

POEM FOR THE MONTH

THE CELESTIAL SURGEON

If I have faltered more or less
In my great task of happiness;
If I have moved among my race
And shone no glorious morning face;
If beams from happy human eyes
Have moved me not; if morning skies,
Books, and my food, and summer rain,
Knocked on my sullen heart in vain:
Lord, thy most pointed pleasure take
And stab my spirit broad awake.

Robert Louis Stephenson

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Warmer weather, spring flowers and blossom remind us that Easter is approaching. The Easter day service at Ashbocking is on Sunday 16th April at 11am. It will be a family service with communion and a baptism. Clare and Phill Smith's children Sam and Grace are being baptised and we congratulate them and their parents as they take this step. Members of their family from Ireland will be with them. There have been no flowers in church during Lent, but if you would like to help with flowers for Easter please contact Linda Ellis on 890309.

We were sad to learn of the death of Elsie Garrod, who, with her husband Eric, lived in Ashbocking for many years and was known to many people in the village. Her funeral is at Seven Hills crematorium on April 3rd.

Our next coffee-morning is on April 7th at 10am at Sarah and Steve Wilson's home, Eastbrook House, The Green. We will have our usual

bring-and-buy, so anything you have for the table will be gratefully received. Please note that the venue for the coffee-morning in May has changed from Sue and Mike Surridge's house to Otley Hall.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning: Sharon Chenery/Stephanie Andrews-Pearce

CLOPTON

The funeral of Katharine Deacon was held in Clopton church on 3rd March. She was born in India, but at the age of five was sent back to England to live with her grandmother when her mother died. After leaving school she went to work in what was then Rhodesia. It was there that she met and married Vincent. They returned to live in Felixstowe for several years and their children Sarah and Nicholas were born there. Vincent's work took him to Cyprus, where they lived for many years. When Vincent retired they came to live in Clopton, but sadly he died soon after. Katharine was a member of the Ladies group and a very active church member. She was on the cleaning rota and always helped at flower festivals, strawberry teas and other fund-raising events. Until recent years she would travel every January to Hong Kong to see her daughter and then fly on to Australia to stay with her school friend, returning home when the weather here got warmer. Katharine did not like the cold! She was a very proud Grandma to her five grandchildren. After living in Clopton for over twenty years she 'downsized' to Felixstowe four years ago, but retained links with her Clopton friends. We send our condolences to Sarah and Nicholas and their families.

On Easter Sunday we shall be sharing services with Burgh - see the calendar elsewhere in the magazine. Everyone is very welcome to join us--the bacon butties are great!!

Hobbies morning is on Wednesday 5th April at the village hall from 10am until noon - do come and join us! Our monthly coffee-morning

is on Wednesday 19th April from 10am until noon, also in the hall. The host will be Jenny Vince.

Doris Main

Church Cleaning:

Doris Main

Church Flowers:

All help for Easter please

OTLEY

For many years we have given to the Leprosy Mission, and at the last family service Jane spoke about the charity's work and, specifically, Purulia Hospital in India. Until the 1950s people with leprosy were outcast because the disease was so contagious, but now it can be cured. However, at this rural hospital, hundreds of people queue every day to see just two doctors. From the collections at church, and further generous donations, we raised £320, which will go towards improving facilities there. At present it has no running water and only two toilets - unimaginable to us.

At another service, Clare's godmother came to speak about the work she is doing in Jordan with Christian refugees from Syria, not in the camps but through the churches. She has a great friend living there whose son is head of the YMCA. They are desperately in need of new underwear, particularly for the children, so - in response to Clare's appeal - many in our benefice went shopping, and Pam is returning to Jordan with suitcases full of pants!

Much closer to home, the quiz evening was very successful and enjoyed by everybody there. Julie Baker and her friend Tania were excellent quizmasters - they set the questions, which were at just the right level, but the wipe-out round at the end was challenging. The winning team were the Not So Magnificent Seven - Anthony and Vanessa Ling and Vanessa's father, Martin and Sam Liddell, and Mark and Karen Robinson - and this year they were awarded a cup. Supper of jacket potatoes and chilli con carne was provided by Ruth Farnhill, Penny Clark, Ruthie Bullock and Alyson Chilvers, and £539 was raised for church funds.

The next drop-in coffee-morning will be held at 9 Spring Park, the home of Jonathan and Ruth Farnhill, on Thursday 13th April - Maundy Thursday, just before the Easter weekend.

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Pam Walker after a short and unexpected illness. She was a leading light in The Otley Players, full of ideas and an experienced director, who stretched the actors and lifted the profile of the group. It was thanks to her initiative and hard work in fundraising and applying for grants, that the raised seating and staging were acquired for the village hall. She will be greatly missed by her family and her many friends here and we send them our deepest sympathy.

We also send condolences to the family of Bob Harvey, the oldest resident of Otley, who died two months before his 100th birthday.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

5th April	Gardening Club "Growing from Seed, and in Containers"
6th April	Friendship Club - Easter bonnets
6th/8th April	The Otley Players - "Macbeth Gone Wrong"
20th April	Friendship Club AGM
24th April	Community Council AGM
27th April	Community lunch at The White Hart
30th April	Friendship Club - Jumble sale 10 am
8th May	Gardening Club "Planning and Growing Winter veg"

Church Flowers: Easter - everybody/Joan Parish

Church Cleaning: Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

Sidepersons:

2nd April	11.00am Holy Baptism	Ruth Farnhill
16th April Easter day	9.30am Holy Communion	TBA
23rd April	6.00pm Thanksgiving for the past year followed by annual church meeting	TBA

MaundyThursday

Please join us on Thursday 13th April for a Passover supper and simple communion fellowship meal at Otley Hall 7.00pm – lamb, bread, herbs, fruit, haroseth and wine and costs £7.50. Tickets from Jane Hall 785251. **WANTED** for the meal – a Mennorah please. If you can lend one for the evening, please let Clare Sanders or Jane know.

Otley & District Gardening Club

Back to gardening matters after our winter break, our well-attended March meeting saw us all thoroughly absorbed in the illustrated talk by Peter Skells-Gooch of Thorncroft Clematis Nurseries, an old-established Norfolk specialist grower. Peter showed us what a wonderful variety of clematis plants is available for our gardens, large and small, tender and hardy, vigorous and compact, and flowering in colours of almost every hue and at all seasons of the year.

Next month our short AGM on April 3rd will be followed by Bob Booker of Ladybird Nurseries giving us the low-down on seed propagation and gardening in containers. On June 5th we're planning a free-entry plant sale starting at 7pm in the village hall, with refreshments available. Come early for bargain plants.

All are welcome to these events, contact 890563 for details.

The Reluctant Gardener

Otley Under 5's

Last month saw the excitement of Pancake Day at Otley Under Fives, when all pre-schoolers loved making their own pancakes and watching them being flipped, before deciding which filling they liked best - banana and chocolate certainly proved popular!

This month, we are busying ourselves with lots of Easter-themed activities with bunnies and chicks galore! The annual Easter egg hunt will also take place on the field of Otley Primary School on Monday 17th April at 10am. Tickets are already on sale at the pre-school for £2 each- all proceeds will go to Otley Under Fives. So, grab yourself

a ticket, put on those welly-boots and come and join us in the hunt for chocolate treats.

Otley Bowls Club

Spring is underway and thoughts turn to long summer evenings playing bowls on Otley's lovely green. A feature of the village for 88 years, Otley Bowls Club has produced national champions, county cup winners and strong local league performances. Only last year we had a county singles champion, won two cups and won one of the three leagues we compete in. But it's not all about winning – bowls is a very sociable game which can be learnt in an afternoon and enjoyed by all ages – we have several members under twenty, plus a few over eighty. It is also a good way to make new friends, both within the club and those we play against in the Suffolk Coastal area.

If you are interested in finding out more, we have a web site with more information and a Facebook page (facebook.com/otleybowlsclub) – just type “Otley Bowls Club” into Google. We would love to welcome more local people into our club – if you would like to come along for a try, please get in touch using otleybowlsclub@outlook.com or ring Phil Quilliam on 890594.

SWILLAND

May I wish everyone a Happy Easter. Details of services in the benefice for Holy Week are elsewhere in this magazine.

As I write the sun is shining, it is much warmer and the spring flowers are magnificent. We are so lucky to live in such beautiful and peaceful surroundings. I hope many of you have taken up the Kagera Lent Challenge - such a worthwhile cause.

The next coffee-morning will be hosted at the Moon and Mushroom by Nicki Gavin on Saturday 1st April from 10am onwards.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers:

16th April - Easter Day	All help please
23rd - 30th April	Gill Reidy
7th - 14th May	Jackie Williams

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

The only item of note during February was of course storm Doris, fortunately it wasn't anything like as strong as the 1987 gale and apart from a few pieces of roofing material being dislodged we came out of it unscathed. As regards rainfall the old saying of "February fill dyke" it was not, as it only amounted to 1.65 inches.

In the old days, I can remember seeing the outlet pipes from field drains discharging water into the ditches at full pipe. The ditches would also be half full of water and woe betide farmers who hadn't cleared the inlet of pipes under gateways as it was not unusual for ditches to overflow and flood onto the fields. Thinking perhaps that we did have more rainfall during February in the past, I looked back on my previous records but they showed that we had very similar quantities that we have today. There has to be another reason why there is only a small amount of water being discharged out of field drains now so here are my suggestions.

Today we have mains water and modern appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers, flush toilets and of course baths and showers which are used quite frequently. Before mains water which only came to Otley in 1938 residents had to use water very sparingly as it was a very valuable commodity, the only supplies were from wells and ponds and in a dry year it had to be fetched from some distance at times.

Farms also had horses, pigs and cattle which all needed water and apart from the horses which were allowed to drink from ponds it necessary to take the water to the animals. The method used was by means of a water butt which was a tank on three wheel which held

about a 100 gallons of water and was pulled by a horse. To obtain the water from the pond the butt was backed into the pond and then the farm worker had to climb from the horse over the butt and stand on a platform at the back which would be level with the water. There was a double lid hinged at the sides which were then opened and a pail which was left inside used to fill the butt from the pond after which the he would climb back over the horse which would then pull it out. The butt was then taken to the buildings holding the animals and the water was transferred into the drinking troughs for the cattle and tubs for the pigs. I should mention that all farm ponds had a mouth, this was a sloping area going into the pond and was stoned to prevent the butt from getting stuck in the mud.

But to get back to the slow running field drains, before mains water came the water level in the soil was very much higher than it is today. The mains water that we now have comes from reservoirs and underground aquifers and the latter is replenished from rainfall seeping through the soil. Unless there is a considerable amount of rain during a short period of time the field drains do not run as the water level is now considerable lower.

Here endeth the first lesson on water.

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.

Berghersh Place, Witnesham, IP6 9EZ

The gardens will be open under the National Open Garden Scheme on **Sunday 25th June** from 2.00-5.30pm. Adults £3.50, children free. Tea and cake available. Proceeds will go to various charities.

Retreat Days at Otley Hall in May

Friday 5th May - Sue Monckton-Rickett - 'Loving God with mind, body, soul and spirit'.

Tuesday 23rd May - Eilish Heath - 'The meaning is in the waiting'. Reflecting on the absence and presence of God with the poems of R S Thomas. (A day of deep silence where the majority of the day including lunch will be silent.)

Both days run from 10am – 4pm and 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. Contact Karen [01473 890264](tel:01473890264) or email events@otleyhall.co.uk Website www.otleyhall.co.uk

Chocolate and the divine go back a long way...

One of the more earthly pleasures of celebrating Easter is the sheer amount of chocolate around. But chocolate was part of other religions long before Christianity.

According to ancient Mayan legend, some 3,000 years ago, cacao, or the cocoa tree, which grows in the tropical rainforests of South America, was a bridge between heaven and earth. The Mayan used the beans for a drink called xocolatl, which means 'bitter juice' (so not hot chocolate as we know it). Even so, by 400 BC they had exported the beans to Costa Rica.

The Aztecs in Central America agreed that cacao must have had a divine origin. They believed that their god Quetzalcoatl had come down from heaven on the beam of the morning star, bearing a cacao tree as a gift for human beings, and that whoever drank the hot foaming drink was given divine wisdom.

Aztec priests were given cacao beans at children's coming-of-age ceremonies. When Aztec couples married, they exchanged cacao beans instead of rings.

Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World in the 15th century, to find that a slave could be bought for 100 beans. He never really 'got it' about cacao beans, and he threw them away as useless. Meanwhile, the Aztec emperor Montezuma drank chocolate from a cup of solid gold before retiring to his harem. Chocolate was thought to have aphrodisiac properties.

It was also considered good for various ailments. The Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes called it 'a drink that builds up resistance and fights fatigue'. A Spanish missionary in Peru in the late 15th century recommended it as 'good for the stomach'.

Finally, the Spanish began to pay attention. Spanish monks brewed a drink from the beans that was far more acceptable to European taste, sweetening it with sugar, and adding cinnamon and nutmeg.

Spain and Europe began to fall in love with the cacao bean. In 1624 the Spanish monks were warned that chocolate was an 'inflamer of passions', and certainly the legendary lover Casanova praised it as very useful in his seductions. Congregations even began drinking it during church services. When the Bishop of Chiapas threatened to excommunicate his flock for doing so, the entire congregation simply moved down the road to another church, where the friars also liked chocolate.

Chocolate became a favoured drink at fashionable occasions in Britain. In 1630, the day after the coronation of Charles II, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary that as he had celebrated the event with too much wine, so he had taken some chocolate the following morning, 'to settle my stomach'.

By the 18th century chocolate was so popular in Europe that the Swedish naturalist Linnaeus renamed the cocoa plant *Theobroma* – food of the gods.

Although chocolate was originally only for the wealthy, devout Quakers such as Joseph Fry, Joseph Terry, Isaac Rowntree and

John Cadbury had a dream that chocolate could replace gin as a drink for the working classes. Their determination to make this possible was driven by their Christian zeal, and they in part succeeded.

Then in the middle of the 19th century it was discovered that chocolate could be made into solid bars! With this discovery, Easter eggs were on the way. Both Fry's and Cadbury's launched them in the 1870s, and the rest is history.

These days, Fair Trade chocolate is the thing to look out for – it guarantees a fair price to the cocoa farmers who make it possible for us to go on enjoying this heavenly stuff.

SMILE LINES

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.

Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect piggies. Also trichinosis.

Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs .

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, 'Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!'

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?

One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.



The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with Spring and Easter - can you find them all?

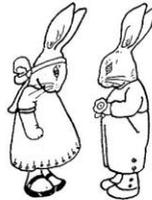
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L	L	B	G	N	I	R	P	S	O
B	U	F	L	O	W	E	R	D	L
U	T	D	U	O	L	C	D	U	B

bird blossom bud
bunny chick cloud crocus
daffodil duck egg flower
garden grass hare lamb lily
spring tulip



How do baby hens dance?
Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?
For hentertainment.



Which rabbits were famous bank robbers?
Bunny and Clyde!

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Merry Christmas Everybody

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