

TAS VALLEY TEAM NEWS



Advent/Christmas 2015

Christmas Services

From Christingle services to Midnight Mass, there's lots going on this month and each church will be advertising in their own events locally. You can also find all the services on our website www.tasvalley.org.



Benefice Service on the Sunday after Christmas

**27th Dec – Benefice
Communion Service with
activities for children**

**followed by refreshments
and a chance to catch up
with friends from around
the Team**

One of the loveliest sights at Christmas is of a child delighted with a gift. Some people even say, "Christmas is really for the children". However, the older I get the more I love Christmas for other reasons: The angels tell us what Christmas is all about and their message tells of joy, not just for children, but for everyone. A Saviour to rescue the world from greed, from war, from hunger, from debt, from addiction, from illness, from death. And the sign of this great rescue is not a jolly bearded santa bearing countless presents but a baby lying in a cattle trough. I love the trimmings of Christmas – the tree and puddings and cards and carols and parties and presents-and I look forward to seeing friends and family enjoy it. But I would rather there were no presents than we should not know the joy of the message of the angels.

So when we celebrate, let it not be just that children are delightfully excited or even that a baby was born long ago. If we celebrate, let us celebrate with the angels. Let it be that the baby did not stay in the manger but died to make the angels promise come true. Let it be that he has invaded our lives with purpose today, making our picturesque traditions pale into insignificance, striding over our shallow sentiment and overturning our cash registers, wielding his peace like a sword and rescuing us from the lies of materialism into reality. This Christmas let us take some time out from the consumer rush to be silent and alone - hear in our hearts the song of the angels and celebrate with them the joy which God has prepared for us all.

A very happy, peaceful Christmas from the Tas Valley churches team – Sally, Dawn, Martin, Jenny, David & Andy

The parish churches of Newton Flotman, Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh, Tharston, Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham All Saints and Shotesham St Mary and the Tas Valley Cell Church

Bless...

Pray for blessing....

On those who are facing unemployment or illness at Christmas time and especially for refugees - - for work, health and financial security

On carol singers and the charities for which they sing this year.

On the Community Christmas Lunch at Newton Flotman and for the possibility of opening the church for wider community use including an automated village shop

On the new housing being built at Thurston Meadow

On the work of the children's society, as we celebrate Christingle

Contacting the Staff Team

Sally Gaze 470762
Dawn Davidson 498924
Martin Hartley 07849 105554
David Lancaster - 493159
Jenny Cooper 470141
Andy Cox 471334



The final total of shoeboxes from all the churches in our Benefice was 156. Many thanks to Jane Rae and everyone who contributed to this splendid result!

It would be lovely to see the faces of all the children near and far as they open up the boxes.

David Lancaster



December Events

for Christmas services see www.tasvalley.org, church noticeboard or your local village news

- 5th** - Tasburgh Christmas Fayre, in Church 10.30-12
St Nicholas' Eve Fayre - Swainsthorpe Church 10.30-12
Craft Sale @ Coffe Stop - Newton Flotman Church 10-12
- 10th** "Away in a Manger" Songs, Story and Songs for Under 5s, Newton Church Room 10.30-11.30am
- 16th** Christmas Community Lunch, Newton Flotman Church Room 12-1.30 Contact Andy
- Date?** - Mardle Christmas Party
-Contact Corinne 499064
- 19th**- Carol Singing - Tasburgh, meeting outside School @ 4pm
- 22nd** Carol Singing Newton Flotman Green - 6.30m
Contact Kirsten Remer 471580
- 24th**- Carols round the Tree, Shotesham All Sts 6pm

