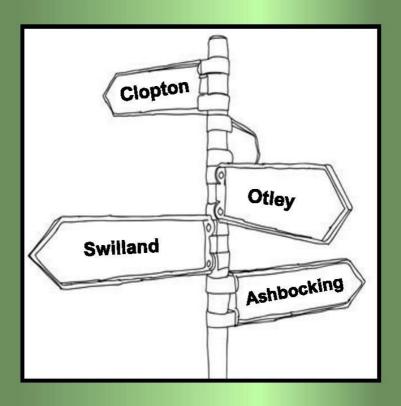
The Signpost



News from the Parishes

A Word from The Editors....

Welcome to our September Signpost. We hope very much that you and your loved ones are safe and well. September is going to be a busy month for those who have children going back to school, starting new schools or off to university. It will feel very strange after lockdown for so many months. We wish them all well in their new adventures.

Thank you all for your continued feedback and contributions for The Signpost. Please do continue to send us your jokes, recipes or articles or anything else that you would like to see in our next magazine. If you would like any family or friends celebrated with good school grades or you would like to wish them well, then please do let us know and we will include in next months magazine. Our next deadline is 24th September.

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

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website <u>carlfordchurches.org</u> and within the Mini Grapevine. If you would like to receive the Mini-Grapevine weekly via email, please register via the website <u>carlfordchurches.org</u> or with Mark Cresswell – <u>mark@cresswell.onl</u>. 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.

The Church

In Lilac Street, were I was born, Two clergymen reside, But one of them is sad and worn While one is puffed with pride.

> They hold the very self-About the Gentiles and the Jews And Life and Love and Liquor; They also draw the self-same pay, But Mr Gray is Rector Gray, While Green is just a Vicar,





And that's the trouble in the case; I do not say they bicker, But you should see the Rector's face When someone calls him.... 'Vicar'

And how the Vicar smiles and sings, And shines like some reflector, When persons not in touch with things Refer to him as 'Rector.'

No, do not ask me what it means, And which of them will join the Deans, And which the Bishops quicker; Don't ask the Vicar why he writhes When anybody speaks of tithes — It only makes him sicker;

You'd better take it, child from me, For some high cause we cannot see It is more glorious to be A Rector than a Vicar; But if you ask (and this you can) Why I am not a clergyman, But rather chose to lead the van Of England's stamp-collectors – I had the chance, I need not say, But no, I could not see my way To be a Vicar for a day While other men were Rectors.

from 'Tinker Tailor ... a Childs Guide to the Professions' by A.P.Herbert published in 1922

There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself. - Abraham Lincoln

Weather July 2020

The first half of the month was quite unsettled, but we did have a short period after July 14th when it settled down to give us some fine weather again. The rainfall for July was 1.85 inches, this is a concern as despite a wet winter the total for the year so far is only 10.60 inches. The last time that we had this amount of rainfall at the end of July was in 2011 and the total for that year was only 18.40 inches. Bearing in mind that we have had a heatwave early in August lasting a week with temperatures up to 35 C the possibility of a shortage of water becomes increasingly likely.

Russell Ling

Harvest Thoughts

Things great have small beginnings.

Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without the



because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."

William Wilberforce



'Lord, purge our eyes to see within the seed a tree, Within the glowing egg a bird, Within the shroud a butterfly, Til, taught by such, we see beyond all creatures, thee.'

Christina Rossetti

If you plant a bean, then you will harvest only beans, not grapes or strawberries." God gave us new life through Jesus Christ and planted special seeds of forgiveness and love in our hearts. What fruit will we bear in our daily lives?"

An old Korean proverb.

We Pray:

In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.

We thank you Lord.



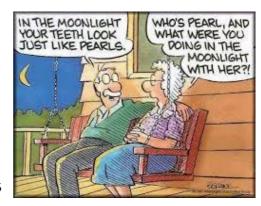
This event is being held, adapting, as necessary, for whatever Covid-19 guidelines on the day. Even though it may feel a bit different this year, and may possibly be a smaller event than normal, the Trust has decided to go ahead with this year's Ride and Stride, as well as its sister event, Pedal and Drive for vintage and classic cars.

Not all churches may be open and there may be no one to welcome or sign you in, but two or three people cycling together in the Suffolk countryside or walking in our towns should be perfectly safe. Churches that usually offer refreshments may decide not to do so this year and, if a church is not manned, riders and walkers will log the name of the church themselves.

Please support this free annual event. Half your sponsor money will go to the Trust to be given in grants for church repairs, and half will go to the church of your choosing. For further information and all sponsorship details via Justgiving please visit: shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

You can look on the SHCT website https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/suffolk-open-churches-map/ to see a full list of churches taking part.







Saint Matthew

St Matthew was one of 12 apostles. Matthew is recognized as a saint in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran and Anglican churches. His feast day is celebrated on **21st September** in the West and **16th November** in the East. Matthew is the patron saint of tax collectors and accountants.

From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

St. Matthew writing the Gospel with an angel holding the volume., an Islamic miniature c.1530 by Kesu Das for the Mughal king

WHY

WHY?

Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called passing the buck'?

BECAUSE

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

WHY?

Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

BECAUSE

In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

It well and truly feels like autumn is knocking on the door, summer as we knew it at the beginning of August, is long gone. We have certainly had a mixture of weather and the garden is suddenly not looking as pretty, or at least mine isn't! Flowers have suddenly gone to seed and those that are trying to give their best have been battered by wind and rain. Not as badly as the west of our country but more than enough for me.

Covid 19 is still very much in the news and I know many of us are still nervous about mingling as we once did. Many events have not taken place or restarted, and with the children returning to school there is a feeling that this may trigger the second wave of infection. We just have to stay vigilant and take the necessary precautions to stay safe. It is not a time for complacency.



Unfortunately, this also means that some of our churches still remain closed, Ashbocking is, I'm afraid, one of these. We have discussed the possibility of opening for Harvest, but as yet this is still nowhere near certain.

Our churchyard is looking well-tended and we look forward to the gravel path being re-defined with metal edging. Anyone walking in the churchyard may have been aware of pegs protruding along the pathway. Please be aware that work is ongoing, so do mind your step.

There are several repairs that are taking place over the next little while. The vermin inspector came to advise regarding our mouse problem, as we thought! We have been informed that there are no mice to speak of and the problem is 100% bats!!! Nothing we can do as they are protected, only pray that they will be going into hibernation before long.

The Ashbocking Bible group, which is very much a discussion group, is recommencing after the summer break on September 30th at 7:30pm via Zoom. We have decided that, under James Hall and Fred Woods leadership, to discuss Heaven. This is very much about one's belief or thoughts, what evidence we can find in the Bible etc. You can be as controversial as you like, we are generally a lively group who also enjoy some laughter too. It is a shame that we still rely on Zoom rather than meeting face to face, but at



present this is the safest way to continue. If you would like any information please do contact John Pollard via e-mail, john55pollard@hotmail.com We welcome all newcomers.

Please let us know your contact details and be aware that if you join the group your e-mail will be shared with James so that he can invite you onto the zoom session.

We invite anyone wanting to know more about Christianity and would like to develop their belief to join us.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

The Clopton church bells rang out on 16th August to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, the day which ended World War two.



By the time that you read this we have had our first service in the church since



lockdown. The church has been thoroughly cleaned and a full risk assessment undertaken. Social distancing markers are in place and everything has been done to ensure that everyone will be safe. There will be no hymns, but Andrew Schurr will be playing special pieces on the organ. Masks must be worn.

In September we will have two services. On 13th there will be our Lay led service at 11am and on 27th James Hall will lead the 9.30am service.

We will follow all the latest procedures to make sure that everyone will be safe. Please come and join us.

Doris Main

OTLEY

In June's edition of The Signpost, I wrote about finding decorated stones and pebbles on my walks around Otley. I wondered who had left them? The mystery has now been solved!

It is quite remarkable that Sandee has given her time, energy and devotion to design and create this memorial. In doing so she has given the village something to smile at and an important tribute to the difficult times we faced together. We

are grateful to her, David Ellis, Andrew Haag, and the many families who hand painted the stones.

The memorial can be found to the left of the Doctors Surgery.

Angela Treloar

Otley Lockdown Memorial.

The story of its creation is as follows:

When the lockdown started, I started to paint pebbles for my own amusement and then as I had accumulated so many I decided to hide them round the village for people to find. I know this wasn't an original idea as this had been done throughout Britain before the lockdown



Many people told me how it cheered them up seeing them as they had their daily walks and enjoyed looking for them.

This was followed by me painting loads of stones depicting doctors or nurses in masks as a thank you to the NHS. Children began painting stones to be found around the village too, I was pleased that I had started something that inspired them to paint and draw.

I followed this with a couple of competitions, one being to find a golden ticket painted on a stone and hidden in the village. Then a competition to paint their own stones and enter them for a prize.

Seeing other villages had started laying painted pebbles as snakes along footpaths, I laid all the stones we had collected in a long line and then decided to make a permanent memorial by setting them in concrete.

Many thanks to Andrew Haag for letting me have the plot of land and David Ellis for building the construction.

I hope this memorial will last for many years reminding us of the incredible friendship and community spirit that we had in Otley during these unusual times.



I am really pleased the stone memorial is finished now; it has been quite a journey.

Sandee Sledmere

SWILLAND

We have been blessed with wonderful weather in August. Harvest started early and hasn't been too interrupted by rain. Very dry weather in May has resulted in rather poor yields. For those on holiday it has been ideal weather to go to the beach where there is plenty of room for social distancing. We are very lucky to be in a region where we don't have hordes of people, though Aldeburgh was very busy when I drove through it recently.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride is going ahead on 12th September. If a church is not manned, you will be asked to sign yourself in. I have sponsorship forms for those planning to take part. I hope we will have a few participants from Swilland.



Good luck to all the children going back to school - I'm sure they will be glad to be with their friends again and getting back to some form of normality.

Ann Kent

The 11 days that never were



The Gregorian calendar was introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582. There is a leap year every 4 years (or more precisely 97 leaps every 400 years) This means the year corresponds closely with the astronomical year (365.2419 days) so it is just one day out every 3,300 years.

Up until 1753 we used the Julian calendar. It was based on the solar year, the time taken for the earth to revolve around the sun. This was less accurate than the Gregorian calendar. The Julian calendar was 365.25 days long which was fractionally too long and over time the calendar fell out of line with the seasons.

Then in 1752 we decided to correct this by abandoning the Julian system and introducing the Gregorian calendar. As a result the 3rd September instantly became the 14th September. This meant that in 1752 nothing happened between the 3rd and 14th September.

Many people believed their lives had been shortened. They protested on the streets shouting "Give us back our 11 days!"

Richard Treloar

Just like that!

"I said to the Gym instructor "Can you teach me to do the splits?" He said, "How flexible are you?" I said, "I can't make Tuesdays"



I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy. My dog was barking at everyone the other day. Still, what can you expect from a cross-breed.

29th September - Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.



Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancee, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

RUSSELL LING REPORTS



Farm animals in the horse era

Nowadays with modern combines, apart from breakdowns, harvest is comparatively easy which was not always the case in the horse age. In 1946, which was the first year of my farming career, it had been very wet and the binder which had a ground driven wheel to operate the mechanism,

was being constantly obstructed with mud from the field. This meant that it had to be frequently cleared before any further cutting took place. We were able to finish binding the wheat which at that time was the first crop to be cut, as all the barley was sown in the spring. When it came to binding the barley, it was impossible to cut as it was all laid on the ground by the weather, the only way that it could be harvested was by the use of the scythe. This of course meant that all the barley had to be carted loose which created a large number of stacks. For the first time we did have a contractor to combine the oats but even he was unable to finish the field due to the wheels sinking in the field being so wet!

The loaded wagons had to be pulled off the field by two and sometimes three horses until the cart track was reached, because the wagon wheels penetrated the topsoil up to 6 inches deep. The winter beans that year were not only too tall to go through the binder but had very few bean pods on them. These again were cut by scythe but were carted on a tumbril and given to the pigs as part of their ration. The last load of beans was cleared on Christmas Eve.

As the fields were so wet it was impossible to plough and so we heavy cultivated them in the spring. 1947 was as dry as 1946 was wet and there was a poor grain yield at harvest time. 1946 was the last time that a scythe was used to cut a complete field at Grange Farm and possibly any other farm - unless someone knows differently?

Russell Ling

Character is not made in a crisis – it is only exhibited. – Robert Freeman

An American In Otley: My Friend Tom

Susie Miner at susiespinner36@msn.com

Just after we had moved into Foxgloves, there was a knock at the kitchen door. By now I knew that a Suffolk tradition suggested callers use the backdoor for casual visits but ours was not as easy to get to unless the garage door was open. A pert immaculately dressed older gentleman stood at the door, cap in hand. He was dressed in a white shirt, dark tie, tweed jacket and wool trousers (by now I knew they weren't pants). The cuffs of his trousers were secured with bicycle clips. Beneath his glasses, his eyes twinkled, and he said, "Good afternoon, I'm Whitehead the gardener." I suddenly felt as if I was swept back in time to an episode of <u>Upstairs</u>, <u>Downstairs</u>.

I suspect my jaw dropped because I did not know I had employed a gardener, let alone such a dapper one. "Whitehead" promptly became Tom or Thomas. He explained that Colonel Mason had employed him to mow the lawn and tend gardens, and our lasting friendship was born. Tom Whitehead became my guide through the recent history of the village, through the events of World War II in Suffolk, and what life was like for those who lived "below the stairs." Across our kitchen tables, over countless cups of tea and small glasses of whiskey, the years fell away and his life and those of his wife Ada (nee Millington) and his son Kenneth illuminated the a modern history of England better than any of my university textbooks had.

Thomas Frederick Whitehead was born on August 27, 1901 in Cheshire in the



village of Willaston. His father, also Thomas Whitehead, was the head groomsman at a leading shire horse stud farm on the Wirral Peninsula. Young Tom grew up around shire horses and loved them. When he was three, his mother Charlotte found him powdering the legs of their dining room table with cake flour. Young Tom wanted them to look good for show.

At 22, in 1923, Thomas married a Welsh lass, Ada Millington, in Bethel Methodist Church, Connah's Quay, Flint. She had been a parlour maid serving a wealthy Cheshire family of three people. Tom used to sputter about such a small

family needing a staff of 10 people to attend to them. Ada and Tom remained in the Wirral where Tom became a gardener and groundsman on a large estate. Their son and only child, Kenneth, was born in 1925 in Cheshire.

So how, I asked, did Tom get to Otley? I am a bit unclear on the exact details, but I believe that the son of his employer made a killing in the financial market in London just before the Depression and retired. "Nice for some," Tom used to say about his boss. The young man bought High House in Otley in the 1930s and took Tom, Ada, and Kenneth to Suffolk. Tom was his chauffeur, gardener, and farm hand. On a 1939 Suffolk enumeration, Tom was listed as a "cowman." He told rich stories about farming the land with local horses, the Suffolk Punch mainly,

which he grudgingly allowed to be a fine draft horse. He farmed that land throughout World War II. He continued to drive his "governor" back and forth to Cheshire on roads without signposts and with no head lights at night. Too old to enlist, he served in the Home Guard during the war and told marvellous stories about rounding up carousing Yanks who had cycled over to the Clopton village pub from Debach Air Field.



By the time we met, Tom had been widowed for 6 years. His son lived in Ipswich and I think Tom was lonely and relished the opportunity to tell stories about an England that was rapidly changing to a new and appreciative audience. He was a staunch member of the Labour Party, could not stand Margaret Thatcher, did not think much of Ronald Reagan, and was suspicious of Princess Diana. He thought she never would look people squarely in the eye and he had magazine pictures to prove it. But, regardless of politics, he was an avid bowler and kept the bowls' green in immaculate condition for most of his later life.

We were fortunate enough to drive Tom back to his childhood home in Willaston where his sister lived. We dropped him off on our trip north to Scotland and then had his company on our return drive home. He and I took a marvellous day trip to view the tulips in Wisbech and King's Lynn. He shared all our Thanksgiving Day feasts and became an integral part of our family. I was privileged enough to have one final visit with him shortly before he died in March 1992, when I returned to Otley. He was a lovely man and I treasure his memory.

Susie Miner

SMILE LINES





Pets

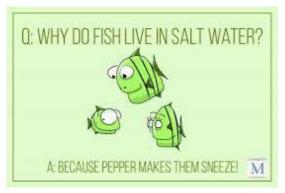
This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.

Borrowed

Teacher: We borrowed our numerals from the Arabs, our calendar from the Romans, and our banking from the Italians. Can anyone think of other examples? Student: Well, we borrowed our lawnmower from the Smiths, our ladder from the Browns, and our hose from the Jones....

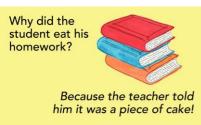
It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement. - *Mabel Newcomer*

CHILDREN'S CORNER



What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!

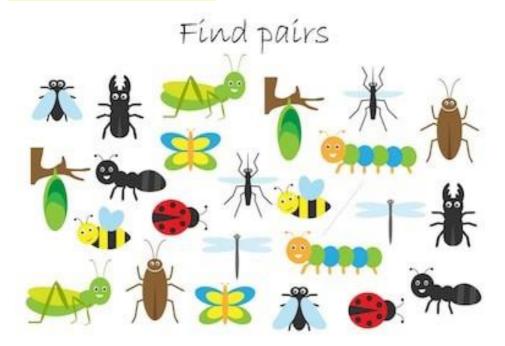
Why was the broom late? It overswept!



Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

Because his class were so bright!

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was the best in his field!



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