

“POEM FOR THE MONTH”



LOGS

Beech-wood fires burn bright and clear
If the logs are kept for a year;
Store your beech for Christmastide
With new-cut holly laid beside;
Chestnut's only good, they say,
If for years 'tis stored away;
Birch and fir-wood burn too fast
Blaze too bright and do not last;
Flames from larch will shoot up high,
Dangerously the sparks will fly;
But ash-wood green and ash-wood brown
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.

Oaken logs if dry and old,
Keep away the winters cold;
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke;
Elm-wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold;
It is by the Irish said;
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread,
Apple-wood will scent the room,
Pear-wood smells like flowers in bloom;
But ash-wood wet and ash-wood dry
A King may warm his slippers by.

Anon

Thanksgiving in America

For several years, whilst in our home in America, we have been invited to celebrate Thanksgiving with various friends, both from our church and from our community.

Thanksgiving is the major event in the American calendar, bigger than Christmas or Easter. If at all possible, people travel to spend the day with family and friends. All businesses are closed, except restaurants.

The origins of Thanksgiving date from the arrival of the first English settlers in what is now Massachusetts, in the early 1600's. The settlers tried, unsuccessfully, to farm the area and by the winter of 1620 were increasingly hungry and sick. They were befriended by the local Native American tribe, and taught how to survive with new methods of farming and fishing. In the autumn of 1621, the Colonists celebrated their first harvest with their Native American neighbours. Both brought provisions for that first Thanksgiving feast, which lasted three days. Gradually, the feast became an annual custom, and in 1863, Abraham Lincoln designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

Now, Thanksgiving is the day in which all Americans join with friends and family to celebrate all that they have in life. No gifts are exchanged. The dinner, which is traditionally turkey, is the highlight of the day.

In New York, the Macey's Parade takes place during the morning, with colourful carnival floats, dancers and marching bands. The afternoon has several high profile football games.

A strange White House tradition is called 'sparing the turkey'. Traditionally, a live turkey had been presented to the President each year at Thanksgiving, and

occasionally spared from the dinner table. Since 1989, during George H.W.Bush's first Thanksgiving as President, it has been an annual tradition for the President to 'pardon' the turkey, which is then returned to its farm.

In case you are wondering, most Americans eat ham or beef Christmas Day !
Nigel Crowley

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES **ASHBOCKING**

With Christmas fast approaching, everyone is already very busy with preparations and socialising. It is with regret that Ashbocking will be unable to join Swiland with this year's carol singing. We have however, managed to find a date for us to sing carols in the village on Dec 18th starting at 6:30pm from the Crockery Barn entrance. Andrew Gaught has once again offered the use of his tractor and trailer on which Marcus Peel will be playing for us. We will travel through the village ending at the Nelson Close end at "Chimneys", where Clare and Phil Smith have offered hospitality in their home with mulled wine and mince pies. We will not be going on to the Moon and Mushroom this year. Money collected will go to a well-known local charity, as yet to be decided.



Church cleaning and decorating will be on Saturday 15th December in the morning. This will be an all hands on deck occasion so please come and help make our church look festive. Bring any greenery you have such as ivy, holly or evergreen leaves.

We will not be having our usual Christmas tree which is normally donated by the Ellis family as they no longer have trees of a suitable size. Therefore, this year we will have the artificial tree which was donated to our Christmas Bazaar last year.

The Carol Service at Ashbocking Church will be held on Sunday 16th December starting at 4pm. This is always a lovely service lit by candle light and the opportunity to sing Christmas carols together. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available after the service. Both events require good singers, the more the merrier! I am sure there must be some good voices yet to be discovered! Please do join us.

Our December coffee morning is kindly hosted by Brenda Forster at Chimneys, The Green, Ashbocking starting at 10:30. All welcome to join us for a cuppa and a natter.

The January coffee morning will be hosted by John and Linda Pollard at Hawthorns, The Green Ashbocking on January 4th 2019 also starting at 10:30. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Knit and Stitch club will have it's first meeting of the new year on Monday 7th January at 10:00. As we have said before, this is for anyone wishing to either learn to knit or to continue with a current project. We are also knitting squares for knee blankets in the church. If this does not appeal, then come for a chat anyway and share ideas.

I know Christmas has not yet arrived, but can I please ask for used Christmas cards following the festivities. We are collecting them to make things for our Church Christmas Bazaar which we will hold next Christmas in 2019. Also, we will be collecting bric-a-brac and nearly new clothing, as we did last year. We will be collecting items throughout next year and have already started making gifts etc. Our fundraising continues to be for alterations to the church for a toilet, water supply and tea point. We do hope to lay on water outside the church in the near future other work will take much longer.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have supported us this year and for all those who help with church cleaning, hosting coffee mornings, and providing and arranging flowers for church services throughout the year.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Linda Pollard

The History of Christmas Wreaths

For some time now, wreaths have been a big part of Christmas. They adorn our doors and tell everyone that Christmas has arrived. They're traditionally made of evergreen foliage and decorations, but they can be made from anything. Your imagination is your only limit.

But where does the tradition of hanging the wreath on your door originate from? Some believe that it starts with the ancient Romans, some think it's from the Pagan religion, but there are roots in the Christian faith too.

In ancient Rome, wreaths were used to show that there had been a victory and an honour was to be bestowed. They were originally made from Laurel or Bay and were worn around the neck of the victor, whether it be an athletic or a war victory or one of the heart. Wreaths were also given and worn by couples that

had recently become engaged. Phrases have also originated from these traditions. “*Resting on ones Laurels*” means to rely on your past victories for your future endeavours. Whereas “*to look to ones Laurels*” means to be cautious that you may be losing your position to some form of competition.

In Paganism, the wreath represents the changing of the seasons. The circle making reference to the ever turning wheel of the year with no beginning and no end, as well as the “wholeness” of life. The use of evergreen foliage is said to be an acknowledgement of ever lasting life, that survives through even the coldness and darkness of winter.

So to Christianity. Advent wreaths, were the beginnings of the use of wreaths during the Christmas season for Christians, similarly made to the ones from ancient and pagan times, with evergreen foliage representing the ever living and the circle representing God and the circle of life. The candles on an advent wreath stand for very specific things.

The first candle is purple which is the Prophecy candle, remembering the prophets that foretold the birth of Jesus.

The second is also purple and is said to be the Bethlehem candle, typifying the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

The Third candle is pink, which is the liturgical colour for Joy and Hope reminding Christians of the joy and hope they find in Christ.

The fourth candle is the Angel candle and is also purple representing the time for prayer and remembrance.

The final candle is white meaning purity and stands for Christ himself. Traditionally this candle is lit on Christmas Eve and continues to burn into Christmas Day showing the Christs light is with the household.

With so many different rituals and celebrations associated with the wreath, it comes down to what you believe in. You might just like the decoration of it and the feeling you get from putting it on your door. Whatever conclusion

you come to, why not come and create your own wreath using fresh

flowers, at a workshop at Witnesham Village Hall on 19th December.

Demonstrations will be provided by Phil and Linda Pollard of

Florabundant. Tickets are £35.00 inclusive of materials and seasonal

refreshments. Please email phil@florabundant.co.uk or call 07880-627984 or 01473-890836



CLOPTON

The funeral took place on 18th October of Frederick Goldsmith. Fred came to Clopton to work for the Taylor family in 1960. He was passionate about working on the airfield and his Willis jeep which he restored was his pride and joy. Richard and Prilly Taylor said of Fred "No one could ask more from a person. His loyalty was sublime and he had time for everyone he came in contact with. Indeed we feel that he was part of our family through three generations and he will be sadly missed by us all'. We send our sympathy to his family.



The Poppy Festival of Remembrance was a real success. On the first day Lt Commander R Becker led a service at the war grave of Noah Smy, this was attended by a small group of villagers.

We had a steady flow of visitors on Thursday and Friday but were much busier on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday we had our service to remember one hundred years since the Armistice. The church was almost full for the service led by Jane Wood. Wreaths were laid on the altar by Richard Taylor and Chris Angwin and these were taken later to the 493rd Memorial. After the service there were refreshments with many delicious cakes baked by lots of people.

Peter Day then entertained us on his keyboard with a Sing-a-long of well known World War songs. Some of the verses were unfamiliar but the words were very poignant and everyone sang the choruses with gusto. Thank you Peter.

The bell ringers came to ring at two o'clock on Sunday afternoon. Forty seven Suffolk ringers died in WW1. There are two hundred and three ringable towers in Suffolk and ringers managed to ring at two hundred of them on Sunday, a great achievement.

We would like to thank all the people who made it such a wonderful few days. We may be a small spread out village but it was great to have so much support - from the people who made poppies and made the church look so wonderful ,including Della's silhouettes and Penny's horse, those who gave us so many cakes and most of all those who came to honour our fifteen Clopton men who gave their lives in World War 1. They would be so proud to know that even after one hundred years their sacrifice was not forgotten. We raised £688 which we have given to the Royal British Legion.

The next Hobbies Morning is on 5th December from 10am until noon. What are we going to do now the poppies are made?

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is on 19th December from 10am until noon. Della Hughes and Anne Pryke always make this a special morning so do come along and join us.

On Christmas Eve we shall be holding our annual Candlelight Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We would love to see you.



Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019
Doris Main

OTLEY

On a sunny autumn day, more than 100 people attended the village's 100th anniversary Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Revd Fred Woods led the service, the Scouts and Cubs were present with their banners, and children from the primary school planted a poppy cross at the reading out of each name from the roll of honour. It was good to see so many young people there. This year, being the special anniversary, representatives from some of the Regiments named on the memorial laid wreaths, as well as the usual ones from village organisations, and Major General Tony Pollard, Royal Anglian Regt., told of his recent visit to the war cemeteries in northern France. Geoff Partridge, Royal Military Police, spoke the Exhortation and James Kelly, Essex Regt., spoke the Kohima Epitaph. It was a sombre and moving occasion, a fitting tribute to the men from Otley who were lost. Also, at 11 o'clock the previous Thursday, some of us gathered in the churchyard at the war grave of Pte Arthur Garnham, Suffolk Regt., to lay a poppy arrangement on behalf of the Royal British Legion in conjunction with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. These posies were being laid at every War Grave in Suffolk.

Details of all the Christmas services can be found in The Grapevine section and on the following website, <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1972/>. In Otley the Carol Service will be held in church at 6 o'clock on Saturday 22nd December. The Crib Service is at Warrens Barn at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve with the donkeys and sheep in the barn. Children can come dressed as kings, shepherds or angels, there will be a limited supply of spare costumes available so that everyone can join in.

All the Christmas cards we produced for the Otley Church Preservation Trust have been sold, making a profit of £210, so thank you to those who bought them. Sadly, the Scouts will not be doing their Christmas card collection this year.

We shall be holding the Grand Christmas Draw and coffee morning at 10 o'clock on 8th December at the village hall, with some excellent prizes, and the Quiz Evening will take place on 19th January.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 13th December at South View, Chapel Road, the home of Anne and Geoff Robinson, and here at Church House on Thursday 10th January. They are a good opportunity to meet up, especially in the winter, and everybody is welcome.

We are sorry to hear that Peter Cole has died after a long period of ill health, and send our sincere condolences to Mary and her family.

We wish everybody a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.
Rose Rogerson

Otley Village Quiz, Saturday 19th January

Hurray, the month of the Quiz has arrived. Carefully select your team and come along to Otley Village Hall on Saturday 19th January for entertaining questions and a yummy jacket potato supper, all for £10 a head. There will also be a bar and raffle, as well as pondering, brain racking (or should it be wracking?) and , as the King of Siam would say ..'et cetera, et cetera.' Doors open at 7am and the questioning fun begins at 7.30. Please contact Ruth for more details or to book your places 890543, 07902024976, 9, Spring Park.

Village diary:

- 6th Dec.** Friendship Club - Christmas Dinner
- 8th Dec.** Christmas Draw and coffee morning - St Mary's PCC
- 14th Dec.** Scouts Bingo
- 20th Dec.** Friendship Club - Christmas Tea Party
- 20th Dec.** Community Lunch at The White Hart
- 19th Jan.** Quiz Evening - St Mary's PCC
- Advance notice: 7th/8th/9th Feb.** Junior TOPS - "Bugsy Malone"
- Church flowers:** Advent/Christmas everyone

Otley Bellringers

Prior to the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial later that morning, the bell ringers enjoyed some fine ringing on the morning of November 11th as part of the national ringing celebration to commemorate the signing of the Armistice 100 years ago. They were able to use their new muffles for the first time to excellent effect and were pleased to welcome a visiting ringer from Lyneham

in Wiltshire who was staying with relatives in the village. We are pleased to report that, despite some towers being unable to ring because of lack of numbers, we were part of over 200 towers in Suffolk who rang that day.

The Otley Players

A full house of eighty hungry people sat down on the evening of November 10th to enjoy the TOPS dinner and entertainment which celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended the Great War in 1918. An excellent three-course meal, cooked by the ladies of the group, was interspersed with contributions from the Otley Ukelele Players, performing in public for the first time, the Otley Tappers tap-dancing group, and some welcome new faces in Graham Hudson's commemorative sketch written specifically for the event. There was singing from Jemima Ling and the TOPS senior members and friends, and a 1918-based quiz to round off the evening which has raised £500, to be donated to The Lighthouse Appeal for help towards the expenses of running their accommodation in Ipswich for women and children who have suffered from domestic abuse.

Chris Barker

Postman Adrian



As you may know, our wonderful postman Adrian is retiring from the Otley post round on his birthday on January 8th 2019. I know we will all miss him very much for everything he does above and beyond every day. If you would like to contribute to his retirement fund in any small way, please drop any donation into Otley Post Office. We are trying to find out what he would like from Joyce, his wife - PS it's a secret! Please pass this on to anyone not receiving the Church Times who you think might like to contribute. I know all the dogs in Otley will miss their biscuits!

Penny Sunaway

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!

For those of you reading this who haven't yet attended one of the Community Lunch meals, you really don't know what you're missing. They are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at The White Hart. We eat at 12.30 but folks start arriving at midday to enjoy the pre-lunch socialising & chit-chat. There are usually about 25 of us attending from across 3 or 4 villages. We also welcome ex residents of the village who come along to catch up with friends & local gossip.

Linda & her team, both kitchen & front of house, provide the most delicious food, with a choice of 3 mains plus a vegetarian option, & 3 puddings. Last month at our table we ate chilli con carne shepherd's pie, roast lamb, bangers & mash with

a bubble & squeak rosti, seafood (fresh mussels, prawns & cod) in a Thai curry sauce & pumpkin risotto. No, Mr. Papworth didn't eat them all himself, but they were the choices available, plus a pudding. Can you believe this delicious repast will only cost you £6 per head. Where else for this price can you eat a wholesome meal, sit with friends for 2 hours round a roaring log fire & not even have the washing up to do? Tempted? Then join us on any 4th. Thursday at The White Hart, but you'll need to book, Tel: 890312. Please note that because of Christmas the December date is on the 20th.
Tess Papworth

Joan Lane

Alan would like to thank those who attended and helped with the funeral of his beloved mother, Joan Lane. Also a big thank you to those kind friends and family who sent comforting condolence cards, flowers and contributed to Cancer Research UK. A very generous amount of £654 was collected in memory of Joan and this has been received by the charity with gratitude.

Otley Primary School remembers 100 years since the end of World War I and Remembrance Sunday

Otley Primary School remembered the 100th year anniversary since the end of World War I and Remembrance Sunday in the number of ways. It is important that the next generation is taught and understand the importance and significance of these events so that they shall never be forgotten.



The flagpole outside the School has been used to create a water fall of poppies which was on view as you passed by. Phoebe, Rocco, Brayden, Aiyah and Gabby laid a cross for every fallen soldier as their names were read out from the Roll of Honour at the well attended Remembrance Service on Sunday 11th November. The School had also made a large banner depicting 100 in red poppies which was also on display at the Service. The day after on the 12th, "Bombs and Blackberries" was performed twice in the new hall by Class 3. The play tells the story of World War II evacuees from Manchester and Italian prisoners of war. It was very well staged and evocative. Lastly, as part of their history topic, the pupils have made some excellent models of Anderson Shelters. The School is now looking forward to Christmas. The annual Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 8th December and is open to all. Please come and support your local school and this event is also a major fundraiser for the PTA which helps the School to purchase those nice little extras. Father Christmas will again be visiting and there is a chance to purchase those unique homemade gifts as well as play

the games run by the children. It is also another opportunity to see the wonderful new hall in use.

Other School highlights have included the visit of the renowned children's author Nick Butterworth best known for Percy the Park Keeper series of books, the entering and winning for the second year running BT's Robotics Day, also the entering of two dodgeball competitions. A visit to Ipswich Crown Court for a mock trial, a theatre visit and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust coming into School to talk of their work.

Ian Liddel, Chair of Governors

Otley & District Gardening Club

Enquiring gardeners among us try to ensure that we're up and about in good time to tune in over our porridge to BBC Radio Suffolk's Saturday Morning Gardening Hour, when we can listen to fellow sons and daughters of the soil airing their horticultural hang-ups and gardening gremlins to the weekend's guest gardening guru. One such gardening flying-doctor is the always popular Matthew Tanton Brown, who's never stumped for a diagnosis and suitable treatment to answer any problem or query.

And so it proved when Matthew whizzed along to sprinkle some sparkle into our Guy-Fawkes-Night club meeting, bringing a splendid array of plants to illustrate his "Plants for Winter Interest" talk. An abundance of ideas for floral forms with fragrance, flowers and/or foliage to brighten up any garden until the snowdrops, daffodils and cyclamen take over.

Our 2018 programme will conclude on December 3rd with a hands-on practical session, when our own expert horticulturist Sue Montgomery will demonstrate how to make a Christmas Wreath and a Mantelpiece Swag, with the bolder ones among us having a go at their own examples. *The Reluctant Gardener*

SWILLAND

Christmas Draw - 15th December - Witnessham Village Hall. Tickets are still available, please contact me if you would like some. We shall be pleased to receive gifts towards the prize list. Do join us for a soup, filled rolls and mince pies from 12.00 noon. The draw will take place at 1.00 p.m. and there will be the usual stalls.

The December coffee morning will be on 1st December at my house from 10.00 a.m.



Carol singing will take place on 14th December starting at Gina Wilden's house 5.30pm and finishing at the Moon and Mushroom. Do come and join us.

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday 16th December at 11 a.m.

I would like to congratulate Doris Main and her team on the wonderful Remembrance display in Clopton Church. An enormous amount of thought, research and hard work had gone into it. There was even a full size model horse. We were pleased to have over 50 people at our memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Most were from Swiland or nearby.

May I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. *Ann Kent*

Flower Rota

2nd - 9th December - Ann Kent - greenery only

16th December - Carol Service - decorate for Christmas

23rd December - Tidy up for Christmas.

30th December - 6th January - Jackie Williams

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

October has continued to remain relatively dry and quite warm until the last week when we had more autumn colder weather and rain. The rainfall this month was 1.55 inches.

One of the last crops to be harvested on the farm is sugar beet, this is a relatively new edition for the British Isles as we have always imported cane sugar from the Caribbean Islands. The first sugar beet factory was built at Cantly in 1912 but it wasn't until the early 1920s that any quantity was grown and this was partly due to the fact that the German U boats sunk many transport ships during WW1. Because of this the Government encouraged the production of sugar beet in order that we wouldn't be in the same situation in another war which was a far sited move as it turned out.

Sugar beet was drilled in the spring mainly on lighter land due to the ease of harvesting but during WW2 many heavy land farmers were ordered to grow a small acreage. In the early years the Smyth drill with Suffolk coulters was used for drilling but the seed had to be planted in a continues row. This meant that the plants when large enough were chopped out with a hoe so that they were approximately six to eight inches apart. All the farmworkers were involved with

this process and would follow one another down the rows. Today the modern seed drills plant the seed at the correct distance without any more hand work involved.

Harvesting consisted in loosening the beet in the soil by the use of a horse plough that had been adapted by fitting a blade with angled tines at the base and did one row at a time. The beet were then picked up from the soil by the tops and then knocked together to get as much soil off them as possible. The beet were then put into heaps and this was followed by another man who cut off the tops which were then put into a separate heaps to be carted back to the farm for cattle feed as required. Following the topping the beet were loaded onto a tumbrel and taken to the roadside and unloaded onto a clamp. As the sugar beet factory was unable to process all the beet that was grown at once each farmer was allocated permits which allowed loads to be delivered when required. If there was the possibility of a hard frost occurring the clamp was covered in straw and soil put on top to keep it in place. When a load was allocated it meant that the beet had to be hand forked onto a lorry and transported to the factory. The forks that were used to load sugar beet consisted of ten curved tines 1.25 inches apart with a knob at the end of each tine to prevent them piercing the beet, the tines each side were also raised to prevent the beet falling off the fork.

In the horse age growing sugar beet was very labour intensive and also very hard work. Today all harvesting is carried out with machines and no hand labour is used.

www.anythingsuffolk.co.uk showcases over 50 local artists and photographers, celebrating the rich life and landscape of our beautiful county. This new online shop sells Suffolk themed fine-art prints, calendars, books and gifts. These are ideal Christmas gifts for any lovers of Suffolk. There is also an image gallery and information about the contributors.

Gipping Press Ltd , the company behind AnythingSuffolk, have worked with local artists for many years; scanning and reproducing fine-art prints that are faithful to the originals. Now anythingsuffolk.co.uk has a library of over 200 Suffolk pictures online and the number is growing. No original artwork is sold but each reproduction is uniquely numbered, embossed and beautifully presented. There is also a variety of other Suffolk printed products available with more to be added to the collection in 2019.

We invite all local artists/ photographers to submit images for publishing to anythingsuffolk@gippingpress.co.uk. Commission will be paid for any work sold. This image library is unique collection and the site will be promoted further throughout 2019.



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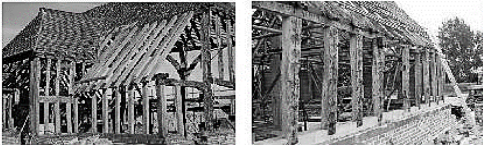
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... and as we move into Spring and Summer the pub opens up its sunny beer garden with wonderful views of the Suffolk countryside, where you can enjoy local asparagus, crabs and all the other wonderful taste sensations this area has to offer. When Autumn and Winter approach, we light the fire and cook up game pies, hearty stews and crack open the winter ale. Our community lunch gives you a slap-up meal, including pudding, and a chance to meet your neighbours for a mere £6 on the last Thursday of every month and there are Ukulele, Knitting, Cribbage, Book Clubs, all sorts of things to get involved with. See our website, give us a ring or pop in for more details.

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