

BENEFICE CALENDAR

February 2012

Sunday 5th February **3 before Lent**
9.15 am Holy Communion Swilland
11.00 am Family Service Otley

Sunday 12th February **2 before Lent**
9.15 am Holy Communion Clopton
11.00 am Family Service Ashbocking

Sunday 19th February **Next before Lent**
9.15 pm Holy Communion Otley
11.00 am Family Service Swilland

Wednesday 22nd February **Ash Wednesday**
10.00 am Holy Communion BCP Otley
7.30 pm Holy Communion Swilland

Sunday 26th February **Lent 1**
9.15 am Holy Communion Ashbocking
11.00 am Family Service Clopton
6.30 pm Evening Prayer Otley

Sunday 4th March **Lent 2**
9.15 am Holy Communion Swilland
11.00 am Family Service Otley



HOUSE GROUPS: We have two benefice house groups, to which all are welcome. The daytime group (led by Catherine) meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 1.30 pm at Mrs Penny Clark's house (Cherry Bank, Otley). The evening group (led by James) meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8.15 pm at 16, Spring Park, Otley. New members are always welcome.

Sunday Bible Readings

5th February : 3 before Lent

Is.40:21-end 1 Cor.9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

12th February : 2 before Lent

Prov.8:1,22-31 Col.1:15-20 John 1:1-14

19th February : next before Lent

2Kings 2:1-12 2Cor.4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

26th February : Lent 1

Gen.9:8-17 1Peter 3:18-end Mark 1:9-15

4th March : Lent 2

Gen.17:1-7,15-16 Rom.4:13-end Mark 8:31-end

Prayer for the month

O God, it is easy to love the whole world, but hard to love the person
working next to me;
Easy to campaign for world peace, but hard to contribute to peace in my
own home;
Easy to be fascinated with some new truth, and miss you in the thing I
have known so long;
Easy to share my things with people I like; but hard to be generous to
everyone.
Enable me to say or do something today that will make a difference to the
discouraged or the despairing.
Let no selfish concern shut me off from anyone today.
For your love's sake.

Rita Snowden

LETTER FROM GRAHAM HEDGER

Carlford Service

They came over hill and vale, well, from the 12 parishes of the new Carlford Group to celebrate beginning our journey of growing together. A magnificent choir drawn from the three benefices led our singing. Bishop Nigel preached about the journey of faith that we have all embarked upon. It was a great way to start our time together.

Over the coming months there will be a variety of shared events as part of the process of getting to know one another. So watch this space.

The beginning of Lent

No sooner have we packed away the Christmas decorations and celebrated Epiphany, than we find ourselves preparing for Easter by entering the season of Lent. For some it is a time to stop doing things, perhaps to discipline the body by giving up something like alcohol or chocolate; others use it as a time to take on other things, perhaps to spend more time reading the Bible, or praying or reading a spiritual book.

Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day as some call it, prepares for Lent by cleansing the kitchen of goodies that might otherwise be too tempting. Nowadays we probably mark it by making wonderful pancakes. I don't limit my intake to one day a year!

Lent begins for many people when they attend a service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday. It is a quiet service of reflection as we prepare to enter into the forty days of Lent. This year our services are 10 a.m. BCP HC at Otley and 7.30 p.m. HC at Swilland.

Deanery Lent Course

Lent is also a time when many people gather together for special times of study. In this area we meet every other year as a deanery and this year we will have Bishop Nigel leading our reflections. The course is called 'In penitence and faith' - an exploration of confession. It will take place on Thursdays at St John's Church, Woodbridge starting at 7.30 p.m. with refreshments from 7.15. The dates are February 23rd, and 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March.

Real Easter Eggs – the egg with a brighter faith message

The Real Easter Egg has had a make-over. For the first time ever on an Easter egg there is a bible quote under the lid and a free copy of the Easter story inside. These new features and brighter colours make the egg even more attractive. The recommended retail price is £3.99 for an egg made from 125g of high quality Fairtrade chocolate. The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade Easter egg to explain the Easter story on the box and give money to charity. It was launched last year as a mail order gift after the supermarkets initially turned it down.

Churches and schools joined a campaign to establish the egg by placing tens of thousands of orders through mail order which were delivered by Traidcraft. Eventually some supermarkets changed their minds. They all sold out within days with people walking past Cadbury's two-for-one offers. Waitrose was inundated with online orders for hundreds of eggs as millions of Christians searched for the only remaining supplies.

There are limited supplies so early ordering is advised. The official Real Easter Egg online shop is at www.realeasteregg.co.uk . To ensure supply, churches are advised to place a bulk order by the end of February. The site has a sign-up form, posters and other resources. Online ordering will be open for as long as supplies last or until the middle of March but check the official online shop or Facebook for details.

Traidcraft will also stocks available through its online shop and its network of church re-sellers. A number of independent retailers, including cathedrals, are expected to stock. The Real Easter Egg online shop will include details of all retailers as they start selling. 15p from each Real Easter Egg sale is donated to Traidcraft Exchange.

The cocoa and sugar farmers earn a Fairtrade Premium of \$60 a tonne from sales to invest in community projects that they choose, from buying chickens to securing fresh water supplies. A fee is also paid to The Fairtrade Foundation to support its work including its education programme. Last year over £26,000 was donated to charity from sales.

Future dates - Don't forget, we will be hosting the Confirmation Service for the Carlford Group on Sunday 22nd April at 6.30pm.

Graham Hedger

FFY

FFY is going to Norwich during half term, on **Wednesday 15th February**, leaving Otley at 8.30am and returning about 6pm. We will have a guided tour of the cathedral, which was a great success last time. We can shop or, join an expedition to The Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. If we are lucky we will have a tour of the dungeons or the battlements. The price is being finalised but it will be about £12 per person for the day. You can bring your families as well. Call Michelle on 890269 for more details.

Catherine Beaumont

MEN'S GROUP

Contrary to the well-known saying, we CAN organize a trip to a brewery! In fact the Men's Group have one booked to Greene King on **Monday 20th February at 7pm**. The cost is £20 per person, to include a guided tour of the brewery and free tasting, followed by a hot buffet meal in The Brewery Tap. Any men interested in joining us, please contact me, David Papworth on 890091, by February 11th, as places are limited and admission is by ticket only.

In **May** we are planning an evening "roll up" at the Otley Bowls Club, followed by a buffet meal in the club house. More details will be in the April Church Times.

David Papworth

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CLOPTON

We send our best wishes to Pam Mullinger, who is still recovering from her fall six months ago. She is facing another operation but is always cheerful. We miss seeing her in church.

Katherine Deacon moved from Clopton in January. She has been on both the Flower and Cleaning rotas for many years and has always helped with our Flower Festivals. She was always willing to bake for us and her flapjacks were always in demand. We wish her much happiness in her new home - we shall miss her.

The Ladies Group meet on **Thursday 2nd February at 8pm** in the Village Hall for a session of decorating pottery. Our village Coffee morning is on **Wednesday 15th February** from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. It will be hosted by Beryl Birchmore.

Doris Main

Church flowers for February
Church cleaning for February

Doris Main
Beryl Birchmore

OTLEY

I have reviewed the visitors book for 2011 and found that more than eighty people visited the church during the year. Some came from the USA (Florida, California and New Jersey), some from Australia (Sydney and Brisbane), one from Cape Town, and others from Sweden and the Netherlands. There was a group from the Colchester parish of Fred and Jane Woods, who came to Evensong with them, and members of the Pulford family, here for Geoff's funeral, who admired the bell-ringing. Sebastian Welford and his wife, Revd. Gill Welford, who formerly lived at Church House, wrote that they met in the Otley church choir in 1960, and other visitors were relatives of Otley residents long ago. It is good to know that our church is appreciated by so many from outside the village.

The Friendship Club celebrated Christmas in style, as usual, with both a lunch and a tea. 33 people attended a traditional Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, cooked by Wendy and her helpers, and nearly as many attended the Christmas tea party. Here the children from Otley School entertained them by singing carols and songs, some with mime, and they were 'fantastic!' The Friendship Club badly needs some new members, and would welcome people from other villages - it is for Otley and district. You don't have to be over 60, all ages can come. There are two outings a year as well as a mystery tour. The varied programme of speakers this year includes Chris Parfitt with slides of his travels, Mr Morrison with his clever photographic illusions, and a musical quiz. There will be an Easter bonnet competition on **5th April**, a cream tea on **19th July**, and a barbecue on **16th August**. The first meeting of the year will be on **2nd February** to discuss the outings; new people are needed with new ideas. The subscription is £7.50 for the year, and no more than £10 for each outing. Please ring Wendy Marshall on 892588 if you are interested.

Have you ever wondered who is buried in the churchyard? Perhaps you have wanted to track down a lost grave but not known how. Over the past 30 years we have had two church yard surveys and now we have the definitive version. The Otley History Club have spent a lot of time mapping and photographing the graves and recording the epitaphs. It has produced the results in an all-in-one book, which will be formally presented to Otley Church and dedicated at the evening service on February 26th at 6.30pm.

As a PCC we are really grateful to the members of the History club who have spent many hours drawing all this together and I'm sure it will benefit generations to come.

The Gardening Club will meet on **Monday 27th February** when Mr Castle will be speaking about 'Vegetables'. He is a local enthusiast with many years' experience of growing and exhibiting vegetables. On **Monday 26th March**, the Club has a 'star' of the horticultural world, Helen Yemm, who writes in the Daily Telegraph, whose subject will be 'Let's Go Gardening'.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held here at Church House on **Thursday, 9th February**, when we shall be glad to welcome you from 10.00am

On **10th and 11th February**, Junior TOPS will present "Alice in Wonderland", on which they have been working hard, under Vanessa Ling's guidance. Tickets are available from Sam Liddell telephone 890491, £5 for adults and £2.50 for children.

Finally, Joan Parish wants to thank all the ladies who produce lovely flower arrangements at church throughout the year, and other decoration at the festivals.

Rose Rogerson

Memories of Otley Hall

It's Jubilee Year! But it is not for the first time - in 1935 King George V and Queen Mary celebrated their Silver Jubilee. There was a pageant at Otley Hall to celebrate. Were you there? Were your parents or grandparents there? Do you have any memories or photographs?

If you do, then Otley Local History Group would like to hear from you.

We'd also like any other memories of events or people associated with Otley Hall. The Hall will also celebrate a major milestone this year. It is 500 years since the great hall and parlour were built, and the group has been asked to contribute towards the celebrations by researching some of the more recent history of Otley Hall. Please get in touch with us on 01473 892030, or through historian2007@gmail.com or come to our next meeting at the White Hart on **Thursday 16th February from 7.30pm.**

Sally Whiffing, Group Coordinator

Otley Village Diary

2nd February Friendship Club - discussion of programme

10th/11th February "Alice in Wonderland" - Junior TOPS

16th February Friendship Club - quiz, compiled by John Jay

Otley Church Sidesmen's Rota

5th February 11.00am Family Service Mrs R Bullock

19th February 9.15am Holy Communion Mrs P Clark

22nd February 10.00am Ash Weds. Holy Communion (BCP) Mr D Papworth

26th February 6.30pm Evening Prayer Mr D Papworth

Church Flowers for January

Sue Courteney

Otley Belles

2011 was another busy year for the hand-bell ringers. We fulfilled 22 engagements in places as far afield as Thetford and Aldeburgh, as well as more local venues in Ipswich, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Needham, Stowmarket and Finborough, and for organisations as diverse as a retirement village, luncheon clubs, church groups, day centres, retirement and nursing homes.

It was a particular pleasure to travel to Thetford to play in the Laburnum Grove retirement village where one of our longest standing members Vera Wood, now lives. She rang with us and I think her friends and neighbours were amazed at her (and our!!) skill. She and Hetty Fox – another very long standing member of our team – have both just celebrated a very significant birthday. Ring bells - stay young; statistics show that birthdays are good for you – the more you have the longer you live.

We were then saddened to hear of the death at Christmas time of our long time president and star ringer, Doris Davey, at the great age of 98. She only 'retired' just over a year ago and it always amused us when, at the age of 97, she told people that she was going out to entertain 'the old folk'. We were moved and honoured to be asked by her daughters Christine and Elizabeth to play at her funeral in the Baptist Chapel. This we did with great pleasure and affection and I believe our ringing was much enjoyed by the large congregation.

Now, we look forward to recommencing in February with a busy programme of practice and performance after our new year break and our mid-January 'Christmas' lunch. New members – regular or occasional, are always welcome. When we are not out ringing, we meet on Tuesday afternoons in Spring Park. For more information contact Pam on 890277, Tess on 890091, or me on 890477 or any other member.

Helen Jay

Otley Quiet Days

Tuesday 13th March – Elizabeth Moore

Preparing for Lent through the Psalms.

Tuesday 27th March – Bishop Clive Young

'And God saw that it was good' Creation as God's risk of Love.

Telephone Karen Gwynne-Vince on 01473 890264 or email:

enquiries@otleyhall.co.uk for all enquiries or bookings.

Sport Relief 2012 The Otley Mile – Here we go again!

Just a quick note to let you know that Otley will be hosting its third Sport Relief Mile this year on Sunday March 25th. To take part register online at the Sport relief web site, there is a choice of 6, 3 or 1 miles which you can run, jog or walk with or without your four legged friends who are most welcome. The event opens at 11 am for registration, anyone who would like to help with the event please contact me at the shop or email p.sunaway@btinternet.com, We are in need of qualified first aiders to cover the event. Please register as soon as possible and help us beat the 2010 total of over £5,000 raised for sport relief. Don't forget that after the event there will be a raffle, food and drinks at the White Hart, see you all there!

Penny Sunaway

SWILLAND

The Christmas Draw held on 3rd December, was a great success. We had a very happy gathering in Witnesham village hall. There were about 40 prizes and we raised approximately £425.00. Many thanks to all those who bought tickets, gave prizes and made donations.

The rainfall in Swilland for 2011, was 18.48", or 469mm. I wonder how this compares with Russell's in Otley?

We shall be running a quiz in March – date to be reported in next month's magazine.

Ann Kent

Church Flowers

5th February
12th - 19th February
26th - 4th March

Gill Reidy
Ann Kent
Jackie Williams
(please remove flowers for Lent)

FARMING YEARS

Russell Ling has very kindly allowed us to publish his record of what life and farming was like in Otley during the past century. We will include excerpts during the next few months.

Chapter Three: Winter cont.

The early threshing tackles were driven by a stationary steam engine which was pulled by horses from farm to farm as were the drum and pitcher. It wasn't long before self-propelled traction engines were introduced, Garrett of Leiston being one of the main manufacturers. Threshing was labour intensive. Two men were required on the stack to pitch the sheaves onto the drum, where another cut the strings binding them and dropped them into the arms of the drum feeder. The drum would thresh the corn from the straw, which was conveyed to the rear of the drum to be tossed by the straw walkers to shake out any remaining

grain. The straw would then drop into the hopper of the pitcher which would convey it about twelve feet to the rear, where two men would make a stack. As the stack got higher the pitcher would be raised up by means of cranked arms.

If the straw was to be used for thatching, the coulder board which conveyed the short straws shaken out by the straw walkers to the straw pitcher would be removed.

The coulder would be pulled into a heap away from the pitcher with a wooden rake and would later be carted away and burnt. The grain would fall onto sieves where the wind would blow the chaff out of the side of the drum and a man would bag the chaff into large beet pulp bags. This was a very dirty job as the dust from the threshing tackle would stay in the same place unless there was a strong wind to blow it away. The grain would then be carried towards the front of the machine where it passed along a wire drum which sorted the small grains from the larger one and dropped the different sizes into spouts where it was bagged off. Comb sacks were used to hold the grain. A comb sack held four bushels which was a measure; a sack of wheat weighed 18 stone, barley 16 stone, oats 12 stone, beans 19 stone and red clover seed 20 stone.

Two men would bag off the grain, and a horse and tumbril would be used to cart the sacks away. The tumbril could hold six sacks and these would be loaded onto the cart by the men linking arms behind the middle of the sack and then lifting the corners of the sack with the other hand. The driver of the traction engine would also help by giving the sack a lift from behind.

The engine driver had to arrive early in the morning to light the fire to make sure that there was sufficient steam to drive the machinery. He also made sure that there was sufficient water to make steam. The water would be brought to the engine in a water butt which would hold about a hundred gallons. The farmer also supplied the steam coal to fuel the engine, this also was brought to the engine. As the men started early in the morning there was a break for refreshments part way through. In the early part of the century farmers brewed their own beer and this was provided for their refreshment.

Rainfall – 2011

One can look back at 2011 and marvel at the number of times that we have either broken weather records, or have been very close to doing so. The past year it has been notable in a number of respects. In the very dry months of March, April and May only 0.65 inches of rain fell and at times we had some very hot weather. This was followed by quite a dismal summer, when a third of the total rain for the year fell. The year finished by being relatively dry and warm. The two wettest months were January and December, each having 2.85 inches and the driest was April, when for the first time ever I did not record any rainfall in Otley.

It has been a relatively dry year with a total of 18.40 inches. I have recorded three years in a row with a similar amount in the past, but it is unusually low. Now there doesn't appear to be any substantial amount of rain forecast and unless we have some in February to fill the dykes, there is a very strong possibility of a water shortage this year. This area is very much favoured by developers and the last thing the planning departments appear to consider is where the water is to come from. I think it will be in all our interests to reduce consumption by as much as possible and help to avoid any cuts to our water supplies.

Russell Ling

Smile Lines

Forgiveness A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury.

David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

Honda... because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Volkswagen Beetle: 2 Cor. 4:8 "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement."

What it's worth

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed.

As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key." Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

8 February – St. Kew

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the 'Q' of James Bond fame. This Kew lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew's older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. She spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of "rare virtue and holiness". Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

17 February -Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977

The Most Reverend Janani Luwum was the sitting Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Boga Zaire when 35 years ago this month he was murdered by the dictator Idi Amin.

At the time the Church in Uganda was on the verge of centennial celebrations of its birth through the seed of the early Ugandan martyrs, and so Luwum became the first martyr of the second century of Christianity in Uganda. A statue of him stands in Westminster Abbey London.

Janani Luwum was converted to Christianity on 1 January 1948, started at theological college in Buwalasi the following year, became a deacon in 1955 and was ordained a priest in 1956. He served in the upper Nile Diocese of Uganda and the diocese of Mbale, and was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974, three years after Idi Amin came to power in a military coup. His death was mourned by millions in East Africa.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE - *Some of our readers will have been children when news came through of George VI's death. Does this item bring back memories?*

Where were YOU when the King died?

At only 14, some six weeks short of 15, I was, I suppose, a political puppy. And a royalist by default, you might say - perhaps after all the best sort of royalist.

I'd been brought up to stand to attention for the National Anthem, listen to the King's Speech, and sit enamoured by the Pathe Newsreel film of the Coronation which my father projected in our sitting room every time some of our numerous relatives from Canada, New Zealand, or the USA came to visit.

We didn't go as far as camping overnight outside Westminster Abbey for the Royal Wedding, or even lining the route on the day.

But we did invite friends and neighbours in to watch the event on our - what? 9-inch? - black and white console TV. 25 or more packed the room. Every movable chair in the house, as I remember, was pressed into service.

And Buckingham Palace was certainly on the route for the statutory tour of London on which said relatives were always taken. And after all, every important national event was marked by the presence of royalty.

The Victory Parade of 1946 was one such occasion, and the one, my memory tells me, which prompted my parents to acquire the television in the first place.

And closer to home, at the top of our road we had the King George V Memorial Garden, the frequent destination for a family walk on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

So a royalist by default. And as such this 14-year-old was surprised how deeply he was moved when the news came through on the morning of 6 February 1952. It was a dark, grim, damp day. London was building up to the 'killer fog' that hit the capital a fortnight later. I was in the Science lab. As I remember it, there was no formal announcement. Word just went round the class. The King had died. It was a real emotional jolt. Somehow a hole had been punched in my world.

The Snow

The snow, in bitter cold, Fell all the night;
And we awoke to see the garden white.
 And still the silvery flakes
 Go whirling by,
 White feathers fluttering
 From a grey sky.
Beyond the gate, soft feet
 In silence go,
Beyond the frosted pane
 White shines the snow.

By F Ann Elliott



GEORGE HERBERT

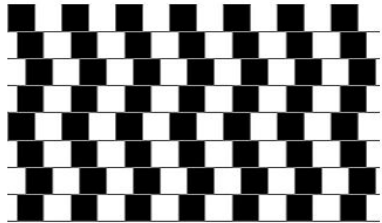
Born the seventh of 10 children in 1593, George Herbert grew up to be well known as a scholar and became a Member of Parliament. In 1630 he became a parish priest and spent the rest of his life in a small Wiltshire village. He preached, wrote poetry, helped rebuild the church and cared deeply for his parishioners who called him the 'Holy Mr. Herbert'.

He died aged 40 of tuberculosis, and perhaps we would never have heard of him were it not for his poems. He hid patterns and puns in his poems: in one called 'Easter Wings' the printed words look like the wings of birds soaring into the sky. A number of his poems became hymns, such as 'King of Glory, King of Peace', 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' and 'Teach me, my God and King'.



There is a window honouring George Herbert in Westminster Abbey, but he lives on in the words of hymns that are still sung today.

PUZZLES BEFORE YOUR EYES...



Do these lines go straight across or do they slope? Check them with a ruler to get the answer.



Roses are red
Violets are blue
Some poems rhyme
But this one doesn't!



What birds spend all their time on their knees?

Birds of prey.

What do you call a group of chickens playing hide-and-seek ?

Fowl play.

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