

TAS VALLEY TEAM NEWS

October 2014

Operation Christmas Child



This Samaritan's purse project enables people to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, hats and scarves and other gifts for needy children. With the help of churches and volunteers, the boxes are collected, processed and delivered to children in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, homeless shelters and impoverished areas around the globe, regardless of race or religious beliefs. If you'd like to take part, please take a leaflet from the back of church and return your filled box by **9th November**.

St Peter's Church in Swainsthorpe is holding a community packing party at their **breakfast cafe service on Sunday 26th October at 9.30am**. All welcome. Filling a shoebox is a simple and fun thing to do but it is a great practical way of showing love with children who have very little in material terms.

WHO CARES ?

Thank you to all who helped with the Church Who Cares Survey by answering our question: "What hurts the most?" or put another way, 'What is the one thing in your life which you find hardest to handle?'

The top answers in our local area were: - 14.5%
Death 10.9 % Relationship Problems 9.7 %
Loneliness

The aim was to find out what issues are affecting local people the most so that local churches can seek to help and support. In the next few months we will be praying about some of the things we now realise people are going through and the services in October will be looking at these issues and how Christian faith can help. 5th - Who Cares? 12th Oct Hope in Bereavement, 19th Oct Family Relationships, 26th Oct - Loneliness Today. Alongside this, Various churches are also taking time to work out which are the best way for the local church to show PRACTICAL support to people.

Alpha

An opportunity to explore the deeper questions of life and some of the responses the Christian faith offers. Eight Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm beginning 6th October at The Poplars, The Street, Tharston.

Contact Sally 470762 or William 471506

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

Changing Service Times: Ministry Meal



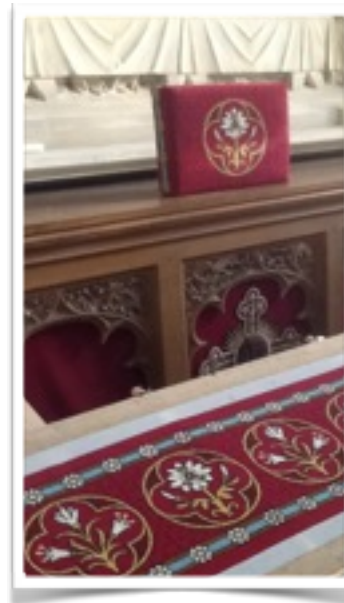
On the first Thursday of each month at 7pm we have started a 'bring and share' meal at the Rectory at Newton Flotman, open to all who would like to come. This is an opportunity to get to know others from across the 6 parishes better and to hear what is going on in . This is followed each month by a meeting that has a special focus for groups of people with a particular ministry in our benefice.

In October, we are meeting on Thurs 23rd Oct instead of the 1st Thursday because of the Alpha Supper at the Norfolk Showground. The meeting after the meal (8-9.30) will be seeking God's guidance together about Service Times across the Team

Tasburgh church starting cafe church and would like this to be at a new time to make it easier for newcomers. This potentially affects services and clergy availability across the Benefice. There are other churches too who would be interested in having different service times. Come to meet listen and pray about this together.

New Diocesan Magazine

If you have not been in the habit of taking the Diocesan Magazine (previously, "Across the See", then have a look at the new version which contains a lot of inspiring and useful articles. This month, look out for the story of the kneelers at Shotesham, St Mary which are being dedicated by Bishop Alan in a Special Service on 19th October 11am.



What else is happening?

Lots more information about Tas Valley churches can be found on our website www.tasvalley.org. including the Benefice Worship Rota and details of Cell Church Meetings.. This Worship Rota and posters for other events will also be placed on your church noticeboards - thank you to the churchwardens for doing this.

Thank you Jessie

We say goodbye to Jessie Walrond who has been working as a Rural Evangelist, based in Swainsthorpe since January. Her time with us has been all too short but Jessie has added richly to our life together in her warmth and care as well as her involvement with activities such as Swainsthorpe Church Mice, the Great Swainsthorpe Bake Off and Debatable Sermons, using her expertise on apologetics. Please pray for Jessie as she goes to continue serving God and to develop her Speech Therapy work in her home county of Somerset.

