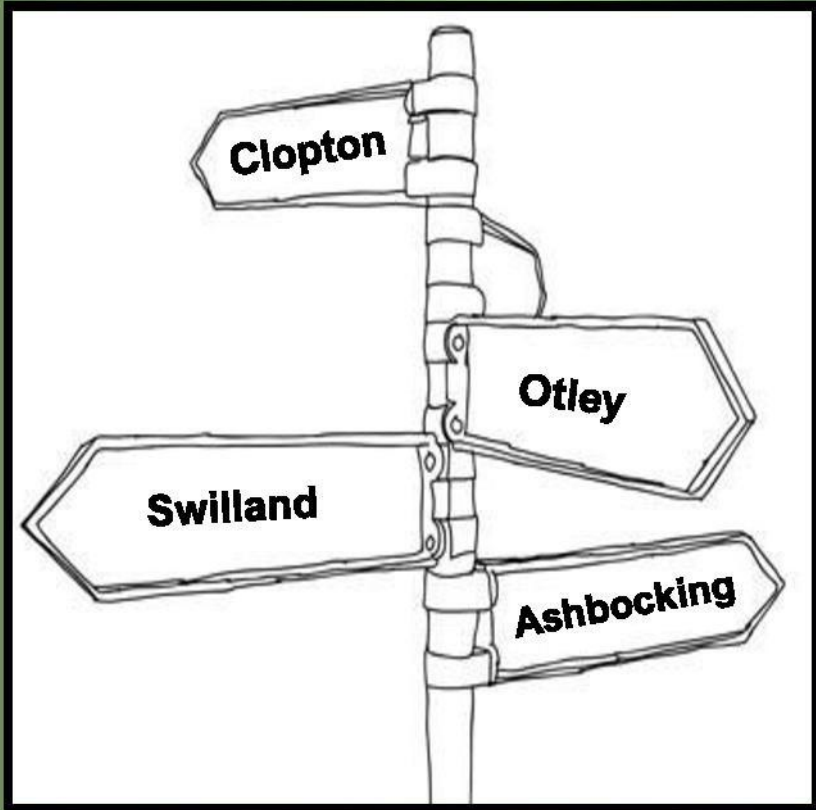




The Signpost



News from the Parishes

A Word from The Editors.....



Welcome to the **December Signpost**. I cannot believe how this year has flown by and now Christmas is upon us, as too is the cooler weather. Put your feet up and enjoy the contents of the final magazine for 2021, until our next magazine in February. We hope you will be able to have your families gathered around to celebrate this special time of year. There are lots of Church Services across the benefice, carol services, crib services and ones on Christmas day – you will find all the details inside.

If you would like to see anything else within our magazine, whatever it may be, we would gratefully receive it for inclusion in our upcoming editions. If you would like any family or friends' birthdays or anniversaries celebrated, then please do let us know and we will include in next month's magazine.

Our next magazine will be our February issue with a deadline **of 24th January 2022.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email each month,
please email Amy bakergirl174@gmail.com

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website carlfordchurches.org and within the Mini Grapevine. If you would like to receive the Mini-Grapevine weekly via email, please register via the website carlfordchurches.org or with Mark Cresswell – mark@carlfordchurches.org. There are links on the Carlford Churches website to the Facebook page, Mini-Grapevine and The Signpost. The Carlford Churches Facebook page can be accessed directly <http://facebook.com/carlfordchurches>. Should you wish to speak with Rev'd Katrina Dykes or a member of the benefice team please telephone 01473 735183.

***Keep safe, keep warm and take care
Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy 2022***

Amy and Angela

In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made
moan,
Earth stood hard as
iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow
on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter
Long ago.



Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Christina Rossetti



Dear Angela

*I wanted to thank you both personally, as a colleague and friend
and on behalf of all our lovely readers for all your hard work, dedication,
and the many contributions you have given to
The Signpost magazine over the years.*

You have been a tower of strength and a fantastic colleague.

*I hope you will enjoy your retirement from co-editing The Signpost and
having more time on your hands. You will be missed.
Thank you once again for everything.*

With much love from Amy & all our Readers

Rainfall for October

After a very dry September we had 2 inches of rain in the first week, this was very welcome to farmers as it softened the ground up and made it ideal conditions for drilling winter wheat and barley. After twelve days of fine warm weather, it reverted to being unsettled with thunderstorms and heavy rain for a short time after which we had another week of dry warm days. The month finished with another bout of heavy rain giving us a total of 4.10 inches. It is fortunate that the rain came in two short bouts giving us a relatively fine October unlike last year when we had the same amount but it was consistent over the whole month.

Russell Ling

Candlemas 2nd February

There would have been some excitement in the communities of our Christian ancestors on the feast of Candlemas, the last great festival of the Christmas cycle before turning towards Lent. In a 15th-century parish, for instance, the day would have started with a rumbling stomach, as only bread and water would have been allowed the day before.

Preparations would quickly begin for one of the most elaborate processions of the year — a real celebration, when the churches, in the words of a Shropshire monk of the time, “made great melody” and had done so since the seventh century. The procession was an enactment of the journey to Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph to present their child in the Temple, and large parish feasts were put on as part of the day’s festivities.



Candlemas falls at the start of the month that begins to drive away the darkness from our afternoons, and many of the prayers used throughout the day drew on this image of the retreating darkness. Every parishioner was obliged to carry a candle in procession, and to offer it to the priest, along with a penny.

The candles were all blessed, sometimes on elaborate mechanical, chandelier-like constructions that would spin them round to enable the priest to bless each one. They then burned all through the day and night, in front of the image of Mary, as a sign of the parish’s devotion.

In the 14th century, an enormous row broke out in Friesthorpe, Lincolnshire, between the Rector and his parishioners, because — once the parishioners had gone home — the Rector had stolen all the candles, presumably for his private use. In our electric days, we forget how precious candles were.

NOT all the candles were left in church by the congregation, however, because on the feast day they also brought other candles to church to be hallowed.

Candles blessed at Candlemas were thought to have special sacred power, suggested by the prayer of blessing that was said over them: “Wherever it shall be lit or set up,” the priest chanted, “may the devil flee away in fear and trembling with all his ministers, out of those dwellings, and never presume again to disquiet your servants.”

People took these hallowed candles home to be lit during a thunderstorm, or when someone was ill, and a Candlemas candle was often placed in the hands of the dying with the words, “Lord, let your servant depart in peace according to your word.”

Some people made up imaginative legends about these candles. It was said, for instance, that witches were known to drop wax from the holy candle into the footprints of those they hated, causing their feet to rot off. The misuse of holy things is a dangerous pursuit; so — to counterbalance this wild superstition — clergy of the time preached many sermons on how the candles represented Christ. The wax was his body, the wick his soul, and the flame his Godhead.

It is easy to be dismissive of some of this. We can call much of it irrational nonsense — lighting a candle during a thunderstorm, and so on.

But it was a different world: unknown, elemental, and raw in many ways. Who wouldn’t have wanted to light a candle in a cold, dark room with a frightened child who was scared of the thunder?

Giving the dying a candle to hold would not get through today’s health-and-safety regulations, but, in a moving way, the loved ones were placing in that weakening hand their hope in Christ, and asking the one who faced the journey into death to hold on to that hope; for this was the light for the journey. Faith was not just for Sundays, but was woven into hard, ordinary lives.

As we know, the Reformers were cautious about some of the practices of the time. As they focused on the Word, and on simplification, traditions such as the blessing of candles came to an end.

In 1548, we are told, the bearing of candles was forbidden throughout the whole City of London. Likewise, there was to be no ash on Ash Wednesday, there were to be no palms on Palm Sunday, and, on Whitsun, one of the most unusual traditions ended: that of

swinging an enormous censer from the roof of St Paul's Cathedral, and releasing doves to represent the Holy Spirit.

Over time, some of these have returned, and I am glad that they have. All the important things in life need ritualising and enacting: love needs a kiss, insight needs art, grief needs a funeral, and faith needs an enactment — not to cheapen it, but to celebrate and explore its richness, its unspeakable truths.

Although candles are not mentioned in Luke's story of the Presentation, it is easy to see why candles became the focus for the day. At the heart of the story is an encounter: a meeting between the old Simeon and the baby Jesus. An old and weary world meets a new, fresh life, and the old man says that light has broken in — the curtains are drawn back on a new way of being human.



There is great expectancy in the story, too: what will it mean for them? But there is also the prediction of pain. The Gospel is bitter-sweet; it bears witness to the illuminating-concealing nature of God. There is talk of a sword piercing the heart of the child's mother. Light is seen as light only because there is darkness, and candles need lighting and protecting because they can easily go out.

Faith is the same. Our faith needs blessing from time to time — refreshing, nurturing, and attending to. Life can be hard. Despair can be easy. We cannot afford to take the gift of faith for granted. Candlemas reminds us that Lent is coming, that snowfall in the soul where you must work out what matters; so use it well.

We are told that the light is for all people, not just for some; and it is the Christian calling to ensure that those who are forgotten, or who don't see themselves as belonging, are drawn into the circle of light. Light kindles light. It increases as it is shared.

When the medieval clergy blessed candles and told people to carry them home through the streets and to light them at times of fear and journey, I think that they understood faith — and the importance of its light in our precarious and fragile lives — only too well.

Canon Mark Oakley is Dean of St John's College, Cambridge.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and is still put up every year.

Otley and District Gardening Club

A very merry Christmas season to you all,

I can't believe it's got to this time of year already, but you can't deny what the calendar says. The nights are drawing in, the temperatures are plummeting, and the trees have lost all their leaves. Well, most of them anyway. The evergreens really come into their own during the colder months of the year. Showing that they don't need to go dormant during winter as they've evolved to be able to withstand some of the harshest of weathers. I wish I could do the same!!



It's not too late to be gardening though. Bulbs can still be planted right up until early spring, that's if they've not already "sprung" in the bag. We had a load of daffs that decided to venture through the string bag and started flowering in the garage. Proving that you don't always need soil to bloom!



This month's meeting is a practical demonstration and workshop with the talented florist, Sue Montgomery. She will be showing all that are participating how to make a seasonal wreath. The meeting will take place at Otley Village Hall on Monday 6th December at 7:30pm sharp, as there will be a lot to learn. Please, if you would like to take part, let me know beforehand as we will need to know final numbers by the week

before. It would also be useful to know the rough numbers as there will be seasonal refreshments and a bumper raffle. Please bring any unwanted or unloved Christmas related items for the prizes. We will be providing a wreath donated by Sue herself. For more information email me at phil@florabundant.co.uk
07880627984

There will not be another Otley and District Gardening Club meeting after December's meeting until March 2022. If you would like to know anything about the upcoming topics or where we're going on our trips next year, please let me know on the details above.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman

Treasure Hunting for Adults

A hoard of early medieval gold coins discovered by two people with metal detectors is the largest of its kind ever found in England.



Buried in what is now West Norfolk around 600 C.E., the trove of 131 coins and 4 gold objects is larger than a cache famously found at Sutton Hoo in 1939. (Earlier this year, the Netflix movie **The Dig** brought renewed attention to the excavation, which unearthed a purse containing 37 gold coins, 3 blank gold discs and 2 gold ingots, among other rare artifacts.) The region where both hoards were found—now eastern England—was once part of the Kingdom of East Anglia.

“This is a hugely important find. It is close in date to the famous ship burial from Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, and although it doesn’t contain as much gold as the whole of the Sutton Hoo burial, it contains many more coins,” says Gareth Williams, curator of early medieval coins at the British Museum. “In fact, it is the largest coin hoard of the period known to date.”

Prior to the newly publicised cache’s discovery, the largest known coin hoard from the early medieval era (around 410 to 1066 C.E.) was a purse with 101 coins found at Crondall in Hampshire in 1828. Apparently, the so-called Crondall Hoard was either lost or hidden between 635 and 650. The majority of the coins were gold pieces known as thrymsas. The **thrymsa** was a gold coin minted in seventh-century Anglo-Saxon England. It originated as a copy of Merovingian tremisses and earlier Roman coins with a high gold content. Continued debasement between the 630s and the 650s reduced the gold content in newly minted coins such that after c. 655 the percentage of gold in a new coin was less than 35%. The thrymsa ceased to be minted after about 675 and was superseded by the silver sceat.



A separate hoard found in Staffordshire in 2009 constitutes the largest trove of precious metal from the period, but it contains no coins. The Norfolk coroner is conducting an inquest to determine if the hoard counts as treasure.

An anonymous individual found most of the West Norfolk coins in a single field between 2014 and 2020. Separately, a local police officer searching that same area with a metal detector discovered ten coins but did not report his find to authorities as required by law. Found guilty of deception, he was sentenced to 16 months in prison and dismissed from the police force in 2017.

The West Norfolk hoard is a remarkable find, which will provide a fascinating counterpart to Sutton Hoo at the other end of the kingdom of East Anglia.”. It underlines the value of metal-detected evidence in helping reconstruct the earliest history of England.

According to the statement, most of the coins are Frankish tremisses, a small gold coin minted in what is now France during the Late Antiquity period (around 284 to 700 C.E.). The cache also contains nine gold solidi, a larger coin from the Byzantine Empire worth about three tremisses.



In addition to the coins, the treasure hunter discovered a number of gold objects: a bracteate, or stamped pendant; a small bar; and two other fragments that probably belonged to larger pieces of jewellery. The presence of these items suggests that the coins’ onetime owner used them as bullion, valuing them for their weight in gold rather than their face value as currency.

Under the 1996 Treasure Act, finds made by the public are only designated as treasure if they’re more than 300 years old, made of gold or silver, or found alongside artifacts containing precious materials. Once declared treasure, artifacts become the property of the state and are turned over to authorities for display at national or local museums.

Last year, the United Kingdom’s government announced plans to revisit its narrow legal definition of treasure. Rare objects that fall outside of this definition are often sold to private collectors, preventing the public from viewing and studying national heritage items.

This significant find reflects the wealth and continental connections enjoyed by the early Kingdom of East Anglia. Study of the hoard and its findspot has the

potential to unlock our understanding of early trade and exchange systems and the importance of West Norfolk to East Anglia's ruling kings in the seventh century.

13th December - Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse



Lucy was a Christian girl who got caught up in the fierce and widespread Diocletian persecutions of 303-4. She refused to give up her Christian faith, and so was put to death. Her tomb can still be found in a Catacomb in Syracuse (Sicily), and there are early fourth-century inscriptions bearing her name (Euskia).

Lucy's full story has been lost in the mists of time, but a romantic legend of her martyrdom grew up after her death. According to the legend, Lucy was arrested while giving to the poor at the height of the persecution. Her own fiancé had betrayed her, telling the authorities about her faith. The judge ordered that she be raped in a brothel and then burned, but all attempts to inflict such punishment on her went amiss, because God protected her. At last, Lucy was killed by the sword.

Lucy's legend was written in the 5th century, and she was honoured in Rome from the 6th century. The name Lucy means 'light', and so in time she became the patron saint for those with eye diseases. Her feast day is close to the shortest day of the year, so it is celebrated in Sweden as a festival of light.

As the full details of Lucy's martyrdom will never be known, she can represent all the young women who have been willing to die for Christ, and whose full stories will also never be known to us.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree?

The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.



Brain teasers

1. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?
2. What makes this number unique: 8,549,176,320?
3. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?
4. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
5. Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

(Solutions on Page 20)



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*We don't sing carols no more...
you 'ave to listen to 'em off me iPod!*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ACROSS THE CARLFORD BENEFICE DECEMBER 2021



Saturday December 18th

Boulge	3.00pm	Carol Service
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Sunday December 19th Advent 4

Grundisburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion
Swilland	11.00am	Carol Service
Grundisburgh	11.00am	Morning Worship
Culpho	3.00pm	Carol Service
Hasketon	3.00pm	Crib Service
Ashbocking	4.00pm	Carol Service
Otley (Village Hall)	5.00pm	Carol Service
Grundisburgh (The Green)	5.30pm	Carol Service on The Green

Wednesday December 22nd

Culpho	9.30am	Holy Communion
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Friday December 24th Christmas Eve

Hasketon	3.00pm	Carol Service
Burgh	3.00pm	Carol Service
Otley (Warrens Farm)	4.30pm	<i>seating limited – please contact sally@martinandsally.co.uk</i> Nativity Service
Grundisburgh	4.30pm	Crib Service
Clopton	6.00pm	Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies <i>seating limited - please contact cloptionschurrs@gmail.com</i>
Grundisburgh	11.45pm	Midnight Communion

Saturday December 25th Christmas Day

Otley	9.30am	Family Service followed by Holy Communion
Swilland	9.30am	Holy Communion
Ashbocking	10.30am	Holy Communion
Boulge	11.00am	Holy Communion

Sunday December 26th Boxing Day/St Stephen

Grundisburgh	9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
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We hope that many of you will want to join us for these Christmas celebration services. At services in church, to protect those who are vulnerable and reduce the spread of Covid 19, please be prepared to wear a mask. If you feel at all unwell, we would ask you to join us for a live streamed service from the comfort of your home. All details on the church website: <https://www.carlfordchurches.org/>

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING



On the whole, we are having a beautiful autumn and the day of our Remembrance service was one of those sunny days when the trees glowed with autumn colour. The service was well attended, and Marcus Peel played for us, managing the last post via his keyboard gadgetry. We did have to rely on the heating despite it being a bright sunny day which meant

that with heaters under alternate rows we had no need for social distancing. Thanks to all who helped prepare the church to respect and honour our war heroes.

Services for December start with a family service on December the 12th at 11am, which is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, and will be led by Rev Katrina Dykes and husband Phil. You are all most welcome to come to this service as we start the run up to Christmas.

The next service is the Carol Service on 19th December at 4pm. The church will be decorated for Christmas and lit by candlelight. The heaters will be on!

We are in the process of arranging this service, but it is our hope that we can have some volunteers among our younger members to dress up. We need shepherds, three kings, an Inn Keeper, Mary and Joseph, and a volunteer doll for baby Jesus. Also, a few Angels please! If we don't get any takers, then adults will have to stand in!

This is always a lovely service so please join us to celebrate the Nativity.

We would be grateful for volunteers again! Do come along on Saturday morning to help decorate and clean the church. Please bring any greenery you may have in your surroundings, i.e., Holly or Ivy.

Although I may have some costume accessories such as cloaks for kings and head gear for shepherds, I would appreciate it if you could source as much as possible yourselves. It does not have to be elaborate, simple will do.

Please could you let me know if you have any volunteers in the family and what they might come as. We don't want all angels and no shepherds. Please drop me a quick message either on Ashbocking WhatsApp or a text. Feel free to give me a ring if you can help in any way.



There will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Please bring a torch as lighting is poor outside the church.

Our Christmas Morning service is at 10:30 (please note, this is earlier than usual to allow you to get on with your day at home) It is a Family Communion service, led by Phil Dykes and we look forward to welcoming you all on this special morning.

Other dates for the diary are Knit and Stitch on 6th December, 10am at Hawthorns. Coffee/tea and seasonal refreshments will be available. New members always welcome. January's meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month, on the 10th January at 10am, usual place.

Coffee mornings are on Friday 3rd December at 10:30 at Hawthorns, The Green, and this will also have seasonal fare with our coffee.

January's coffee morning is on Friday 7th January at 10:30.

Please note that books are now available in the church to borrow or buy. We just ask for a donation in the box by the door. You can also leave any books, preferably novels, in the church if you finished with them and don't mind donating them. We are being very careful with them this time and have them under cover to prevent them becoming soiled, so please make sure this is replaced afterwards. Alternatively, you can bring books to coffee mornings.



All at Ashbocking Church wish you and your families a Very Happy and Healthy Christmas and we Pray for a Peaceful and Hopeful New year.

Linda Pollard, 07887537152

CLOPTON



Over fifty people attended the Remembrance Day service held at the 493rd Bombardment Group Memorial. The short Act of Remembrance was led by Mark Cresswell. He read the names of the fifteen men of Clopton who died in WW1 and asked us to remember the one hundred and forty six men of the

Bomb Group, stationed at Debach, who lost their lives in WW11. Richard Taylor laid a wreath for the Bomb Group and Pete Raffell laid one on behalf of the Parish Council.

We hope to have our annual Candlelight Christmas Carol Service on Christmas Eve at six o'clock. To avoid too many people sharing a small space we shall be serving the mulled wine and mince pies outside under a gazebo. Please look out for any further notices in case there are changes in Covid rules nearer the date.

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Doris Main

OTLEY



Bonfire night was a great success and despite a couple of technical hiccups, there was 15 to 20mins of fireworks. Half hand-firing and half set to music which the crowd loved.

The event was started by the winner of “Guess how many popcorn kernels in the Tub”, which was Abigail, who pressed the Big Red Button!

Hot dogs, homemade soup and hot drinks were all served by Vanessa Ling and her team of helpers and quickly sold out! Christine Gilbert sold Rainbow Wands which the children enjoyed .

Over five hundred people attended and £900 was raised for the village hall. The organiser, Michael Bullock, was ably assisted by Martin Osborne, Mark Robinson and Steve Evans.

Ruthie Bullock



Remembrance Day Service

There was an especially good attendance by the village for this occasion. Archdeacon Sally Gaze arranged and led the service.

The wreaths were laid by: The Parish Council, St Marys Church, The Baptist Chapel, The Scouts, Cubs & Beavers and The Gardening Club.

The Kohima Epitaph and the Exhortation were read by Geoff Partridge.

A member of the Baptist Chapel delivered the reading and two of the Scouts recited a moving poem called “A Poem for Remembrance Day” about a poppy seller.

Michael Bullock arranged the Music and Sound for the service.

We would like to thank all that participated in marking this memorable and important event.



The Village Hall is now busy with bookings for parties and regular activities :

Monday evenings once a month is Gardening club, **Tuesday** and **Thursday** mornings is Pilates with Lara Pepper 9.15am & 10.30am

Alternate **Tuesday** afternoons is the Craft club, **Wednesday** morning is Tap Dancing and the “Horn Factory” rehearse in the evening. **Thursday** evening is the Suffolk Singers and on **Saturday** afternoons Junior Tops are rehearsing for “Shrek the Musical.” Please contact **Vanessa Ling** on **01473 890787** or email her at vanessa@papermaze.co.uk for more information.

On the 13th of November, many volunteers turned out to help clean and spruce up the play area. All the old bark was dug out and new rubber bark was put down. All the equipment was washed and scrubbed clean. The Community Council were very pleased to have so many people turn up to help and would like to thank them all.

On **Sunday 5th December** Witnesham School will be holding a “Christmas Fayre” at Otley Village Hall, 10am to 4pm, entry is £1.

Otley Coffee morning commences on Thursday the 13th January 10.00am at Church House and is hosted by Rose Rogerson

Christmas Services:

Advent Sunday 5 Dec. 9.30 am - Family service.

Sunday 19 Dec. 5 pm - Readings and Carols outside **Otley village hall.**

Christmas Eve Fri. 24 Dec. 4.30 pm - Nativity at **Warrens Farm.**

Christmas Day Sat. 25 Dec. 9.30 am - Family service followed by short Holy Communion.

Sunday 2 Jan. 9.30 am - Benefice Holy Communion.

“Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

Angela Treloar



“You talk about your pleasures to your acquaintances; you talk about your troubles to your friends.”

Fr Andrew SDC

Otley Crafting Group

It doesn't seem possible that its six months since a little seed of an idea back in the summer where we were thinking about gathering with friends and sharing crafting ideas has now grown into regular meetings with us enjoying various crafts. So far, we have been knitting, crocheting, Tunisian crocheting, machine sewing and painting. We learn from and inspire each other.

We have been very fortunate to access some funding from Councillor Elaine Bryce's Locality Budget. This funding is specifically for new groups that bring people together and benefit the community. We aim to use this funding to source materials, invite speakers and go towards hall costs.

Many of us have been knitting baby clothes for family, toys and blankets, but we hope to make blankets and baby clothes for various charities.



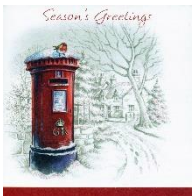
Here is our first blanket just completed for a charity called 'Knit for Peace' which is a charity which matches knitters with good causes.

We meet on the first and third Tuesday in the month from 2pm to 4pm at Otley Village Hall.

We look forward to welcoming new members and if you have any questions,

please feel free to call either **Mary Hunt (07770 395716)** or **Caroline Manning (07932 173289)**

CHRISTMAS POST



For the last few years, a group of Otley ladies have delivered Christmas cards to the residents in Otley village.

We have supported the Royal British Legion and East Anglian Air Ambulance and FIND. This year, because the village has

experienced first-hand the terrible consequence of mental illness, we have chosen to support **MIND**.

“Every year, one in four of us will experience a mental health problem. But hundreds of thousands of people are still struggling.

MIND provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. They campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.”

They **believe no one should have to face a mental health problem alone**. They listen, give you support and advice, and fight your corner.

Otley Village stores has kindly said we can put our post box in the shop again this year and it will be available from December 1st – 12th. Delivery will be during the following week.

The price is 25p/card **minimum**. (please put the correct money in the box with your cards.)

Your cards will be delivered by foot so ***complete addresses*** WITHIN Otley village only please.

Thank you for your support.

Jayne, Issy, Terry, Sam & Jude

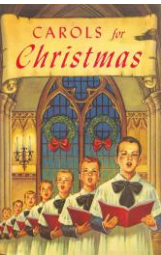
SWILLAND

Sadly Dorothy Smallridge, Jackie William’s mother, has died after a long illness. She had lived with Brian and Jackie for several years and was able to remain there due to their devoted care of her. We send Brian and Jackie our love and sympathy.

On a happier note, a few days after Dorothy died, Brian and Jackie’s eldest daughter, Lydia and her husband Ed welcomed their first child, Elliot, into the world. We send them our congratulations.



Thank you all for helping with our churchyard tidy session. Particular thanks to Stephen and Robert Stennett for cutting the hedge and overhanging branches and taking away all the trimmings. Afterwards Margo took away all the vases and washed them and Pete polished our copper and brass flower containers using his buffing machine. I’ve never seen them looking so good. Thank you both.



Our Carol Service will be on 19th December at 11 a.m. Do come and join us.

It's seems a bit premature, but I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and hopefully a non-lockdown New Year.

Ann Kent

Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 12

1. An hourglass—It has thousands of grains of sand.
2. It has each number, zero through nine, listed in alphabetical order.
3. Their surname
4. Short
5. Nine—two parents, six sons, and one daughter.



“The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.”

Charles Lamb

“Drive carefully this Christmas. It’s not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.”

Anon

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

As I said in my last article there was only time to drill wheat in the autumn when using horses due to both the time available before the winter weather arrived and the speed of the operation. It was a practice at that time to have one or more fields in what was called in Suffolk ‘a Summer Land’ or ‘long fallow’ which meant leaving the land unploughed after the previous year’s harvest.



There were several advantages in doing this, as during the winter hedges could be coppiced and any land drainage carried out. In the spring the land would be deep cultivated to further improve drainage and to kill weeds such as couch grass. This was achieved when the roots were dried out in the large clods left by the cultivator and this killed off the couch grass rhizomes. This was the only method of killing off this type of weed as there was no chemicals available at that time. The clods were gradually broken down during the summer when there was sufficient rain to soften them.

In July, the field would have farmyard manure spread on and this was then ploughed in ready for early drilling of wheat after harvest, this would also be of help with the autumn cultivations. There were some disadvantages with fallows, as the Crane Fly commonly known as Daddy Long Legs, lay their eggs on bare land in July. When the eggs hatched out the grubs would enter the wheat stems, this was known as the ‘wheat bulb fly’ and would kill the plant and it had a devastating effect on the crop yield. Wheat needs consolidated land to grow well and it could be difficult to get this in a dry time as the land rolls pulled by horses were not as heavy as they are today.



In the past, wheat varieties had much longer stems which had an advantage in that there was plenty of straw for bedding but did not give the yields that we now get. If the winter was mild, early drilled wheat could grow to excess and become what was known as winter proud. If this occurred, the field would often be grazed with sheep, the wheat would then be tilled in the spring. Long straw varieties were also subject to high winds and rain as they could lodge or be flattened, particularly

when the ears were heavy with grain. This made it difficult to harvest as well as reducing yield, as the ears of lodged wheat would only produce smaller grains. These are some of the problems that occurred in the horse age that we don't get today.

An American in Otley: When Families Came to Visit

After brief, expensive, long distance telephone calls back to the states, we enjoyed seeing our families in the flesh! Pete and I were fortunate to entertain both sets of parents twice for several weeks at a time. While we would usually plan a trip north or west for a week, the first week would be devoted to day trips around Suffolk. Both Louisa and Bob Miner and my parents, Bill and Mary Virginia Hyde, loved the UK, had visited before, and were very knowledgeable about English history. Like many, however, Suffolk was a part of England about which they knew little.

After a day recovering from jet lag and the rigors of the drive up from London, I would usually encourage a walk around down to the Village Store, passing by the village school and hall. For lunch we headed up to the Cretingham Bell. On the



way, I would be sure to point out Enid Richardson's cottage and that of Tom Whitehead's. I explained the subtle, philosophical differences between council housing and housing estates like Spring Park. A custom new to American guests was naming one's home as opposed to giving the unit a house number, the latter method being much more common in the States. On the way back I would drive slowly past Otley Hall and detour over to

Helmingham Hall and High House.

My goal in sightseeing jaunts was to highlight the rich history and ancient wealth that was evident in Suffolk. Because I was becoming enamoured with the fibre arts, it was natural that I was drawn to the villages inland. One of my favourite drives was from Otley to Lavenham. For visitors, this trip embodied what Americans often envisioned when they thought of England – timber frame houses, thatched roofs, picturesque rivers and brightly painted cottages. As we drove, our parents were frequently surprised by just how colourful the villages were. They

commented on the many pink houses they saw. The idea of pink paint on timber framed houses and plastered cottages seemed “unEnglish.” I explained about the available building materials in East Anglia in earlier years and the resulting choice often to use plaster. The surface of plaster needed to be protected with whitewash and it could be enhanced with colour. When we first arrived, I asked about the colouring agents for the pink whitewash and was told it was ox blood. Only later did I learn householders also mixed in elderberry fruit, damson plums or even sloe berries with the whitewash.



Looking at the map today I am not sure which back roads I took to reach Hadleigh but probably I went through Needham Market. From there I struck out toward Kersey. I always went there first because of its water splash and the variety of timber-framed houses. For a small village, Kersey represents the wealth of the wool trade and is the namesake for Kersey cloth, lighter in weight than broad cloth.

From Kersey my course led us to Chelsworth, also on the river Brent. Like Kersey, it is a beautiful village with an idyllic village green and a two-arched bridge that we admired. Our appreciation of Chelsworth began with lunch at the Peacock Inn. For “afters” we would stroll over to All Saints Church. My mother was drawn to an epitaph on the Calthrop Memorial which recalled the loss of Everard Hugh Dion Calthrop in World War I: “Let us remember the young and tall who passed before us once, then vanished in a mist, and gave us back our honour and our hope.”



Our ultimate destination on this day outing was Lavenham. What can I say except that the village speaks volumes about the civility and hard work of generations of generations of clothiers? Edward III encouraged investment in producing cloth and Lavenham became one of the wealthiest villages in England (and one of the most heavily taxed) through its production of woollen broadcloth. It was especially famous for the Lavenham Blew (sic) dye that coloured its cloth. That

broadcloth found its way to medieval Russia in the 1400s! Interestingly, the wool woven in Lavenham came from Lincolnshire sheep.

A visit to the National Trust's Lavenham Guildhall made real the clothmaking process and provided a nice shopping opportunity. It was important to visit St. Peter and St. Paul's Church to realize how some of the enormous wealth accumulated by Lavenham notables was invested. That church is reputed to be one of the finest of the wool churches and the finest example of the Late Perpendicular style of architecture

In another article I will highlight other Suffolk jaunts I loved, but I wanted to reminisce about this trip because it is the one I still see in my dreams and on my bedroom walls. Happy memories.

Mary Miner, Susiespinner36@msn.com



SMILE LINES

Camels

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."



Christmas Carols

One night Freda went carol singing. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man with a violin in his hand came to the door. Within half a minute, tears were streaming down his face. Touched, Freda sang every carol she knew - and some she didn't. The man continued to weep gently throughout her performance. "I understand," she said softly at last. "You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days."

"No, not exactly," he replied in a choked sort of voice. "I'm a musician!"

New bank

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.



Father Christmas enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a hole in your pocket.

If I waited until I had all
my ducks in a row, I'd
never get across the
street. Sometimes you
just have to gather up
what you've got and
make a run for it.

- Judge Lynn Toler
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Your cat's favourite Christmas songs

1. Up on the Mousetop
2. Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas
3. Joy to the Curled
4. I Saw Mommy Hiss at Santa Claus
5. The First Meow
6. Oh, Come All Ye Fishful
7. Silent Mice
8. Fluffy, the Snowman
9. Jingle Balls
10. Wreck the Halls

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Spot 10 differences





CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



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C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
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N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U
X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z
D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G
Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M
S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q
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