

Regular Events

Alpha – This introduction to the Christian faith is currently running in Newton Flotman on Wednesday evenings – contact William on 471506.

Baby Mice – Every Wednesday 10-12 in Newton Flotman Church Room. A group for parents and babies led by Geraldine from Children's Services. Chat and get to know other parents. Young parents especially welcome. Contact Geraldine Preston on 07827 896281

Bible Study Groups New members are always welcome. Please contact Philip Simmons 499041, David Lancaster 493159 or June Gibson 499004

Church Mice – A parent and toddler group, meeting fortnightly on Thursdays from 9.30am in Newton Flotman Church room. This month's meetings are on 12th and 26th April. Contact Dawn (470956) or Vicky (471506) for more details.

Coffee Stop – for coffee, tea and cakes Saturday Mornings 10-12 at Newton Flotman's Church Room. Plus on 2nd & 4th Saturdays "Cakes and Preserves" stall. Contact Amy Ferguson on 470925

Monday Mardle – get together in Saxlingham Church Room every Monday – see March dates for more information. Tel Corinne 01508 499064

Prayer for the parishes takes place every day. Please give any special prayer requests to a churchwarden, member of the clergy or prayer box or board in church.

Communion at home - Contact Rev.David Sochon on 558495

Sat Nav/FROG – Groups for 11s to teenage meeting during part of some Sunday Services at Tasburgh and Newton Flotman. Contact the clergy for details.

Special Agents –are children aged up to 11 with a special assignment to find out all about the Christian life. We meet on Sundays at 10.45-12 to investigate bible stories, play games, sing, pray and do all sorts of crafts. New members are always welcome. If you want to know more, tel: Kirsten Remer 471580

Tasburgh Coffee Pot – meets every Wednesday afternoon 2pm – 3.45pm in Tasburgh Church Room for coffee and a chat – all are welcome.

Tasburgh Children's Church meets on Sundays at 9.30 in Tasburgh's Church Room. Contact Jane Rae for more details 470692

How to Contact the Staff Team

Rev'd Sally Gaze: sally@tasvalley.org Tel: 470762, The Rectory, Church Road, Newton Flotman., Norwich NR15 1QB

Rev'd Adrian Miller: adrian@tasvalley.org Tel: 498317, The New Rectory, The Street, Saxlingham Nethergate,

Rev'd Chris Martin: chrism@tasvalley.org Tel: 470768, The New Rectory, Church Hill, Tasburgh

Rev'd David Sochon: davids@tasvalley.org Tel: 558495, The Bungalow, Chapel Lane, Shotesham

Mr David Lancaster (Reader) Tel. 493159

Miss Hannah Pye (Youth work intern) Tel 07724 179004

Notices and News – April 2012

Tas Valley Team



*St Mary, Newton Flotman; St Peter, Swainsthorpe; St Mary, Tasburgh;
St Mary, Tharston; St Mary Saxlingham; All Saints Shotesham,
St Mary Shotesham, Tas Valley Cell Church*

An April Fool?

At the time, it must have seemed like a bad April Fool's joke when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Here was someone claiming to be the King of Kings, but instead of arriving on a white charger he's on a donkey. A bit like the Queen swapping her Rolls for a Shopper bike.



The bible says that God's message often looks foolish – not just this royal entrance on a donkey – but most of all Jesus' death on a cross. How did a law-abiding, kind healer like Jesus get himself crucified? The bible says, "The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." In other words God's way is the way of Love; Love which is more concerned to serve than to have status; Love which is prepared to make sacrifices for the sake of others.

Through the foolishness of the cross came the joy of the resurrection. Christ's death has won the victory over evil and death for ever. Love which causes us all to make sacrifices which are very foolish in worldly terms, turns out to be the only thing which makes life worth living in the end.

Sally Gaze

Hannah's Fund Update Many thanks to all those who have donated to the fund for Hannah Pye's internship. Hannah Pye started a year out with the Tas Valley Benefice in July 2011 after "A-levels". She is supporting the ministry of the benefice in countless ways, especially with our young people and families work. At the same time she is exploring her own vocation. £3000 has been granted by the diocesan mission fund to support Hannah, in her year with us and we want to match this with £3000 from donations. (Most of this has now also been raised thanks to the generosity of Tas Valley cell and congregation members.) If you would like to support Hannah, either write a cheque (made payable to the Tas Valley Cell Church) and send to our Treasurer, Vicky Ball c/o The Rectory at Newton Flotman - or ask for a standing order form, and send that to Vicky.

DROP IN TO PRAY WEEK (2nd April – 7th April)

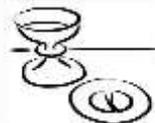
During the week leading up to Easter each church in the Tas Valley has adopted a day on which to specially invite people to drop in to pray. There will be special displays and resources to help us to think about the events of the first Easter and to meditate, enjoy some peace, light a candle or pray... You can support the prayer day at your local church by praying and/or being at the church to welcome others who drop in to pray. You can book slots for helping to man the churches for drop in during prayer week at www.tasvalley.org or ask one of the members of the pastoral leadership team: William Ball; Kirsten Remer; Jim England; David Hamilton; David Lancaster or a member of the clergy

Mon 2nd April **THARSTON CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Candlelit Night Prayer 8.30pm



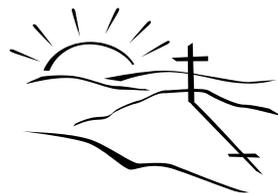
Tues 3rd April **SWAINSTHORPE CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Children's Easter Garden Making 10-11am
Candlelit Night Prayer 8.30pm

Wed 4th April **SHOTESHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Candlelit Night Prayer 8.30pm



Thurs 5th April **TASBURGH CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Maundy Thursday Communion 7.30pm

Fri 6th April **SAXLINGHAM CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Good Friday Service with Choir 3pm



TASBURGH CHURCH
Good Friday for All Ages 10.30am
SHOTESHAM ST MARY
Tenebrae – Candlelit Meditation for Good Friday (Bring a torch) 9pm

Sat 7th April **NEWTON FLOTMAN CHURCH**
Simple Morning Prayer 9.30am
Drop in to Pray 9.30-5pm
Easter Vigil Praise Service 9pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN APRIL

1st ***Palm Sunday***

Newton Flotman	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.00am	"First Sunday" – Palm Sunday Donkey
Procession. Breakfast for all followed by a worship event for all ages from 9.30am		
Swainsthorpe	4.00pm	Palm Sunday Special
Tasburgh	9.30am	Palm Sunday Donkey Procession with Scouts & Guides groups
Tharston	11.00am	Holy Communion
Saxlingham	9.30am	Holy Communion
Shotesham St Mary's	11.00am	Holy Communion

8th ***Easter Day***

Newton Flotman	11.00am	Easter Communion Service for All Ages followed by Egg Hunt.
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Easter Communion
Tasburgh	9.30am	Easter Family Communion
Tharston	8.00am	Easter Day Communion
Saxlingham	11.00am	Easter Family Communion
Shotesham St Mary's	9.30am	Easter Communion

15th ***Sunday Worship***

Newton Flotman	11.00am	Holy Communion, Spec Agts & FROG
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Holy Communion
Tasburgh	9.30am	All Age Service, starting with a bring-and-share brunch in the church. Lively worship for all.
Tharston	8.00am	Holy Communion
Saxlingham	9.30am	Holy Communion
Shotesham All Saints	4.00pm	All Age Service

22nd ***Sunday Worship***

Newton Flotman	11.00am	Morning Prayer & Spec Agts
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Swainsthorpe Special
Tasburgh	9.30am	Holy Communion, Children's Church and Sat Nav
Saxlingham	11.00am	Matins BCP & Children's Church
Shotesham All Saints	9.30am	Holy Communion

29th ***Sunday Worship***

Newton Flotman	10.30am	Benefice Informal Worship & Special Agents
Saxlingham	6.30pm	Benefice Evensong

This news sheet is circulated every month to all the Tas Valley churches and can also be found on our website www.tasvalley.org. Please send copy for the May Newsletter **by April 18th** to vicky@tasvalley.org

Tas Valley Cell Church

Cells are vital units of the body - and cells in church life are small groups, which contain the DNA of what it means to be church. We meet to grow in faith, to pray and support each other, to learn from the bible and to join in actively sharing our faith and serving the wider community. If you'd like to join a cell, contact Richard Bond (Wed eves) 578093; Chris Martin (Weds eves) 470768; William Ball (Weds eves) 471506; Sally Gaze (Thurs morning – Mums & toddlers - & evenings for adults) 470762; Andrew & June Gibson (Thurs eves) 499004; Vicky Ball (Thurs eves) 471506; Jane Rae (Fri eves for adults and children) 470692; Wayne Doman (Sat afternoons for young people with all kinds of special needs and their families) 471933

JAM Youth Group meets on Mon eves 7-8.30pm and is for young people of high school age. We play games, eat popcorn, watch films, go on outings, read the bible and pray. We also support each other, make friends and have fun.

SUNDAY NIGHT – A cell for older teens/early twenties who want to explore their faith more deeply meets on Sunday evenings to discuss some of the big issues of life, pray and support each other. If you'd like to find out more about JAM or Sunday Night contact Chris Gaze tel: 470762; e-mail: chris@tasvalley.org or Hannah Pye -e-mail: hannah@tasvalley.org

Other April Dates

Mon 2nd – **Saxlingham Mardle** – 12 noon Easter Lunch, numbers please. £3 per person

Tues 3rd – **Swainsthorpe APCM**

Fri 6th - **Benefice Service on Good Friday** at 3pm in Saxlingham Church with choir, hymns and readings.

Mon 9th – **Saxlingham Mardle** – no Mardle Easter Bank Holiday.

Mon 16th – **Saxlingham Mardle** – normal Mardle

Mon 16th – **Tasburgh APCM**

Tues 17th – **Saxlingham APCM**

Thurs 19th – **Shotesham APCM**

Mon 23rd – **Saxlingham Mardle** – St George's Day Special!

Fri 27th – **Film Fun Friday** – 6 for 6.30pm at Newton Flotman School

Mon 30th – **Saxlingham Mardle** – normal Mardle

Mon 30th – **Tharston APCM**

Sally's Sabbatical Sally will be on Sabbatical after Easter until 15th July.

This is a time for rest and renewal which clergy are permitted to take after 7 years of full time ministry (It has been a bit longer than that for Sally) Sally will be at home, but focussing on other areas of life and ministry in a complete break from parish duties. This is a time to rest and step back from ministry in order to return refreshed; spending time with family helping us to be further healed and adjust after the crisis of Katie's illness last year; and time to be able to participate in a more regular rhythm of prayer and to spend time on retreat, seeking God's

renewal. Clergy on sabbatical often focus on an area of study. For some years Sally has felt that God is calling her to learn what the monastic movement has to say to her personally and to the cell church, and she will spend time exploring the relationship between the older monastic movement, new monasticism and rhythms of life within family life.

Responding to proposed changes in marriage law

At this time when changes in the marriage law are being proposed, it is good to remind ourselves of Christian teaching about the nature of marriage. I can find nothing better than the beautiful words of the preface to the marriage service:

"The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy.

It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be [born and] nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage, husband and wife belong to one another and begin a new way of life in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly or selfishly but reverently, responsibly and after serious thought."

I believe that marriage understood in this way is important for the welfare of our society. Marriage reflects the complementary natures of men and women. Although death and divorce may prevent it, the evidence shows that children do best with a married mother and a father. It's not discriminatory to support traditional marriage. Civil partnerships already provide all the legal benefits of marriage so there's no need to redefine marriage. Same-sex couples may choose to have a legal partnership but no one has the right to redefine marriage for the rest of us. If marriage is legally redefined, those who believe in traditional marriage will be sidelined. People's careers could be harmed, couples seeking to adopt or foster could be excluded, and schools would inevitably have to teach the new definition to children. If marriage is redefined, I believe it will not be long before clergy are asked to perform same sex marriages in church and then prosecuted if they feel they cannot do so.

I believe this is a time when Christians are called to stand up and be counted. You can do so by signing a petition in church or by visiting <http://c4m.org.uk/> Please pray seriously about this issue and if you feel so led, play your part in making your views known. With love Sally