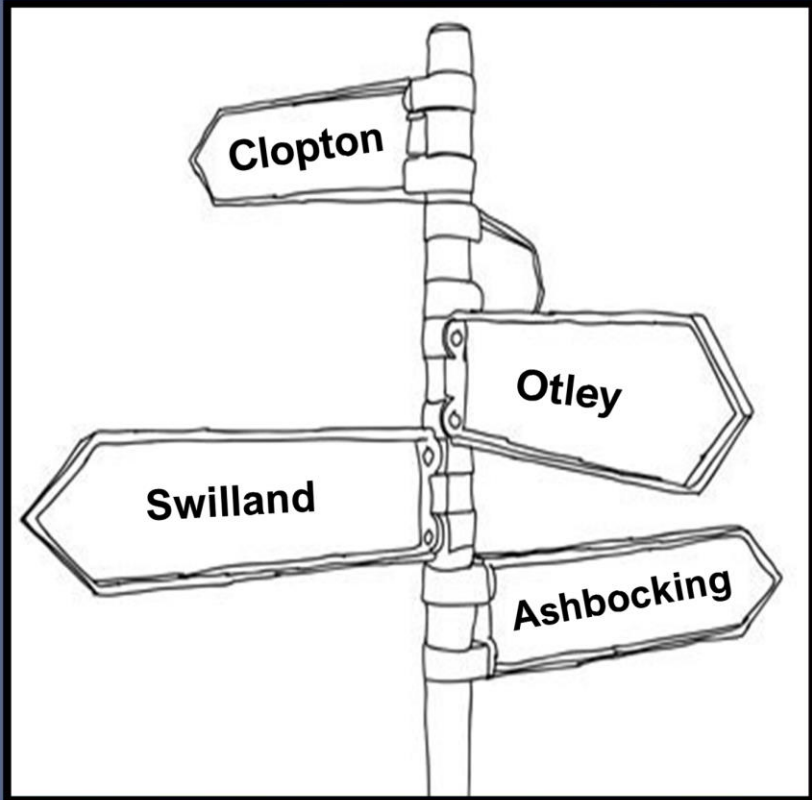


The Signpost



News from the Parishes

A Word from The Editor.....



Welcome to the first magazine of 2022, the **February Signpost**. I hope you will have all enjoyed much needed time with loved ones and family members over the Christmas period and have avoided Covid. How many of you still make resolutions for the new year ahead? Have you stuck to them or broken them already? I continue with my gratitude of everything around us, from family and friends, our local services – our shops, doctors, churches, pubs and the natural beauty that surrounds us all in our lovely villages, as shown in a photo I took whilst out with my dog “Morning Glory” (the photo, not the dog!!)

If you would like to see anything else within the magazine, whatever it may be, I would gratefully receive it for inclusion in upcoming editions. If you would like any family or friends’ birthdays or anniversaries celebrated, then please do let me know and I will include in next month’s magazine.

The next magazine will be the March issue with a deadline **of 24th February 2022.**

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

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website 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 or with Mark Cresswell – mark@carlfordchurches.org. 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>. Should you wish to speak with Rev’d Katrina Dykes or a member of the benefice team please telephone 01473 735183.

Keep safe, keep warm and take care

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2022

Amy

February
by Rebecca Hey



Though Winter still asserts his right to reign,
He sways his sceptre now with gentler hand;
Nay, sometimes softens to a zephyr bland
The hurrying blast, which erst along the plain
Drove the skin-piercing sleet and pelting rain
In headlong rage; while, ever and anon,
He draws aside his veil of vapours dun,
That the bright sun may smile on us again.
To-day 'twould seem (so soft the west wind's sigh)
That the mild spirit of the infant Spring
Was brooding o'er the spots where hidden lie
Such early flowers as are the first to fling
On earth's green lap their wreaths of various dye—
Flowers, round whose forms sweet hopes and sweeter memories cling.

Candlemas 2nd February

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight.
But if Candlemas Day bring clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and won't come again.
If Candlemas Day be mild and gay,
Go saddle your horses, and buy them hay;
But if Candlemas Day be stormy and black
It carries the winter away on its back.





Weather and Rainfall Summary of 2021



Summary of weather for the year 2021.

January. The wet autumn of 2020 continued for the remainder of this month with a total of 3.70 inches.

February. A total change took place with 5 inches of snow on the 7th and frosts of minus 5c. In the last week temperatures rose to 11 c with a few days of long periods of sunshine.

March. The warm weather continued with some windy days, the later part of the month was cold and dry with a few sunny intervals and low rainfall.

April. A high pressure over the country gave some frosts, dry days with some sunshine but no rainfall.

May. The month was cold and wet with rainfall of 2.65 inches.

June. A total change took place in the first half of the month with temperatures in the high 70 c followed by unsettled weather. The total rainfall for the first six months of the year was 11.20 inches.

July. A heatwave of 25-28 c in the middle of the month was followed by showery weather.

August. Unsettled for the first ten days followed by a blocking high pressure giving a cold dry month.

September. A total change to dry sunny weather with very little rain.

October. There was 2 inches of rain in the first week followed by dry warm weather until the end of the month.

November. Dry and sunny with very little rain.

December. The first week was very wet and this was followed by mild, cloudy and foggy conditions and mild for the time of year.

The total rainfall for the year amounted to 22.65 inches, this is slightly below the average of 25 inches for Otley.

Russell Ling

*Marriage requires falling in love many times –
always with the same person.*



Potsford Gibbet

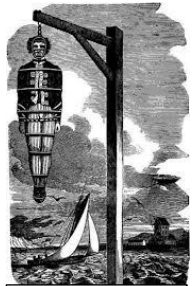
A murder, an execution, and an actively ghostly presence

Did you know that there was a gibbet in Potsford Woods near to Wickham Market? I had no idea and it was not until I was out with my husband that he pointed over yonder to ‘Dragarse Hill’, I thought he was going to tell me about some of his childhood antics with friends, but not so, it started many years before even he was a child!!

First, we need to understand exactly what a gibbet is as the term is often confused with gallows; it is an apparatus used for executing criminals by means of hanging. They are quite similar in structure; however, a gibbet was used to hang the already dead bodies of executed criminals to deter others from committing similar crimes. This was often termed 'hanging in chains' or 'gibbeting', which meant that the body was placed in a metal cage or chains which were hung from the top arm of the gibbet. The body was left, until either the clothes had rotted or even until the bodies were almost completely decomposed, after which the bones would be scattered or buried. Gibbeting was most often used for traitors, murderers, highwaymen, pirates, and sheep stealers and was a common law punishment which a judge could impose in addition to execution. This practice was regularised by the Murder Act 1752, which empowered judges to impose this for murder. Up until the start of the 17th century what is known as live gibbeting also took place, this involved placing the criminal in chains and then letting them slowly die of thirst as they hung on the gibbet.



Gallows



Gibbeting

On February 10th, 1698, there was a grim crime that took place at Letheringham Mill, which at the time was owned by the Bullard family. They employed Jonah Snell, a disconsolate worker, who one day walked in when John Bullard and his son were doing the business accounts and bludgeoned them both to death with an axe and left them hog tied to a beam in the mill. He was captured swiftly and was found still carrying the blood-stained murder weapon. Snell was immediately detained and the following year he appeared at West Wickham Sessions Court where he was soon found guilty of

both murders. It is alleged that he protested his innocence but there was no account given as to why he chose to commit the terrible and somewhat shocking crime.

The punishment was for Snell to be hung on 14th April 1699 by the neck, and his body to be incarcerated in an iron caged gibbet at nearby Potsford to act as a warning to anyone considering committing these heinous crimes. At that time, it was a busy road so members of the public would have seen it often but now it stands on the edge of a wood along a country footpath. His remains were left in chains until 1740 when they were taken down and buried nearby. The hill upon which the gibbet sits became known as ‘Dragarse Hill’ as those sentenced were reportedly dragged up to the gibbet on their backs. A lot of the tales imply or state that he was then hanged and left to die on the gibbet. This does not sound entirely convincing as it contradicts the definition of what a gibbet was used for and does not agree with the little evidence found in the record books.



Some say that Snell was executed at Wickham Market. This would have most likely occurred at the site known as Gallows Hill after which his dead body would have then been taken to the gibbet at Potsford. This seems to be what is recorded in The Annals of Wickham Market which states that the Gibbet at Potsford Gibbet/Gallows Hill was last used in 1699. The parish registers also have it recorded that John Bullard and Sons: tenants of Letheringham Mill, were murdered in 1698/99 by Jonas Snell (journeyman) who was hanged at Wickham Market 1699. So, I will leave it up to you to decide and conclude what may really have happened. It is probably something that will never be known and ‘Dragarse Hill’ will just remain as folklore.



Snell was reputedly the last known hanging back in 1699. Today the remains of the gibbet post are preserved for posterity, and the site has gained a notorious reputation for haunting`s - both day and night.

The very first sighting of Jonah Snell’s ghost happened just before his remains were removed and since that date many have

experienced the presence of a paranormal entity over the centuries. Sometimes it has been a physical manifestation or even an unknown grabbing or touching people when they least expected it.

The area has seen many paranormal investigators experiencing and recording the events that have taken place.

The most recent paranormal activity seen claim to be strange lights that can be seen in the woods by the gibbet where it is said to be haunted. The lights have encouraged people to explore their curiosity only to be frightened as a ghostly figure wearing a hooded cowl with a grimacing, hollow eyed skeletal face. By day, intrigued walkers that pass near the post are said to turn around only to be confronted by the same ghostly figure.

Letheringham Mill was rebuilt in the 19th century but is still said to be haunted by the ghost of John Bullard. The 1874 publication *The History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk* does record that near the watermill in Letheringham, several skeletons were found in 1842, in the miller's garden, and six more were found in November 1873 in a grave pit on Mr Crisps Farm, only two feet under the ground. A plaque planted in the formal flower borders at the mill remembers the crime, which sends echoes from the past to woodland nearby.

Do you know of any hidden gems, folklore or ancient monuments in our local area or historical facts of times gone by that could be included in upcoming editions of The Signpost? If you do, please email me: bakergirl174@gmail.com

12 DAILY REMINDERS

1. The past cannot be changed
2. Opinions don't define your reality
3. Everyone's journey is different
4. Things always get better with time
5. Judgements are a confession of character
6. Overthinking will lead to sadness
7. Happiness is found within
8. Positive thoughts create positive things
9. Smiles are contagious
10. Kindness is free
11. You only fail if you quit
12. What goes around, comes around



1st February - Brigid of Ireland, compassion and love



Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- The Welsh call February "y mis bach" which means "little month"
- In the Southern Hemisphere February is a summer month the equivalent of August.
- The month is named for the Latin word februum which means purification.
- Together with January, it was the last of the months added to the Roman calendar.
- The largest American sporting event of the year, the Super Bowl, is held in February.
- The Saxon term for the month, Sol-monath, means "cake month". This is because they offered cakes to the gods during this month.

Happy new year to you all! I really do hope you're all fit and healthy, although I know of many people who are struggling with motivation right now. Me included. The cold, dismal and grey days have a real knock-on effect to the soul. It makes you want to hibernate in front of a good film and a roaring fire. But there's still plenty to do in the garden at this time of year.

Roses can have last year's growth reduced a third, ready for the spring when it can be hard pruned to the first shoot of new growth. Removing all crossing and central stems to open out the middle to allow for plenty of air circulation during the growing months.



Hardwood cuttings can be taken and propagated for next year. Things like roses, currants, cornus and viburnum can all be grown in this way. You can take a hardwood shoot from your parent plant. Selecting only the healthy-looking shoots. Cut off the soft growth at the tip of the plant, cut the shoot into sections around 15-30cm long each. Each section should be cut just above a bud. Make the cut at a slight angle – partly to stop rainwater getting in, but also so you can easily remember which side was the top. The bottom of the section should be cut straight across, under a node (join). You can either plant your cuttings straight into the ground outdoors or grow them on in containers. If planting directly outdoors, position in a sheltered spot with well-drained soil. Dig in plenty of compost or well-rotted stable manure in advance. When planting, you want two-thirds of the cutting to be below the surface as the roots will form here. The one third above the ground should include at least one node for a single stem plant or multiple for more. I hope that helps any propagating protagonist to be successful.



Gardening club news now. We're going to our Winter Meal at the White Hart in Otley on February 7th. Numbers are limited though, to allow for space between the tables. If you've not already booked your place, please get in touch with me as soon as possible on phil@florabundant.co.uk and I can send you a copy of the menu. There's a really gorgeous selection of freshly prepared dishes. Lynda will be chef on the day which we're really excited about and looking

forward to trying her culinary creations. It's been two years since we last broke bread together. So, it'll be nice to have some sort of normal event to attend.



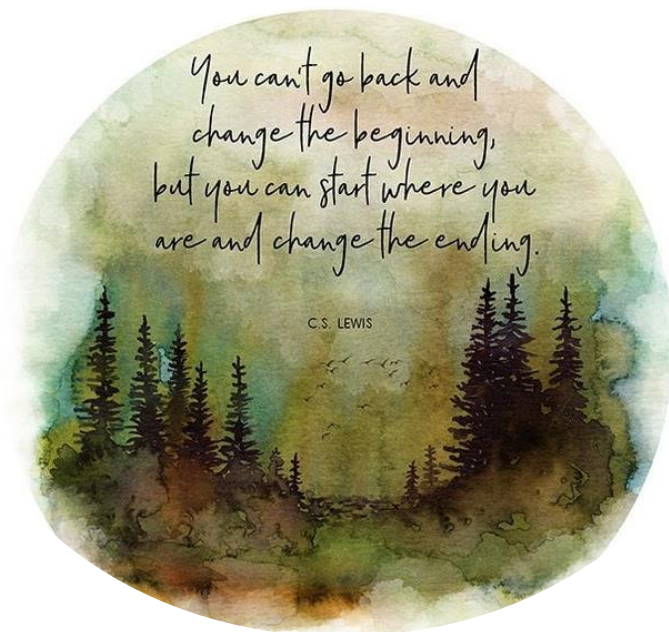
Our next meeting is **Monday 7th March 2022** at **19:30** with Mr Barry D Gayton from the RHS speaking about “Garden Pests and Diseases”. It should be a very informative and interesting talk, well I suppose it depends on your hobbies, but it sounds interesting to me! Please come along if this subject “floats your boat”, even if you're not a member. Entrance is £4.00 for non-members and £2.00 for members. Please arrive promptly as we will be starting at the bong of 19:30. Thank you in advance.

I do hope we can all get back to some sense of normality soon. It's been too long since we've had a good old knee's up and good time without worry of getting the dreaded lurgy. But needs must, to stay safe and healthy.

Please get in touch if you need any further information about gardening club matters on the email above.

Until next month, keep warm, keep happy and keep smiling.

Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman



Pom Poms



What is the real meaning behind the obligatory winter accessory The Pom Pom? Many have been surprised to discover the real reason why a winter accessory unlike anything else has pom-poms.

Having played some part in most people's lives, especially this time of year, as a fashion staple, winter hats have been around for far longer than perhaps you'd realised and with that comes the appearance of a pom-pom attached to them.

Contrary to popular belief, the pom poms are not just for decoration. The potted history of pom-poms could go back as far as the Vikings, with many historians believing that bobbles were worn on clothing of that era for some time.

It was brought about after a statue of mythological god Freyr was depicted with head gear adorned with a pom-pom in Södermanland, Sweden, in 1904.

Outside of Scandinavia, bobbles are also seen as an identifier in terms of rank.

In Italy, it was for clergymen who wore caps called birettas adorned with different colour pom-poms to indicate which job they did.

Closer to home and back in bonny old Scotland, soldiers in the Scottish Highland regiments wore woolly bobbles on their uniforms - a look mirrored by the French in Napoleon's infantry.

Sailors out to sea are also known to have a pom-pom upon their person, with pom-pom hats worn to cover their heads while it also provided protection for the head as a buffer in closely spaced surfaces.

The mainstream use of the pom-poms by everyday folk appeared to come at one of the bleakest times of the 20th century, in the Depression. You might consider it a surprise with finances stretched more than ever, but it is thought a simple pom-pom became the affordable way to jazz-up basic outfits without spending a lot of money.

Fast forward to the 1960s and it is thought that celeb culture also played a part in helping make the pom-pom look fashionable. The Monkees' Michael Nesmith (pictured right), who died last year, is thought to have helped to popularise the trend, after he wore the accessory during their TV show.



It's a move that is thought to have influenced others to do the same and from there, the pom-pom on top of your woolly hat has never looked back.

27th February George Herbert, vicar and poet

On this day the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn 'Let all the world/ In every corner sing', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life, he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.



He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he had graduated, he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

Lose an hour in the morning and you will be looking for it the rest of the day. – Philip Chesterfield

WHY YOU SHOULD.....

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: People who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties.

Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.

A recent study published, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, “was associated with higher cognitive function” among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.



Brainteasers



1. I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness.
2. A man was walking in the rain. He was in the middle of nowhere. He had nothing and nowhere to hide. He came home all wet, but not a single hair on his head was wet. Why is that?
3. Fourteen of the kids in the class are girls. Eight of the kids wear blue shirts. Two of the kids are neither girls or wear a blue shirt. If five of the kids are girls who wear blue shirts, how many kids are in the class?
4. Paul’s height is six feet, he’s an assistant at a butcher’s shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
5. What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and water, but no fish?
(Solutions on Page 19)

*“It is sad when one’s goals become something we must accomplish,
Rather than something we’d like to accomplish”*

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

Happy New Year from Ashbocking. I must admit Christmas and the new year seem a while ago already. Here we are at the end of January and looking forward to a happier and easier 2022. Hopefully!

Our Christmas services were well attended under the circumstances. Many people it seemed were under the weather with Omicron, including some of our own family. Meaning, like many others, Christmas was a depleted affair, we started with eleven coming to only four on the day!



On the 23rd of January we had the Benefice service at Grundisburgh when Elders from the benefice villages, including myself, were re-licensed by Bishop Mike to enable us to continue Lay Ministry in our churches and bring pastoral support to the community. Brian Williams from Swiland was licensed for the first time, so we welcome him to our numbers.

All went well and it was truly lovely to feel the support of a full church.

The next church service at Ashbocking is on Sunday 13th February at 11:00am. This will be a Communion service led by Phil Dykes. Everyone is welcome, hopefully we will be singing without masks.

The next coffee morning is on Friday 4th February at 10:30am, at Hawthorns, The Green Ashbocking. We are found at the end of Ashley Grange and have parking for several cars.

It will be lovely to see people again, having not had a coffee morning since December. Everyone is very welcome.

Knit and stitch is on February 7th, we are always ready to welcome new members. Bring any knitting or crafting project you would like to work on or just come and get some ideas and enjoy a coffee and chat. We will be finishing promptly on the 7th at 12:00pm, so as not to interfere with those involved, getting to the Otley and District Winter lunch.



You may remember that we had suggested having a Jumble Sale in the church at the beginning of February. Unfortunately, it has now been agreed to postpone it until the spring. I think it is too soon, with infection rates still quite high even though they are gradually falling. It is also very cold, so watch this space to find out when we decide to go ahead.

However, if you do have jumble that you wish to get rid of, we will gladly collect it, or you can drop it off at Hawthorns. Please contact me if you wish us to collect on 01473 890836.

Thank you for your support.

Linda Pollard, 07887537152

CLOPTON



Thank you to all the people who gave toys for our Gift Service in December. It was lovely to get so many gifts. They were taken to the Salvation Army in Felixstowe who were delighted with them. These gifts were given to families in time for Christmas making their Christmas very special.

Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to fill the church with people for our Candlelight Carol Service. We took the decision to let people know that we would have to limit the number attending to conform with the rules. We set our limit at forty people. We know that lots of people would have liked to come but everyone stood by the rules and there were no problems with un-booked people arriving. Katrina led a lovely service and mulled wine and mince pies were served after. We hope that 2022 will see everything back to normal.

We are now back in the Village Hall for our Hobby and Coffee morning meetings.

We are following all the safety guidelines and you can bring your own mug if you would feel safer.

Hobbies morning will be on Wednesday 2nd February from 10am until 12 noon.

Coffee Morning will take place on 16th February from 10am until 12 noon.

You will be made very welcome at both these events and you do not have to be a Clopton resident.



Wishing everyone a belated Happy and Healthy 2022.

Doris Main

OTLEY

Damage to Flowers on Headstones

Over the last couple of months, we have been distressed to find considerable damage to flowers and wreaths left at some headstones in Otley churchyard. The damage is random and mainly to flowers left by headstones for interment of ashes. These headstones are situated along the back of the churchyard.

It is uncertain whether the damage is an act of vandalism, or the result of wild animal activity, such as munt jack deer. Since the damage has been occurring for a considerable time, it is probably more likely to be the latter.

If anyone has some more information about this matter, please let me know.

Nigel Crowley

pauline.crowley@btinternet.com

Otley Village Hall is now busy with bookings for parties and regular activities: **Monday** evenings once a month is **Gardening club**: contact **Phil Pollard 07880627984**

Tuesday and **Thursday** mornings is **Pilates** 9.15am & 10.30am contact **Lara Pepper 07974142240**

1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons 2.00-4.00pm is the **Craft club** contact **Mary Hunt (07770 395716)** or **Caroline Manning (07932 173289)**

Wednesday morning is **Tap Dancing** contact **Jill Streatfeild 01394 384557** and the **"Horn Factory"** rehearse in the evening.

Thursday evening is the **Suffolk Singers**

Saturday afternoons **Junior Tops** are rehearsing for "Shrek the Musical."

Please contact Vanessa Ling on **01473 890787** or email her at **vanessa@papermaze.co.uk** for more information.



Otley Christmas Post



Thank you all..... for your fantastic support with the **2021 Christmas Post**.

We delivered 261 cards to homes in the Village and raised £134.55 and this was sent to MIND along with £72 raised by the Tuesday Crafting Group who held a raffle for the same fantastic Charity. £206.55 in total.

Well done everyone for choosing to contribute to our chosen charity.

JAYNE, IZZY, TERRY, SAM, JUDE & MARILYN

SWILLAND



At last, the evenings are beginning to draw out. It is good to see the early spring flowers emerging. In my garden I have snowdrops, aconites, daphne, winter sweet, viburnum, winter jasmine and camellias in flower. The daffodils are in

bud. Spring is on the way!

Sadly, Christine Kelway died in mid-December after a relatively short illness. She and John have lived in Swilland for over 30 years. Christine was a keen member of the WI and was a familiar sight walking their dog or cutting the hedge outside their house. She will be very much missed by her family and friends. We send our sympathy to John. Her funeral was held in Swilland Church on 24th January and she was buried in the churchyard.

Now that Covid restrictions are easing, we are going to resume our monthly coffee mornings. The first one will be on 29th January at 10 a.m. at Red Court. Please look out for the A-Board at the end of Church Lane to see when and where the February one will be.

We are very pleased that Brian Williams has been licensed as an Elder and thank him for taking this on. We look forward to him leading some of our services - hopefully we shall be able to have an extra service in some months.

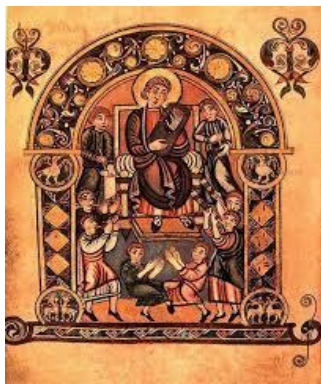


The presentation of St. Mark's Gospel by Katrina's brother, Angus, in Grundisburgh Church was excellent. I hope it raised a lot of money for the young Nigerian girl he helps to support.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota:-

February Jackie Williams
March No flowers in Lent



Caedmon's Hymn

Now we must praise the kingdom of heaven's guardian
The might of the Creator and his purpose,
The work of the Father of Glory as he of each miracle,
Eternal Lord, established the beginning.
He first created for the sons of the earth
Heaven as a roof, holy Creator.
Then the middle earth, mankind's guardian,
Eternal Lord, afterwards adorned
The earth with people, the Lord Almighty.

60 Years ago in a Space Capsule

It was 60 years ago, on 20th February 1962, that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7, which he named himself.

The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours – made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name – but he was not the first man in space. He was preceded by two Russians, Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov, in April and August 1961.



The American launch was postponed four times because of mechanical issues and uncertain weather, and the flight was not without its frightening moments. An

apparent problem with the heat shield necessitated a change in plans during the flight, but this turned out to be a relatively insignificant sensor problem.

Glenn was one of the first US astronauts – the Mercury Seven – who were immortalised in Thomas Wolfe’s 1979 book, *The Right Stuff*, which became a film and more recently a TV series.

Glenn, who represented Ohio as a Democratic senator for 25 years from 1974, returned to space in 1998 aboard the space shuttle Discovery, making him the oldest person to fly in space. That mission’s main aim was to study the effects of space flight on older people. He died in 2016, aged 95.

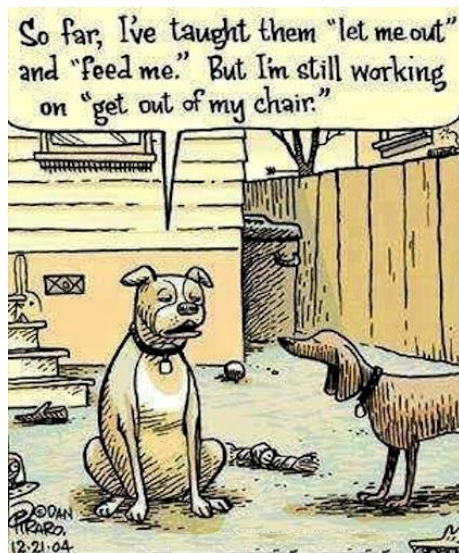
Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: “To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible.”

Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 13

1. The letter S.
2. The man was bald.
3. 19
4. Meat
5. A map



How did you do?



February birthdays are unique!

On a chart demonstrating which birth dates are most common and which are rare, February comes up light, especially compared to August and September. So, if you are born in this month, you should feel extra-special!



February Babies Are Taller...and Possibly Smarter

According to a study of 21,000 children done over seven years, winter babies "were significantly longer at birth, and were heavier, taller, and had larger head circumference at age 7. They also had higher scores in a series of intelligence exercises." Whether they keep the size advantage into adulthood, though, is still up for scientific debate.

Like Most Winter Babies, They're Pretty Even Keeled

Studies show that people born in the colder months are less irritable, and less prone to mood swings, than summer babies. They take the warm, comfortable, and safe feeling to heart.

Winter Children Are Easier

Researchers studied 4 and 5-year-olds with respect to the children's consideration of others, sharing, temperament, fidgeting, concentration, and ability to make friends. When the numbers were crunched, they found that those born in winter were much better behaved. (You can pretend it was your good parenting!)

They are also more likely to be famous.

According to TIME magazine, "January and February are the right months to be born if you want to be famous, since those months correlate with creativity and imaginative problem-solving."

In fact, many well-known people were born in February.

If you are a February baby, you are certainly in good company. Other well-known figures with February birthdays include George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Gertrude Stein, Steve Jobs, Thomas Edison, George Frideric Handel, and Elizabeth Taylor.

But people born on Leap Day only get a "real" birthday every four years.

If you're born on February 29, then you're going to have to wait until 2024 for your next official calendar birthday. But most people just choose to celebrate it on February 28 or March 1 during non-leap years.



RUSSELL LING REPORTS



After the end of the end of World War 2 new tractors and modern machinery began to take the place of the Suffolk Punch.

This horse had been used in agriculture since the 16th century and is characterised by its chestnut colour, strength, clean legs and even temperament. This made it ideal for the heavy work that was required on the heavy land that is found in East Anglia. Keeping working horses was not cheap, there was the cost of feeding them which meant that some of the arable acreage was grown for oats. Land would also be sown with red clover seed, which was made into hay, this was called stover. In a dry year, a good crop of seed would be harvested as a bonus. Other costs included having their hooves shod which would be twice a year, also harnessing and veterinary fees. Larger farms had a horseman who was paid extra money to arrive early to bring the horses into the stable to feed and harness them ready for the farm hands to take them out to work when they arrived. Horses that were used in pairs would have to be of a same size in order that there would be an even pull on the implement. If a farm was to be sold in the past it would sometimes be advertised as a four or six horse farm depending on the number of horses that would be required to cope with the work, this would be approximately thirty acres per horse.



With the end of WW2, the production of modern tractors and machinery, particularly the combine harvester revolutionised farming methods, the horse then became redundant. There are now a few kept in the hands of some dedicated breeders and there is also the Suffolk Punch Trust at Hollesley bay where there is a breeding programme, and it is also open to the public. They are still used in some locations which are more suitable for a horse such as timber hauling in forests in wet conditions. The numbers of the Suffolk Punch horse have declined to approximately 300 in the U.K. and about 2500 worldwide and is now regarded as rarer than the giant panda!



“We become what we read.”

Matilda Nordtvedt

An American in Otley: A Sure Enough Soldier

I am writing on our Veteran's Day, your Remembrance Day. As I have written before, I do remember and honour the millions of men who fought in The Great War; my grandfather, Olin Clarke Jones was among them. Beside my wonderful childhood memories, I remember him through his words, scrawled hastily in a pocket diary he carried with him as he marched through eastern France during the Meuse-Argonne offensive.



His words bring to life the fervour, idealism, and optimism that motivated many Americans to go “over there” and make the world “safe for democracy.” Jones was a handsome preacher’s boy, a sportsman, well-educated, who grew up in the farming state of Ohio. Jones followed in his father’s footsteps and, after earning a Doctor of Divinity, became a Methodist minister serving in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied events in Europe and after 1915, strongly advocated for the United States to enter the war on the Allied side unlike many in the Midwest. He wanted to see the USA “fight in France for freedom!” When we finally declared war against the Central Powers on April 6, 1917, Grandpa volunteered with the YMCA and was assigned to one of the large US Army Training Camps in Ohio as Director of Religious Work. He left his young wife and child in August 1917 and spent the next 2 years becoming a “sure enough soldier.”

By January 1918, his role as a civilian volunteer attached to the U.S. Army proved insufficient. He wanted to be with the men he ministered to when they went overseas. He wanted to serve them, and, I think, he wanted to prove himself their equal. If they could brave the guns and “take on the Hun,” then so should he. Other YMCA men were joining up as Army chaplains, and my grandfather followed suit. He applied for the Chaplaincy and was accepted. In April 1918, he became 1st Lieutenant Jones and was assigned to the Army’s Sixth Division, 18th Machine Gun Battalion, to be their Chaplain. As a Chaplain, he was not expected to bear arms but rather fulfil a variety of support duties: ministering to the men, assisting medics, taking charge of the dead and their affects, liaising with local communities, arranging for enlisted billeting and mess



facilities, seeing to the officers' quarters and mess, and even overseeing laundry services and censoring outgoing mail.

On July 7, 1918, he, the command section of the 6th Division, and his battalion left from a pier in Manhattan, New York, on the RMS Desna, a royal mail ship built by Harland and Wolff, Ltd. of Belfast. This was his first taste of Europe! On



board Jones was told by his commander that he had impressed command staff of the Battalion and Division with his organizational skill, energy, drive, and concern for the men. He was to be nominated for a “transfer to the line.” Grandpa accepted the nomination and wrote of his decision: “I must be in the line to satisfy my self-respect. I

want to look any young man in the eyes and know I went as far as possible for me to go – as far even as he went.” My grandfather was one of only a handful of chaplains who also were officers of line, to fall under the command structure of officers engaged in Army operations.

As such, Jones wore his Chaplain's bars, Lieutenant's bars and he carried a pistol. He trained on firing the British-made Vickers' machine gun, with which his Battalion was equipped, and helped in its transport but did not oversee its actual use. He tried to maintain a balance between Chaplain and line officer, but he was clear where his duty lay. Throughout the time in France, my grandfather comforted his men and, perhaps himself, with words ascribed to Paul in Hebrews 12:1, “Seeing then we are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Time and again he returned to these words.

In France he was part of the American Expeditionary Forces and fought with the Sixth Division as it wrested control of Alsace-Lorraine from the Germans. It involved marches of over 24 hours through wooded and mountainous terrain, pulling ammo carts and machine guns by hand on muddy paths until the Battalion reached Verdun. Jones found himself in abandoned German bunkers and trenches,



huddling with rats, dining on endless meals of bully beef (when rations were available), and learning to fear the ever-present sound of the guns and the whiz of snipers' bullets. He wrote, "My nerves tremble. I shrink back from danger – but my will has never weakened and I have gone

where ordered and where death was." The Sixth Division traversed the entire length of the American eastern line in 7 days in November 1918 and set an Army record for the duration and frequency of its marches.

My grandfather returned to the States in April 1919, and was demobbed by September. As with all veterans, war had changed him. His family did not know him nor he, they. The memories and fantasies that carried them through the long absence did not reflect the realities of the lives they led for the two years apart. Grandpa was a large man with a "command presence" and a booming voice. His now almost-three-year-old daughter, my mother, was terrified of him and clung to her mother. His wife, used to managing her life, her house, and her work as she saw fit was unwilling to resume a more submissive wifely role. Jones carried the memories of duty, death, and hardship that they did not understand but that haunted his dreams. Now we would call his emotions part of a PTSD-like disorder. It was not an easy period of adjustment, but he did not complain and would not explain.

The Great War transformed Europe, haunted the generations of men who fought in it, and even laid the groundwork for the next war. For Jones it defined him as a man and a minister. It gave him a much greater understanding of people and how to help them in times of difficulty. He knew how to reach out to a wide variety of people and speak to their needs and for their needs. He became a stronger church leader and manager as well as a steadfast believer in American involvement in the world. It also left him with private struggles that made him a hard man for his wife and daughter to understand and love.



Whatever one may believe about American foreign policy, military engagements around the world, or even national character, a generation of young men a world away answered a call to free France and fight for democracy. They were country boys, native Americans, the grandsons of former

slaves, lawyers, and bankers, a cross section of the American nation. Many had never travelled further than the courthouse in their county seat. They travelled thousands of miles to fight for a cause they might not have fully understood and for reasons that were not clear. But they went like my grandfather went. I honour them for their service, and I honour all the soldiers who fought in that transformative war.

Note: The words in quotations are from my grandfather's journal.

Mary Miner, susiespinner36@msn.com

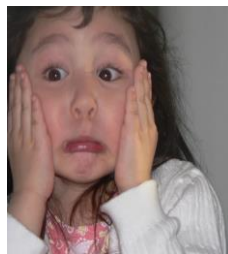
SMILE LINES

The Rules of Marriage - Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. – Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. – Kirsten, age 10



What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then. – Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. – Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. – Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. – Lynnette, age 8
On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. – Martin, age 10



What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. – Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. – Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.

– Curt, age 7

If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. – Howard, age 8



Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. – Anita, age 9

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? – Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favourite is.....

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry – Ricky, age 10

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to



ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So, he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

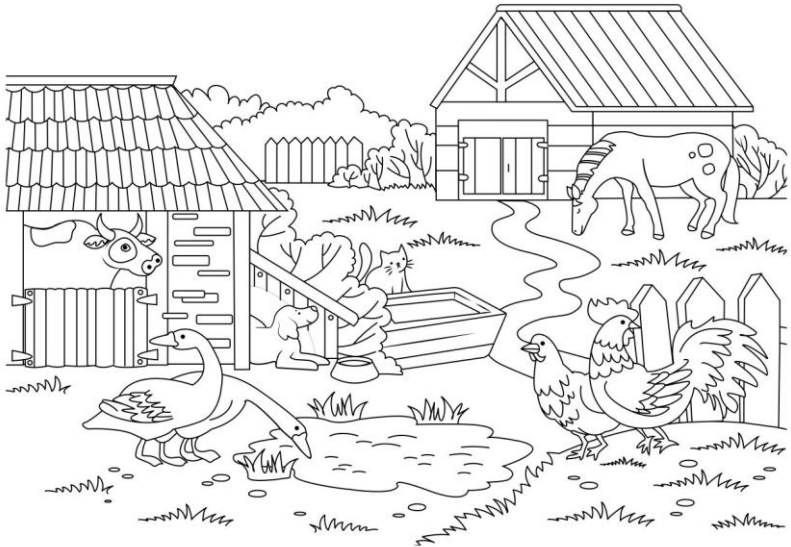
"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."



CHILDREN'S CORNER

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Q: WHY ARE ROBOTS NEVER AFRAID?



A: THEY HAVE NERVES OF STEEL!

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