

## **Bethlehem Of Judea**

A little child,  
A shining star.  
A stable rude,  
The door ajar.  
Yet in that place,  
So crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all  
The World was born.

*Anon*



## **Weather October 2019**

There has certainly been a change this month as regards rainfall as we had 1.90 inches on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October which is the most that I have ever recorded in one day. From then on it has rained with variable amounts most days until the end of the month. October's rainfall was 3.20 inches with a total for the year so far of 16.90 inches.

*Russell Ling*

## **Christmas Eve**

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.



The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia,

where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12<sup>th</sup> Night (6<sup>th</sup> January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.



### **Otley & District Gardening Club**

Festive greetings to you all.

Well last months meeting went very well with Joe Sharman from Monksilver Nursery talking about snowdrops. Some of it I know went over my head as there was a lot of latin being spoken, and I only took French at school. But an enjoyable meeting nonetheless.

Next months meeting is the last of the year and we are having a gardening quiz with Matthew Tanton Brown. The last quiz we had 2 years ago was an absolute hoot, so this years quiz should be just as enjoyable!

We don't have a meeting in January or February, so please don't come along in those months as you'll be met with a cold dark hall. I'll let you all know the March date and topic nearer the time. So, from everyone at Otley and District Gardening Club, have a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

*The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard*

"To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult each year".

*E B White*



## OUR FASCINATING LANGUAGE

To **Rob Peter to Pay Paul**. This phrase means to take or borrow from one source to contribute to another. Unwittingly you often solve one problem but create another. Use of this expression can be traced back to December 17th. 1540 when the church of St. Peter in Westminster became a cathedral. Its elevated status only lasted ten years when the diocese of Westminster was placed back under the authority of St. Paul's Cathedral. St. Peter's became just a church again. To add insult to injury, much of the land and property of St. Peter's was then sold off to help fund repairs to St. Paul's. There was, understandably, public outcry at the robbing of St. Peter's to prop up St. Paul's. As a consequence the expression became popularised & is still in general use today.



## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### ASHBOCKING



❄ Here we are, it's December once more and another year almost over. I hope you are all prepared for your festivities whatever they may be.

Ashbocking Church is certainly busy getting ready for their festivities. Our Christmas Bazaar is uppermost in our minds, especially with the people who have been making and baking and preparing for the day on December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help we would appreciate a few more hands on deck, or just come along to help decorate the church on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

We are still receiving donations of items, books, bric-a-brac and Tombola prizes etc. up until the day. In the week prior to the bazaar the church will be locked due to the storage of equipment. Please contact me or John Pollard on 01473 890836 if you wish to donate anything or require items to be collected. Thank you

Please come and support us and enjoy buying a few items and trying your hand at the Tombola or Treasure Hunt, Guess the Weight of the Cake and enjoy our refreshments.

We are offering soup with a roll, filled rolls and cakes with tea, coffee or a soft drink. We open at 10am until 3:30pm, so plenty of time.

Coffee morning for December is at Janice Williamson's house, No. 10 Nelson Close, starting at 10:30am. Everyone is very welcome.

The January coffee morning is at Hawthorns, The Green, (at the end of Ashley Grange) on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Children, and visitors welcome too.

Knit and Stitch is on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and back again in January on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, all at Hawthorns.



Please come and join us, with or without a project to work on. We have made blankets for church and lots of knitted gifts for the bazaar and of course the very first thing we worked on was our knitted nativity last year. I am sure we will come up with other ideas for next year, but we always enjoy a chat and a few cups of coffee.

The evening Bible group finishes this year on December 11<sup>th</sup> and recommences in 2020 on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. New members are always welcome and if you require any information please ring John Pollard or me on the 01473 890836.

We are having to add January arrangements as there is no magazine in January.



**Please note the following information regarding the church services.**

The Carol service at Ashbocking will be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm. Please join us for a most enjoyable candlelit service. Please dress warmly and if so inspired, you are invited to come in a costume of the nativity. Children especially have enjoyed this in the past.

We are putting on a scratch choir again this year, so if you enjoy singing you are welcome to join in. Please watch out for information as any practice time will be on the village WhatsApp. This is usually half an hour or so before the service. We are hoping for a new song this year so a little practise would be advisable!! You are also invited to stay afterwards for some mulled wine and mince pies.

Our Christmas day communion service is back to original time of 11am.

We are all well aware that our church is often very cold, we have therefore decided to move the services in January and February to somewhere much warmer, namely, Hawthorns, The Green, Ashbocking. These will be 12th January at 11am and 9th February, also at 11am. You are all welcome to come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a comfy chair.

I hope this arrangement is acceptable to you all and sorry for anyone who isn't keen.

I am sure you will give me some feedback afterwards, which of course is valuable for future initiatives.

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and every good wish for 2020.

*Linda Pollard*

### **CLOPTON**

It was a lovely sunny morning for our Remembrance Service led by Jane Woods at the 493rd Bombardment Group memorial. Wreaths were laid by Richard Taylor for the 493rd men lost in WW 2 and by Pete Raffell for villagers who died in WW1.

The December Hobbies Morning is on Wednesday 4th December from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.



On Wednesday 18th December we will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning. This is always a lovely event so please come and join us.

Our Candlelight Carol Service is on Christmas Eve starting at 6pm. Come and spend an hour singing carols by candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Doris Main*

### **OTLEY**

On a beautiful Sunday morning on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, we gathered at the War Memorial to commemorate the Armistice. The village organisations were well

represented by the Scouts, Beavers and Cubs, Otley School, the Parish Council, the Friendship Club, the Gardening Club, the Bowls Club and the Church, who laid their wreaths alongside the relatives of James Sawyer who was one of the fallen. Clare led the service with Anthony Ling reading the Roll of Honour and Geoff Partridge reading the Kohima Epitaph. Stanley, Issy, Grace and Sophie from Otley school laid poppy crosses as the names of the fallen were called. It was a moving occasion and a fitting tribute to the forty men from Otley who gave their lives.

Saturday, the proposed evening of the Fireworks display, was extremely wet and windy... but Wednesday was the perfect night! We had a fabulous firework display, organised by Mike Bullock. The homemade soup and hot dogs went



down very well, and we had a really good turnout of people. Unfortunately, our competition to start the fireworks had only one entry (many people's pumpkins had 'expired' by then) but the winner, Leia from Otley School, was delighted to press the big red button and start the display! *(report by Vanessa Ling)*

As I write this report, we are getting ready for Advent and it would be wonderful to see you at our Christmas Services:

The **Carol Service** is on Saturday the **21<sup>st</sup> December** at 6.30pm and will be led by Clare. The candle lit church will be beautifully decorated with the Christmas tree, festive flower arrangements and nativity scenes. There will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service.

On **Christmas Eve** the very popular **Nativity play** will be held at Warrens Farm Barn, Monewden IP6 9PE. This will start at 4.30 p.m. and will have the sheep and donkeys joining in. There will be mulled wine and mince pies upon arrival. Everyone is welcome to dress up and take part. Children can come dressed as Kings, Shepherds or Angels and if you don't have a costume there will be a limited supply of spares at the barn.



The **Christmas Day** service will be a 9.30am **Family Communion**. We extend a warm welcome to Archdeacon Sally Gaze and the Reverend Charlotte Cook who are taking the service. Sally and her family have recently moved to Otley and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

## **Burns Night/Dinner Dance**

Throughout 2019 several members of our community have received and are continuing to receive treatment from Ipswich Hospital, for a variety of conditions. In order to offer our support we will be holding a **Burns Night Dinner/Dance** in the barn at Warrens Farm, Otley, on **Saturday 25 January**, in aid of the "Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity". All money raised will go directly to the Ipswich facilities and resources that are helping the people of Otley and the surrounding area. Tickets are £15.00 and if you would like to reserve your place or require any further information please contact Alyson on tel: 01473 737674, mobile: 07767775186 or email: email: [alysonchilvers@btinternet.com](mailto:alysonchilvers@btinternet.com)



## **St. Mary's Quiz Night 2020**

You may have noticed that there is no Church Christmas Draw this year. For various reasons it was decided to give it a miss. This will reduce funds raised for the church and so we will be working towards a very successful 2020 Quiz Night.

The date has been set - **Saturday 28th March** - and Julie has lots of time to prepare more entertaining rounds of questions! Please reserve this date in your diary and look out for further details in the New Year.

**Please note:** The next Coffee Morning will be held on **February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020** at the home of Brian & Karin Upson, 16 Spring Park, who will be very pleased to see you.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

*Angela Treloar*

## **Village Diary for December**

**Dec 19<sup>th</sup>** Community Christmas Lunch at The White Hart

**Dec 19<sup>th</sup>** Friendship Club - Christmas Tea Party Village Hall

**Church Cleaning:** Karin & Brian Upson/Kate Watson

**Church Flowers:** Christmas everyone

## **Dates for 2020**

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** Burns Night Dinner/Dance, Warrens Farm

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup>** Otley Coffee Morning (as above)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** Quiz Night in the village hall.

## SWILLAND

### **Christmas Draw - 7th December**

Tickets are still available. Please contact me if you would like some. Gifts towards the prize list will be much appreciated. Please return all counterfoils, money, and any unsold tickets as soon as possible. The draw will take place in Witnesham Village Hall at 1 p.m. A light lunch of homemade soup, filled rolls, mince pies and tea or coffee will be available from 12 noon. There will be a cake etc stall, book stall and gift stall. Do come and join us.

**Carol Service** - Sunday 15th December at 11 a.m.

**Carol Singing** round the village - Friday 20th December starting at 5.30p.m. with refreshments at Gina Wilden's house, 7 High Road (the last house on the right before the Water Tower), finishing in the Moon and Mushroom. Do come and swell the numbers.



**Christmas Day Service** - Family Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Working Party - this was held on 9th November- thank you to all who worked in the Churchyard and inside polishing, sweeping and dusting. Thank you also to John Lord for mowing the grass and strimming throughout the growing season.

A Service of Remembrance was held at the Memorial on 10th November remembering especially those young men of Swilland who lost their lives in both World Wars.

May I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

*Ann Kent*

### **Flower Rota:**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>1st to 8th Dec.</b>   | Advent - greenery only - Jackie Williams |
| <b>15th Dec.</b>         | Decorate for Christmas                   |
| <b>22nd to 29th Dec.</b> | Ann Kent                                 |
| <b>5th to 12th Jan.</b>  | Margo Barker                             |
| <b>19th to 26th Jan.</b> | Gill Reidy                               |



## Coffee mornings:

7<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Draw at Witnesham Village Hall

4<sup>th</sup> Jan Gina Wilden's – 7 High Road, Swiland

## RUSSELL LING REPORTS

October was the month when the winter wheat and barley was drilled. Before the drill was invented in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the seed had to be sown by hand and then harrowed in. The invention of the drill was a huge improvement as not only did the seed coulters put the grain in at a depth which reduced the loss to birds but it meant that weeds could be hoed out between the rows with a horse hoe in the spring. The Smyth drill which was made in Peasenhall was the most popular one used. This drill had a box at the top for the seed with adjustable holes in the base, this allowed the contents to reach individual containers underneath. In order to regulate the correct seed rate to the coulters there was a seed barrel the width of the machine which had cups round the top edge of each disc these lifted the seed from the container and dropped it down a tubular metal chute to the coulters. The Smyth drill had Suffolk coulters which made a furrow in the soil behind which the seed dropped. The coulters were on the end of a long arm which allowed them to move up or down according to the level of the soil, they could also be moved laterally to change the width of the rows. The drill had a large wooden wheel each end which had a sprocket round the hub to drive the mechanism which could be lifted off by a lever at the end of the row to put it out of gear. In order to change the seed rate different size sprockets could be fitted between the drive wheel and the seed barrel. The seed barrel could also be changed to small or large cups depending on the size of the seed being sown. A frame in the front of the drill had two smaller wheels which pivoted at the centre allowed for turning at the end of the row. Two men were required to operate the drill one to control the horses and to steer the drill and the other to put the mechanism in and out of work and to check that there were no blocked coulters. Depending on the width of the drill it would require two or three horses to pull it.



*Russell Ling*

*"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give"*

*Duane Hulse*

## News from Otley Primary School



The Governing Body is very pleased to have appointed Mrs Michaela Harris as the new permanent Executive Headteacher from January 2020 across the Otley and Winesham Federation.

Mrs Laflin will continue to act as Interim Headteacher for the remainder of the Autumn term and we thank her for her excellent leadership since May. Mrs Harris brings with her experience of senior management from within Suffolk and beyond, gaining valuable experience in several different environments. We are very much looking forward to working with her.

Also, from January 2020, the Head of School, Mrs Baker-Daniels, will be starting her maternity leave. We wish her and her husband all the best and good luck over the coming months. Mr Sean Peace has been employed to cover the maternity leave period and he also brings a lot of experience with him.

The School has continued with its busy schedule of activities as usual. Class 3 came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 14 schools, which included 2 High Schools, at the annual Crumble Bot computer programming challenge hosted by BT at Adastral Park. Class 1 had an enjoyable morning with Kimmy's Zoo and really enjoyed touching and holding rainforest animals including snakes and giant snails! All children in Years 3-6 participated in a creative dance workshop morning led by the River Deben Trust based on the flow of the river. Other activities have included a visit to Farlingaye High School to a science workshop on the subject of electricity as well as a very well supported Halloween disco run by the PTA.

With Christmas just around the corner children and staff are preparing for the very popular Christmas fayre on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 11am to 1pm; all welcome. The School is busy practising for the Christmas Service in the Church on the 17<sup>th</sup> December and lastly Class 2 and 3 are looking forward to the Panto at the Wolsey on the 16<sup>th</sup> December or a theatre trip for Class 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone at Otley Primary School wishes you a happy and enjoyable Christmas.

*Ian Liddell, Chair of Governors*



## Why Go To Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!  
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.  
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !**

**B. I. B L. E.** simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

When you are about to forward this to others, the devil will discourage you.

So go on! Forward this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.

*Think not on what you lack as much as on what you have.*

*Greek proverb*



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### The Christmas Caterpillar



Sometimes, upon a Christmas day  
I wonder if there's any way  
That Christmas might be quite a treat  
For those who have a few more feet!

I really love my Christmas socks  
That fill, each year, my Christmas box  
O Santa, festive stocking filler,  
I wish I were a caterpillar!

*By Nigel Beeton*



Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water



Q: Why are Christmas Trees like bad knitters?

A: They both drop needles

Q: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas

A: A Mince Spy



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*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter...”*

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

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