

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Here I am Lord, alone. The silence troubles me. The solitude oppresses me. It's hard to be alone before suffering, death, sin.
Child, you are not alone, I am with you, I am you. Out of all eternity, I chose you, I need you. I need you to continue to save, I need your heart to continue to love, stay with me.

Here I am Lord, here is my heart. While the world presses with all its misery, I repeat to you my "yes" - slowly, humbly, alone, Lord, before you.

Michael Quoist (abridged)



Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday 24th at 7.00pm
Clopton church - poetry Eucharist
 - Good Friday at 10.15am- 11-45am
Otley village hall - Café church for all ages with art and craft activities, food, and worship
 - Good Friday at 2.00pm-3.00pm
Otley church - an hour at the Cross
- These services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were omitted from Grapevine, so please add them to your diaries.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Although the weather has been wet and we've had high winds and the odd cold snap, bulbs have emerged early and many hedgerows are already in leaf. It does seem odd but it also fills us with hope for spring and the return of lighter evenings and the sun's warmth.

Ashbocking church is looking forward to its **Quiz Night on Saturday 25th June** and preparations have already begun. We are also preparing for the **installation of Mike Harrison as Bishop of Dunwich** at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral on **27th February** at 3.30pm. Members of Ashbocking are taking part and a full report will be in next month's issue.

Our **Valentine's Day service** was well attended; we were asked to think of acts of kindness we would carry out during Lent - harder than you think! **Brenda Mitchell** was presented with a framed photograph of one of her flower arrangements and a card to say a well-earned thank you for the years she has been flower-arranging in our church. Brenda was trained and worked in London on flower tributes for many state events. She has been an inspiration in All Saints and now that she has decided to retire we will miss her beautiful arrangements. Linda Ellis continues to do flowers and would appreciate help from time to time at special festivals. For anyone who is interested, Brenda has offered to give a demonstration of flower-arranging, which may inspire some of us who are less accomplished to have a go.

We will discuss this at the **next coffee-morning which will be held at OTLEY HALL on 4th March at 10.30am**. PLEASE NOTE, NOT HAWTHORNS as originally published. Catherine will do a short tour of the Hall if anyone wants it. We will be at Hawthorns on 1st April.

You are invited to an **Away Day for Ashbocking and Swilland at Otley Hall on Saturday 16th April**, from 10 to 4, cost £5 including lunch. It is an opportunity for us to discuss and explore what it means to be Christians, what we do as a church, being a companion church with Swilland, and how we move on in the future. For more details or to book contact Catherine Beaumont.

There will be a churchyard clearance on Saturday 30th April 10am to 12 noon. We shall also oil the doors. Any help will be very much appreciated. There are no flowers in the church during Lent but flowers are invited for the Easter service on 27th March.

Do you enjoy Songs of Praise and the Last Night of the Proms? Come and enjoy **Prom Praise, at the Royal Albert Hall** on Saturday 2 April and support Reverend Catherine as she sings in a choir there. Tickets from £12.19, with a discount code of 22579 – you need to book your own. There will be a coach leaving at 4pm from Ipswich, and returning later in the evening, cost approx.. £20 per person. Tell Catherine if you want a place, 01473 890264.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning Linda and John Pollard

“GOING DEEPER” HOMEGROUP

We have moved to **Manor Farm** across the road on the Green, at **Ashbocking**, where we have plenty of room to welcome any newcomers. We study the Bible, pray, and encourage each other to “go deeper” in our faith in Jesus together.

We meet every **1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10.00am till 12.00**

For more details call Jan or Jon Bates on 01473 892605

CLOPTON

A jumble sale was held at Clopton village hall on Saturday 23rd January which raised nearly £400 for this year's midsummer fete on Sunday 19th June — details to follow. Considering it was the fete committee's first jumble sale, it all went extremely well and some of the many visitors said they will now come to the fete as well. The general consensus was that it should become an annual event, as the very generous donations offered a wide variety of items for sale at absolute bargain prices. Visitors also enjoyed sitting and watching the buzz of the sale over a cup of tea and a slice of cake served by the busy refreshments team. All leftover jumble was given to an Ipswich Scout group by Penny Moon.

Peter Driver gave a very interesting talk on Suffolk Curiosities on February 12th. It is amazing what gems can be seen if you keep your eyes open! All proceeds from the evening were given to EACH. There will be a meeting in the church on Wednesday 9th March at

10.30am for anyone who would like to help in any way with the Flower Festival (28th-30th May) We still need volunteers and you don't need to be an expert at flower-arranging, as help is also needed with teas etc. We aim to make it a 'fun' experience so do come and join us!

The March coffee-morning is on Wednesday 16th at the village hall from 10am until noon. Come and meet friends and neighbours and do think of someone you can bring along, who has not been before.

Doris Main

Church cleaning

Beryl Birchmore

Church flowers

There are no flowers during Lent but please will everyone help at Easter.

OTLEY

Easter is early this year, 27th March, and Bishop John Waine will be taking the Easter Communion service at 9.30am that day. On Good Friday morning there will be "Café Church" in the village hall – see below. The church will be decorated on the Saturday.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be on Thursday 24th March at Grange House, the home of Russell Ling, so we hope lots of people will come to enjoy his lovely conservatory, as well as the coffee!

The Hubbards buildings are now empty and this will have a big impact on our shop, so please support Andrew and Penny and their staff by using our wonderful village stores as much as you can.

Advance Notice – Otley is celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday on Sunday 12th June. We are planning a BIG LUNCH picnic at 12.30 after an open-air service of thanksgiving. In the afternoon there will be traditional races, birthday competitions & a community tea party – more details to follow but save the date now! Enquiries to Jane Hall – allthealls@tiscali.co.uk or 785251

Happy Easter.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

3rd March Friendship Club - "The Realm of the Polar Bear",
illustrated talk by Chris Parfitt

6th March Friendship Club - Jumble sale

20th March Sainsbury's Sport Relief - The Otley Mile

Church flowers: No flowers in Lent/Everybody at Easter

Church Cleaning 1st Week - Karin Upson

3rd Week – Nigel Crowley

Sidespersons' Rota

6th March 11.00am Family Service Penny Clark

20th March 9.30am Holy Communion Peter Rogerson

27th March 9.30am Holy Communion Ruth Farnhill

Something different this Easter – Good Friday Café Church

Instead of Messy church in St Mary's, this GOOD FRIDAY (25th March) you are all invited to join us at Otley village hall from 10.15am - to 11.45am. Experience the Easter story through activities, companionship, music, story-telling, prayer & breakfast! The Easter story will be told by reflecting on the trees that are part of Holy Week events.

We will serve coffee, hot cross buns & bacon butties in return for a donation. There will be an Easter-egg hunt & time to help make the traditional Easter garden too.

It's the first day of the school holidays so do all come & join us!

Junior Tops perform Disney's Aladdin

Aladdin was brought to theatrical life by Vanessa Ling and her legendary creative team working with Junior TOPS. They obviously had their own magic lamp and their wish for an outstanding performance was granted with the young players showing great confidence and self-esteem in this exciting production.

The curtains opened to the cave of wonders roaring that the only one capable of entering the cave was "the diamond in the rough", Aladdin. Jafar, a power-hungry sorcerer, brilliantly played by Shannon Williams, misunderstands and sends poor Hazeem, played by Miles Ellis, into the cave to retrieve the lamp, but the cave roars and shuts its mouth killing Hazeem. Amy Liddell's character, lago

the parrot, was a super side-kick to the mean Jafar and tickled the audience with lots of punchy lines. Jafar continues secretly plotting to acquire the genie's magic lamp and to become the ruler of Agrabah by overthrowing the Sultan, nobly played by Luke Ellis.

Isla Moss had a terrific role and really gave character to the part of the flying carpet. The props department cleverly constructed a raised carpet on wheels and Isla did a wonderful job moving this around the stage when Aladdin and the beautiful princess, played by Isabel Sheppard, flew around the world, even passing through Ipswich!

When Aladdin, outstandingly played by Jemima Ling, is tempted by the vast forbidden treasures within the cave of wonders the design and construction team cleverly brought the central chamber crashing down with falling rocks and sound effects. Olivia Sutcliffe gave an exceptional performance as the genie, managing to project her voice despite some technical sound problems. They both brought much humour to the characters, engaging the audience and mastering the 'trap door' brilliantly.

With a flash, a bang and a puff of smoke, we were taken through swift scenery changes and the stage crew did an amazing job setting up Agrabah market and the palace. The beautiful costumes, terrific make-up and a great set brought the Arabian Nights colour and vibrancy to Otley. Credit to all the stage crew as they did an amazing job between the scenes. Xanthe Sheppard, Bernie McKenna, Jess Wright, Biba Peach, Emily Williams, Tia Mee, Gracie Smith and Maddie Bell between them covered the parts of princes, guards, citizens and street-sellers, so had several quick costume-changes; the wardrobe assistants, Terry Dye, Emma Bell and Tracey Moss did a great job. There was only one hiccup when the zip failed on Bernie's dress, but she carried on like a real professional. Mary Hunt's best efforts to try and re-zip on stage added to the humour of the moment..

It was a great production, extremely entertaining for any age and had lots of opportunities to 'boo' the evil villain, Jafar. The show was a tribute to great team effort with the crew giving their time and support

to the group. A special thanks was particularly given in the programme to Kirby, Martin, Tracey, Ian, Christine, Lorraine, Robert, Maddy and Nathan who, along with Vanessa, gave up many Saturdays in preparation.

Junior Tops is always looking for new members and is open to children from Year 4 to Year 12, meeting on Saturday afternoons. If you would like to find out more or may be interested in joining either speak with Vanessa Ling on [01473 892195](tel:01473892195) or email juniors@theotleyplayers.co.uk

Vanessa Osborne (& two children, who thought it was 'awesome')



Otley Under Fives

"If I were the Easter Bunny I'd fill my Easter basket with lots of chocolate eggs and hide them all over the meadow for everyone to find" (*If I were the Easter Bunny*, Louise Gardner).

Easter is fast approaching – much to the children's delight with talk of chocolate eggs and the Easter Bunny. They will join Class One at Otley Primary School for an Easter craft get-together later this month. In addition friends and parents of Otley Under Fives are hosting an Easter-egg hunt in the grounds of Otley Primary School on Easter Monday – please come and join in the fun.

The children have been out and about witnessing the changes around them as spring arrives: snowdrops; daffodils; even some blossom on the trees. They continue to bank miles towards their target of walking the distance from Otley to Legoland, Windsor. The new covered sandpit in the garden has been a welcome addition to the fantastic outdoor space where the children love to play whatever the weather. The vegetable garden is being made ready for the 2016 season.

The children have started learning how to dress themselves, equipping them with the life skills they will need when they start 'big school' in September. Socks are proving particularly tricky!

For more information about Otley Under Fives, to arrange a visit and free trial session or to talk to a member of the team please call 07789 468853, visit our Facebook page or our website: www.otleyunderfives.co.uk

The Otley Mile

The village is set to host its third Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 20 March and needs local people to come together and make themselves proud by entering now at <http://www.sportrelief.com>. The cheerful and eager Milers will be doing their bit to make a difference to people living across the UK and in the world's poorest communities.

Setting off from Otley village hall there are one, three and six mile courses. From little ones with their mums and dads, to runners against the clock, there is something for everyone, with dogs and pushchairs welcome. The first start is at noon, refreshments will be provided by the Under Fives, and the White Hart will welcome finishers afterwards.

Phil Whiffing

Otley and District Gardening Club

The next meeting is Monday March 7th, when our guest speaker will be Geoff Hodge on greenhouse gardening. All welcome.

Alan Trevelyan

Would you like to learn to tap dance?

We have had a suggestion to set up an adult tap dance class for beginners in Otley, but we need to see if there is sufficient local interest to make it viable. If you are interested in learning a new skill, meeting others and being more active, this could be for you! No prior experience is needed, just plenty of enthusiasm and a willingness to give it a go. The class would be set up through Suffolk Sport's FitVillages project, which is supported by Sport England and Suffolk County Council, aiming to help rural communities in Suffolk to be more active. This means that sessions will be subsidised for the first 8 weeks, helping you to take part at a discounted rate. If you are

interested, please contact Maddy at Suffolk
Sport: maddy.knox@suffolksport.com [07825790832](tel:07825790832)

SWILLAND

Congratulations to Gordon and Vita on the birth of their son on 6th February. Kai kept them waiting for nearly two weeks but was safely delivered at home.

It is very cheering to see all the spring flowers. The crocuses have suddenly all come out and provide wonderful carpets of colour. It would be nice if everywhere would dry up and we could get on and cut the grass, which doesn't seem to have stopped growing all winter.

Easter Day falls on the last Sunday in March when flowers will return to the church - there are none in Lent.

Ann Kent

RAINFALL – JANUARY

2016 began with a mild and wet period which lasted until the middle of the month, when we had a drier week, before it continued until February. There were only two mornings with frost. Towards the end of the month there were some quite strong winds which continued into February. Once again we have been fortunate in the east as the worst of the rain has been pushed north by the jet stream. The rainfall for January was 4.50 inches, the most I have recorded for the month in the last five years.

It very much looks as if we are going to give winter a miss this year with so many spring flowers out already and the forward forecasts not predicting any very cold weather, but I wouldn't rule out a cold snap before spring arrives officially. The daylight hours are at last extending and when you read this, February will be over; I always think it is the most miserable month of the year.

Russell Ling



THANKS FROM FIND

Please thank the churches for donating food and gifts in December in response to FIND's Christmas .In total, we packed 1,026 Christmas hampers for families and organisations as well as individual presents for 974 adults and 1,023 children.

In these challenging times we are seeing a tremendous call on our services. Our food bank, for example, delivered 3,887 emergency food parcels in 2015. Requests from the Health Outreach project and homeless people in bed and breakfast accommodation also increased. We are so grateful for your regular donations of food to our food bank and for your continuing support and concern for people in real need in our local community.

Heather Cade

(FIND Committee member)

Otley Hall retreat Day Programme

We provide a space for spiritual refreshment both for people who have been on the spiritual journey for some time and for those exploring spirituality for the first time

Saturday 2nd April A day with Gordon Melvin 'Reviewing Enneagram, Part two'. Workshop for people who have taken part one. 10am – 5pm £28 per person

Wednesday 13th April Elizabeth Corker – 'Prayer and spirituality for busy people'

Wednesday 27th April Malcolm Guite – 'Parable and Paradox' Poetry and reflections on the saying of Jesus

Days cost just £23 including all refreshments and lunch and run from 10am-4pm apart from Saturday 2nd April.

Contact [01473 890264](tel:01473890264) or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further information. Full programme available on our website www.otleyhall.co.uk

SMILE LINES

Lost in translation

Are you travelling this Easter? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Beware of these contagious diseases in church

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and collapses in the nearest back seat.

Ear frequency destruction: Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when the minister is singing full volume, off-key, etc., into the microphone.

Sermonic throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double auricular clearance: A condition causing the simultaneous opening of both ear-ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition may become acute during Bible-reading or sermon.

Theexitis: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Church meeting paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Mandatum novum do vobis' – a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

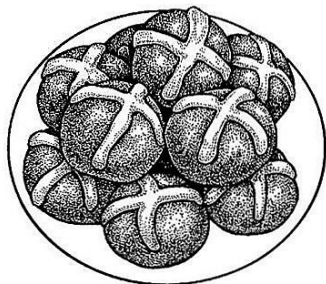
Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?

A hot cross bunny.

Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter?

He didn't have the hare fare.