

Prayer for the month

Lord, this Lent may we
Fast from judging others and feast on the Christ dwelling in them,
Fast from emphasis on difference and feast on the unity of life,
Fast from thoughts of illness and feast on your healing power,
Fast from words that pollute and feast on phrases that purify,
Fast from discontent and feast on gratitude,
Fast from anger and feast on patience,
Fast from worry and feast on faith that trusts you,
Fast from complaining and feast on appreciating,
Fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness,
Fast from self-concern and feast on compassion for others.

Adapted

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

In February we held our Valentine's service – the theme was, of course, love! Highlights included Fred playing "Love Changes Everything" on the organ; the heart shaped chocolates distributed to the congregation; and the beautiful red roses arranged by Linda Ellis. Catherine's sermon was excellent as well !

Our coffee-morning this month will be held at John & Linda Pollard's house (The Hawthorns) on Friday 7th March from 10.30 to 11.30, all welcome.

Our next service will be on Sunday 9th March at 11:00 where we will celebrate Mothers and Caring. Immediately after the service, we will be holding our Annual Vestry Meeting in the Church – there's no obligation to stay for the AVM but you would be welcome to if you would like to.

If there are any budding keyboard/piano/organ players out there who would like to play for us on the odd occasion at one of our services, we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, we extend our sympathies to Robin Wright's family. Robin died on Tuesday 4th February at Addenbrooke's hospital. He will be buried in the churchyard next to his father and there will be a memorial service at a date to be announced.

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

The early Holy Communion services in January and February were held in the comfort of a home, ensuring that we did not freeze in a very cold church.

The final work on the bells was completed at the beginning of February. We now have seven people learning to ring. If you would like to learn or are a former ringer wanting to start again please contact David Stanford on 01394 384017. Everyone agrees that David is a superb and patient teacher and visiting ringers say the bells are a pleasure to ring.

A new craft-morning has started in Clopton on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am until 1pm in the village hall. It is a chance to spend time doing your craft among friends. Today's busy life means that we often put our crafts to one side as we cannot find the time to enjoy them. Dig them out and come and join us. One person has caught up on all her mending! Details from Della Hughes on 737805.

The March Ladies Group will be on Thursday 6th at 8pm in the village hall. Details from Diana Dawson on 737417. The monthly coffee-morning will be held on Wednesday 19th March in the village hall from 10am until noon. It will be hosted by Julie Gittoes.

Clopton will be holding a Midsummer Fete on Sunday 22nd June. If you can help in any way please contact Della (as above)

Doris Main

Church cleaning Beryl Birchmore
Church flowers Not in Lent

OTLEY

We celebrated Candlemas at the beginning of February in a Christingle service. After the Scouts and Cubs had presented their banners a short play was performed to illustrate the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple to Simeon and Anna. Later on, Jane instructed each of us in making a Christingle orange, the candles all being lit whilst we sang the final hymn. (I can report that fire extinguishers were not required) Thank you to Jane and family for providing fifty oranges, fifty candles and two hundred cocktail sticks of delicious dried fruit!! They looked and tasted wonderful and must have taken ages to prepare. £94.85 was raised for the Children's Society.

On the subject of delicious food, the annual **Quiz and Supper** takes place in the village hall on Saturday 15th March 7pm for a 7.30pm start .This is always a popular event for teams of up to eight, and tickets priced at £7.50 per person (£5 for under 16s) are available from Penny Clark on 890480 or Ruth Farnhill on 890543. This includes a supper of baked potato with various fillings, and desserts. There will be a licenced bar and a draw. Teams of up to 8 will compete for an amazing prize and the title 'Church Team of the Year'!

This is developing into a food themed note. On Saturday 1st March Karin will be holding a German style 'Kaffee und Kuchen', with delicious and authentic German cakes being served from 2pm until 4.30pm at 16 Spring Park in aid of the Leprosy Mission. Karin also hosts the next drop-in coffee-morning on Thursday 13th March.

On March 3rd the Gardening Club has a TV personality, no less, as its guest speaker - Chris Bell from BBC Look East will talk about

“Weather Influences on Gardening” The weather is very much a topic of conversation at the moment, whether you are a gardener or not, so this should be a most interesting evening.

Speaking of celebrities, the Suffolk Singers, who rehearse in Otley and have several benefice members in the choir, have been selected from choirs who auditioned from all over the country, as one of just twelve choirs to perform in the International Eistedfodd in Llangollen Wales in July. From these choirs will be selected ‘Choir of the World’. What an accolade and we wish them every success

There is no shortage of drama in Otley. On 10th, 11th and 12th April in the village hall The Otley Players (TOPS) present “Cat on a Fiddle” – a farce in the best traditions of amateur dramatics. The performances start at 7.45pm and tickets, which are available from Joan Parish on 890715, cost £7.50. Come along and raise your spirits. See the later report on the Junior TOPS outstanding performance of the Jules Verne classic - Around the World in Eighty Days.

Congratulations to Geoff Partridge on his 80th birthday which was celebrated at a wonderful surprise party in the village hall for his family and many Otley friends, organised and catered for by Wendy Marshall. Geoff has been a village stalwart for many years; he has served on the Community Council and is a loyal Friendship Club member.

Helen Jay

<u>Church flowers</u>	Joan Parish/.none in Lent
<u>Church cleaning</u>	Helen Jay/Rose Rogerson
<u>Brasses</u>	Betty David

Sidepersons' Rota

2nd March	11am Family Service	Ruth Farnhill
9th March	11am Morning Praise	Betty David
16th March	9.30am Holy Communion	Penny Clark
23rd March	4.00pm Evensong	Peter Rogerson

Village Diary

2nd March	Jumble Sale in the Village Hall. 10am In aid of AGE UK Team Otley
3rd March	Gardening Club – “Weather Influences on Gardening”
6th March	Friendship Club 2pm
7th March	12 noon a thanksgiving & memorial service for Perry Crewdson at Otley Church.
15th March	Annual Quiz and Supper. 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets 890480 / 890543
23rd March	Sport Relief Event

Around the World in Eighty Days

Junior Tops once again excelled themselves with their performance of Around the World in Eighty Days, a well-known story presenting a huge challenge to the scenery and costume department as the scene moved from London through Europe, Egypt, China, Japan and America, before making it back to the Reform Club in London with a day to spare. As the older children move on, it is good to watch the younger ones develop and take on larger roles and to see new faces join the company.

The whole cast deserve praise for a splendid ,slick and colourful entertainment. Alex Wyatt as Phileas Fogg had a massive part and several challenging songs. His rendition of ‘should have, could have, would have’, when he thought he had lost his wager, was very mature and moving. Lucy Robinson as an ebullient and eccentric Passepartout was outstanding – both her singing and acting and a wonderful French accent. Rachel Saxby as a Clouseau-like Inspector Fix kept us transfixed as the tale progressed. Mrs Aouda - shimmeringly oriental - impressed with her strong singing voice and her stage presence, and newcomer Martin McKenna was a wonderful ‘Old Colonial’ Colonel. He also played in the band alongside William Hunt, Fin Quilliam and Leo Dye.

Musical director Phil Quilliam, costume designer Terry Dye, set designer Nigel Dye, producer Mark Robinson, lighting and sound engineer Nathan Cant merit special mention, but ultimate congratulations go to Vanessa Ling, who brought the whole production together for this the Tenth Junior Tops production. Well done to all on stage and behind the scenes.

Helen Jay

Perry Crewdson

Many will remember with affection Perry Crewdson who lived at Oak House, Otley for many years, first with Clare and their family, and latterly with Daphne. He took an active part in the life of the village, including serving on the Community Council and Otley Church Preservation Trust. He was a popular and admired figure in the community and much loved by all who knew him. He died peacefully on 5th January aged 87 and was cremated in Buckinghamshire, where he and Daphne had moved. A **Service of Thanksgiving** will be held at St Mary's, Otley at 12 noon on **Friday 7th March**. No flowers please but donations, if desired, can be made to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), The Treehouse, St. Augustine's Gardens, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 8NS, which he was instrumental in setting up.

Burns Night

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Burns Night in aid of Age UK Suffolk on 25 January. Unfortunately the evening did not go quite as planned - we were hit by a thunderstorm just two hours before the haggis was due to be served. The scary flashes of lightning and tremendous clashes of thunder resulted in our losing electricity for a very crucial three hours. However, with true British grit we persevered. We gathered the uncooked haggis and cock-a-leekie soup and transported them to our very kind neighbours and to friends in parts of the village that had retained their power. Once cooked we then hurriedly drove the steaming pots back to the awaiting masses, who were seated patiently in hats, coats and gloves in a very cold barn. Miraculously generators had appeared

as if from nowhere but we were poised with a problem, lights or heating? Lights overruled!

Our piper, resplendent in his kilt, stood in the corner resolutely playing traditional Scottish tunes, whilst the catering team rushed around in a mad panic trying to resuscitate the meal. It was reminiscent of the “Sinking of the Titanic” with the violin playing as the ship went down! Unlike the Titanic though, we didn’t sink -far from it in fact, as everyone rose to the challenge of adversity. We addressed the haggis, raised our glasses to the immortal memory, toasted the lassies and danced the night away to the merry music of “The Kegs”. It was worthy testament to all our hardy friends when at the end of the evening the barn was still packed as we concluded with the Circassion Circle.

Our very sincere thanks to **everyone** who helped turn what could have been a disaster into a resounding success resulting in over £700.00 being raised for Age UK Suffolk.

Alyson Chilvers

Otley Hall Quiet Days

If you have enjoyed listening to Fred play the organ and appreciated his preaching, you might enjoy his day 'Why did Jesus die?' with varied musical illustrations on Weds. 9th April. Jane Hall is a great lover of poetry and has a lovely sense of humour - these two qualities combine to make her a perfect leader for a day on John Betjeman on Thurs. 24th April. She says that “Broad of Church and broad of mind” is not really a quiet day, more a day to enjoy and appreciate Betjeman's poetry.

Catherine Beaumont

SWILLAND

Despite the wet weather the spring flowers are appearing in the garden. The snowdrops and aconites have been out for quite a long time, the crocuses are beginning to make a show and the

daffodils are almost out in places. We are so lucky that we have not really been affected by all the rain. The scenes we have seen on television of land under water and homes flooded are very distressing.

Our next event in Swilland is a Dog Walk on Saturday 26th April starting between 10 and 11 a.m. from Red Court with a ploughman's lunch in our barn from 12 to 1 p.m. The walk will be about 5 miles long, mainly on footpaths. If anyone feels this is too long, there will also be a shorter route. Dogs must be kept on leads. Those without a dog will be welcome to take part. The cost will be £7 per person (£5 for a child under 10). It would be helpful to have some idea of numbers, so if you would like to take part please contact Ann Rose on 785702 .

There will be no flowers in Lent.

Ann Kent

David Kent - gentleman of Swilland

He was both a gentle man and a gentleman. Many tributes were paid publicly and privately at his memorial service in Grundisburgh, but Swilland will remember best his friendship, his wisdom and his many years of faithful service to the local church and community.

Having lived at Red Court since he was 8 years old, his knowledge of the local community was encyclopaedic - when families wanted loved ones buried at Swilland he knew to whom they were related and could suggest which plot would be most suitable for them. His efforts concerning the church were tireless. He was churchwarden from 1978 to 2013, following his mother, who served between 1951 and 1968, and was often to be found at the church sorting out a little problem or applying himself in a bit of needful maintenance. He was always generous in including jobs at the church as part of the work of the farm. On churchyard working-parties he was usually the last to finish as darkness overtook. A photograph at the clear-up last November is only recognisable as David by the colour of the

trousers, as his body was covered by the branches and greenery he was carrying.

He nurtured our Millenium yew before it was planted in the churchyard and planted hundreds of other trees around the farm adding colour to our landscape as well as habitat for wildlife. He always supported village fundraising events, gave lifts to older folk and was often seen carrying boxes to the car after the Christmas Draw or sweeping the village hall after events. He was ever-willing, if unobtrusively so.

The same applied to his contributions to meetings and conversations - whatever he said was worth listening to. His years of experience, his many interests and excellent understanding of current affairs enabled him to speak with wisdom. His wish to engage with people and put them at their ease meant that he invariably did so in a charming way and with a wry smile as he spoke his mind, often bringing a novel insight to the subject or illustrating the patience and faith that years of farming had given him.

He was an example to us all. Thank you David for being a true friend and for improving the quality of all our lives by your presence.

RAINFALL – January

There is not much that I can say about January other than it has been very wet with no severe frosts, leaving the ground conditions very soggy. This weather has now continued into February with disastrous flooding, but more of that next month. The only consolation is that it is better to have the wet weather during the winter months rather than in the summer. The other advantage is that it does fill up the underground aquifers, which means that we should not have a water shortage this year. One can also hope that the milder winter will help the bird population as last year's prolonged spell of cold weather, which carried on well into the spring, caused heavy losses and fewer young birds reared.

January had many dull days and rainfall amounted to 3.85 inches, which isn't excessive for the time of year in East Anglia.

Russell Ling

SMILE LINES

Carry on

The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with a couple of single ladies!"

Look at it this way....

A cashew is a peanut with back trouble.

There must be something to acupuncture - after all, you never see any sick hedgehogs.

The English winter - ends in July. Recommences in August.

Breakdown

Yesterday I broke down on the M1. One of those emergency trucks charged me £200 to pull me off. I think it was the abominable towman!

The Bible according to children

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.
- ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

Present

For Father Nicholas's 60th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. Father Nicholas was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

Rural Report – February

A monthly newsletter focusing on issues of rural life and farming of relevance to the work of the Church of England in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. If more details are needed on any of the topics mentioned, please contact

Brian Chester at bc@bcnewslink.com or call 01379 669157

□ Although well supplied with rain, the East has fared much better than farmers in the South West. Field work is being delayed but there is time to catch up. A recent calculation has shown that a total of 400 tonnes of water is needed to produce just one tonne of winter wheat – illustrating how precious a resource water is. Warm and wet winter weather, however, could mean high disease levels in all crops. Most farmers will need to spend about £100 an acre on fungicides alone this year, and that's before weed control, growth regulators, fertiliser, etc.

□ “I believe that farm diversification will overtake the main core farming enterprise of agricultural production, in terms of contribution to profits, in most parts of the UK over the next ten years. But true agritourism must involve an active farmer, must involve education and must involve farmed produce, either from that farm or local farms. We can indeed enhance and protect our existing business by doing more with what we have. We can make a huge impact on our sector and its relationship with consumers.” A speaker at the Oxford Farming Conference <http://www.ofc.org.uk/2014-speakers>

□ The British Pig Executive is urging pig producers to review biosecurity to protect herds against diseases, including African Swine Fever and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus. ASF has been confirmed in wild boar in Lithuania while a virulent strain of PED virus in the US has crossed the border to Canada. ASF is a particular risk to UK pig producers because it can be carried on affected pig-meat products or by pig-farm workers who travel to and from eastern Europe.

□ The Arthur Rank Centre is running a national conference at Coventry on October 11 on the challenges and opportunities of rural church mission and ministry.

<http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/germinate>



LENT

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4,

verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be.

This year Lent starts on 5th March and goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?

SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
2. A sea, tents and wine are?
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?



What's blue, V-shaped and flies?

The Red Arrows in disguise.

What do you do with a green monster?

Wait till he's ripe.



Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue 4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black 8.scarlet

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