

The Spring



Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes; and now no more the frost
Candies the grasse, or cates an ycie creame
Upon the silver Lake or Chrystall streame:
But the warme Sunne thawes the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth
To the dead Swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowzie Cuckow and the Humble-Bee.

Now doe a quire of chirping minstrels bring,
In tryumph to the world, the youthfull Spring.
The vallies, hills, and woods in rich araye
Welcome the coming of the long'd for May.



Thomas Carew

Weather March 2019

The first half of March was very unsettled with some gale force winds on some days. The second half was the complete opposite with dry and some very sunny days and this has brought the spring flowers out. Rainfall for the month was 2.05 inches giving us just 3.45 inches this year, it gives the impression of being a dry winter but looking back on my records it is only just below average from November 2018 to March of this year.

Russell Ling

The Church Clock



The vicar had assured the vergers that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

Can you wind the Church clock they asked?
Peter who has undertaken the task uncomplainingly for so many years had a bad toe and certainly would have struggled to climb the winding staircase to the clock room 30 feet above the ground. "Happy to I said", thinking it would be as easy as winding my mantle clock. How wrong could I be!

The clock is no small feat of Victorian engineering – they did things in a grand style in those days – constructed in the late 19th century by the renowned clockmakers John Moore & Sons of Clerkenwell, London, it works by weights – the main one weighs ½ a ton, the one for the chimes slightly lighter, and during the course of a week both weights work their way to the bottom of the tower. 170 turns of a large crank handle, representing something akin to a starter handle for a vintage car, winds it back up to the clock chamber and certainly knocks the wind out of your sails.

Early clocks were usually only in churches and they were very heavy because they were worked by weights. Around 1450 the coiled spring was invented and it made possible portable clocks. The first watches were made in 1510. The stopwatch was invented in 1776 and the electric clock was invented in 1840.

If you look to your right as you walk up the Church path you will see set in the buttress a small scratch dial. Way back, prior to the reformation, this indicated the times for the canonical hours (times of the day set aside for prayer and devotion) and mass. No winding involved in those days so as you look up at our clock or listen to its dulcet chimes, spare a thought for the poor chap who has to work hard to keep it going!

Tempus fugit

MAY DAY

In a nutshell, May Day is a celebration of the start of summer. Most of our May Day customs go back to the times of the Druids. The Romans, when they came to Britain, added their own festivals in honour of Flora, the goddess of flowers, onto the Druidical rites. For centuries in 'Olde England' people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter & hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence & unbridled merriment. Towns & villages celebrated springtime fertility of the soil, livestock & people. There are some theories that the Maypole dance was a fertility rite, but others believe it was just a general rejoicing at the return of summer. The May Queen, chosen to lead the celebrations, was sometimes known as the 'Summer Queen'.



The festivities on May 1st. began very early in the morning. Girls would take the opportunity to wash their faces in dew, for they believed that the May Day dew was good for their complexions. An old rhyme says:
' The maiden who, on the first of May. Goes to the fields, at the break of day. And washes in dew, from the hawthorn tree. Shall ever afterwards, beautiful be'.

Much of the celebration, dancing & general merriment was viewed as scandalous superstitious wickedness by the self-described 'Puritan Moses' Oliver Cromwell. (No offence to the real Moses) In 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down, only to go up again at the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660.



May Day traditions of maypole dancing, Morris Men & well dressing, continue to this day in various parts of the country. In Oxford it is a centuries old tradition for May Morning revellers to gather below the Great Tower of Magdalen College at 6.00a.m. to listen to the

college choir singing traditional madrigals. In Durham University students gather on Prebend's Bridge to see the sunrise, sing & dance. At 7.15 p.m. on May 1st the Kettle Bridge Clogs Morris dancers, dance across Kettle Bridge, which spans the Medway near Maidstone, to mark the official start of their Morris dancing season. Padstow holds its annual Obby-Oss (Hobby Horse) day of festivities. Revellers dance with the Oss through the streets, accompanied by accordion players, in what is believed to be one of the oldest fertility rites in the U.K. In Rochester, Kent they hold a Chimney Sweeps Festival. May 1st. was traditionally the only day of the year that the chimney boys were allowed off work. To celebrate their day off the boys would gather in the towns & dance & sing. The celebration continues in Rochester in a similar fashion. Since 1978 the general population has benefitted from the establishment of the Early May Bank Holiday to celebrate labourers & the working classes. It's no longer exclusively for chimney sweeps!

Interestingly the London district of Mayfair is so named because an annual fair was held there on May 1st. from 1686-1764. This affluent

neighbourhood is in a smoke control area so probably not much call for chimney sweeps there now?

Otley & District Gardening Club



It was April Fools' Day, but speaker Lucinda Skinner from Woottens Nurseries Wenhaston certainly wasn't anyone's fool, when it came to showing us her encyclopaedic knowledge of Ornamental Grasses, the subject of her talk at our May meeting. Very much in gardening vogue these days, there really are myriad grasses to choose from that will enhance your garden display, whatever the soil or situation.

Poor Luci had to twiddle her thumbs first though, for twenty minutes or so, while the Gardening Club AGM was dealt with. Phil Pollard was elected Chairman to replace the retiring Alan Trevelyan, and Jill Hempstead is the new Club Secretary. Treasurer Issy Lincoln and committee members Sue Montgomery, Linda Pollard, Betty Rudderham and Liz Stegman we're all re-elected, and Davina Marshall was persuaded to take the plunge as our newest committee member. An impressive line-up indeed, with lots of new ideas to keep the Gardening Club vibrant.

Our last club meeting of the 2018-19 season will be on Monday Bank Holiday 6th May, when John Lewis will help us make our gardens more Wildlife-friendly. Then on Saturday 25th we'll be holding our third Open Plant Sale at 10.30 am, at Otley Village Hall. There'll be plenty of plant bargains to be had and tasty refreshments on offer, and the £3.00 entrance charge will buy you a piece of cake and a cuppa to wash it down.

We finish the season on a high with our coach outing to Kew Gardens on 12th June, and there are still just a few seats left at an all-inclusive cost of just £25. See our Grapevine ad. for contact details.

The (retiring) Reluctant Gardener

"If the Ash before the oak, then we'll surely get a soak.

If the Oak before the Ash, then we'll only get a splash"



8th May - Julian of Norwich: A Voice From A Distant Cell **by Canon David Winter**

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.



Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured this month (8th) in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because – over 600 years ago! – she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year. Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well' – words that have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.



Rise above the storm and you will find the sunshine



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

As I write this article the wind is biting cold even though the sun is shining. I have heard a promise of warmer weather for Easter so I hope everyone will have enjoyed their Easter break. It is lovely to think of flowers in the church again after a somewhat gloomy period. The flower arrangers in the church are champing at the bit to decorate the church again.

The service in April was a particularly cold one and we all appreciated the blankets that had been knitted, proving it to be a worthwhile and successful project.

It is a family service in May on the 12th, starting at 11'oclock. Everyone very welcome.

The house group at Hawthorns meets on Wed 8th and Wed 22nd May at 7:30pm. We are starting the study of Luke's Gospel and each week will have a theme for discussion. Anyone can join the group and will be most welcome. No prior knowledge is required. If you require more information, please contact either Clare Sanders or John and Linda Pollard. Tel 890836.

Coffee morning in May is hosted by Janice Williamson at 8 Nelson Close, at 10:30am. Do join us for refreshment and a chat.

The Church cleaning rota for May is Mike Surridge and Brenda Forster.

By the time you read this, water will have been connected to the stand pipe inside the church gate. This has been a long and drawn out process for something that appeared so simple! It will be good to have water readily available for watering the church flowers, coffee and tea after services and for walkers to refresh themselves. Please use the water responsibly as obviously we are now on a water meter.





May is a busy month and continues with plans for the Quiz at the church on 18th May starting at 6pm. Food is included in the ticket, priced at £10 for the evening, the under 12yrs are free.

A bar is available on the night and there will be a raffle.

Any donation of raffle prizes would be appreciated. Tickets are available to buy; teams are restricted to a max of 6 people. Teams can be created on the night so don't worry if you are only buying one or two tickets.

Tickets are available from Linda and John Pollard but there will be door to door sales in Ashbocking too. Contact us on 890836 to reserve a place. Trophies for First, Second and Third places have kindly been donated by Phil and Clare Smith, which means a rematch will be on the cards, annually or biannually in the future.

We press on too with arrangements for the Christmas bazaar at the beginning of December. More details about that next time, but please save all your nearly new items and books for us to sell. Hand made gifts are already being made, so we hope to have another enjoyable day.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Colin Davey who died in March.

Colin was a wonderful man with many friends. He was born on 7th August 1950 in Trowbridge Wiltshire. He moved to Clopton with his family in the late 50's and attended the Chadacre Agricultural College in 1966. With his father, he established the pig farm at Gooderhams Farm in Clopton. Colin was blessed with two children and four grandchildren, three of whom were triplets. He is survived by his wife Maggie and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

At Clopton's APCM Jenny Schurr and Doris Main were re-elected as Churchwardens and the whole PCC was re-elected en-bloc. Janice Gilbert continues as honorary treasurer. We still need to elect a secretary.

The Hobbies Group will meet on Wednesday 1st May from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Do come along for a chat and look at what people do.

The monthly Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 15th May. It runs from 10am until noon in the Village Hall and this month will be hosted by Jenny Vince.



Unfortunately the concert that we were planning for May has had to be postponed but we hope to be able to arrange it for later in the year,

The Strawberry Tea will be held at Thamaniya, Shop Road on 29th June from 2.30pm onwards. We look forward to seeing lots of people from across the Benefice.

Doris Main

OTLEY

The Annual Vestry Meeting has taken place when the usual reports were read and elections made. Richard Treloar and Nigel Crowley are sharing responsibilities at the moment and the accounts are in a healthy state. David and Tess Papworth have retired from the PCC during the year so Clare thanked them for all that they have done, and she also thanked all the other individuals and groups of people who have contributed to the life of the church in the past year.

Following the recent Quinquennial Inspection by the Diocesan Architect, we shall shortly have to do some major repairs to the church, notably on the roof and the guttering. The Otley Church Preservation Trust will be contributing towards the cost of this, so thank you to everybody who supports it. FFY, the youth group, has closed, so we give a very big thank you to Amy Cranfield, her helpers, and all volunteers who have done great work with the young people. Sadly, nobody has come forward to take over the group, but the money in their kitty is being held in a restricted fund in the PCC accounts in case it is required in the future. Their equipment is being stored safely at the village hall.

The next drop-in coffee morning will be held on Thursday 9th May at South View, Chapel Road, the home of Anne and Geoff Robinson, where you will be able to enjoy their lovely garden.

On Sunday 16th June, from 2.00pm - 5.00pm, the gardens at Otley Hall will be open as part of The Blossom Appeal Open Gardens event, to raise funds for the new Breast Care Centre at Ipswich which is going to cost £2.5 million. The Gardening Club will have a plant and flower stall and Alyson Chilvers and friends will be providing refreshments. There is no entrance charge but there will be plenty of buckets for donations.



Congratulations to Edward Quantrill and Hannah Girling who were married here on a beautiful sunny day at the end of March. We wish them a long and happy life together.

The new season has started at the Bowls Club and they will welcome new members.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

- 2nd May** Council Elections
- 2nd May** Friendship Club - Dinner at Suncroft
- 11th May** Otley School PTA - Camel Racing evening
- 16th May** Friendship Club - Eric Punak
- 20th May** Annual Parish Meeting
- 23rd May** Community Lunch at The White Hart
- 25th May** Gardening Club - Plant Sale

Church Cleaning: Philip and Betty David

SWILLAND

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 17th March. Brian Williams and Andy Ling were re-elected as Churchwardens and thanked for their hard work during the year. All the PCC members were willing to stand and were re-elected to their existing role's. Brian Williams, Andy Ling, Gill Reidy and Ann Kent were approved as

sidesmen. The accounts were presented and approved. Clare Sanders presented the Deanery Synod Report for 2018. The new Electoral Roll was presented - there were nine names on it.

We held a working party on 13th April to tidy the churchyard and to clean the church and the brasses. Thank you to all who came for their hard work. The churchyard is looking very spring like with lots of primroses.

*Thank
you!*

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 4th May from 10 a.m. at Red Court.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota

5th - 12th May

19th - 26th May

2nd - 9th June

Ann Kent

Margo Barker

Gill Reidy

RUSSELL LING REPORTS



Previously to the invention of the steam engine there wasn't any machine with sufficient power to pull a mole drainer. The mole drainer is an implement on two wheels with twin metal beams between which there is a long metal one inch thick blade with a sharp leading edge for slicing through the soil. Attached to the base of this blade is the mole a 2 ft. 3 inch long piece of round metal 3 inches in diameter bevelled at one end to enable it to penetrate the soil. At the rear of the mole there is a 4 inch diameter expander on the end of a chain link to allow for free movement and this is designed to smooth the sides and bottom of the mole. The purpose of this machine was to create a tunnel so that in the event of heavy prolonged rain the water could enter the mole and then be conveyed to the main drains. The mole drainer is drawn over ward the main drains at 24 inches deep 3 yards apart which was enough to keep the field from becoming waterlogged. The blackthorn bushes which were placed over the drain pipes in earlier times is now replaced with shingle and this allowed the

water from the mole which went through them to seep into the main drains. Mole draining would only be used in clay soils as the tunnel would collapse if it was sandy. In the days when a field was left fallow the mole draining would be carried out as soon as the soil was dry enough in the spring in order that it would harden over the summer and last longer. Today however we do not have fallows and this process takes place after harvest provided the clay soil is soft enough. Mole draining would normally be carried out if possible every five years but today the field drains rarely carry any water off the fields. The reason for this is that the underground aquifers have water pumped out of them to provide the mains water supply. The water table is now much lower and the rainwater is able to seep through the soil far more quickly than in the past.

Russell Ling

Smile Lines

Top Ten Silliest Questions asked on a Cruise Ship

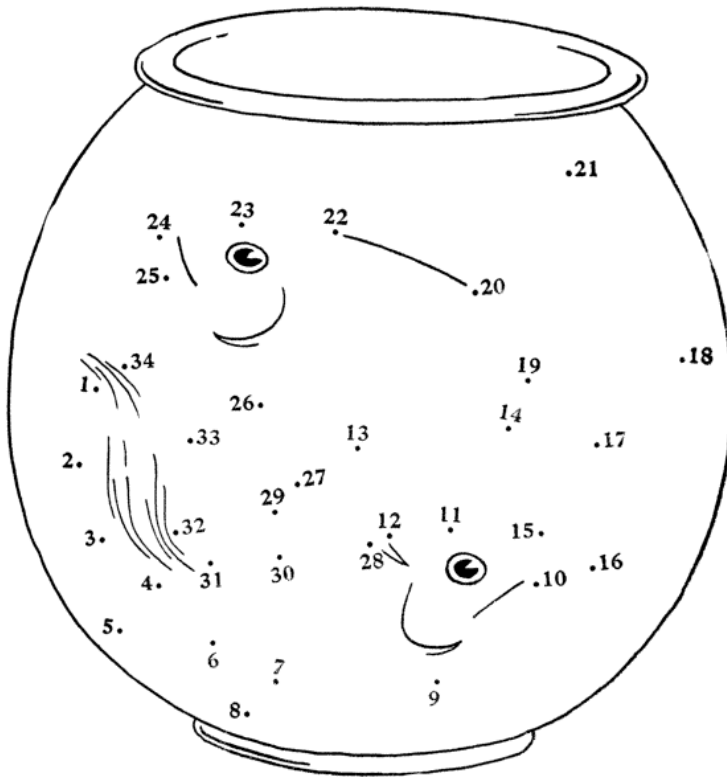
- Paul Grayson, Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

1. Do these steps go up or down?
2. What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?
3. Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?
4. Does the crew sleep on the ship?
5. Is this island completely surrounded by water?
6. Does the ship make its own electricity?
7. Is it salt water in the toilets?
8. What elevation are we at?
9. There's a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question was asked: 'If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?'
10. What time is the Midnight Buffet being served?

Someone who lives beyond their means:
He has champagne tastes with lemonade money."



CHILDREN'S CORNER



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Q: What did the spring say when it was in trouble?

A: May Day!!

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline in May?

A: Spring-time.

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