

The Ovington Oracle

March, 2026



Annual village litter pick

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.

**Meet by the village sign in The Street
on Saturday, 21 March at 10:30am**

I'll request sunshine, but boots and rough clothes are the order of the day, prepare for a little mud.

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 at:

www.ovington.org.uk/litter



British Summer Time starts on Sunday 29 March. Being spring the clocks 'spring' forward an hour at 1:00am thus giving us lighter evenings.

Solar News:

Full moon is 3 Mar (at 11:37am). The Anglo-Saxons called it the Lenten Moon after the Germanic Lenten meaning spring.

Equinox is 20 March (at 2:46pm)

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Village events this month:

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

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

Parish Council: ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

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

Village Hall (VH)

Mike Howes (Village Hall Trustee)

Forthcoming Events:

Curry Night – Saturday 28 February.

Completely sold out!

AGM – Wednesday 4 March.

Annual General Meeting 7:00pm, meeting open to all.

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

Afternoon Tea – Sunday 17 May.

This is always a very popular event and tickets will be sold very quickly. Gluten free and vegetarian options available.

Tickets from Kaz.

Ovington is Going Country – Saturday 11 July at 12:30pm.

Back by popular demand we welcome again 'The Flying Line Dancers'. Last year was great fun and enjoyed by all. Get dressed up!

£10 per person to include food, but bring your own bottle.

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 skill.
- 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).

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

Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

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

Rainfall

Tim



January 2026 was wet! Rainfall total: 146.3mm (5 ³/₄").

As of 24 February the monthly running total is 60.7mm, which doesn't sound too bad except it has been dull and the ground remained saturated from January. A dry sunny period is due!

Lady Day

Revd Patrick Morrow

25 March is Lady Day. That means in the first instance, the Day of our Lady, Mary. It marks what we call “the Annunciation”, Gabriel’s visit to Mary to tell her that she, by a miracle, would give birth to the Son of the Most High. (See Luke 1.26-38 for details.) But there was a time when it was even more important than that. Indeed, from 1155 to 1752 in England it was New Year’s Day. This in turn carries with it some memory of what 25 March meant in the early centuries of the Church. It was – we may say (I am not saying this phrase as such was used) – the Feast of All New Beginnings. It marked all that we call Holy Week and Easter (so Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day), and the Ascension, and Pentecost as well. The idea that commemorating each of these moments of Jesus’ life and what followed from his death should be spread out over different days came later. At first, they were all marked as one.

Now, an additional point is that there was in Judaism the idea that a righteous person would live a perfectly rounded life. So they would die on their birthday, or just perhaps on the day of their conception. If you already believe that Jesus’ conception was miraculous, it is natural to focus on that. So it seemed we could deduce that Jesus was conceived on 25 March (which, remember, being Good Friday as well as the rest, is his death day).

These days, it is one of the Feasts of Mary, about which so much has been said, over the centuries. As I said in an earlier piece, Christians, it turns out, are very good at disagreeing. What Mary is famous for saying in the Annunciation is saying: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to your word.” That can leave a feeling that Mary is meek and mild, timid even. But we don’t know her tone. I once heard someone say: “Mary said: YEEEEES”. And that YEEEEES was shouted as loudly as possible down the nave of Durham cathedral! We can see it as Mary at her most bold. I need hardly add: notice that she didn’t seek permission from any man!

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

St John's Church News

Jean Rockett-Woods (JR-W)

Services:

Patrick Morrow (PM)

1 Mar – 10:30am	Holy Communion	(Revd PM)
8 Mar – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(JR-W)
15 Mar – 10:30am	Mothering Sunday	(JR-W)
22 Mar – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	(JR-W)
29 Mar – 9:30am	Palm Sunday at St Nicholas church, Ashill (No service at Ovington)	



We are now in the season of Lent. So what is Lent and what do we do in Lent, and why?

Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often. Christians who observe Lent

correctly anticipate deeper intimacy with the Lord.

Many Christians have heard of Lent, but do all know what it means? Is it really just a time of giving up chocolate or social media?

As many Christians marked the beginning of Lent this year on Wednesday, 18 February, known as Ash Wednesday, it's important to know the real purpose and meaning to the 40 days of Lent.

Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter, (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

The 40 days of Lent involve fasting, prayer, and alms giving as a way to connect deeper with God. Commonly observed by Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches, many use the 40 days of Lent as a time of personal reflection to prepare your heart and mind for Good Friday and Easter.

With love in Christ,

Jean (07749 870485)

During Easter Week there will be additional services held in our Benefice churches of Ashill, Merton, Ovington and Saham Toney. Please check our notice board for the place where these services will be held:

Mon	30 Mar – 6:00pm	Compline – venue TBA	
Tue	31 Mar – 6:00pm	Compline – venue TBA	
Wed	1 Apr – 6:00pm	Compline – venue TBA	
Thu	2 Apr – 7:30pm	Holy Communion and The Washing of Feet Ovington	Rev PM
Fri	3 Apr – 10:00am	Scriptural Stations of the Cross St George, Saham Toney	Rev PM
Fri	3 Apr – 2:00pm	Liturgy of the Day St George, Saham Toney	Rev PM
Sat	4 Apr – 7:30pm	Easter Eve Vigil St George, Saham Toney	Rev PM
Sun	5 Apr – 10:30am	Easter Day, Ovington	JR-W

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

We end with a work by Lord Byron (22 January 1788 – 19 April 1824). He was one of the major figures of the Romantic movement and among the greatest English poets. This slightly less well known work certainly has a deep meaning about our place:

There Is Pleasure In The Pathless Woods

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

There are two more verses.

Submission deadline for next issue: 24 March

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