

BENEFICE CALENDAR

December 2011 / January 2012

Sunday 4th December **Advent 2**
9.15 am Holy Communion Swilland
11.00 am Family Service Otley

Sunday 11th December **Advent 3**
9.15 pm Holy Communion Ashbocking
11.00 am Gift service Clopton

Sunday 18th December **Advent 4**
9.15 am Holy Communion Otley
11.00 am Family Service with carols Swilland
4.00 pm Carol Service Ashbocking
6.30 pm Carol service Otley

Saturday 24th December **Christmas Eve**
4.00 pm Crib/Nativity Service Otley
6.00 pm Carol Service Clopton
11.30 pm Holy Communion Otley

Sunday 25th December **Christmas Day**
9.00 am Holy Communion and carols Swilland
10.30 am Christmas Praise Ashbocking
10.30 am Christmas Praise followed by Holy Communion Otley

Sunday 1st January **Naming and circumcision of Jesus**
9.15 am Holy Communion Swilland
11.00 am Family Service Otley

Sunday 8th January **Epiphany**
9.15 am Holy Communion Clopton
11.00am Family Service Ashbocking

Sunday Bible Readings

4th December : Advent 2

Is.40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15 Mark 1:1-8

11th December : Advent 3

Is.61:1-4,8-end 1Thess.5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

18th December : Advent 4

2 Sam.7:1-11,16 Rom.16:25-end Luke 1:26-38

24/25th December : Christmas Eve/Day

Various

1st January : Naming and circumcision of Jesus

Num.6:22-end Gal.4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

8th January : Epiphany

Is.60:1-6 Eph.3:1-12 Matt.2:1-12

Prayer for the month

O Lord, in a world where many are lonely:

We thank you for our friendships.

In a world where many are captive;

We thank you for our freedom.

In a world where many are hungry;

We thank you your provision.

We pray that you will enlarge our sympathy, deepen our compassion, and give us grateful hearts, in Christ's name.

Terry Waite

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.

LETTER FROM GRAHAM HEDGER

Christmas is coming

Christmas is coming, but as I write I have yet to hear any carols in the shops. This is a first. Normally by mid-November I've heard my first carol. Many people love hearing carols, whether it's carol singers at the door, or carol services in the local church or pub, they go down well. I'm not sure why. Perhaps it takes people back to special times when they were younger or perhaps it's because so many carols are well known and easy to sing.

Most years there seem to be polls run for the most popular carol. Mine never hits the top ten. It's 'Joy to the world'. Many people think it is an American carol because it is often featured in American films, but in actual fact it was written by Isaac Watts the great English hymn writer from the 17th century. In three short verses he captures the essence of the Christmas message.

Joy to the world! The Lord has come:
Let earth receive her king,
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
Your sweetest songs employ,
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, wonders of His love.

Joy to the world. The Lord has come. It couldn't be simpler. Christmas is the most joyful of Christian seasons because God has demonstrated his love for us by sending his Son into the world. It is such a momentous occasion that all of creation will sing. For a carol to truly capture the message of God's love, it has to reflect something of either the pain and grief of Easter or look forward to that day when all shall see Jesus as he really is – the King of Kings. Joy to the world does just that, moving from the birth of Christ and capturing the sense that Christ is the king who rules the world.

Over the coming few weeks as you hear the carols sung in the supermarket, on the radio and of course, around the villages, in the school, churches and in the home. Take time to reflect on the words of your favourite carol.

I hope to see you at one of the many services throughout the benefice over the Christmas period. I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Crib Service

As always we will be having our popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm in Otley Church. However, things will be slightly different this year. There won't be a practice on a previous Saturday, instead we are having a '**scratch nativity**'. Yes, literally without rehearsal, without a script, we will put on a nativity play. To make it work we would like as many children (of all ages) to come dressed for the event. Come dressed as a shepherd, an angel, or an animal, or a wise man, or wise woman. Who knows you might even be invited to be someone else. During the service we will sing parts of lots of songs and carols, recount the Christmas story and bless the crib.

If you have any questions then give me a call.

Christmas Cards

Do you ever wonder what to do with your old Christmas cards? I need cards with angels on. **Just angels.** Some of you have already seen how we use them in an exercise in Growing Healthy Church. Next year I will need far more angels, so if you

get given any Christmas cards with angels on and you get to Twelfth Night and don't know what to do with them please leave them in one of the churches for me. Thank you.

Graham Hedger- Priest in Charge

Confirmation in April

On **Sunday 22nd April** in the evening Bishop Nigel will take a confirmation service in Otley church. We already have some candidates, both young and adult, so please let us know if you would be interested in being confirmed too.

If you are a young person, Canon Clare Sanders and I will lead the sessions, which will run over three weekends: 7/8th January, 28/29th January and 25/26th February. We will meet at the Rectory at Grundisburgh from 10.00am to 3.00pm on each Saturday and then on the Sundays we will visit different churches. On one Sunday the candidates' families will be invited to share in a lunch.

Young people can speak to me (890264) and adults to Graham Hedger (277042), or email us for more information.

graham@stedmundsbury.anglian.org or

catherine.beaumont@otleyhall.co.uk

Catherine Beaumont

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

The village held its annual garden-party at the end of September. We were blessed with good weather and Yvette and I once again provided a treasure-hunt game on behalf of All Saints' Church. It was also a good opportunity for Graham and Catherine to come along and meet the Ashbocking residents!

Our harvest festival was held on October 9th. Catherine conducted a lovely service with the help of James. Many thanks to Brenda Mitchell who managed to construct a number of wonderful arrangements despite still recovering from pneumonia. Thanks also to everyone who provided fruit and produce; to Helen who played the organ; and to Hamish, Gill & Graham for providing cakes & refreshments, which were much appreciated. The harvest gifts were donated to Barham Nursing Home where Audrey Matthews lives.

We hosted the benefice family service for All Saints on October 30th and we held our Remembrance Day service on November 13th. Thanks again to Brenda for setting up some wonderful poppy arrangements despite still not feeling well – get well soon Brenda.

Please remember that our Carols by Candlelight service will be on **December 18th at 4pm**. There will be mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy after the service – so please

Duncan Bray

CLOPTON

Our Remembrance service was led by James at the 493rd Bombardment Group memorial in Clopton. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the parish council and the 493rd Bomb Group. Refreshments were served afterwards in the education centre on the airfield. Thank you to the Yallop family for looking after the memorial and providing the delicious food, and to Prilly and Richard Taylor for hosting us on the airfield.

The Ladies Group will meet on **Thursday 1st December at 8pm** for a Social Evening in the Village Hall. The first meeting for 2012 will be on Thursday 5th January when there will be a talk about 'Birds in your Garden'. Men are always welcome at the meetings.

On Sunday 11th December at 11am we shall be holding our annual Gift Service. All donations of new or nearly new toys and gifts will be taken to the Ormiston Trust in Ipswich, who distribute

them to needy local families at Christmas. Please help to make someone's Christmas a little happier.

The December Coffee Morning will be in the Village Hall from 10.00am until noon on **Wednesday 21st December** and will be hosted by Ann Pryke and Della Hughes.

On Christmas Eve we shall, for the first time, be holding a service of 'Carols by Candlelight'. It starts at 6.00pm and will be followed by refreshments. We hope that lots of people will come and make this a special time.

There will be a barn dance in the Village Hall on **New Year's Eve from 8.00pm until late**. Please bring a plate of food to share. Music will be provided by 'Kegs' and the caller is Phillip Smith. Tickets are £10, and £5 for children under thirteen. Telephone 737417 for tickets or more information.

Finally we wish everyone a very joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Doris Main

Church flowers for December
Church cleaning for December

Sue Emmerson and all
Katherine Deacon

OTLEY

Almost 150 people attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial on a beautiful, sunny day. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish Council (representing the residents of Otley), the Church, the Scouts, the Bowls Club, the Friendship Club, Otley School, the Royal British Legion, and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. This incorporates Lieut.Col. Geoffrey Mason's own regiment, the East Surrey Regiment, and it is he who has so thoroughly planned this event for several years.

Schoolchildren planted poppy crosses around the memorial, one for each name engraved there, and the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were on parade with their banners.

It was the usual sombre and thoughtful occasion, and the large number of people attending shows how relevant it has become to a new generation concerned about the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as remembering those lost in the two World Wars.

The Poppy Appeal raised £944.71 for the Royal British Legion in its ninetieth anniversary year, and the Papworths want to thank everybody who helped with the collection, and the sale of poppies.

The weather was fine for the Fireworks Evening, and lots of families came to watch an excellent display. The next Community Council event will be the Christmas Dinner/Dance on **Saturday, 10th December**. Tickets costing £20 each are available from Penny Sunaway at the shop, for a three-course dinner, disco, and - she says - the chance to win £250 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers.

The AGM of the Community Council will be held on **19th April 2012**, but membership is down at the moment and, for the 2012 fete to happen in July, more help is needed. The fete is an important fund-raiser for the village hall and one of the highlights of the village year. There will be an initial planning meeting in January. If you can help in any capacity, whether with ideas or organizing or in any other way, then please ring Chris Taylor, the chairman, on 785228 or Vanessa Ling on 890767.

The Christmas Draw and coffee morning will take place in the village hall on **3rd December from 10.30am**. Tickets have been on sale for some weeks and there are lots of super prizes, so come and join us. Meanwhile the church clock-faces have been removed for renovation, and nobody misses them as much as the residents of Church House!

The next meeting of the Gardening Club will be on **Monday 5th December**, when Simon White from Peter Beales Roses will be speaking about blue plants and creating a blue border.

The next drop-in coffee morning will be held on **Thursday, 8th December** at Picton House in Helmingham Road, the home of Mary Webb, and she will be pleased to welcome you there.

We send congratulations to Joan Lane who has recently celebrated a significant birthday. She is well known here and has been active in the village for many years.

The arrangements for the Christmas services can be found at the front of the magazine. Carol-singing around the village on the tractor and trailer will take place on **Monday 19th December 7.00pm**, starting at Spring Park. The Scouts will again be distributing Christmas cards to Otley addresses and you will see their postboxes in the Post Office. Also, they will be holding their Christmas Bingo at the Scout Hut on **15th December at 7.30pm**. Admission is by ticket only, but these can be bought at the shop.

We wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Rose Rogerson

Otley Church Quiz

This very popular event is scheduled to take place on the evening of **Saturday 28th January** in the village hall. The format will follow that of previous years with teams of eight competing for a memorable prize. As before, there will be a bar and a light supper will be provided. David Chittock has kindly offered to set the questions and has promised to make them as fiendish as possible!

Final details will be in next month's magazine - make a note in your 2012 diary.

Nigel Crowley

News From OtleyGreen

Interest Free Loans for Solar PV and other projects

You can get up to £5K as an interest-free loan, repayable over 3 years. It must be spent on a project that produces carbon reduction such as solar PV, ground-source heating, or insulation.

It is a simple and quick process. Just contact John Taylor SCC on 01473 432096 and get his verbal agreement. Then contact an organisation called NWES on 0845 6099991 and ask for an application form. Make sure you tell them that your project is for carbon reduction.

Heli's Hedge

We mentioned this soon after its planting in front of Otley Doctor's surgery to replace the dreaded Leylandii. It is an OtleyGreen project with funding from the Co-operative Membership Community Fund and the help of the children from Otley School. The hedge is dedicated to the memory of Helen Barrett ('Heli') and is growing well. As you pass it, remember that Helen died waiting for a suitable donor for a lung transplant. It is so easy to sign up as a donor and potentially save the lives of nine people. It can be done online in minutes - <http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/ukt/>

Otley Village Diary

- 1st December** Christmas Dinner - Friendship Club
- 3rd December** Christmas draw and coffee morning 10am
- 3rd December** Christmas Bazaar Otley School 11am-1pm
- 8th December** Clairvoyant Evening - Under 5's
- 10th December** Christmas Dinner/Dance - Community Council
- 15th December** Christmas Tea Party - Friendship Club
- 15th December** Scouts Christmas Bingo - at the Scout Hut

Otley Church Sidesmen's Rota

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 4th December | 11.00am Family Service | Mrs K Upson |
| 18th December | 9.15am Holy Communion | Mr D Papworth |
| 18th December | 6.30pm Carol Service | Church wardens et al |
| 24th December | 4.00pm Crib Service | Church wardens et al |
| 24th December | 11.30pm Holy Communion | Mr D Papworth |
| 25th December | 10.30am Christmas Praise | Mr D Papworth |
| 25th December | 11.15am Holy Communion | Mr D Papworth |

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Church Flowers for December | Advent/Christmas everyone |
| Church Cleaning for December | David and Tess Papworth/
Brian and Karin Upson |
| Brasses | Betty David |

SWILLAND

An Act of Remembrance was held at the Swilland War Memorial on Sunday 13th November, when we remembered the six men from Swilland who lost their lives in the Second World War, A wreath of poppies was laid and a cross for each of the men.

Do come and join us in Winesham Village hall on **Saturday 3rd December between 12noon and 2.00pm**. Soup, filled rolls, and mince pies will be available. The Christmas draw will take place at 1.00pm. Draw tickets will be on sale.

Please come to our family service with carols on **18th December at 11.00am**. The church will be decorated for Christmas on the Friday and Saturday before this service. Our Christmas Day service will be a Holy Communion at 9.00am.

May I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Ann Kent

Swilland Flower rota

4th – 11th December	Ann Kent
18th – 25th December	Carol Service /Christmas – All help please
1st - 8th January	Kim Shaw

Benefice Men's Group

Our February meeting will be a guided tour of Greene King Brewery, Bury St Edmunds on **Monday February 20th 7.00pm**, followed by a meal. Cost £20.00. Please pre-book your place with David Papworth on 01473 890091

Rainfall – October 2011

We have had a month of dry weather in the latter part of September and the first week of October and this was followed by approximately an inch of rain commencing on the 5th. Once more, there has been very little rain for a month, it has also been very warm for the time of year and this has resulted in some colourful leaves on trees and bushes.

Some years we get spectacular colours at leaf fall which seems to shorten the winter, which is predicted to be very cold again, I will believe this if it happens. The rainfall in October was 1.35 inches which brings the total for the year so far to 14.80 inches.

Russell Ling

Surviving Winter campaign

The Suffolk Foundation has launched their Surviving Winter Appeal, part of a national campaign across the UK to help thousands of vulnerable and older people affected by fuel poverty by asking those who can afford to forego their Winter Fuel Payment to donate it to a Surviving Winter fund for people in need. The Surviving Winter Appeal in Suffolk was launched by Bishop Nigel who is himself donating his Winter Fuel Payment to the appeal.

With rising fuel bills and the prospect of another cold winter, older and vulnerable people are at risk. Over the past three winters, there have been on average 409 "excess winter deaths" in Suffolk each year, over and above what you would naturally expect to see, according to NHS Suffolk data. The vast majority of these deaths are people aged over 65. In addition, 43,802 households in Suffolk are experiencing fuel poverty which is equivalent to 14.7% of all households.

The Surviving Winter Appeal run by the Foundation will channel all the funds raised to provide support to older and vulnerable people who are suffering because of fuel poverty. the money will be directed through Age UK Suffolk to those most in need of help and make sure they can afford to stay warm, eat well and remain mobile, as well as help them in practical ways such as ensuring they can make doctor's appointments, get to the shops and maintain an active social life.

Even if you are not in receipt of the allowance and would like to contribute you can find out more on the Suffolk Foundation website www.suffolkfoundation.org



Directed by
CLAIRE WESTON

Saturday 10 December

7.30pm

All Saints Church, Wickham Market Christmas favourites,
and the première performance of "Balaam Song Cycle" by Jon
Hutchings.

TICKETS £8, under 14's £5 available from Rob or Daphne Rose

01728 748199, mobile 07834 948670.

Also from the Teapot Tearoom, Wickham Market Seasonal
Refreshments www.suffolksingers.co.uk

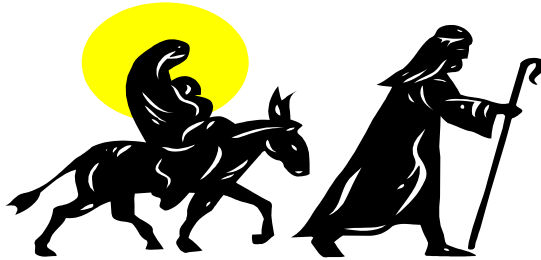
SMILE LINES

Turkey says - What does a turkey say? "Gobble, gobble,
gobble," right? Not always!
A jewelry-lovin' turkey? - "Bauble bauble bauble"
A dyslexic turkey? - "Boggle boggle boggle"
A turkey in the shoe repair shop? - "Cobble cobble cobble"
A turkey with a sore leg? - "Hobble hobble hobble."
A football turkey? - "Huddle, huddle, huddle"
A dieting turkey? - "Nibble, nibble nibble."
A turkey who argues a lot? - "Squabble squabble squabble."
Then there was the dizzy turkey who just went: "Wobble wobble
wobble!"

Turkey - It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman
was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the
hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a
shop assistant and said "Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any
bigger?" He replied: "No, sorry, they're all dead."

Christmas presents - Catching her in the act, I confronted our 3-year-old granddaughter. "Are you opening your little sister's presents?" I demanded. "No," she innocently replied, "I'm just helping her share."

Camels - In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied, "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."



January's magazine – please can we have all contributions for next month not later than 29th December, so that Gipping Press can process the magazine as early as possible in the New Year.

Merry Christmas to you all!



Jesus
peaceful, hidden, infant,
lowly, gently,
enters
this world

Angels
innumerable, radiant, singing,
rapturously, tunefully,
herald
His birth

Shepherds
sleepy, fearful, hesitant,
obediently, rejoicing
visit
the Messiah

A star
vivid, shining, leading,
gloriously, powerfully
marks
his advent

Magi
Majestic, searching, resolute,
generously, prophetically
worship
the Christchild

We
humble, eager, joyful
willingly, wholeheartedly
respond
to him

Emmanuel,
God with us,
joyfully, openly
welcomes
us today



CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?

**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**

Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their
baby's cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.

Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3
event 4 everlasting 5 evening
6 Everest 7 evergreen