

## **Easter Feeling**



The Easter feeling does not end.  
It signals a new beginning, Of nature, spring, and brand new life,  
And friendship, peace, and giving.  
The spirit of Easter is all about Hope, love, and joyful living.

*Author Unknown*

## **Weather February 2019**

February Fill Dyke it was not, apart from a few showers at the beginning of the month which only amounted to .65 of an inch there has been no rain. It has been quite an unusual month in that in the last two weeks the daytime temperature have reached the highest recorded for February. In 2018 we were in the grip of the Beast from the East, it just shows how variable the weather can be from year to year.

*Russell Ling*



**OTLEY CHURCH**  
PRESERVATION TRUST  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1044364

## **The Church and the Preservation Trust**

You may be unaware of the contribution the Otley Church Preservation Trust (OCPT) make towards the continuing wellbeing of the Church fabric. The trust has been in existence for over 25 years and was formed by a small group to ensure that the ongoing necessary repairs were funded. Over the years they have helped with such things as the installation of the kitchen and the toilet and the necessary repair to windows, roof and stone work. Apart from flint, a large proportion of the Church comprises of Caen stone, a soft sandstone that unfortunately deteriorates over the years.

Many people in the village give to the Trust by monthly standing order and others have the familiar little donation boxes in which to collect small change – every little helps!

The Church is extremely grateful for all the Trust does, without their considerable help the church would not be in the condition it is today. The building is 800 years old and is in need of continuing attention.

If you would like a box or are interested in making a regular donation please contact – Issy Lincoln on 01473 890826.

In common with all the clubs and societies in the village it is always a struggle to find people to help with tasks but without volunteers these organisations will disappear. If you would be willing to help with light duties around the Church please contact Richard Treloar on 01473 890271 we would be very glad to hear from you.

### **St George – Patron Saint of England**



Every nation has its own 'Patron Saint' who in times of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies. But who was St. George, and what did he do to become England's Patron Saint? Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303.

It seems that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However despite some of the most terrible torture even for that time, St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine. His head was later taken to Rome where it was interred in the church dedicated to him.

Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. The best-known story about St. George is his fight with a dragon, but it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever visited England, however his name was known there as early as the eighth-century.

In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil. Unfortunately the many legends connected with St. George's name are fictitious, and the slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century.

St. George, so the story goes, killed a dragon on the flat topped Dragon Hill in Uffington, Berkshire, and it is said that no grass grows where the dragon's blood trickled down!

It was probably the 12th century Crusaders however who first invoked his name as an aid in battle.

King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'



*The Tomb of St George, Lod, Israel*

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

The Gardening Club's 2019 programme got off to a flying start, as research entomologist (that's an insect expert to you and me!) Dr Ian Bedford fascinated us all with his illustrated talk "Butterfly Gardening". Despite his 'learned' title, Ian's animated delivery was the opposite of dry & dusty, and his obvious passion for the extraordinary biology of these beautiful creatures was clear to see.

His expert knowledge gained from four decades (and still going strong) working at Norwich's renowned John Innes Centre, Ian left us in no doubt that the future of many species of butterflies & moths, bees and other insects critical to our whole ecosystem is under threat. This is due to both habitat-loss and because of chronic poisoning by the systemic insecticides that so many of us, gardeners and farmers alike, turn to in the quest for blemish-free plants and healthy crops.

The good news is that we can all help to sustain and increase the dwindling numbers of butterflies and other insect life by creating patches of butterfly-friendly habitat in our gardens, and avoiding the use of persistent chemicals such as the "neo-nics" that kill so many insects. All-in-all a very enjoyable and enlightening evening, not a lecture but a very timely practical lesson in butterfly-friendly gardening - and Ian showed us the way with shots of his own lovely garden which he's made into a real insect "Happy Eater"!



This month it's "Ornamental Grasses" (they're good for butterflies too)!

*The Reluctant Gardener*

### **A Recipe for Hot Cross Buns**

Makes 12

Prep Time: 35 Minutes    Cooking Time 2 Hours

450g (1lb) Strong white bread flour

1 tsp salt

2 tsp mixed spice

100g (3 ½ oz caster sugar)

7g (¼ oz) easy-blend dried yeast

250g (9oz) dried mixed fruit

50g (2oz) butter

250ml (9fl. Oz) milk plus 3 tbsp

1 large egg, beaten

50g (2oz) plain flour

6tbsp water



1. Sift the flour, salt, spice and 50g (2 oz sugar) into a large bowl. Stir in the yeast and fruit. In a small pan, melt the butter, then add the milk and warm through. Stir into the dry ingredients with the egg and mix to form a dough.
2. Knead for 10 minutes on a floured surface until smooth and elastic. Divide into 12 equal pieces and shape into balls. Place on a greased baking sheet, cover with oiled cling film, and leave to prove in a warm place until doubled in size.
3. Preheat the oven to 190c/375f/ Gas Mark 5. To make the crosses, mix the plain flour with the water. Spoon into a piping bag and neatly pipe a cross over each bun. Bake for 20-25 mins, until golden brown.
4. For glaze, heat the remaining sugar and mix with 3 tbsp water in a small pan, stirring until dissolved. Boil for 1 min. Remove the buns from the oven and brush twice with the glaze. Leave to cool on a wire rack.

***A STILL TONGUE MAKES A WISE HEAD***

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**



### **ASHBOCKING**

Hopefully by the time you read this article the winds will have subsided and perhaps we will be getting a few milder days. It is so lovely to see the spring flowers blooming and the blossoms on the trees again. It instils a feeling of hope into this Easter season.

However, after the earlier storms there is a certain amount of tidying required in the churchyard, and it has been decided to do a churchyard clear-up on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 12 midday. Refreshments will be available for the workers and any help on the day will be much appreciated. Please bring your own garden equipment. i.e. secateurs, rakes etc. Even if you can only manage an hour, it will be much appreciated.

The April coffee morning will be held on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, due to unforeseen circumstances this will now be held at Hawthorns, The Green, which is different to the list some people may have. We meet from 10:30 am as usual until around midday. Everyone is welcome; please let me know if you would like to come but require a lift. Tel 01473 890836

The Knit and Stitch group is going well but would welcome any new members interested in any crafts, not just knitting, or anyone who would like to come just for a chat and maybe get inspired. Coffee is central to the meeting and we now meet twice monthly on the first and third Mondays of the month at Hawthorns. April's meetings are on Mondays the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am until midday.

The House group at Hawthorns will be meeting on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> and Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm. The Lent course that we have been following is coming to an end and we will then be studying Luke's Gospel. Evenings are prayerful, informative and inspire good discussion, often with a lot of laughter. Anyone wishing to learn more about the Bible and about Faith would enjoy these evenings and will be welcome to join our group. Please phone Clare or myself for more information.

Tickets for the second Ashbocking Quiz, to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, are on sale from the beginning of the month, there will be door to door sales later in the month, but you can order your tickets direct by phoning John or myself. We are after teams of six maximum but don't be put off if you are only one or two people as we can make up teams on the night.



Tickets are £10 a head which includes food, children under twelve go free. Tony Ruben, who lives in Ashbocking and has experience of quizzes, has agreed to be our Quiz Master. Questions for the children will be included. The evening opens at six o'clock with food, and drinks from the bar. The quiz will start at 7pm. There will be a break for a top up from the bar at the half way mark. It promises to be another enjoyable evening and one which brings out the competitiveness of our teams with sometimes hilarious results. There will be a raffle and we would be very grateful for any prizes you may wish to donate.

There are two services at Ashbocking in April, the first is on 14<sup>th</sup> and is a family service followed by coffee and an invitation to stay for the annual vestry meeting.

The second is of course the Easter Morning service on the 21<sup>st</sup> which is a family communion service, followed by coffee and an Easter egg hunt for the children. Hopefully this will take place outside, but we will just have to see what the weather is doing. We have had it in the past where the eggs have started to melt in the warmth of the sun!

Everyone is welcome to both services, we do have blankets for the knees should it be that cold and a few cushions for those who need them.

The rota for church cleaning in April is Jan and Jon Bates. There are no flowers until Easter morning, and this will be done by our flower arranging team.

*Linda Pollard*

### **CLOPTON**

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Colin Davey who has died after a long illness. There will be a tribute to Colin in the May magazine.

We hope to hold a Brass Band Concert in June but the date is not yet finalised. Full details next month.



On Saturday 29th June we shall be holding our Annual Strawberry Tea at Thamaniya from 2.30pm onwards. Please put the date in your diaries.

There are plans to hold a Flower Festival during the first May bank holiday of 2020. The theme will be Our Favourite Films. If anyone would like to help our very small group in any way we would be delighted!

The April Hobbies Morning will be on Wednesday 3rd from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

On Wednesday 17th April the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall from 10am until noon will be hosted by Linda Tye. Please come along and join us.

The Taylor family have kindly given us permission to use the field behind the churchyard for any large events. Parking has always been a problem when we have weddings , funerals or any large gatherings so we really appreciate their generosity.

*Doris Main*

## **OTLEY**

In addition to their recent award from the Post Office, our wonderful village shop won the Unsung Heroes award, back in December, given by Nisa and independent retailers for community work in Otley. Congratulations again to Andrew and Penny - it is so well deserved.



The family service on 7th April will include the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, with the usual election of officers and reading of reports. We manage to get through it pretty quickly, so anybody who is interested in the life of the church is welcome to attend. If you did not get your electoral roll form back by the deadline for the annual meeting, don't despair! Your

name can be added to the church electoral roll at any time which, of course, includes new people moving in to the parish.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 11th April at Lavender House, Otley Green, the home of David and Tess Papworth, who will be as hospitable as ever and will look forward to seeing you.

Easter Day is on 21st April and we have a family Communion service here at 9.30am. The church will be decorated the previous day and we hope there will still be some daffodils available.

We wish everybody a very Happy Easter with lovely spring weather, and don't eat too many hot cross buns, my own favourite!

*Rose Rogerson*

### **Village diary**

**1st April** Gardening Club AGM, then 'Ornamental Grasses'

**4th April** Friendship Club AGM

**18th April** Friendship Club - Easter bonnets

**23rd April** Community Council AGM 8.0pm

**25th April** Community Lunch at The White Hart

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

**Church Flowers:** Easter everyone/Joan Parish

***“Congratulations to Rose and Peter Rogerson of Otley  
on their Golden Wedding Anniversary”***

### **SWILLAND**



On a very blustery day on 16th March Charles Parkes and Tanya Russell were married in Swilland Church. It was a very happy occasion with their close family and friends. The flowers in the church were done by Charles' mother, Wendy, helped by Libby Cotton and they looked lovely. We wish Charles and Tanya a long and happy life together. This was the first wedding in Swilland since 2012.

As I write this our Annual Vestry Meeting is tomorrow (17th March) so I will report on it next month.



Our next coffee morning is on 6th April hosted by Gina Wilden. Do come and join us.

We are having a working party on 13th April in the morning from 9 a.m. both in the Churchyard and inside the church. Refreshments will be provided. It's a real team effort. We hope lots of people will join us. Please bring any tools you have for outside work. Inside we will be cleaning and polishing - materials will be provided.



*Ann Kent*

## **Flower Rota**

**Easter 21st April** Jackie Williams with others on the Rota

**28th April** Jackie Williams

**5th - 12th May** Ann Kent

## **Leprosy Mission** (*Karin Upson*)

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fundraising for the Leprosy Mission. The collection in church amounted to £86 and the coffee morning raised £191. Thank you to all who provided draw prizes and gave so generously.

St. Mary's Church has had a longstanding connection with the Leprosy Mission.

Janet Wightman writes:

"My mother, Jessica Wightman, was for many years enrolling member of the Mothers Union (in the fifties and sixties ). Their chosen charity was the Leprosy Mission. Each member had a collecting box and I remember a magazine, which was also issued to each member. It made a deep impression on me. In those days there was no cure and bodies became deformed. It was a disease of the poor, associated with dirty water and poor nutrition. It seemed so cruel to me that lepers were shunned by their own families. Karin is continuing the connection with the Leprosy Mission following on from my mother, Mrs Boreham and Mrs Podd".

One of the draw prizes at the coffee morning was a book by Victoria Hislop called 'The Island'. It is a novel based on the true story of Spinalonga' a leper colony on a small island off Crete which existed from 1903 to 1957.

There is still a lot to do as worldwide 600 cases are diagnosed every day and many more cases are hidden. Although leprosy is curable now, the stigma continues.

You can find out more about the work of the Leprosy Mission on their website at [leprosymission.org.uk](http://leprosymission.org.uk)



*A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew, A cloud, and a rainbow's warning,*



*Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue-- An April day in the morning.*



*Harriet Prescott Spofford*

## **RUSSELL LING REPORTS**

When a field was made fallow it was an opportunity to put in any field drains that were required. Today a comprehensive drainage scheme for the whole field would be carried out using modern drainage machinery. In the past this machinery was not available and if there was a part of the field that was wet a field drain was dug by hand for that area. It was important to make sure that there was a fall across the field to a ditch which would take the water. Once the direction of the drain had been decided on a deep furrow would be made by a horse drawn plough. The



farm workers would then dig a narrow trench in the bottom of the furrow using a long narrow drainage spade until a depth of approximately three feet had been reached. The man doing the digging would have to stand in the trench

which would be muddy and wet wearing wellington boots. In order that the boots would not be cut by the top edge of the spade a piece of metal shaped to the bottom of the boot would be tied to it. The clay crumbs at the bottom of the trench would then be taken out and then smoothed off by using a scoop, this was an oval spade 18 inches in length with a long wooden handle which was fixed at an angle to one end of the scoop. The next step was to put in the clay tile drainage pipes which were twelve inches in length and three inches in diameter in the bottom of the trench. A right angle hook on the end of a wooden stave was used to place the pipes in the trench and butt them up end to end. Lengths of blackthorn hedging was then placed on top of the pipes, this was to prevent the joints from being blocked up by the clay soil and allow the water to enter. In later years three quarter shingle would be used for this purpose and then mole drained through the stones. I will explain what mole draining is next month.

*Russell Ling*

### **Gardening for Wildlife Course**

*Taking place on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am-3pm. Price £30 per person.*

*For more information or to book your places, please go to:*

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2019-04-27-gardening-wildlife-april-27>

## Dyslexia

A poem about dyslexia has melted the hearts of others when it was written by a 10 year old pupil at a school in Hertfordshire. She heard her teacher talk about how she used to tease her dyslexic sister when they were growing up. The poem has now been retweeted more than 30,000 times, with 100,000 likes on the social network.

"Today we looked at poems that could be read forwards and backwards" the schools Year Six teacher Jane Broadis said on Twitter. "I was stunned by this one written by one of my 10 year olds."

### Dyslexia

I am stupid  
Nobody would ever say  
I have a talent for words

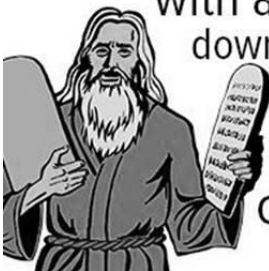
I was meant to be great.  
That is wrong  
I am a failure.

Nobody could ever convince me to think that  
I can make it in life.

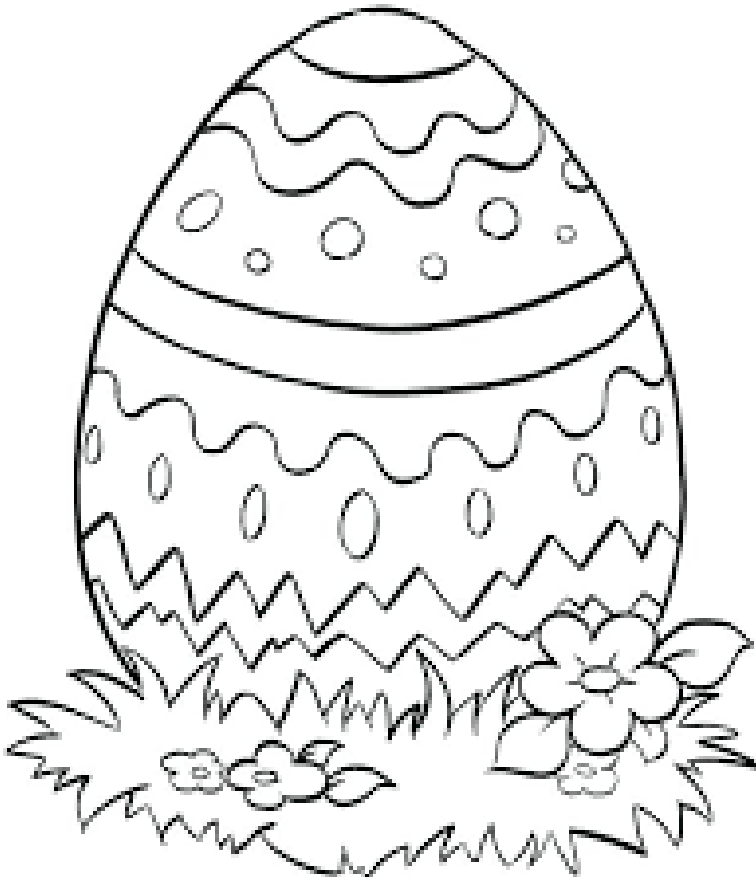
(Now read this upwards!)

By A.O

Technically, Moses  
was the first person  
with a tablet  
downloading  
data  
from the  
cloud...



## CHILDREN'S CORNER



**Design your own easter egg!**

**Q. What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?**

A. Hot cross bunnies!

**Q. Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?**

A. It might crack up!

**Q. Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?**

A. Because the chicken had his Easter eggs!

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