

BENEFICE CALENDAR

April 2012

Sunday 1st April			Palm Sunday
9.15 am	Holy Communion		Swilland
11.00 am	Pilgrimage and Family Service		Otley
Monday 2nd April	7.30 pm	Compline	Swilland
Tuesday 3rd April	7.30 pm	Compline	Clopton
Wednesday 4th April	7.30 pm	Compline	Ashbocking
Thursday 5th April	7.30 pm	Agape	Otley village hall
Friday 6th April	10.00 am	Messy Church	Otley
	2.00 pm	The Final Hour	Otley
Sunday 8th April			Easter Day
6.30 am	Sunrise service	8.00 am Holy Communion	Clopton
9.15 am	Holy Communion		Otley
11.00 am	Easter Praise with Communion		Ashbocking
11.00 am	Holy Communion		Swilland
Sunday 15th April			Easter 2
9.15 am	Holy Communion		Otley
11.00 am	Family Service		Swilland
Sunday 22nd April			Easter 3
11.00 am	Family Service		Clopton
6.30 pm	Confirmation and Holy Communion		Otley
Sunday 29th April			Easter 4
9.15 am	Holy Communion BCP		Otley
11.00 am	Benefice Songs of Praise		Ashbocking
Sunday 6th May			Easter 5
9.15 am	Holy Communion		Swilland
11.00 am	Family Service		Otley

Sunday Bible Readings

1st April : Palm Sunday

Is.50:4-9a Phil.2:5-11 Mark 14:1-end of 15

8th April : Easter Day

various

15th April : Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-22 John 20:19-end

22nd April : Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36-48

29th April : Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-end John 10:11-18

6th May : Easter 5

Acts 8:26-end 1 John 4:7-end John 15:1-8

Prayer for the month

Lord God, we thank you for the well of grace in Jesus Christ, for his resurrection that takes us by surprise, and for his nudge that awakens our sleeping souls. His call leads us to discipleship and his hand draws us into life. In this Easter season teach us to trust the signs of Christ's resurrection. May we dare to be open to its beckoning, to walk across the turbulent waters and to share the risen life. This we ask in Christ's name and in his risen strength.

James Atwell



HOUSE GROUPS: We have two benefice house groups, to which all are welcome. The daytime group (led by Catherine) meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 1.30 pm at Mrs Penny Clark's house (Cherry Bank, Otley). The evening group (led by James) meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (**N.B. the change from Tues.**) at 8.15 pm at 16, Spring Park, Otley. New members are always welcome.

LETTER FROM GRAHAM HEDGER

'Your busy time of year, Vicar' said one parishioner as we come up to Easter. Looking at the schedule of services for Holy Week, that period from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, you would be right. It is a busy period, but no different to any other time, just more organised.

As we enter the most holy time of year journeying again from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem through to Good Friday and Easter Day, we will be holding services nearly every day. It is important to take ourselves back in time to that first Easter and recall the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. But why? Many of us have heard the story since we were children.

Over the years as we develop friendships, so we find out new things about our friends. It is not static, and so it is with our relationship with Jesus. Each day as we read the bible and pray, so the relationship changes, grows and deepens. Perhaps the most obvious place is when we come to the major festivals of Christmas and Easter as they focus on the immense love that God has for each one of us.

Re-reading the gospel accounts of the last hours of Jesus' life, his love, which drove him to the cross, allowing himself to become our substitute in taking the punishment for our sins, is still mind-blowing. There are many who feel that if we have an all-loving God, then he could have found a way to deal with sin that overlooked it or simply forgave it. But that would not be justice. It was the act of exchange, with Jesus taking our place, that transferred our guilt to him and his righteousness to us, that puts us in a place where it is 'just as if I hadn't sinned'. That is a simple way of saying that we are justified by faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

The death of Jesus was one part of God's great acts; the other part was raising him from the dead. This vindication of Jesus showed that his sacrifice was once and for all. It is because Jesus died and rose again that Christians can confidently live their lives in his name and power, and even more confidently face death, knowing they will be united with him in glory.

May you have a very happy and blessed Easter.

Graham Hedger Priest in Charge

Throughout the week from Palm Sunday April 1st – Easter Day there will be special services, literally something for everyone.

On **Palm Sunday** there is a special all age service at Otley at 11.00am. Just like the first Palm Sunday we will become pilgrims and journey from our churches in each village, bearing our palm crosses and meet at Otley in time for the service.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will hold the evening service of Compline in a different church each evening. This is a quiet and reflective service and will last for about 20 minutes.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of a very special period as we reflect on the events of the last few hours of Jesus' life. We will hold an 'Agape meal' in Otley Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. The early Christians didn't meet in church buildings or hold special services everything happened in the home and around meals. This will be a sharing meal, details from Nigel Crowley. During the meal there will be opportunity for worship, prayer and we will hold a very simple communion service.

On **Good Friday** there will be a 'messy church' event at Otley Church from 10.00–12 noon. There will be all the usual activities, making the Easter garden, Easter egg hunt stories, craft activity and hot cross buns. This is not limited to children it is for all the family.

At 2.00pm there will be the quiet and reflective service of readings and meditations, again at Otley.

Easter Day

There is a service for everyone at some stage during the day. Please see the calendar. The service at Otley at 9.30am will include activities for children.

Confirmation

On April 22nd at 6.30 p.m. we will welcome Bishop Nigel to Otley Church to confirm 5 members from our benefice and also people from Grundisburgh. It will be a very special occasion and I hope that many people will want to come and support those who are being confirmed.

Come and sing your favourite hymns

At 10.30am on **Sunday 29th April** there will be an informal Benefice Songs of Praise at Ashbocking church, so leave the comfort of your armchairs and Aled Jones to do it for real. Please speak to Jane Hall (785251) or Catherine Beaumont (890264) if you'd like to choose a hymn. There is plenty of parking and there will be tea and coffee to refresh you afterwards! We hope to see and hear you on the 29th!

Benefice Men's Group

On the evening of Monday February 20th the Benefice Men's Group travelled to Bury St Edmunds for a tour of Greene King Brewery. Twelve members enjoyed a guided tour, which included spectacular views from the roof of the brewing chamber. We were then escorted to the Brewery Tap to be served an excellent hot buffet, accompanied by copious samples of the numerous beers which Greene King produce.



Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday May 21st** when we shall be guests of Otley Bowls Club for an evening of (non-competitive!) bowling and a buffet supper. New members are always welcome.

Nigel Crowley

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CLOPTON

On Easter Day we have our Sunrise Service at 6.30am followed by Breakfast before Communion at 8.00am. It is a very special time standing in the quiet churchyard early in the morning; we hope you can join us.

The Soup and a Roll lunch was a great success and raised £230. Thank you to Sue Emmerson and her helpers for organizing it, and all who donated cakes and prizes.

Change of date: The concert at Clopton Church with the Ipswich Operatic and Dramatic Society is now going to be held on **Saturday 23rd June**. Tickets £10.00 including wine and nibbles, available from Sue Emmerson on 737507 or Doris Main on 737602.

The Ladies Group will meet on **Thursday 12th April** in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. It will be a 'hands on' evening, with a chance to try lots of different techniques using fabric. Sue will bring all the materials needed. Just bring a pair of scissors and scraps of fabric if you have any.

The April Coffee Morning will be on **Wednesday 18th** in the Village Hall from 10.00am until noon and will be hosted by Kath Raffell.

Doris Main

Church Flowers
Church cleaning for April

All for Easter
Audrey Barker

OTLEY

The details of all the services for Holy Week and Easter can be found at the front of the magazine, and the church will be decorated on **Easter Saturday, 7th April**. The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place in church on **Thursday, 26th April at 7.30pm**, so it is a busy month.

At Evensong in February Graham dedicated two copies of a new book which contains a detailed plan of the churchyard, and photographs of all the memorials and headstones.



This has been compiled by the Local History Group, notably Sally Whiffing and Janice Wood, building on the previous records made by the Women's Institute in 1981. One copy has now been deposited at the Suffolk Records Office and the other will be kept at the back of the church.

These will be a very useful resource for visitors and historians. Additional copies are available from David Papworth at the price of £15.00. We thank Sally and Janice for their very thorough work on this project - a lot of visitors come to the church researching their forbears.

Congratulations to Brian Childs on gaining The High Sheriff's Volunteer of the Year award, presented to him at a ceremony at the Cathedral. Typically modest, he was completely taken by surprise, but we all know how well deserved it is for his many years of dedicated voluntary work, especially with the Scouts. This is excellent news.

The Otley Players are presenting the comedy "Brush with a Body" by Maurice McLoughlin on **26th, 27th and 28th April**. This will be very popular so order your tickets soon from Joan Parish telephone 890715. They cost £7 each for adults, and £4 for children.

The Gardening Club will be holding its AGM on **30th April**, which will be very short, and this will be followed by Charlie Haylock, the local celebrity and author, giving a talk which he has entitled "Suffolk Squit!". This is sure to be an amusing evening, full of anecdotes and dialect.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on **Thursday, 12th April** at 10 Spring Park, the home of Nigel and Pauline Crowley. We wish Nigel a speedy recovery from his knee operation and hope he will be in fine fettle by then.

We send love and sympathy to Barry and Janet Bailey, Lizzie and Nick, on the loss of Simon at the age of 33. He had far outlived the expectations of the doctors, due to Janet and Barry's devoted care, and there is going to be a very big gap in their lives without him. His funeral was a moving occasion and Lizzie gave a very positive and loving address for her 'big brother'.

Good luck to Victoria Hook, running in the London Marathon on 22nd April for Build Africa. There is still time to sponsor her - telephone 01473 890122.

To end on a nature note - at the pond by the churchyard, we were very surprised to disturb a bittern in the rushes. These large birds in the heron family are not only shy but rare, and it is amazing to find one so close to a built-up area. We have informed the RSPB.

Apache Approach

Apache Approach is a fundraising event taking place at Framlingham College on **Saturday, 28th April**, which will be an opportunity to discover more about the Apache helicopter from Wattisham, and other military establishments in our area. The helicopter will fly in at 2.00pm and remain with its support crew until 4.00pm, the RAF Honington Volunteer Band will be playing, and other attractions include a small arms trainer and a 10 metre climbing wall. Refreshments will be available and admission is free, but collections will be taken for Help for Heroes, Combat Stress, Walking with the Wounded, and the Afghan Appeal Fund, all of which assist military personnel returning from conflict, either injured or suffering from trauma. The gate will be open at 1.00pm.

Rose Rogerson

Suffolk Village of the Year

The Parish Council is entering Otley in the Suffolk Village of the Year 2012 Competition to highlight all the good things about living in Otley. Although marks are awarded for the general appearance of the village, the judges are not looking for the “prettiest” village, more how good the village is to live in for all sections of the community. The deadline is Friday 18th May. The paperwork covers Community Spirit, The Parish Council, General Appearance of the Village and Special Achievements and Initiatives. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions that will help convince the judges that Otley should be a winner, wishes to be involved, or would like further information, please contact Vanessa Osborne by email at otleyparishclerk@btinternet.com.

Vanessa Osborne

Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Otley

Plans are beginning to shape up for Otley's celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee following a meeting of over 20 people at the White Hart last month. We hope that the church will be open and decorated **all weekend** so that visitors and residents can drop in to see the flowers and sign the Big Thank You letter. There will be a church parade and all age service with a jubilee theme at 11.00am on **Sunday 3rd June**.

Then on **Monday 4th June** we hope to gather the village community together at the village hall and on the playing field for a variety of celebrations which we hope will appeal to young and old, shy and bold, families and individuals. The day will begin a short and informal **service of thanksgiving** for the Queen's reign. This will be followed by "**The Big Lunch**"; bring picnics, chairs, rugs and drinks to eat and relax together. During the afternoon there will be traditional games and races, music, competitions, entertainment, fun and a chance to collect the presentation coins.

The afternoon will culminate in a **tea party**, after which we hope the children of Otley school, who recently sang at Snape Maltings (see Ian Liddell's article), will bring the afternoon to a close. During the evening we hope there will be **a bar and a band**, and maybe a barbeque too, so that the celebrations can continue.

All this will take some organising and I'm very grateful to all who have offered to help. **Many hands make light work** so if you are able to contribute in some way please let me know or come to a planning meeting at 8.15pm on **April 16th** or **May 14th** at the White Hart. We just need a glorious June day to ensure a memorable event for the community.

Jane Hall (785251 or allthealls@tiscali.co.uk)

Brians a winner!

Living in a small village we often find ourselves roped in to help out or run something. Its an important part of village life "getting involved". For some people it's more than that, they are the ones that have a true passion and commitment for something, a lasting hobby or interest perhaps. Brian Childs is one of them. I have known Brian a number of years now and have always been inspired by his enthusiasm for Scouting and the outdoor life.

With this in mind I took the opportunity to nominate him for the 2012 Suffolk High Sheriffs 'Suffolk Volunteer of the Year' award. With assistance from Christine his wife and a couple of others, I put together a nomination and sent it off. The award is run by the Suffolk Foundation in Grundisburgh. They were soon in touch with him to collaborate my facts, much to his surprise. Brian together with Christine and a guest were invited to attend the awards ceremony at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury on the 8th March. Having listened to all the good work others do around the county, Suffolk Volunteer of the Year was finally announced. It was Brian Childs! With a big grin on his face Brian accepted a large silver cup, a certificate and a silver platter from sponsors Ipswich Building Society and the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Stephen Miles.

Brian is typical of a number of individuals within our community that not only 'help out' but make things happen, they are the main stays of our community. Most, like Brian are very modest individuals but without them there would be nothing to do, no village life and no sense of community. If you know of an individual like Brian why not put them forward for a High Sheriffs award, give them some recognition, a little pat on the back to say "well done"? Check out the Suffolk Foundations website (www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk) for details of the High Sherriffs award and the many funding opportunities they provide.

Chris Taylor

Otley Primary School perform at Snape Maltings Concert Hall

After many weeks of practice and rehearsals all of the Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) pupils performed at the Celebration of Schools' Music event on 7th March at the world famous Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

This is an annual and very prestigious event which is open to every primary and secondary school across Suffolk and after Otley registered an interest in the autumn it had to wait to see if it was going to be invited. In the 25 year history of the event this was the first time the school has participated.

The children chose to sing songs linked to their current history topic of World War II, such as *Pack up Your Troubles*, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* and *Hang out your washing on the Siegfried Line*, all whilst dressed as evacuees.

They were superb and more than held their own in the face of much larger primary and secondary schools, which also performed that night. One comment I received was “it was absolutely brilliant – a privilege to be there.”

Larger schools have the advantage of choosing the most talented children for an event. Owing to its size Otley does not have that advantage, and every child took part. Much credit must go to Mrs Barnes and Miss Baker, the class teachers, for the effort they put in. The children were a great advert for and ambassadors of both the school and the village and we should all be very proud of them. You may have noticed the centre page spread in the *East Anglian Daily Times* the following day.

The school continues to thrive with increased numbers (53 children across three classes) and is making good use of the recent new classroom. Small rural schools will always face pressure on their resources. Otley is one of the smallest. It is a great asset to the village and we should all give it our support and encouragement. It provides an excellent primary education for our children.

Ian Liddell - Chair of Governors

Otley Bowls Club

The winter months are when a lot of the renovation work takes place on the green, trying to get it in to a good condition for the season. This year was no exception, but we also have had an unwelcome amount of work to do off the green as rabbits, over the years, have tunnelled under the foundations of our tool shed and water tanks. This has caused the tanks to split and the shed floor to collapse. To rectify this, we have had to purchase new tanks and a new shed. To stop this happening again, new reinforced foundations have been laid.

The green itself looks to be in good shape. Our opening is on 21st April with a club drive, and the first home league game is on 1st May. On 21st May we look forward to a visit from the church Men's Group.

Bill Kemp

Church Flowers:
Church cleaning:
Brasses:

Easter, everyone/Joan Parish
Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock
Betty David

Otley Village Diary

- 5th April Friendship Club – Easter bonnets
5th April Maundy bring and share supper and Agape service
19th April Friendship Club - AGM
26th /27th /28th April TOPS “Brush with a Body”

Otley Church Sidesmen’s Rota

1 st April 11.00am	Family Service and Pilgrimage	Mr R Treloar
6 th April 2.00pm	Final Hour	Mr D Papworth
8 th April 9.15am	Holy Communion	Mr D Papworth
15 th April 9.15am	Holy Communion	Mrs P Clark
22 nd April 6.30pm	Confirmation and Holy Communion Church wardens at el	
29 th April 9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mr D Papworth

Otley Quiet Days

Thurs 10th May – Rev. Brian Raistrick Coping with Grief

Tues 29th May – SIFRE “Commitment, Compassion and Co- existence”

Telephone Karen Gwynne-Vince on 01473 890264 or email:
enquiries@otleyhall.co.uk for all enquiries or bookings.

SWILLAND

Do come and join us for our Quiz on Saturday 28th April in **Witnesham Village Hall**. The format will be teams of four and the cost is £5 per person. Light refreshments will be served half-way through. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tea and coffee will be available. There will be a small draw so please bring some extra money! It would be helpful to know in advance who is coming - please contact either me or Gill Reidy, or Brian Williams.

We were very pleased to have a church full for Emilia Houston's baptism on 4th March. It was a delightful service and we would like to thank Jane for taking it and putting so much thought into it, and to Catherine for her assistance and to Helen for playing the organ.



Emilia looked resplendent in our family christening robe, which dates from about 1880 and at least 25 babies have been christened in it.

We only have four people on our flower rota – if anyone would like to join us we shall be delighted. It only involves about 4 Sundays a year.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

Easter - 8th April

15th – 22nd April

29th April – 6th May

All help please if possible

Gill Reidy

Ann Kent

Experiences of Worship in the U.S.A.

Whilst staying in our home in Fort Myers on the south west coast of Florida, Pauline and I have attended a local Episcopal church. We have found the experience uplifting and very welcoming. It has been an interesting insight into Christian worship in America.

Compared to the U.K., religion forms a very important part of life in the U.S.A. 80% of Americans claim to have a Christian faith, and 50% regularly attend church. In the forthcoming Presidential elections religion also plays an important role. The so-called Evangelical Christian Right are a large and powerful influence in the Republican Party.

Roman Catholicism is by far the largest denomination. Many Americans are originally of Irish, Italian or Eastern European extraction, nations where the Catholic faith predominates. The fastest growing ethnic group in America are Spanish speakers of Latin origin – again of Catholic faith. However, there are numerous other denominations to choose from.

On Saturday our local newspaper devotes a full page entitled 'A Call to Worship'. It has details of fourteen Christian church denominations:

Baptist, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Presbyterian USA, Roman Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventist, Unitarian Universalist, United Methodist, United Church of Christ, and Unity. All offer Sunday Worship. Competition is fierce and alluring notices appear outside some churches: 'Come in, we are prayer conditioned' (all buildings are air conditioned); 'Call into my house before the Big Game, God' (on a church before the Super Bowl football final). On Saturday and Sunday cable television has several religious, mainly Evangelical, programmes. Self-styled T.V. pastors conduct long, energetic sermons, berating their congregations and asking for Divine forgiveness, and usually for large donations.

As I mentioned earlier, church attendance is high and on a Sunday morning church parking lots (generally large areas) are full. Attendance is seasonal. The population in Florida increases significantly in the winter months when many Canadians and Americans ('Snowbirds') from the cold northern states move down to sunny Florida. Our local Catholic church has a regular Sunday congregation of 1,000, rising to nearly 2,000 in the winter period. Their offertory collection in January was \$120,646 (approximately £80,000!)

We attend the Iona Hope Episcopal church, which has an Anglican service, albeit a modern form in a very modern setting. The church started as a mission in 1998 under the guidance of a pastor – Dr John Adler. Religious services were held in various venues such as a local bridge club, until the church moved to its current site in new, purpose-built premises in 2005. Situated in the Iona district of Fort Myers, Iona Hope received its name from the geographical area, but also reflects the 'hopes' of the congregation. Iona Hope is further linked to the Iona Community. It has a processional cross which was made by a wood carver at Iona Abbey, a spiritual site founded by St Columba in 563.

Much of the service is familiar – hymns (though often with an unfamiliar tune), readings from the Old and New Testaments, the Creed, Communion, and a rather more informal sermon. Average Sunday attendance during the winter season is 200. People attending for the first time receive a welcome pack. All members of the congregation wear a name badge and we have found it very inclusive and friendly.

Nigel Crowley

Rainfall –February 2012

February fill dyke almost turned out to be February empty dyke as the rainfall for the month was only a miserable .35 inches. I thought that this amount must be a record for February, but on looking back I found that in 1998 no rainfall was recorded at all. However, the total for that year was 28.25 inches which was above average, it was a very wet year. The other interesting fact regarding February is, that apart from one week it continued to be very mild. What will the rest of the year bring?

Russell Ling

SMILE LINES

What can I eat for Easter? Can't eat beef.....mad cow. Can't eat chicken..... bird flu. Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella. Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect piggies. Also trichinosis. Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters. Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides. Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs .

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

Good Friday I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

At my age I ...get my daily paper, look at the obituaries page and if I'm not there, I carry on as usual. Patrick Moore



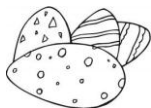
EASTER EGGS

Easter eggs have been in the shops since just after Christmas but they are not a new idea. The egg has been used as a symbol of rebirth and new life since before Christian times.

The English name for Easter is said to come from Eostre, a northern goddess of spring. The rebirth of growing things in the spring, after the long dark days of winter, was a time of rejoicing in the pagan world and many of their rites and symbols have been carried over into our Christian festival of Easter.

In pagan times they celebrated the return of light and warmth to the world but our Easter celebrates so much more. We celebrate the fact that Jesus died for us and yet is not dead. We celebrate because Jesus overcame death.

And if all those brightly wrapped chocolate eggs in the shops help us to remember that Easter means new life, new life in Jesus, then good – I'll have lots!



BEAUTIFUL EGGS

Chocolate eggs are a new idea; the traditional Easter egg is a decorated hen's egg. Why not make some as special gifts to share the good news of Easter?



You can decorate them in the traditional method of wrapping eggs in onion skins and then boiling them. This gives a mottled, golden look to the egg (or try a couple of slices of beetroot for a different effect).

If you are not going to eat the egg afterwards you can decorate it with paint or felt tip pens. Painted eggs can look very special if, when the paint is dry, you stick on sequins and small beads. Rather than waste a perfectly good egg find out how to 'blow' the egg out of the shell – then you can eat the egg as well as having a perfect empty shell to decorate.



Why did the egg go into the jungle?

Because he wanted to be an eggs-plorer.

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