

Regular Events

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 5th and 19th December (Christmas Party). 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. Contact Amy Ferguson on 470925

Communion at home - Contact Rev. David Sochon on 558495

Emmanuel Group – Meeting every Friday 10-12 at 58 Church Road, Tasburgh. In our 25th year of prayer we are involved in Prayer Shawl Ministry and Local House of Prayer. Phone Shirley Brooks on 470369

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.

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 in Newton Flotman 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: Kathryn 470892

St Mary's Guild meets 1st Monday of each month in Tasburgh church room at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome

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

Tasburgh Crafts Club – meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month 10am to 12 noon in the church room, Tasburgh

How to Contact the Staff Team

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

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

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

Mr David Lancaster (Reader) Tel. 493159

Notices and News – December 2013 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*



Magic of Christingle

Christingle is one of the newer Christmas customs in this country. It only came into Britain in 1968 – and perhaps you might think it was invented as a gimmick to entice children into church. Not at all. The custom has much older roots in the small German town of Marienborn. A bishop conducting a closing act of worship for a youth festival on Christmas Eve presented the children with a decorated orange topped with a candle. He called it “Christ-ingle” (“Christ-light”) and asked them to take it home and light it in a window as a visible symbol of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Over the centuries the symbolism has developed. Today the orange (symbolising the world) is encircled by a red ribbon symbolising Christ's blood. Four cocktail sticks are inserted laden with sweets and fruit symbolising all the corners of the world and the fruit which comes from each. Still, at the centre remains the lighted candle reminding us of Jesus, the Light of the World.

For me watching children holding lighted Christingles in the dimly lit church is one of the most magical moments of the Christmas season. But the real magic is in the difference Christ can make in our lives. Today the Christingle Service is held in support of the Children's Society whose work is shining light into the darkness of needy children's lives.

If you bring a Christingle home from the service, or perhaps make one yourself – you might like to light it again at home with a prayer, just as those who received the very first Christingles did.

Christingle Prayer

*In the darkest places, Lord and the darkest moments of life
Shine your light of love and goodness, peace and joy,
So that, whatever obscures it,
It will finally win through.
In Jesus' name. Amen*

*Wishing you a Christmas full of Christ's Light and Joy.
Sally Gaze*

*(The collection at Christingle services will go to The Children's Society Charity
Registration No. 221124. Please bring an orange if you can)*

Sunday Worship Events in December

1st Sunday Worship

Newton Flotman	8.00am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Christingle Service at Newton Flotman Primary School
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Holy Communion
Tasburgh	4.00pm	Advent Carols
Tharston	11.00am	Holy Communion
Saxlingham	9.30am	Helpers' Thank You Service
Shotesham All Saints	11.00am	Holy Communion

8th Sunday Worship

Newton Flotman	11.00am	Family Communion
Swainsthorpe	6.30pm	Evening Praise
Tasburgh	9.30am	Holy Communion & Baptism
Saxlingham	8.00am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Christingle Service

15th Sunday Worship

Newton Flotman	11.00am	Holy Communion with Special Agents & FROG
Swainsthorpe	6.30pm	Carol Service
Tasburgh	4.30pm	Christingle Service
Tharston	8.00am	Holy Communion
Saxlingham	9.30am	Holy Communion
Shotesham St Mary's	6.30pm	Carol Service

20th Friday before Christmas

Tharston	6.30pm	Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
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22nd Sunday Worship

Newton Flotman	4.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Christmas Café Service
Tasburgh	6.30pm	Carol Service
Saxlingham	3.00pm	Carol Service
Shotesham St Mary's	9.30am	Holy Communion

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 Sally Gaze (Monday mornings for at home parents) 470762; Richard Bond (Wed eves) 578093; Linda Taylor (Weds eves) 470768; William Ball (Weds eves) 471506; Vicky Ball (Thurs eves) 471506. **Special Me Group** - Wayne Doman (2nd & 4th Sat. afternoons for young people with all kinds of special needs and their families) 471933. **JAM** (Mons for 11s-15yrs) Chris Gaze 470762.

Sunday Night (older teens) Mart Hartley 0787 664 3560

Looking ahead to January 2014

Sunday 19th January 11am in Tasburgh Church.

We plan to say farewell to Rev Adrian Miller at a special service, in Tasburgh Church, where he had his first service, and was welcomed to the benefice 7 years ago. The service will be followed by a shared lunch.

Alpha Course

There will be an Alpha course running in January 2014 on Wednesday Evenings. Alpha is a course on the essentials of the Christian faith for people who want to investigate the big questions of life in an unpressurised way. No pressure! No charge! Alpha really is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment. We begin with a no-obligation taster session, and if you like it, follow up with 8 weeks, exploring the basics of the Christian faith. If you would like to find out more, please speak to Mart (07849 105554)

Swainsthorpe Toddler Group

Contact Sally Gaze on 470762 if you are interested in attending a parent/carer and baby/toddler group at St Peter's Church, Swainsthorpe. Starting on 23rd January and running fortnightly.

24th Christmas Eve

Newton Flotman	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Tasburgh	3.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Saxlingham	3.30pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion

25th Christmas Day

Newton Flotman	10.30am	All Age Christmas Celebration with Communion
Swainsthorpe	9.30am	Christmas Communion
Tasburgh	10.00am	Christmas Day Worship
Tharston	9.30am	Christmas Communion
Saxlingham	10.30am	Christmas Communion
Shotesham All Saints	9.30am	Short All Age Christmas Communion

29th Sunday Worship

Saxlingham	11.00am	Benefice Communion with separate activities for children and young people
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SAMARITAN'S PURSE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2013

In response to our Shoebox Appeal, the Tas Valley Benefice was able to send a total of 407 boxes to Samaritan's Purse, a truly wonderful effort.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this magnificent result especially to Jill Masters of Shotesham and all her helpers at Northgate Hospital, Great Yarmouth (232 boxes) and to Jane Rae and her team for the special effort (100 boxes) in Tasburgh.

- David & Ros

Lancaster.

Other December Dates

Mon 2nd – **Saxlingham Mardle** – normal Mardle

Tues 3rd - **Local House of Prayer** 26 Chestnut Road, Tasburgh at 7.30pm

Thurs 5th – Sat 7th Saxlingham Players in “Confusions” at Saxlingham Village Hall 7.30pm. Tel Vicky Stocks for tickets 499631 (between 9am and 9pm)

Fri 6th – **Local House of Prayer** Newton Flotman Primary School at 7.30pm

Sat 7th – **Newton Flotman WI Christmas Market** in the Village Centre 2pm to 4pm with lots of interesting things for all ages

Mon 9th – **Saxlingham Mardle** – Christmas lunch at Highway Nursery

Thurs 12th – **Swainsthorpe Toddler Group** – Christmas Activity Morning at St Peter's Church 9.30am - 11.30am for parents/carers and their toddlers/babies

Sat 14th – **Christmas Coffee Morning and Children's Crafts 10.30 – 12.30** at St Peter's, Swainsthorpe, immediately followed by children's Christmas party.

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

Mon 16th – **Carol Singing** at St Mary's Church Saxlingham at 7pm

Tues 17th - **Local House of Prayer** 26 Chestnut Road, Tasburgh at 7.30pm

Tues 17th – **Community Carol Singing** round Tasburgh starting at Tasburgh village sign at 6.30pm and finishing at the Countryman.

Fri 20th - **Local House of Prayer** Newton Flotman Primary School at 7.30pm.

Sat 21st – **Children's Christmas Party** at Saxlingham Village Hall 3-5pm hosted by St Mary's. 0 – 7 year olds welcomed. Food, party games, puppet show, craft and Santa. Tel Sarah Miller 498317 before 13th December.

Mon 23rd – **Saxlingham Mardle** – Christmas Party 11.30am. Buffet Lunch

Mon 23rd – **Carol Singing** around Newton Flotman. Meet 6pm at NF Surgery car park. Collecting for EACH and NNAB.

Tues 24th – **Carols around the Christmas Tree** 6pm, Village Green Swainsthorpe

Wed 25th Christmas Day - **Christmas Lunch** - 12:30pm for 1pm, Tasburgh Village Hall. A delicious Christmas lunch will be served, free of charge, for anyone at all who would like to come along. Contact Rach on 471474.

Mon 30th – **Saxlingham Mardle** – Post Christmas Mardle

The January Benefice newsletter will be printed and in our churches early in December. Please contact Vicky as soon as possible if you would like something included – vicky@tasvalley.org or tel: 471506

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