

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As mentioned in December's edition, the format of the magazine has changed. If you are looking for the monthly calendar of services, please go to the middle pages, where our benefice "Grapevine" will give you news of forthcoming events across all our eight churches and where you will find the monthly letter from one of the ministry team. The list of services will also appear on church noticeboards. If you are looking for "East Anglican", you can view it on the diocesan website <http://www.cofesuffolk.org> or pick up a hard copy at the back of your nearest church. Subscriptions (£7 for the year) are now due.

I will welcome any comments on the changes and suggestions for improvement. Communication by our churches across all our villages is a priority for 2014. *James Hall* (allthealls@tiscali.co.uk or james-hall@birketts.co.uk 785251)

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

God, who brings life to creation and to people, help us to see you at work in Suffolk and to work with you so your kingdom grows here. By the grace of your Spirit, be the source of our love, our energy and our songs, so that, separately and together, we may draw closer to you. May we speak of you and share your life with people who live, work and visit here, bringing glory to your name through Jesus Christ our Lord and in the power of the Spirit.

The diocesan prayer for growth - Anne Spalding

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Our fourth annual Carols by Candlelight service was held on Sunday 22nd December. Over 70 people enjoyed a rousing service of readings and carols, led by Catherine. The service was also the first public viewing of our new altar frontals and falls which were dedicated to the memory of Mrs Freda Leggett during the service. The collection will be split between the Church (to help fund repairs) and FIND – a local Ipswich charity to help Families In Need.

The service was followed by mulled wine and mince pies which gave everyone a chance to socialise!

Over 40 people joined us for our Christmas Day service which included a Nativity for the first time, and was followed by Communion (with mulled wine and Christmas cake during the interval!).

There was quite a worry on Christmas Eve when, like a number of households, the Church lost all power. Everyone frantically pulled together to develop urgent contingency plans, however the power was fortunately restored just in time! We were able to use our two new heaters which helped keep us all warm.

There are so many people to thank for all their help over the Christmas period: the Mitchells for decorating the Church and for the mulled wine (wine provided by the Bulloughs); the Ellis' for the Christmas tree and decorating; Adine for cleaning and preparing the church on Christmas day; Stephanie Andrews-Pearce and Linda Pollard for organising the Nativity; all the families who brought children, all the readers; and to everyone who contributed mince pies, Christmas cake etc. Finally I would like to send a big thank you to Catherine for making the services so enjoyable and uplifting.

I would also like to thank Kev for repairing the floorboards at the front of the Nave and John Pollard for volunteering to return to the role of Churchwarden – we will then have two Churchwardens for the first time in a very long time!

Our first service of the New Year will be at 11:00 on Sunday 12th January – Plough Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there. We will be at the Mitchells at Ashbocking Hall Farm, Church Road, for our coffee morning on Friday February 7th from 10.30 to 11.30, all welcome. Happy New Year,

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

We were able to take ten large bags of toys to the Ormiston Trust in Ipswich after our annual gift service. They were delighted to get so many and wish to thank all the people who donated items.

The Christmas coffee-morning hosted by Della Hughes and Anne Pryke was, once again, a really good morning with seasonal eats, mechanical toys, music and lots of chat and laughter. More people come and it gets better every year!

A group of thirteen people sang carols around Clopton on Sunday 22nd December to raise money for the East Anglian Children's Hospice. We are sorry that we did not manage to visit every house in the village. The total collected was £140.85.

The church was full for the candlelit carol service on Christmas Eve. For the first time in many years the bells were ringing to welcome people. Thanks to James Hall for leading the service, Helen Jay for playing the organ, the four readers, the Otley bellringers and those who made mince pies. The collection of £139.70 has been sent to the Children's Society.

The January coffee-morning will be held on Wednesday 15th between 10am and noon in the village hall and will be hosted by Doris Main and June Hughes. Everyone is welcome.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2014.

Doris Main

OTLEY

Christmas was well-celebrated here. 97 people (and a bat!) filled the church for the carol service, which was taken by James Hall. Sue Wilkins's choir sang beautifully, including Sue's own composition "Light of the World", which was lovely – everybody said so. The ladies handbell ringers, led by Helen, were better than ever, ringing their medley of Christmas songs. They had made a nativity crib with knitted figures, which they have presented to the church, and this was much admired.

On Christmas Eve the church was packed for the crib service, led by Catherine. It included the story of the nativity, arranged spontaneously with whoever turned up, apart from Jemima Ling who was briefed to play Mary. By the end forty-six children were taking part, with lots of shepherds and angels, the latter dancing in the aisles! Later, thirty people attended the midnight Communion, a traditional service taken by Clare and Mark.

Thank you to everybody who took part, or contributed in any way, to the Christmas arrangements – the ministry team, churchwardens, singers, bellringers, our organist Helen, the Ellis family who donated the Christmas tree, flower arrangers, makers of refreshments, etc. etc. Collections totalled £599, to be divided equally between The Children's Society and Age UK.

Earlier in the month a break in the weather had allowed the traditional carol-singing around the village, this year by Land Rover and beaters' shooting-trailer. It was a damp night and the singers

(accompanied by Helen Jay on the keyboard) did well, finishing with refreshments at the pub. They collected £316 for FIND.

There were lots of super prizes for the church Christmas Draw and £550 was raised for church funds. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes.

84 People attended the Christmas dinner/dance in the village hall and had a brilliant evening. £1,675 was raised for the Community Council, a fantastic result. Penny and the other organisers are now stepping down and looking for a new group to organise this event next year. Please contact Penny in the Post Office if you can help.

Otley School's Christmas Bazaar was a great success, another record-breaker, making a profit of £1,300. This will go towards the centenary garden, celebrating the school's 100 years. Also, Trinity Park has hired the School's casino equipment, raising a further £600 for the school funds.

Future dates include a quiz evening on 15th March and a progressive dinner on 21st June, Midsummers Day. The next monthly coffee-morning will be held here at Church House on Thursday, 9th January, when we shall have a bookstall raising funds for Age UK. We have masses of books at very cheap prices, so do come and choose something for those cold January days.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club will take place on 13th January when Graeme Proctor of Crown Nursery, Ufford, will be speaking about 'Hedging Plant Varieties; their care and propagation'.

Starting to think about our gardens again, and with the evenings beginning to get a bit lighter, we send all our readers very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

13th January	Gardening Club – ‘Hedging Plants’
26th January	FFY – Car Wash
7/8th February	Junior TOPS – “Around the World in 80 Days”

Otley Church Services

5th January	11.00am Family Service
12th January	11.00am Holy Communion
19th January	9.30am Holy Communion
26th January	4.00pm Evensong at 10 Spring Park (the Crowleys)

FFY

FFY is holding a fundraising car wash on Sunday 26th January at Otley Village Hall from 10 to 12. This is a call for young people to come and help and all of us to bring cars to be washed and enjoy coffee and cake while the young people wash the cars. Any questions call Michelle on 890269.

CONSULTATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF OTLEY AND WITNESHAM SCHOOLS

Following on from my article in the last issue about the proposed formal federation between the two schools, the governors have a statutory duty to undertake a six week consultation process with all relevant stakeholders in the schools. This will commence on 13 January and finish on 24 February. Part of this duty is to hold an open meeting so that comments can be made and views aired.

The meetings have been set as follows:

Tuesday 28 January 2014, 5.30pm – Otley Primary School

Wednesday 29 January 2014, 5.30pm – Witnesham Primary School

Whether or not you have children currently at the school or propose to do so in the future, we all agree that the school is central to the life of the village, and therefore please consider if you wish to participate in the consultation process. This can either be by email to me at ian.liddell2@btinternet.com or preferably by attending one of the meetings.

After the six weeks have elapsed the governors have a further duty to consider all representations received and then either to confirm their original decision or otherwise. So if you have any views on this important matter, please do let us know.

Ian Liddell - Chair of Governors

We need your help please

Over the years, volunteers have very kindly taken it in turns to clean the church but lately a number of people have had to withdraw. This leaves us needing some helpful people who can give a few hours of their time to fill the gaps. All we are asking is for an hour a week for one month of the year. Many of our cleaners opt to clean in pairs, which makes the task easier, as they can share the duty or split the month between them. The time and the day are entirely your choice. Hoovering and dusting are all that are required to keep the church looking spick and span; tools are provided.

If you would like to volunteer or need more information please telephone one of the churchwardens - Richard Treloar 890271 or Nigel Crowley 890546.

SWILLAND

Our Christmas Draw raised £477 for our tower and organ fund. This included the proceeds of the lunch in Witnesham village hall. Thank you to all who sold and bought tickets, gave prizes and attended the event.

There was a good crowd in fine voice for our carol service ten days before Christmas and again on Christmas morning. The church looked very festive and all the better for being warm and full. The carol service collection was sent to FIND.

Thank you all who have been on the flower rota during 2013 and to those who open and close the church each day. We get a surprising number of visitors.

May I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

5th - 12th January.

19th - 26th January.

2nd - 9th February.

Ann Kent

Gill Reidy

Kim Shaw

Rainfall – November and December

In November we had 2.10 inches and to the 28th, December's total was 2.50. I will update this next month and give you 2013's total. The year has been relatively unusual as it began with a long period of cold weather, although fortunately without the snow that other parts of the country experienced. Three wet months followed, then six relatively dry months with a pleasant summer, before another three months of wet weather. Notable events were the gales on the 28th October and 23rd December, although the latter didn't do so much damage in our area.

At the beginning of 2013 I compared the wet 2012 with 1946, which was then followed by a hot dry summer in 1947 similar to 2013. It isn't often that two years follow the same pattern.

Happy New Year to all my readers and may you be granted the weather you wish for.

Russell Ling

SMILE LINES

Smile Lines

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

Friday

Nothing ruins your Friday like realising it's only Wednesday.

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test. He asked his father when he could start using the family car. His father replied: "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that, and decided he'd settle for the offer. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

His dad sat for a moment and then thoughtfully agreed. Then he added: "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"



St WULFSTAN 19th January

St Wulfstan was Bishop of Worcester from 1062-95. He lived during the Norman Conquest of England and was the only Saxon bishop to remain under William the Conqueror.

Wulfstan was a caring and hard-working monk. He rebuilt the cathedral at Worcester, cared for the poor, and struggled to ease the harsh conditions imposed by the Normans on the Saxons. Unlike some priests, he baptised children of the poor without charge. It is said that he never turned away people asking for help.

Wulfstan fought the slave trade in Bristol (slave trading didn't just start with slaves from Africa but had been going on for centuries with slaves from England being sold to Ireland and North Africa).

Wulfstan died whilst washing the feet of 12 poor men during a service in the cathedral. He died as he had lived, serving God and caring for others.

CATHEDRAL SAINTS

Some cathedrals are associated with or dedicated to particular saints. Can you link the saint with the cathedral?

St Giles	Lichfield	St Etheldreda	Edinburgh
St Mungo	Ely	St Cuthbert	Winchester
St Chad	Durham	St Swithin	Glasgow



Did you hear about the man who took his car in for a service?

It got stuck in the church doors.

What's green, curly & religious?

Lettuce pray.



Answers: St Giles at Edinburgh, St Mungo at Glasgow, St Chad at Lichfield, St Etheldreda at Ely, St Cuthbert at Durham, St Swithin at Winchester.

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