

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Day by day, Lord, reveal in us your glory,
Stir in us your power,
Renew in us your kingdom,
Develop in us your faith,
Show in us your way,
Open in us your love,
Strengthen in us your hope,
Work in us your miracles,
Revive in us your resurrection,
Abide in us yourself.

Elizabeth Corker

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Autumn is well and truly here. Summer seemed to end quite abruptly this year, but fortunately it left enough flowers and foliage to decorate the church for our harvest festival on 9th October. We were fortunate to have Archdeacon Ian Morgan, resplendent in his robes, leading us with wonderful presence and humour. The church was beautiful with flowers and produce, so a big thanks to all who contributed and cleaned. The pews were full and it was lovely to see friends from other churches in the benefice supporting us. This was a special service, not just of thanksgiving, but also for the commissioning of Jan Bates and me, Linda Pollard, as lay elders. It was a very moving experience for us and we were grateful for the smiling faces of the congregation and their good wishes.

The next service is for Remembrance on November 13th starting at 10:45, to allow for the two-minute silence at 11:00. Last year we were lucky enough to have Derek Pheasant come and set up an exhibition of memorabilia in the church, dedicated to the forty-five

men from Ashbocking who served in WW1 and the five who fell in battle. Also remembered will be others from Suffolk and beyond who made the final sacrifice. Last year, most people found that they did not have time to appreciate the exhibits fully, so this year he has kindly offered to come again and set up the display for the day until 4pm.

Derek writes, "Ashbocking has no war memorial so it seems very appropriate during these centenary years of World War One to make extra effort to remember all who fell in war", and asks that you come along and bring your family photographs and memorabilia too. He will be in the church all day to answer questions and enjoy your company.

The monthly coffee-morning is on the 4th November 10:00 -12:00 at Otley Hall, IP6 9PA. December's will be at John and Linda Pollard's house, Hawthorns, The Green, at the end of Ashley Grange, on 2nd December in festive mood with maybe a cup of mulled wine as well as coffee.

We will be circulating a newsletter shortly, so please keep your eyes out for it, since details of carol-singing on December 15th, the carol service on December 18th, and the rehearsal on December 11th will be included. The rehearsal is for all who are going to join our carol service choir. We hope that volunteers will include youngsters and teenagers who can sing or play an instrument. We have not done this before, apart from the scratch choir last year, and hope we can get something going and enjoy a good sing. Perfection not required.

There will be a churchyard clearance morning on Saturday 5th November 10:00-12-00, and it would be appreciated if as many volunteers as possible could help gather leaves, trim hedges, weed paths etc. Refreshments will be provided.

On November 6th Janice Williamson is being confirmed at St Andrews Church, Melton IP12 1PX at 3pm, and it would be lovely if members of Ashbocking congregation could be there, on this very special occasion, to support both her and William Napper, who is reaffirming his baptismal vows.

Finally, I bring news of the retirement from the PCC of David Bendall, who many of us have known for a good number of years. David retires as vice-chair at the age of 96, having served since 1972, giving a grand total of 44 years. We wish him well and thank him for his generosity to the church during this time. David has allowed us to park at his house, or in his field, and without this facility it would be very difficult to use the church to its full potential. David has been visiting his daughter Fern, and his family in America, on and off this year and we hope he enjoys a wonderful Christmas with them. We look forward to seeing him in church as and when his busy life style permits, to thank him personally for his dedication and service.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning Sharon Chenery

“GOING DEEPER” HOMEGROUP

We meet at Manor Farm to study the Bible, pray, and encourage each other to “go deeper” in our faith in Jesus together.

We will be meeting on **Wednesday 12th and 19th October** and thereafter every **1st & 3rd Wednesday** at **10.00am till 12.00**

For more details, call Jan or Jon Bates on 01473 892605

CLOPTON

The talk 'Smuggling in Suffolk in past times' on 16th September was well attended. The speaker, David Newman, gave a very informative and humorous talk. It was interesting to hear that the

notorious 'Hadleigh Gang' could have travelled through Clopton!
All the money raised was given to the Chelmsford Hospice.

The November hobbies morning will be in the village hall from 10 until noon on Wednesday 2nd November. The coffee-morning will be in the village hall on Wednesday 16th from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Penny Moon. Please join us.

The Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November will be held as usual at the 493rd Bombardment Group Memorial at 'The Oaks' just off Snipe Farm Road. The service will start at 10.50am and will be followed by refreshments at the education centre on the airfield.

Doris Main

Church cleaning

Audrey and Chris Barker

Church flowers

Doris Main

OTLEY

The Cubs and Beavers paraded with their banners at the Harvest Festival family service, and the church had been beautifully decorated with autumn flowers and berries. There were refreshments in church afterwards and it was a good social gathering. The collection was taken for Farm Africa and the produce was sent to FIND.

In the church, mesh guards across the louvres at the top of the tower have been renewed to keep the jackdaws out, and the community payback boys have tidied up the churchyard for the winter. There will soon be a Commonwealth War Graves sign on the gate as we have one grave of a soldier who died in the First World War, Private Garnham of the Suffolk Regiment. We shall be thinking of him and so many others at the Remembrance service on Sunday 13th November at 10.45am at the war memorial in the centre of the village.

The Otley 2017 calendar is now available at the Post Office, £4.99 each for the Otley Church Preservation Trust. It is of high quality with beautiful photographs, and sales are going well. Christmas cards with a view of the church in snow, £3 for a pack of five, are also available from Tess Papworth tel. 890091.

The coffee-morning for Macmillan Cancer Support held here at Church House raised the truly wonderful total of £665, which included a lot of extra donations. This is our 13th year and Otley is so loyal and generous to this charity. I do thank everybody who contributed, and the helpers - Joan Parish, Judy Cairns, Christine Childs, Ann Baker and Issy Lincoln. It is part of The World's Biggest Coffee Morning and we had 46 people attending, more than before but not all at once!

The next monthly coffee-morning will be held on Thursday 24th November at 36 Church Road, the home of Fred and Jane Woods, and they look forward to welcoming you.

Guy Fawkes will be remembered on Saturday 5th November at the village hall with the annual Otley Community Council firework display. The gate opens at 7pm for soup, hot dogs etc. with the fireworks at about 7.20. Admission £3 adult, £2 child under 16, £10 family 2 plus 2. Sunday 6th is the reserve date if the weather is too bad.

The TOPS murder mystery evening with supper has been postponed until 18th and 19th November. Details are in the October magazine or on their website www.theotleyplayers.co.uk/

Advance notice - the Christmas Dinner Dance will take place at the village hall on 10th December, 7 until midnight, and smart dress should be worn. Tickets cost £22.50 each and are available from James Green, tel. 01473 892109. The church Christmas Draw will be held that morning (see below).

Congratulations to the Bowls Club who have had a very successful season.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

3rd Nov.	Friendship club - David Papworth: Pig Tales
5th Nov.	Community Council - Fireworks Evening
11th Nov.	Under 5s - Clairvoyant Evening
17th Nov.	Community Lunch at The White Hart
17th Nov.	Friendship Club - Christmas cards craft
18th/19th Nov.	TOPS - Murder Mystery evening with supper

Church flowers: Tessa Brown/Advent

Church Cleaning: Tessa Brown/Richard & Angela Treloar

Sidepersons:

6th November	11.00am Family Service	TBC
13th November	10.45am Remembrance Service	TBC
20th November	9.30am Holy Communion	TBC
27th November	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Peter Rogerson

An invitation to remember a loved one at an All Souls service

For the last 6 years we have held a simple but sensitive service around the time of All Saints Day (1st November) to remember loved ones who have died and whose memory is very precious. There has been music, prayers, time for reflection, readings & a sense of peace that we think everyone who came found helpful. You are warmly invited to join us for a similar service at 11am **on Sunday 6th November in Otley church.** We read out the names of those you have asked us to remember. Anyone who'd like to come will be very welcome. If you would like us to include someone's name, please let Jane (785251 or email – allthealls@tiscali.co.uk) or Catherine (890264 or email catherine.beaumont@otleyhall.co.uk) know.

Advance Notice

Otley church's annual Christmas draw and coffee-morning will be held on Sat 10th Dec at Otley village hall from 10.30am – do come along. Tickets will be on sale at £5/ book and there will be some super prizes.

Otley and District Gardening Club

On a bright, crisp late September Saturday morning, 42 club members and friends boarded a sparkling-clean Soames' charabanc for the club's summer outing to Beth Chatto's Garden, near Elmstead, Essex. Arriving soon after 10 o'clock, after driver Paul's expert negotiation of the A12 traffic, we disembarked, to make our way in ones, twos and small posses around the five famous gardens (Gravel, Scree, Water, Woodland and Reservoir) created since 1960 through Beth Chatto's expert knowledge, vision and drive.



As well as wandering in lovely sunny weather through the wonderful plant collections and garden-scapes on offer, we saw many of the same plants on display for sale in the comprehensive onsite nursery. We paced our day by recourse to tea, coffee and lunch-breaks in the tearoom, or enjoyed picnics on garden benches. By about 4 o'clock we had all fully satisfied our horticultural and walking appetites, and in dribs and drabs retired back to the coach where Paul was waiting to stow safely away numerous plant-purchases and transport us back to Otley, after first drawing the all-important raffle of plants which had been very generously donated by Betty Rudderham.

In conclusion, we can say that "A good day was had by all!"

The Reluctant Gardener

1st Otley Scout Group

Our Scout Group has been very busy over the last year. Cubs attended the District 100th birthday camp in May at Glemham Hall and the Scouts went to Wales for their summer camp. The

Beavers went on a sleepover to Sizewell and had a super campfire on the last meeting of the summer and cooked marshmallows and bananas, before ending with campfire songs.

Ben Dines (Scout Leader) ran a very successful kayaking course for the Cubs and Scouts – it lasted 10 weeks and all the young people thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They kayaked down the Olympic course at Lee Valley for their last session! The Group had a good turnout at the church harvest festival and were very proud of Joseph (Cub) as he read the prayer. Everyone is going to see the “Wizard of Oz” at the Regent in November as their Group outing, and lots of exciting activities and camps are already being organised for next year.

1st Otley Scout Group is a very successful group and is always looking for new children and adults to join. We especially need more adults to enable us to carry out a full and rewarding programme. If you’d like to know more about joining or helping (you don’t have to make a regular commitment – just come along and join in the fun of Scouting) please contact our GSL Martyn Osborne 892180.

Jayne Vaughan (Group Admin)

SWILLAND

Christmas Draw - This will be drawn on Saturday, 3rd December at 1 p.m. in Witnesham village hall. Soup, filled rolls and mince pies will be served from midday. There will be cake, preserves, book and gift stalls. Do join us. Any help with selling tickets and gifts of prizes will be much appreciated.

The next Lunar Ladies will be on 14th November at the Moon and Mushroom. See Gina's report below. There will be a working party in the churchyard on Saturday morning, 19th November from 9 to 12. Please join us and bring any tools that might be useful.

On Remembrance Sunday there will be an act of worship at the war memorial in the churchyard at about 11.45 a.m.

Ann Kent

Flower rota

6th – 13th November Gill Reidy

20th November Jackie Williams

27th November Jackie Williams – greenery only for Advent

Lunar Ladies

On 12th September Catherine Beaumont left her "dog collar" at Otley Hall and came to speak to the Lunar Ladies. The second time I met Catherine, I was on my hands and knees in Swilland churchyard helping in its annual clearance and Catherine came to join me in weeding the path. We were soon sharing some background of our lives and generally had a jolly good laugh (and yes, she did miss a weed).

When I was asked to set up and co-ordinate the Lunar Ladies group and to find speakers, Catherine was on my "hit" list. And so on the 12th September Catherine's subject was "Before ordination -my life as a business woman". How fascinating and accomplished her life has been with its ups and downs and I thank her, from my heart, for giving yet more time to the community to tell us about it.

Lunar Ladies meet at the Moon and Mushroom on the second Mondays of alternate months. The pub opens just for us, and we welcome all ladies from all villages. We have a speaker and then a lovely meal in a great relaxed atmosphere. If you would like to join the mailing list, please email gina.wilden@btinternet.com or telephone [01473 785577](tel:01473785577). We would love to see you.

The next meeting will be on 14th November at 7pm at the pub, when Nikki Gavin, the landlady, will be talking about when she ran her events company in London, with funny, sad and poignant anecdotes of events she arranged in England and abroad. A lovely meal will follow, as always. Bookings to me as above. The evening

will have a different twist, as there will be a surprise guest and a charity raffle to win a bottle of champagne and chocolates.

Gina Wilden

RAINFALL – SEPTEMBER

Unusually, summer this year seemed never-ending with three heatwaves in July, August and September and no shortage of sun. The downside is of course that gardens have suffered and the ground is now very hard. The last time that we had a summer like this was in 1976 when our pond in the front of the house dried up for the first time that I can remember, despite no longer being used to water the animals.

We are now into the autumn drilling and to get a seed bed a considerable amount of clod-bashing is needed to get a good seed-bed. Years ago it was sometimes impossible to plough the land as ploughs were much lighter and wouldn't penetrate the soil when it was hard. Ploughshares were made of cast iron and wore down very quickly, unlike today's multi-furrow heavy ploughs fitted with steel points, which penetrate the land much easier. Then, in really dry conditions the only option was to wait for sufficient rain to soften the ground. Rainfall for the month was 1.60 inches.

Russell Ling

HOW TO TREAT OUR ENEMIES

During this month we remember those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls us all to a radical heroism: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

Love Your Enemies: Our 'enemies' are not always life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church

member, work colleague or spiteful neighbour, our attitude toward them must be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love!

Pray for Your Persecutors: It's only when we are ready to pray for someone we don't get on with, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War 2, wrote: 'This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them.'

Become More Like Jesus: When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus. This is how Jesus lived; He willingly laid down his life for us and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did. In this season of Remembrance, when we recognise that we all need heroes, what is the call to radical heroism in our own life?

Paul Hardingham

SMILE LINES

Signs found outside churches:

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A picture of two stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two.'



St MARTIN DE PORRES

Martin was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru, the son of a former slave. He grew up in poverty and was taken in by a religious order as a servant boy. The monks looked down on Martin because he was mixed-race but in time his behaviour led to the Dominican Order stopping their racial limits on admission and he was made a full brother. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor, starting an orphanage and a children's hospital.

During his lifetime he was seen in other places. An African slave said Martin came to comfort him and many others. When the same man later saw him in Peru, he was very happy to meet him again and asked Martin if he had had a good voyage; but Martin had never left Lima.

In pictures, Martin de Porres is shown as a young man with a broom, since he thought all work sacred, no matter how lowly. He is also shown with a dog, cat and mouse, all eating in peace from the one dish.

DOG, CAT & MOUSE

St Martin de Porres is often shown with mice because, according to one story, the monastery had problems with rodents and decided to put traps out. Martin was so upset that he spoke to the mice and agreed that if they would leave the monastery, he would feed them at the back door of the kitchen. From that day forward, no mouse was seen in the monastery.

Which of these animals do you think are actually mentioned by name in the Bible?

1. Cat
2. Horse
3. Dog
4. Mouse
5. Lamb
6. Frog
7. Monkey
8. Lion
9. Donkey
10. Ox



Answers at the bottom of the page.

How does a group of dolphins make a decision?

Flipper coin.

How do sheep sign their letters?

'Ewes sincerely.'

Answer: all are in the Bible except numbers 1 and 7, the cat and the monkey.

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