

POEM FOR THE MONTH

God, bless the world and all that is therein.
God, bless my spouse and my children,
God, bless the eye that is in my head,
And bless, O God, the handling of my hand;
What time I rise in the morning early,
What time I lie down late in bed,
Bless my rising in the morning early,
And my lying down late in bed.

God, protect the house, and the household,
God, consecrate the children of the motherhood,
God, encompass the flocks and the young;
Be Thou after them and tending them,
What time flocks ascend hill and wold,
What time I lie down to sleep,
What time flocks ascend hill and wold,
What time I lie down in peace to sleep.

From Carmina Gadelica (collected in Scotland's Western Isles)

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

I know that most people by now are longing for summer weather, and we would particularly wish for a lovely warm day at our Family Pet Service on June 11th. This will be led by Clare Sanders and, weather permitting, will be in the churchyard. In previous years, we have had mostly dogs, but also rabbits, chickens and even a horse. Everyone is very welcome with or without a pet and we suggest you bring a chair or rug to sit on.

Saturday 10th June at midday is the marriage of Mike Dowling to Bethany Colby from Ashley Grange. Congratulations to them. All welcome at the church.

Our fundraising plans are ongoing and the committee has met to discuss the Christmas bazaar on the 25th of November. People are already coming up with ideas and are starting to make Christmas gifts to sell at the event. If anyone has suggestions or a particular talent for this, then please get in touch (01473 890836). There will be gifts, bric-a-brac, books, nearly new items and refreshments. Other events are in the pipeline, yet to be announced, so watch this space.

David Bendall has been very ill whilst staying with his daughter in Aldeburgh, but we are pleased to report that he is now on the road to recovery. David has supported Ashbocking church for many years and is well known by a lot of people. We send him our very best wishes for a return to full health.

Our next coffee morning is on Friday 2nd June 10am until noon, at Nell and Rex's home, Chez Onze, The Green. Please remember to bring your favourite song/ hymn on a piece of paper with your name and why you chose it. This is in preparation for the July songs of praise service.

On St George's Day William Napper and Janice Williamson, along with their dog Jazzie, did a 5-mile sponsored walk around Great Finborough and raised £150 for Guide Dogs. They would like to thank all sponsors from Ashbocking and beyond.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning: Sarah and Steve Wilson

CLOPTON

The thanksgiving service followed by our annual church meetings went well. Looking back on 2016 made us realise how many events had taken place during the year and also what a lot of time is given

by volunteers to clean (not a nice job in bat times!), arrange flowers and do all the other jobs that help keep the church thriving. All the PCC were re-elected but we still need a second churchwarden and a secretary!

The Hobbies Group will meet on Wednesday 7th June from 10am until noon in the village hall. Do come and see what we do and have a coffee with us.

The June coffee morning is on Wednesday 21st from 10am until noon in the village hall and will be hosted by June Hughes. Everyone is very welcome.

Our strawberry tea this year will be on Saturday 24th June at Thamaniya, Shop Road from 2.30pm until 5pm. Come and enjoy strawberries and cream, some delicious cakes, and a chance to sit and relax in the sun talking to friends and neighbours. We have a large gazebo, so nobody will get wet if it rains! All money raised will go towards the repairs to our vestry.

Doris Main

Church Cleaning:

Beryl Birchmore

Church Flowers:

Sue Emmerson

OTLEY

The annual church meetings took place in church at the end of April, as part of a service led by Clare. Nigel Crowley was re-elected as the only churchwarden, Penny Clark as secretary, and Richard Treloar as treasurer. Other members of the PCC were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of David Papworth. Richard presented the accounts which are in a healthy state, and reported that we had paid our parochial share to the diocese in full.

Nigel presented the churchwarden's report and spoke of the services held during the year, notably the one to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, followed by the Big Lunch. The church had supported the village fete, had contributed to Christian Aid, sent regular donations

of food to FIND, including the harvest produce, and a group of U3A church crawlers had visited for a guided tour. The Community Payback team had come twice to work in the churchyard, in addition to the regular mowing done by Albert Taylor- Balls. Nigel thanked the many people who helped in the smooth running of the church, with special thanks to Richard Treloar and David Papworth. Clare thanked him for his own hard work. Fundraising activities and involvement in social activities in the village were reported on separately.

Richard spoke on behalf of the Otley Church Preservation Trust, which has been glad to welcome Martin Liddell as a new trustee in place of Mary Hunt. We were delighted with the sales of calendars and cards at Christmas, and during the year the Trust has paid for galvanised guards for the louvres in the tower, to prevent birds getting in, and new locks and keys to the vestry door.

We have not heard so much from the handbell ringers since Helen moved to Woodbridge, so we are grateful for her report below. And a very big 'thank you' to Peter Judge who has removed, and disposed of, the bath which had been dumped in the churchyard.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 8th June, the same day as the General Election, at Leaseland Cottage, Ipswich Road, the home of David and Linda Peek.

Finally, many congratulations to Chris and Tessa Brown on the safe arrival of Benedict. It is wonderful news.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

1st June	Friendship Club - Coffee morning at Wendy Marshall's home, 10 Newlands 10.00 am
5th June	Gardening Club "Spring Plant sale 7.00pm
8th June	General Election
15th June	Friendship Club
22nd June	Community Lunch at The White Hart
29th June	Friendship Club
1st July	Otley Village Fete

Church Flowers: Vanessa Ling/Valerie Pitchers

Church Cleaning: Brian and Karin Upson

Sidepersons:

4 th June	11.00am	Family Service	Ruth Farnhill
18 th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Peter Rogerson
25 th June	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Peter Rogerson

Otley St Mary Handbell Ringers

Since this time last year we have lost two very long-standing ringers - Hetty Fox, who I believe was one of the original members under Mrs Maullen. We were very pleased to be able to play the bells in church before Hetty's funeral service, as a tribute to her. More recently, Sue King also died and she, too, is much missed. We have, however, gained two new ringers in Liz Bain and Jenny Ellis, who have fitted in very well and become valuable members of the team.

The AGM last July was held at Ann Robinson's home, where it was decided that our charity for the year would be Suffolk Family Carers. The sum of £200 was duly presented by our treasurer Betty David, and most gratefully accepted.

We have continued to meet every Tuesday, either for a practice (kindly hosted by Betty) or, more often, to go out entertaining. Venues have included sheltered housing, residential or nursing homes in Ipswich, Stowmarket, Saxtead, Framlingham, Thetford, Great Finborough, Barham, Woodbridge, Rendlesham, Eye and Saxmundham.

Thank you to Tess and Pam for organising transport, and to our drivers for taking us around safely, and to Betty for keeping our accounts shipshape. There has been no expenditure this year on equipment, apart from having one of the bells engraved in memory of Hetty Fox.

Helen Jay

And Betty David adds:-

On behalf of the "Belles" I would like to convey our thanks to Helen for her continued hard work, and also to members of the committee for their support - and, of course, to all our members, some of whom travel from Woodbridge, Ipswich, Kesgrave and Charsfield.

Otley & District Gardening Club

On 15th May we enjoyed a very successful club local garden visit to Helmingham Hall Gardens, where Lady Xa Tollemache generously gave us a personal tour and explained some of her thinking over many years in developing these gardens into the wonderful spectacle they are today.

At Gardening Club we don't just get out and about locally enjoying ourselves. We've also been busy over the last few months sowing seeds, taking cuttings and growing plants ready for our first Plant Sale Evening on 5th June at Otley village hall, 7 to 9 pm. As well as lots of healthy plants and other gardening knick-knacks at bargain prices, there'll be the chance to talk gardening over tea or coffee and cake - and entry is free to all!

Then we look forward just a few weeks later to our annual club day outing on Saturday 24th June, this time to RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford, Essex. A few coach seats are still available at only £15, which includes entry to the gardens.

After our summer break, hopefully reaping and tasting the rewards of our gardening efforts, the first meeting of the new season will be on Monday 4 September, when we shall hear Wenhaston Nurseries' Lucinda Skinner's ideas and tips for planting up the herbaceous border for spring colour.

The Reluctant Gardener

SWILLAND

There is no regular news from Swilland this month, as both Gill and Ann have been away. Instead, we can report that Lunar Ladies and the Men's Group continue to vie with each other at the Moon and Mushroom. The convivial atmosphere, the hospitality of Nicki Gavin and her team, the excellent food and the well-stocked bar combine to bring out the best in any speaker. May featured Methodist minister and former policewoman Betty Trinder from Norfolk regaling the ladies with tales of hatch, match and dispatch, and Brian Williams telling the men what to look for in each other's mouths. Thank you very much to them both and to Gina and Brian for organising such stimulating evenings.

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

We are now in the fourth month of the year without any substantial rainfall; April had only a quarter of an inch, giving us a total for the year so far of 3.55 inches. Apart from the lack of rain we had a persistent cold wind from the north and east with only the occasionally sunny days. In my March article, I said that we had escaped a blackthorn winter. Usually the cowslips and blackthorn bloom at the same time, but this year the cowslips were later and coincided with these northerly winds, so I'll rename it cowslip winter.

The type of soil will determine how the shortage of rain over the winter and spring affects cereal crops. The lighter land nearer the coast suffers most, as rain drains away quickly and irrigation is the only way to prevent a serious loss in yield. The heavy land in Otley (known as Beccles clay) holds the moisture much longer. Because there was little rain during the winter, the cereal crops put their roots down up to a metre deep in order to get moisture. If it had been a wet winter the roots would have remained nearer the surface and the crops would have become very stressed in the dry spring conditions.

After planting any seeds, we roll them to consolidate them in the soil. This improves germination and reduces the area exposed to drying

winds. Today the rolls are wide and heavy and require a powerful tractor to pull them; in the past one or two horses were used and the rolls were much lighter. Nearly all horse drawn implements had a man walking behind them and he held a line which was attached to the horse's bits. The bit was a twisted iron bar which went into the horse's mouth and was attached to the bridle, the line was tied to a ring on each end of the bit and was used to steer the horse in a straight line and to turn it at the end of the field. It took much longer to roll a field with horses and the man behind the rolls had to walk a long way in a day.

Russell Ling

Editor's note - we will be happy to include any contributions from the world of work, rural or otherwise, past or present. Book, film etc. recommendations and reviews, letters and articles of local interest will also be gratefully received.



Open gardens at **Berghersh Place, Berghersh Drive, Witnesham**

Sunday afternoon, 25th June (2 - 5.30pm)

For the first time for the National Garden Scheme, to raise money for various popular charities. Tea and cake will also be available.

Adults £3.50. Children free.

SUMMER SERENADE

7.30pm, Saturday 1 July at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh.

Join the Suffolk Singers for a summer's evening of music, including works by Dubra, Gjeilo, Hassler, Hutchings, Jenkins, Tavener, Simon and Whitacre.

Also performing will be Gabriella Harvey and Claire's Young Songsters.

Tickets £10.00 from [01394 279907](tel:01394279907) or WeGotTickets.com
Suffolksingers.co.uk

Retreat Days at Otley Hall in June

Monday 5th June

Tennyson: From the Moated Grange to the Holy Grail – Led by Malcolm Guite.

We will spend the day reading and appreciating Tennyson's poetry from the early Mariana in the Moated Grange, set in a place very like Otley Hall, to the great poems of doubt and faith like In Memoriam, and onto his beautiful reflections of the stories of Arthur.

Tuesday 13th June

A day with the Lord's supper – Led by Andrew Dotchin

Thursday 22nd June

Reading Aloud/Allowed - ticket price of £28 includes a free garden pass - Jane Hall

This is a workshop and the day will run from 10am - 5pm.

Ticket price includes a free garden pass to use during the 2017 season, allowing you to continue your reading exploration at Otley Hall!

All days cost just £25 (unless otherwise stated) 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 (unless otherwise stated)

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

Website www.otleyhall.co.uk

Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a “raucous buzzer” sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that “a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out”.

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

SMILE LINES

Daughter-in-law

A young man rang his mother to announce, with great excitement, that he'd at last fallen in love and was contemplating marriage. He went on: Just for fun, I'm going to bring my girlfriend and two of her friends. I would like you to try and guess which one I'm going to marry.”

The mother agreed. So, the next day her son arrived at his mother's house with three beautiful young women. They sat on the sofa and chatted for while with the family.

When his mother went out of the kitchen to put the kettle on for tea, her son followed her. "Okay mum," he said. "Guess which one I would like to marry."

She replied at once: "The one in the green dress." Her son was astonished and asked how on earth she had guessed. The mother shrugged. "That's easy. I don't like her."

Miscellaneous observations from modern life

- The alternative to a holiday is to stay at home, and tip every third person you see.
- Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?
- Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?
- If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

Late for church

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for church. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"



St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,
Dear Lord, of thee
three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by Day.

SOUNDS STRANGE

There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebti
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



What do you call a man with a map on his head?

Miles.

What do you call a woman with a tortoise on her head?

Shelley.



What do you call a man checking your homework?

Mark.

What do you call a Vicar on a moped?

Rev.

Answer: all of them are saints listed in the Penguin Dictionary of Saints - honestly.

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Merry Christmas Everybody

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