

Tas Valley Team Ministry

Review of the year 2012



Some Members of the Tas Valley Churches on Mission in Uganda: Making New Friends (More below)



Our Benefice Family - What We Do Together

WORSHIP AND PRAYER (Benefice Wide)

A Year of Blessing: Worship and prayer needs to be at the heart of all we do as a benefice. 25 people committed themselves to set aside 1 hour a week for 52 weeks in 2012 to pray specifically for God to bless our area. A structure for prayer and notes with areas for prayer and news was provided. It has been inspiring to learn about prayer by doing and has led to the foundation of two “Local Houses of Prayer” in 2013 as well as many people continuing weekly prayers for blessing. If you would like to be involved, or simply to find out more, please ask Sally or Adrian.

Daily Prayer Anyone is welcome to come to these short times of prayer at 9.30am:

Monday – St Mary's, Saxlingham

Tuesday – St Mary's Tasburgh

Wednesday – St Mary's Newton Flotman

Friday – St Mary's Newton Flotman

On Thursdays, prayers are said by the Open the Book Teams in the three church schools of the benefice.

Benefice Services We came together for the following services in 2012

- High Mass at Candlemas in Saxlingham
- January Gathering & Commissioning for Special Me (See Cell Church Report)
- Ash Wednesday Service of Wholeness and Healing
- Special Services and "Drop in for Prayer" at each church during Holy Week
- April Benefice Service with Children's Activities
- Remembering Loved Ones at Newton Flotman
- Praise Service with Medad Birungi in November;

Good Friday Choir – This was the last year for the choir led by Ros Lancaster, involving people from every village in the benefice came together to lead the Good Friday Service.. Thank you Ros for all you have done in leading worship on Good Friday over the years.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY (Benefice Wide)

Pastoral Leadership Team - The Pastoral Leadership Team meets to –

- seek to understand the "big picture" in the Tas Valley Team by listening to each other and God
- prayerfully seek practical ways in which the Tas Valley churches may "grow in God's love", where appropriate this may include making proposals and communicating them to PCCs
- support each other in ministry and the exploration of their call from God including vocation to authorised ministry within the Church of England.
- help members to identify, enable, support and train other people to minister in the benefice

Members are chosen by the Team Rector and Team Vicar according to criteria first agreed by all the PCCs in 2008:

- People of prayer and mature discipleship, who are committed to meeting as church every week.
- If they have young children, they are committed to bringing them up in the Christian faith.
- They already have long term pastoral leadership or responsibility for a clearly defined group of people eg. A Sunday school, youth group or cell leader or they regularly lead worship
- Weekly attenders of their own church but also have demonstrated a care for and formed good relationships within the benefice as a whole (eg through - benefice services, prayer 24-7, holiday club etc)
- Able to give time and priority to praying and planning with the leadership team on a regular basis

The members of the team in 2012 were William Ball, Sally Gaze, Chris Martin, Adrian Miller, Mark Morgan, David Sochon, David Lancaster, Kirsten Remer, Jim England and Hannah Pye. Please keep them in your prayers. If you are interested in exploring a new kind of ministry service in your Christian life, please speak with one of the members of the team who will do all they can to support you.

Wardens and Representatives Meeting – Thank you to all our church wardens who work so hard and make so much difference in the ministry and mission of our churches and care of our buildings. The wardens and other church reps had 4 meetings in 2012 to pray and plan. They represent the PCCs/ cell leaders in making decisions with the clergy, which affect the whole benefice such as Parish Share and the Worship Plan. We enjoy spending time together especially at the superb Christmas meal, hosted by Adrian and Sarah Miller.

Clergy's ministry beyond the Tas Valley - Parish clergy are warmly encouraged by the Church of England not to limit their ministry to within their parish only but to take on some wider responsibilities to use their gifts more widely and to help give their parish ministry a broader perspective. So here is what your parish clergy have been up to in 2012

Sally had a sabbatical mid April- mid July in which she studied new monasticism and family life and did some lecturing on Rural Ministry in Toronto. She works quarter time for the diocese helping others to start Fresh Expressions of Church to reach those not being reached by more conventional church. She has also become the chairperson of the national Fresh Expressions Rural Round Table.

Adrian led a trip to Uganda in August and maintains supportive links with World Shine Ministries. He is a Member of the Diocesan Deliverance Ministry Team, he is involved in combating domestic abuse through the Breaking the Silence campaign and he is a trustee of the House of Prayer in Fishergate, Norwich.

Chris completed his curacy and has become Priest in Charge of the Churches for All Mission Community in Exeter Diocese.

David Sochon – is the Rural Dean for Depwade, caring for local clergy in the area and chairing the Deanery Synod..

Mark works full time as a barrister in Norwich.

New Pioneer Curate Appointed - A lot of work went in to finding a new curate in 2012. We are delighted that Martin Hartley has been appointed. He will be ordained deacon in Norwich Cathedral on 29th June. Before training for ordained ministry Martin was a Church Army Officer working as an Community Evangelist in Bedfordshire. He is a pioneer curate which means that at least half his time will be spent reaching out beyond the bounds of traditional church with the love of Jesus. Martin is married to Rach and they have four children at home - Dorrie, Willow, Noah and Honey. (Older daughters Jenny and Bex live in Shropshire)

Benefice Account – This account is mainly a way of collecting from the churches their contribution towards clergy expenses. Other benefice expenses such as gifts for newly ordained clergy, benefice holiday club and the benefice website also go through here. The accounts for 2012 are included with this report. Within the account there is a Mission Training Fund – the money in this fund comes from the royalties of Sally's book, "Mission-shaped and Rural" together with any ministry gifts received from speaking engagements. It is available for anyone who wants to undertake training for mission. .Anyone who wants to apply for funding should speak to Sally or Adrian.

Communications - The Website www.tasvalley.org, developed by Adrian, is becoming more and more useful - including the ability to download the benefice worship rota. You can also sign up to receive regular updates from the website Many thanks to Vicky Ball who kindly edits, prints and organises distribution of the monthly benefice newsheet. You can speak to Vicky at the Tas Valley church office on Wednesday afternoons or e-mail her your copy by the 15th of the previous month – vicky@tasvalley.org. Don't forget to pick up your copy of the newsheet each month or if you'd like to receive an e-mail copy, please ask Vicky to add you to the benefice news mailing list.

MISSION AND SERVICE (Benefice Wide)

Sports Academy Holiday Club – This summer, about 90 children and teens were involved in a week long holiday club called "Sports Academy" run by the Tas Valley Team Churches .Sport Academy activities included mini-olympics, relays, parachute games, singing, prayer and a carnival parade. As well as having lots of fun, the children were thinking about how we can help others. By the end of the week, nearly £200 was raised for sports equipment for the World shine school in Rwentobo, Uganda. Congratulations and thanks to everybody for their donations and hard work.

Youth and families Internship - Hannah Pye finished her year out with the Tas Valley Benefice in July 2012. She ably supported the ministry of the benefice in countless ways, especially with our young

people and families work. She is now studying theology and youth ministry at university. Thanks Hannah!

Child Protection: Thank you to David Lancaster who has continued to serve as the Child Protection Officer for the whole Benefice. His job is to seek to ensure that the benefice adheres to good practice in youth and children's work. He also ensures that all our volunteers have appropriate police checks. Please contact David if you need help in any of these areas.

Samaritans Purse – Over 250 shoe boxes, containing gifts for Children in need internationally were sent from this benefice. Thanks to David and Ros Lancaster for organising this.

Fair Trade – In 2011 we have been promoting fairer trade through the purchase of coffee and other items - both for individual use and refreshments for church meetings.

Pastoral Care - The Clergy, Readers and other lay people share in the task of Pastoral Care across the benefice. David Sochon has taken on primary responsibility for ministry to the residential homes and home communions.

Alpha – Four greatly appreciated courses ran in 2012 – A fortnightly daytime alpha course for at-home mums, a alpha course for men and a small evening course for two adults and youth alpha. Some of those on these courses were confirmed in January 2013 - Congratulations to Edward Remer, William Rae, Sarah Lockley, Gavin and Kathryn Critchell. We hope more of our Alpha graduates will be confirmed in July 2013.

Uganda Trip and World Shine Ministries This summer 18 people from the Tas Valley area headed off to Uganda. With them they took about half a ton of charitable supplies including clothes and medicines and £4000 of donations for charitable work. They spent the core of their time at the World Shine School in Rwentobo where some members of the party dug foundations for a new dormitory enabling children who walk maybe ten miles to school each day to instead stay overnight. Others were involved in medical work (seeing over 800 people in their short time there) or in prayer or in supporting the educational work of the school. But however much they were able to give, each came home saying they had gained so much more from the experience of sharing with African brothers and sisters living by faith and overcoming the many struggles of real poverty.

Saint Mary's Church, Newton Flotman

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Prayer: On Easter Saturday, we held Simple Morning Prayer; Drop in to Pray throughout the day, ending with an Easter Vigil on Saturday 7th April, led by Youth Cell. Several Newton folk supported the Hour of Blessing prayer initiative throughout the year.

Sunday Worship: First Sunday services continue to be well attended and in 2012 collections from this service were sent to World Shine Ministries to support their work at Rwentobo School in Uganda.

Family Communion on the second Sunday has the young people going out for a short period of activities. Holy Communion on the third Sunday has more traditional hymns and opportunities for quiet. We are very grateful to all those who support our services with music – Evelyn and George, Andy and band members. Many thanks also to Kirsten Remer for her continued leadership and development of Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday of the month. William Ball has led some of the services during the month. There were joint services with Swainsthorpe during their Church reordering works.

Special Agents (SPAG), our children's church, is led by Kirsten Remer and runs for the sermon slot in the second Sunday Family Communion service. SPAG runs on all other Sundays, aside from First Sunday, in the Church Room for a simple service and activities, joining the main congregation towards the end of the main service. We formed a rota of volunteers to lead SPAG once a month since we were not able to find a replacement for Lesley Cox who has been leading the fourth Sunday on a regular basis.

FROG (“Fully rely on God”) is a group meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month for young people of secondary school age to have separate worship and teaching during part of the 3rd Sunday service.

Special Services Special Services this year included: the Palm Sunday Donkey Procession;; a service at the Village Hall for the Queen’s Jubilee; Harvest Thanksgiving at the Village Hall; “Remembering Loved Ones”; Christingle at the Village School and the Carol Service where Ros Lancaster once again led our Christmas choir.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Social Events: In June, the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations at the Village Hall were helped by Church members organising games and refreshments. In July, we rang the Church bells, in conjunction with “More Than Gold” prayer team to mark the first day of the Olympic Games and we held a “Thank You” event at the Village Hall for all those involved in helping with Church life, including, for example, Partnership deliverers and flower arrangers. Our Harvest Thanksgiving included a service, auction of produce and a lunch. We hosted a concert at Church held by ARTS, our local theatre school.

Church premises and churchyard: During the year we finally completed repairs to the Church tower exterior, improved the external signage by replacing and extending the existing signs and the graveyard tap was removed, following a leak.

Finance: Our Church remains financially sound and we continue to provide prudent stewardship of our resources. Our main fund raising focus in 2012 continued to be for the Tower Fund for essential repairs.

Special Needs: Our Christingle service included some signing and during 2012, we began to plan to make some of our services more accessible for those with Special Needs and/or hearing impairment.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Church Mice – meets every other Thursday morning in the church room and continues to attract good numbers of carers and children. Singing, playing and craft activities are enjoyed at each session. Many thanks to Dawn, Vicky and Clair with their regular helpers, Val and Mary. On alternate Thursday mornings, an Alpha course aimed at young mums took place at the Rectory.

Baby Mice, a group for mums and young babies run by Geraldine Preston of children’s services, continues to meet on alternate Wednesdays in the church room.

Partnership – our Parish magazine, covers Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe and the editor, Caroline Wolfe, has continued to improve the content and presentation.

Pastoral care - The readers and clergy are involved in taking communion to the housebound and in taking a monthly service at Olive House residential home.

Charity support – Thanks go to Richard Smith for coordinating our team of Christian Aid collectors. There have been special collections for the Children’s Society, Samaritan’s Purse and the Royal British Legion. The Carol Service collection was donated to the Tower Fund. Carol singing round the village, ending at Relish, raised nearly £200 for EACH. Foodbank collections are received at Church and we are pleased with the continuing regular donations.

Links with Newton Flotman Primary School- The school holds end of term services at St. Mary’s and Sally continues to lead workshops in the school prior to this to help the children prepare for the service. There was a wonderful prayer space, based on the story of Holy Week in the mobile classroom just before the Easter holidays and this led into a highly moving reenactment of the passion in the Easter Assembly. “Film Fun Friday” has continued on the last Friday of each month and is well attended. Kirsten and Sally continue as governors but there is a vacancy for a third foundation governors since David Moore finished his term of office this year.

Posada figures – were once again sent around the village during Advent with the support of the school, Coffee Stop, church and cell members, ending up back at Church on Christmas Eve.

Coffee Stop – Continued thanks are due to Amy, Sheila, Emily and the team of supporters, who provide refreshments and cakes every Saturday morning. Attendance remains good and fund raising for the Tower Fund and other initiatives are most welcome. Local traders attend from time to time and local produce and eggs are offered for sale.

Give and Take – this recycling event took place four times in 2012 during Coffee Stop in the church room where people can bring their unwanted household and garden items, clothing and toys. All the items given can be taken away free of charge and at the same time homemade cakes etc can be enjoyed with a cup of tea or coffee. At the end of the session anything left over is either given to the school for their fund raising events or taken to be sold at a local charity shop.

Uganda Trip – was a benefice initiative in August and two of our members took part, returning full of enthusiasm and determination to continue and develop our relationship with World Shine Ministries' work. In November, Medad Birungi visited the Church to supplement the message of the work going on there.

St Peter's Church, Swainsthorpe

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Sunday services – 2012 has been slightly different to normal. January to May we held a service each Sunday, with Holy Communion twice a month and the Swainsthorpe Special on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Services from May to November were reduced to twice a month as the church was closed for re-ordering. Services were held in either in the church porch or on the village green. We held a bug hunt in June and a Walk around Malthouse Farm in July. During Lent we collected tins of food for the Norwich Foodbank.

In November our Remembrance Service took place by the Village sign. Our collection was donated to Help for Heroes. In December the church re-opened. We celebrated by holding a Thank you & Christingle service at which our new community space was blessed by Bishop Alan; over 70 people attended. There was a wonderful atmosphere at our Carol service, thanks to the beautiful singing led by the Newton Flotman Christmas Choir.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY Welcoming building and finance – Due to the expense of re-ordering and lack of services in 2012, we were only able to pay £1,500 towards our Parish Share, although we did pay all our Ministry expenses. However we now have a large welcoming space, with 80 comfortable chairs, which can be arranged to suit any event.

Community Facility Project - David Chapman our Project Co-ordinator has continued to work tirelessly on the "Project". We now have:

- Permanent Facilities – the pews were removed and sold to local villagers. They have been replaced with 80 comfortable stackable chairs to create additional space.

We have new radiant down heaters. A beautiful new north door has been fitted. Excavation work was carried out to connect the Church to the main water supply and main sewer in Church Road. A sound loop has been fitted and microphones are available for use.

- Temporary Facilities - a temporary kitchen unit and water heater has been fitted and connected to the mains water supply and sewer. A temporary external toilet is connected to the main sewer with electricity and hot and cold running water. It is located just outside the new north door.



Work finally began in July when funds were released and the Lease of the building to the Charity Trust was signed.

Church Tower Repairs – Sufficient funds were raised to allow repairs to the tower to take place during 2012. English Heritage offered us an additional £15,000 to cover the cost of a new 1st floor which has been completed. Further essential repairs to the tower will take place during 2013, with completion due in July.

MISSION AND SERVICE (St Peter's Swainsthorpe)

Churchyard Conservation Scheme – conservation work continues in the churchyard by a small group of volunteers led by Andy Haggith.

Coffee Mornings - At Easter we held a coffee morning; with craft activities for the children and an egg hunt on the village green.

At Christmas we held another coffee morning, with craft activities for the children run by the Tasburgh Cell Group, and a visit from Father Christmas.

Links with Community Action Group The PIG's (Project Ideas Group) have continued to raise funds for the Community Project; more than 12 residents are members of this group. During 2012 the PIG's organised: a village green party in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the village fete, a cheese and wine party to celebrate the opening of the Community Facility in early December, village Christmas Cards were sold to raise funds and the very successful Carols Around the Tree on the green, which this year featured local band Jacob's Ladder. Many thanks to Jacob's Ladder for playing on a damp and windy Christmas Eve.

St Mary's, Tasburgh

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

We continue to keep our Church open daily for quiet prayer and meditation. People from near and far have signed the Visitor's book confirming how much they enjoy having easy access to the building. A regular Morning Prayer service takes place at 9.30a.m. on Tuesdays offering prayers for the whole benefice. Members of the congregation lead intercessions and read lessons at our weekly services.

Our Sunday services follow a regular pattern with Matins followed by Morning Light with Children's Church and Sat Nav on the first Sunday, Family Communion with Children's church on the 2nd Sunday, All Age Service with Bring and Share Brunch on the 3rd Sunday and Holy Communion with Children's Church and Sat Nav on the 4th Sunday - this pattern is designed to appeal to as many people as possible. Our thanks go to Andrea and Jane and all the helpers for their work with the children and to Julia for her work with Sat Nav, their efforts and hard work are very much appreciated. We would also like to give a big thank you to the choir under the direction of Sarah Norman for their continued contribution to our services.

We have had some special services this year - our Farewell Service for Martin Family was a very special occasion - as they move on to their new parishes in Devon where Chris takes up his new position - they will all be very much missed. Christmas was a busy time starting with our Carol Service, followed by a Crib Service and Midnight Communion, with a family service on Christmas morning. Remembrance Sunday and Palm Sunday were well attended and it was great to have the Cubs and Scouts join us on these occasions. Good Friday and Easter Sunday were marked by special services. We were also able to join other churches in the benefice on several occasions and especially for the Bishop's visitation to Newton Flotman where about 100 people held a bring and share lunch after the confirmation service.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PCC & Church Wardens - Our PCC continues to work together well as a team. The Church Wardens very much appreciate the help and support they receive from everybody, without this help we would never achieve our goals.

Church Buildings - Our church building is a peaceful and beautiful place to worship in and is much appreciated by many people. There is always work to be planned or carried out - this year has seen removal and restoration of the church room roof and the installation of a sophisticated new sound system with a loop system to assist the hard of hearing.

Finance - We are delighted to say that we have paid our parish share in full again this year.

Social Events - We joined together once again for the annual village/church fete in September, which was very well supported by the whole community. Other events included the annual Church Bike Ride; the Harvest Lunch at the beginning of October in the village hall attracted a large crowd, who enthusiastically celebrated together with excellent food provided by our congregation.

We would like to thank all who work tirelessly at fundraising through coffee mornings and other events, especially the ladies of St. Mary's Guild, and not forgetting all those who provide coffee and breakfast on Sundays, clean the church, provide the flowers and enable the church to be so welcoming to all.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Coffee Pot' meets each Wednesday in the church room - many thanks to Shirley and her team.

Links with Preston Primary School continue - the 'Open the Book' team visits weekly in term time by taking a dramatic version of bible stories into school, in which the children are enthusiastic participants. The foundation governors are Sarah Norman and Julia Orpin, who attend meetings and are regularly in school at assemblies and other events. Julia is standing in for the curate on the church council since Chris departed. Adrian is often in school and has carried out workshops this year. Several members of the PCC have arranged lunches for the teaching staff to help forge our links with the school, which have been very enjoyable. During the Summer holidays the holiday club was held at the school and was extremely well attended by children from across the benefice.

Charity Support - Special Collections from services have been given to the Royal British Legion, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Christian Aid, the Children's Society, the Norwich Food Bank and the Nursery School in Malawi. Lastly a big thank you to the team who went off to Uganda in August to help lay the foundations for a new dormitory at Rwentobo school, taking with them an absolute mountain of clothes and equipment for distribution at the same time. From the get together on their return they all have amazing stories to tell of this trip and its rewards for them personally.

St Mary, Tharston

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Sunday Worship - Each month we have a service at 8.00am HC, 11.00am HC and Village praise, the average attendance at these services is 8am -8, 11.00am-12, Village praise-10

Special services for the year - Easter – 18, Jubilee - 30, Harvest - 12, Christingle - 10, Carol Service – 72 including Tasburgh choir, Christmas Day - 17

CHURCH FAMILY

Friends and Helpers We are again very grateful to The Friends of Tharston Church for their continued support, to those who keep the church open, organise and support our events, The P.C.C. and Officers particularly Barbara Cattermole our secretary. Also Anna Lambert who continued to help with cleaning the church for her D.O.E award.

The Summer fete was our main fund raiser making over £1000 for funds. Our grateful thanks to Steve and Bev Smith for allowing us to use Picton Farm Gardens for this event.

Fabric and churchyard Over recent years following our last quinquennial report, the pew floors have been resurfaced, the organ housing has been stabilised, the rain water goods on the nave have been replaced and the rain water run off drains have been replaced. All this work has been done at cost saving the church thousands of pounds, which can be put towards the extensive costly chancel work which will have to be done at some point in the future. However some of the money saved can now be spent on having the west window repaired and made watertight. All part of our watertight campaign.

During August the rain water ground drains were replaced in the churchyard. Thanks are due to Peter Hubbard and others for giving so generously of their time. We neglected to attend to the need for a faculty for this work, but have been able to apply retrospectively for that to the satisfaction of all consultees.

The grass in the churchyard was not cut at the beginning of the year as our grass cutter was not able to continue in 2012. We were unable to address this situation immediately, which resulted in letters and verbal complaints to the PCC.

We continue to work with some of the more frustrating aspects of the DAC regulatory protocols, and we are very grateful for the many hours of service that Barbara has given to dealing with the copious quantities of paperwork demanded by the works pursued in 2012.

MISSION AND SERVICE

The food bank collection has been very successful, and people have been very generous.

Harvest Supper - We did not have a Harvest supper/lunch this year as no suitable venue could be found.

Art and Craft Festival - During Open churches week we held an art and craft exhibition featuring local talent. During the week we held three Have a go workshops, puppet making, come and sew, and build a bird box.

We had a lot of visitors and our thanks go to Jo Buckenham for co-ordinating the event and all the volunteers for their help with stewarding the event.

St Mary, Saxlingham

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Services are held each Sunday - on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 9.30am there is Holy Communion, which is supported by a small formal choir, on the 2nd Sunday a short Communion service at 8am and at 11 a Family Service are held and on the 4th Sunday there is usually a Matins service at 11am with a Sunday school taking place at the same time but using the Church Room. Refreshments are served before the Family Service and following the services at other times. Additionally there is a service on the 5th Sunday, which can be an Evensong with an annual service, dependent on the weather, held on the site of the ruins of St Mary Magdalene, to the south of the present church.

There is a Residential Nursing Home within the village and once a month a communion service is held at the Home for the elderly residents. The Church enjoys a good relationship with the Village School and by invitation and in co-operation with the Head Teacher, the Team Vicar / or other team members take an active part in school life. Additionally, there is an 'Open Air' service held on the Green in front of the Church on the day following the Church Fete, including an annual blessing of animals. It is usual to have non-regular church goers attend this service.

Within the village there is a well attended non- denominational Chapel, which has a Sunday School.

In addition to the normal services at Saxlingham, there are special services for whole benefice, including the Good Friday service at 3pm. There is an annual High Mass celebrated with Rev Mark Morgan taking the service.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

There are currently 9 males and 20 females registered on the Electoral Roll

The full PCC met five times during the year. These were the 4 normal quarterly meetings, plus one shorter meeting in March to discuss and agree the Report / Accounts in advance of the AGM. The church is blessed with a constant stream of volunteers from the bell ringers, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, sidesmen and readers and those who make sure the church is open to the public seven days of the week. There are also rotas for serving refreshments and cleaning the church room.

Social events, encompassing fund raising, have been successful including the annual quiz and fete. As usual, the Norfolk Churches Bike Ride is taken up by a few parishioners and there is a rota for sitting in the church and offering light refreshments. Events through the year included a Harvest Lunch, a Casserole Evening, a Pudding Afternoon and a sponsored knit. This year there was a special children's Christmas party held in the Scout headquarters, which was very successful.

Ministry Team Regular Services have been maintained during the year by Rev'd Adrian Miller, Rev'd Sally Gaze with the much appreciated support of our Rural Dean David Sochon, Lay-Reader David Lancaster and also Rev. Mark Morgan (a non-stipendary priest who resides in the village). It has been an exciting and busy year, bringing with it a number of challenges both in the practical and spiritual side of Church life. We were pleased to have Rev'd Chris Martin take some services before he left the benefice. We also help support a youth worker, Hannah Pye, who went to university in September but she lives in the village and contributed greatly to the family services. The village and church benefits from Rev'd Miller living in the parish due to his support in so many activities.

Church Fabric and Churchyard As usual a major part of our work has been maintaining the church building and grounds. A lot of hard work ensured that the appearance of the churchyard, the church, car park area and the new church room are all maintained to as high a standard as possible. The support we receive from the parishioners at the annual church fete reflects the high regard for the church held by so many living in the village.

Finance The church has benefited from a team from the Scouts working around the site this year and it is hoped that this will continue to happen. The two church wardens mainly oversaw these works and we are all very grateful for their extra support, as well as the commitment by the team.

The combined income generated from regular covenants, collections and a number of extra fund raising events, has almost been adequate this year to meet the normal expenses, including the eventual full payment of the quota of £10,271.00. There is still concern over the decline of general 'giving' to the church and it will be difficult to meet the ongoing increasing maintenance costs. This year's Accounts show a surplus expenditure of £8920.43, mainly due to the work to recast the bells. There are various items of maintenance work listed in the quinquennial report which need to be completed within the next five years. It continues to be difficult to raise additional income which is inevitably needed to pay for the rising costs of general maintenance and to develop and improve church facilities.

MISSION AND SERVICE

The Monday Mardles are now weekly and have continued very successfully. These gatherings in the church room allow a diverse group of people able to get together socially and transport is arranged for anyone requiring it. Additional outings have also been arranged which are much appreciated by everyone.

Extra Pastoral Care work continues in and around the village such as providing a Bereavement counselling service and special work with the village school children. The school also holds its own special services such as a Carol Service at the Church. The joint Remembrance Service with the local Scout and Guide Group is very successful. A Communion Service has been regularly provided by Lay-Readers at the Saxlingham Nursing Home, also including some home visits.

The church is pleased to be involved with collecting items to be taken to the Norwich Food Bank.

Contact (The Parish Magazine) is initially funded by the Church. The Trade Directory on the back of it ultimately covers the cost and it also together with individuals' and Parish Council sponsorship raises funds for the Church. Quite a collaboration through the village considering Contact is the only method of reaching every single household in Saxlingham. It is produced by a whole team in the village, starting with the individuals who provide the articles, Teresa Stevens collating, preparing and typing it, Roger and Vicky Stocks photocopying it, Alex Watson collating and delivering it to a group of approx. 13 individuals who put it through each and every letterbox! Last year, almost a £1,000 was raised by Contact and this year we are almost up to £800.00 this year. Thanks to all involved!

All Saints Church Shotesham and Shotesham St Mary

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

The following pattern of services has been maintained where possible.

1st Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday 9.30 Morning Light at St Mary's.

3rd Sunday 11.00 All Age at All Saints, 4th Sunday 9.30 Holy Communion at All Saints.

The festival services were well attended; the carol service at St Mary's and the Christmas morning service at All Saints being particularly well supported again this year. A number of families joined the usual congregation for the Christingle service and all enjoyed creating the christingles.

The Christmas Eve community carol singing brought more people than ever to All Saints. It was a crush to fit everyone into church after singing carols round the tree outside. The mulled wine and hot chocolate managed to stretch to serve everyone. Well done to Pat and Bob Harris and family for managing to provide for and serve such a large number.

Special services this year were well attended. The Helpers' Service on October 28th was our opportunity to thank all those who help the churches in many different ways. Once again Remembrance Day was commemorated with the help of the Parish Council at the War memorial ceremony before the Service in church. The British Legion Standard has been placed in All Saints as its permanent resting place. The British Legion have offered a bracket for this but it is yet to be received.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

2012 has been overall a successful year with the PCC working well together and passing most resolutions unanimously. We continue to appreciate the continuity brought by having Adrian with us for many of the services. We have a number of church rotas for flowers, opening, cleaning, which run smoothly thanks to the help of many in the community, some of whom wouldn't normally come into contact with the church. After the services we are delighted that the congregations remain for coffee, biscuits and chat. This certainly adds to the happy atmosphere we experience at both churches spiritually and socially.

Kneeler Project: A new project has started at St Mary's to replace the dilapidated Victorian kneeler at the altar rail. Sandra Coles has researched and got this under way. A team of local ladies have come together to work on a new tapestry copying the design of the original. This is a big project which will take many hours of needlework, it is pleasing that so many want to help.

The Maisie Benson Room has had its first full year of use and has proved to be a huge asset both to the church and the village. It has made the serving of coffee or other refreshments after services much easier and more pleasant and has also been used by the village for coffee mornings. PCC meetings always take place there and it has also been used for the tapestry project. Needless to say the fact there is also a lavatory has made an enormous difference. We no longer have to apologise to visitors and direct them to the pub!

Fabric Report There are two improvements to mention this year. Firstly a new set of notice boards which are easier to use and clearly advertise the church opening times and service times. Secondly the installation of a new sound system. We were in the fortunate position of being able to engage the expertise of Adrian's father for this. The new system is easy to use, produces an excellent tone and allows for more applications in the future should we need them.

The Carol Service was the last service to be held in St Mary's for a while. The church will be closed whilst work to replace rotten floorboards and improve the area of the North side chapel is carried out. We have made a faculty application for a toilet, kitchenette and to create an assembly area.

Arkscape have continued to keep the churchyard looking very trim. The conservation group have continued to maintain the churchyard to maximise wild flower areas while Arkscape more thoroughly tidy the area beside the path.

Bell Ringers Bell ringing practice is on Monday evenings and we are pleased to hear the bells regularly throughout the year before services. Visiting teams can also make use of our Norfolk five bell ring.

Finance - In the Legacy fund, income for the year 2012 included a large part of the Maisie Benson legacy which was a received part in cash and part in transfer of ordinary shares. The shares were rebalanced on the advice of stock brokers Barratt & Cooke and the start value of the investments in shares was taken at 11th May 2012, the date of rebalancing of the share portfolio. There was an increase in their value of £11,056 by the year-end due generally to the rise in the stock market with a small realised gain of £195 due to a small rearrangement in November. The legacy remains to be finalised.

This important legacy has allowed expenditure on improvements to the fabric our two churches. For 2012 this included completion of the Maisie Benson church room (electrics cost £982, improvements to the electrics in All Saints' (£613), a new sound system in All Saints' (£3,494) and materials for new kneelers in St. Mary's (£422). New facilities for St. Mary's are planned for 2013.

For St. Martin's Preservation Fund, most of the preservation work has been completed without a requirement to use any contingency money and we have received generous grants. The result is a balance of £4,673 being available for some final preservation work and, perhaps, providing a fund for continued preservation work. There has not been any requirement by the project to call on funds from the General fund.

Due to the large cash balances, mainly due to the legacy, some cash was placed on deposit fixed for 2 years (£50,000 at 3.3%) and some fixed for 1 year (£25,000 at 1.8%). These deposits were allocated to the various funds.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Special Events: 2012 was a year of special events, namely The Golden Jubilee of Elizabeth 2nd and England's hosting of the Olympic Games. All Saints joined in the country's royal celebrations with a jubilee themed flower display and special jubilee service. Many thanks to the flower arrangers who made the churches look so beautiful for this and the other festivals throughout the year.

Our pre Olympic celebration proved very popular with children and adults. It was on a lovely July day that Adrian and Bob ascended All Saint's tower to launch various designs of model planes. The flights varied from ignominious to glorious and provided much entertainment to the crowd gathered below. Medals were awarded to winners and tea and cakes enjoyed by all.

Charity Donations. Our donations to charity this year were a total of £1,145 and were to Help for Heroes (Remembrance Sunday), The Children's Society (Christingle), Emmaus (Christmas).

Our Harvest Appeal was again for the Norwich Foodbank. The boxes are now a permanent feature in both churches and people have become accustomed to leaving contributions throughout the year.

All Saints and St Mary's participated in the Annual Cycle Ride during Open Churches week.

Open Churches. Both churches have been open every day of the year thanks to the continued help of some 30 local residents prepared to take turns on the two rotas. The Visitors' books have comments left by overseas visitors as well as more local ones, pleased to find the churches open, clean and in good order. It seems likely that at least 500 people visited our churches this year.

Ash Wednesday once again saw the arrival of a group of Student Cross Pilgrims carrying a cross en route from Oxford to Walsingham. They were given tea by Jane in All Saints church.

St Martin's Project. Preservation of the ruin of St Martin's Church. This was controversial as some thought that the ivy covered ruin should not be touched. However now that work is complete it is much admired and has also become a valuable landmark and public open space for the village.

A huge fund raising initiative in the village led by Bob Harris and supported by the PCC with generous grants and help from the conservation group saw the completion of the work to make St Martins tower safe. The scaffolding was removed in time for Julia (Bob's daughter) and Danny to hold their wedding service in the newly conserved ruins on a sunny September day.

We are grateful to Bob Harris and Michael Knights for leading such a successful project

Tas Valley Cell Church

All Involved; Becoming Disciples; Creating Community; Doing Evangelism; Encountering God.

The Tas Valley Cell Church began in 2003. It's primary purpose is to enable people that conventional parish churches can't reach, to connect with God and become disciples of Jesus – but many people who love parish church, love to do Cell church alongside too. It is a "church without walls" composed of cells which are small groups (Up to 12 members in each), meeting mostly in people's homes during the week. Members come from across the entire benefice. The name comes from the idea that the Church is the Body of Christ and that all living bodies have cells which multiply – the ever-changing units of life. In 2012 there were about 50 adults and about 28 young people involved in the Tas Valley Cell Church on a regular basis.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Worship at a typical cell meeting is quite different from Sunday church - more informal and often quite meditative using candles and quiet music. Because we are meeting in a small group we are able to pray for individuals in a more intimate way and often see quite dramatic answers to prayer. Each cell aims to have communion together about once a term. At most cell meetings, we read the bible, often looking again at the teaching given in Church on Sunday. We use discussion and activities to help us understand a passage or a subject better. We pray for each other in our desire to put the bible's teaching into practice in our lives as well as for people's needs.

The Gathering is a larger teaching and worship event, run by the cell church for anyone to come. We have an hour long time of teaching or a workshop followed by contemporary worship, led by the band. This year we enjoyed a workshop from Special Me and commissioned them for their work with Special Needs youth and their families.

Worship Band Cell members form the core of the worship band which plays mainly at Newton Flotman, but also at Tasburgh and in other churches across the benefice and beyond. Steph, Em, Anna, Emily, Georgia, Fran and Andy formed the band until Em and Anna's departure in July. With much assistance at the mixing desk from Wayne Doman, Zach Cox and Matthew Gaze. The band also supported other churches in their praise services, including Stoke Holy Cross. From September onwards it has been great to have Zach, Edward and Emily begin to come on board. We are seeking more musicians in order to lead worship in the benefice: if you are interested, please contact Andy Cox or one of the clergy.

Houses of Prayer During 2012, the idea of local houses of prayer began to be born and they were launched in January 2013 as an associated ministry of the Cell Church. A local house of prayer is an effective prayer-based missional community. It could be a cell with a special focus on prayer. Its purpose will be for God's Kingdom to come in the area for which it prays. God's Kingdom simply means what happens when God is in charge - blessings such as good relationships, joy, peace, economic stability, health, growth, refreshment, love.... The houses of prayer associated with the Tas Valley Cell Church meet fortnightly in Tasburgh on a Tuesday evening (led by Andrea Sluman) and Newton Flotman on a Friday Evening (led by Andy Cox)

Easter Vigil Praise - Sunday Cell (older teens) led a night to remember of creative worship and praise on Easter Eve. Thanks to all. You were an inspiration.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Cell church places a high value on Creating Community. We have fun together and support each other. Many cell members are also very active members of their parish churches and find that cell life supports them in this. Others would not be part of a church at all if it were not for cells. Cells enable those who cannot get to a Sunday Service to be fully involved in the life of the local church. They are based on networks - people inviting friends, rather than the geography of a single parish. The cells complement the other forms of church in the benefice so that everyone can grow in God's love. Because there is a mix of parishes represented in each cell group, the presence of the cells within the benefice helps the churches in the benefice to grow closer together as a church family. We work together with the benefice and pay our own allocation of Parish Share. Cells support benefice initiatives and sometimes take on particular responsibilities to help in parishes. See below!

Thanks to all the cell leaders' who are real pastors to their cell members. Cells do the essential things that other churches do expressed in their values – All Involved; Becoming Disciples; Creating Community; Doing Evangelism; Encountering God.

Bishops' Mission Order Update Back in 2009, the various PCCs and the cell APCM agreed to explore seeking a Bishop's Mission Order. The main benefits of this are -

- recognition by the diocese of the Cell Church as a new Christian community, equivalent in some ways to a parish church within the life of benefice, enabling the cell church to plan for the future with confidence
- appropriate and supportive oversight of the cell church and benefice helping the cell church to grow in complementarity to the other forms of church in the benefice
- ensuring proper provision is made for ministry in the cell church including representation in the appointment process of a new incumbent should that arise in future

The draft text of the BMO has been with the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee since Autumn 2012 and we hope that they will soon be ready for the final consultation involving the deanery, cell church and all the benefice parish churches.

Giving, Stewardship & Charitable Status - Becoming a charity has been necessitated by the fact that Norwich diocese can

- no longer claim the tax back on our donations on our behalf
- We can back claim tax for 4 years after we become a charity

What sort of charity?

- Very much like a PCC without a building
- Enables us to reclaim tax on donations
- Team Rector Ex-officio Trustee
- Two "Wardens" elected at annual meeting in April
- Other Trustees may be appointed at Trustees discretion
- Trustees meet at least twice a year

A number of significant givers have moved away so that we are no longer covering our £8000 parish share through donation income. In the coming year, we need to make people aware of what it costs to run the cell church and make it easier for them to donate, especially by standing order. Awareness may also be increased by the cell series "Seasons of Giving" which has been written to help cell members to think through the whole of their finances in the light of the gospel.

MISSION AND SERVICE

The value which we call "Doing Evangelism" is about being good news in peoples' lives. Cells try to put faith to work in practical service and have a lot of fun – Most cells have a event every 4-6 weeks to which they invite friends and neighbours who don't normally come to church. We are also beginning to learn that the mission of its cell is its heart so cell groups whose mission purpose has been fulfilled

often finish in their current form and members go to serve and reach out in new cells in different ways. There are some examples of mission in the highlights from each cell below.

Sunday Cell (Older teens) Sun cell was led by Em Martin and Hannah Pye at the beginning of the year. The cell ran its second alpha weekend course in Feb 2012. From new leaders Emily Poyser and Steph Bond came to the fore and the cell has continued to flourish

JAM (2 Youth cells meeting on Mon) We have been running busy programme, including youth alpha. Once a month we do a social and this year it has included movies, swimming, Quasar and sailing. We again had a good trip to the Christian holiday, Spring Harvest. The year ended with around 14 regular members in two cells. During the year, Hannah Pye and Chris Martin left the leadership team and Kathryn Critchell and Emily Poyser joined. Other current leaders are Chris Gaze and Clair Amerigo, Thank you to them all. We are currently seeking more adult leaders for JAM, if you would like to find out about this please contact Chris Gaze.

Daytime cell – lead by Joelle Luxton, met at different times during the year according to members' work commitments. This cell has a particular emphasis on prayer and participated in the Blessing Project in 2012.

Tues eve cell – A cell led by Andrew and June Gibson with an emphasis on bible study and pastoral care. They have supported some of the work of Swainsthorpe congregation in Special Services and the week of prayer in Holy Week.

Wed eve cells – The cell, meeting in **Tasburgh**, have loved having the new members who have come along since the 2011 Alpha course. There has been a real time of “bereavement” after their leader Chris Martin moved away but they have enjoyed being joined by new members. Outreach has included a fireworks night and Christmas crafts for children.

The cell meeting in **Saxlingham** has been seeking to support individuals with whom they are in contact, particularly the elderly. They have been praying about how they can support more of the mission of the church in Shotesham.

Men's Cell – A small group of men met to think and pray about how to enable more men to participate in church life and find faith in 2011. The plan was to meet for bible study and prayer most weeks – but also to have a monthly working party helping with practical jobs in homes, gardens, churchyards etc. However, while they were praying and planning there was a request to run an alpha course and after asking if others would like to come, this became the main focus for the beginning of 2012. The cell has continued to grow in faith and numbers. They have enjoyed a study of the particular spirituality of men. In 2013, they are planning to run another alpha course.

Book cell - A small cell of three people meeting in Saxlingham whose intention is to host a monthly book discussion evening as their outreach.

Thursday morning Mums/Messy Cell – We began the year meeting in between the Church Mice meetings and finishing the Alpha course. Sally took a sabbatical in April and the cell were ably led by Clair. In September we began to think about a new outreach in the form of Messy Cell - A cell whose outreach is to run Messy Church in the school and which invites all who participate in the Messy Church event to become part of the team. The cell is now about supporting parents in helping whole families to explore faith together.

Thurs eve cell A happy cell meeting in Newton Flotman who has enjoyed having new members in 2012. Our mission and service included Advent Crafts at Coffee Stop on 1st December 2012

Film Fun Friday - In September, Sally Gaze and Lesley Cox started “Film Fun Friday” – a monthly film night for families which was the idea of Dawn Davidson. Dawn has joined the team and the event has continued to flourish although it is no longer cell-led.

Fri eve (multigenerational) Cell – This all age cell in Tasburgh sought to serve a wide range of contacts in the village. It ceased to meet during 2012 but all its members are involved in church in other

ways at Tasburgh. Its work has also led to the Wednesday morning alpha group which started in Tasburgh in January 2013.

“Special Me” is a Diocesan Group is for youth with special needs. Their family, friends and carers are welcome too. It is supported by Prospects. The leadership team started out as one of the Tas Valley cells and although this is no longer the case, the group retains close association with the Cell Church. Special Me was commissioned at the Cell Church “The Gathering” in January 2012. From April 2012, Special Me met from 1.30-3.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, at St Michael’s CEVA Junior School, Bowthorpe. Special Me is for people who would like to find out more about God and Jesus but may feel a bit shy about going to church for the first time. They have a programme that lasts for 15 sessions. People can join at any point in the programme and stay as long as they like. At each session there is Bible study and various activities. These include drama, craft, music, singing, puppets and worship. 20-30 people have been attending in 2012. In 2013, the Group will be moving to Newton Flotman School and repeating the programme. They are beginning to develop new leaders among those who attend, including people with special needs. It is a possibility that cells may be started among those who have completed the Special Me programme to help them to grow in faith and outreach. Contact Wayne and Teresa Doman for more details.

A Word from the Team Rector: Keep on Praying and Bless

On behalf of everyone, Adrian and I would like to thank Chris Martin, David Lancaster, David Sochon and all the Pastoral Leadership Team for their pastoral care, servant-hearted leadership, teaching and worship leading. We are truly blessed to have such a great team. Special thanks also to the church wardens who do so much for little recognition and have been a great personal support to the clergy as well. Much gratitude also to Vicky Ball who has now been our wonderful voluntary Benefice Administrator since April 2004. Personally, I am particularly grateful for the many people who took on different parts of my work in the benefice to enable me to take a sabbatical from April- July in 2012.



The key word for me in 2012 was BLESSING - God’s desire to bless us, to bless his world and for us to learn to both speak his blessings and to be a blessing to his world. We have begun to learn about what that means - the joys and the cost. In 2013, there is no new theme. We are called to keep on blessing - in our prayers, in our words and in the way we practically care for others in all we do.. I particularly encourage you to join in our week of 24/7 prayer, planned for Tasburgh Rectory from 22nd-29th May. We will be joined by our new curate Martin Hartley for part of the week and our prayers will include a house blessing for the Rectory on the last day. The overall theme will be BLESSING and there will be lots of creative resources to help you to pray for God’s blessing on our local area and local people. You can book a slot on Sundays or on the Tas Valley website: www.tasvalley.org.

The Lord bless You and keep You
The Lord make his face to shine upon You
And be gracious unto You
The Lord lift up His countenance upon You
And give You peace.

NUMBERS CHAPTER 6