

The Ovington Oracle

January, 2026

Alfred, Lord Tennyson
(1809-1892)

In Memoriam A.H.H.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

...

If you enjoyed that, there are a further 5 verses. AHH refers to Lord Tennyson's friend Arthur Henry Hallam.

Happy New Year

Solar News:

Perihelion, the earth's closest approach to the sun, occurs at 5:15pm on 3 January 2025. After that the sun will be getting further away again, but there will be more daylight time, which should be noticeable by then.

Coincidentally full moon is also 3 January (10:02am).

Contents

Twelve Days of Christmas.....	3
Village Hall (VH).....	4
Village Hall AGM (Election).....	5
St John's Church News.....	6
Parish Council (PC).....	7
Rainfall.....	7
Youth Club.....	7
Out of Village Events.....	8
And Finally.....	8

Village events this month:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		NYE Party	1	2	3	4 C
5 VH	6 Y	7	8	9	10	11 C
12 VH	13 Y	14 B	15	16	17	18 C
19 VH	20 Y	21 PC	22	23	24	25 C
26 VH	27 Y	28 B	29	30 YC	31	

VH=Village Hall Event, C=Church, PC=Parish Council
Y=Yoga, YC=Youth Club, B=Bowls

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Oracle back copies (and more): ovington.org.uk

Twelve Days of Christmas

Revd Patrick Morrow

I am writing this in the early days of Advent. By the time you read it, Christmas itself may well be over. Or will it? There are people in my own family who take down their Christmas tree late on New Year's Day. So, for them, yes. But you probably realise that the Church to this day keeps "the Twelve Days of Christmas". So Christmas lasts at least until the next great Festival, which is Epiphany, and the coming of the Magi, the Wise Men, the Three Kings. But actually there is a strong case for saying that the "Greater Christmastide", which includes Epiphany, is longer than that, and goes on until Candlemas, on 2 February, with the story of the Presentation of the Christ child in the Temple, 40 days after his birth. So we are still in the season of new life.

New life is close to the heart of Christian faith. Where does it begin, for the Christian themselves? Well, with our own birth, obviously, and perhaps also when the faith comes alive, as we perceive personally something of the love of God. But these are not the only options. The Church of England has always allowed for – indeed encouraged - the baptism of infants, and understands that as a prominent way of entering into the new life of God in Christ. Parents and godparents speak on the infant's behalf. That's not for everyone, but parents do make decisions for their children in so many ways – including about the language they think in!

Baptism is often called a "christening". That's just another name; the meaning is identical. It speaks of the candidate – even if a baby – becoming a Christian, and being able to take their place in the Church of God, in the ways that are right for them. It is quite properly something to celebrate. The two great symbols - water and light - are dense with meaning, and can speak to people who are not Christian.

It is always a privilege to take a baptism service. That is my personal sense, but it is also the conviction of the Church. So one thing is always the case: there is no charge; there can be no charge. Much to unpack, I know. If anybody would like to know more, please do get in touch.

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Review – Festive Christmas Afternoon Tea

We held our second Festive Christmas Afternoon tea for 37 very hungry people on 7 December. I am sure all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon as the event was very quickly sold out.

As before they were subjected to a luxurious collection of sandwiches, cakes and desserts supplied by our lovely committee ladies, washed down with oodles of tea and coffee.

Our thanks, as always, go to all those who helped especially Christine who was in charge of the food.

We usually have 2 afternoon teas throughout the year as they are always well attended.

Forthcoming Events:

New Year's Eve Party – 31 December 8:00pm onwards

As usual we are having a party at the village hall. This is completely free to villagers. Come along and have some fun. games, karaoke etc.

FREE

Bring your own drinks etc.

AGM – This is to be held on Wednesday 4 March 2026, details to follow, see also below about committee selection.

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings every Monday from 10:30am to noon. Tea, coffee and plenty of cake!
- Messy Moments, weekly on a Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm.
(messymomentsnorfolk@hotmail.com)
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Indoor carpet bowls alternate Wednesdays 7:00 for 7:30pm, come and try your skills.
- Youth Club usually last Friday of the month but 19 December.

The Village Hall is available to hire, only £6 per hour for village residents or £12 if you live outside the village. Please ring Mike on 07733236689 (mike@snicket.uk).

The hall is there for the village so please come and support us. If you wish to contact the committee with any ideas etc please email us at ovingtonvillagehall.ovington@gmail.com

Website: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

Village Hall AGM (Election)

David Welsted

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2026. We will again be following a new, more open, voting procedure to select a Village Hall committee; only residents of Ovington will be able to nominate candidates for the new committee. This needs to happen BEFORE the AGM, the procedure is as follows:

Nominations to serve on the VH Committee:

Any person seeking election to the committee must be proposed by a qualifying resident (i.e. a person who resides in the Parish of Ovington and is at least 18 years old) and seconded by another qualifying resident. The name of the candidate, their proposer and seconder should be emailed to our secretary **by the 1 February 2026:**

rosemaryjones152@gmail.com

Note: Any qualifying resident may propose or second up to a maximum of five different candidates.

Actual Election of VH Committee:

An election of correctly nominated candidates will take place at the AGM, only qualifying residents are eligible to vote and must be present at the AGM to do so.

Please get your nomination in early.

St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)

Services:

Patrick Morrow (PM)

4 Jan – 10:30am	Holy Communion Group Service at MERTON	(Revd PM)
11 Jan – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(JR-W)
18 Jan – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd PM)
25 Jan – 10:30pm	Book of Common Prayer	(JR-W)



Wishing you all a VERY HAPPY 2026.

Jeremy celebrated his 80th Birthday last month. Thank you all who helped to make this occasion special for him. I also had my birthday in December and of course we celebrated Christmas with services in each of our Benefice churches, namely Ashill, Merton,

Ovington and Saham Toney. It was certainly a VERY busy month. I apologise for the mix-up of church times in my December issue. I think it was brain fog!

This month of January should be quieter, but please note that there will be **NO service at Ovington on 4 January** as this will be a Group service at Merton for our Benefice.

Jeremy and I are settling into Ashill, but we hope to see you at the weekly Monday Coffee Mornings in the village hall.

I may not be living in Ovington now, but I am available to visit anyone who would like a chat. Just give me a call or leave a message if I don't answer my phone straight away.

Once again, my thanks go to all who help to keep the church grounds tidy and the church clean and decorated with beautiful flowers. We have visitors throughout the year who find our church very welcoming.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

Next Meeting(s):

21 January 2026 at 7:30pm in Village Hall,
then 18 March, 13 May, 8 July, 16 September, 25 November.

PC documents at:

ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Rainfall

Tim



Total rainfall for November was 59.7mm (2 ³/₈").

As of 26 December the monthly running total stood at 52mm

Youth Club

Kaz Mason



Meets last Friday of the month
at the Village Hall 6:00 – 8:00pm

For ages 6–16 years

FREE entry, squash & biscuits

Tuck-shop selling: Milkshakes, Fizzy Drinks,
Crisps, Chocolate Bars, Sweets and
Home-made Goodies.

Check our Facebook page for updates:
Ovington Youth Club, Norfolk

Please txt / call if you wish your child to attend.

Ovington Youth Club has earned the 'Welcomes Young Carers 2025' badge.

Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

Out of Village Events

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

Sue Rothwell



Our traditional New Year's Day walk (4¼ miles) will start at 10:00 at Church House, Church Street, Dereham on the morning of 1 January 2025 and end with seasonal refreshments – make it the first event in your 2026 diary!

If possible please let us know if you are coming but we have plenty of refreshments so don't let uncertainty or last minute decisions put you off!

More details at

DerehaWaW.org.uk

And Finally

Tim

Our native yew tree was held sacred by the Druids in pre-Christian times. The tree had qualities of longevity and regeneration, even when severely cut back; furthermore drooping branches of an established tree can root if they touch the ground and form a new tree. The yew came to symbolise death (yew is highly poisonous, so take care) and resurrection in Celtic culture. May be this is why we see yew today as symbolising the 'death' of 2025 and the 'resurrection' of a new year.



Submission deadline for next issue: 24 January

Edit and Production: Timothy Birt (01953-889208)
(on recycled paper using an Ecosys printer) Stone House Farm, The Street. IP25 6RT

Proof reader: Christine Reilly (885848)

Please send contributions to above or email: oracle@ovington.org.uk