

## **POEM FOR THE MONTH**

### **The Peace of God**

When war did cease upon the earth,  
The stars looked out, the heavens rang,  
The small Lord Jesus came to birth,  
A lilt of peace His Mother sang.

A lilt of peace 'mid snow-clad sheen,  
Goodness-peace, forgiveness of sin,  
Confession-peace, penitent-clean,  
Peace with God and the peace within.

Peace with God and goodwill to men,  
The peace of triumph on the Tree,  
The rising peace that followed then,  
The peace of God for you and me.

The peace of God, lake-waters by,  
The peace of God, mist o'er the sea,  
The peace of God, ascending high,  
The peace of God, unceasingly.

*From Poems of the Western Highlanders*

## **NEWS FROM THE PARISHES**

### **ASHBOCKING**

It seems a long time since the last communication. Christmas is behind us and I hope you all had good celebrations, without the intrusion of winter illness.

The Christmas Bazaar took place and despite it being bitterly cold outside we enjoyed a very successful day with a very good turnout of

people to make a lively and happy atmosphere. There had been lots of hard work to prepare for the event and everything went well on the day. The refreshments were enjoyed by many, and sales of Christmas fare and plants were exceptional. We were fortunate that Brenda Mitchell had donated one of her lovely paintings and this was sold for a considerable amount in a sealed bid. I wish to thank all who had given their time and efforts to help make the day such a success. The amount raised was more than £1600 which was amazing. Well done everyone.

We are now looking towards the flower festival planned for the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> June. I am hoping that anyone with an interest in flowers will want to have a go and help us decorate the church for visitors to appreciate. There will be refreshments over the weekend and the whole event will kick off with a cheese and wine evening on the Friday night. Details of ongoing meetings will be sent out soon via magazine, village WhatsApp and email. If you would like to be involved or want to express an interest in helping please let me know.

The Carol service this year was well attended, and the scratch choir made a valiant effort in singing Mary's Boy Child. Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed afterwards putting us all in the Christmas mood.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of David Bendall who died on December 27<sup>th</sup>. David lived at Ashbocking Hall for many years and was a PCC member at the church, he celebrated his ninety seventh birthday last year. The cremation has already taken place and was a private, family occasion. There is a request for a memorial service for David, possibly in March but the date has not yet been arranged with the family. Our condolences go out to the family at this sad time.

January is often a rather drab month but hopefully by February when this article goes out the lighter evenings will be more noticeable, and we can look forward to spring.

The evening bible study group are not meeting again until after Easter which is 1<sup>st</sup> April, but will be attending the Lent lectures in Woodbridge leading up to Easter instead. These are on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the St Mary's parish rooms Woodbridge. The house group will reconvene at Hawthorns after Easter.

The next coffee morning is on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Linda and Mick Ellis - Dormers, The Green, Ashbocking. We have decided to start slightly later at 10:30am from February onwards, until midday. We look forward to seeing everyone then, please give me a ring if you require a lift.

Church cleaning is becoming a struggle, thank you to all that helped clear the church after Christmas. Cleaning for February is Sharon Chenery, please let her know if you can give her helping hand.

The February church service is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Everyone welcome

*Linda Pollard*

**Church Cleaning:**

Sharon Chenery

**CLOPTON**

The Carol singers raised £183.16 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice, thank you to the singers and those who gave money.

Our Candlelight Carol Service was attended by more people than ever this year (One hundred and forty!) and it was standing room only. Thank you to all the people who played a part in making it so special, Mark Cresswell who led the service, Carol Joplin who played the organ, those who decorated the church, those who baked mince pies, ginger stars and served mulled wine, the readers, candle lighters etc. and those who helped to clear up afterwards. We sent the collection of £368.95 to the Salvation Army Hostel for the homeless in Ipswich.

February's Hobby Morning will be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome. The kneelers are progressing well. We have plans for a project later in the year! Watch this space!

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Come and meet friends and chat over coffee and biscuits in a very welcoming warm hall from 10am until noon.

We are aware of the problems with parking at the church and hope that 2018 will be the year that we find a solution. We apologise to those who have trouble parking for services and events. Any suggestions as to how we can improve things would be appreciated.

Thank you to the people who deliver this magazine each month. The cost is still £8 and cheques payable to Clopton, Otley Benefice magazine can be given to the person who delivers your magazine or to D. Main, Thamaniya, Shop Road, Clopton, IP13 6QP.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2018.

*Doris Main*

## **OTLEY**

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but the services were well supported. The church was nearly full for the carol service, Sue Wilkins's choir led the singing and she had composed a new carol for the occasion which sounded lovely. There were many more than expected at the service on Christmas morning, with a lot of visitors and some young families, which set the tone for the day. And the Nativity at Warrens Barn was fantastic. The barn was packed with 170 people - standing room only - with loads of children to watch and partake in the Nativity story, and the donkeys munching in the background, memorable for everybody. A very big 'thank you' - not only to the Chilvers' family who led the way on this, but to everybody involved in the Christmas arrangements.

Before Christmas, The Otley Players sent £720 to Children in Need because of their 'Otley Entertains' dinner and quiz night. This is a wonderful sum for a great cause and they want to thank everybody who contributed. Joan Parish also wants to thank all the ladies who arranged flowers in the church throughout the past year. Junior TOPS next production is "The Wizard of Oz" on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

I have reviewed the church visitors' book for 2017 and hope it will be of interest. 42 people signed their names, the furthest coming from Georgia and Illinois in the USA. Some were revisiting the church where they were married, 54 years and 59 years ago, some tracing their ancestors, and from Hull came members of the family of John Gosnold. But, looking to the future, we also received a visit from Class 3 from Otley Primary School. Probably the most interesting entry was by Yalda Davis from Hitcham who wrote:- 'Lovely church, heavenly acoustic. No. 20 in my project to play the cello in all the mediaeval churches in Suffolk'. What a great initiative.

The next event will be the Quiz Evening to cheer everybody up on 10<sup>th</sup> February, which Ruth Farnhill has written about below. The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 16 Spring Park, the home of Karin and Brian Upson, where you will receive a warm welcome.

Donations in memory of Albert Taylor-Balls amounted to £623.58, for the Otley Church Preservation Trust, a wonderful result. We thank everybody very much, especially Dinah and the family.

Finally, James wants to thank everybody for all the cards he has received, at Christmas and at other times, and says he has been heartened and encouraged by them. He is hoping to get home to Otley in the next couple of months, and we hope so too.

*Rose Rogerson*

### **Village Diary:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> February** "The Wizard of Oz" - Junior TOPS  
**10<sup>th</sup> February** The Annual Otley Quiz – St Mary's PCC  
**22<sup>nd</sup> February** Community lunch at The White Hart

**Church Flowers:** Sue Montgomery/Joan Parish

**Church Cleaning:** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Week Papworths 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Week Treloars

### **Sidepersons:**

4<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am Christingle & Parade David & Tess Papworth  
18<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am Holy Communion David & Tess Papworth  
25<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm Evening Praise at Philip & Betty David  
15 Spring Park

### **Tribute to Albert Taylor-Balls**

Hall farm was bought by Albert's father in 1959 and Albert worked for him until it was sold to Buchanan in 1966. The farmhouse was unfortunately burnt down in February 1962. In January 1966 a Lightning fighter plane from Wattisham airfield crash landed in a field next to the Helmingham road, Otley. Albert was ploughing in a field nearby and ran over to the site and spotted smoke coming out from the fuselage and when he looked inside saw a small flame burning from a pipe. There was fuel spilled around the plane, so he got a pail of water from the cottage opposite and put it out which may have prevented the plane catching fire.

Sadly, the pilot was killed when his ejector seat failed to go off when he was airborne due to a malfunction but operated when the wing hit an Oak tree. Later that year Albert married Dinah Stebbings and moved into Greenways on the Ipswich road.

Albert was often called upon to destroy wasp nests and he was also adept at killing moles, he would however be best remembered for his work in keeping the grass and hedges cut in Otley churchyard which he did for some twenty-five years. The churchyard always looked immaculate and his presence and help will be sorely missed.

## **The fun evening of February returns .... The Otley Village Quiz**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at Otley Village Hall  
Doors open at 7pm and questions start at 7.30pm.

Teams of up to eight, but smaller teams can combine or go it alone.

We run a bar throughout the evening and a yummy jacket potato supper is served at half time. Followed by something sweet and a raffle. All welcome. Tickets are £10 per person. Please contact Ruth Farnhill on 890543, ring or text [07902024976](tel:07902024976) or email [refarnhill@btinternet.com](mailto:refarnhill@btinternet.com)

### **SWILLAND**

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Personally, I am enjoying the days getting a little bit longer. My snowdrops and aconites are coming out. Also, an early Daphne with its wonderful scent. Even daffodils are in bud. All signs that Spring is on its way.

Messy Church - 18<sup>th</sup> February in the afternoon at Clopton - it would be good if some Swilland children were able to go.

We are very sorry that Adrian Ward has reluctantly had to give up his work in the churchyard due to less good health. He has cut the grass and hedges and generally kept everything very tidy for nearly 40 years. This is a wonderful record and we are so sorry he cannot continue. Thank you, Adrian, for all you have done. I'm sure we shall see him when he visits the Stennett's.

Our Christmas Day service was well attended with several children in the congregation. It was good to reduce the average age!

Subscriptions are due for the Church Times. Please may I have £8.50 from those to whom we deliver.

*Ann Kent*

**Flower rota:**

**4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February**

**18<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Gill Reidy

Lent – No flowers

**“NO COOK PUD”**

*Sent in by Tess Papworth*

This is a very simple, easy, no cook pudding. Delicious at any time of the year.

10 fluid ozs double cream  
10 fluid ozs natural yoghurt  
3 ozs mini marshmallows  
8 ozs FROZEN raspberries  
2 ozs demerara sugar

**Method:**

- 1) Lightly whip cream
- 2) Fold cream into yoghurt. Stir in marshmallows & raspberries still frozen. These will permeate the pudding as they melt.
- 3) Spread mixture into a shallow serving dish. Smooth top & sprinkle with demerara sugar.
- 4) Cover dish with cling film & put in fridge for 24 hrs or 48 if possible.
- 5) Just before serving sprinkle a little extra demerara sugar for added crunch if desired.

**World Leprosy Sunday**

The collection on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February is going to the Leprosy Mission. Their focus for 2018 is on fighting leprosy in Niger/Africa.

Please come and support their work with your donation.



## **RUSSELL LING REPORTS**

November continued to be relatively mild but mostly dull. The rainfall was still low for the time of year with only 1.30 inches which fell in small amounts at regular intervals during the month.

Last year's weather was unusual - the winter was mild we had storm Doris in February with winds of 70 mph, but we also had some mini heatwaves in May, June and July. The rainfall has been sporadic, but December made up for it giving us a yearly total of 21.25 inches.

In the days before combines were used for harvesting, farmers had their corn stacks threshed with a drum which in the early days was powered by a steam traction engine. These threshing tackles which were owned by contractors consisted of a steam engine, drum and pitcher and they were moved between farms to carry out this work. Apart from the driver there were two men who accompanied the tackle to position it and to make sure that the drum was level.

During the harvest corn stacks were built opposite each other beside a hard-stone road. The size of the stacks were ten yards by five yards with a sloping roof which was thatched after harvest to keep the rain out. The distance between the opposite stack was approximately five yards, the drum was positioned so that the drop boards each side could be raised to make a platform which would just touch each stack. The opposing stacks would be threshed separately, and one straw stack would be made from the two, the pitcher was an elevator with a trace which had overhanging tines so that the straw couldn't be blown off in a strong wind and was positioned at the rear of the drum behind the straw walkers. The steam engine was at the front of the threshing drum and powered it by means of an endless crossed belt from the large flywheel which was situated at its left-hand side. The reason that there were no joins in the belt was firstly it gave it more strength and secondly should the belt fasteners break it could cause severe injuries to the workers bagging off the grain. The drum shaft in turn had a pulley on the right-hand side of the drum and this with a series of flat belts and pulleys powered the remainder of the

machinery which consisted of sieves, elevators, straw walkers and the pitcher. *To be continued.....*

### **Debenham Group Practice**

For the benefits of our patients and in partnership with Public Health, Suffolk County Council, we are looking to increase the usage of the blood pressure machine that is based in the reception area at Debenham.

We would specifically like to encourage any patients with hypertension who may not have had a recent reading to please come into the surgery at any time during normal opening hours and take your own reading on the machine in the waiting room. It only takes a couple of minutes and you can then give your printout results to the receptionist who can update your medical records.

However, the blood pressure machine is here for all our patients use and benefit, so even if you are just calling in to collect your medication or are attending the surgery for any other reason, we would still encourage as many of you as possible to take your own blood pressure – you don't need to print out your results or hand it to a reception for adding to your medical records. And you do not need an appointment.

For anyone who would like to find out more about the importance of knowing whether you have high blood pressure, the following link will provide you with some general useful information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-combating-high-blood-pressure/health-matters-combating-high-blood-pressure>)

We are also looking at the possibility of buying another blood pressure machine for Otley/Grundisburgh with the intention of being able to offer this facility/service at all three of our surgeries.

*Steve Bloomfield, Business Manager*

## **Otley Hall Retreat Day Programme**

Thursday 22nd March – Revd Fred Woods. 'The Weekend that Changed the World'. Looking at famous paintings related to the Holy Week/Easter events.

Wednesday 2nd May – Jnanamitra. 'Inner and Outer Harmony' – A day of Buddhist teaching and meditation.

Thursday 31st May - Sue Monckton-Rickett. 'Coming Home to the Loving Father'. "God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home" Henri Nouwen.

All days will start at 10am and finish at approximately 4pm. Places cost £25 per person and include refreshments throughout the day and a two-course buffet lunch. Further dates to follow in the magazine throughout the year or you can always look on the website:- [www.otleyhall.co.uk](http://www.otleyhall.co.uk). Please contact Karen on 01473 890264 or email [events@otleyhall.co.uk](mailto:events@otleyhall.co.uk) to book your place.

### **SMILE LINES**

#### **Windows**

She texted her husband from home on a cold winter's morning:  
'Windows frozen, won't open.'

He texted back: 'Gently pour some lukewarm water over it.'

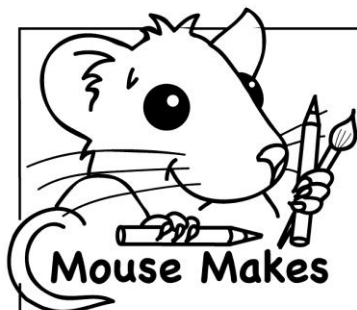
She replied five minutes later: 'Computer really screwed up now.'

#### **School play**

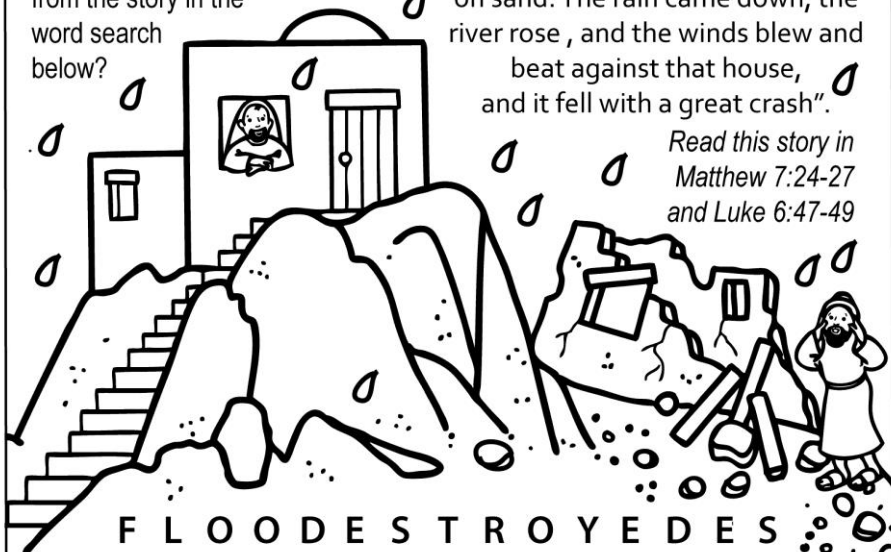
A little boy got a part in the school play and went home to tell his father. 'I'm going to play a man who has been married for 25 years.'  
'Well done, that's great,' replied his father. 'And maybe next time, you'll get a speaking role!'

#### **Cold**

It was so cold last night, that I put anti-freeze in my hot water bottle.



Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?



Jesus taught his disciples...  
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

Read this story in  
 Matthew 7:24-27  
 and Luke 6:47-49

F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S  
 O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A  
 B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N  
 G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D  
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L I S T E N • H E A R • J E S U S • W O R D S • W I S E • M A N • B U I L T • H O U S E • S O L I D  
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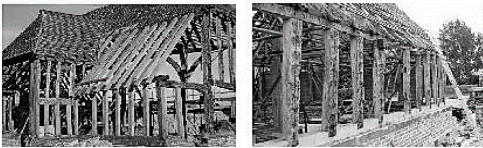
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*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter..."*

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

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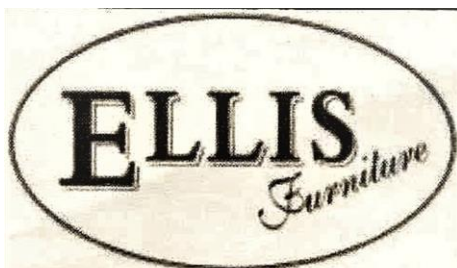
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