

Easter Story



The thud of nails on open palms,
‘Father forgive’ was all He said,
‘Finished’ was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.
Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.
He came to die and rise again
The firstfruits of the Father’s love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

By Megan Carter

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE

In view of the current situation with Corona Virus, many of you will already be aware that various coffee mornings, groups, community lunches and events are being cancelled. We have now received the following update:

“Church services are to be put on hold as the country fights the coronavirus epidemic. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for Church of England churches to put public worship on hold and become a “different sort of church” in the coming months to face.

In a joint letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice”

Church services have been put on hold until further notice but churches are remaining open for private prayer. Weddings and funerals will still go ahead.

Please take time to make sure your neighbours/friends who may be self isolating are ok, well catered for and not feeling lonely and afraid. We really do need to look after each other.

‘Love Thy Neighbour’

Weather February 2020

This month has seen some very strong winds and gales with intervals of heavy rain there has also been a few sunny days which has dried the top soil for a day or two. We have been extremely fortunate in this area to have escaped the torrential downpours that have occurred in the West and North of the country. February's rainfall has been the highest ever recorded but not in Otley, which only goes to show how it varies in different parts of the country. Once again the month has been warm for the year and we had 2.95 inches of rain giving us a total for the year of 4.85 inches.



Russell Ling

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves,

God takes most notice of them.

Matthew Henry

Otley & District Gardening Club

Hello to everyone!

As you will be reading in this months edition of the Signpost, most meetings and gatherings are being cancelled left right and centre. Unfortunately, we are following suit and shutting the doors until this critical health pandemic is in hand. This is not really what we were wanting to do, but we felt it was in everyones interest to do this. Our AGM will happen at our next meeting (whenever that shall be) and we will be re-electing our committee. Hopefully I'll be voted in again!

Please, if there is anyone that is social distancing or self isolating and are needing help, contact me and I will do my best to aid you. My email is philpollard81@hotmail.com

It is time we all pull together in the only way we know how, just without jeopardising our own health in the process.

I will update you all when we have the go-ahead to resume our usual programme of garden related talks and outings. Take the time to get outside and

do some much needed work in the garden. I know mine will be looking like Chelsea Flower Show by the time I'm finished with it. ;o)

All my best wishes and hope for the future

The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard

9th April – Maundy Thursday: Time To Wash Feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



1st April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.



Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts delivery thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

To be almost saved, is to be totally lost.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

It is a very different and difficult article to write this month, as at the time of writing, to meet the deadline, there is a very uncertain time ahead.

We are awaiting instruction from government about who can go out and who should stay at home. There are going to be the inevitable problems of childcare should schools close, but with the older generation facing advice to stay in doors away from other people, especially if there are underlying health issues, it will be difficult for some families to cope.

At the present time, and with notification from Bishop Martin, we are instructed to cease refreshments after services. Unfortunately, this also has impact on coffee mornings which are now cancelled until further notice.

Communion services also change with only the bread being offers as sacrament, there will be no wine to avoid passing the chalice around.

When the Peace is being shared, we must not shake hands or hug, instead we have been asked to either give a slight bow or just smile with a greeting or use an arm bump.



If there is any further instruction or cancellations after this publication, we will post on the village WhatsApp and notice boards as necessary.

The Easter Day service with modified communion is, at the moment, still happening and commences at 11am. You are all welcome, there will be no coffee afterwards and sadly no Easter egg hunt. Please bring your own hand sanitiser.

Knit and Stitch has also fallen foul and is cancelled until further notice.

It all seems gloom and doom but please remember that there is the phone and at these isolating times it is important to keep in contact with one another for support and friendship.



There are phone numbers in the front of this magazine, so if anyone is in difficulty please let either of the churchwardens or me know and we can arrange help.

If you require to speak to one of the ministry team, please let me know and I can make sure you are put in contact with the right person.

We, as a village, need to gather a list of contact numbers at various parts of the village to act as contact points.

If you would like a regular phone call or know of someone who is particularly vulnerable, please let us have contact details or email so that regular contact can be made. We now have a list of contacts willing to help if the need arises once people are self isolating, mainly with shopping but happy to do anything if they can. John and I will co-ordinate and will keep the list of numbers.

We must all be sensible and follow the published guidelines, I wish you all well and hope we can all stay out of harm's way, and next month I hope there will be a happier message.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

As I write this we have had several days without rain, the daffodils and other Spring flowers are in bloom and the birds are nesting. We are so lucky to have escaped the bad weather that other parts of the country have suffered.

The Hobbies Morning is on 1st April from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, you do not have to live in Clopton, we are a very friendly group.

On 26th April we will be holding our Annual Parish Church Meeting. During the service we will hear about events in the church during 2019 and everyone is welcome. After the service there will be refreshments, followed by the Annual Meeting and election of officers.

Plans are already going ahead for a Festival to Celebrate Suffolk. This will be held in the church during the August Bank Holiday weekend (29th, 30th and 31st) We have themes but need a few more volunteers to help with the displays. For more details, or if you have any ideas, phone Jenny Schurr on 01473 738357 or email cloptionschurrs@gmail.com It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable event. Of course there will be delicious refreshments. All money raised will go towards repairing the church roof.

Doris Main

OTLEY

The Annual Vestry meetings followed a short service in which Canon Sanders gave her thanks for the work of the church in the previous year and all the individuals and groups of people who had contributed to this. It was agreed that the PCC could be re-elected en bloc. Canon Sanders thanked Richard Treloar for all the work he had done during 2019/2020, standing in as acting churchwarden without holding the formal appointment.

April 5th Palm Sunday – this will be the last service Revd Canon Clare Sanders will take in Otley before her retirement. It is a Family service and will start at 9.30am. It would be lovely to have a full church to give our thanks to Clare for the service and kindness she has given to us over the years. We shall certainly miss her.



April 12th Easter Day - Holy Communion service at 9.30am with the Revd Mark Cresswell.

These services are still taking place at the time of going to press. We will keep you advised by the means of the church notice board if things change.



Bats in the Belfry? Yes ... and we now have them in the Chancel. They dislodged a large piece of ceiling plaster whilst nesting in the roof - Spring is in the air!

We have always had bats in the Church, they are usually unobtrusive apart from a few droppings, but these have certainly made their presence known! The ceiling plaster has now been made safe and to all those bat lovers out there, they have been left with a hole for ease of access.

Coffee Mornings: Unfortunately, these have been cancelled until further notice.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy Easter!

Angela Treloar

Church Cleaning: Mary Hunt & Ruthie Bullock

Church flowers: Easter everyone

Village Diary for April:

Otley Friendship Club in the Village Hall:

9th April The Clubs AGM will be held @ **2.00pm.**

23rd April A slide show and talk by 'Chris Parfit on Bhutan' @ **2.00pm.** Chris travels to different parts of the world every year and takes photographs for his talks which he gives to different organisations when he is at home. One of the more interesting aspects of his talks is the fact that he doesn't just follow the tourist trail but delves into the life of the people of the country that he is visiting. We always welcome visitors to our talks.

23rd April Community Lunch @ The White Hart 12.00 noon – Please telephone before going to confirm if it is still going ahead. Telephone number is 01473 890312

Clubs that meet in the Village Hall

Adult Tap - Wednesday morning (contact Jill Streatfeild 01394 384557)

Pilates meet Tuesday morning & evening and Thursday morning (contact Lara Pepper 07974142240)

Friendship club on a Thursday afternoon (contact Russell Ling 01473 890276)

The Otley Players (TOPS) on a Friday and Junior TOPS on a Saturday afternoon - during productions. (contact Vanessa Ling 01473 890787)

Junior Tops ‘The Sound of Music’

On Saturday the 29th February at Otley Village Hall, the latest production from Junior Tops played to a full house.



This year we were treated to Rogers and Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music”.

We were led by Maria played by Jemima Ling, and Captain Von Trapp played by Louis Markham, who alongside a competent cast, told the story of Maria an aspiring nun who is sent as a governess to take care of his seven children.

The sets, props and costume designs were impressive! My favourite scene was ‘The Lonely Goatherd’ performed as a Marionette show. The choreography and enthusiasm of the cast was evident and well presented. It was apparent that during the whole performance not only a great deal of effort and hard work had gone into putting on such a production, but also how much the young people appeared to be enjoying themselves whilst on stage. This is a testament to the ethos of Junior Tops. Every child is included, is given a role and the opportunity to develop their confidence.

Mary Hunt

SWILLAND

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 15th March. The Annual Report, the Fabric Report and the accounts were presented and approved. The existing PCC was re-elected en bloc. We are very pleased to welcome Margo Barker on to the PCC.



Churchyard Working Party - we are planning to do this on 4th April from 9 a.m to 12 noon. As this will be mainly outside, we hope this will be able to go ahead. In view of the virus restrictions, we probably won't be able to provide refreshments, so please bring your own. Do come and join us - many hands make light work. This will be instead of our monthly coffee morning which we wouldn't have been able to have anyway.

Our Easter Day service will be 11.00 a.m. on 12th April, virus permitting.

Thank you to those who have paid their annual subscription to Signpost. For those that haven't please may I have £8.50. If anyone does not want to receive it any more, please let me know.

Flower Rota:

12th April - Easter

All help please

19th - 26th April

Ann Kent

3rd - 10th May

Margo Barker

Ann Kent

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

Keeping livestock in the horse era was very different to what it is today. In the past there was not the equipment available to feed and house large numbers of animals on farms. Few villages had mains water which meant that all supplies had to be obtained from ponds. Horses were allowed to drink from the ponds themselves as they were used to doing this. Cattle in some circumstances when there was a pond in the meadow where they grazed would also help themselves, for all other housed livestock the water had to be taken to them. The method used was by means of a water butt, a tank on three wheels which held about a 130 gallons of water and was horse drawn. To obtain the water the butt was backed into the pond and then the farm worker had to climb from the horse over the top of the butt and stand on a platform at the back which would be level with the water. There was a double lid hinged at the sides which was then opened and a pail, which was left inside, used to fill the butt from the pond. After completing this task the man would climb back onto to the horse which would then pull it out. The butt was pulled round to the buildings holding the animals and the water transferred into the drinking troughs for the cattle and tubs for the pigs. I should mention that all farm ponds had a mouth, this was a stoned sloping area which prevented the butt from getting stuck in the mud. It was much more labour intensive in the past without mains water.



In my next article I will inform you how the animals were looked after.

Russell Ling

News from Otley Primary School

The new Executive Headteacher, who has been in post since January, Mrs Michaela Harris, has settled in very quickly and has been busy introducing new ideas and practices. The first of which was a new vision statement for the Federation – ‘**Pride + Passion = Progress**’, which now underpins everything the Federation does, with the aim of developing resilient learners and to celebrate their achievements, so that they can perform to the best of their abilities.

In addition to the vision statement, a number of ‘learning muscles’ are slowly being introduced to the children. These muscles are the Curious Crocodile, the Responsible Rhino, the Preserving Penguin, the Motivated Monkey, the Teamwork Tiger and the Independent Iguana. As their names suggest they each come with their own characteristics, lessons and expectations that the children can learn from.

These are exciting times for the School and the Federation with Otley Primary and if you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to contact the School Office, ad.otley@owfed.co.uk or 01473 890302.

*Ian Liddell,
Chair of Governors*

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again;

May God hold you in the palm of His hand



SMILE LINES

Palm waving

It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

Hot

What do you call a chocolate bunny that was out in the sun too long?
A runny bunny.



Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

Environmentally friendly transport

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

Packet?

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation, he replied: 'Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'



What God looks like

An infants teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

EASTER EGG HUNT

Ten Easter eggs are hidden in this picture. Colour in the picture and find all the eggs.



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