

POEM FOR THE MONTH

“The Way It Is”

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

William Stafford (1914-1993)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Ashbocking's Celtic communion service held in August was well attended and we were delighted to welcome people from other parishes. The service was led by Jane and Fred Woods and was enjoyed by all.

Our next service led by Clare Sanders will be on 10th September. It will be a family service with communion and everyone is welcome. Hymns for this service were chosen by a vote at our last coffee morning, helped by Clare's wonderful voice reminding us of the tunes.

Preparations for the Christmas bazaar on November 25th are going well, and we have circulated leaflets locally to ask for books, nearly new items and good bric-a-brac. We are able to collect if you have anything to donate, so please contact me to arrange pickup. We are grateful for the support we have had so far and are still happy to accept offers of help.

We would like to congratulate Sarah Wilson for “Braving the Shave” for Macmillan Nurses Appeal. She had all her hair shaved off in support of all those having to brave cancer and losing their hair. She would like to thank all those who kindly donated. The total raised was in excess of one thousand two hundred pounds which will pay for one Macmillan nurse for a whole week. Well done Sarah!

The Ashbocking community event this year is a Teddy Bears’ Picnic on Saturday afternoon, the 9th September on the community land, including table tennis and tug of war. The next coffee morning is on September 1st, 10:00 – 12:00am, at Bernard and Brenda Mitchell’s house. This is different from previously advertised. The address is Knowle House, Church Lane, Claydon , IP6 0EN. Tel 01473 832161. As this is not located in the village we hope people will share car space. Please let John or me know if you would like to come and require a lift. 01473 890836.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning:

Adine Schrankel

CLOPTON

Clopton church was beautifully decorated for the wedding of Amanda Eillage and David Fisher on the 22nd July. We send them congratulations and best wishes for their future life together.

The kneeler kits arrived in time for our August hobbies morning and everyone enjoyed looking at all the varied designs. We still have two that need someone to sew them. There is no rush to finish, as some of us will be taking a long time to complete them!

Would anyone like to ride or stride for Clopton on 9th September for the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride? I have the details. Volunteers are also needed to sit in the church for one or two hours to record cyclists on the day. Please contact me if you can help.

The hobbies morning is Wednesday 6th September from 10am until noon. Come and join us for a coffee or tea and a chat. The coffee

morning is on Wednesday 20th from 10am until noon and the host will be Terri Embury. Everyone is very welcome.

Jane and Fred Woods will be taking our Harvest Service on Sunday 24th September at 11am. Any offers of help to decorate the church or donations of produce will be very welcome! Please come and join us. All donated produce will be taken to the Salvation Army Hostel for the Homeless in Ipswich.

Now the Summer holidays are over we send our best wishes to all those starting university, an apprenticeship or entering the workplace and to everyone going back to school after the holidays.

Doris Main

Church Cleaning: Beryl Birchmore
Church Flowers: Charmaine Williams

OTLEY

The Open Day at the church was well supported, with forty visitors coming to look round and see the total immersion baptistry. Several people were also interested in the very detailed book of memorial inscriptions whereby you can trace a grave in the churchyard. Fred Woods played the organ, there was coffee and tea for everybody, and a convivial atmosphere.

The Sponsored Bike Ride, now called Ride and Stride to include walkers, will take place on 9th September and sponsorship forms are available in church or from James Hall. The sponsorship money is divided equally between the church of your choice and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, which enables it to provide grants for repairs, improvements and restoration to the old buildings. Since its foundation in 1973, it has raised over £5million, making grants to 700 churches.

The Progressive Dinner is being held on 23rd September and will be

a great way for newcomers to meet people in the village. See below. Harvest Festival will be at 11 o'clock on 1st October, when the Gardening Club will be providing produce (high quality, of course!) to decorate the church.

The Village Show will take place at the village hall on Saturday 9th September at 2.30pm. Schedules are available from the Post Office and it would be great to see lots of new exhibitors - it is not too competitive, and is good fun. Classes include the heaviest pumpkin, a table decoration to celebrate Prince Philip, a lemon drizzle cake, home-made ginger beer, a photograph of a sunrise or sunset, and - for the children - a finger painting or a mythical creature, and many others, so do have a go.

On Friday 29th September, we shall be holding a coffee morning, with a draw, here at Church House for Macmillan Cancer Support, as part of their World's Biggest Coffee Morning. This is our 14th year and it has raised significant funds for this wonderful charity, so we look forward to welcoming you again, from 10 o'clock.

The next monthly coffee morning will take place on Thursday 14th September at Lime Tree Place, Helmingham Road, the home of Brian and Christine Childs, and we thank them for hosting it.

Finally, at the start of the academic year, we wish good luck to everybody starting at new universities, colleges or schools, or even starting school for the first time.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

4th September	Gardening Club "The Herbaceous Border"
7th September	Friendship Club - Flower arranging with garden flowers - Sue Courtney
9th September	Otley Village Show
10th September	Family Games and Barbecue – Otley School PTA
21st September	Friendship Club – Barbecue

23rd September Progressive Dinner - St Mary's PCC
28th September Community Lunch at The White Hart
1st October Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church

Church Flowers: Joan Parish/Sue Wilkins/Harvest – Everyone
Church Cleaning: Pauline Crowley/Ruth Farnhill

Sidepersons:

3rd September	11.00am	Family Service	Ruthie Bullock
17th September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Ruth Farnhill
24th September	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Peter Rogerson

Otley Progressive Supper

There are still places available for the ever-popular Progressive Supper taking place in Otley on Saturday September 23rd. If you have not taken part before, diners eat three courses at three different houses, meeting different people at each course, and then everyone meets up for coffee at the end of the evening. It is always an enjoyable event and a great opportunity to catch up with local friends and meet new people. Tickets cost £10 per person. Most people will be asked to host one course for eight diners but there are a few non-cooking spaces. For more details ring Vanessa [01473 890787](tel:01473 890787) or Ruth [01473 890543](tel:01473 890543) by 7th September.

Community Lunch

The Otley Community Lunch is now very well established at The White Hart and Linda and her team of helpers continue to provide us with gastronomic delights each month. Her menu is always very varied and exciting with dishes ranging from exotic Middle Eastern cuisine to the more traditional cottage pie. We are also treated to a delicious dessert and all for the princely sum of £6.00! The lunches are on the fourth Thursday of each month, 12.00 for 12.30pm and bookings can be made by phoning the White Hart on 01473 890312 (it is always best to book, but Linda will never turn you away, she always manages to “scrape the saucepan”). If anyone has problems with transport please just phone Alyson on 01473 737674 and a lift

will be organised. Everyone is welcome to come along and join the lovely community atmosphere.

Thank you so much Linda for providing such an integral part of village life.

Otley Stompers

The Otley Stompers have now been stomping over the footpaths of Otley for more than six months and it has been amazing to see the change in the natural terrain as the seasons pass. We have squelched through the Springtime mud and are now enjoying the dry paths of Summertime with the anticipation of Autumn as we notice the arrival of blackberries and sloes on the hedgerow.

We meet each Sunday at the Village Hall and leave at 9.30 for what is usually a six mile walk around the vast network of footpaths and bridleways. We try to stay "off road" as much as possible and will venture out in all weathers. Dogs are also welcome and it has been lovely to see both two legged and four legged trekkers join up for an active and social outing.

If you would like to join us please just turn up or if you would like more information please just call Alyson on 01473 737674 or Julie on 07739476922. Walking is so beneficial both physically and mentally and The Otley Stompers provide a good opportunity of joining the community and making new friends.

Otley & District Gardening Club

Our 2016-17 season ended with a busy climax to the club's activities. Our first Open Plant Sale, on a damp 4th June evening, was nevertheless very well supported by club members, friends and bargain-hunters from local villages. Fortified by free tea, coffee and excellent donated home-made cakes, most of the vast array of plants we'd grown for the sale were snapped up in short order. At the end of the evening I took the remaining plants home to offer at the kerbside, in return for donations to Otley Community Council. Altogether we raised just over £400, a wonderful result for all of the hard work put

in, and we gave a cheque for £70 to the Community Council. A big thankyou to all those who made it possible and supported our first sale event.

Bright and early on Saturday 24th June 33 of us boarded a coach on our summer daytrip, this year to the Royal Horticultural Society's Hyde Hall Gardens in Essex. Everyone said they enjoyed their day out in these extensive and varied "dry" gardens.

Our final club "appearance" for the season was at the Otley Summer Fete on 1st July, where our focus was on getting youngsters interested in taking up gardening. Our Buzzy-Bee guessing-game rewarded two lucky prize-winners, each getting a jolly mini-wheelbarrow packed with a complete starter-kit of gardening "goodies".

After our summer break (to do actual hands-on gardening!) we start the new season's meetings on 4th September with a talk on "Plants for the Herbaceous Border". All welcome, contact 01473 890563 for details.

The Reluctant Gardener

SWILLAND

As I write your usual contributor is spending time with her family on the island of Jura and I hope that she and all who have been away will return refreshed.

We managed to dodge the showers for our August coffee morning and were able to sit outside in the churchyard in sunshine. It was good to have time to chat, not only with Swilland residents, but with others from the benefice. Our thanks to Shirley and Andy who hosted the morning. Our next coffee morning is on 7 October at 7 High Road, the home of Gina Wilden.

As you are aware the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride takes place on 9 September. However, here at Swilland

we will be on the map for another reason as representatives of CHOTA - Churches and Chapels On The Air - will be transmitting from outside the church. The radio amateurs will be making contact with other stations mainly in UK and Europe but if conditions are good on a world-wide basis. Even if you are not riding or striding do drop by and meet Stephen and Paul and find out who they are talking to! Sponsor forms and information can be obtained from Ann Kent.

Gill Reidy

Flower rota:

3rd September

Jackie Williams

10th September

Margo Barker

17th September Harvest Festival

All help

24th September -1st October

Ann Kent

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

One can sum up Julys weather by saying that the first half was very hot and the second very wet with a total rainfall of 3.30 inches. The 15th of July was St Swithin's which was fine but then the rain started two days later. I am sure that you have all heard this saying.

"St Swithin's day if thou dost rain.

For forty days it will remain.

St Swithin's day if thou be fair.

For forty days will rain na mair".

I don't think that the actual day is important as regarding the prediction but rather what type of weather we are getting at the time. This year has alternated between fine and wet within a few days and therefore I am going rely on another saying "The weather will change with a new moon", which is on the 21st of August. As I am writing this article before the 21st it will be interesting to see if I am right.

July in the past was a month when haymaking was finishing and preparations were being made for harvest. Holidays had to be taken when the opportunity arose and a farmworker was often told on the Saturday that he could have his week off starting Monday. Since farmworkers at that time never went away for a holiday, it didn't really matter that they had such short notice. The preparations for harvest were mainly checking that scythes and all hand tools were in good order. At that time farmworkers had to supply all their own tools for work. The binder was taken out of its storage shed and the canvases sent down to the harness maker to be repaired if necessary and the machine greased up. There were no roller bearings at that time so the binder had to be greased up twice a day to prevent too much wear taking place on the plain bearings. The wagons for taking the sheaves to the stack yard also had to have their wheel stubs greased. Sometimes, after being stored for a long time the woodwork of the wheels dried out and the spokes and fellys became loose, in which case the wheels were put into the pond in order that these parts would swell up again.

As the barley was all spring sown, the wheat was the first crop to be cut and we usually started on August Bank Holiday Monday which at that time was the first one in the month. Before cutting started the outside round was cut with a scythe in order that the tractor and binder didn't flatten the corn, but during the war it was only the corners that were cut out. Most of August was taken up with cutting the corn.

Russell Ling

Otley Hall Retreat Day Programme

Monday 11th September 'Anchoring Prayer when the Billows Roll'
How prayer helps us lead a steady life.

Using simple sea-related themes and images, Judith hopes to help people see where God may be reaching out to them, and where they can reach out to God, as they are tossed on the billows of life.

Thursday 21st September "The mindful Christian: mindfulness and the inner life." – Led by Matthew Vernon

Both days cost just £25 to include all refreshments and a two course buffet lunch. The days are guided and suitable for anyone who needs space, time and peace to relax and reflect. The days run from 10am – 4pm.

Contact Karen [01473 890264](tel:01473890264) or email events@otleyhall.co.uk
Website www.otleyhall.co.uk

***Free Mindfulness Course For Carers ***

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Not sure it's for you? Try our free taster session on Tuesday, 12th September 2017 2-3:30pm. (Booking not needed for this session).

The free weekly course starts on Tuesday 26th September 2017 and will run on Tuesdays from 2 – 3.30pm.

It is led by AnneMarie Bealing – a professional presenter specialising in Mindfulness courses.

Where? The Nettus Barn, Moat Farm, Otley IP6 9PE. Just 20 minutes from Ipswich, in the peaceful Suffolk countryside with ample off road parking.

More details or would like to book a place. E-mail Jackie at thenettus@hotmail.com or call 07505146415 Places limited.

Interested but not a carer or with a family member in care – each session will cost £10 plus the cost of the book with CD approx £15. Taster session free to all.

SMILE LINES

No men

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she decided to request that there be no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead.'

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

Which old bore?

A tired minister was at home resting, and through the window he saw a woman from his church approaching his door. She was one of those too-talkative people, and he was not anxious to talk with her. He said to his wife, 'I'll just duck upstairs and wait until she goes away.' An hour passed, then he tiptoed to the stair landing and listened ... not a sound. He was very pleased, so he started down calling loudly to his wife, 'Well, my dear, did you get rid of that old bore at last?'

The next moment he heard the voice of the same woman caller, and she couldn't possibly have missed hearing him. Two steps down, he saw them both staring up at him. It seemed truly a crisis moment. Then quick-thinking minister's wife answered, 'Yes, dear, she went away over an hour ago. But such good news – now Mrs. Jones has come to call!'



September 29
Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

In the Bible, angels are messengers from God. The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word for a messenger and it appears hundreds of times in the Bible. But the only angels whose names we know are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who are archangels, captains among the angels. Each of these three has a different task: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

In the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil and in the Old Testament he is in the book of Daniel, defending Israel against its enemies.

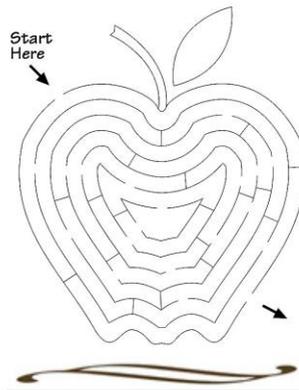
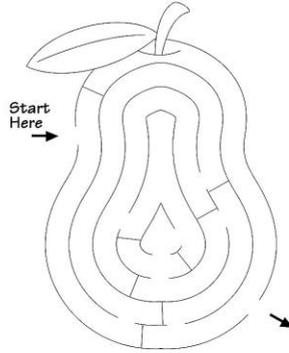


Gabriel is best known for his appearing to a young Jewish girl named Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Raphael is in the Old Testament story of Tobit where he guides Tobit's son Tobiah.

HARVEST PUZZLE

Can you find your way through these 2 fruit mazes?



What kind of nuts sneeze the most?

Cashews.

What's a vampire's favourite fruit?

Nectarine.

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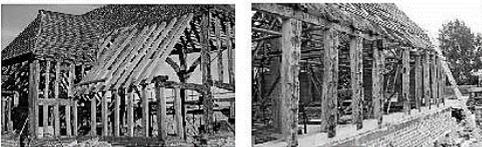
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"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter..."

... and as we move into Spring and Summer the pub opens up its sunny beer garden with wonderful views of the Suffolk countryside, where you can enjoy local asparagus, crabs and all the other wonderful taste sensations this area has to offer. When Autumn and Winter approach, we light the fire and cook up game pies, hearty stews and crack open the winter ale. Our community lunch gives you a slap-up meal, including pudding, and a chance to meet your neighbours for a mere £6 on the last Thursday of every month and there are Ukulele, Knitting, Cribbage, Book Clubs, all sorts of things to get involved with. See our website, give us a ring or pop in for more details.

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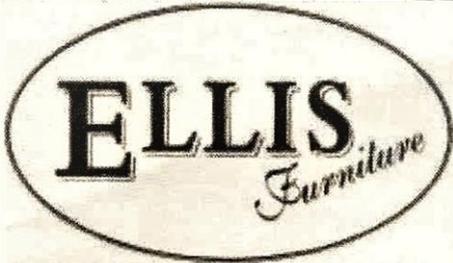


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