

April 2013

Sunday 7th April		Easter 2
9.15 am	Holy Communion	Swilland
11.00 am	Family Service	Otley
Sunday 14th April		Easter 3
9.15 am	Holy Communion	Clopton
11.00 am	Family Service	Ashbocking
Sunday 21st April		Easter 4
9.15 am	Holy Communion	Otley
11.00 am	Family Service	Swilland
Sunday 28th April		Easter 5
9.15 am	Holy Communion	Ashbocking
11.00 am	Family Service	Clopton
6.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Otley
Sunday 5th May		Easter 6
9.15 am	Holy Communion	Swilland
11.00 am	Family Service	Otley

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.

Sunday Bible Readings

7th April Easter 2

Acts 5: 27-32 Rev. 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-end

14th April Easter 3

Acts 9: 1-6 Rev. 5: 11-end John 20: 1-19

21st April Easter 4

Acts 9: 36-end Rev. 7: 9-end John 10: 22-30

28th April Easter 5

Acts 11: 1-18 Rev. 21: 1-6 John 13:31-35

5th May Easter 6

Acts 16: 9-15 Rev. 21:10-22:5 John 14: 23-29 or 5:1-9

Prayer for the month

Holy and eternal God, your name is precious.

May heaven and earth be as one, held in love and peace.

May all our daily needs be met.

In our straying and wrongdoing, pour upon us your forgiveness, and enlarge our hearts to bring forgiveness to those who cause us pain and hurt.

Lead us always to walk in the light of your love and away from all that tempts us.

For you are the God of all creation throughout this and every age.

Janet Fletcher

From Wendy Gourlay

Traditionally April is a time to spring-clean, allowing the breeze of nature - that special aroma of fresh air - to refresh homes and furnishings. We need though, to put effort into emptying cupboards and clearing out clutter. Anyone who watches current TV programmes about improving homes will be familiar with that term 'clutter'!

I wonder 'though, if you've ever thought how clutter accumulates in our spiritual lives? And essentially, how we can reduce it, to find peace, harmony and clear focus in life. Our confirmation candidates recently discovered that 'prayer', both public and private, is one such way.

We do this publicly, each time we pray in church services together, when reflecting our corporate lives and how we should live our lives as community. Similarly, in the task of attending church annual meetings (many being held in April), we have a chance to review past activities and events, and to decide, jointly, how our corporate lives should be re-focused.

Then, in private, it is just as important to pray - to thank God, for the very gift of life itself, to reflect how God has blessed us, and to search our inner lives and reflect how there are things inside each of us – like bad attitudes or aspects that harm and destroy - which need to be cleared away, for good! This is us saying ‘sorry’ to God and asking for his forgiveness and mercy.

For some of us, such a task of personal spring-cleaning might seem daunting - but remember, we are not alone, either as we pray or when refocusing our lives.

In the Bible we hear that God’s Holy Spirit helps us and that we can be sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good (Romans 8: 26-28).

Setting time aside therefore, to be with God in prayer helps us gain a new perspective on life. And if clutter is cleared on a daily basis, as Jesus suggests for a pattern of living, when praying ‘Our Father’ (Luke 11:2-4; and Matthew 6:9-13), then spring-cleaning is particularly good news, and refreshing, for everyone.

Revd. Wendy Gourlay

Would you like to explore ministry as an Elder?

Elders ministry is an opportunity to be part of an accredited ministry team. Elders can help lead worship and/or visit people in their homes – what Elders offer is their individual ministry according to their gifting and agreed with PCCs.

Training is local - no further than Grundisburgh. Training sessions in Grundisburgh Parish Room take place 7.30-9.00pm May 8th, 22nd, 29th, June 5th, 12th and 19th led by local deanery clergy. Taking part in training doesn’t commit you - but gives you an opportunity to explore

Sessions are:

- Ministry and Church
- Listening skills
- What is worship?
- Leading worship
- Believing, Praying, Caring
- Working as a team

Talk to me to find out more!

Clare Sanders

Woodbridge Deanery Synod - Thursday 14th March 2013

Guest Speaker: George Woodward, chair of the DBF, led a graphically illustrated tour through the way funds are acquired and spent within the diocese, in a way that he hoped had something for everyone to understand. The statistics for Suffolk were edifying!

Diocesan Synod Observers – talk to your deanery representative if you are interested in coming to a diocesan synod meeting to see what happens.

Look out for Deanery Discovery Days, Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Imagine Church, Cathedral Tours.

Notable Dates 2013

- **LAWD:** Clare Sanders advised that this year courses would be held in the summer on the theme of Elder training for the whole Deanery.
- Reminder - 2013 sees the complete renewal of the Church Electoral Roll.
- **14th May 2013:** Archdeacon's Visitation in St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh

Synod Meetings (all welcome): Wednesday 19th June 2013 in St Mary's Church Hall, Ufford **Topic:** Human Sexuality

Guest Speaker: Dr John Hare **Wednesday 13th November 2013** in Sutton Memorial Hall

Karin Upson

Men's Group

The next Men's Group meeting is on **Monday April 29th** at 7.30pm, and our meeting will be held in the Otley White Hart. Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Steed of Gipping Press, Needham Market, who print our Church Times. He will be giving an illustrated talk on "Modern Printing Methods". The talk will be followed by a meal. All are welcome. Please contact me for further information on 890091

David Papworth

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CLOPTON

The bells were removed from the church in the last week of February. A team of volunteers worked hard in bitterly cold weather to get them out of the wooden frame and down to the ground. Extra timbers that had been added to the frame made it very difficult to free the bells, but eventually they were all on the ground.

We knew that two of the bells were cracked and have to be repaired, but now our latest news is that Whitechapel Bell Foundry has found a large crack in a third bell. This will mean that it has to be sent to Soundweld for repair. This setback could delay the work being completed on time and also add another £2,500 to the total cost. We shall have to do yet more fundraising!

All the bells will be tuned at Whitechapel and then travel to Bridport to be made ready for the new bell frame.

There are some pictures on our website www.cloptonchurch.org.uk and hopefully there will soon be a video on the site. A big 'Thank you' to all the volunteers who got extremely cold and dirty and had a few aches and pains as well!

On **Thursday 4th April** the Ladies Group will meet in the village hall at 8pm to hear a talk by Roland Castle on 'Decoy Duckponds'. Everyone is welcome--men too!

The Coffee Morning will be in the village hall on **Wednesday April 17th** from 10am until noon. It will be hosted by Linda Tye.

Doris Main

Church cleaning and flowers April

Doris Main

OTLEY

The Bishop of Dunwich came to St Mary's on Mothering Sunday to inaugurate the new Carlford benefice of Otley, Clopton, Swilland and Ashbocking with Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Burgh and Boulge, and he formally licensed the ministry team to serve in all the eight parishes. The service also marked the new benefice's partnership with the four churches of the Bealings benefice in the Carlford Group Ministry. It was a lovely, musical service of goodwill, with a choir from across the twelve parishes leading the singing, which included a new hymn that Revd. Wendy Gourlay had composed for the occasion. About seventy people attended and there were refreshments in the village hall afterwards.

The annual church meetings, when churchwardens are elected and reports and accounts presented, will take place in the church on **18th April** at 7.30pm. They are open to all parishioners.

The Quiz Night went well and the quiz itself was hotly contested with a nail-biting finish - only half a point between each of the first three teams! The winners were The Cyclists (the Halls, the Beaumonts, the Quilliams, Philip David and Tony Thorndike), half a point ahead of Sam and the Rest (the Liddells, the Robinsons, the Lings and Vanessa's father). The varied questions were devised by David Chittock and he and Carrie were question masters, while Olivia Bullock kept the score. A very good supper was provided and £450.00 was raised for church funds.

On **27th April** The Otley Players will be celebrating their 30th birthday with a party and some entertainment. They are hoping groups of friends and members of village organisations will perform a short sketch, a musical number or some comedy, but individuals will also be welcome if they would like to come.

Entrance will be free and TOPS will be providing food, but please bring your own drinks. For more information, contact Vanessa tel. 890787 or vanessa@papermaze.co.uk

On **11th May** the School PTA will be organising another Casino Night. Tickets will be available from Anthony Ling and there will be more details in the next magazine, but please note the date now. Meanwhile the School celebrated its 100th anniversary at the end of March.

The Gardening Club will be holding its AGM on **8th April**, followed by a light-hearted horticultural quiz, masterminded by Matthew Tanton-Brown who is a regular visitor to the club.

The monthly coffee morning will take place on **11th April** at 10 Spring Park, the home of Nigel and Pauline Crowley, and you will be assured of a warm welcome there.

Geoff Cant would like to thank everybody who attended Kath's funeral service and those who sent cards, of which there were over 100, in addition to the letters. Donations in Kath's memory amounted to more than £400 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Rose Rogerson

Otley Scout Group

"The 1st Otley Scout Group need a new treasurer. It would be an advantage for any interested person to have some small knowledge of general accounting. Having the use of a computer makes the recording quite simple. The current treasurer wishes to retire in May and will be willing to give as much assistance as required. For more details please contact Brian Childs on 890573 or email - brian.childs@uwclub.net."

Alan Taylor

Big midnight walk

Jane and I are doing the fundraising Midnight Walk (8 miles) in May in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. If you'd like to sponsor us, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Hospice' and give it to them, or, bring it to any of the church services in the group. Many thanks.

Revd Fred Woods

Otley Local History

At the end of March Otley School celebrated 100 years in its present building. The original Otley Village School was built in 1839 next to the Rectory in Church Road. It consisted of a single schoolroom behind a house for the schoolmistress. The Suffolk Chronicle and Mercury carried a report of the opening ceremony of the present building on 29th March, 1913.

As a former pupil, I have written a booklet on the history of the school, together with photographs of staff and pupils from 1839 to 1939, entitled "Otley School, The First 100 Years". This was published to coincide with the centenary of the present school building and is now available price £7.00 + postage. Please ring me on telephone 01728 668374 if you would like one.

Lester Hawes

Village diary

- 4th April** Friendship club – AGM
- 18th April** Annual Vestry meeting in church- St Mary's PCC
- 18th April** Friendship club
- 25th April** Community Council AGM 8.00pm all welcome
- 27th April** The Otley Players 30th birthday party

Church Flowers

Church cleaning

Brasses

Joan Parish
Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock
Betty David

Otley Church Sidesmen's Rota

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------|
| 7th April | 11.00am | Family service | Mr D Papworth |
| 21st April | 9.15am | Holy Communion | Mrs K Upson |
| 28th April | 6.30pm | Evensong | Mr N Crowley |

Otley Hall Quiet Days

Thursday 9th May– Revd Joyce Willis

Festivals and Saint days

Focusing on our need to celebrate and commemorate.

Tuesday 28th May - Jnanamitra

A day on Buddhist meditation skills for all faiths.

Both days will run from 10am-4pm and cost £20, to include all refreshments and lunch. Please contact Karen Gwynne-Vince on 890264 or events@otleyhall.co.uk

SWILLAND

Easter Saturday - 30th March

Launch of our Tower and Organ Appeal - Tea, coffee and cakes plus various stalls at the church from 9.30am-12.30p.m.

Concert - 26th May in the church - Illuminati choir will provide a varied programme - This was very popular two years ago. Tea and refreshments will be served - do come and join us. Tickets will be available from Gill Reidy, Brian Williams or me, or come along on the day.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

7th - 14th April

21st - 28th April

5th - 12th May

Gill Reidy

Jackie Williams

Kim Shaw

Rainfall

Disaster! My rain gauge has a leak, as I didn't discover this until February, I am not too sure when it occurred, but it was most probably during December when we had some sharp frosts. I have now replaced it, but of course my last few monthly rainfall totals have been wrong and until I am able to update them from a reliable source, I will not be able to give you the correct totals.

The winter so far has been very cold and wet and this pattern is continuing into March, which is unusual, as this month used to be reasonably dry and in the past, most of the spring drilling took place. Nowadays, the majority of the drilling is carried out in the autumn but, because of the very wet weather last year, a great deal of land still hasn't been planted. There were the occasional years when it was wet in March and drilling then carried on into April when the cuckoo arrived and the barley when planted, was known as cuckoo barley.

If it was followed by dry weather the result was a poor yield. The last time that I remember it being so wet during the summer and autumn was in 1946 and this was followed by a very dry year in 1947; I make no predictions.

Russell Ling

SUFFOLK SINGERS

Saturday 20th April 2013 7.30pm at St Michael's Church, Framlingham.
Tickets £10.00 (to include refreshments) - ring 625070 or on the door.

Claire Weston, accompanied by John Hutchings, will be singing German Lieder by Brahms, Strauss and Wagner, a trio of songs by Walton, and a selection from the song cycle composed especially for her by John Hutchings. 100 years since his birth, a selection from Britten's "On This Island" is also included.

Claire's infectious enthusiasm for music and her extraordinary ability in communicating this to her audience is guaranteed to ensure a sparkling evening.

Janis Haerle

SMILE LINES

The Boss - The chief executive was complaining in a meeting that he wasn't getting any respect from his staff. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss", and then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Have you ever wondered....

~ Are clones people two?

~ Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?

~ Why is it that night falls, but day breaks?

~ Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?

Here are some general observations on the spiritual side of life:

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

Christians are like tea; their strength is drawn out by hot water.

Some minds are like concrete - all mixed up and permanently set.
Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.

Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.
God doesn't want shares of your life - He wants a controlling interest.
We don't change God's message - His message changes us.

Plan ahead - It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.

Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous.
When God ordains, He sustains.
Deciding not to choose Jesus is still making a choice.
God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

If God is your co-pilot - swap seats.
Read the Bible - It will scare the hell out of you.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when
you make it again.
Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily.

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.





SIGN OF THE FISH

In the early days of Christianity it could be very dangerous to admit that you were one of Jesus' followers. You could be arrested, imprisoned and killed, simply for your beliefs. Christians had to meet in secret - but how could you tell if a stranger was a Christian or not? Who could you trust? Christians used secret signs to recognise one another. And one of these was the sign of the fish which could easily be scratched on a wall or drawn in the dust of the road. If the other person wasn't a Christian they'd just think you were doodling.

The fish was used as sign because, in Greek, the first letters of the words 'Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour' spell 'ichthus', the Greek word for fish.

How can you show other people today that you are a Christian? If you have the joy of knowing Jesus in your heart then it should show on your face!



SECRET WRITING

The fish was a secret sign. If you would like to send someone a secret message, you can do it with 'invisible ink'.

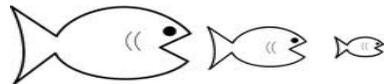
You need a lemon or an onion. Squeeze the juice of either into a small bowl. Using the juice as ink, with a clean nib in a proper pen, write your message on a piece of paper. Leave it to dry and as it dries the message will disappear.



To make it reappear, hold the paper over a lamp or radiator. This is a very easy way of sending secret messages ... but you have to be sure that the person you are writing to knows the secret of how to make the message reappear!

Where does seaweed look for a job?

In the 'Kelp-wanted' ads!



What game do fish like playing the most?

Name that tuna.

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