

## “From your Valentine”



‘One morning Emma woke up with a start. Her husband Jim asked what was the matter, she told him, “I just had a dream that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine’s Day. What do you think it means?” “You’ll know tonight,” Jim said. That evening, Jim came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, Emma opened it – only to find a book entitled “The meaning of dreams”!’

I think Jim should have some credit for being spontaneous however this this year there is a dilemma, a paradox even, as Valentine’s day falls on Ash Wednesday, the traditional day of repentance and the start of the traditional period of abstinence, Lent.

Last year Thorntons produced an extra billion chocolates to cope with Valentine’s day demand and I have a feeling that that won’t be dented this year.

The St Valentine we usually think of (there are a few) is thought to have been a priest at the time of Roman Emperor Claudius. The Emperor had banned soldiers from getting married in case it took the hard edge from them. But Valentine continued marrying them until he got caught. While in prison awaiting trial, he fell in love with the jailer’s daughter and, on the eve of his execution, legend has it that he sent a note to his love, signed ‘From your Valentine’. And that’s pretty well what we know.

Of course many of us reject the commercialised and devalued love of the marketing machines. And while we can look to the very real, gritty, and down to earth love that Jesus showed through the way he endured death on our behalf it’s important to realise that’s only a part of God’s plan. Yes it’s the pivotal moment of salvation for us but the plan is much bigger than just that. It’s a plan can bring us back to God, into a deep and meaningful relationship that brings direction and purpose back to our lives.

St Paul describes love in this way: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Cor 13.4-7)*

For many of us, to live to that standard in our human relationships might be very tough. I know it is for me, but the love Paul describes is God’s love and it’s there waiting for us.

I think that fits very well with Ash Wednesday, a time not just of turning away from the trivia and distractions of this world, but a time of turning towards God and accepting that we aren’t as good as we’d like to think. Lent is a great time to make a little extra space for those reflections, either through some reading or attending the Deanery Lent Course, perhaps by taking up 40 Acts of Kindness (<https://40acts.org.uk/>) or just being quiet from time to time. It prioritizes our relationship with God, which I’m sure St Valentine would agree with, a relationship of love.

**Mark Cresswell**



*A Stall In Grundisburgh Every Month*

*Buy Fairtrade Goods*

*Bamboo Socks*

*Tea & Coffee*

*Sugar & Honey*

*Soap & Handwash*

*Chocolate & Geobars*

*Greetings Cards & Gifts*



Where?..When?

at the Coffee Morning in Parish Room

1st Saturday of the month 10.30am

In St. Mary's 1st Sunday & 2nd Sunday

at 12.00 after morning service

Catalogues are available in St. Mary's church

Orders and information from Pat Fletcher

01473 735 775 p.j.fletcher45@gmail.com

## Otley Christmas Card 2018

Many of you will have attended the hugely successful Nativity re-enactment organised by the Chilvers family at Warren's Farm on Christmas Eve. George Chilvers, the Narrator, explained at the start of proceedings that photos would be taken & anyone objecting could remove their children, but there were no objections.

The Otley Church Preservation Trust produces a Christmas card to raise funds for the repair & preservation of our ancient church. One of the photos taken at the Nativity re-enactment may be suitable to be reproduced as a card for 2018. If any of you reading this, or family & friends, who attended at Warren's Farm, object to any photos being used in this way, please do contact me.

Thank you.

*Tess Papworth*

[davidandtess26@gmail.com](mailto:davidandtess26@gmail.com)

[01473 890091](tel:01473890091)

Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm

Starting with a Bring and Share Lunch

**Benefice Away Afternoon**

"Uniting for the next steps"

Playford Village Hall



We would like representatives from every part of our benefice life – from house groups- OTB- coffee mornings- lunch gatherings- flower arrangers- cleaners- workers with children- parents of children- choir members- organists – to join with PCC members and Ministry Team – as we start to map out the way ahead as members together of the Carlford Benefice.

All very welcome to join us

## Carlford Groups

### Social Groups

**Baby Café** – 6<sup>th</sup> February 9am Grundisburgh

**Hobbies Group** – 7<sup>th</sup> February 10am, Clopton

**Swapshop** – 7<sup>th</sup> February 10.15am, Grundisburgh

**Tiddlywinks** – 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2.30pm, Grundisburgh

### Prayer and Study Groups

**Going Deeper** – 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 10am Ashbocking

**Grundisburgh Sunday Club** – 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February 10.45am, Grundisburgh

**Monday House Group** – 19<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm, Grundisburgh

**Otley House Group** – 12<sup>th</sup> February 1.45pm – 3pm, Otley



Baby Cafe

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

9.00-10.30am

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in  
Grundisburgh Parish Room

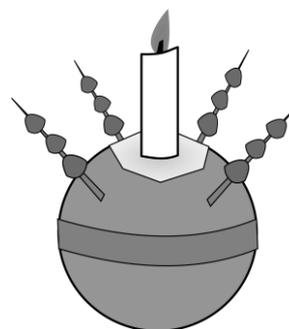
Free Coffee / Tea / Biscuits

Plenty of buggy parking space & Car  
parking in back lane, in front of church

For mums / dads / carers / babies /  
toddlers

Drop older children off at school  
and join us

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICES



4<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Christingle Family Service**  
St Andrew's, Hasketon  
**9.30am**

**Christingle Parade Service**  
St Mary's Church, Otley  
**11am**

**Christingle Family Service**  
St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh  
**11am**

## Services Across The Carlford Benefice

### February 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

#### Proverbs 8.1,22-31, Psalm 104.26-end, Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
9.30am	Holy Communion	Burgh	JB
9.30am	Family Service	Hasketon	MC
9.30am	Holy Communion	Swilland	CS
11.00am	Extended Holy Communion	Boulge	+J
11.00am	Christingle Family Service	Grundisburgh	MC
11.00am	Christingle & Parade Service	Otley	CS

### February 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday next before Lent

#### 2 Kings 2.1-12, Psalm 50.1-6, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
9.30am	Holy Communion	Clopton	FW/JW
9.30am	Parish Eucharist	Hasketon	+J
11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbocking	FW/JW
11.00am	Parish Eucharist	Grundisburgh	CS

### February 18<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

#### Genesis 9.8-17, Psalm 25.1-9, 1 Peter 3.18-end, Mark 1.9-15

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	+J
9.30am	Morning Prayer	Hasketon	Lay Led
9.30am	Holy Communion	Otley	FW/JW
11.00am	Holy Communion	Boulge	FW
11.00am	Family Communion	Burgh	CS
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Grundisburgh	BH
11.00am	Family Service	Swilland	JW
3.00pm	Messy Church	Clopton	MC

### February 25<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

#### Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22.23-end, Romans 4.13-end, Mark 8.31-end

8.00am	Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS
9.30pm	Family Holy Communion	Hasketon	CS
11.00am	Family Service	Clopton	MC
11.00am	Family Holy Communion	Grundisburgh	CS

*Key – CS – Clare Sanders, FW – Fred Woods, +J – Bishop John Waine, BH – Bill Herbert, MS – Mark Sanders, JamesH - James Hall, RP – Richard Pepper, RF – Robert Fletcher, JW - Jane Woods, IW- Ian Wilson, PI – Philip Ind, MC – Mark Cresswell, GH – Graham Hedger, Jan – Jan Bates, Linda – Linda Pollard, TS – Tim Stevens TBC – To be Confirmed, JB- John Berg*

### Other Services in February

February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion BCP	Hasketon	9.30am
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion BCP	Grundisburgh	9.30am
February 14 <sup>th</sup> -Ash Weds	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	Otley	10.00am
		Grundisburgh	7.00pm

First point of contact is:

**Ashbocking, Burgh, Boulge, Clopton, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley & Swilland Clare Sanders 01473 735183**

## What's On across the Carlford Benefice – February

**2nd Ashbocking Coffee Morning** 10.00am – 12 noon at the home of Linda and Mick Ellis of Dormers, The Green, Ashbocking

**3rd Grundisburgh Coffee Morning** 10.30am Parish Room, Grundisburgh

**3rd** 10.00-12.00noon **Confirmation Preparation** – Upper Room

**4th Benefice Away Afternoon** – Playford Village Hall from 12.30pm

**6th Baby Café** Grundisburgh Parish Room 9.00am – 10.30am

**7th SWAPSHOP** 10.15am - 11.30am Parish Room, Grundisburgh

**7th Hobbies Group**, Clopton Village Hall 10.00am until 12 noon

**7th “Going Deeper” Homegroup**, Manor Farm, The Green, Ashbocking 10.00am

**8th Otley Coffee Morning** at the home of Karin Upson of 16 Spring Park, Otley

**8th** Grundisburgh Church **Tiddlywinks** group for toddlers and carers 2.30pm

**11th Grundisburgh Sunday Club** 10.45am in the Parish Rooms, Grundisburgh

**12th Otley House Group** 1.45pm – 3pm, Otley

**18th** 3.00pm **Messy Church Pancakes** Clopton Village Hall – details elsewhere

**19th Monday House Group** at the home of Malcolm and Sandra Green at 7.30pm

**20th Ministry Team meeting**

**21st** 10.00am - 12 noon **Clopton Coffee Morning** in the Village Hall

**21st “Going Deeper” Homegroup**, Manor Farm, The Green, Ashbocking 10.00am

**21st Deanery Lent Course** – St Mary's Woodbridge – 7.30pm – details elsewhere

**22nd 12.15pm Hasketon Community Lunch**

**22nd** Grundisburgh Church **Tiddlywinks** group for toddlers and carers 2.30pm

**24<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod** at the Cathedral

**25th Grundisburgh Sunday Club** 10.45am in the Parish Rooms, Grundisburgh

**28<sup>th</sup> Deanery Lent Course** – preceded by Deanery Synod @ 6.45pm

### Looking ahead to March

**7th Deanery Lent Course**, St Mary's Woodbridge Parish Rooms 7.00pm, for 7.30pm start

**14th Deanery Lent Course**, St Mary's Woodbridge Parish Rooms 7.00pm, for 7.30pm start

## Otley & District Gardening Club



### 2017/18 Season

Patron: Matthew Tanton-Brown

We meet at 7:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at Otley Village Hall, Chapel Road, Otley

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March

#### “Low Maintenance Gardening” With Geoff Hodge

Compare gardening notes over tea/coffee & biscuits.

All welcome - Join up or just come along

Admission £1:50 (members) £4:00 (non-members)

Annual membership £10:00

To find out more, contact either  
Alan Trevelyan (01473 890563)  
Emma Coomber (07814112860)  
Isabel Lincoln (01473 890826)

## “Going Deeper”

### Home Group

We shall be meeting on  
7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February

Thereafter we shall meet on  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at  
10am at Manor Farm, Ashbocking.

We always welcome newcomers but particularly in the New Year as we will be beginning to study the Letter of Paul to Ephesians.

For more info please call

Jan & Jon on 01473 890980

or

Andrew on 01473 890238



14<sup>th</sup> February

### Holy Communion and imposition of ashes

St Mary's Church, Otley

10am

### Holy Communion and imposition of ashes

St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh

7pm

### St. Mary's Grundisburgh Christmas Flowers



Thank you so much for your donations to help pay for the flowers and to the flower arrangers for their flowers and time to make the church look so beautiful.

Pat Fletcher



**FANCY A COFFEE?**



We have opportunities, throughout February,

**Ashbocking** – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Linda and Mick Ellis of Dormers, The Green, Ashbocking 10.00am – 12 noon

**Clopton** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> at the Village Hall 10.00am – 12 noon

**Grundisburgh** – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am – 11.45am and then Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.15am – 11.30am both at Grundisburgh Parish Rooms

**Otley** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karin Upson of 16 Spring Park, Otley 10.00am.

**Swilland** – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Gill Reidy of 1 Church Lane, Swilland

Do come along and join us

This year's **DEANERY LENT COURSE** is on

**February 21st and 28<sup>th</sup> & March 7th and 14th**

At St Mary's Woodbridge, Parish Rooms

Refreshments from 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start

Bp Tim Stevens

*Recently retired as Bp of Leicester  
and formerly Bp of Dunwich*

**Title – “God and Politics”**

“In uncertain and often confusing times, how are we as Christians to develop habits of wise reflection if we are to engage faithfully and prayerfully with the big issues of our day? What are the key commitments of our faith that connect with those big issues, and how are we to learn what sort of questions to ask when applying our Christian values to the great challenges of today?”

In this series of talks and discussions, Bishop Tim will explore questions including:

- 1) What does the Bible say about God's action in politics and history?
- 2) What can we learn from outstanding Christian Leaders?
- 3) How can the Church enter the Public Square and what is our responsibility in this?
- 4) What does the Cross have to teach us about the cost of public discipleship?”



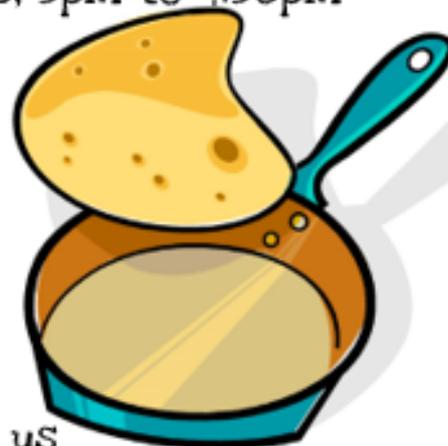
# Messy Pancake

What's more fun than traditional Pancakes?  
On the ceiling, on the floor or on your plate  
(we hope). A fun event for adults and children  
together, involving, singing, stories, the  
inevitable pancakes and  
sharing food.

**Clopton Village Hall**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3pm to 4.30pm

All Welcome,  
£1 per family  
suggested donation.



If you'd like to come, please let us  
know names of adults and children so we can  
get the catering right and have fun together.

[mark@thecresswells.me.uk](mailto:mark@thecresswells.me.uk)



**The Carlford Churches**  
Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh,  
Clopton Grundsburgh, Hasketon,  
Otley, Swiland.  
[www.CarlfordChurches.org](http://www.CarlfordChurches.org)