

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Look, Lord, on an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

In faith I am weak – strengthen me.

In love I am cold – warm me and make me fervent so that love may go out to my neighbour.

I doubt and am unable to trust you completely – strengthen my faith and trust in you.

You are all the treasure I possess.

I am poor, you are rich and came to have mercy on the poor.

I am a sinner, you are goodness. From you I can receive goodness, but I can give you nothing.

Therefore I shall stay with you.

Martin Luther

2013 Poppy Appeal

The local branch of the Royal British Legion thanks everyone who collected and gave in our villages last year. The amounts received were: Tuddenham £930, Otley £878, Witlesham £826, Westerfield £558, Ashbocking £240 and Swilland £226 – a total of £3658, with a further £135 from Gift Aid.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES ASHBOCKING

On 17th March, Mrs Bendall's funeral was held at Ashbocking church and was a beautiful service conducted by Monsignor Tony and Canon Clare. The bells rang out and Mrs Bendall's grandchildren excelled themselves. Thank you to everyone who attended, decorated and cleaned - the church looked glorious.

There were 430 people at Robin Wright's memorial service on 24 March, a testament to how widely and affectionately he was known. This was held at Easton Grange, but using the

Ashbocking altar cloth, candlesticks and cross. Whilst sad, it was also a fitting and beautiful service.

Coffee-morning: on Friday 2nd May we will be meeting at Mike and Sue Surridge's house - 9 Nelson Close, Ashbocking.

An auction of gifts and promises will be held in Ashbocking church on Saturday 19th July (please note the new date) to help raise funds for the roof and other maintenance. The event will start at 6pm with a bar and BBQ followed by the auction at 7.30pm. Our auctioneer will be Rob Dunger from BBC Radio Suffolk. Please let Catherine know of any offers of gifts or promises. We already have offers of: a days' sailing for 4 people; a Sri Lankan meal cooked for 4 at your home; 2 cases of wine; an evening's free babysitting; a dinner for 6 cooked at your home. So please be imaginative and generous. Tickets at £3 in advance or £4 on the day, to include a BBQ burger or sausage in a bun, can be purchased from the Ashbocking Crockery Barn or Otley Village Stores from May 6th. We hope this will be a great community event.

Our next service will be on Sunday 11th May at 11am when we will celebrate Rogation Sunday and ask for God's blessing on the crops and all our endeavours. During the service, we will visit one of the Mitchells' fields, which will take about 10 minutes. Please dress down!

Duncan Bray and Catherine Beaumont

CLOPTON

On Sunday 30th March Bishop John Waine led a service to commission new elders in the benefice. It was great to have so many people from the benefice coming to give their support. John Cooper played the organ and the Grundisburgh choir helped to make it a very special day. Thank you to all who provided refreshments.

The final forms, evaluation documents, invoices and photos were sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund in April, ending two years of work to replace the bell frame and rehang the bells. There have been three full peals and three quarter peals rung since the work was completed and sixty four different ringers have enjoyed ringing the bells. A band from Scotland will ring at the end of April.

Work on getting documents into our heritage centre at the back of the church will start in May. If anyone has any photos or information about Clopton in the past, we would like to copy it for the records. More in June's Church Times.

Come and join in the craft-morning on Wednesday 7th May from 10am until 1pm. Contact Della on 737805.

The May coffee-morning is on Wednesday 21st May in the village hall from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Terri Embury.

Clopton PCC needs a secretary please! It is not an onerous task - only four PCC meetings a year.

We would also like some volunteers for cleaning and doing flowers as we only have five people on our rotas. Can anyone help please - no previous experience required!

Doris Main

Church Cleaning in May	Audrey and Chris Barker
Church Flowers in May	Doris Main

OTLEY

On Palm Sunday a small procession set out from the village hall, led by Clare carrying the cross. At Soames' garage they met up with not one donkey, but two, to continue to the church

and mark the tradition of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. And at church everybody was presented with palm crosses.

This service was followed by the annual church meetings at which Nigel Crowley and Richard Treloar were re-elected as churchwardens for another year. David Papworth has retired from the church council, but otherwise the existing members was re-elected en bloc. Ian Liddell, the treasurer, presented the accounts and noted that our contribution to the diocese, the parish share, had been paid in full. Other reports were given covering the events of the year and the upkeep of the church building, and Nigel Crowley thanked everybody for all that they do for the church.

The next monthly coffee-morning will take place on Thursday, 8th May at 10 Spring Park, the home of Nigel and Pauline Crowley and they will give you a warm welcome.

The Gardening Club will be meeting at Crown Nurseries, Ufford, at 7pm on Monday 12th May. Graeme Proctor will lead a guided walk around the nurseries and will be happy to give advice. The cost is £7 per person, to include light refreshments.

In the churchyard there is a beautiful carpet of cowslips between the graves, more than ever it seems. Rose Rogerson

Village diary

1st May	Friendship Club at Otley Hall, with Mr Morrison
15th May	Friendship Club - 'Around the World in an Hour' - Revd. Canon Clare Sanders
19th May	Parish Council AGM
22nd May	Elections
1st June	The Big Lunch (see below)

Church flowers	Betty David/Vanessa Ling/Claire Courteney
Church cleaning	1st & 2nd Week Richard & Angela Treloar
	3rd & 4th Week – Tessa Brown

Brasses

The Brownies

Sidepersons' Rota

4th May	11am Family Service	Nigel Crowley
11th May	11am Holy Communion	Betty David
18th May	9.30am Holy Communion	Peter Rogerson
25th May	6.30pm Evensong	Pauline Crowley

Annual Parish Meeting

The parish council invites you to the annual parish meeting on Monday 19th May at 7pm in Otley village hall. Are you interested to know what your council has achieved over the past year? Do you want to know how we have tackled planning issues, highway issues, community projects and other points of interest affecting our village? If you are an Otley resident you are most welcome to join parish councillors and other members of the community. Chairs of each committee will give a short presentation about the past year's events.

Everyone is welcome and this is an opportunity for you to have your say on community issues that concern you.

Christian Aid Week in Otley

This annual fund-raising event will be held from 11th to 17th May. Donation envelopes will be delivered to each home prior to this period, and collected by volunteers a few days later. It will greatly benefit the total collected if donors also complete the Gift Aid form attached to the envelope.

A special Christian Aid service will be held in Otley church on Sunday 11th May. A light lunch, in aid of Christian Aid, will be served at 10 Spring Park (the home of Pauline and Nigel Crowley), from 12.30 pm on Wednesday 14th May.

Christian Aid's mission is to 'Help people in poverty out of poverty'. Please give generously.

Nigel Crowley

Cat on the Fiddle

The Otley Players once again came up trumps with this their latest production. On entering the hall we were greeted by a superb set created by David Montgomery and cast members. Nathan Cant and Jess Chaston, as the young couple living in a rented London flat, led the cast through a series of hilarious encounters, misunderstandings and near misses. An unexpected Italian visitor (Vanessa Ling) and a delightful mother (Mireille Williams) added spice and suspense to the story. Cameo parts were played by Sue Courteney as the bossy landlady, Mike Sheppard as the Italian bad guy, Mark Robinson, Chris Barker, Joan Parish and Richard Brook. John Parish directed a production that was fast-moving and thoroughly entertaining. Congratulations to all involved 'behind the scenes' in this most enjoyable entertainment, which lifted the spirits of the appreciative audiences. TOPS always welcome new members –if you are interested in getting involved, then Vanessa on 890787 or Richard on 890851 will be delighted to hear from you.

FFY

Our annual general meeting will be in the village hall from 6.30 to 7pm on Wednesday 21st May. Come and hear what the youth group is up to. Join the committee to make a difference.

FFY's next car wash is on Sunday 18th May 9.30am till 12noon. While we wash your car, come and enjoy a lovely cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. Only £5 per vehicle and all monies raised go towards funding the local youth club.

FFY runs on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday (7th and 21st May) of each month from 7pm till 9pm at Otley village hall (cost £1.50 plus tuck-shop money). ALL young people from year 6 until age 18 are more than welcome; you don't have to live in Otley, so please bring your friends. For more information contact Michelle Boreham on 890269.

The Otley Mile for Sports Relief - March 23rd

A glorious day and a turn-out of over 150 competitors heralded the start of The Otley Mile for Sport Relief this year at the village hall. Great fun was had by all and a host of volunteers ensured that the event ran smoothly and the last dog-walkers came home safely! Mick Mills and Dr Dan Poulter MP were joined by Colonel Geoffrey Mason to open the event; George Chilvers once again took on the task of making sure all participants were well warmed up! Mike Bullock made sure that the music got us all in the mood and Martin Liddell managed the traffic, Hubbards kindly let us use their car-park, and 27 valiant volunteers gave up their time to man registration, marshal the route and provide en route first aid. St John's Ambulance brigade were on standby, but thankfully had an uneventful day. Thanks to Gary Gilling who marked out the route and helped all day and to the Under 5's for providing delicious refreshments.

After the run every competitor was rewarded with a delicious free hot-dog at the White Hart, thanks to Lynda and Paul. There are fabulous photos of the day and if you would like any, please contact our photographer, Claudia Gannon. Congratulations to our clergy, Catherine and Jane, who ran "Rev up the Reverends" and raised a further £60. I have banked just under £800, so if you have any outstanding sponsorship money or donations, please pay it in now! Thank you to all who took part; you will be making a difference to somebody who needs help.

Penny Sunaway

News From the Under Fives

We at the Under Fives have an appeal to make. Our AGM will be in September and we have vacancies for both the chairperson and one of the trustees. If you (or anyone you know) would be willing to take on either of these roles, please get in touch.

We now have spaces in our sessions for children aged 18 months and upwards, so give us a call to arrange a free taster-session. Please take a look at our web site www.otleyunderfives.co.uk for lots more information about just what we get up to during our day! We have excellent links with Otley Primary School, with weekly assemblies and playtimes and have just had our termly get-together with Class One.

We have lots of events during the summer term, starting with a stall at the Otley College Open Day on the 11th May and our very own Open Day at the Under Fives on Saturday 7th June. Come along and you can see what we get up to, with lots of activities, games and fun for all the family.

If you are interested in any sessions or joining our (very friendly) Committee, you can email on contact@underfives.co.uk Phone on 07789 468853, or just pop in!
Mel Soames

An Invitation to Otley's BIG LUNCH day on 1st June

2 years ago, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Church of England promoted the idea of communities coming together for a Big Lunch. A giant picnic at the playing-field was incorporated in Otley's weekend of celebration and was very successful. We are holding another Big Lunch in the village on Sunday 1st June as part of the national initiative. You are all invited to come along. Plans are being developed and all ideas are welcome! If you are

interested in helping or being involved do ring or email me (Jane Hall 785251 or allthealls@tiscali.co.uk) or come and join us at the White Hart on Wed 14th May at 7.30pm.

The outline for the day includes:-

11 am - Open air pet service - your animals are welcome but should be suitably restrained and protected!

12.30 - Picnic time - bring your own food, drink, chairs or rugs

1.30 - Organised games including football and rounders

2.30 - Traditional races, a treasure hunt and other attractions

3.30 – Music, raffle and clear up

It is intended to be an informal time of fun for all ages, families and residents. Do come and join us.

Jane Hall

SWILLAND

Our next event is the dog walk on 26th April starting at Red Court between 10 & 11am and finishing with a ploughman's lunch in the barn at Red a Court. This will have taken place by the time you receive the magazine. On the same day, although not in Swilland, Becci Reidy and Andy Cork are being married. We wish them a long and happy life together.

We have now raised enough funds for the tower repairs and hope to make a start in the next few weeks.

Ann Kent

Flowers - Gill Reidy

RAINFALL – March

Following a wet winter we now seem to be having a dry sunny spring. The bloom on the blackthorn bushes has seemed even more abundant than last year and the blackthorn winter only lasted a few days. To those of you who are unfamiliar with the term blackthorn winter, most years we have a cold snap when it is in full bloom and usually it also coincides with cowslips in

bloom. Many years ago, before the advent of machinery to drill crops in the autumn, the land was ploughed and left to be broken down by winter frosts into a suitable seed bed by the spring. At that time farmers only had harrows to make a tilth suitable for drilling and a drying wind was required in March - hence the expression, "A speck of dust in March is worth a king's ransom. A cold east wind usually achieved this, as well bringing frozen hands and feet, for there were no warm cabs in those days. Rainfall in March was .90 inch and the total for 2014 so far is 7.86 inches.

Russell Ling

Otley Hall Retreat Day Programme

Thursday 5th June Elizabeth Moore - 'In the beginning' - exploring creation in art and poetry.

Artists and poets have been inspired by the creation stories in the Bible to explore the mysteries of our humanity and our universe. Drawing on these resources, this day reflects on what it means to see ourselves as being made by God - his work in progress - and considers how we can share in God's creative work in everyday life.

Tuesday 24th June Magdalen Houlihan and Gwen Harding - 'Silence in an ordinary life'

Most of us lead ordinary lives and at times the things we read about prayer leave us struggling to "do it better". It really doesn't have to be this way. God knows that we are seeking Him and He is not going to judge us harshly for our faltering attempts. This retreat day will focus upon the simplicity of silent prayer and we will share with you the hidden treasure that we have found.

Both days begin at 10am and finish by 4pm. £22 per person including all refreshments and lunch. To book a place or for further information, contact Karen on 01473 890264

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Saturday 10 May 2014, 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Debenham

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SMILE LINES

Tribute - The newly-arrived minister was asked to take a funeral at short notice. At one point in the service she said: “As I did not know the deceased, is there anyone here who would like to say a few words of tribute?” There was silence for several minutes and then a voice at the back was heard to say: “His brother was far worse.”

Mistake - A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.

Found on the church noticeboard - Contact lens found in church. See vicar....if you can.

For sale - Wedding dress. Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

Song - The curate often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

Verger - He had a photographic memory that had never developed.

Bread - Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
Preach

Disgusted church warden - 'I could eat alphabet soup and preach better sermons!'

Subject - A man stayed at home while his wife went to church. When she returned, he enquired about the sermon. She hesitated, and then said it was okay. When he pressed her as to what it had been about, she admitted: "I don't really know - the minister never did say."

Preaching - Church members were discussing the vicar's and the curate's sermons. The church warden said: 'Vicar, now, when she says 'in conclusion', she concludes. But the curate, when he says 'lastly' - my! How he do last.'

Pillar - After a certain gloomy Dean retired a number of years ago, he began writing for the press. Even he smiled when a rival paper declared that he was no longer a pillar of the Church of England, but now only two columns in the Evening Standard.

Grannies - Grandmas are moms with lots of frosting - anon
What a bargain grandchildren are! I give them my loose change, and they give me a million pounds worth of pleasure. Gene Perret

When children pray (*they did their best!*)

~ Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses.

~ Hail, Mary, full of grapes.

~ He suffered under a bunch of violets." (Pontius Pilate)

Parking space - Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."



JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13th May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and

write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me, and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!

NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.

What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?



Inspector Norse.

What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

Answers: 1. Norse 2. North

3. Northumberland, Norfolk and Northamptonshire 4. Norway 5. Norman 6. Norwich 7. normal



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