

# The Orvington Oracle

February, 2026



There is a little more to Valentines eve in Norfolk than the classical cherub might suggest. Allow me to introduce Jack Valentine, a figure from Britain's best folklore and one where the true origins are a mystery.

Jack Valentine remained in the shadows, but would sometimes be glimpsed momentarily by children as he left sweets for them on valentine's eve.

This mischievous character would leave the gifts on your doorstep but sometimes they would be whisked away just as you reached for them.

Read more at:

[www.visitnorwich.co.uk/article/introducing-mr-jack-valentine](http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/article/introducing-mr-jack-valentine)

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Solar News:

Full moon is 1 February (at 10:09pm), known as a "Snow Moon".



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### Village events this month:

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

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

Parish Council: [ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

Oracle back copies (and more): [ovington.org.uk](http://ovington.org.uk)

## Messages

Villagers

### Thank You

I would just like to say thank you to everyone in the village, for your kindness and condolences for the passing of my husband Graham on 14 November 2025.

Can I also ask if you have any egg boxes please can you put them in the egg house, (I'm starting to get a bit short). Thank you for buying my chickens' eggs.



Sara Titcombe, The Street

### Oracle back copies

My thanks to Marie who loaned me old copies of *The Ovington Oracle* and its predecessor *What's On Ovington* which have been scanned and are available at:

[www.ovington.org.uk](http://www.ovington.org.uk)

We now have a record going back to 2004. There are just a few gaps; if anyone has copies of these please may I scan them to complete the list, thanks

Tim.

## Rainfall

Tim



2025 saw the brightest December month in a decade with a rainfall total of 52.5mm (2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>").

As of 23 January 2026 the monthly running total has already exceeded last month, standing at 63.5mm

# Village Hall (VH)

*Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)*

## **Review** – New Year's Eve Party

Unfortunately due to illness our numbers were somewhat depleted. Those who attended had a great time.

Believe it or not, although the weather was very cold, Stuart lit his barbecue and we were able to have delicious sausages in a roll. We also had many games which were great fun, finishing up with a Karaoke and we sang in the New Year.

## **Forthcoming Events:**

### **Curry Night** – Saturday 28 February.

We will have a choice of delicious curries, together with rice and a dessert. Please bring your own bottle.

Last year everybody had a great time and tickets are selling quickly.

Tickets £15 per head. To avoid disappointment ring Kaz: 07880435765

### **AGM** – Wednesday 4 March.

We will again be following the 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. Procedure as follows:

Any person seeking election to the VH committee must be proposed by a qualifying resident (ie 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

### **Rachel Weir** – Saturday 28 March.

We have a visit from Karen's daughter vocalist Rachel. She has performed once before and it was greatly enjoyed by those who attended.

Doors open at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10. Ring Kaz: 07880435765

## **Regular Events:**

- Coffee mornings every Monday from 10:30am to noon. Tea, coffee and plenty of cake!
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.
- Indoor carpet bowls alternate Wednesdays 7:00 for 7:30pm, come and try your skills.
- Youth Club last Friday of the month.

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](mailto: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](mailto:ovingtonvillagehall.ovington@gmail.com)

Website: [ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk)

The VH Trustees

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## Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

A report from the unconfirmed minutes of the January meeting:

### **Present:**

Cllrs David Welsted (DW), Pete Bate (PB), Tim Birt (TB), Karen Weir (KW) and Krissy Marwood (KM).

### **In attendance:**

The Clerk, District Councillor Helen Crane and County Councillor Claire Bowes and 1 member of the public.

### **Matters arising:**

The hedge at the junction of Church Road and The Street has been cut back.

### **District Councillor Reports:**

Circulated prior to the meeting and available on the web-site.

- Car Parks Business Rate: Cllr. TB raised that currently, business rates are paid by Breckland but Breckland are able to claim back part of those rates. When car parks go to the Towns, will there be financial aid from Breckland to cover the business rates or will Breckland keep the money?
- CC Claire Bowes discussed problematic parking outside of schools.
- Cllr. TB queried the “tax hike” in CC Bowes’ report which claimed “the average town or village pub could face an additional £6,000-£7,000 per year in business rates” as this was significantly higher than a recent report by the trade body *The Caterer*. CC Bowes to confirm the figures.

### **Correspondence:**

- Tree inspection on Glebe Land – this work will be happening in the near future.

### **Planning matters:**

- Update on Otterwood Farm – Cease and Desist was sent to the farm, but there are still many caravans on the site.
- Ref: PL/2026/0046/HOU  
A two-storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory at 22 The Street.

There was a brief discussion over this application, but the PC took no view.

### **Accounts and Precept update:**

<i>Payments Received</i>	<i>Payments to be made</i>
Rent £630.00	Ovington Parish Trust £430.00
Ovington Parish Trust Receipt £430.00	HMRC (Nov/Dec/Jan) £7.20
	Bank Charge (Nov/Dec) £8.50
	Clerk's expenses £18.16

Reviewed by Councillors and agreed unanimously.

### **Highways or Village Issues:**

- There was a discussion over Breckland owned land assets in the village which may be available for the PC to adopt. There will be no charge for the land but legal fees will most likely need to be covered by the Parish Council. As the land assets in Ovington are near the Parish Council play area, it was suggested that Ovington PC look into taking both sections of land. Clerk to liaise with Breckland to see what the process is.
- National Speed sign is fallen down at the junction of The Street and the A1075 alongside the last fallen down sign. Clerk to report both to Highways and request it be fixed.
- Village Litter Pick preferred date 21 March – Starts at 10:30am, meet at the village sign, equipment provided.

### **Future Business:**

- Litter pick reminder
- Telephone box update

## Adjournment for public participation:

Speeding and potholes continue to be a concern.

The 'grip' drain digging tractors with Highways seem to be doing more harm than good, digging too deep and putting in too many. Clerk to reach out to Highways to see if this can be addressed.

## Next Meeting(s):

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

## PC documents at:

[ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home](http://ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home)

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## Village Litter Pick

*Tim*



Advanced notice ...  
... the annual village litter pick is booked!

**Saturday, 21 March,  
10:30am**

This year there is new kit including replacement grabbers and bag hoops, but if you have your own kit please bring it as we have run out before.

As usual we will meet at the village sign in The Street, and if this works out as in previous years, refreshments may be available afterwards at the Village Hall. There might be cake!

Details and pictures from previous events will be at:

[www.ovington.org.uk/litter](http://www.ovington.org.uk/litter)

More details in the next Oracle.

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# St Valentine

*Revd Patrick Morrow*

There is a saint who is remembered in February who I think will be known to you, whether you are attached to a church or not. I am referring to Saint Valentine, whose day is of course 14 February, de facto saint of romance. I hope it is (will be/was) a day that meets your expectations. I used to work with an Irish nun, and I once asked her, on the day, how many cards she had got. She said: "Sure, only the four". It is good that life can be surprising.

Churches, including the Church of England, tend not to mark St Valentine any more in worship. I don't think that is the Church being a killjoy (although that danger is always present). Rather it's the admission that we don't really know enough about the historical person. It is likely that there was someone of that name who was killed for his faith in third-century Rome, as that was a period and place of persecution. But these days we tend to remember people we can say more about.

It happens that other saints are commemorated on 14 February in the modern calendar. These are St Cyril and St Methodius. They were brothers who lived in the ninth century. They were missionaries to the Slavic peoples, to "Greater Moravia", which then extended from parts of Germany to Ukraine. They immersed themselves in the culture (as good missionaries always do), and over time were able to devise an alphabet which best served their languages. If you think of the Russian alphabet (also used in, say, Bulgaria), it is also called the "Cyrillic" alphabet, and, yes, that is after Cyril.

I dare to say that such diligence is itself a form of love, differing though it does from romantic love. Indeed, the very word "diligence" comes from a Latin word for love. There is wisdom in thinking of love in such broad terms. A job – any job – treated with care and craft can become a vocation, a vocation practised with nothing less than love. If, then, I say that I hope you find other ways of loving, or ways of loving more, this year, I hope and trust I will not be misunderstood!

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: [patrickmorrow@live.co.uk](mailto:patrickmorrow@live.co.uk)

Tel: 01760 330258

# St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)

## Services:

Patrick Morrow (PM)

1 Feb – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd PM)
8 Feb – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(JR-W)
15 Feb – 9:30am	Group prayer meeting, <b>at ASHILL</b> (No service at Ovington)	(Revd PM)
22 Feb – 10:30pm	Book of Common Prayer	(JR-W)



Our Priest in charge, Patrick, has put together a questionnaire asking what you would like to have as services in our churches. This might be an evening service, such as we had on summer evenings with a sing along to our favourite hymns, or services in the week which might include bible study.

These services would be spread out

over the four churches in our Benefice of Ashill, Merton, Ovington and Saham Toney. You will find copies of this questionnaire in the church. Please fill one out and return it to the church as soon as possible where I will collate them ready for discussion with our church leaders.

Please note that there will be NO service at Ovington on 15 February as this will be a Group Communion Service at Ashill for our Benefice, a shortened Communion service starting at 9:30am, followed at about 10:10am with a special Prayer Service. This is to pray for discernment on the way ahead for us as a group of four parishes. People are invited to pray aloud, or sit still and write down what comes to mind, about how we can better work together and what more we may offer in worship and service. Your thoughts and prayers are important.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

## 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 earned the 'Welcomes Young Carers 2025' badge.  
Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

## And Finally

Tim

Some corny/cracker jokes. If the first one means nothing to you ask a grandchild!



- >> Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled?  
... She let it go.
- >> What did the wool hat say to the scarf?  
... You hang around while I go on ahead.
- >> What do you call a snowman in August?  
... A puddle.
- >> What bites but doesn't have teeth?  
... Frost.
- >> What do you call it when a snowman ignores you?  
... The cold shoulder.
- >> What do you call a penguin in the desert?  
... Lost.

To ruin that last one with facts ... because Antarctic precipitation is very low (the definition of a desert) it is in fact a cold desert, so that penguin wasn't lost at all.

### Submission deadline for next issue: 20 February

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