



## **A Treasured Heart**

A pearl beyond all human measure  
Your heart is such a golden treasure  
    Too valuable to tell!  
Through times of toil and of leisure  
    Times of sorrow and of pleasure  
    I shall guard it well!

Love and trust, once they are woken  
Are more than just a heart-shaped token  
    This gift from God above  
    Not a treasure to be broken  
By careless deeds or phrases spoken  
    This precious gift of love!

Love is patient, love is kind  
Love leaves selfishness behind  
    Forgiving from the start  
    Truthful, trusting, never blind  
Such are the beauties I can find  
    If I just guard your heart!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## **Weather December 2019**

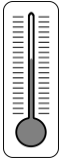
At the end of December I always give a resume of the year's weather and 2019 has been one of extremes. January was dry and mild and this continued into February which had one of the highest recorded temperature for that month.

March was an unsettled with gale force winds on some days.

A change came in April with some cold weather to start with but in the middle of the month it reached 23 degrees.

The beginning of May brought some much needed rain which gave a rapid growth to hedges and plants. The total rainfall for the year so far was only 6.60 inches.

It was all change for June with 3.55 inches of rainfall, as I said at the time “A dripping June puts things in tune”. There is no doubt that the rainfall in June produced a very high yield of cereal at harvest time.



In July we had two short heatwaves one of which broke the records for temperature in the UK but there was spells of heavy rain in between.

August had some unsettled weather at the beginning with another heatwave at the end.

September was dry and it wasn't until the 23<sup>rd</sup> before it rained again and the wet weather continued right through October, November and December with some severe flooding in some places. During these last three months we had half the annual rainfall for the year 12.20 inches. The total for the year was 24.20 inches which is about the average that we get in Otley.

*Russell Ling*

## **OUR FASCINATING LANGUAGE**

EAVESDROPPERS are people who deliberately try to hear other folk's conversations without being detected. Centuries ago houses in England had no gutters or drain pipes. Instead the roofs extended far beyond the walls of the house to enable rain water to drip to the ground away from the building. This area between the dripping rain and the house walls was originally known as the 'eavesdrip' but eventually became called the 'eavesdrop'. The eavesdrop obviously served as a good shelter for passing pedestrians who, in their efforts to stand as far away from the rain as possible, would stand very close to the walls of the building. Standing this close they could overhear conversations going on inside the house, and folks who gained information in this way became known as 'eavesdroppers'.



## Is it legal Part 1.

1. To shoot pheasants in the churchyard on Christmas Day? According to the Game Act 1831, 'No game may be killed or taken in any county on Sunday or Christmas Day'. 'Game' for the purposes of this section means pheasant, partridge, red grouse, black grouse and hare. So no shooting except after the midweek service.



2. To arrange a men-only curry club for the church? There is a complicated answer this one. According to the Equality Act there is an exception to the law which 'allows an organisation...to impose restrictions on membership of the organisation; participation in its activities; ... However, any restriction can only be imposed by reference to a person's religion or belief or sexual orientation. In relation to religion or belief, the exception can only apply where a restriction is necessary to comply with the purpose of the organisation or to avoid causing offence to members of the religion or belief whom the organisation represents.' It is difficult to see how a men-only curry would fit this; however, men do not normally join anything to do with church – so do not worry



3. To put up a "No dogs" sign in the graveyard? You can – but it is unlikely to have much effect. Councils can use a public spaces protection order (PSPO) to place restrictions on a public area, such as a park. Restrictions can apply to all dog owners. However, a graveyard may not be a public area.

4. To sell raffle tickets in church for the village fete? If you are planning to sell tickets to the public prior to the event and the proceeds (from ticket sales) for a single draw are not anticipated to exceed £20,000 then you must register with your local authority as a 'small society lottery'.

5. To cut the church hedge in April? Under s.1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence intentionally to damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it is being built or in use. That includes consciously using a hedge trimmer when there is a bird's nest in your hedge and, in the process of doing so, causing the nest to be damaged or destroyed. For this reason, bird conservation organisations such as the RSPB recommend that you do not use hedge trimmers between March and August.

## Otley & District Gardening Club

“Happy New Year to you all”

It’s been the gardening club’s quiet time over Christmas and new year, but now, things are starting to sprout in the garden and it’s feeling much more like spring. Maybe not in temperature but it’s getting there!

We don’t have meetings for January and February, but we do have a club lunch. It’s always held at The White Hart in Otley and they do a great job of accommodating us on a Monday lunchtime, when they’re usually closed. This year it’s taking place on Monday 3rd February and the menu looks stunning, with things like Vodka Martini Prawn Cocktail for starters and Game Casserole for main course. Vegetarians are catered for as are people with dietary requirements. It should be a great shindig. If you’re already a member and want to come along, please get in touch with me via email [phil@florabundant.co.uk](mailto:phil@florabundant.co.uk) or call me on 07880627984.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2nd March at 19:30 at Otley Village Hall and the subject is “Seasonal Containers” by Andrew Babicz. He’s a nurseryman and broadcaster so he shouldn’t have a problem delivering his talk to our 50 odd members. If you’re interested in coming along, please just arrive on the night and we’ll happily take you through our evenings schedule. Non-members are charged just £4.00 a meeting, a great price for a great evening. If you’re interested in joining, our membership is only £10.00 for the year and £1.50 per meeting entrance fee. We have monthly talks March - July and then September - December with our yearly lunch (mentioned above) and two garden trips per year as well. If you’d like any information about our club, please get in touch. [phil@florabundant.co.uk](mailto:phil@florabundant.co.uk)



I look forward to seeing all of our member and hopefully some new faces at our next meeting.

*The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard*

*The Mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it's not open.*



## 14 February - The Very First Valentine Card: A Legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.



A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

### NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

#### ASHBOCKING

Happy New Year to one and all. January is flying by already and the events around Christmas seem a while ago now. The Christmas Bazaar held in the church at the beginning of December was enjoyed by all but slightly quieter than in previous years. However, we did make £737 which was not far short of last time. I must say a huge thank you to everyone, especially those of neighbouring villages for their support in donating items to sell, and for visiting us on the day. A massive thank you too, to the team who helped on the day and with set up. The money raised will be going towards the improvements planned for the church, to provide better facilities for its use.



Books, and some DVD's, that were left are now in the porch for anyone to go and buy. They will be there for a time and then they will be taken to the charity shops. Don't miss out, there are still some lovely books available.

The Carol Service was well attended, and we had our traditional scratch choir who introduced a new song. The service was enjoyed by all, as was the mulled wine and minced pies afterwards.

There was a lot of sickness in many households over the Christmas period and we hope everyone is feeling much better.

The January service was a first for Ashbocking as we decided to beat the cold and have house church. Nineteen people attended and we all enjoyed the family service led by Clare. Singing was exceptionally good, sung a cappella and of course Clare's lovely voice helped to keep us in tune.



The February Communion service will also be held at Hawthorns on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. All welcome. Coffee will be available afterwards.

The Signpost subs, which remain at £8.50, are now due and will be collected shortly. Please let us know if there is anyone you know who would like to have the magazine. I think you will agree that it is good value for money and a wonderful way of knowing what is going on within the benefice.

Our Bible group continues on 12<sup>th</sup> of February at 7:30pm, meeting at Hawthorns. We are starting with an introduction to Matthew. Everyone is welcome to come and join the group to enjoy exploring the bible, with lively discussion and refreshments.

Knit and Stitch is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00am, at Hawthorns. All welcome to come and join a relaxed group sharing ideas for knitting and sewing as well as other crafts. If you are not in the mood to be creative, then join us for chat and refreshments.



The next coffee morning is at Sarah Wilson's house, Eastbrook House, The Green, on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Once again everyone is welcome to join us.

There is no organised cleaning in the church until March and no flowers, especially during Lent, but a big thank you goes to all who have contributed to the cleaning and decorating of the church over the last year. It is much appreciated by all who use the church.

*Linda Pollard*

## CLOPTON

Clopton church was full for the annual Carols by Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. It was great to hear the bells ringing as people walked up to the church past the candle lanterns lining the path. The church looked beautiful in the candlelight, thank you to everyone who spent time decorating and to the Barham family for the lovely Christmas tree. The service was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

On January 5th Cecily Georgina Brooks and Oliver Jago Davis were baptised. We welcome them into the church family.



The February Hobbies morning will be on Wednesday 6th February from 10 until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very friendly and will make new people very welcome. Just come along and meet new friends.

The Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 19th February. Come along between 10am and noon and enjoy coffee and biscuits and a chat.

*Doris Main*

## OTLEY

We start the year by acknowledging the willing team of volunteers who contribute to keeping St Marys Church open, we very much appreciate all that they do. Thank you to our team of bell ringers who ring at services and weddings throughout the year and a special thanks to Helen for playing the organ. We are grateful to the Ellis family - Luke, Miles and dad Jonathan, who between them have taken on the task of clock keepers and do a fantastic job! Finally, a huge thanks to our group of flower arrangers for their wonderful floral displays throughout the year.



As we plan ahead, we look forward to meeting you at our services which take place on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month at 9.30am.

Although Christmas seems a long time ago, there was a good congregation at both the Carol service and on Christmas Day. We were able to donate £130 each to Age UK and the Children's Society. Alyson Chilvers reports on the Crib Service: "The barn at Warrens Farm was packed on Christmas Eve where we

joined to share the story of the Nativity. Baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, donkeys, sheep and goats all behaved impeccably and created a wonderful setting to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Unlike Herod, we didn't collect taxes but £321.99 was very kindly donated to support all those using the Woolverstone Cancer ward at Ipswich Hospital”.



It is with sadness that we report the news that Janet Wightman, who will be remembered by many, recently passed away after a short illness. We send our condolences to her husband John and her brother Jimmy.

The monthly **Village Coffee Mornings** take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

This month it will be at the home of Brian and Karin Upson, 16 Spring Park, on the 13<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00am, where you will be given a very warm welcome.

The **Friendship Club** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month in the Village Hall and has an interesting variety of topics on its agenda which will be available soon.

The **Community Lunch** at The White Hart pub takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Here you can enjoy a two course meal with pleasant company for £6.00. Telephone 01473 890312 to book your place.

The annual village **Quiz night** will take place in March in the village hall. The details are being finalised and will be published in March's publication.



These are all excellent places to meet friendly people and have a chat.

*Angela Treloar*

### **Village Diary for February**

**Feb 13th** Coffee Morning  
**Feb 20th** Friendship Club  
**Feb 27th** Community Lunch  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>** Quiz Night – Village Hall



## 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**

This raised £861.40, including the stalls and lunch, which was an excellent result. Thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets, gave prizes and helped with the lunch and stalls. We had over 40 prizes. The lunch was well attended.



### **Carol Service**

Thank you to Helen for playing the organ and to all the readers, especially Ollie and Scarlett. It's good to reduce our average age!

### **Carol Singing**

On a rather damp and cold night we sang outside most houses, finishing in the Moon and Mushroom. We raised £147.68 for FIND. Thank you to all who braved the weather.

### **Pub Church**

The service on 16<sup>th</sup> February will be in the Moon and Mushroom at 11 o'clock. Do come and join us and if you wish please bring a piece of poetry or prose you would like to share. Lunch will be available from 12.30 p.m. Please make your own arrangement with the pub if you would like to stay for lunch.



Thank you to everyone who has done the flowers during the year and to those who opened and shut the church. New rotas will be sent shortly.

May I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

*Ann Kent*

### **Flower Rota:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February.**

**16-23<sup>rd</sup> February.**

**1<sup>st</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Coffee morning:**

Gill Reidy

Jackie Williams

Lent – No flowers

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb** Ann Kent's – Red Court, Swilland

## RUSSELL LING REPORTS



I have been writing of my experiences of farming in the horse age and I have now completed a whole year on the arable side. This is only one section of farming at that time as the livestock was as important as the arable side since it provided the manure for the land, work for the labour force and extra income for the farmer. Prices could vary between profitability of the livestock and the arable side. There is an old saying which goes “Up horn down corn”, this means that if the price of corn is low livestock is more profitable due to the lower feed costs. It can also mean the opposite, so it was necessary to have both livestock and arable to even up the differences between the two. Even this was no guarantee that a profit could be made as it would also depend on the astuteness of the farmer as to when he sells his produce and buys replacements at the most opportune time.

*Russell Ling*

*Some cause happiness where they go; others,  
whenever they go*



### Otley White Hart Community Lunches for 2020

A very happy new year to you all and we are very pleased to say that the monthly Community Lunch has now been serving wholesome, home cooked food to the good folk and friends of Otley for coming up to four years. More than a good meal at an incredible price (£6 for two courses), over the years we have welcomed newcomers, seen romantic relationships blossom, said a sad farewell to some of our oldest friends and generally provided a friendly, warm environment for a chat and a catch up. Held on the fourth Thursday of every month, we do rely on a team of Volunteers who help with cooking, serving and washing up to make it all possible. And, of course, we need you all to come along as the more we have, the more we can do. So please, continue to support your village and your local pub, call us on 01473 890312 to book your place or offer your help.

## **Otley White Hart Community Lunches upcoming dates**

All of them Thursdays!

February 27

March 26

April 24

May 28

June 25

July 23

August 27

September 24

October 22

November 26

December 17 (a week early as the fourth Thursday is Christmas Eve)



### **SMILE LINES**

#### **Lot's wife**

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving,' he said, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

#### **Lost in translation**

Two American preachers were visiting in Germany and attended Sunday services. Since they couldn't speak German, they decided to do as the man sitting in front of them did.

A few minutes into the service the preacher from the pulpit said something and the man in front of them stood, and they stood also. The congregation burst into laughter. They then sat down when the man did.

At the end of the service, they met the pastor and found that he spoke English. They asked him why everyone laughed so much when they stood?

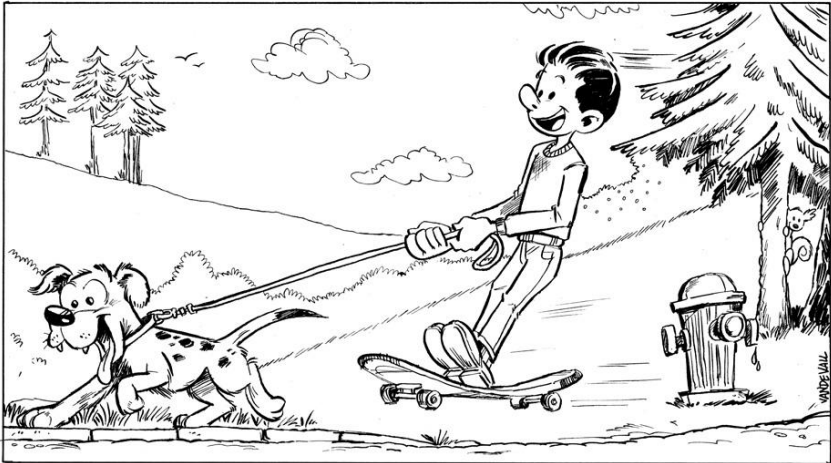
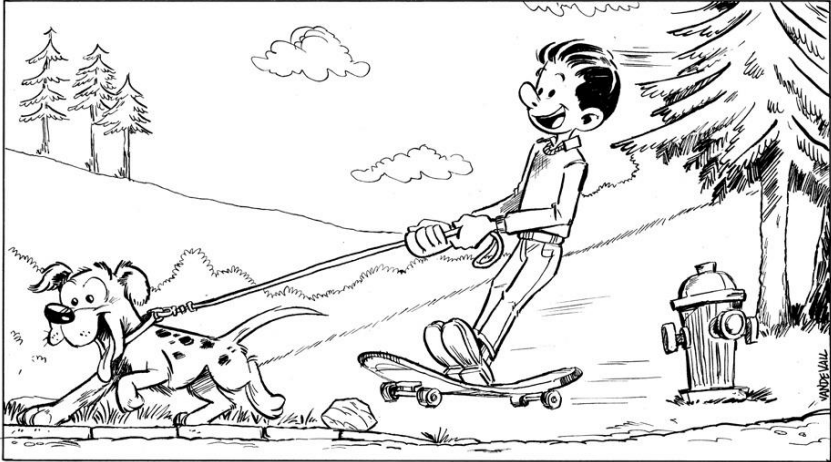
The pastor explained that he had announced that they would have a christening service that evening, and would the father of the child please rise!



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

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