

“OUR VICAR”



Once upon a time - every village had its own vicar... that was once upon a time.. now more commonly and not just in Suffolk, vicars serve a number of villages, in my case that's 8 - collectively known as the Carlford Group comprising of Otley, Clopton, Ashbocking, Swilland, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Burgh and Boulge. I have served these parishes for the last 4 -5 years, working as part of a ministry team. I enjoy visiting Otley School and Playgroup once a month to take assemblies and share stories, I try as much as I can to come to the monthly Coffee Mornings, held each month in Otley, Clopton, Swilland and Ashbocking, in addition to taking weddings, funerals, baptisms and Sunday services. I've enjoyed a session on Homelessness with FFY and helpers and look forward to their visit to Framlingham and sausages at The Rectory there, where I live. I live in Fram, because my husband is Rector there, but my office base is in Grundisburgh - in the Upper Room - opposite the Olde Forge Stores. If you need to get hold of me, the office number is 01473 735183 and my Email is "revclaresanders@tiscali.co.uk".

Rev'd Clare Sanders

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Autumn is upon us, the children are back to school and the evenings are drawing in. What a summer we have had and indeed what an autumn so far. The weather is still holding.

Ashbocking's produce show had wonderful weather and despite a difficult growing season the entries were as good as ever, some produce perhaps a little smaller than usual but generally the standard was high and there were the usual cups and certificates to be won. It was an idyllic day with the tea tent constantly busy selling teas and

cake. There were a good assortment of stalls and activities all run by members of the parish council and willing villagers. A lot of hard work by many paid off as the day drew to a close; then started the clear up which for some took several days taking equipment back to where it had come from. It was a good community effort with lots of support all round, particularly from David and Andrew Gaught whose front lawn was the venue. Thank you to all concerned for a lovely afternoon.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride was supported by Duncan and Yvette Bray who cycled for Ashbocking. We had the grand total of three visitors to Ashbocking church which is the same as last year. Thanks to Duncan and Yvette for their enthusiasm.

You may get this edition before the first of the month in which case you will see that we are hosting the Benefice Service this month, on the 30th September 11.00am. Everyone welcome. There will be refreshments after the service so please stay and enjoy a drink and cake with us.

Following the Benefice service is the Harvest Festival service on the 14th October at 11.00am. This is a family service and everyone is welcome to this too.



Our Knit and Stitch club resumes on Monday October the 1st at Hawthorns, the Green Ashbocking. This starts at 10.00am and is open to all who like making things or would like to learn how. It's an opportunity for a good chat too. We are hoping to make some cushions and knee blankets for the church to make winter services a little more comfortable!

Our house group, following the Pilgrim books of study, meet at Hawthorns on 10th and 24th October at 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to explore Christian faith and enjoy discussion with others on how it impacts daily life. No previous study required as this is an opportunity to ask the questions you have always wanted to ask about the Bible.

Coffee morning this month is on Friday 5th October at 10.30am also at Hawthorns which is found at the far end of Ashley Grange from The Green. Do come and join us for chat and refreshments.

For further information on any of the above please contact John or Linda on 01473 890836.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning Linda and John Pollard

CLOPTON

Clopton had nineteen cyclists visit during the Ride and Stride on Saturday 7th September. A big 'Thank you' to Julie and Ali Brand who cycled for Clopton.

On Wednesday 3rd October we shall be holding our monthly Hobbies Morning from 10.00am until noon in the Village Hall. Please come and join us and see what is happening.

The monthly Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 19th October from 10.00am until noon in the Village Hall. Jenny Vince will be hosting and we would love to see you.

There will be details next month of our Poppy Weekend. We do hope that lots of people will visit. All proceeds will be going to the Royal British Legion.



Doris Main

OTLEY

We shall be celebrating Harvest Festival on 7th October at 9.30am. The Scouts and Cubs will be on parade and taking part, and Clare's theme will be the Farming Year. We shall be decorating the church the day before and any produce from your gardens in this abundant autumn will be very welcome, to be distributed in Ipswich afterwards.

The Ride and Stride for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust took place on a cool, breezy day and with some rain. Sixteen cyclists visited our church and admired it, one family eating their picnic at the children's table! Riding for Otley were Peter - who took his bike to Barningham in west Suffolk where he was born, and cycled around nine villages, ending in Hepworth where his grandfather was the Rector many years ago - and James, who cycled from Henley to the Stonhams, Debenham and home via Monewden with a total of 17 churches. Well done to everyone. It is still not too late to sponsor them or make a donation. Half of their sponsorship money goes to our own church.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 11th October at Lavender House, Otley Green, the home of David and Tess Papworth. Tess will have the OCPT Christmas cards on sale there, or for you to order.



Many congratulations to Mel Soames and James Holmes on their marriage. It was a perfect September day for the wedding, they left by tractor and trailer, and their marriage brings together two well-known Otley families. We wish them a long and happy life together.

And a date for your diaries - the Christmas dinner/dance will be held on 8th December. More details later.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary for October:

- 4th Friendship Club - BBQ
- 18th Friendship Club - David Papworth: French Gardens
- 25th Community Lunch at The White Hart
- 25th-27th Nathan Cant & Friends - Songs From The Musicals

Other Dates for your diaries

- 3rd Nov. Fireworks Evening
- 8th Dec. Christmas Coffee Morning and Draw

Church Flowers: Harvest, everybody/ Linda Peek

Church Cleaning: Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

Otley & District Gardening Club

Summer officially gives way to Autumn at the start of September, and so signals the start of the new season's meetings of our Gardening Club. The evening of Wednesday 5th consequently saw more than 30 hardy perennials come along to listen to our excellent first speaker Graeme Proctor, Crown Nursery's peerless pruner, flawless fruiterer and all-round gardening guru. Graeme's easy-going style comes from years in the horticultural business developing his expert knowledge, and this combined with his very clear and understandable approach would encourage even the least confident gardener to seize the secateurs and start snipping!



Of course, as well as enjoying our interesting monthly talks, our meetings are just as much about catching-up on gardening and other important local matters over a cuppa and biscuit. This month we had plenty of stories to share about, amongst other things, this year's exceptional gardening weather. As well as that, with lots of members already renewing and some new ones joining, we're looking forward to a lively and enjoyable season of meetings, with Riverside Bulbs' Matthew Long up next on 1st October to clue us up on Autumn Bulbs for Spring Colour.

The Reluctant Gardener

Otley Primary School

We are enjoying the start of the Autumn term in our schools and everyone has settled in well. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year.

There have been many changes in the Federation over the recent holidays. I am your new Executive Headteacher, Richard Benstock. I have been teaching and leading in Suffolk schools for the past 20 years. My core aims for the schools are to ensure the children have a rewarding and enjoyable experience of primary education. Otley and Witnesham Primary schools are, and will continue to be, welcoming establishments where our priority is the care, support and guidance for all pupils and their families. Through a strong ethos of inclusion, I envisage all children gaining and maintaining a thirst for

knowledge, achieving to the best of their abilities, whilst feeling safe and secure. I know all the staff work extremely hard to ensure 'every child matters' and that they all have a fantastic and varied experience. My own belief is that wider curriculum opportunities such as outdoor learning, drama and music form an important part of school life, so we look forward to many events over the coming year which incorporate these experiences. I sincerely hope we will continue to be a hub for the community and extend a welcome to you all, as you support and attend our many up-coming events. I expect our schools to be community centres where families and their children are supported and cared for.

The building work at both schools is nearing completion and we are looking forward to celebrating the improvements, making use of the new facilities as we strive to enhance the experience for all our children. Otley and Witnesham Federated Primary Schools offer the very best educational opportunities for all. Our whole school community work together to ensure children have the necessary tools to begin their lives in a positive way; this will continue to be the case. I would like to publicly thank the governors, parents and staff in advance for all their hard work and encouragement. Together we will continue to make both our schools progress from strength to strength.

I am excited to be a part of your community now and will ensure the schools continue to support and encourage village events. I look forward to meeting you all soon as I begin my role in the life of the villages. ***Richard Benstock, Executive Headteacher***

New Home for Otley Under Fives

After months of being temporarily rehoused in the village hall whilst the new building was erected, Otley Under Fives now has a fantastic new home. Situated adjacent to the new school hall in the grounds of Otley Primary, the new purpose-built venue far exceeds the old one.



Otley Under Fives now has a spacious, bright and welcoming main play area which houses a wealth of fun and games including a wonderful dressing up corner (with full-length mirror for the littlies to admire their costumes); a comfortable reading area complete with cosy cushions under the boughs of the custom-made tree and a plethora of age-appropriate games and toys for the children to play with at their leisure. Of course, the children aren't just restricted to indoor fun and a new outdoor play area is also in the process of being made and will include a host of trikes and bikes as well as playhouses and mud kitchens.



The pre-schoolers have already given the new building the thumbs up and are loving the brand-new facilities!

Otley Under Fives is also home to the ever-successful after school club which runs before and after school three days a week to provide care and food for both pre-schoolers and children from Otley Primary. The club boasts a range of activities for older children- ranging from computer games to Lego- and provides a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment to enjoy with friends. They too are benefiting from the wonderful new setting and are really appreciating the extra space to play in.

If you have a child between the ages of 18 months and 5 years or are looking for before and after school provision for an older child, please don't hesitate to give us to call us on: 07850 401121 or email us at otleyunderfives@gmail.com.

Karen Viney

SWILLAND

SHCT Ride and Stride - thank you to Gill Reidy for her magnificent effort. She visited 39 churches and covered over 50 miles and raised £60 which will be divided between SHCT and Swilland Church. Thank you to Gina, June, Liz and Brian for sitting in the church. Gina did sterling work while she was there strimming round

the gravestones. We only had 6 visitors almost all when Liz was there.

The next coffee morning is on 6th October at Gill Reidy's house.

Tickets will shortly be available for our Christmas Draw at the beginning of December. Please help, if you can, with selling them.

Ann Kent

Flower rota:

7th-14th October

Margo Barker

21st-28th October

Ann Kent

Unusual sightings in Swilland

We thought it would be interesting to start a new short column of unusual sightings within the parishes as a result of conversation at Church and for starters we have two to offer.



Many of you will have seen over the years the occasional rare sighting of a partially white blackbird but I bet not many of you have ever seen a completely white sparrow. This has appeared in at least two gardens in the village this summer. At first, reported by Brian Williams seen in his garden, he thought it had to be a white escaped canary but no, lo and behold it were a young'un being fed by adult sparrows confirming its pedigree. Over the summer it has constantly figured around Church Lane gardens.

There is also a hobby been around earlier in the summer. Anybody else see it between Swilland and Grundisburgh Square?

We thought such items of local gossip would make an interesting topic of conversation for future issues of the magazine so put on your thinking caps and report to your regular contributors please.

Last thought; the martins and swallows have gone. Did anybody see one after the 9th September? **You can report your sighting in the next issue.**

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

The very hot weather finally came to a halt on August 9th when we had an inch of rain. The rest of the month was warm with some days of light rain. The result of this change from hot dry weather to being warm and moist was that plants thought that spring had arrived and reacted accordingly. The total rainfall for the month was 2.43 inches bringing the years total so far to 16.70 inches which is about average.

In the horse age when the last sheaf had been stacked you would have thought that harvest had ended, it wasn't. Unlike the combine harvester, which cuts the crop with very little loss, with the use of the scythe not all the straw and ears would have been bound up into a sheaf. Even with the binder there was a certain amount of loss of grain particularly after the sheaf, which had been tied with string, was then ejected and had a fall of four feet onto the ground. In the early days women and children would, with permission, glean the fields, that is collect as much as possible of the remainder of the crop and this would be fed to their chickens. The farmers pigs were also allowed to roam on the bean stubbles and a boy would be paid to look after them to prevent them from straying.



With the invention of the horse rake this all changed, this machine had a series of curved tines about two inches apart and attached to a rod on a frame with iron wheels at each end. The horse rake was eight feet in width with an iron seat for the operator, the tines of the rakes in their lowered position were just clear of the ground and would gather up all the loose straws that were left on the field. The horse rake was driven straight across the field and when the tines were filled up the driver would pull a lever which lifted them up and left the straws in a row. On the return the driver would make sure that there would be a series of continuous rows ready to be carted back to the stack yard by horse and waggon.

This operation didn't of course collect any kernels of grain left on the ground, most farmers kept laying birds which were often housed in

sheds on wheels and these would be pulled to the field by a horse and left on the field so that the birds could pick up this grain. A wooden barrel would be put beside the shed filled with water and this would be used to fill a pig trough every day for drinking. Once the combine harvester came into common use all this came to a stop.

Debenham Group Practice

Flu vaccination is available every year on the NHS to help protect adults and children at risk of flu and its complications to:



- anyone aged 65 and over
- pregnant women
- children and adults with an underlying health condition (such as long-term heart or respiratory disease)
- children and adults with weakened immune systems

Anyone in these risk groups is more likely to develop potentially serious complications of flu, such as pneumonia (a lung infection), so it's recommended by NHSE that they have a flu vaccine every year to help protect them.

For 2018, there are 3 types of flu vaccine:

- a live quadrivalent vaccine (which protects against 4 strains of flu), given as a nasal spray. This is for children and young people aged 2 to 17 years eligible for the flu vaccine
- a quadrivalent injected vaccine. This is for adults aged 18 and over but below the age of 65 who are at increased risk from flu because of a long-term health condition and for children 6 months and above in an eligible group who cannot receive the live vaccine
- an adjuvanted trivalent injected vaccine. This is for people aged 65 and over as it has been shown to be more effective in this age group

If your child is aged between 6 months and 2 years old and is in a high-risk group for flu, they will be offered an injected flu vaccine as the nasal spray is not licensed for children under 2.

Our main flu vaccination clinic dates for 2018 are as follows:

Debenham Community Centre

Thursday 4 October 9am – 3m (walk-in clinic no appointment needed)

Grundisburgh Surgery

Tuesday 16 October 2pm – 6pm (appointment required)

Otley Surgery

Saturday 10 November 9am – 12noon (appointment required)

Steve Bloomfield, Business Manager

Suffolk Primary Care – Debenham Group Practice

SPOOKY GOINGS ON AT OTLEY HALL

There has long been rumour of supernatural happenings at Otley Hall and the question I am asked most frequently by visitors is “Have you seen the Ghost?”.

The story of Abigail, as she is affectionately known, has its roots in the tragic drowning in the moat of a young serving lady employed at the Hall in the early years of the 20th century. Legend suggests that she had been spurned by her village sweetheart.



In 1959, with the Hall unoccupied following a period as a care home, a valuer was instructed to prepare the house and contents for auction.

Whilst standing in the Parlour, he was surprised to see a young lady, dressed in serving attire, enter from the main staircase, walk across the room and exit into the Great Hall. Believing the Hall to be uninhabited, he set off in pursuit but found no trace of her anywhere in the house. He is understood to have rapidly finished his work and fled into the gathering gloom!

Several visitors claim to have caught a glimpse of a young lady with flowing golden hair, laughing and running away down the upstairs corridors. At the very least, Abigail is happy and not a headless spirit wielding a fearsome axe! Whilst I have not seen Abigail, I can vouch to hearing the familiar cadence of creaking floorboards that accompanies someone walking in the upper rooms of the Hall when

I know the house to be otherwise empty. More surprising are the occasions doors have sprung open in passageways for no apparent reason. However, I treat these spooky happenings with good humour, assured by the benign atmosphere of the Hall.

Originally sceptical of all such tales of ghosts, I now keep an open mind, using the analogy of a radio transmitter and receiver. If you are not tuned in to the supernatural, you will not see it or hear it – but, just like radio waves, that doesn't mean it isn't there.....

Ian Beaumont

Ghost Stories at Otley Hall, Friday 23 and Saturday 24 November. Robert Lloyd Parry presents two classic stories by MR James at the hearthside in the Great Hall. Tickets £17, please call Karen for further details, 01473 890264.

Children's Corner



Messy Saints go Fishing



A fun event for adults and children together, involving, singing, stories and sharing food based on the stories of the disciples.

Clopton Village Hall

Sunday 21st October, 3pm to 4.30pm

All welcome.

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

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£1 per family. Suggested donation.

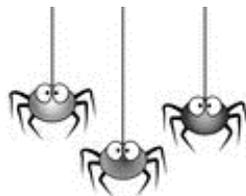


Q: Why did the skeleton go to the prom alone?

A: Because he couldn't find any "body" to go with.

Q: Which musical instrument do skeletons play?

A: Trom-Bone



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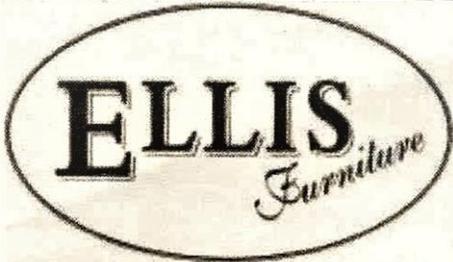
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