



Daffodowndilly



She wore her yellow sun bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown:
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
“Winter is dead.”

A. A. Milne

Weather January 2020

The beginning of January continued to be unsettled and mild for the time of year and this pattern of weather continued until the 18th of the month. A very high pressure then dominated the country giving some very sunny days with low temperatures but no hard frosts. This was followed by more dull misty weather which lasted until the end of the month. The rainfall was 1.90 inches.

Russell Ling

Is it legal Part 2.

6. Your congregation gets bored in sermons and some watch “Songs of Praise” on their smartphones. Do they need a TV licence?

If they are using mobile devices powered solely by their own internal batteries – like a smartphone, tablet or laptop – they will be covered by their home’s TV Licence.

7. To lock the church door during a service because it keeps blowing open? There was legislation that outlawed Nonconformist chapels having meetings behind closed doors. As every parishioner has a right to attend public worship, this would appear to conflict with locking doors. It is also a fire hazard.



8. To plant a Christmas tree in the churchyard?

Under List B, regard is had to the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards. We are enjoined to think carefully before adding more trees to our churchyards and not to forget to consult the archdeacon. There is a list of factors to think about – so better not.

9. To marry your widow's sister?

It is, as far as I know, legal – but it's impossible because if you have a widow, you're dead.

10. Your congregation is generous but likes to deal in cash: can you pay the parish share in 1ps and 2ps?

1p and 2p copper coins are only legal tender for amounts not exceeding 20p.



The phrase “legal tender” has a very narrow and technical meaning in the settlement of debts. You could pay them into your bank account, but offering them to the diocese may be politely declined.

Otley & District Gardening Club

Happy spring to you all.

This month has been another one of those slow month's where not a lot has happened in our diaries. We had a very nice meal at The White Hart at the beginning of February, as our annual club lunch. A small but intimate affair, with many laughs and many excited gardeners talking about what was going on in their plots. This will definitely be an annual event in years to come.

March kicks off our summer calendar and this month's talk is about 'Seasonal Containers' by Andrew Babicz, a nurseryman and broadcaster. Seasonal containers are something we all have somewhere in our gardens. In my case, some in a state of disrepair and some I could really do with revamping. So please do come along for some advice about what you should do with your containers on a seasonal basis.



Our annual plant sale will be coming up on May 23rd, so if you're working in the garden and you find you have too many of something, please save it for us to sell on the day.

We look forward to seeing you 2nd March at 19:30 at Otley Village Hall, if you're interested in hearing from our container expert. Guests are always welcome and new members are encouraged to join as soon as possible to maximise your membership benefits, which include a 10% discount at Ashbocking Nursery.

The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard



With a very wet and windy winter under way, Otley Under Fives are already preparing for spring! Our topic this term is the farm and all the different jobs and wonderful animals you may find there. We'll also be welcoming some eggs to hatch into our very own chicks!



The committee is working hard at organising 2 events, a luxurious pamper evening on the 14th of March, where you can relax with professional treatments like a facial, manicure or reflexology, there will of course be lots of delicious refreshments available too.

The modern medium, Ryan Gooding also returns on the 23rd of April. All the monies raised will go straight to our garden project, which will see a new climbing frame, a bug hotel and butterfly garden.

For any more information about these events or the preschool, please email Jo; Otleyunderfives@gmail.com.

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you
to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

Anon



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

On this very windy and wet Sunday afternoon, as I write this, I am thinking of the services we have had this year so far. January and February services were well attended and were held in our home. It was wonderful to see our congregation embracing something different. Both services were enjoyed by all and the feedback was all very positive.

This morning was Pub Church at Swilland and another truly enjoyable and meaningful experience.

However, the services in March are back within the familiar walls of the church.

Services in March are the **Family Service** on **Sunday 8th March at 11:00am.**

The **APCM** will be after the service and is open to everyone, when the annual reports are read and officers for the PCC are elected. Coffee will be served prior to the meeting.

On the **29th March at 10:45am** is the **Benefice Communion Service.**

This includes the recommissioning of Church Elders, to be led by Bishop John.

Please note that the start time is **10:45am prompt**, to allow Rev Clare Sanders to get to her next service.

Everyone is welcome to the service and coffee will be served afterwards.



There is no Bible Group at Hawthorns now until after Easter when we continue the study of Matthew's Gospel. There are Lent lectures during this time, details of which can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Home group at Manor Farm continues on the first and third Wednesday morning at 10am.

Coffee morning in March is on 6th March at the home of Noreen and Ken Petherbridge, Feoffee Farm near Allotment Lane Ashbocking, starting at 10:30 until 12 midday. Everyone is welcome.



It has been lovely to see people from other parishes coming to our coffee mornings too.

Knit and Stitch will be held on Mondays 2nd and 23rd March at Hawthorns, The Green at 10am.

We have welcomed people from outside the parish and numbers are gradually increasing. We enjoy lively conversation and help with projects that have been on the back burner for some time, whilst with the encouragement of others have been able to start new ones too.



There are still quite a number of books in the porch at Ashbocking church if anyone wants to select reading material. These will be sorted shortly to thin out the ones that are least popular, so if interested please take a look. The money raised has boosted the development fund and every little really does help. We hope this year will see some alterations in the church and hopefully we may be successful in obtaining some grants to help towards our loo and kitchen fund.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

The funeral of Grace Hannah Day took place on 21st February. Grace Hannah (her preferred name) Tomlinson was born in Derbyshire. Her family moved to Suffolk to work in service at various large houses including both Tannington and Gleveringham Halls. She met her husband John Day, a publican in Huntingfield, and they married in 1952 in Saxmundham. They moved for work to Akenham and then to Mill Cottages and after that to Newlands in Otley. In 1965 they became landlords of the Crown Inn in Clopton and stayed there until they retired in 1970 when they moved across the road to Briarfield. John died in 1975 and Hannah moved to Pipes Meadow in Otley and finally to the village of Woolpit. She was a very active person and enjoyed cross-stitch, gardening and watching sport. After John died, she travelled to Canada and Ireland with her sister Wyn. We send our sympathy to her three children, twins Robert and Julia and their younger brother Michael and their families.

Hobbies morning will be on Wednesday 4th March from 10am until 12 noon. Come and enjoy seeing other people's projects and share ideas and chat over coffee and biscuits.

The Coffee morning hosted by Della Hughes between 10am and noon on Wednesday 18th March is very friendly and everyone is very welcome.

Both the above events are held in the Village Hall.

Doris Main

OTLEY

Our Candlemas service in February was very well attended. The Otley Scout Group performed an enjoyable play about the Presentation of Christ at the Temple. We then made Christingles and finished the service with rousing hymns and well-earned refreshments. A big “Thank you” to Martyn Osbourne, the Scouts and the Revd. Sally Gaze for such a memorable service. The collection of £108.53 was donated to The Children’s Society.



Our Service on **March 1st** will incorporate the **Annual Vestry Meeting**, at which we will review progress over the past year. We will also appoint officers and committee members who will have responsibility for looking after the church for the coming twelve months.

NB: the midweek Communion service takes place on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at 9.30am.

The ever-popular **Quiz Night** returns on **Saturday 28th March** raising money for St Mary’s Church. The doors open at 7pm and questions begin at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50 and includes a delicious jacket potato supper and a fun and entertaining evening. Teams of any number up to eight. If you would like to join in but are not able to gather a team, let us know and we will arrange for you to join forces with others.

There will be a bar and draw.

Please contact Ruthie Bullock on **01473 890970** to reserve your place and let us know of any dietary requirements. We look forward to seeing you there.

The small wooden child’s table in the church is broken beyond repair. If there is anyone who has one, they no longer need, we would be very happy to take delivery of it. Please contact me on **01473 890271**



This month’s **Coffee morning** is at the home of Philip and Betty David 15 Spring Park, on **Thursday March 12th**, where you will be welcomed with coffee and tea and if we are lucky, some of Betty’s delicious Welsh cakes.

We are sad to report the death of Anne Cooper who lived in the village with her husband Nigel for many years before moving to Callington in Cornwall. There is a tribute to Anne further on in the magazine.

Church Cleaning: Brian and Karin Upson

Church flowers: No flowers in Lent

Angela Treloar

Village Diary for March

2nd March Gardening Club 7.30pm “Seasonal Containers”

5th March Friendship Club Otley Village Hall 2pm. Egg Decorating Demonstration with members taking part. There will be no mess as the eggs are not from hens. Anyone who would like to join us are welcome.

12th March Coffee morning 10.00am 15 Spring Park

26th March Friendship Club - welcome back Eric Punak who is a regular visitor and keeps us all amused with his jokes and repertoire of songs accompanied by him on his guitar.

26th March Community Lunch, White Hart (phone to book) 12.00 pm.

28th March Quiz Night in the Village Hall

Burns Night, Otley



I'm sure Robbie Burns would have been very impressed by the number of people who turned out to celebrate his life on 25 January. It appears that a traditional Suffolk barn, such as that at Warrens Farm, is an ideal venue to “strip the willow” and “dosey-doe” as everyone aged 5 – 50+ joined in and danced to the music of the popular ceilidh band “Metric Foot”. Prior to this, the assembled guests were treated to a traditional three course meal with neeps, tatties and haggis, which was piped in by the wonderful Jim Jarvie, clad in full Scottish regalia, complete with sporan and bagpipes. Throughout the evening we raised a “wee dram” to toast an array of amusing anecdotes in honour of Robbie, the great Scottish Bard!

We would like to thank everyone who helped to contribute to such an enjoyable and successful evening and in particular our most sincere thanks go to Ruth Farnhill and Ruthie and Mike Bullock who, as ever, do so much hard work to ensure that these community events run so smoothly. With the help of the draw, which Ruthie organised, we managed to raise a magnificent £1,091.63 for the Woolverstone Oncology Ward at Ipswich Hospital.

Alyson Chilvers

Do what you can with what you have where you are. – *Theodore D Roosevelt*

SWILLAND

PUB CHURCH - our service was held in that Moon and Mushroom on 16th February. 15 people attended plus two well behaved Labradors. Several people brought readings and poems to share with us and we sang three hymns. Some people stayed on for lunch. It was good to see people from Swilland who do not normally come to our services.

It's good to see all the Spring flowers and hopefully we can look forward to some drier, warmer weather. I was amazed to read in the paper in mid-February that we are officially not in a drought situation anymore! I had thought drought was a distant memory! My pond, having been completely dry at the end of summer, is now up to a good level - much appreciated by the wild ducks.



There will be no flowers in the Church during Lent.

The next Coffee Morning is at Gill Reidy's on Saturday 7th March at 10 a.m.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota:

1st March – 5th April

Coffee morning:

Lent – No flowers

7th Gill Reidy's – 1 Church Lane, Swilland

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

The era of farming with the Suffolk Punch horse came to quite an abrupt ending in the 1960s and this would be a good opportunity to explain what the situation was like at that time. During WW2 farming carried on much the same as the late 1930s when profitability was then getting over the depression years and farmers were beginning to buy new machinery again. Harry Ferguson had just developed the Ferguson TE 20 which had the revolutionary idea of weight transference of the implement to the rear wheels of the tractor to get more grip and reduce any wheel slip. Harry Ferguson and Henry Ford of America combined to produce the Ford



Ferguson tractor which came out just before the war and was manufactured in America. Until that time the main tractor manufactured was the Standard Fordson which didn't have either weight transference, or a power take off shaft to drive following machinery.

With the outbreak of war manufacturing of agricultural machinery ceased and most factories were turned around to producing armaments. This left agriculture with only the machinery available at the time which had to last until the war ended as nearly all imports from America was either food, fuel or armaments. When the war ended, the first major machine of importance to be imported was the combine and the larger acreage farmers were the first to buy them. New models of tractors were started to be manufactured in this country and later the combine. As more advanced models of the combine came out, older models came onto the market to be bought by smaller acreage farmers and this is when the demise of the horse came about. As I have shown in my previous articles, harvesting was quite a long and arduous process and the combine did the same job in a fraction of the time as using a binder and carting sheaves of corn to the stack yard. Combines together with more modern tractors and new machinery made both the horse and a high proportion of farm workers redundant.



The above events also had an effect on village life as the farmworkers, many of them whom were reaching retiring age, were not replaced. Many of the younger generation who were in the forces during the war after being demobbed didn't want to work on the land. Due to the fact that that some farmworkers lived in tied cottages, this resulted in these dwellings eventually coming onto the market. City dwellers, because these cottages were selling at a low price, bought them as weekend retreats. As more modern facilities became available in the villages many finding that country life was very agreeable decided to modernise them and live there permanently and commute to work.

Russell Ling



Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief. – Anon

ANNE COOPER 1/12/1937 – 20/1/2020

The fact that you are reading this in Signpost is a tribute to Anne, who was for several years business manager of its predecessor, Church Times.

She and Nigel were both Methodists when they married over 50 years ago, coming to the Church of England in Enfield where Anne taught maths. They never lost the Methodists' sense of order and commitment, and its strong social conscience. Anne gave their church the benefit of her organisational and leadership skills and became its first female churchwarden.

They came to Otley for holidays, where her father lived in Hazeldene on Otley Green. By the time he died, Nigel and Anne were both reaching retirement and they took on her father's cottage and moved to Otley on a permanent basis.

How fortunate we were to have them. Anne's roles in the village included those of: churchwarden; mainstay of the church quiz; initiator of supper evenings; alto in church (and in the Phoenix Singers in Framlingham); regular at almost every village event; producer of Pygmalion for TOPS; hostess of numerous coffee-mornings; village coordinator (with Nigel) for Christian Aid week; supplier of weekly rice-puddings to their neighbour, Lenny Durrant; handbell-ringer; member of discussion and book groups; bridge-player; supporter of fair trade and the Co-op movement; advocate for social justice. Hazeldene's doors and Anne's culinary skills were open to all, including victims of torture in foreign countries, to whom and she Nigel gave hospitality and restorative breaks.

Anne spoke her mind and led by example. She did not allow health problems to get in the way of duty and service, especially towards family and friends. This continued in Cornwall, where she and Nigel immersed themselves in the community in Callington, just as they did here.

Unfortunately, her sight, mobility, heart and lungs deteriorated, resulting in innumerable tests and procedures and several anxious weeks in Papworth. Latterly she relied on oxygen and a huge array of medication. She bore it all with stoical good humour, continuing to write proper handwritten letters to many of her friends here in Suffolk.

In the end, she died very quickly from a ruptured aorta. Her funeral was on 13 February. Donations, made payable to Christian Aid or Sightsavers, may be sent to Walter C. Parson, The Old Police Station, 1 Saltash Road, Callington, PL17 7BB. Tel: 01579 382000.

We send our prayers, love and sympathy to Nigel and to their daughters Louise and Marianne.

James Hall



Otley Neighbourhood Plan
Shaping the Future of Otley

Consultation Event

Saturday 7 March 2020

11am to 2.30pm

Otley Village Hall

An informal drop in / open event to:

- View results from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire
- Discuss results directly with members of the Neighbourhood Plan team (Part of the Otley Parish Council)
- Provide further opportunity for community input to continue to develop the Neighbourhood Plan
- Find out what opportunities there are in the village - clubs, groups and events

Every resident can be part of the process – so make sure that you have your say.

For more information or to contact a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Team;
visit: otley.onesuffolk.net
email: otleyneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com
phone: 07391 074 080

SMILE LINES

A senior moment

I made a list. I checked it twice. I left it at home.

Colourful writing

The foreign student, writing a letter to the superintendent of the mission society, desired to end with the words: 'May Heaven preserve you.'

Not being quite confident of the meaning of 'preserve', he looked it up in a dictionary. When the letter reached the director, it ended with the words: 'And may Heaven pickle you.'

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Colour in our bookmark and give to Mum on Mother's day (22nd March)

Silly Jokes

Knock:
Who's there?
Atch.
Atch who?
Bless You!

Knock Knock:
Who's there?
Cow says.
Cow says who?
No, silly! A cow
says moo



Q. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

A. A clock!

Q. What is the easiest way to double your money?

A. Put it in front of the mirror of course!



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