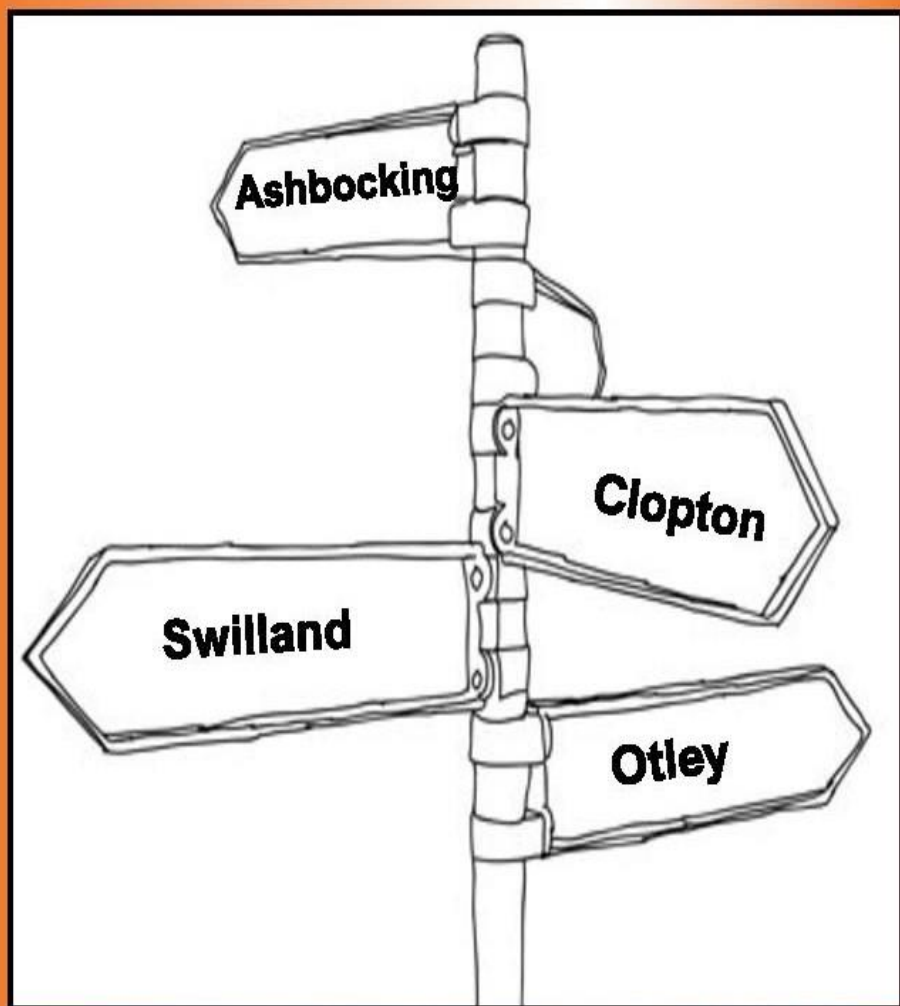


The Signpost



News from the Parishes

A Word from The Editor.....



Welcome to the **March Signpost**. Whilst so many countries and people are uneasy with the war between Russia and the Ukraine, we here in our tiny part of the world continue, day by day, to get excited at the prospect of Spring just around the corner.

The gardens are waking up with the bulbs appearing ready for their big reveal in the coming days.

Another great excitement for us locals is the announcement of works finally commencing on the B1078 Otley/Clopton Road where the longest temporary traffic lights are stationed. Full details on this can be found on page 16.

Plans are full steam ahead for Jubilee celebrations nationwide. What are you planning and where? Do let me know so that I can include details in the magazine.

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 April issue with a deadline **of 24th March 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

With best wishes

Amy

March

Racing clouds and whistling winds,
Coats flapping in the breeze,
Bright kites circling in the skies,
The dance of swaying trees,
The cheerful sight of crocuses,
The first sweet breath of spring –
Just part of all the many moods
The month of March can bring.

Rainfall January



This has been a very unusual month for weather, firstly it has been extremely dry with only .65 inches of rain. This was due to a very high-pressure area which stayed with us for much of January giving us 100 hours of sunshine with only a few days when it has been cloudy and dull. This has broken the records once again for the weather that has taken place during January.

Russell Ling

2nd March - Chad, The Recycled Bishop

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed - and then re-consecrated!

It all began about the middle of the 7th century, when Oswiu, King of Northumbria, made Chad the bishop of the Northumbrian see. But due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later.



Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. But then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. So, Theodore re-consecrated him – to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success - again.

When Chad died in about 672AD, he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century, and believed to be Chad's, are in the R.C. cathedral in Birmingham.

Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed.

“Empathy is your pain in my heart.” – *HE Luccock*

DID YOU KNOW.....

- On **March 1st, 2007**, a detachment of 170 Swiss infantrymen accidentally invaded neighbouring Liechtenstein when they got lost on a training mission. Luckily, after explaining the mistake to Liechtenstein, the Swiss army was given directions and returned home safely.
- **March 2nd** NASA astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth after nearly one full year on the International Space Station, setting a new record for the longest uninterrupted trip to space.
- **March 29th-31st** are known as the **Borrowing Days**. According to lore, the last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy.
- **March 13th** is National Ear Muff Day
- **March 16th** is National Panda Day
- **March 21st** Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- Britain used **March 25th** as the beginning of the New Year until 1752.
- **March 1918**: ‘Spanish’ flu strikes and kills 100 million.
- **Famous People born in March:**
 - 2nd - Daniel Craig 1968 (British Actor best known for playing James Bond)*
 - 11th - Rupert Murdoch 1931 (Australian Media Tycoon)*
 - 14th - Albert Einstein 1879 (German Physicist)*
 - 19th - Eduardo Saverin 1982 (Co-founder of Facebook)*
 - 22nd - Stephen Sondheim 1930 (American Composer)*
 - 25th - Elton John 1947 (British Singer/Composer)*
 - 26th - Guccio Gucci 1881 (Italian Businessman & Founder of Gucci)*
 - 27th - Quentin Tarantino 1963 (American Filmmaker)*
 - 30th - Vincent Van Gogh 1853 (Artist from Netherlands)*
 - 30th - Eric Clapton 1945 (British Musician)*



The Titchborne Dole – A Curious Custom Folk Story



The Titchborne Dole is an eccentric custom which dates back to the 12th century. It is a traditional English festival which takes place in the village of Titchborne, Nr Aylesford in Hampshire every year on March 25th the Feast of the Annunciation (Lady's Day) and is centred on the handing out of donations of flour, which have been blessed by the local parish priest, from the front of Titchborne House.

Over eight hundred years ago, there lived a kind and generous woman called Lady Maybela. It was custom in those days that if the woman had a lot of money, it all belonged to her husband from the day of their marriage. So, although Lady Maybela had been very rich, she had to ask her husband, Sir Roger de Titchborne, for anything she wanted.

Sir Roger was not the nicest of all people. Lady Maybela had to beg for everything she needed. Most of the things she had, she liked to give to the poor.



When she was very ill and dying, she asked her husband if he would still be kind to the poor people after she died. She wanted him to give bread to the poor once a year. Sir Roger was not very happy about this, for he would have to give up some of the flour that he made from the wheat he grew and he didn't like to give anything away for nothing!

Now remember that Lady Maybela was very ill. Sir Roger took a burning log from the fire for his wife to hold as a torch. He told his wife that however much of his land she could get round before the flames from the torch went out, he would set



aside for the growing of wheat and this wheat would be made into flour for the poor.

Lady Maybela called to her maids and they lifted her from her bed and into the grounds outside.

Now everyone knows that March is a very windy month, but as Sir Roger carried the burning torch outside to give to Lady Maybela to carry, the winds dropped and the flames from the torch burned brightly with an unflickering flame. Lady Maybela tried to stand up but she was too weary so she began to crawl on her hands and knees. As she disappeared the servants held their breath and waited. Sir Roger was getting more and more angry as he saw how far his wife was crawling – he thought he had set her an impossible task. He saw Lady Maybela turn and start to cross across the land – then, still crawling, she turned again, this time to crawl down back to the house. All the time the flame burned brightly.

As Lady Maybela was nearing the house, the torch was nearly all burned out, and when at last she reached the place where she had started, the flame suddenly went out. She had crawled over an area of twenty-three acres (93,000 m²)! These same twenty-three acres today are still known as the ‘Crawls’.



Before Lady Maybela died she made Sir Roger promise to give all the flour grown on the Crawls to the poor every 25th March and just to make sure he kept his promise, she put a curse on the Tichborne family and house. The curse said that anyone in the family not giving flour to the poor on 25th March would find that their house would collapse, their money would be lost and seven sons would be born followed by seven daughters and the name Tichborne would die out.

The Dole continued for over 600 years from the time of Lady Tichborne's death until 1796, when disturbances during the handing out of the Dole led to local officials ordering it to cease.

Local folk however, remembered the final part of the Tichborne legend and Lady Tichborne's curse. The penalty for not giving the dole would be a generation of

seven daughters, the family name would die out and the ancient house fall down. In 1803 part of the house did indeed subside and the curse seemed to have been fulfilled when Sir Henry Tichborne who succeeded to the baronetcy in 1821 (one of seven brothers), produced seven daughters. The tradition was hastily re-established and has continued to this day.



Roger, Henry's nephew, was born before the restoration of the Dole and his younger brother Alfred afterwards. Roger was lost at sea in 1845 and was impersonated two decades later by the unsuccessful Tichborne claimant. Arthur Orton. Alfred was the only one to survive Lady Tichborne's curse and thus the Tichborne name did not die out.

The Dole is held every Lady's Day, March 25th. The parish priest carries out the traditional Blessing of the Tichborne Dole before the flour is distributed to the local people – only those families in Tichborne, Cheriton and Lane End are entitled to the dole. They receive one gallon of flour per adult and half a gallon per child.

Lady's Day itself is celebrated in honour of the Virgin Mary as this day, is nine months before Christmas, is the day of the Annunciation from the Archangel Gabriel that she would bear Christ.



Otley and District Gardening Club

What a time we've had of late. The wind and rain have been out of this world! I thought it was the apocalypse at one point. Trees were swaying like rubber and the birds only took flight if they absolutely had to. But it's all calmed down now... until the next storm hits us. They've come a month early, haven't they? Isn't it March winds and April showers?!?! It makes you wonder if the climate will change forever to this format.

In the next half a century or so, the phrase will change to "March Snow and April's summertime". Half the old wives tales won't apply anymore.



The members of Otley and District Gardening Clubs had a great Winter meal at The White Hart in Otley. The team at the pub made a huge effort to make sure we were very well fed and watered. And what a selection of food we had. Freshly prepared and piping hot. My favourite was the "Hot Smoked Salmon Pot" I had for my starter. Mouth wateringly good. So, a huge Thank you goes to the team at The White Hart for an outstanding meal and for providing such a warm and comfortable venue for us to catch up on old times.

Our next meeting is on 7th March at Otley Village Hall. Please come along from 19:00 to start at 19:30. We're pleased to announce that we've got Barry Gayton from RHS talking about Garden Pests and Diseases. I love to know how to get rid of certain pests, and I'm sure we'll be told of some humane ways to deter those pesky bugs.



We're also welcoming Amanda to our meeting. She's Otley's very own tree warden and is trying to find participants and volunteers to help with the Queens Jubilee celebrations and in particular the Queens Green Canopy appeal. We're planning on planting some trees somewhere in Otley for the community to enjoy. I will update you as to how the meeting goes in next month's edition.

Until then, stay as safe and dry as you possibly can

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman,
Otley and District Gardening Club.*

19th March - St Joseph the Carpenter, gracious descendant of King David

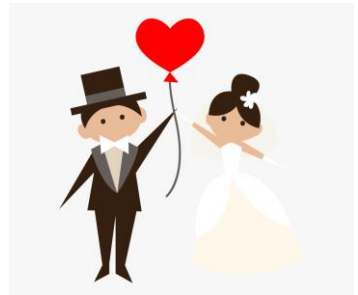
Many people know that Joseph was the father of the most famous man who ever lived, but beyond that, we know very little about him. The Gospels name him as the ‘father’ of Jesus, while also asserting that the child was born of a virgin. Even if he wasn’t what we call the ‘biological’ father, it was important to them that he was a distant descendant of the great King David - a necessary qualification for the Messiah.



It’s obvious that Joseph (usually described as a ‘carpenter’) was not wealthy, because he was allowed to offer the poor man’s sacrifice of two pigeons or turtle doves at the presentation of his infant son. No one expected eloquence or wisdom from this man’s son. Jesus was born into an unremarkable family, with a doubtless hard-working artisan as His father. There would have been few luxuries in that little home at Nazareth.

Matthew begins his birth narrative with the bald statement that Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she became pregnant ‘with child from the Holy Spirit’. Joseph was not apparently privy to the divine intervention in her life, and so drew the obvious conclusion: it was another man’s child. However, he was not the sort of man who wished to disgrace her publicly, so he resolved to ‘dismiss her quietly’ - end their engagement without fuss, we might say.

However, at that point Joseph had a dream in which he was told by ‘an angel of the Lord’ not to hesitate to take Mary as his wife, because the child conceived in her was ‘from the Holy Spirit’, and that the baby was to be named ‘Jesus’ (‘saviour’) because He will ‘save His people from their sins’. On waking, Joseph did as he had been instructed and took Mary as his wife.



So far as Joseph himself is concerned, we can be pretty sure of a few things. In human, legal terms he was the father of Jesus, he was a carpenter and he had probably died before Jesus

began his public ministry. The little we are told suggests a devout, decent, and sensitive man, one who shared Mary's anxiety when the 12-year-old Jesus went missing in Jerusalem, and who presumably taught his son the trade of a carpenter.

Joseph has become an icon of the working man - there are many churches nowadays dedicated to 'Joseph the Worker.' He can stand in the calendar of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.

"God made man to be somebody – not just to have things. – Anon"

Brain teasers

1. If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you haven't got me. What am I?
2. What is always coming but never arrives?
3. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?
4. What invention lets you look right through a wall?
5. What is unusual about the following words: revive, banana, grammar, voodoo, assess, potato, dresser, uneven?



(Solutions on Page 20)

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

– J Von Goethe

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

Hello from Ashbocking.

As I write this, I reflect on the storms of last week and now the sunshine and showers, sleet included, on a very cold Wednesday afternoon. The roads are flooded in places and the lawn is like a swamp.

Even with this, it is amazing to see the daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops flowering in their clusters or about to break. This gives such hope for better times to come. I for one am looking forward to a bit of warmth and being able to move around without having to apply so many layers!



I noticed too that the hawthorns in my garden and indeed some of the hedgerows are glowing with a fresh flush of green, as the leaf-buds break.

Mr Duck who visits my garden has found a wife and the bird population are generally becoming noisier and a lot busier.



The church has been having a tidy up, with edging for the path in progress and we are almost there with the permission required to install our temporary porta-loo. We were very fortunate to be able to purchase the loo from Grundisburgh Church and hopefully it will keep us going until, like them, we have our permanent one.



This of course, including the kitchenette, is a costly project, especially the initial feasibility study and plans, for which we have been fundraising. Now with Covid restrictions having been relaxed we are starting the fundraising process once more, but we will also have to apply for grants to assist with this. We hope to include in this transformation to move the font and remove the rear pews to allow space for other activities and events. This is necessary for the church as we have no village hall.

Our next fundraising event is a **JUMBLE SALE** on **SAT 2nd APRIL**, 10am to 3pm in the church.

Admission is 50p and we hope for a good turn out to make it a successful day. Refreshments will be available all day.



We are now collecting jumble so please keep us in mind if you are having a clear out. All clothing, shoes, coats, and handbags accepted, but no underwear please. Books, puzzles, and toys also gratefully accepted.

All jumble will be gratefully received either by dropping it off at John and Linda Pollard's house, Hawthorns, the Green, Ashbocking, or we can collect. Just give us a ring on 07887537152 to arrange. Thank you.

The next church service at Ashbocking is on Sunday 13th March at 11am, this will be followed with coffee and biscuits before the Annual Parish Council Meeting, to which you are all invited.

Coffee morning is on Friday 2nd March, 10:30 -12:00, everyone is welcome to join us at Hawthorns, The Green, at the end of Ashley Grange. It is also an opportunity to choose the hymns for the service on the 13th.



Knit and stitch is on Monday 7th March at 10:00am – 12noon. Again, at Hawthorns. This group is growing and we welcome people from other villages to join us too.

You are welcome to bring anything you may be working on and if you are having problems or want to learn to knit, cross-stitch or crochet we have people to help. If you have something new to teach us that would be welcomed too.

Linda Pollard, 07887537152

CLOPTON

We send our deepest sympathy to Richard Taylor and family after the death of his wife Prilly. Grundisburgh church was full for Prilly's funeral on 15th February. There will be a tribute to Prilly in the April Signpost.

We are enjoying being able to meet in the Village Hall for our monthly Coffee and Hobbies mornings. We are still being very careful to make sure that people are safe.

Hobbies Morning is 10am until noon on Wednesday 2nd March and the Coffee Morning is from 10am until noon on Wednesday 16th March. Everyone is very welcome to join us at either one or both events.



There will be a service on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, at Clopton Church at 7pm. Please join us.

Doris Main

OTLEY



Our February service took place on a rather windy and rainy morning but nevertheless we had a full complement of bell ringers, Helen's musical support on the organ and 18 people joining us. Sally took the service of communion and Katrina preached. She preached on the calling of the first disciples who were ordinary people having their ups and downs in their faith. She made us consider our own faith journeys, our own ups and downs as well as who influenced and inspired us.

Sally shared something of her involvement with young people and their exploration of faith. She showed us photos of groups of youngsters meeting in and outside different rural churches for 'Friends – Faith - Family – Fun'. One group meets in the Burgh School Room on a Sunday afternoon at 5pm. It is appropriately called Sunday@5. Teens and families will be very welcome there. For more information contact Sally on 07446933129.



The day of our service coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. In her broadcast the Queen mentioned her own faith and how it had sustained her during those 70 years. At our last PCC meeting we were discussing how to mark the occasion of the platinum jubilee. James suggested planting 7 oak trees in the north and west of the churchyard contributing to the 'Green Canopy' idea. An outside service at the Village Hall with a picnic to follow is also being considered.

Our next service is on the 6th of March at 9.30am. We are marking Leprosy Sunday with a collection for the work of the Leprosy Mission. This year their campaign called 'Greater Heights' is focussing on the lab at Anandaban hospital in Nepal where pioneering work is undertaken to reach the greatest height of all – ending leprosy. The lab where this research is taking place is crumbling and at risk of closure. The Paralympian and Vice-President of the Leprosy Mission Stef Reid who lost a leg in a boating accident visited the Anandaban hospital and Research Centre and you can watch a short video of her visit on the website: [leprosymission.org.uk/greater heights](http://leprosymission.org.uk/greater-heights).

If you would like to support this campaign but cannot attend the church service you can leave a contribution at my house until the 10th of March. This money will be added to the church collection. You can also donate online.

The 10th of March is the next coffee morning at our house at 16 Spring Park from 10am until 12 noon. You will be very welcome.

I have been asked to thank the Parish Council for asking East Suffolk to undertake repair work along 'The Gull'. The work has been finished and the path has been made safe. This is very much appreciated by the people walking along there.



Some other good news: The Junior Otley Players are performing again. They have taken on 'SHREK' the Musical. Performances are in the Village Hall on Friday 25th March at 7.15pm and Saturday 26th March at 2.15pm and 7.15pm. Tickets cost £7 for adults and £4 for children. They are available from 01473 892040.



Karin Upson

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.

Traffic Lights at Otley Bottom

Maintenance works to stabilise and repair the damaged bank on the B1079 at Otley Bottom is to start next month.

The improvement works, which are due to begin on Monday 28 March 2022 and last approximately six weeks, have been planned in to repair a highway bank

collapse due to erosion from the river. Currently temporary traffic signals are in place to keep vehicles off the area - avoiding further subsidence, and to ensure the safety of the travelling public.



There have been a number of complexities associated with the location, such as its proximity to the river and the potential for further erosion, the need for consent from the Environment Agency to work adjacent to the watercourse and the need to reposition an undermined telegraph pole. These complexities alongside resource issues related to COVID has resulted in a delay of repairs.

A solution has now been agreed, which once complete will mean the road can fully reopen to traffic. The new bank will be made up of rock-filled gabion baskets



laid to heights of two metres from the bottom of the watercourse, for approximately ten metres. There will also be an installation of erosion control matting to the watercourse and bank for approximately twenty metres, new drainage added to the road, reinforced kerb line, a new post and rail fence, and road repairs.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member responsible for Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

“I want to thank Otley Parish Council and the local community for their patience whilst we organise for the new build and repair of the embankment collapse at Otley Bottom. These works have taken longer than usual to take place, so I apologise for the inconvenience this is causing local residents.

“The improvement works which have now been planned in will provide a brand new retaining feature which will repair the subsidence and protect the bank now and for years to come.”

A full road closure will be required from Monday 28 March 2022 to allow for the works to be carried out safely and a diversion route will be in place. The official diversion is via B1078, B1077, A1214, A12, B1079 and vice versa. This route has to take into account every size of vehicle, however it is recognised there are shorter routes for smaller vehicles. It is recommended that you plan your route ahead to avoid further disruption.



SWILLAND



The gales on 18th February caused some disruption and damage, but we were less affected than other parts of the country. I was sorry to hear at church on Sunday 20th that the Water Tower end of Swilland was still without electricity. I hope it did not last much longer.

Coffee mornings - in future these will be held on the **4th Saturday** of the month at 10a.m. The next one will be on **26th February** at Gina Wilden's house, 7 High Road, Swilland. The following one will be on **26th March**. Dates and venues will be put on the A-Board at the end of Church Lane. These are not specifically church events - everyone is welcome.

Platinum Jubilee - there will be a Scarecrow Competition in Witnesham and Swilland, preferably with a Royal theme. Hopefully most houses will display one!



Lent - LiveLent booklets will be available at the back of the church offering a daily Bible reading, a short reflection, and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge. On each Monday evening in Lent (7th March to 4th April) there will be a 'Join the Conversation' session in the Moon & Mushroom pub from 7.30p.m. to 8.30p.m. hosted by a member of the ministry team. Do feel free to come and join in.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - this will take place on 20th March after our 11 a.m. service.

There will be no flowers in the church during Lent.



Beware The Ides of March (unless you are a cat)

We have all heard it uttered, but what does “beware the Ides of March” and its sinister reputation actually mean?

There was nothing menacing about it initially as it was just a date on the Roman calendar. The midpoint of every month was known as the Ides. Before Caesar’s time in Roman history, there were only ten months, and the first month of the year was March, then called Martius, after Mars, the war god. With the first full moon of that month—the first of the calendar year (Winter did not count then)—was called “the ides” and took place around March 15. “‘Ides’ means ‘split’ as the lunar month was split into three parts, the ides being in the middle of the month and coinciding with the full moon,” So, to be clear, the New Years of that time

was the Ides of March on March 15.



THE IDES OF MARCH.

This day was also marked by religious ceremonies, but thanks to Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, we know it for another reason. Supposedly, in 44 BC, a seer told Julius Caesar that his downfall would come

no later than the Ides of March. Caesar ignored him, and when the fated, day rolled around he joked with the seer, “The Ides of March have come.” The seer replied, “aye, Caesar; but not gone.” Caesar continued to a senate meeting at the Theatre of Pompey and was summarily murdered by as many as 60 conspirators. Ironically, the spot where Caesar was assassinated is protected in today’s Rome as a no-kill cat sanctuary. So, if someone tells you “Beware the Ides of March,” they are just letting you know they have read Shakespeare.

In Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, a seer called Spurinna warns Caesar about the Ides of March a month before his death and later on the morning of his death. After his death, the Ides of March was dubbed Parricide Day in Rome because

Caesar had held the title of Father of the Fatherland. The place where he was assassinated was cursed and left vacant for a while and later still it became converted into a public latrine.

Caesar died because some senators thought he desired too much power and thought they would save the republic. However, after his death, a civil war began and all those senators died, and Octavian, Caesar's nephew, became Augustus Caesar, the emperor, and the republic was no more anyway.

And so, it remains that The Ides of March is nothing more than just another day.

Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 11

1. A secret
2. Tomorrow
3. The letter "m"
4. A window
5. Take the first letter of each word and place it at the end. It will spell the same word backwards.?



How did you do?





Burgh School Room at Burgh Church belongs to a growing network of Places of Welcome nationally. These are run by community groups who want to make sure everyone has a place to go for conversation and a cup of tea if and when they need it.

All Places of Welcome are open to everyone and offer:

- Friendship and hospitality;
- Regular opening at the same time each week;
- Free refreshments (donations welcome);
- Local knowledge about the neighbourhood.

Visit www.placesofwelcome.org.uk for more information



Your local Place of Welcome is on:

Wednesdays 10.30am to 12pm.

**at Burgh Schoolroom Drabbs Lane Burgh nr
Woodbridge IP13 6QA**

Phone - 07766952825

alelsa@aol.com

Bring your nearly new items for our 50/50 sale

Open to everyone, so please drop in!

Unbelievable - or maybe not!

Sheep Dunny

In 2015, Irvinestown, Ireland's 37th Annual Lady of the Lake Festival introduced sheep dung spitting to its festivities. It is exactly what it sounds like – participants take sheep excrement into their mouths and attempt to spit it the farthest. Remarkably, 48 competitors participated, including the festival queen, the Lady of the Lake, Eimear Donnelly. After a heated tiebreaker, Mark Leonard won first place with a 29.5ft (9m) spit!



with his dentures in, but when told to remove them and try again, he ended up swallowing it!

Competition creator, organiser, and participant Joe Mahon was inspired by a few pints of beer and similar spitting competitions in Africa, such as *Bokdrol spoeg*, where participants spit kudu antelope dung. He claims that one competition entrant, Paddy McCann, spat his dung 12ft. (4m)

Platinum Jubbly

This sounds like a money-making scheme that Del Boy Trotter would produce himself.

The Queen's 70-year reign gets an Only Fools and Horses twist:

A Chinese manufacturer makes 10,800 teacups, mugs, and plates to mark the Queen's seven decades as monarch, only to discover a vital spelling mistake.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is imminent and there is money to be made from souvenirs.

But, like many of the ideas devised by Peckham's finest, a vital detail scuppers the deal!



RUSSELL LING REPORTS

The Secret Army



In 1940 when there was a possibility that the German army could invade this country, Winston Churchill decided to set up a secret army with the purpose of causing the maximum amount of damage to the invading forces. Bunkers were constructed in secret locations around the country, they were made from corrugated iron

like Nissan Huts but later ones were constructed with bricks. Men were brought from Scotland to dig the holes near woodland and construct a bunker which was then completely covered over with soil, there were two tunnels leading into the trees for escape routes. The reason for this was that no one locally would know where the bunkers were situated so would be unable to divulge the location to the enemy.

Men who knew the terrain well were selected from the local area and they were all volunteers. They had to sign the official secrets act and were secretly trained in the use of weapons and explosives for blowing up German equipment. Not even their families knew who were in this secret army and the training was also done in secret by army instructors from out of the area. In the event of an invasion the bunkers would have been stocked with weapons and explosives and enough food to last a month as that was how long they were expected to survive. Each bunker was a unit and the men manning them didn't know where any of the other bunkers were situated, this of course was to prevent them from giving any information if they were caught. Most probably these men would also have been in the Home Guard which would have given them an excuse to their families when they were away doing their training. It goes without saying that these volunteers were very brave men.



The official secret act lasted for thirty years before the names of the volunteers could be divulged, they are, Sgt Geoff Ball, Cpl Sid. W Leech, R.A Bennett, Tom H Cundy. (Potters Farm), H J Garnham, R J Chapman who would have manned the bunker in Otley. This was constructed in Otley high up on the top of the hill from Otley Bottoms, the bunker collapsed a long time ago and there is now only

a small depression left in the ground where it was situated. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the secret army there is a simulated brick bunker and a display of the weapons that were provided at the Control Tower Museum at Parham airfield which was occupied by the Americans during the War.

Armed and Dangerous!



An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs,

"I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car - NOW!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realised why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into her own car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The Sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing! He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

Moral of the story? If you're having a senior moment...make it memorable!



An American in Otley: Two Ducks in Front of a Duck ...



When we moved into Foxgloves in August 1981, my family and I were entranced with the ever-changing panorama unfolding in the back garden. Mallard ducks in the pond were landing, taking flight, paddling, and grazing for food in an endless cycle of honking excitement. At any time of year, it was entertaining.

What I was unprepared for was my 8-year-old daughter's innocent question "Mom. Why is that duck sitting on the brown one's back and trying to drown it by the neck?" HUM??? For parts of the year, the view of the back garden was to become X Rated. The mating habits of drakes and hens was something that had heretofore escaped my attention.

I did not realise that reproduction in the Mallard species was as forceful as it proved to be! I explained to her that it was part of their mating ritual, and that the female would not drown or be hurt. So much for that. Apparently, this random mating can injure females; it certainly must wear them out!

According to various bird books, Mallards are the most familiar of all ducks and almost all domestic ducks derive from this species. They are common throughout North America and northern Eurasia and found in ponds, rivers, and wetlands. The Mallard hen's quack is the "model" for noises made by ducks on the media. Drakes apparently are quieter and make a rasping sound. And, yes, scientists have shown that duck quacks do create an echo contrary to folk wisdom.

My references addressed their "pairing habits" in contradictory fashion. One said that Mallards were monogamous but "paired males" will pursue other females randomly and often. Not my understanding of monogamy! Another scholarly to me opined that they were not monogamous at all. In any event both books commented on the non-consensual nature of the males' advances, which is apparently not common among bird species.



Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. – *Sophocles*

The next year brought the fruitful results of courtship. An early spring produced nodding daffodils and sent the hens to their nests. In February, the first little yellow fluff balls appeared. Laura and I were so excited. Then, our joy turned to horror as a strong Suffolk wind blew the ducklings around and an icy rain drenched them. At that point, my common sense fled, and maternal instincts took over. We opened the back door to the furnace room and invited the family in! Not a good idea. When Tom Whitehead stopped by for tea the following day, he told me to release them and let them fend for themselves.



That family probably died, but many more came along afterwards at a more seasonable time. What I could not understand was why they seemed to walk in a straight line (more or less) with Mum at the head of the procession and the little ones wobbling after. Apparently, this has to do with a process of imprinting that allows the ducklings to identify their mother and/or siblings almost immediately after hatching. This has been recognised by researchers as a cognitive ability in ducks that may shed light on human brain development. As to why they appeared to walk in a straight line, it may have to do with the placement of their eyes and what they see ahead and to the side of themselves.

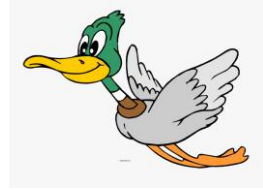
Another question I had was why the mother duck had to march her brood down the road heedless of traffic. My husband cynically suggested that it was a way to reduce the maternal workload – lose a few along the way. However, a kinder answer may be that the mother was searching for a body of water since ducklings need water to help with eating and digestion almost immediately upon hatching. Hens may choose to nest in secluded, wooded areas not adjacent to ponds. When the ducklings hatch, they need to get to water. Mallards are a “dabbling” species and feed on land, the surface of the water, and just beneath the water. They don’t, as a rule, dive for food.

Over the years I learned interesting (?) trivia about ducks.

1. For safety they let one half of their brain sleep while the other half remains awake in what is called Unihemispheric slow-wave sleep. They are more alert to predators.
2. A group of ducks is called a paddling or a plump.



3. Ducks can out-lay chickens and their eggs are favoured by bakers for their larger yolks and creamy taste. Some females will continue to lay for 10 years.
4. The average life span of mallards is between 5 and 10 years and longer if living in captivity. Desi, a mallard in the UK, lived to be 20.
5. With a tail wind, Mallards have been known to fly 800 miles in 8 hours, and routinely average 55 mph in flight.
6. Mallards molt their flight feathers after mating and are “earthbound” for between 20 and 40 days.



Enjoy your spring days and watch out for the ducks.

Mary Miner, susiespinner36@msn.com

SMILE LINES

Why God made mums (*These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...*)

Why did God make mothers?

- She’s the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
- Mostly to clean the house, I think.
- To help us out of there when we were getting born.



How did God make mothers?

- He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- I’ve heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
- God made my mum just the same as He made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.
- They had to get their start from men’s bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.
- They have a lot more hair than dads, are softer to hug, and wear woolly jumpers.



Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

- We're related.
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
- Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.



What kind of little girl was your mum?

- My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
- I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
- They say she used to be nice.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

- My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
- She got too old to do anything else with him.
- My grandma says that no one will ever know.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

- On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
- Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.
- She would understand why the dog needs to sleep with me at night.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

- She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
- I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
- She'd be more relaxed about me not doing my homework.

**'Wishing all mothers and mothers to be
a very Happy Mother's Day!'**



CHILDREN'S CORNER

March Word Search



MARCH

AUTUMN

ST PATRICKS DAY

EASTER

PASSOVER

PISCES

ARIES

GOD OF WAR

DAFFODIL

BLOODSTONE

IDES OF MARCH

SPRING

KITE

WINDY

LAMB

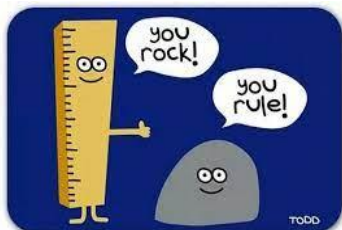


Knock knock.
Who's there?

Tatt.

Tatt who?

I'm too young for
a tattoo. Maybe
when I'm older.



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