## **Building for the Future**

## Loving our community in Newton Flotman



## The Story So Far...

In the Spring of 2014, St Mary's Church had a parish development programme in which we sought to discern how the church could best serve our village. Our questionnaires showed that one of the biggest issues in the village was loneliness and isolation. We also found that people really missed having a village shop even though they recognised that an ordinary village shop might not be financially viable. The church congregation and other volunteers from the village have begun to address these needs in a number of ways....



OFFER YOUR TALENTS -CONTACTS

Sally Gaze Team Rector tel. 470762

Andy Cox Community/ pastoral activities tel. 471334

Chris Gaze Repair and development of the church building tel 470762

Berice Hipperson Finance tel 470377

William Ball Prayer team tel 471506

Sharon Poyser Fundraising Events tel 470930

## What's happening with the Church Building?

We are seeking to develop the church as a place capable of multiple uses by all the community which can be open every day, complementing the wellused village hall. Our plans are for

- The creation of a warm and informal day-time meeting place at the back of church with tea and coffee facilities
- The provision of a village shop next to the meeting place through the purchase of village shop vending machine to be based in the tower
- Expanding provision for existing Parent and Toddler group, lunch club which are constrained through lack of space
- Improved heating and lighting to make the church a warm and welcoming place to worship including for christenings, weddings, and funerals

The wider use of the church building is also important to secure its long term future as a place of heritage and worship. The church building is



currently on Historic England "At Risk" register after the recent lead theft. The plans for the development of the church building have been made in consultation with national heritage specialists and all permissions have been secured.

**The next step** is about raising funds and having fun as we do so. Have you got a special talent that you could use - from crochet to car repair... which could turn into a fun community event or fundraiser! Maybe you are good at making grant applications or have building expertise. Offer your talents by ringing one of the contacts or come along on 22nd April to see the plans and discuss!

