

January 2013

Sunday 13th January

9.15 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Family Service

Baptism of Christ

Clopton
Ashbocking

Saturday 19th January

9.30 am – 12.30 pm Listening skills workshop

Clopton village hall

Sunday 20th January

9.15 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Family Service - Christingle

Epiphany 3

Otley
Swilland

Sunday 27th January

9.15 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Family Service
4.00 pm Evening Prayer

Epiphany 4

Ashbocking
Clopton
Otley

Sunday 3rd February

9.15am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Service

Candlemas

Swilland
Otley

Sunday Bible Readings

13th January : Baptism of Christ

Is.43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22

20th January : Epiphany 3

Is.62:1-5 1 Cor.12:1-11 John 2:1-11

27th January : Epiphany 4

Neh.8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Cor.12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21

3rd February : Candlemas

Mal.3:1-5 Heb.2:14-end Luke 2:22-40

HOUSE GROUPS: We have two benefice house groups, to which all are welcome. The daytime group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2.00pm at Penny Clark's house (Cherry Bank, Otley). The evening group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 8.00pm at Karin Upson's (16, Spring Park, Otley). New members are always welcome.

LETTER FROM CLARE SANDERS

January 1st is a momentous date for our Church in these parishes, as we embark on a new pattern of working together as brothers and sisters in Christ, with our neighbouring parishes of Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Burgh and Boulge. The readings set for the month could not be more appropriate; they begin with the story of the Magi setting out to follow the star to the manger with their gifts. We follow in their footsteps, bringing with us into this new way of working, our gifts, many and varied as they are, in the service of Christ and the world that God loved so much that he sent his Son, to become one with it.

One of the gifts that all of us have to offer one another, is the gift of listening, and to help us in that task, we have set up a morning workshop with the Acorn Healing Trust on 19th January to lead us in developing our skills. Please read Jane's note about it later in the magazine.

On the 2nd Sunday, we remember the Baptism of Jesus, which in turn reminds us, that at our baptism, each of us was commissioned to ministry, each of us charged to "shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father". New Year is traditionally a time for making New Year resolutions and that concept applies to our faith and witness as much as it does in our secular lives. It would be great if each of us were able to find some space during the early part of the month to reflect prayerfully in the presence of God on "what is God calling me to do?" For some in our benefice this may lead to a commitment to train as an Elder, to take a more active part in assisting with the leadership of worship and in sharing in the pastoral work of the parishes. If this is something you would like to learn more about, please talk to Jane, Catherine or me.

This month I have chosen the prayer; it's entitled New Ways.

Prayer for the month

" God of our lives, you are always calling us to follow you into the future, inviting us to new ventures, new challenges, new ways to care, new ways to touch the hearts of all. When we are fearful of the unknown, give us courage. When we worry we are not up to the task, remind us that you would not call us if you did not believe in us. When we get tired, or feel

disappointed with the way things are going, remind us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult of situations.”

Kathy Galloway

Who is our new incumbent?

I was born north of the border, in Dundee in Scotland, where my father was Rector of St Salvador's, a slum parish, so I grew up surrounded by poverty and urban concerns. When I was 11, my mother died, and as a family we moved to Somerset, at a time when clergy could be vicar of just one parish. My early teenage years were spent in a village, just outside Taunton, but in 6th Form, my father moved to a town parish in Bridgwater.

I was fortunate enough to be awarded an AFS (American Field Service) scholarship, and as soon as I finished A levels, I went off to the USA, to St Louis, Missouri, where I attended High School as a Senior and enjoyed the delights of all things American. Back in Britain, I went to Hull University to read History and there met Mark, who was to become my husband. We married in 1982, but before that, I was awarded another scholarship, this time from the World Council of Churches, and I went to work with the Sisters of the Church of South India, a Protestant equivalent of the Sisters of Mercy, founded by Mother Theresa. That experience was to shape me as a person, in a way no other has done.

On returning to the UK, I trained as a teacher of RE; I did my NQT year at Gt Yarmouth Grammar School, then, after getting married, I continued my teaching career in Haverhill, where Mark had become curate. We have been in Suffolk ever since. While teaching, I trained for ordination with Rowan Williams as my tutor; I was a very lucky person. In 1985 I was made deaconess; in 1987 I was ordained deacon, and then in 1994, priest.

We moved to Melton in 1987, where Mark was parish priest and I worked as Diocesan Director of Education – a job I loved. After Tom was born in 1997, and Mark had moved into his present job, I left education to become a parish priest – part-time in Earl Soham, Crettingham and Ashfield while Tom was young, and then full-time in Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Burgh and Boulge from 2005.

I am really excited at the opportunity of working in a ministry team – getting to know new people, sharing ideas, building people up in

discipleship and service. Now isn't always an easy time in which to be a Christian, but it is an exciting time. Jesus never promised us an easy life, but he did promise always to be with us, and in that I rejoice.

Looking ahead

Lent begins early this year – Ash Wednesday is on February 13th. There will be two opportunities to join in a Lent group – Monday afternoons beginning **February 18th**, 2.00-3.30pm at Otley Hall and Wednesday evenings, beginning **February 20th** 7.30pm in Grundisburgh Parish Room. The course has been written by Jane, Wendy, Catherine and me and it follows the stories of Abraham, Elijah, Jonah, Mary, and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We hope that you will join us – more details next month

Confirmation preparation for young people begins on Jan 13th at Grundisburgh House at 4.00pm. The sessions will last for 90 minutes, and there will be a further 5 sessions, meeting on Jan 20th; Feb 3rd and 10th; March 3rd and 17th. The Confirmation service is on March 30th at 6.30pm in Grundisburgh Church. Please speak to Jane, Catherine or me if you would like to join this group.

Rev'd Clare Sanders

“The Importance of Listening”

Are you a good listener?

Do you sometimes wish you'd been more attentive?

Now is your chance to learn more about active listening.

We are holding a morning's workshop to help us improve our skills. The event is suitable for everyone, from youngsters who'd like to understand their friends better, to grandparents who'd like to hear their grandchildren's' views or worries. You don't have to be a churchgoer or involved in pastoral care – everyone will be welcome. It is being run by The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, which promotes a ministry of Christian listening, healing and reconciliation in an unthreatening and inter-active way.

The workshop, entitled "The Importance of Listening" will cover a basic introduction to listening skills and look particularly at the disciplined and structured method of active listening that Acorn teaches. Christian listening teaches that listening has three elements: listening to God,

listening to others, and listening to ourselves. Each element is of equal importance and we will explore all three aspects with tutor demonstrations and an opportunity for everyone to practice.

The morning is on **Saturday 19th January at Clopton village hall from 9.30am – 12.30pm.** The cost is £10 per person. Please book with me (785251 or allthealls@tisclai.co.uk)

Rev'd Jane Hall

Could you be a Friend to Suffolk's Churches?

Are you someone who values the church building which has been part of your community for generations? Many such buildings are under threat from crumbling plaster, rising damp, failing pipes, tottering towers or the dreaded death-watch beetle. Your church might currently be in the fortunate situation where all is well – but in the future it could be your community that needs help from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

In 2013 we will celebrate our 40th anniversary and since 1973 we have given out grants of more than £3 million, to help restore and preserve churches of all denominations. These grants have been a lifeline to struggling fund-raisers. The money comes from the annual sponsored church bike-ride in September, from legacies and donations, but also from the subscriptions of the Friends of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

In return for a minimum annual donation of £15 per person, Friends are invited to an annual dinner, study days and other events. They also receive twice-yearly newsletters about the work of the Trust in Suffolk.

Please become a Friend of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust – your church could be the one that needs help in the future.

Martin Favell

Chairman, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

www.shct.org.uk office telephone: 01787 883884

Otley Church Preservation Trust

On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank all of you who kindly purchased Christmas cards. The Trust made a profit of £270 from these cards, which will be used once again to help towards the restoration and repairs of our beautiful 13th century building. I am delighted to report that all the cards were sold, in spite of increasing the number printed.

I'm aiming even higher this year and we are already working on two new designs for 2013. If anyone has photos of the church, either internal or external, that may be suitable as a Christmas card please contact me and I will submit them to the trustees for consideration. Once again, thank you for your support which is much appreciated. Happy New Year.

Tess Papworth

Men's Group

Cold, wet November evening. Eighteen blokes (most not churchgoers - some straight from a long day at work) inside a church (unheated!), listening to Roy Tricker talk about the architecture and history of St Mary's, Otley. Unlikely? But Roy is a very entertaining speaker, funny and knowledgeable and Otley Church is quite a gem. We then adjourned to the White Hart for beer and a good meal in front of a roaring fire.

There's no 'membership' necessary for the men's evenings. We meet if we're free three or four times a year. Recently, we've been to a brewery and had a go at the bowls club - that was a cold evening in summer for a change, but, as someone once said to me years ago, 'Even God can't change the weather, can he, vicar?'

I'm looking forward to the next evening. If you feel like coming, ring David on 890091 or email papworths241@btinternet.com

Fred Woods

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

We rounded off 2012 with our Carols by Candlelight service the Sunday before Christmas, and a Christmas Praise service on Christmas Day itself. The church looked very special with the beautiful floral arrangements lit by candles. Both services were well-attended as we welcomed people from the village and some of their Christmas guests. We were thankful to all the readers, to Helen Jay for playing the organ, to Brenda and Linda for the flower arrangements, and to Hamish for providing the crib, Christmas tree and now traditional mulled wine!

We bade farewell to Graham as our priest-in-charge at the Christmas Praise service. We will not forget the talk he gave accompanied by his 'pet' emu, which was (for the most part), better behaved than his celebrity cousin (for those who can remember!). Thank you Graham for everything you have done for us.

Clare Sanders will be conducting her first service at Ashbocking as our incumbent on Sunday 13th January. Please take the opportunity to come and welcome / meet her.

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

The Christmas party organised by Jean and Peter Day was a great success. The evening was full of fun, games and music and the buffet table was laden with delicious food. Tony Dockrell played saxophone with Peter Day on keyboard. Jean and Peter had put a lot of effort into making sure the evening had something for everyone. Thanks to all who helped decorate the hall and made food. The money raised will go towards the bell fund.

All the new presents donated at the Gift Service were taken to the Ormiston Trust in Ipswich and were wrapped and given to the children by Father Christmas at their party.

Della Hughes and Anne Pryke hosted the Christmas coffee-morning. The mechanical toys were fun, especially the jumping penguin and the large nearly life-size Father Christmas. It was a great start to the festive season and a chance to chat to people that we don't see very often. The next coffee-morning is on **Wednesday 16th January** from 10am until noon and will be hosted by June Hughes and Doris Main.

A small hardy band of carol-singers sang around Clopton on two evenings this year; £185 was collected for the Ipswich Children's Hospice. Thank you to those who braved the cold and ice on the first night and came back again on the second. To all who donated so generously, thank you.

The church was nearly full for the Christmas Eve candlelit carol service led by Jane and James.

The church looked magical with just flickering candles to provide light. Mince pies and mulled wine were served after the service.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2013.

Doris Main

Church flowers January
Cleaning for January

Charmaine Williams
Doris Main

OTLEY

We celebrated Christmas with four services at St. Mary's. The first was the familiar service of lessons and carols, when the church was decorated with beautiful flower arrangements, festive candle sconces, and the magnificent tall tree, hung with hundreds of lights, kindly given by the Ellis family. Sue Wilkins' choir, supplemented by members of the Suffolk Singers, led the singing and sang three anthems, and the Ladies Handbell Ringers, coached by Helen, rang a medley of Christmas tunes. Both of these groups performed better than ever and it was truly one of our best carol services. It was followed by refreshments of coffee and mince pies, and the exchange of Christmas greetings between friends old and new. Surplus mince pies were later taken to the Salvation Army hostel in Ipswich, which was very pleased to receive them.

The carol-singing around the village (this year in Jimmy Wightman's shooting trailer), raised £380 for The Children's Society. They finished the evening at the White Hart with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, which were very welcome.

The crib service on Christmas Eve was packed, with 104 adults and 48 children, and a wonderful atmosphere. Many of the children had come in costume and there were numerous wise men, shepherds and angels. Graham greatly enjoyed conducting the service and his granddaughter Tabitha took the role of baby Jesus, but a spell of crying and stage fright eventually led to her place being taken, sadly, by a life-size doll.

Then there was the lovely candlelit service at midnight, and the Communion service on Christmas morning.

In view of the continual heavy rain, and the church path flooded for the first time in thirty years, we were delighted to see so many people. Collections totalled about £750 of which some will be sent to The Children's Society and Age Concern. At the end of the financial year, when the parish share has been paid to the diocese, more will be donated to the charities.

A big **THANK YOU** to everybody who made this great festival what it is – the ministry team, churchwardens, bell ringers, flower arrangers, music makers, mince pie bakers, and anyone else I have omitted.

Before all these festivities we held the Christmas Draw, with lots of super prizes, which made a profit of £600 for church funds. And the same day was the Christmas Bazaar at the school, with its colourful stalls and competitions. They raised a marvellous £900 which will be spent on new picnic benches for the playground, and a garden shed for the children's garden tools. The annual quiz evening will not be held in January but in March this year, so look out for details in the next magazine.

A collection will be taken for Leprosy Mission at Evensong on **27th January**, which is World Leprosy Day. Also, Karin will be holding a coffee-morning at 16 Spring Park the following morning, **Monday 28th January**, to boost the takings. The regular monthly coffee-morning will be held here at Church House on **Thursday, 10th January**.

Gardening Club will meet on **14th January** at 7.30pm when the local representative from Green Thumb will be telling us "All About Grass". There will be free advice and information, and a discount for work undertaken as a result of the meeting.

Since the last magazine went to press, Pauline Partridge has died after a long illness, and there was a service of thanksgiving for her life in early December. Geoff and Pauline came to live in Otley in 1996 and immediately got involved in village life. She was on the church social committee helping with catering, was a leading light in the Friendship Club, won many prizes at the Flower Show with her creative flower arranging, stitching and beading, and finally made the beautiful cake for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations as her gift to the village. She was very talented and will be greatly missed. We send condolences to Geoff and all the family.

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy New Year. Writing this within days of Christmas, in unusually mild weather, there are new molehills in the churchyard and primulas already blooming in Rita's flower bed - so lots to look forward to.

Rose Rogerson

Church Flowers
Church cleaning
Brasses

Helen Jay/Sue Courteney
Philip and Betty David
Trudie Stratford

Otley Church Sidesmen's Rota

20th January 9.15am Holy Communion

Mrs P Clark

27th January 4.00pm Evening Prayer

Mr N Crowley

Otley Under Fives

Do you have a few spare hours a week? Are you good with financial figures? Or do you know someone who is? If yes would you consider giving some time to become our unpaid treasurer? Please contact Amy on 890329 or Jane on 890283.

Michelle Boreham

Otley Hall Quiet Days

Thursday 28th February - Bishop Stephen Cottrell

'Christ in the wilderness, reflecting on the paintings of Stanley Spencer'

Tel. 890264 or email: enquiries@otleyhall.co.uk

SWILLAND

Our Christmas Draw held on 1st December raised about £400 altogether. The lunch in the village-hall was well-attended. Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets, especially Maureen Finch and the Kemp family, without whom the draw would not be possible. Thank you to all who generously gave prizes – we had nearly 40.

We would like to thank Helen for playing the organ for our carol service and for various services during the year. We would also like to thank Fred for playing during the year and Becci Reidy for playing on Christmas Day. We congratulate her and Andy on their engagement just before Christmas and we wish them a long and happy life together.

We are very sorry to lose Graham as our priest-in-charge, but we wish him well in his new full-time role in the diocesan office and look forward to him coming to take services from time to time. 2013 will be the start of a new era as we become part of the Carlford Benefice under the overall guidance of Clare Sanders, Jane Hall having special responsibility for Swilland.

May I wish everyone a happy New Year.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

6th – 13th January

20th - 27th January

Jackie Williams

Kim Shaw

Rainfall – November/December 2012

Writing these notes on the 27th December, I may as well include this month's totals as far as I have recorded them. There has been no let up in the continuous rain over the last two months; November's rainfall came to 2.30 inches and December's to date 3.70 inches and this makes a total for the year so far of 27.90 inches. The most that I have recorded was in 2001 when we had 32.00 inches and I think that we will be unlikely to beat that now. We have in the past had a few years of very wet weather followed by dry ones and if we add the rainfall of 2011 and 2012 together they will average out to about normal for a two-year period.

I told you last month about the severe winter that we had in 1947 following the wet one in 1946, but I am not going to make any predictions for 2013 as I have found in the past that the weather is unpredictable. We did have a few days of sharp frost in December and there is an old country saying that goes: Frost before Christmas to bear a duck; the rest of the winter will be slush and muck. There was certainly enough ice on our pond to bear quite a number of ducks, but we have had the slush and muck before and after the frosts. I have noticed in the past that if the weather is cold and frosty before Christmas that we don't as a rule get a sharp winter later; we will have to see.

Wishing you all a happy New Year, and some better weather for 2013.

Russell Ling



FROM LITTLE THINGS

Sometimes the smallest, most innocent looking things can cause great changes. The proverb says that great oaks grow from little acorns and it seems a miracle that something as small as an acorn, so small that you can hold a lot of them in your hand, can grow into something as huge and strong as an oak tree.

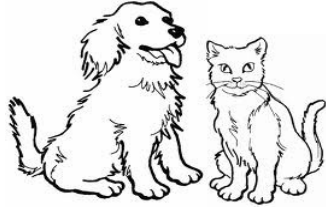


Jesus talked about this power in the parables, the stories that he told, when he said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast (Matthew, chapter 13, verse 33).

Yeast is a small fungus but without it we wouldn't have bread, wine or beer. Jesus reminded us that you don't have to be big to make a difference. A very small amount of yeast turns a lot of flour into bread. We may be only one, small person but we too can make a difference

BABY NAMES

When a cat has babies they are called kittens. What are the babies of these other animals called. Answers at the bottom of the page.



A baby DOG is a		
fluppy	puppy	huffy
A baby GOAT is a		
kid	cuddle	groat
A baby HARE is a		
harbour	cub	leveret
A baby BEAR is a		
cub	hug	teddy
A baby KANGAROO is a		
roo	joey	bluey
A baby ELEPHANT is a		
dumbo	tusker	calf

How can you tell a baby snake?

By its rattle.

What's a baby whale called?

A little squirt.

1.puppy 2.kid 3.leveret
4.cub 5.joey 6.calf

DOES GAMBLING AFFECT YOU?

Is gambling getting in the way of the life you and your family want to live? Many of us like the occasional flutter but, for some, gambling can become a serious problem, not only affecting the gambler but those closest to them.

Traditionally, gamblers were thought of as male but, with the increase of online gambling sites, more and more women and young people are affected.

Do you recognise any of the following?

- Being preoccupied with gambling
- Using gambling to escape from problems
- Trying and failing to control or stop gambling
- Chasing losses
- Hiding the extent of gambling
- Financial troubles caused by gambling
- Strain on personal relationships

NORCAS offers free confidential counselling in the Ipswich & Lowestoft areas to those with, or affected by gambling problems. Individual or family counselling available.

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