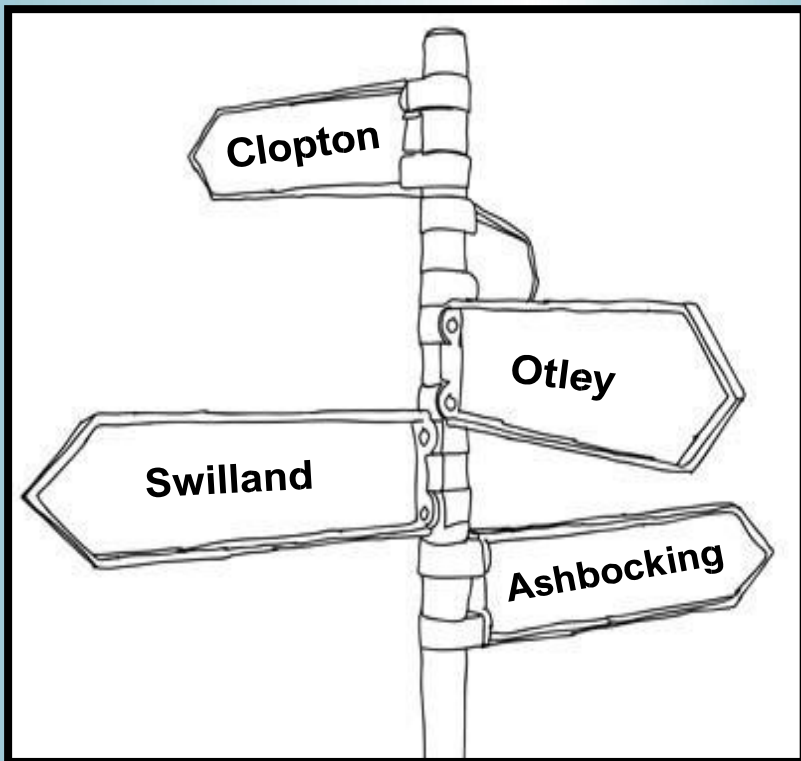


# *The Signpost*



*News from the Parishes*

## **A Word from The Editors.....**

Welcome to our October Signpost. We hope very much that you and your loved ones are well. October is going to be another month of uncertainty whilst Covid remains ever apparent. We hope those with children back to school are enjoying the little extra piece and quiet and the children themselves are enjoying being back in at school with friends and learning.

Thank you all for your continued contributions for The Signpost. Please do carry on sending us your jokes, recipes, 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 24<sup>th</sup> October.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email each month, please email Amy [bakergirl174@gmail.com](mailto:bakergirl174@gmail.com) and Angela [amtrelor@btinternet.com](mailto:amtrelor@btinternet.com)

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website [carlfordchurches.org](http://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](http://carlfordchurches.org) or with Mark Cresswell – [mark@cresswell.onl](mailto:mark@cresswell.onl). 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>.

## **Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy  
O Divine Master, grant that I may  
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
To be understood, as to understand  
To be loved, as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life  
Amen

## Weather August 2020

August began with a heatwave but after the middle of the month it became unsettled again, the rainfall we had was only in small amounts and it also kept warm. On the 23rd of the month we experienced some high winds up until the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month, this is unusual for this time of the year. The remainder of August had rain every few days but some fine weather in between, the total rainfall for the month was 2.05 inches.



September is often a dry and warm month and this year so far it has been just that. It began with some cloud but by the middle of the month we had some high temperatures again.

*Russell Ling*

This motto was sent in by William Baraclough and was originally taken from Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels'. It is just as pertinent now as it was then, if not more so.

“ And he gave it for his opinion that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together ”

## How to Keep Those New School Uniforms Looking Their Best

**1:** Check the label. Most items of a school uniform are fine with the standard wash for their type of material, but every so often things like blazers may need special care.

**2:** Stains. Soak the stain as quickly as possible. For most stains and most materials, leaving the garment submerged in water for 15 minutes to half-an-hour is ideal.



The exception is mud. Let mud dry, then gently scrape off the worst and dab gently with water or a stain remover to get rid of the rest.

For more stubborn stains use a stain remover.

**3:** Washing at cooler temperatures is more colour kind and can help keep garments looking as vibrant as when you first wore them.

**4:** Take care with items that have patches or embroidery. Turning the garment inside out before washing can help protect them. Iron gently, avoiding the embroidered areas.

**5:** When it comes to drying these items, always check the label. Some items of clothing need to be air dried to keep them in their best condition. If you are using a dryer, be sure to use with care.

### **Otley and District Gardening Club**

I apologise that I wasn't with you last month. I didn't get it in on time!! And so, it is with a heavy heart that I am having to tell you that we are not going to be physically meeting up with Otley and District Gardening Club now until March 2021. This is due to not being able to properly social distance in the hall and having a maximum amount of people together in one space. All members have said that they understand completely and would not want to jeopardise their health either.



So, I would not want to disappoint, I will still be writing in here every month! (As long as I get it in on time!).

Harvesting our veg is high on the agenda this month. We have had a bumper crop of Melon's this year. We are even having to give some away as gifts! Honeydew are good, but the star of the show was the Cantaloupe. We have had loads of juicy and sweet fruits from only 2 plants. Powdery Mildew is their enemy though. Making sure they are regularly watered and plenty of ventilation are key factors in reducing the chances of getting it. Once you've got it, (in my experience) you can only remove the affected leaves and burn them. Removing the affected leaves also creates space around the leaves so air can circulate more easily. I have tried all kinds of things in the past to get rid of it. Brushing the leaves with milk,



spraying the leaves with a mixture of diluted bicarbonate of soda and washing up liquid, or even "run of the mill" mouthwash!! All have been tried and tested and some might disagree here.... none of them work. It's not for the want of trying either. I have had a lot of cucurbits get mildew in the past. Things like cucumbers, courgettes and squashes. The remedy is the same. But getting rid of it completely is impossible once it's taken hold.

I look forward to imparting some of my "gardening expertise and knowledge" to you next month. Please let me know if you have any tips and tricks of your own.

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman*

## Relish this Senior moment

### Mercedes dealership

As a retired older couple returned to a Mercedes dealership, the salesman sold the car they had been interested in to a beautiful, leggy, busty blonde in a mini skirt and a halter top.

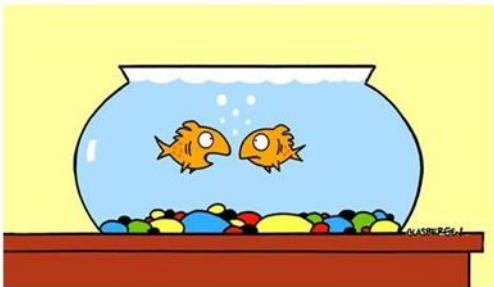


The old man was visibly upset. He spoke to the salesman sharply: "Young man, you said you would hold that car until we raised the \$55,000 asking price. Yet I just overheard you close the deal for \$45,000 to the lovely young lady there. If I remember right, you had insisted there was no way you could discount this model."

The salesman took a deep breath, cleared his throat and reached for a large glass of water. "Well, what can I tell you? She had the cash ready, she didn't need any financing help, and, Sir, just look at her, how could I resist?" replied the grinning salesman sheepishly.

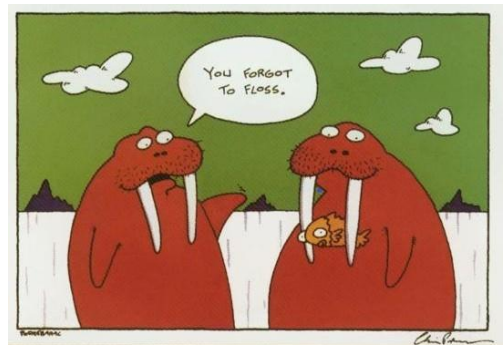
Just then the young woman approached the senior couple and gave the car keys to the old man. "There you go," she said. "I told you I could get that idiot to lower the price. See you later Dad. Happy Father's Day."

Once again.... don't mess with seniors. Repeat.....don't mess with seniors!



"You don't have to say 'Hi' every time we pass each other!"

5



## **Honey, honey!**

If your Granny gave you honey when you had a cold, she was right.



Research published in The British Medical Journal has found that honey is especially good for treating upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) such as the common cold.

Honey has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. These do better at soothing your cough and sniffles than any of the over-the-counter remedies. In fact, URTI sufferers who were given honey suffered their symptoms for up to two days LESS than those who did not use honey.

All good news, especially as honey is cheap, readily available, and has virtually no side effects.

## **It's not just Humans that are affected by Covid19**

The RSPCA has been overwhelmed this year by calls for help from people who are ill with Covid-19. The animal welfare charity was swamped with 442,344 calls and responded to 106,676 incidents of animals in need just between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> August. That averaged out at 790 incidents a day.

Such a volume of need was especially a challenge to meet, as the charity was working with fewer officers, due to ‘furlough, shielding and ill health’, a spokesman explained.

He went on: “As well as operating an emergency service, rescuing animals in need, RSPCA officers have also been collecting animals from the homes of people who have been admitted to hospital with Covid-19, who may not have anyone else to care for them while their owners are being treated.”

The charity has now launched an emergency fund-raising appeal and said that its front-line animal rescue and care teams have been “stretched to their limit”.



With about 6,400 animals in the care of the RSPCA across England and Wales, it is the largest animal welfare charity in the UK.

Should you like to help the charity, please visit their website <https://www.rspca.org.uk/coronavirus>

### **FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT?**

I have been challenged to write a piece for 'The Signpost', believe me I am no writer. Although still claiming to be part of the Carlford Benefice, I spend a good deal of time on an island close to France, shall we call it 'Treasure Island'? Some years ago I arranged for the parish mag to be sent over every month, one has to keep up with things, and now I receive the email version - and a good read it is (not counting this effort – if the editor prints it).

Little did I know that after 45 years in the Merchant Navy I would end up as a house husband! I don't know what all you housewives moan about - it's a doddle (did someone say no husbands or children to organise?) so I have enough spare time to volunteer as part of our parish community support team. I worship at St Nicholas (where I am Hon Treasurer) which is a little sister to the parish church. My spouse is a curate in the parish for half her week and a chaplain at the General Hospital for the other half, which is where my role as house husband comes in.

Truth be told I thoroughly enjoyed my time at sea, even the bad weather, and have often said I would choose it again. Growing up in South Wales, my Dad took me with him when he liked to tour the local docks, I think he really wanted to go to



sea and loved ships, I am guessing I picked up the bug then, and when I saw the glossy brochures recruiting apprentices for life at sea I gave up any thoughts of 6<sup>th</sup> form and joined Shell Tankers. Well, that was an eye-opener! At the age of 16 I realised the brochures were just that, not a hint of what really went on, the only truth was the paltry pocket money we were paid, for being used as cheap labour on board, however, it was character-building, and you can't tell someone else to do a job you have not done yourself.

I am often asked about moments or events at sea and I am bound to have lots of tales to tell. The strange thing is I must have lived a charmed life when you hear the salty stories of some of my contemporaries, you see I am not one to embellish. The fact is I have taken most things in my stride, e.g. assumed the smashing of one of our lifeboats by a large wave was par for the course on the North Atlantic in winter, or a fire in the engine room? We can put it out and was sure we would reach port safely. Yes, I have seen dolphins aplenty, flying fish land on deck (of a loaded tanker I should add) and the occasional albatross, but then so have many others, I just filed events such as those.

Carlford has been good for me during this troubled year, you had online services long before us, so we shared with you until we were able to get something going. Thankfully, St Nicholas is open again, with a weekly service of BCP Communion, following the guidelines of the local government and the C of E of course. The parish church has a wonderful wildflower meadow natural cemetery which is being used for 'al fresco' services, although the church is open if the weather turns inclement. I hope to see some of you soon and attend a service in the benefice.

*Ian Bromley*

## WHY

### **WHY?**

Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?



### **BECAUSE**

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the centre of attention.

### **WHY?**

Why are many coin collection jar banks shaped like pigs?

### **BECAUSE**



Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks'. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig, and it caught on!



## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### ASHBOCKING

Hello everyone, what a glorious few weeks we have had, it almost felt as if autumn was not coming this year, but of course all good things come to an end and autumn has arrived with cooler temperatures and changeable days. The rain was long overdue and very welcome in my garden.



It is a tough reminder that the clock change is very soon, and the evenings will become longer.

A time to start hunkering down and starting those winter jobs.

These times are still very uncertain and change from week to week, I know that I have gone from seeing grandchildren a bit more and finally going out; to staying at home more and, with the rule of six, again not seeing grandchildren. This for all of us is disturbing and often upsetting.

I have started more of my indoor projects like knitting, sewing, and painting as well as other small projects that I enjoy dabbling with.

I do have one outdoor project to finish and that is the landscaping and rebuilding of our rockery and water feature. It seems to have taken ages, but I want to finish it before winter. I will send a picture next time.

Like many, I am really missing social interaction in the village. Knit and stitch, coffee mornings, and gardening club for me. At the moment, there seems no end to when we can meet again, so I think it is important that we keep in touch as much as possible by phone and e-mail.

I was trying to come up with a new recipe for you this time but having put on weight during lock-down and now having to diet, I have not been cooking as much. I will try for the next issue.



Ashbocking church is still closed but we hope to open soon. It all hinges on electrical work being completed to make the system safe. We are still aiming to be open for Harvest on the 11<sup>th</sup> which will be wonderful. All socially distanced, of course, and unfortunately no singing. We are confident that the Remembrance service will go ahead too. There will be

no social interaction with coffee afterwards for the foreseeable future which is such a shame but necessary I suppose. I look forward to seeing you at the next service when the church will be newly cleaned and decorated for the Harvest celebration.

Things are changing all the time so no-one knows how things will develop. We must all adhere to the Covid restrictions to stay safe and well.

*Linda Pollard*

## CLOPTON

It is good to see the church open again for services. Anyone wishing to join us should be aware that we are strictly following all Covid guidelines and have done a comprehensive risk assessment.



Our service on October 11th at 11am will be a Lay-led Harvest Festival. All donations of tins, jars and packets of food will be very welcome. Please leave donations in the porch if you are unable to be at the service. The donations will be left in the church for three days and then taken, as usual, to the Salvation Army Hostel in Ipswich. We can fit plenty of people safely in the church (socially distanced) so please try to join us.

Our service on 25th October at 9.30am will be taken by Annette Cooper. This will be her first service at Clopton so we hope that plenty of people will come

*Doris Main*

## OTLEY

St Marys Church needs quite a few specialists to keep it in good order. Plumbers, electricians, organ repairers, stonemasons, glaziers and if you are in need of someone who is not afraid of heights – a steeplejack.

If you have been out and around the church recently you may have seen Nick Spall on the roof repairing and painting the guttering. You



may have even spotted his drone, which he uses to take photos of ongoing and completed work.

Nick, who trades as **N.S.Restorations**, is an Historic Building Technician with over 25 years' experience. He has repaired timber, stone and metalwork on many Churches, Castles, Cathedrals and Historic barns around the UK.

He has also worked on St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Framlingham Castle and Leiston Abbey.

If you were a fan of TV's 'Grand Designs' you might have seen the episode entitled "The Artists Barn" in which N.S. Restorations was the main contractor in restoring the Grade II listed Feeringbury Barn into a large family home and artist studio. The project won several awards.

Nick undertakes high level repairs to several of our local churches – he has undertaken a number of jobs at St Mary's including the installation of the window guards - and is someone we can always depend on to keep the Church in good order. A big **Thank you** from St Marys Church Nick and may the years treat you and your family kindly.

Of course, all the work he undertakes is largely funded by the **Otley Church Preservation Trust** without whom the work could not be undertaken. You may be familiar with the little white boxes in which small change can be collected, or you may have a regular standing order to donate funds to the Trust. Either way the funds are put to good use repairing and maintaining the fabric of the 800-year-old building.

The Trust are always looking for new contributors and members and if you would like to contribute or receive a collection box please contact Issy Lincoln on **01473 890826** or by email at [issywizzy58@gmail.com](mailto:issywizzy58@gmail.com) .



### **Ride & Stride – Suffolk Historic Churches Trust**

The annual *Ride & Stride* is the main source of income to *Suffolk Historic Churches* Trust and enables it to make grants to *churches* and chapels of all denominations.

We had two riders from Otley, Tig & Phil Sweet who visited five of our churches on a very hot day. Congratulations to both of you and our thanks!

*Angela Treloar*

*“Be happy in the moment, that’s enough.*

*Each moment is all we need, not more.”*

*Mother Teresa*

## Resumption of Church Services at St Marys, Otley

Our first service in church for over six months will be on Sunday 4th October at 9.30am. It will be a harvest service with music, but sadly no singing and social distancing means that numbers will be limited. You will be allocated specific seats and asked to use hand sanitiser on arrival and to wear a face covering. We can't socialise, but it will be wonderful to worship God together again within the walls of this very special place. Gifts of food (tins, jars, boxes, packets only) will be taken to FIND (Families in Need) afterwards.



We plan to hold a remembering service in church on 1st November, also at 9.30am, to give people an opportunity to think and pray for loved ones who have died.

We hope to have a Remembrance Sunday service on 8th November at the war memorial opposite the shop.



The church will remain locked between services but will be opened on request for private prayer – please contact James Hall 785251.

*James Hall*

There is **nothing** noble  
in being **superior**  
to your fellow man;  
**true nobility** is being superior  
to your **former self**.

- Ernest Hemingway

Goalcast

## News from Otley Primary School



Schools are not meant to be empty places; they lose their soul, their character and the very reason for their existence. It has not been an easy time for the last 6 months, with the School's gates largely locked and the doors closed. It is not meant to be like that. So it was with absolute delight that the School reopened for all at the beginning of September; to enable the School community to re-establish itself as well as allowing face to face teaching to recommence which by definition has to be better than doing it virtually.

Despite concerns, there was nearly 100% attendance in the first days of term and the children have been magnificent in how they have adapted to the new normal. Each class is an individual bubble with different start times, break times, lunch times, end times and toilets. Staff socially distance, assemblies are held virtually with each class looking in whilst remaining in their own classroom and hygiene is a top priority. Schools, quite correctly, will be the last to close in any future lockdown but plans are already in place should that happen. The teachers and all school staff should be absolutely applauded in how they worked during lockdown. They were all superb.

Mrs Michaela Harris starts her third term as Executive Headteacher. She has certainly had a baptism of fire but has been extraordinary. Mrs Hannah Rigby joins as the new Deputy Executive Headteacher across the Partnership and replaces the previous roles of a Head of School in each School, Mrs Baker-Daniels returns from maternity leave to teach Class 3 and Miss Charlotte Hodge joins the team as the new Class 2 teacher. Miss Tribe continues in Class 1.

During lockdown, the School and Federation has not stood still. They have been 'rebranded'. There is a new name – 'Otley and Winesham Partnership', a new logo developed, (as shown to the right), a new website ([www.owfed.co.uk](http://www.owfed.co.uk)) and a new mission statement (**PASSION + PRIDE = PROGRESS**) The logo and mission statement can be seen proudly displayed on the flag outside the School. A new curriculum has been written and 'learning muscles' have been introduced.



The new normal is not ideal and hopefully will not last forever but there is a lot Otley Primary School can be very proud of. There is a Covid safe Open Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October for September 2021 starters. More information is on the website or from the School.

*Ian Liddell,  
Chair of Governors*

**APPLAUSE!**



## SWILLAND

The Suffolk Churches Historic Ride and Stride went ahead with some churches being manned and others with a sheet outside for signing in. Gill Reidy rode for Swilland and visited 39 churches and covered 56 miles. Congratulations to her. We had 7 visitors to Swilland.

Thank you to those who cleaned the church in time for the service for Victoria and Robert Gregg's Renewal of their Marriage vows. This was the first service in the church since the beginning of lockdown.

There is a Communion Service planned for 11 a.m. on 18th October. Please contact Brian Williams on 01473 785726 if you are planning to come. We will have to be spaced out and masks will have to be worn. There should be room for all those who want to come.

We will have 300 daffodil bulbs to plant along the roadside from the Parish Council. This will be done on a Saturday which is to be arranged. Please contact me (07765 666523) or Brian Williams if you are able to help. It's a great community activity.



*Ann Kent*

## Handy Cooking Tip



If you've added a bit too much salt to that stew you've been slaving over all afternoon try adding a raw peeled potato, cook for 15 minutes before removing. Too Spicy? Add a squirt of honey..... Too Sweet? Add a drop of vinegar.



# **Francis of Assisi 1182-1286 Saints Day October 4th**

Francis of Assisi was an Italian Catholic friar, deacon, philosopher and preacher. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of Saint Clare, the Third Order of Saint Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.

Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity. The oldest surviving depiction of Saint Francis is a fresco near the entrance of the Benedictine abbey of Subiaco, painted between March 1228 and March 1229. He is depicted without the stigmata, but the image is a religious image and not a portrait.



Stigmata ('mark, spot, brand'), in Christianity, are the appearance of bodily wounds, scars and pain in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ, such as the hands, wrists and feet. An individual bearing the wounds of stigmata is a stigmatist or a stigmatic.

In 1224 Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified, through his hands and the gaping lance wound in his side. This made Francis the first person to receive the holy wounds of the stigmata.

**Anyone who reads about St. Francis may be surprised to learn how tremendous was his love for Christ, for all of creation, for the poor and for life. His conversion, travels, preaching and writings are testimony of this love. His great ability to love and to be loved, as cited in the prayer of St. Francis, makes him, well, lovable.**

It is good to see that the popularity of St. Francis remains. In 2009, the Franciscans celebrated 800 years of ministry. Francis' teachings about creation as a manifestation of God have impacted the Church's theology about creation such that **Pope John Paul II declared St. Francis the patron saint of ecology in 1980.**

## Edith Cavell, Nurse

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.



When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.



She told Gahan: “I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone.”

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915.

After the war, her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

## **RUSSELL LING REPORTS**

### **Farm animals in the horse era**



This year being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, I thought that it would be a good opportunity to give you some views of what farming was like during wartime.

Everyone knows of course that food was rationed during the war, but other products were rationed too. Petrol was only given to essential workers such as doctors and delivery drivers, but farmers also had a ration to attend livestock markets and for starting up tractors which were then powered with both petrol for starting and paraffin. This petrol was called pool petrol as everything produced from our refineries and imports was blended together. The general public who had a non-essential use for a car were told to block the wheels off the ground and take the rotor arm from the distributor and hide it. The reason being that should the Germans invade us they would be unable to start the vehicle. It was rather a pointless exercise as all the Germans had to do was put a gun to the head of the owner to retrieve it!

Apart from petrol there was no rationing as the Merchants were limited on imported products and only allowed so much, so they rationed the farmers with midlands etc. You may well ask what midlands were, they were the by-product of bread flour being the husk from the wheat. Bread made from wheat was standardised during the war so that there was only one type of bread loaf available

and this was called a standard loaf. This was part white and part wholemeal so that the bread wheat would go further and was the only food that was not rationed. The other animal feed that we had to make use of was Tottenham pudding. This came from the scraps of food left from London hotel restaurants and was then boiled up and used for feeding to the pigs. We called it Tottenham pudding as it came from that Borough but there were other producers of the swill in other areas. Nothing was wasted during the war.

Russell Ling

### The Farmer

The Farmer will never be happy again;  
He carries his heart in his boots;  
For either the rain is destroying his grain

Or the drought is destroying his roots.  
He will tell you the Spring was a scandalous thing,  
For the frost and the cold were that bad;  
While what with the heat and the state of the wheat  
The Summer was nearly as sad.



The Autumn, of course is a permanent source  
Of sorrows as black as your hat;  
And as for the Winter I don't know a printer  
Who'd print his opinion of *that*.

In fact, when you meet this unfortunate man,  
The conclusion is only two plain  
That Nature is just an elaborate plan  
To annoy him again and again!

But you cannot go wrong if you stick to this song,  
And assume that his heart's in his boots,  
For either the rain is destroying his grain,  
Or the drought is destroying his roots.

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



### An American In Otley: School Days

As American parents try to decide how their children are going to be educated this autumn in the wake of the Covid 19 virus, I was reminded of our daughter's school experiences in England. Service families get used to moving from one place to another and enrolling their children in new schools. When you go overseas, you choose whether to become involved and engaged in the community where you are posted or remain among your own "service family" on a military base and have your children go to school in an "American" environment. For us, the choice was easy – we wanted to live "on the economy" with our Suffolk neighbours. This included sending our 10 year old daughter, Laura, to the village school. We arrived just as the autumn term began.

This decision to enrol was not an easy one because even by American standards, Laura was "different." She was going to stand out among her English peers regardless of how much she might want to fit in. You see, Laura is Korean. We adopted her as an infant in 1973 when we lived in Japan. By 1981 when we arrived in Otley she had grown into a lovely Asian girl with almond eyes, light olive brown skin and fine wavy black hair. I think she may well have been the first child "of colour" that the somewhat dour Headmaster, Mr. Colby, had welcomed into his class in Otley. Certainly, she was the first Asian child that most of Laura's new classmates had ever met.



Maureen Mayhew and I walked her daughter Hannah and Laura to the school that first day of term and, naturally, there were welcoming smiles and curious stares. We were that new family who had moved into Foxgloves. I was nervous as she walked into the school and I spent the day wondering if we had made the right decision to opt for this much cultural immersion so soon after our arrival. But when I picked her up from school Laura said, “it’s okay” and ran off to play at the Mayhew’s across the road. Her only negative comment was that the mashed potatoes tasted funny at lunch. It turned out that the lunch ladies mixed mashed turnips in with them.

Ultimately, our decision to use the British school system resulted in Laura’s receiving of a good education. She was right on track after three years when we returned to the States and I expect her writing skills were better than most of her American peers. Certainly, her highly accented speech could best be described as broad Suffolk through and through.

However, the educational experience was not without some difficulties as Laura remembers it. New students always get teased but hers focused almost solely on her ethnicity which was a new experience for her. Previously, we lived in areas of the States where Asian faces were not that unusual. We arrived five months after the riots in Brixton (London) and Toxteth (Liverpool) that had exposed deep racial tensions in the U.K. The effects of the social unrest were still being felt and talked about throughout England. Several classmates advised Laura “to go back from where she came” at which point Laura apparently told them “I’d love to, but I don’t know how to.” After one intense interaction on the playground, Laura “manipulated” a young man’s hand firmly and told him she was not “coloured” but rather “Korean” and she would appreciate if he would “get that straight.” He did and that seems to have largely settled the issue. She made lasting friendships with many of her classmates – enough so that Mr. Colby remarked she was “a bit of a chatterbox” in class. During our last year, Laura travelled to Woodbridge to attend Kingston Middle School where she enjoyed its larger and more diverse student body, teaching staff, and the bus ride.

For my part, I was largely unaware of any classroom tensions and set about trying to be a parent who supported the school and its activities. We invited all the girls in her class to a Halloween costume party. On the American “Thanksgiving” day I made small pumpkin pie tarts, corn bread muffins (out of ground maize meal),

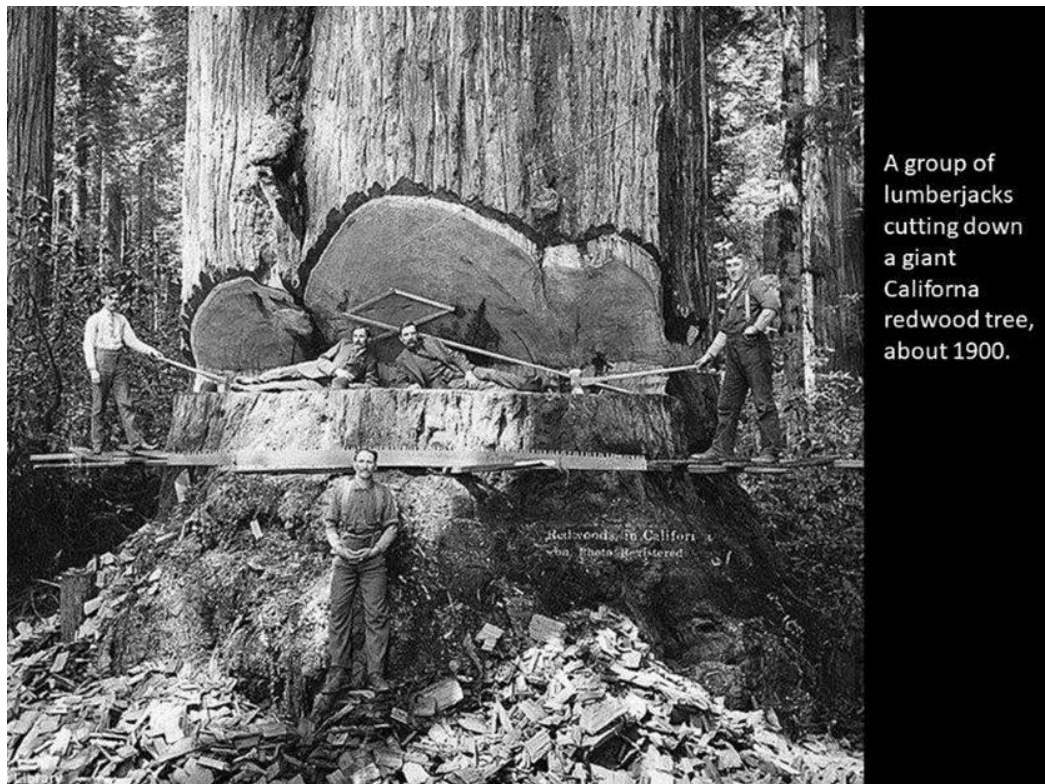
and blueberry (bilberry) jam. I took the snacks into class and spent half an hour explaining what kinds of food and living situations the Gosnold's colonists (who travelled to the New World) would have encountered. The students were not convinced that they would have found many good things to eat! In spring of our first year in Otley I helped Mrs. Hammond (primary teacher) make red and white gingham dance skirts for the girls in the country dance group. The second year I joined the Parent-Teacher committee and even kept the minutes of the meetings occasionally.

*Susie Miner*

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### Quick Quips!

1. The meaning of opaque is unclear
2. I wasn't going to get a brain transplant but then I changed my mind.
3. Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.



A group of lumberjacks cutting down a giant California redwood tree, about 1900.



## SMILE LINES

### Prayer for the sick

I was listening to my new curate pray and I realised one of his phrases didn't come out quite right. He said, "...and Lord, we pray for those who are sick of this church."

### Learning from the young

A few weeks ago, our Methodist district was going to have its 'Sectional' Youth Rally at our church. But when the minister announced it, he got confused: "We will be hosting the sexual youth rally this Friday evening at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. It should be an enjoyable evening for all, and we can probably learn a lot from these kids."

### A spirit guest?

When new neighbours moved in next door, they held a House Warming party and invited the entire road. My husband and I were glad to go along, as our daughters were both five years old. But next morning I was taken aback when my daughter told me that the mother had taken her into the kitchen and given her 'a spirit guest', which my daughter had really enjoyed. Now she wanted me to get her 'a spirit guest.'

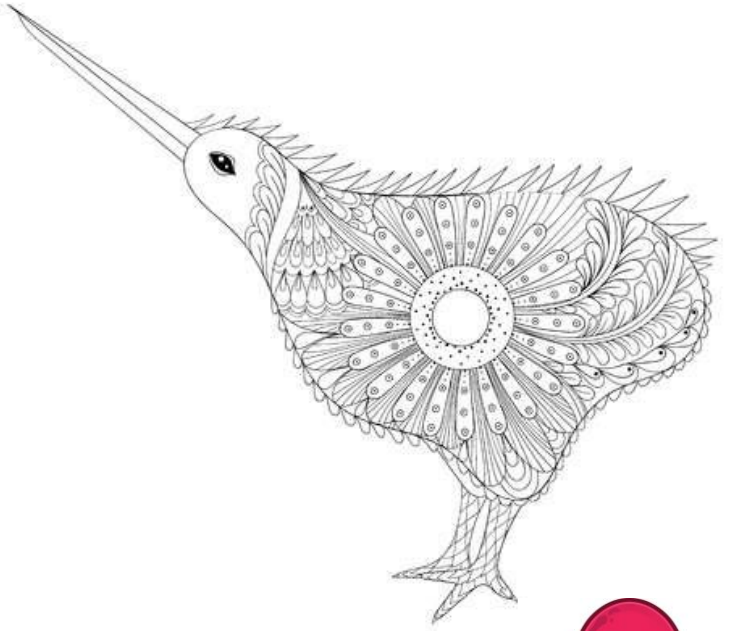
I was wondering how to contact the local vicar for exorcism when I realised that my daughter meant 'asparagus'.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### Meet Kai, The Kiwi

*Please colour him in  
and make him look  
beautiful*



### **When I Am Out Biking**

When I am out biking  
I keep my mouth wide  
In hopes that more bugs  
Will zoom right inside.  
Sometimes to catch them  
I swerve and careen  
'Cause biking is healthy  
And so is protein!



Q. What is yellow and dangerous?

A. Shark infested custard!

Q. How many tickles does it take to make  
an octopus laugh?

A. Ten (tickles).

Q. Why has a giraffe got a long neck?

A. Because his feet stink.

Q. What's a foot long and slippery?

A. A slipper.

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