

## **POEM FOR THE MONTH**

To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love  
All pray in their distress;  
And to those virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love  
Is God our father dear,  
And Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love  
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
Pity a human face,  
And Love, the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,  
That prays in his distress,  
Prays to the human form divine,  
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,  
In heathen, Turk or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell  
There God is dwelling too.

*William Blake 1789*

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISHES**

### **ASHBOCKING**

It is with sadness that I report the death of Susan Leggett Cooper, who died peacefully in the St Elizabeth Hospice on the 10<sup>th</sup> January after a fairly short illness. Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers go out to all the family at a very difficult time.

Sue was born on 7th Feb 1949, the youngest sister of five, and moved to Ashbocking at the age of five where she grew up with her siblings. She leaves her eldest sister, Linda Ellis, brother Paul and sister Jo. Sue married at 19yrs old and lived in several different places including Corner Farm, Rose Cottage at Swilland, which they built, and Little Barn at Hasketon, before returning to Ashbocking for a while and living near the church.

After separating from her husband, Sue met her partner, Ray, and eventually travelled to Spain where they built a house. She has been living between Spain and England ever since, enjoying their home in the sun and sailing. She had a varied life and loved travel, having walked to base camp in the Himalayas with a women's group, and cycled around Vietnam with Ray. She had been planning to cycle round India in 2017 and was very disappointed that this would not happen.

Sue came home last year and was due to return to Spain in October but unfortunately became ill in September. She married Ray at the end of October and was looking forward to the arrival of her grandson after Christmas, a first child for her daughter Heidi. She also has a fifteen year old granddaughter, Megan.

The funeral will take place at Ashbocking church on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> January at 12:00 and everyone is welcome. The wake will be after the service at Dormers, The Green, Ashbocking. Following a private cremation the ashes will be buried in a private service the next day. Any donations are to go to the St Elizabeth Hospice please. A collection will be taken at the funeral.

In our last issue I reported on the death of Gwendoline Martindale. Her funeral will take place Mon. 30<sup>th</sup> January at Witnesham Baptist church at 12:00, followed by burial at Ashbocking. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

It was lovely for Ashbocking parishioners to join Swilland for their service in January. We all met in the Moon and Mushroom and enjoyed a short service of poems and prayers followed by lunch if we wished. It was a very spiritual and warming experience.

**Please note changes to the coffee-mornings. The next will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 10:00 at Hawthorns The Green. (bungalow at the bottom of Ashley Grange). The one in March will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Linda and Mick Ellis's house, Dormers, The Green.** Our next service will be a Valentine's family service on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 11:00. All will be made welcome.

*Linda Pollard*

**Church Cleaning** Duncan and Yvette Bray

## **CLOPTON**

The funeral and burial of Phyllis Rowell took place on Wednesday 11th January. She was the widow of the Reverend Frank Rowell. They came to live in Clopton Rectory in 1965 when Frank became vicar of Clopton and Otley. In 1983 Swilland and Ashbocking became part of the benefice. Phyllis was a teacher and also a superb needlewoman, making two beautiful pulpit falls for Clopton church. She left Clopton in 1988 when Frank retired. We send our condolences to her daughter Ann, her son Simon and to their families.

The Hobbies Group will meet on Wednesday 1st February in the village hall from 10am until noon. Come and join us, no need to have a hobby!

February's coffee-morning will be on the 15th in the village hall from 10 until noon and hosted by me. Everyone is very welcome.

*Doris Main*

**Church cleaning**  
**Church flowers**

Audrey and Chris Barker  
Beryl Birchmore

## OTLEY

As is the tradition here, the Otley bellringers rang out the old year and rang in the new on New Year's Eve, with refreshments - to keep them going - at the home of Chris and Audrey Barker. It is a good effort late at night and a wonderful, uplifting sound. This year they were joined spontaneously, on hearing the bells, by two experienced bellringers who happened to be staying at Poppy Cottage. With them, they were able to ring the Cambridge minor method on six bells (for those in the know!). Well done.

In mid January there was a thanksgiving service here for the life of Phyllis Rowell, after her burial at Clopton beside her husband Frank. The service was taken by Jane whom Phyllis had taught at Amberfield School. Her daughter Anne gave an account of Phyllis's life before and after she became the rector's wife, her love of travel and photography, her many domestic skills, and her great love for her family. After the service there was a delicious afternoon tea at the White Hart, for family and friends, teaching colleagues and fellow embroiderers, one of whom was Isabel Clover who had been Phyllis' tutor. Some of Phyllis's work, which had previously been exhibited in London, was on display, including an intricate pagoda-shaped box with embroidered silk walls, and other exquisite beaded items, all truly beautiful craftsmanship.

Over fifty people signed the church visitors book for last year, among them some walkers, the Wivenhoe bellringers on an outing, the Otley Cubs having a tour of the church, some students from Otley College, and others from America, Scotland and Wales. There were young and old - 'a first visit' for two or three small children from different families, and 'happy memories of this place' from several elderly people. The war memorial book was a source of great interest - one woman discovered a great uncle she did not know about, and another had bought the memorial plaque of a soldier listed here so came to 'trace his roots'. There are many different reasons to visit our church.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be held here at Church House on Thursday, 9th February when we shall look forward to welcoming you.

Thank you to Joan Parish and everybody who arranged flowers last year and who helped out at the festivals.

The final amount raised by the sale of calendars and Christmas cards for the Otley Church Preservation Trust was £750, a wonderful result and all sold out, so thank you everybody.

We send very best wishes to Jane for a good recovery after her fall.

*Rose Rogerson*

**Village diary:**

<b>10th/11th February</b>	"Treasure Island" - Junior TOPS
<b>23rd February</b>	Community lunch at the White Hart
<b>25th February</b>	FFY curry night with quiz
<b>4th March</b>	Quiz Night - St Mary's PCC
<b>6th March</b>	Gardening Club "A Clematis for Every Season"

**Church Flowers:** Joan Parish

**Church Cleaning:** 1st week-Papworths / 3rd week - Treloars

**Sidepersons:**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	11.00am	Candlemas	Angela Treloar
<b>19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	David Papworth
<b>26th February</b>		Informal service at Lavender House	4.30pm

**Otley Annual Quiz Night**

St. Mary's annual village quiz will be on Saturday 4th March. Doors open at 7pm and questions start at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 8, but smaller teams can join up with others on the night or go-it--alone. £10 per person includes a yummy jacket potato supper. There will as usual be a bar and a raffle. It's always a very entertaining evening. Contact Ruth on 01473 890543 or [07902024976](tel:07902024976) or email [refarnhill@btinternet.com](mailto:refarnhill@btinternet.com) to book a table.

## **Otley & District Gardening Club**

At our December meeting Sue Montgomery amazed and delighted us with her skilful hands-on demonstrations of how to make beautiful floral Christmas decorations using garden plants and flowers. Then followed a minor feast of mince pies and finger food, washed down with apple punch and mulled wine, after which we all departed merrily homewards, suitably fortified for the Christmas and New Year festivities.

After our winter break the first club meeting of 2017 will be on 6th March, when Peter Gooch of Thorncroft Clematis Nurseries will recommend suitable examples for every season and situation. All are welcome to join us.

*The Reluctant Gardener*

## **SWILLAND**

### **Church in the pub**

On 15th January we gathered in the Moon and Mushroom for our morning service. We were invited to bring a poem and several people read theirs out. There was a great variety and it was very interesting to hear what people had chosen and why. It was well attended and most stayed for lunch.

On 9th January Lunar Ladies met at the Moon and Mushroom. Jacki Smith was the speaker. Jacki ran the Barn Cafe at Butley for 15 years and her account of that time was very interesting and amusing.

*Ann Kent*

### **Flower rota**

5th - 12th February	Margo Barker
19th - 26th February	Ann Kent

## **MEN'S GROUP**

The next meeting is at 6.30pm on Monday 27th February at the Moon and Mushroom, Swilland. Please email or telephone Brian Williams if you want supper – 785726 or [bfwdent@btinternet.com](mailto:bfwdent@btinternet.com)

John Peacock will give us **“Some tales from the deep”**. He has had a long and fruitful career working in telecoms and IT, holding some of the patents for today’s superfast fibre network and being one of the founding fathers of broadband. Earlier, when the **Cold War** was in full swing, he was a submariner in the Royal Navy. John will tell us about **life aboard one of our nuclear “hunter” killer submarines**, whose role was to hunt and stalk the USSR’s Red Northern Banner fleet from its home ports in northern Russia out into the Atlantic. He’ll retell some of his adventures and give us a glimpse of the largely unknown events that took place in the icy depths of the northern seas.

### **RAINFALL – DECEMBER**

December’s weather can be summed up in three words, foggy, mild and dry with only .70 inches of rain.

Looking back on the weather during 2016 the first six months, apart from February, were wet, culminating in June with rainfall of nearly five inches. The second half of the year was quite the opposite, being extremely dry, with mini-heatwaves in July, August and September. Total rainfall for the year was 27 inches, which is slightly above average for Otley. The last time we had more was in 2012, when the total was just short of 30 inches.

*Russell Ling*

### **SMILE LINES**

**Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. ..**

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged. "You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded. "Counting your ribs," said Eve.



## COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3<sup>rd</sup> February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.



## A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S N I F F L E S T E  
L H W L E F F T I L  
I A I U L V K A S A  
N N C V E I E O S Z  
C K O O E R P R U N  
T I E O L R U H E E  
U E S L D D S T S U  
S W O T E L B A T F  
W I N T E R H G I N  
A E N I C I D E M I

cold fever flu hankie influenza  
linctus medicine nose pill  
shivers sniffles tablet throat  
tissues winter



**What happen if your nose runs and your feet smell?**

You're built upside down!

**What sort of transport gives people colds?**

A-choo-choo-trains.



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

...so this winter sees roaring fires, dark Ales, hearty stews and juicy mussels; And, of course, Christmas. Enjoy Christmas Eve by Candlelight, and then a brisk walk to the pub for a drink at lunchtime on Christmas Day... we are even doing a Slap Up Brunch on Boxing Day. Check our website or ask at the pub for details of all our Christmas celebrations – it would be a shame to miss out.

Merry Christmas Everybody

*The Pub is the Hart of the Village...*

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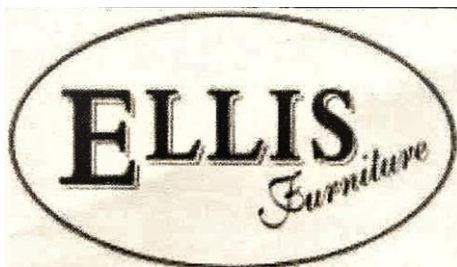


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