

The Ovington Oracle

September, 2025



Heritage Open Days are back, with access to some places you can't normally go and free access to sites that normally charge.

12 – 21 September

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

England's largest festival of history and culture!

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

When I checked there were 395 'in person' events in Norfolk! It looked as if more were being added.



The **Autumn Equinox** is creeping up on us again, officially marking the start of autumn on 22 September at 7:23pm. If you prefer using 'made up' months rather than actual solar events then you might prefer the meteorological definition of Autumn starting 1 September.



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Village events this month:

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

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

Shipdham Surgery Flu Vaccinations

Michelle Lupton

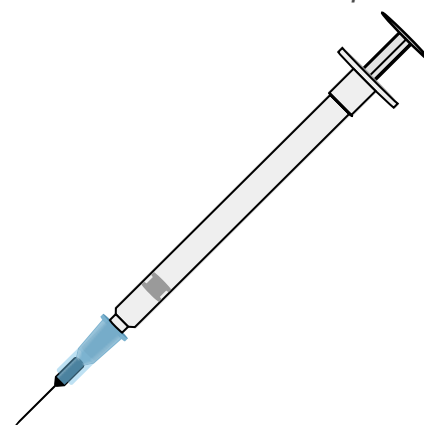
We have now had confirmation of dates from when we can vaccinate flu eligible patients.

This has now enabled the surgery to plan clinic dates:

4 October 2025, 8:00am – 4.00pm

18 October 2025, 8:00am – 4.00pm

1 November 2025, 8:00am – 1.00pm



Parish Council (PC)

Laurie Shepherd – Parish Clerk

PC documents at:

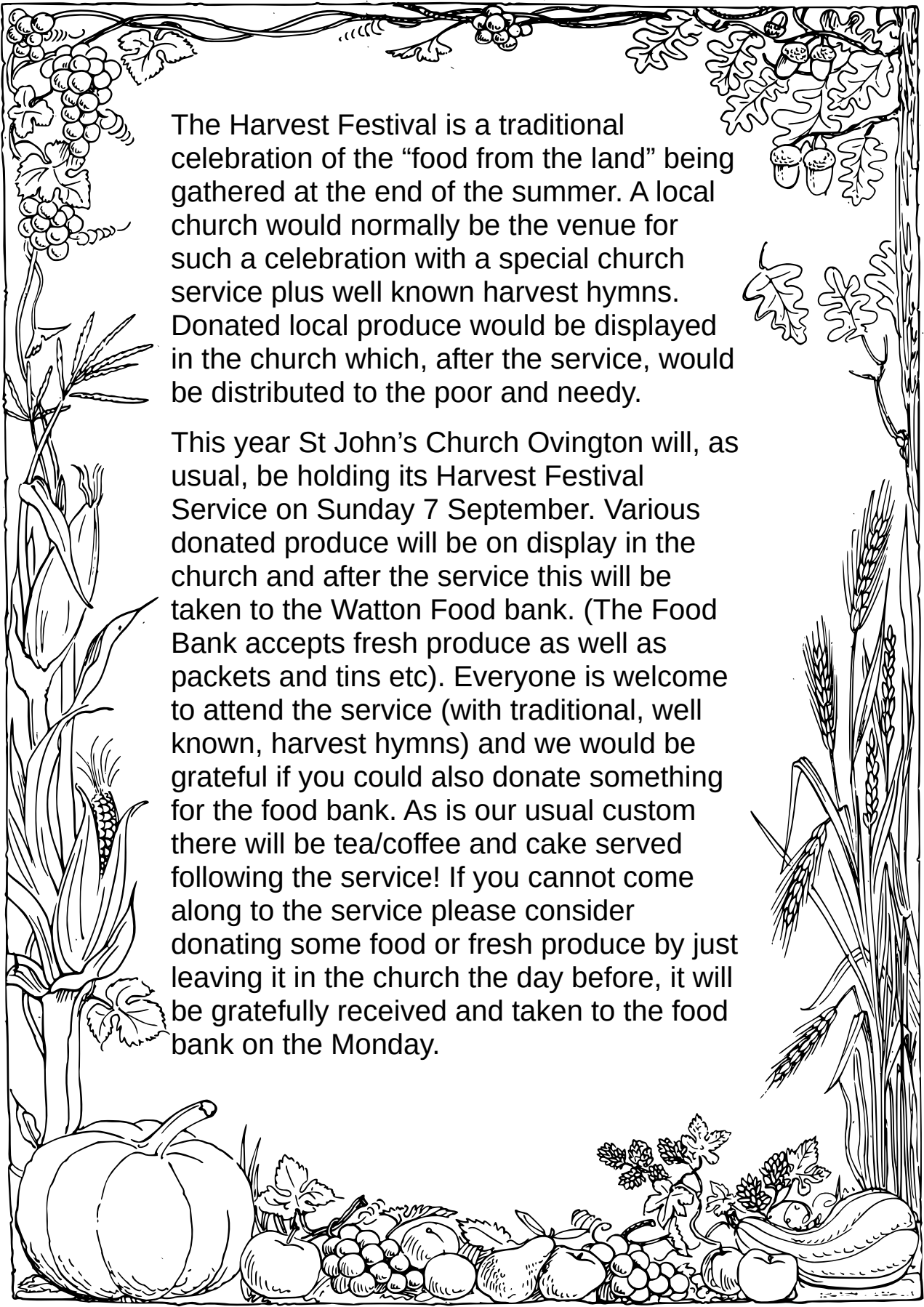
ovingtonclerk.wixsite.com/home

Next Meetings:

17 September, 12 November, at 7:30pm in Village Hall.

Harvest Festival

David Welsted



The Harvest Festival is a traditional celebration of the “food from the land” being gathered at the end of the summer. A local church would normally be the venue for such a celebration with a special church service plus well known harvest hymns. Donated local produce would be displayed in the church which, after the service, would be distributed to the poor and needy.

This year St John's Church Ovington will, as usual, be holding its Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 7 September. Various donated produce will be on display in the church and after the service this will be taken to the Watton Food bank. (The Food Bank accepts fresh produce as well as packets and tins etc). Everyone is welcome to attend the service (with traditional, well known, harvest hymns) and we would be grateful if you could also donate something for the food bank. As is our usual custom there will be tea/coffee and cake served following the service! If you cannot come along to the service please consider donating some food or fresh produce by just leaving it in the church the day before, it will be gratefully received and taken to the food bank on the Monday.

St John the Evangelist Church

Jean Rockett-Woods

Services:

7 Sept – 10:30am	Holy Communion – Harvest Festival	(Revd. Patrick Morrow)
14 Sept – 10:30am	Morning Praise	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
21 Sept – 10:30am	Family Service	(Jean Rockett-Woods)
28 Sept – 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer	(Jean Rockett-Woods)



Thank you to the lovely people who have left monetary donations for our Church work in Ovington.

We are now planning for our Harvest Festival service during this month, and would love to see you all. If you are able to donate any produce from your gardens, or allotments, for this service then please bring them along either on the Saturday, or at the Sunday service. For the last few years we have donated the gifts to the Watton distribution centre, where they give your very welcome gifts to those who are struggling to make ends meet.

Our Pet service this year will be held on Sunday 19 October. This service is held in memory of St. Francis of Assisi who gave up his money to live a life as a monk. He cared for all animals, and at our service we remember all pets who give us so much pleasure. Please feel free to bring your pet, whether dog, hamster, tortoise or bird, but please ensure that they are kept safe. My cat usually comes into the church for services, but he may keep a distance from dogs, which I ask must be kept on a lead. However, I do not mind if they join in with the hymn singing.

You probably may have heard that Jeremy and I are moving to Ashill. We have decided that a smaller bungalow and garden will be most suitable for us in the coming years. We will not be leaving the village entirely, as we will be returning weekly for church services and coffee mornings in the village hall.

I look forward to seeing you at our next service. My daily prayers are for you all.

With love in Christ,

Jean. Tel: 07749 870485

Village Hall (VH)

Mike (Village Hall Trustee)

Review: Charity Coffee Morning.

Jane held her annual charity coffee morning on Saturday 16 August.

She had been so busy collecting for the Tombola and Raffle over the previous months. The Tombola was very popular where you picked several raffle tickets and if they ended with 0 or 5 you won a prize. She also held a raffle for several lovely prizes.

Many thanks also to Christine Hardy who donated her cushions, scarves etc to the charity coffee morning.

Teas and coffees together with a piece of cake for £2 all went down a treat.

The morning was very successful and raised a fantastic sum of £1030 for various local charities. Well done Jane!

Forthcoming Events:

Quiz Night – Saturday 27 September. 7:00 for 7:30pm start

A fun night, easy questions, teams of up to 6.

For tickets ring Kaz on 07880935765

Dan Star – Friday 10 October. Doors open at 7:30pm

By popular demand our regular booking of Dan Star is now upon us.

Soft Drinks are available ,but bring your own alcohol.

For tickets ring Kaz on 07880935765

Ovington Festive Fayre – Saturday 22 November noon – 3:00pm

Regular Events:

- Coffee mornings: a weekly event from 10:30am to noon on a Monday. Enjoy a coffee and cake with some friendly conversation for just £1.
- Youth Club last Friday of the month.
- Yoga classes every Tuesday.

- Messy Moments, Weekly on a Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm. For further details contact Tierra via email

messymomentsnorfolk@hotmail.com

- Indoor carpet bowls, come and try your skills. Alternate Wednesdays 7 for 7:30pm.

For all you 'twitchers' out there the robins eventually fledged successfully from the outdoor bin!

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 on ovingtonvillagehall.ovington@gmail.com

Website: ovingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The VH Trustees

Rainfall

Tim



July's rainfall was 66.5mm (2 ⁵/₈").

However, August has been very dry again although often cloudy, as of 25 August the monthly running total stood at just 10.4mm. We need some rain!

Charity Coffee Morning – Thank You

Jane Lambert

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to thank everyone from the village who came and supported my charity coffee morning. For anyone who gave donations or money it was very much appreciated. Also I would like to thank the ladies who made cakes.

I raised £1030 which will be divided between the three charities:

- **Priscilla Bacon Lodge,**
- **Local Stroke Club,**
- **Jayden's Journey.**

So a very big thank-you to all,

Jane

Youth Club

Kaz Mason



Meets last Friday of the month
(usually 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.

Kaz & Jo (Ovington Youth Club Leaders) – 07880935765

Happy New Year!

Revd Patrick Morrow

Happy New Year! Have I lost my mind? Not quite. With September and the first hints of autumn, many of us, of all ages, can sense in the colder air a “back to school” feel. And that means that we are thinking of the new academic year. There is promise; there is excitement; there is some apprehension. Well may we pray from those starting school or college, or moving to a new school in these days.

September is also New Year in a number of religious calendars. For our brothers and sisters in the Methodist Church, and also in Orthodox Christian Churches, for example. Jewish New Year also falls in September. This year it begins in the evening of 22 September. The New Year will be 5786. It notionally goes back to the creation of the world. That does not mean that Jews as a whole are “creationists”; it’s rather an evocative tradition.

Jewish New Year – or Rosh Ha Shanah – is striking in many ways. It is not a time of revelry and excess. It’s a solemn occasion; a time for introspection, for facing up to things, for repentance, prayer, and charity. Nor is it all over in one night. It is actually the beginning of 10 solemn days, leading up to the great Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, which this year begins on the evening of 1 October. In these days, both people and synagogues tend to “wear” white, not in celebration; it’s white as a symbol of your burial shroud.

So far, so serious. All of this may suggest that Judaism is a glum religion, where you have to do a thousand things to get God’s attention, or approval. Nothing could be further from the truth. The services are all bathed in assurance of God’s compassion and love. A prayer that is repeated says: “Our Father, our King, have mercy on us, and answer us, for we have no good works of our own.” We don’t come to persuade God to think well of us. We place ourselves simply within the embrace of our Father. We receive His grace. A position Christians can well understand, and share. Happy New Year, indeed!

Revd Patrick Morrow,

Email: patrickmorrow@live.co.uk

Tel: 01760 330258

Recipe – Apple Flan

Traditional

With an abundance of apples ripening we need some form of cake!

Ingredients

- 175g (6oz) short crust pastry (make or buy)
- 900g (2lb) mixed apples
- plus 2 sweet apples
- 150g (5oz) sugar
- Juice of half a lemon
- Apricot jam as required.

Instructions

- Peel, core and dice the mixed apples. Place in a saucepan with sugar and a couple of tablespoons of water. Heat gently until the apples are soft. Using a wooden spoon beat into a paste, then drain through a sieve and allow to cool.
- Heat oven to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6)
- Line a 25cm (9”) round tin with the pastry. Spread the puréed apple over the base of the pastry.
- Peel and thinly segment the sweet apples into a bowl of water mixed with the lemon juice. Arrange the slices in a pattern on top of the puréed apple.
- Bake for about 30 minutes until pastry cooked and apple slices are softened.
- Brush warmed apricot jam (sieved if required) over the surface to act as a glaze.
- Serve hot with cream or ice-cream or cool and enjoy a slice with afternoon tea.

Stop looking at the answer until you have tried the puzzle on the back page!

7	61	43
73	37	1
31	13	67

Credit: Pierce, Rod, 2025, 'Magic Square 111 Puzzle – Math Is Fun. Available at: <https://www.mathsisfun.com/puzzles/magic-square-111-solution.html>.

And Finally

Tim

Magic square puzzle:

The sum of the three numbers in each row or column or diagonal add up to 111. Fill in the missing squares, try without a calculator:

		7
13	37	

Answer on previous page.

Submission deadline for next issue: 22 September

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