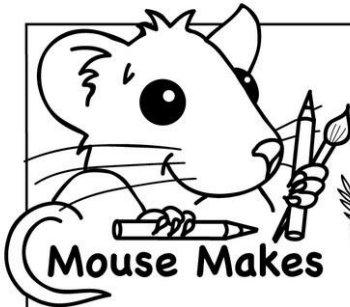
Threshing continued: Ten workers were required on the day of the thresh. Two men on the corn stack who pitched the sheaves onto the stage of the drum. A bin cutter who held a curved serrated knife in his hand, he would use this to lift up a sheaf and cut the string “the

bin" as it was called into the arms of the feeder. The feeders job was to allow the sheaf to roll off his arms in a continuous movement into the drum. The drum was about 18" in diameter and 2ft long, it had rasp bars fitted lengthwise and these would rub the sheaf against the concave. This separated the grain from the straw which would be bounced up and down by the straw walkers to complete the operation. The straw was carried up by the pitcher on to the straw stack to be stacked by two more men plus a third when it reached the roof line.

The grain and chaff would be separated by a fan which blew the chaff to where it was bagged off into large hessian bags. The chaff bagger had a very busy job when threshing wheat as it came off in large quantities and one bag had to be tied up while the other one was being filled. Another man carted the wheat chaff away on a tumbrel, carried it up a ladder to the stable loft where it was tipped out and used for horse feed.

The grain then went over two sieves which separated the small grain from the best which was sold. At the front of the drum, there were bagging off chutes. The grain was bagged off into comb sacks. The best grain would be weighed off on a weighing machine next to the drum. Two men were employed on this job and when six combs had been bagged off they were loaded onto a tumbrel. One of the men would take the load to the barn and then carry them off and stack them two high. The comb sacks capacity was 19 stone of beans, 18 of wheat, 16 of barley and 12 of oats. The engine driver's sole occupation was to keep the steam up, clear any blockages and repair any broken belts.

In the early part of the 20th century farmers had to borrow extra hands from their neighbours, these men were paid more money, so were willing to do the hard, dirty work. They started at 6.30 am to prepare for a 7am start. There would be a break at 10 am and the farmer would supply beer. Dinner was at 12 o'clock, another break in the afternoon and then they would work until the corn stack was finished.



Mouse Makes

Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



READ Matthew 21:1-11

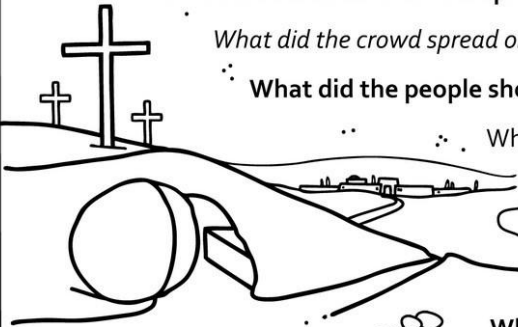
Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10



READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



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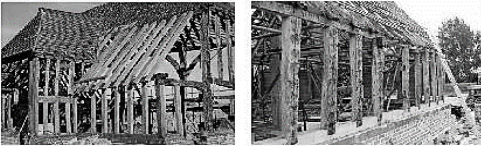
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