

THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE EASTER CHRIST IS RISEN

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. However, the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

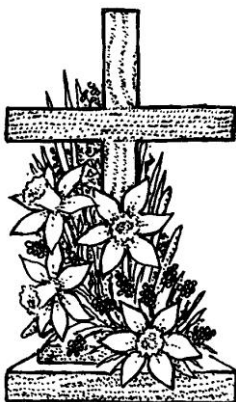
Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that he does not exist?

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy!

HE IS RISEN INDEED - ALLELUIA!



A THOUGHT NOW THE CLOCKS HAVE CHANGED

The Lord he made the sun to shine
And go it round the proper time,
But since this here new plan is past
We put the clocks an hour too fast.

Found on a handwritten slip inside an old Bible by Hetty Fox

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you; I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace; in me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience. I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me.... Restore me to liberty and enable me to live now, that I may answer before you and before men. Lord whatever this day may bring, your name be praised.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES ASHBOCKING

At our Sunday 9th March service, we celebrated Mothers and Caring – an early Mothers' Day! Special thanks to Sue for playing the organ; and to Stephanie for creating some wonderful bouquets of spring flowers which were handed out during the service.

Immediately after the service we held our Annual Vestry Meeting. Kevin Balaam and John & Linda Pollard were welcomed on to the PCC. All existing members agreed to continue in their roles and John Pollard agreed to become a churchwarden - thank you all, and especially to John! A special

vote of thanks was also given to Catherine for her energy and outreach to the community.

Our April coffee-morning will be held on Friday 4th April at Sarah & Steve Wilson's house (East Brook House) from 10.30 to 11.30. As always all welcome.

Save the date - Sat. 28th June! We plan to hold an Auction of Promises at the church that evening, together with a barbeque. Please think about promises you can offer for sale.

Catherine is planning a course for anyone interested in being baptised, taking communion, or finding out more about Christianity. She promises that it will be good fun and provide plenty of opportunities to ask questions! If you are interested in joining, please let her know.

Our next service will be on Easter Day (Sunday 20th April) at 11:00. Please join us. Who knows, the Easter Bunny may even leave a contribution.....

Finally, we extend our sympathies to David Bendall and his family. Merrilees Bendall died peacefully at home on 11th March. The funeral service was held in the church on the 17th.

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

At an extraordinary meeting on 6th March Clopton Ladies Group sadly decided to close. The group started twenty years ago and has met each month since then with a variety of speakers, demonstrations and visits. However, declining numbers have made it unviable. The last meeting will be on Thursday 3rd April at 8pm in the village hall. There will be a talk on homemade hand-cream. Thank you to all the people who have helped to arrange events over the years, and especially to Diana Dawson.

Don't forget the craft-morning on Wednesday 2nd April from 10am until 1 pm. For further details contact Della on 737805.

The monthly coffee-morning is on Wednesday 16th April from 10am until noon in the village hall. Everyone is very welcome.

We would love to see people at the sunrise service on Easter Day. This will be followed by breakfast and then Holy Communion.

Doris Main

Church cleaning Doris Main

Church flowers Flowers for Easter - everyone!

OTLEY

Easter is so late this year, 20th April, and the spring so early, that we can only hope there will still be some daffodils left to decorate the church. This will be done on Easter Saturday. Hetty Fox has retired from the flower rota after very many years. She will be greatly missed, as we have always been able to rely on her at festivals, when not everyone is available, to do a lovely arrangement on 'her' windowsill, mostly with flowers from her pretty garden. Thank you, Hetty, for all you have done.

The annual church meetings will take place in church after the Palm Sunday service on 13th April. All are welcome.

Jane took Perry Crewdson's thanksgiving-service, and the church was full with many members of his large family, old Suffolk friends and colleagues from Ransomes. Affectionate and amusing tributes were paid by his son Giles and his grandchildren and we shall remember him, not only for his dedicated work with the East Anglian Children's Hospices and his contribution here in the village, but for his gentle nature, his love of his family, and his genuine interest in people.

Once again the church quiz was a very enjoyable evening. Six teams competed, answering questions on subjects ranging from military generals to food and drink - do you know what a Bath chap is?! The real test, to finish, was the music round when we had to identify fifteen pop songs. All great fun. The winners were the Phileas Fogg team, comprising Martin and Sam Liddell, the Robinsons, the Lings, and Vanessa's parents, and their prizes were tickets to the Suffolk Show, generously donated by Ian Liddell. Another team were awarded wooden spoons but the editor and the rector won't say who they are. Thanks go to David Chittock, question-master and compiler, to Olivia Bullock and her friend for keeping the score, and to Ruth and Jonathan, Penny, Ruthie and Mike for the excellent supper and the bar.

Karin's Kaffee und Kuchen event made £186 for the Leprosy Mission and she wants to thank everybody who came. It was a lovely occasion with truly delicious German cakes, and four German ladies present.

The Otley Players are presenting "Cat on a Fiddle" on 10th, 11th and 12th April and tickets costing £7-50 are available from Joan Parish tel. 890715. This is a farce so it is sure to be fun and we can expect the usual high standard from TOPS.

The next meeting of the Gardening Club is on 7th April. This will actually be a short AGM, followed by another visit from Bill Baston with his superb photographs, this time of "Birds of Farm and Field". On 12th May the club has an evening visit to Crown Nursery, Ufford, with Graham Proctor, £7 per person, and on 28th June a coach outing to Cambridge Botanical Gardens. Non-members can sign up for these - please contact the Papworths tel. 890091.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be on Thursday, 10th April at Foxgloves, Chapel Road, the home of Geoffrey Mason. We are always glad to see new people at these friendly gatherings.

Bowling resumes on 26th April - good luck to Otley Bowls Club.

Happy Easter to everybody.

Rose Rogerson

<u>Church flowers</u>	Easter/Joan Parish
<u>Church cleaning</u>	Mary Hunt & Ruthie Bullock
<u>Brasses</u>	Betty David

Sidepersons' Rota

6th April	11am Family Service	Ruthie Bullock
13th April	11am Morning Praise	David Papworth
20th April	9.30am Easter Communion	Churchwardens
27th April	6.30pm Evensong	Pauline Crowley

Village Diary

3rd April	Friendship Club AGM
10th/11th/12th April	"Cat on a Fiddle" - The Otley Players
17th April	Friendship Club - Easter bonnets
27th April	Local History group
28th April	Community Council / village hall AGM

Otley village fete and village show 2014

The fete is planned for 12th July, but will only happen if we have a few more committed organisers to help Nathan Cant and his team. If you can offer something, please come to the White Hart at 8 pm on Weds. 23rd April to plan the details or contact Nathan on n_nay@hotmail.co.uk - OtleyFest will be on 26th July.

There will be no village show this year. The organisers have decided to take a break and look for new ideas. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please email

Helen.Quilliam@btinternet.com.

A provisional date for the show in 2015 is Sat.12th September.

If you would like to help run the village hall or with any Community Council events, please come to the AGM at 8pm on 28th April.

Age UK Suffolk – “Challenge 65” TEAM OTLEY

Last August Otley signed up for a Birthday Challenge run by Age UK Suffolk to raise as much money as possible from a £65 float in six and a half months finishing on March 15th. With the help of the whole community we have done this in the following ways!

We kicked off the event at the White Hart with tea and games, face-painting, biscuit-decorating and Guy-making for bonfire night. That evening Clare Free gave a free concert at the pub and there was a free buffet chicken supper (thanks to Swiss Farm and Richards Fruit and Veg!) It was a great night and raised £300.

The shop held a bake-sale (thanks to June Brooks and Melanie Guy); there was a quiz sourced from Otley and the surrounding area; Nellie Sunaway ran the Norwich half-marathon with matched funding from the Post Office and then a Gladiator challenge through Thetford forest; another bake-sale, an 80's quiz and the contents of the long-suffering spaghetti jar brought in £947.33.

FFY washed cars while the Under 5's ran a refreshment stall, bringing in another £118.85. FFY also delivered all the publicity leaflets. St Mary's church coffee-mornings raised £147.40 with their three bring and buy book sales. The Chilvers team organised a memorable Burns Night at Warrens Farm during a power-cut and raised £700.

The Friendship Club pulled out all the stops with their jumble and bric-a-brac sale. The queue extended outdoors and many bargains were to be found, producing £366.91. I know people are looking forward to the next Friendship Club sale.

And now to the final event which took place at the White Hart on 8th March - the 80's Disco. Thanks to Lynda, Paul and team, it was a great night. Neil Boast MBE provided the disco free of charge and kept us all on the dance floor with his 80s montage until the early hours of the morning in our fancy dress! The pub has also held other events for the Challenge - bingo, quizzes, concerts, and face-painting - there has been a wonderful can-do attitude helping to raise £728.77.

Susi's Kitchen donated 10% of all Bakewell-tart sales at farmers markets, giving a delicious £65. Otley Scout Group organised Street Sleuth at half-term and raised another £35. Generous donations and the last trickle of pennies into the spaghetti jar at the shop brought £100.

George Chilvers from Age UK Suffolk has given unending support. He is attempting his third London Marathon and will run for the charity. If anyone would like to support him, his Just Giving page is

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GeorgeChilversAgeUKSuffolk>

There will be an Indian Night at Warrens farm on April 5th contact Alyson Chilvers for further information email alysonchilvers@btinternet.com.

There isn't space to mention everyone, so thank you all! We have shown what can be done when a community acts together, and have raised a total of £3509.26 for Challenge 65 Age UK Suffolk. Every penny raised in Suffolk stays in Suffolk. Go Team Otley!

Penny Sunaway

(And thank YOU, Penny, for all your encouragement and enthusiasm.)

News from Otley Primary School

It has been a very busy and successful few weeks. The highlight was the Spectacular Dance Show performed by every pupil in school and put on in conjunction with Witnesham at

Trinity Park on 26 February. The children, who with the help of a specialist dance teacher had practised for many hours before hand, put on a truly awe-inspiring performance to a sell-out audience of 500 parents, relatives and friends. Some of the performers were only four years old! Pupils performed a variety of routines on themes such as “carnival” or “dinosaur”, or inspired by films, including Men in Black, and the pop song, It’s All So Quiet by Bjork. The show was a massive hit with the parents, many of whom left comments expressing their delight. “I loved it – it was so great to see the children enjoy themselves – we want more dance and more tissues at the ready,” wrote one proud parent. “I loved every minute,” wrote another. “It was spellbinding”. Many thanks to all the staff at both schools who organised such a wonderful event.

Only 10 days after the dance show, Class 3 children (Years 4, 5 & 6), for the second time in 2 years, were invited to perform at the prestigious Snape Maltings Concert Hall at the Celebration of Schools’ Music event. To a large audience they sang and danced their way through three songs with the support of a live band from Farlingaye. Yet again, their performance was superb.

Children have also been busy on the sports field with netball and football matches against Bawdsey, cross-country running at Hollesley and the annual swimming gala at Deben Pools. Congratulations to all Otley pupils who took part.

As I write, Years 5 & 6 are due to visit London on March 26 to watch The Lion King which should link nicely to their recent performing.

The governors agreed on 26 February to move to full federation with Witnesham, whose governors also agreed the following day. The two governing bodies will be dissolved on 31 March and a joint body formed on 1 April. We hope this will enable the two schools to be run more efficiently and effectively and to

build on their collaboration over the last few years.

Ian Liddell – Chair of Governors

Otley Local History Group (OLHG) Exhibition

We will be having another exhibition of historic photographs in the village hall on Sunday 27th April from midday until 5pm. This will include information and pictures of Otley and former villagers, as well as research on our two current projects.

Following the research into the 37 people on Otley's war memorial who died in WW1, we are now researching more than 50 former villagers who served in that war and survived. Many of these were known to be associated with the parish, but it is sometimes difficult to work out what the association was. It could be that they were born or lived in the parish, but they may have moved away, worked or worshipped in Otley, or perhaps been only briefly connected here. Can you help us to identify some of our unknown survivors?

We have some fascinating information about some we have identified, such as William Podd, George Runnacles, Jack Todd, and the five sons of William Osborne of Otley Green. Can you tell us more, or help us to identify any of the others? We only have names for some men, such as Gunner Richard Cook, James Nunn, Petty Officer Fanner, David Moye and B. Spole of the Suffolk Regiment and Arthur Wright of the Royal Flying Corps.

It was not only men who left the village to serve in the Forces. It was very exciting to discover recently that in 1918 Bessie Lanham left her job as a teacher in Otley and joined the Women's Royal Naval Air Service. She worked as a carpenter with seaplanes at Lee on Solent until late 1919.

Our second project concerns the village's shops and businesses in the 20th century, from builders and chip shops, to saddlers and thatchers. Did your family work in Otley? Do you

have photographs or information which you would like to share?
Are you interested in our findings?

Your interest and help would be welcomed, so do come along on the 27th April, or get in touch. Entrance will be by donation – in aid of the village hall.

Sally Whiffing (01473 892030) Otley Local History Recorder

Otley Hall Quiet Days

If you have enjoyed listening to Fred Woods 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

After a long illness Peter Shaw died quietly and peacefully on 3rd March in the nursing home where he had been for several months. Kim and Peter have lived in Swilland for many years and have been very much part of the community. We send our sympathy to Kim.

Our next event is the dog walk on Saturday 26th April starting between 10 and 11 a.m. from Red Court. The walk will be about 5 miles long, mainly on footpaths. There will also be a shorter route for the less energetic. Dogs must be kept on leads. Those without a dog will be welcome. A ploughman's lunch will be served in the barn at Red Court. The cost will be £7 per person (£5 for children under 10). We would like to have some idea of numbers, so if you would like to come please contact Ann Rose on 785702.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota

No flowers in Lent

Easter Day -

27th April - 4th May

all help

Gill Reidy

RAINFALL – February

With the welcome warm days of March upon us we can almost forget what has been claimed as the wettest winter on record. We in the East have again come off more lightly, even though it has been a miserable time. The recorded rainfall for February was 3.11 inches. Added to December's and January's figures, that is a total of 10.19 inches, which is not excessive. The one advantage this winter has been the very mild temperatures.

The problem of writing about last month's weather is that by the time you read the article, it is out of date and partly forgotten. In future I shall include the first part of the present month. March is recognised as the start of Spring with snowdrops and daffodils etc coming into bloom. Both "If it comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb" and the reverse turn out to be true surprisingly often.

Russell Ling

Debenham Group Practice

We are pleased that a new nurse-practitioner, Jane Baldry, will join the practice in early April. Jane has worked within the NHS for 30 years in various roles and will undoubtedly be a valuable additional member of our clinical team.

In the recent patient survey, only a small percentage of patients knew that we have a Patient Participation Group. Essentially, this is a volunteer group of patients, who work with the practice to provide practical support and feedback, improve communication and facilitate positive suggestions about the practice. They meet quarterly at Debenham with a member of the practice team. A recent recruitment campaign brought several new members to

our meetings, but we are aware that we are missing representatives from the working population and those at home in the day with young children or sick relatives. We now are considering if we could add to our membership with a virtual group, i.e. you would be contacted by email, sent the forthcoming meeting's agenda and have the opportunity to add your own comments and suggestions etc. ensuring that your voice/opinion will be heard without having to attend meetings. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Steve Bloomfield, Practice Business Manager steve.bloomfield@nhs.net or Jean Housley, Chairman PPG jbhous1950@btinternet.com. We would love to hear from you.

Steve Bloomfield - Debenham Group Practice

Woodbridge Deanery Synod 12 March 2014

Congratulations - Revd Canon Kevan McCormack is now a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen

Guest Speaker: In a change to the advertised programme we were privileged to share in a retelling of Clare's sabbatical journey – an inspirational experience.

Deanery Synod Elections – due this April - find the information leaflet at:

<http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/about-general-synod/house-of-laity.aspx>

Wednesday in Holy Week – 16 April - 7pm in Orford Church illustrated presentation of how the Cross has been shown in art and how this can help our understanding today by Dr David Thompson, acting Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich - Details from David Murdoch - 01394 450336

Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm - Archdeacon's Visitation – Grundisburgh

Deanery Synod Meetings

Thursday 19 June 2014 in the Parish Hall, Playford

Wednesday 12 November 2014 in Sutton Memorial Hall

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SMILE LINES

Baby - A small boy wanted a baby brother, so his father suggested he pray every night for one. The boy began to pray earnestly, night after night. When nothing happened, he gave up. After a few months his dad said they were going to see mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked. The little boy thought for a moment and replied: "It is a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

Post - The evangelist Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said: "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy looked surprised, and finally stammered: "But you don't even know your way to the post office."

Horse - A minister trained his horse to go when he said: 'Praise the Lord', and to stop when he said; 'Amen'. One day he was out for a gallop when he saw a deep gorge ahead. He kept shouting 'Amen!', and finally the horse stopped. The minister was so relieved that he looked up to heaven and said a heartfelt: "Praise the Lord!"

Drive - Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.



DAISIES

There is an old saying 'when you can stand on seven daisies at once then spring has come'. I like daisies with their bright yellow middles and tiny petals. If you look closely, you'll see that not all the daisies in any lawn will be white; some of

them are edged with pink. When I was little I asked my mum why and she told me this story to explain why.

On that first Easter morning, when Jesus walked in the garden and was seen by Mary and the other women who thought he was a gardener, his bare feet touched just some of the daisies in the grass. And because he still had the wounds in his feet his blood touched the daisies and marked their petals pink.

I love this story and still to this day I feel sorry for the daisies that Jesus didn't touch - because when Jesus touches our lives all things change and spring comes into our hearts forever.

BIBLE 'D's

Can you find all the answers to this Bible quiz? All the words begin with the letter D. Answers at the bottom of the page.



A tribe of Israel.

He spent the night with some lions.

Where Saul was going when he met Jesus on the road.

Followers of Jesus.

These made Joseph unpopular with his brothers.

A famous king of Israel who played the harp.

How do dinosaurs pass exams?

With extinction.

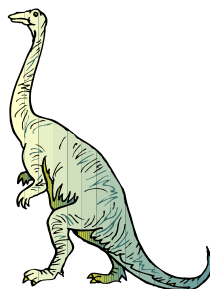
What is the main ingredient of dog biscuits?

Collie flour.

My little brother's name is Dad.

Why is that?

They named him after my father.



Answers: 1.Dan 2.Daniel 3.Damascus 4.disciples 5.dreams 6.David.

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Find us at Unit 21 Lewis Farm, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket

We are just up the road from Stonham Barns on the A1120 or put **IP14 6AU** in your SAT NAV.



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