

## **POEM FOR THE MONTH**

### **Possible Answers to Prayer**

Your petitions — though they continue to bear  
just the one signature — have been duly recorded.  
Your anxieties — despite their constant,

relatively narrow scope and inadvertent  
entertainment value — nonetheless serve  
to bring your person vividly to mind.

Your repentance — all but obscured beneath  
a burgeoning, yellow fog of frankly more  
conspicuous resentment — is sufficient.

Your intermittent concern for the sick,  
the suffering, the needy poor is sometimes  
recognizable to me, if not to them.

Your angers, your zeal, your lip smackingly  
righteous indignation toward the many  
whose habits and sympathies offend you —

these must burn away before you'll apprehend  
how near I am, with what fervour I adore  
precisely these, the several who rouse your passion.

*Scott Cairns*

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISHES**

### **ASHBOCKING**

The Ride and Stride for the Historic Churches Trust was supported by one rider from Ashbocking. Yvette Bray visited seven of the churches in the Benefice but didn't quite get to Ashbocking. In fact,

we only had two visitors to our church this year. Must do better next year.

Preparations for the Ashbocking Christmas Bazaar are ongoing, and we will be publishing the final times in the next issue. Please save the date 25<sup>th</sup> November, to join us for some Christmas shopping of hand made goods, decorations, nearly new clothing, bric-a-brac, books, refreshments, tombola and cake sale.

We are still asking for donations of nearly new items, books and good bric-a-brac which we can collect if necessary. Please contact John or Linda Pollard on 01473 890836. Thank you to those who have already donated.

The next church service is our Harvest family service on October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am. Everyone is very welcome to join us and to share coffee and biscuits afterwards.

Church cleaning rota is Sue and Mike Surridge but as there is a wedding on the Saturday it would be helpful if we could have all hands on deck on the Friday morning and also the bringing of produce for decorating the church for harvest festival.

The wedding is between Oliver Christian whose parents live in Church Lane, and Chelsea Rea Dorey, both of Colchester. They are happy to have harvest decorations in the church for their special day. We hope the sun shines for them and wish them a happy life together.

The next coffee morning is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at Sue and Mike Surridge's house, 9, Nelson Close, Ashbocking. 10am until midday. Again, everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and refreshments.

*Linda Pollard*

**Church Cleaning:**

Sue and Mike Surridge

## **CLOPTON**

We send our sympathy to the family of Pam Mullinger who died at the end of August.

Pam was born in 1921 in Bibury, Gloucester the first of four children. Her father was a gamekeeper and the family moved to Norfolk and then on to Suffolk when Pam was young. Her father became Head Stockman to Sir Edgar Mann in Earl Soham. She was very involved with life on the farm. Some of her jobs included milking the cows before going to school and, with her sister, walking the prize cattle around the field on a halter to prepare them for the show ring. Pam travelled to all the shows with her father and they had great success, once getting a Champion of Britain with a Shorthorn bull.

Pam worked for Ashwell's Bakery and Debenham Bakery when she left school driving their delivery vans but still helped with the milking on the farm.

When World War 2 started Pam joined the Land Army. She was demobbed in 1950 and went back to help on the farm. She stayed at home and looked after her parents. When her father died in 1982 Pam had to leave the tied house and she came to live in Clopton.

She worked at the Cretingham Bell for many years until she retired. The two things she enjoyed most were reading and driving. She carried on driving until she was ninety and loved going to take her sister out for rides in the country. She was a regular church attender and she supported events in the village, enjoying the Coffee Mornings and meeting neighbours. Her brother and two sisters all predeceased her.

We shall all miss her - a person of small stature but with a big heart.

A big 'Thank you' to Julie, Ali, Sarah and two year old Milly who rode for Clopton in the Bike Ride.

Well done to you all. We had nineteen cyclists visit Clopton.

On Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Table Top Sale at Clopton Village Hall from 10am until noon. There will be refreshments and entry is free. Come along and maybe get the bargain of the century!! More details from [penny.moonie@gmail.com](mailto:penny.moonie@gmail.com) Tel [01473 737454](tel:01473737454).

Hobbies morning is on Wednesday 4th October from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Join us for a coffee and see how the kneeler project is progressing.

On Wednesday 18th October, Jenny Vince will be hosting the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall from 10am until noon. Everyone is very welcome, do come and meet people, it is free!

*Doris Main*

**Church Cleaning:** Doris Main

**Church Flowers:** Beryl Birchmore

## **OTLEY**

The Village Show is a regular fixture in the calendar and it is sad there were not more people there on the afternoon to enjoy it - but those of us that were, did! There were more children's entries than before, which was great, but not so many in the cooking and baking classes. The cups were won by Christine Gilbert (vegetables and flowers - Otley residents only), David Wilkins (vegetables and fruit), Sue Wilkins (flowers), Sharon Proctor and Jodie Liddell (joint winners, for cooking and baking), and Vicky Hill (arts and crafts). Samantha Hill won the Hubbard Shield for her beautiful acrylic painting of a sea view. Alexander Osbourne, Joseph Osbourne and Daisy Lord won the children's cups for paintings and making characters out of vegetables, etc., and the Osbourne family won the family cup. Brian Childs won the Wyevale Trophy for the most points overall, including his blackberry whisky, and he was also master of ceremonies, presenting the cups, overseeing the draw, and auctioning off the produce. Well done to the winners, and also to the organising

committee, because it is an event which requires a lot of detailed planning and paperwork. We will drum up support for next year and hope that some of the past regular exhibitors will be entering again. It is a friendly and happy day.

The sponsored Ride and Stride for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust took place in early September, when fourteen cyclists visited our church as part of their route. Cycling is so popular now- given it was only two days after the Suffolk leg of the Tour of Britain, it would have been good to see a few more cyclists.

We shall be celebrating Harvest Festival at the family service on 1st October at 11 o'clock, when the church will be decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables, etc. Traditionally this has always been a major festival in the country churches so we are looking forward to welcoming you. Come and sing the familiar hymns and please bring goodies from your garden. The collection will be sent to Farm Africa.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 12th October at Lavender House, The Green, the home of David and Tess Papworth.

And congratulations to Heather and Edward Wilkins on the birth of their baby daughter, Elouise.

*Rose Rogerson*

**Village Diary:**

<b>1st October</b>	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
<b>2nd October</b>	Gardening Club - "Jane Austen's Gardens"
<b>5th October</b>	Friendship Club - Russell Ling: "Chicken Rearing, Past and Present"
<b>19th October</b>	Friendship Club - Wendy Marshall: sugar paste demonstration
<b>26th October</b>	Community lunch at The White Hart
<b>4th November</b>	Fireworks evening or, if it rains, Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November

**Church Flowers:** Harvest everyone, Linda Peek/Tessa Brown

**Church Cleaning:** Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

**Sidepersons:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	11.00am	Harvest Festival	David Papworth
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	David Papworth

**Otley Primary School**

The summer term seems a long time ago now as the fields turn brown and the leaves change colour. Every school term seems busier than the last as we endeavour to fit in lots of lovely activities in addition to delivering an ever more challenging national curriculum and the summer term was no exception!

Every other year we take Years 5 & 6 to Hollowford Education Centre for a one-week residential visit where the children experienced caving, abseiling, raft building (very wet!) and high ropes with a leap of faith! They tackled these and other exciting and challenging activities with a superb attitude and behaviour to match making us all very proud, which only serves to enhance our reputation far beyond the village.

Years 2, 3 and 4 joined in the summer festival spirit with a visit to Latitude's Schools' day enjoying various arts and crafts workshops and the youngest pupils had fun both at Orford Castle and Foxburrow Farm.

In this new academic year, we give a warm welcome to 6 new pupils together with two new members of our teaching staff and wish them well for a happy time at Otley School.

Our children are very mindful of the needs of others and this term sees us hosting various events to support organisations such as FIND (our harvest appeal), The Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday and poppy collection) and BBC Children in Need. It never ceases to amaze me how generous our children and parents are and how much is raised.

For a small school, our children are always eager to represent us in the Farlingaye pyramid sports events and Years 5 & 6 will also be going to Adastral park for the Robo Cup Junior Co-Space activity day where I'm sure their competitive spirit will shine through!

For those of you who know the school well will realise that we've not had the luxury of a school hall, so assemblies and school meals are in the library and PE and school plays in the village hall. Breaking news ..... this is all about to change! Suffolk County Council have added to funds provided from the new Hubbard's development and we will realise a long held dream of our own hall together with a new facility for the Otley Under 5s.

*Mrs Jan Hubbard-Whitehead - Headteacher*

### **The Nettus Barn Art Group**

We would like to invite you to join us Tuesday mornings between 9.45am and 12.45pm. We are a small friendly group who just enjoy trying to draw or paint and experiment with different mediums in the beautiful and relaxing atmosphere of Nettus Barn, based at Moat Farm, Otley IP6 9PE. For more information please call Margaret on 01473 737744 or Daphne on 01473 737092.

### **The Otley Stompers**

On Sunday 15 October, The Otley Stompers will be participating in "The Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children in Need". We shall be leaving the village hall carpark at 9.30 a.m. and will endeavour to trek six miles through the beautiful Otley countryside before returning to the White Hart for refreshment/lunch. There is no registration or entry fee but any donation would be gratefully received for Children in Need, a very worthwhile charity. Everyone is welcome, including dogs and we shall go at a pace to suit us all. If you require any further information please contact Alyson on 01473 737674.

### **Otley & District Gardening Club**

Our new season opened on Monday 4th September with Lucinda Skinner of Woottens of Wenhaston Nurseries giving us a cornucopia of ideas for planting up the Herbaceous Border for year-round

interest. She also brought along a range of plants to show us and which we could buy at the meeting at favourable prices.

We were also very pleased to welcome five new members to the club and, despite a number of us being away enjoying late summer holidays, there was still a good attendance at this first meeting of the autumn.

October's meeting will be on Monday 2nd, when "Jane Austen's Gardens" will be the subject of our talk by gardening writer and broadcaster Jackie Bennett. The day before that is Harvest Festival Sunday, and at David Papworth's request some Otley club members will be contributing harvest produce towards decorating St Mary's Church.

All are welcome to Gardening Club meetings, contact 890563 for details.

*The Reluctant Gardener*

## **SWILLAND**

### **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride**

Three cyclists took part for Swilland this year. Gill Reidy visited 32 churches and covered 45 miles. I don't know yet how much she raised. My granddaughters, Scarlett and Emilia Houston, came with me. They visited 5 and 2 churches respectively covering about 9 and 2.5 miles. We took a while to come back from Grundisburgh due to many stops to pick blackberries. The girls raised £44 between them which will be divided between Swilland Church and SHCT.

Thank you to Gill, Gina and Liz for manning the church. Gina worked hard while she was there, weeding round the church, many thanks.

Only 8 people visited us and that included Anthony and Gill Reidy, Scarlett and Emilia and me. We are on a bit of a backwater. During the day Stephen Nicholls and Paul from Eyke of CHOTA (Churches and Chapels on the Air) set up their equipment at the



Church. The signal was not very good but I know they made contact with Italy and I think one other country.

I would like to welcome Donna Deer and her family to Swilland. They have moved into Swilland Mill Old House and we hope they will enjoy taking part in village activities.

Our annual **Christmas Draw** will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 1 p.m. in Witnesham Village Hall. Do come and join us for homemade soup, rolls and mince pies from 12 noon. There will be the usual stalls including cakes preserves etc. Tickets will be available for sale shortly and I will be distributing them. This will be instead of our bi-monthly coffee morning

In July, I announced the birth of Becci Reidy and Andy Cork's son. They took a long time to decide on names but after much thought he is Asa Jamie. I have seen some lovely photos of him with proud grandparents, Gill and Ant. We look forward to meeting him.

*Ann Kent*

**Flower rota:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Ann Kent
<b>8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Gill Reidy
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Jackie Williams
<b>5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Margo Barker

**THANKS from Wendy**

Thank you everyone for a wonderful and memorable retirement-celebration on the morning of September 3rd. Your kind words, written messages and exceptionally generous gifts somewhat overwhelmed me.

I knew that saying 'farewell' to so many Benefice friends in both services at Hasketon and Grundisburgh would be an emotionally bitter-sweet occasion with my tears very close to the surface - which indeed they were. Yet, my memories now also recall moments of laughter, happiness and joy in being able to publicly thank and acknowledge certain aspects of my ministry with you.

My spiritual growth and opportunities to minister in a broad and fulfilling way have, of course, been guided and nurtured by Clare to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Yet, so too, with many of you, who have shared prayers and pastoral occasions which have been meaningful and profound.

Thank you Hasketon and Grundisburgh P.C.C.'s for arranging delicious refreshments at both coffee time and lunch, which enabled myself and Alister to mingle and chat informally with folk.

I'd like to especially thank the parishioners of Hasketon who gave me a beautiful picture of St Andrew's Church, which now graces my study. Also, I received an exceedingly generous gift of National Garden Vouchers, which I can assure you will be put to good use. Furthermore, I received generous cheques from Hasketon, Burgh, Boulge and Grundisburgh which I have forwarded to my chosen charity, EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospice). The combined donation to EACH will total £795.50 when they reclaim Gift Aid. This is a wonderful sum of which I am truly grateful. THANK YOU.

I look forward to meeting with you in the not too distant future, and catching up with all your news.

Heartfelt thanks, once again. Blessings and Good Health,  
*Rev'd Wendy Gourlay*

### **RUSSELL LING REPORTS**

My prediction for the weather for August was like the Curates egg good in parts. Following St Swithins day we had three weeks of wet weather but it did clear up before we had a new moon. With just over 1 inch of rain in the first ten days followed by a dry spell until the last two days when we had .5 of an inch, the month finished with a total of 2 inches.

August in the past consisted mainly of cutting the corn with the binder that is after they were invented but I will write about the earlier times at a later date. After a start had been made the farmworkers would

come into the field and put the sheaves into shocks or stooks as they were known in Norfolk. To make a shock the worker would pick a sheaf up in each hand by the string and then stand them upright at an angle to make a tent, a shock would consist of twelve to fourteen sheaves. Usually two men would work in tandem and place the sheaves at a slight angle from either end of the shock which prevented them from collapsing if there were high winds. There were times during spells of unsettled wet weather the wheat would sprout in the ears and then the shocks had to be remade so that they could dry out.

The binder unlike the combine goes round the field and finishes the cutting in the centre and any rabbits in the corn would gradually go to this area. The boys of the village would turn up armed with a thick stick when the field was nearing being finished. The stick was used to hit the rabbits and kill those that came out of the standing corn when there was very little room left for them to hide in. As the field was dotted with sheaves the rabbits didn't have a clear run to get to the hedge. They had to either jump over the sheaves or run round them which slowed them down, this gave the boys an advantage as they could catch them up and hit them with their stick. Occasionally a rabbit would hide under a sheaf and when this happened the method was to fall on it and hope that you could grab it before it got away. Not all the rabbits were caught and if the field had been started the previous day the rabbits would have got out during the night. During the war rabbit meat was eagerly sought after to provide extra rations and the village boys could if they were agile enough make a good income during the school holidays. Farmers encouraged these boys as rabbits would eat the young shoots of the corn when they came up after drilling and reduce yields.

*Russell Ling*

## **SMILE LINES**

### **Others**

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?



## MIXED UP MONTHS

Words that begin with 'oct' mean to do with the number eight – an octopus has 8 tentacles, an octagon has 8 sides. So October should be the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the year, shouldn't it? But it isn't.



The reason goes back to Roman times. October was the eighth month in the Roman calendar until July was added to celebrate the birth month of Julius Caesar.

This was followed by Augustus who also added another month (guess what that one was called!). With these two extra months fitted into the calendar what was the eighth month became the tenth month. Which gets more muddled: because words beginning with 'dec' mean to do with the number ten, so under the old way December was the tenth month. Shall I stop now before we all get even more confused?

## OOOOOOs

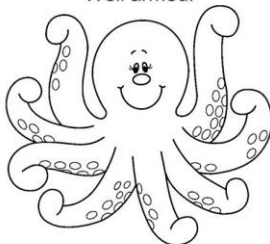
All these names begin with O – which ones aren't the real name of a saint?

1. Odo
2. Olaf
3. Osyth
4. Oliver
5. Olympias
6. Odilia
7. Omer
8. Oudoceus
9. Osburga
10. Ouen



**How does an octopus go into battle?**

Well armed.



**What's round, orange and can't sit down?**

A seatless Satsuma.



**Answers:** the answer is that they all are real saint's names! Aren't you glad that they didn't call you after some of these saints?

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