

Samaritan's Purse-Operation Christmas Child 2015

It is time once again to launch the annual Shoe Box Appeal for children in need in Central and Eastern Europe.


The information leaflets and posters are in churches from the beginning of this month and the final date for handing in the boxes

will be on Remembrance Sunday November 8th. Last year we sent over 400 boxes from the Benefice and with your help we hope to match this or achieve an even better amount this year.

David Lancaster Tel.01508 493159



Cell Church Update



New cells and cell sponsored events have started this autumn including a new cell in Tharston (contact William Ball), a community lunch in Newton Flotman (coordinated by cell church local outreach worker Andy Cox), "Hands Together" craft group (contact Rev Dawn Davidson) and Freedom Cafe Cell in Tasburgh (contact Mart Hartley).

NEW TASBURGH CELL: Julie King is interested in starting a second cell in Tasburgh to study the bible, pray and reach out with Christian love to those around on a Wednesday evening, if you are interested, please ring her on 470759

October Harvest Festivals

4th October - 9am "First Sunday" Harvest at Newton Flotman 9am for breakfast, 9.30 for informal worship (See also the Barn Dance and Hog Roast (right))

11am - Shotesham St May's Church

6.30pm at Tharston Church



Making Contact

For Services and Regular Events see the website www.tasvalley.org, one of the church noticeboards or your local village news

To contact a minister ring or email:

Rev Canon Sally Gaze (Team Rector - Special Responsibility for Newton Flotman, Swainsthorpe and the Cell Church) 470762, sally@tasvalley.org

Rev Dawn Davidson (Team Vicar - Special Responsibility for Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham and Tharston) 498924 , dawn@tasvalley.org

Rev Captain Martin Hartley, C.A. (Pioneer Curate - Special Responsibility for Tasburgh) 07849 105554 , martin@tasvalley.org

Rev Jenny Cooper (Assistant Priest. Please contact Jenny to put items on the Tas Valley website or in the Tasburgh & Tharston Quarterly Church News) 470141, jenny@tasvalley.org

Mr David Lancaster - (Reader) 493159

Mr Andy Cox (Local Outreach Worker, Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe) 471334

Authorised Worship Assistants - William Ball, Kirsten Remer, John Torbitt, David Hamilton, Kate Cakebread.

Barn Dance and Hog Roast

Saturday 3rd October 6:30

- 10:30PM

HEMPNALL VILLAGE HALL

**IN AID OF THE CHURCH
COMMUNITY PROJECT**

TICKETS: £10 (OR £30 FAMILY)



Tickets can be purchased from Sheila Buchanan 470484 buchanan8@btinternet.com or Chris Gaze 470762 chris@tasvalley.org (vege option available)



TAS VALLEY TEAM NEWS

October 2015



Ways to Give

1. Online - Follow the link

www.dioceseofnorwich.org/refugees

2. By Text - Text ACTS45 £10 to 70070 to donate £10; or text ACTS45 £5 to 70070 to donate £5;

3. By Cheque - Cheques should be made payable to 'Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd' or 'NDBF Ltd', marked clearly on the back of the cheque 'Refugee Appeal'. Please send the cheque together with a completed Gift Aid declaration (if applicable), which can be downloaded at www.dioceseofnorwich.org/refugees to Refugee Appeal, Miss S Bunting, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton NR9 5ES

4. To give to Christian Aid to help refugees still overseas, go to their website

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/>

The Refugee Crisis

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Norwich to be read in church and widely distributed in the parishes of the Diocese of Norwich

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Monday (September 21st) we celebrated the Feast of St Matthew. St Matthew's Gospel contains a very telling parable of the Last Judgement in which the Lord reminds us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him. (Matthew 25. 31-46)

The vast humanitarian crisis in Syria and elsewhere which has led to thousands of refugees arriving in Europe concerns us all and has touched the hearts of many. The horrors and indignities that so many refugees suffer are terrible to contemplate. How can we respond? Perhaps the accumulation of millions of individual acts of compassion and generosity can change things, and even change us. While we cannot do everything that doesn't prevent us doing something. Already the Churches and many Christian people have urged our Government to respond compassionately and said that we can be counted on to give support.

Here in the Diocese of Norwich we are seeking to do three things.

1) We are gathering a list of properties and buildings which could be used either to house refugees temporarily or more permanently. This will supplement the information already coordinated by Sanctuary Norfolk, an organisation of faith groups (including our own Mothers' Union) which has been working for several months to encourage our local authorities to offer places for refugees here. Please send any offers to my PA, Coralie Nichols, by email to coralie.nichols@dioceseofnorwich.org who will keep a record.

2) The Leader of Norfolk County Council has set up a Refugee Taskforce which has begun to meet and on which he has invited me to serve. As information becomes available I will ensure this is shared more widely among the churches as well as other agencies in our diocese. It will be essential for a good infrastructure to be in place for refugees when they arrive so that translation facilities, education and orientation in a new culture are undertaken. This includes giving them opportunities for worship and religious practice.

3) We recognise that parishes and individuals may want to contribute funds to be used exclusively for the resettlement and support of any refugees in our diocese. So we have set up an account with the Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance for such funds to be deposited. Those who want to give to help refugees elsewhere in the world may wish to contribute to Christian Aid. Ways to give are outlined below.

Norfolk and Waveney has a long history of welcoming migrants and refugees, known locally as strangers in centuries past. Those strangers have enriched our lives here. More recently Norwich has received Congolese refugees under the UN Gateway programme. We seek to be hospitable. We hope the Government will be increasingly generous in the provision which it makes. We believe many people in our churches will give a heartfelt and generous welcome to those fleeing persecution and hardship and coming to us in great need. Please pray for peace and justice and do what you can to contribute to countless individual acts of compassion.

Thank you and may God bless us all,

Graham +