

Tas Valley Team Ministry

Review of the year 2013



Pictured above - Newton Flotman Church of England Primary School Nativity, Rev Captain Martin Hartley new curate at Tasburgh, the Bells Project at Saxlingham Nethergate, Prayer 24-7 hosted by the Cell Church, Tapestry work for St Mary's Shotesham, Discussions on Church Growth at St Peter's Swainsthorpe, Tharston Church Fete.

Our Benefice Family - What We Do Together

WORSHIP AND PRAYER (Benefice Wide)

A Rhythm of Prayer Worship and prayer needs to be at the heart of all we do as a benefice. There is a daily rhythm of prayer at 9.30am around the benefice:

Monday - St Mary's, Saxlingham
Tuesday - St Mary's Tasburgh
Wednesday - St Mary's Newton Flotman
Friday - St Mary's Newton Flotman



In addition, there have been two **“Local Houses of Prayer”** meeting to pray specifically for God to bless our area in Tasburgh and Newton Flotman. A structure for prayer and notes with areas for prayer and news has been provided. A new Local House of Prayer is due to start in Saxlingham in April 2014. If you would like to be involved, or simply to find out more, please ask Sally or Martin.

Prayer 24-7 - Many people joined in our week of 24/7 at Tasburgh Rectory from 22nd-29th May. We were joined by our new curate Martin Hartley and his family for part of the week and our prayers included a house blessing for the Rectory on the last day. The overall theme will be BLESSING

Benefice Services We came together for the following services in 2014

- Two confirmation services held in Newton Flotman in January and Tasburgh in September
- Ash Wednesday Service of Wholeness and Healing
- Special Services in Holy Week
- Monthly Evening Praise, held mainly at St Peter's Swainsthorpe, from Oct 2014
- Remembering Loved Ones at Newton Flotman in November
- Benefice Communion for Sunday after Christmas at Saxlingham

Worship Band Cell members formed the core of the worship band which plays mainly at Newton Flotman, but also at Tasburgh, Swainsthorpe and in other churches across the benefice and beyond. It is great that, we are now beginning to form several worship bands - at Newton Flotman, Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh and Tharston. 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.

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

The members of the team in 2013 were William Ball, Sally Gaze, Adrian Miller, Mark Morgan, David Sochon, David Lancaster, Jenny Cooper, Kirsten Remer, and Jim England. Please keep them in your prayers. In the light of the research on Church Growth published in Feb 2014, the staff team would like to slightly reconfigure the Pastoral Leadership Team in 2014 to include: - Authorised Worship Assistants, Cell Leaders and a Focal Minister for each parish.

Clergy News: It has been lovely to have Rev'd Jenny Cooper join our clergy team. She moved to the benefice in 2013, but for some time continued to minister in the Upper Tas Valley. Having retired from this she has taken a short sabbatical and is now a full and active member of the staff team in the Tas Valley Team Ministry.

We were delighted to welcome the Hartley family to the benefice in 2013. Martin was ordained deacon in Norwich Cathedral on 29th June. Before training for ordained ministry Martin was a Church Army Officer working as a Community Evangelist in Bedfordshire. He is a pioneer curate which means that at least half his time is spent reaching out beyond the bounds of traditional church with the love of Jesus.

We were sad to say goodbye to the Miller family at the end of 2013 - But very pleased for Adrian (our Team Vicar) as he was appointed Rector of Mulbarton. We continue to pray for them in their new ministry.

David Sochon retired as Rural Dean for Depwade, caring for local clergy in the area and chairing the Deanery Synod but continues to be supportive of other benefices in our deanery in their interregna and to serve on Diocesan Synod.

Sally continues 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 is also chairperson of the national Fresh Expressions Rural Round Table.

A new Team Vicar, Dawn Davidson, has been appointed in April 2014 and we look forward to her and her family moving to Saxlingham later in 2014

Wardens and Representatives of the Cell Church Trustees- 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 2013 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.

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 2013 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.

Communications - The Website www.tasvalley.org, is now more widely used especially to download the Team 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 newssheet. 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 newssheet 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 (Team Wide)

Children's Holiday Activities: We did not have the usual holiday club in 2014 but we did have a craft morning and a trip to the seaside. We hope Holiday Club will be back 28-31 July 2014

Safeguarding: We will be reviewing our Safeguarding Policies both for Children and Vulnerable Adults in the light of current best practice in Spring 2014. Grateful thanks David Lancaster who has served for many years as our Child Protection Officer. He hopes to retire in 2014 and so we will be seeking approval for a new Safeguarding Officer to work across the Team

Benefice Charity Support - In 2013 we have been promoting Fair Trade through the purchase of coffee and other items - both for individual use and refreshments for church meetings. Many thanks to all involved in the splendid Benefice effort in sending over 200 shoeboxes for needy children via Samaritan's Purse in 2013 and to David Lancaster for coordinating our efforts. Thanks to all who contribute to Food Bank in each church and the cooperation between the churches in delivering goods.

Pastoral Care - The Clergy, Readers and other lay people share in the task of Pastoral Care across the benefice. David Sochon has primary responsibility for ministry to the residential homes and home communions. Several people undertook Bereavement Visiting Training in 2013 and we hope a team will be able to be formed in 2014.

Confirmations - Congratulations and welcome to all those confirmed during 2013, having attended Alpha or Cell - Edward Remer, William Rae, Sarah & Marc Lockley, Steve Calver, Gavin and Kathryn Critchell, Susan Peters Corbett.

Racheal Mutesi - Racheal, from World Shine Ministries in Uganda, came to stay with the Cox family in Summer 2013. She is working with Norwich Youth for Christ as well as ministering in our Church family with JAM, Sat Nav and assisting with worship and preaching.

Rural Evangelism - Jessie Walrond moved to Norfolk in 2013 in order to take up her post in Rural Evangelism in 2014. She is funded by grants and the Cell Church - but works much more widely. See more in the cell church section of this report.

Saint Mary's Church, Newton Flotman



WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Prayer: A local House of Prayer takes place on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month, led by Andy and Lesley Cox at the school. On Easter Saturday, we held an Easter Vigil through to Easter Day, led by Youth Cell. Several Newton folk supported the Hour of Blessing prayer initiative throughout the year. The church is open for Morning Prayer each Wednesday at 9:30.

Sunday Worship: First Sunday services continue to be well attended and in 2013 collections from this service were sent to World Shine Foundation, Uganda, until June and then to Prospects.

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 a more traditional feel and children join the congregation for Communion. We are very grateful to all those who have supported our services with music - Evelyn and George, Andy and band members. During the year, William Ball began leading "Morning Light" on the fourth Sunday of the month while Kirsten Remer developed her ministry by preaching on the third Sunday. There were joint services with Swainsthorpe during their Church reordering works.

Special Agents (SPAG), our children's church, was led by Kirsten Remer, who handed over to Kathryn Critchell during the year, 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. Members of the congregation provided cover on the fourth Sunday.

FROG for older children takes place on the third Sunday, led by Chris Gaze.

Special Services Special Services this year included: a Benefice Epiphany Service with baptism and confirmation on 6th January, which Bishop Alan combined with his visitation. Saxlingham and Tasburgh provided choirs and there was a bring and share lunch afterwards at the school; a service at the Village Hall during the fete on 1st September; "Remembering Loved Ones" on 17th November; Christingle at the Village School on 1st December and the candlelit Carol Service on 22nd December, where Ros Lancaster once again led our Christmas choir.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY (NEWTON FLOTMAN)

Social Events: In April we hosted two concert performances at Church held by ARTS, our local theatre school. In September we hosted a MacMillan Coffee Day where several people helped with teas, coffees refreshments, cakes and children's activities. Our Harvest Thanksgiving included a service and auction of produce with dry goods going to the Foodbank.

Church premises and churchyard: During the year we undertook repairs to the exterior lighting, following an accidental cable breakage.

Finance: Our Church remains financially sound and we continue to provide prudent stewardship of our resources. Our main fund raising focus in 2013 was a renewed stewardship appeal, following the announcement of substantially increased parish share and preparations for the launch of a "Friends of St Mary's" to help with raising funds for the church fabric.

Special Needs: Our church family has been joined by a number of people from the Prospects home in Long Stratton on the first Sunday of the month when the Special Me Group enables us to provide signing and we are seeking to make all aspects of our worship more accessible.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Church Mice - continues to meet every other Thursday morning in the church room and attracts a good numbers of carers and their 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 one occasion a paramedic was invited to visit to speak about and demonstrate basic emergency skills for babies and toddlers.

Partnership - our Parish magazine, covers Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe and the editor, Caroline Wolfe, has continued to do a marvellous job

Pastoral care - Rev David Sochon and others takes communion to the housebound and in Leads 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 Christingle Service collection was donated to the Children's Society and Crib Service to Foodbank. Carol singing round the village this year took place at the Mill PH due to inclement weather and funds were donated to the Norfolk and Norwich Institute for the Blind. Foodbank collections are received at Church throughout the year with a special collection at Christmas. We contributed through individuals and the PCC to support the visit of Rachael Mutesi to the UK from Uganda.

Supporting Newton Flotman Primary School- The school has three foundation governors - Sally Gaze, Geoff Billings and Kathryn Critchell who are very active in supporting the school and are part of the "Open the Book" Team which leads collective worship. The Christian Character Committee includes foundation governors and teacher Lesley Cox and this helps the school to develop its Christian ethos.. "Film Fun Night" has continued on the last Friday of each month and is very popular. Messy Church was held at the school, during the first part of the year and there are hopes to continue it when more help is available.

Coffee Stop - Continued thanks are due to Amy, Sheila, Emily, Margery 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, including Phoenix Cards, attend from time to time and local produce and eggs are offered for sale. A "Hints & Tips" book, as a sequel to the Cook Book, was published towards the end of the year.

Give and Take - this recycling event took place three times in 2013 during Coffee Stop 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.

Prospects - we supported the mission of Prospects by hosting both a Makaton Training Day and Skills Development Day at the school, helping with some practical tasks.

Saint Peter's Church, Swainsthorpe

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Sunday services - 2013 has seen some significant changes. Prior to June, we held a Holy Communion service twice a month and the Swainsthorpe Special, also twice a month. During June, congregation members and villagers came together to take part in a Parish Development programme, which took place over 4 weeks. October saw the start of our new pattern of services; Holy Communion is still held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, with Evening Praise (a Benefice service) on the 2nd Sunday of the month and a Breakfast Cafe service on the 4th Sunday.

We have really enjoyed making the most of our community space in the church and have hosted several benefice services such as the Ash Wednesday service, the Tenebrae service, and a monthly Evening Praise service.

In September, our church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest festival and a delicious supper was enjoyed by all. We also raised £121 towards the British Red Cross Syrian Crisis Appeal from our auction of produce.

There was once again, 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 - Now that we have a large welcoming space, with 80 comfortable chairs, we are enjoying using the space more creatively for our services. We are very lucky to have the use of a screen (purchased by the Youth group) but stored and insured by our church.

Our finances improved slightly over 2013. We managed to pay £2,000 of our Parish Share and all our benefice costs. Andy Haggith, our Treasurer has worked very hard over the year, to increase our monthly income and the fruits of his success will become apparent in 2014, when we hope to pay almost all our Parish Share.

Community Facility Project - A year on; our Community Facility is being used regularly by the church and the Community. However during 2014, the faculty issued by the Diocese, for the temporary facilities of; kitchen and the outside toilet, will expire. For Phase 2 and 3, the Charity Trust are still looking to build an extension and improve the pathway and car park, subject to funding being available from the National Lottery. Other options are also being looked at. It is likely that the church organ will be removed to create extra space.

Church Tower Repairs - The repairs were completed in December. We hope to hold a service to celebrate the completion of the tower works in 2014.

Alpha - Several Members of our church participated in a Swainsthorpe Alpha course this year.

MISSION AND SERVICE

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. In June we held a table top sale in the church which raised £146.30. **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 2013 the PIG's organised: a monthly youth group, Antique Valuation day, the village fete, an Art Exhibition & Flower Festival, a chilly & quiz night, a 60's night, a Christmas Coffee morning with crafts and a children's Christmas party, and Carols Around the Tree on the village green on Christmas Eve.

A Church Mice group was formed and developed as a result of the Parish Development programme. This started with a Christmas event in December and is organised by a small group of village Mums and Jessie Walrond. Church Mice takes place fortnightly on a Thursday morning.

Rural Evangelist: - In October, we were delighted to welcome Jessie Walrond, who has moved to Norfolk to become a Rural Evangelist based in Swainsthorpe from Jan 2014, working part time for the Benefice and rural areas of the Diocese

St Mary's, Tasburgh

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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.

Sunday services These followed 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 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.

Special Occasions: We have had some special services this year - including the welcome service for the Hartley family and hosting a benefice confirmation service with Bishop Alan. Christmas was a busy time starting with our Carol Service with possibly one of our highest attendance, 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.

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.

Staff changes. We have welcomed the Hartley family in June. Martin has now, in a short space of time, become an invaluable part of the benefice and wider local community in Tasburgh in particular in his role as pioneer curate. Towards the end of the year, our team vicar Adrian announced that he was leaving to become Rector of Mulbarton. The Millers will be greatly missed.

Special occasion - as they move on to Mulbarton where Adrian takes up his new position - they will all be missed. We also had the privilege of

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 which we thank Jim England for his contribution as fabric officer.

Finance - It has been a more testing this year, with the formula by which payment is calculated being change but we have paid our parish share in full for 2013

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 was very well supported.

Guild: We would like to thank ladies of St. Mary's Guild for their tremendous effort in fundraising through coffee mornings and other events.

Thanks also to all those who serve by cleaning, flowers, coffee, church opening, singing, playing, reading or leading prayers.



MISSION AND SERVICE

Prayer Walking - Andrea and Martin have been asking people for prayer requests as they walk the village and this has been warmly received by the wider community ‘

Coffee Pot’ continues to meet each Wednesday in the church room - many thanks to Shirley and her team. Andres and Mart

Links with Preston Primary School 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.

Martin and other volunteers have also now started a regular Lunch Club which we know the child thoroughly enjoy. The foundation governors are Sarah Norman and Julia Orpin, who attend meetings and are regularly in school at assemblies and other events.

Donations - Special Collections from services have been given to the Royal British Legion, the Salvation Army, Christian Aid, the Children's Society, and the Norwich Food Bank.

St Mary, Tharston

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Regular Sunday services continue with Holy Communion at 8.am or 11 .am with a third Sunday family service either Morning Light or Village praise. Average attendances were 8.am HC 9; 11.am HC 6; Family service 7

Attendances at special services were, Easter 8, Harvest (moved to evening) 23, Carol service over 100 including Tasburgh Choir, Christmas Day 20. There were 1 Baptism, 1 Wedding, and 2 Funerals.

CHURCH FAMILY

Friends and Helpers. A big thank you to our wardens and PCC, also the Friends of Tharston Church for their continued financial support, the flower rota ladies and the team of residents who enable us to keep the church open throughout the year.

Fabric. 2013 was quinquennial year and following the inspection we are in the process of arranging to have the cracks in the chancel walls filled to monitor any movement, the cracking appearing to have become worse over the last 12 months. We are hoping that the work will start as soon as possible. Following the installation of the new drains we are continuing to monitor any new movement using horizontal telltales. The quinquennial report does not make enjoyable reading . As a PCC I think we should consider the state of the wooden floor. For health and safety reasons a temporary repair was carried out three years ago to cover up five holes in the rotting floor boards, as the condition of the floor cannot have improved, On a positive note the west window has been beautifully repaired and is now watertight. Faults were found in one of the bell clappers, this has also been repaired.

Churchyard The churchyard has been kept tidy thanks to Mr Michael Duffield on a voluntary basis and Jeremy Ashford (paid). Our grateful thanks go to Michael for all time he spends keeping Tharston churchyard in a condition that is the envy of many.

MISSION AND SERVICE

The fete was our main fund raising eand community event, our thanks to Steve and Bev Smith for the use of their garden at Picton farm. Although we did not have any special events in open churches week 2013, we continue to have a small but steady amount of people visiting during daily opening.

The food bank has again been very generously supported.



St Mary, Saxlingham

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

In 2013, services were held each Sunday - on the 1st and 3rd at 9.30am is Holy Communion, supported by a small formal choir. On the 2nd Sunday at 8am was a short Communion service followed by a Family Service at 11am and on the 4th Sunday at 11am was usually a Matins service with a Sunday school “Finders Seekers” 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 usually a service on the 5th Sunday, including 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.

In addition to the normal services at Saxlingham, we hosted special services for whole benefice, including a post-Christmas carol service and the Good Friday service at 3pm held in the church. There is an annual High Mass celebrated with Rev Mark Morgan taking the service.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Many thanks to our active PCC which met 5 times in the year and good wardens team with Geoff Blyth and Lynn Roberts ably assisted by Cindy Brooks and Alec Stevenson. The congregation is in good heart and we have 29 members on the Electoral Roll. Geoff and Lynn plan to retire as wardens in 2014 and will be very greatly missed. We are grateful that Geoff has agreed to continue as Fabric Officer for a little longer.

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 and the church room.

Licensed Ministers: 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'd 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. The village and church has benefited from Rev'd Miller living in the parish due to his support in so many activities. In November, we were surprised to learn that he and his family would be leaving the village in January.

Treasurers Report: 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. As with last year's accounts, there is concern over the decline of general 'giving' to the church and it will be difficult to meet the ongoing increasing maintenance costs. The major project for this year has been the bells project and all that this has entailed. However, almost £5,000 was raised through fund raising events, with the majority of money as a result of the fete, held in the new rectory's gardens and the gift day, when refreshments were available.

Fabric: There are various items of maintenance work listed in the quinquennial report which need to be completed within the next four 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 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, with over 100 children present. A Communion Service has been regularly provided by Lay-Readers at the Saxlingham Nursing Home, also including some home visits.

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 Pudding Afternoon and a sponsored knit. Once again there was a special children's Christmas party held in the Scout headquarters, which was very successful.

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

Bells, Church and Churchyard: The outstanding project for the year was the installation of eight new bells and strengthening of the tower to allow the bells to be rung. Two trips to Whitechapel Bell Foundry were organized by the bell tower captain Dr Jeff Fox and there were many additional activities to support the project and then following the blessing by the Right Rev Graham James, the Bishop of Norwich, a celebratory lunch.

In addition to this, a major part of our service has been the usual maintenance of 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.

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! Thanks to all involved!

All Saints Shotesham and Shotesham St Mary

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Regular worship has continued each Sunday in either All Saints or St Mary's. St Mary's Church was closed after the Christmas services for extensive work to be done and due to unexpected delays in receiving faculties for some aspects it was not reopened until the autumn. Accordingly until 24th November when Steven Betts the Archdeacon dedicated the new facilities at St Mary's all services were held at All Saints. Somehow it seemed difficult to follow the pattern of services used in recent years and circumstances dictated changes. Details of the services are recorded in the Register.

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

Special services this year were well attended. The Helpers' Service 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 PCC held an "away day" in April (and one other in January 2014) at "Quiet Waters Retreat" as they were anxious about lack of parish development and falling attendance. There was a lot of useful discussion and amongst other things ideas for two new services evolved which will be tried next Spring

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

2013 has been a successful year with the PCC working well together and passing resolutions unanimously. 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 would not otherwise come into contact with the church. Much work has been done to improve the churchyard at St Mary's, and thanks are due to the Conservation Group for this and in particular, to Jan and Tony for their hours of labour cutting back the hedges and clearing growth from around tombstones. After the services we are delighted that the congregations remain for coffee, biscuits and chat. This certainly adds to the happy atmosphere and fellowship we experience.

Kneelers A new project started at St Mary's to replace the dilapidated Victorian kneeler at the altar rail. Sandra Coles researched and got this under way. A team of local ladies came together to work on a new tapestry copying the design of the original. This was a big project which took many hours of needlework. It was an eye-opener that so many want to help, and by the end of the year the tapestry, which looks amazing, was complete and has gone away to specialists to create the new kneeler.



Flower Arrangers Many thanks to the flower arrangers who made church look so beautiful every week of the year.

The Maisie Benson Room at All Saints' has once again proved to be a great 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. PCC meetings always take place there, it has also been used for the tapestry project and we are keen that folk in the village should make wider use of it.

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.

Fabric Report Early in the New Year work started at St Mary's church. The Archdeacon's licence had been granted to remove the pews from the side chapel and replace all the floor boards and floor joists there-in which were rotten. In 2012 the PCC had decided that rather than replace the pews better use of the space would be served by creating an assembly area and by building a kitchenette and a toilet facility. This would prove difficult to plan in a sensitive part of the church. There was much debate with the DAC and English Heritage. We had to agree that the new work would not to cover up either of the reveals of former windows, and to ease concern we suggested that the kitchen, which would be visible to those at the Communion Rail, should be disguised as a chest for robes. This was designed "in house" and in due course beautifully built in solid oak by "The Fitted Furniture Company" of Brooke. In all four Faculties were received covering all aspects of this work together with the installation of mains water, mains electricity, a sewerage disposal system, additional heating by air source heat pump, electric lighting redecoration and the installation of a full audio system with a loop for deaf people. Everyone agrees that all this was very worthwhile and the church has been greatly improved and its use enhanced.

Robert Jackson took over from Arkscap to look after our churchyards this year and he has done an admirable job. Thank you Robert.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Our donations to charity this year were a total of £976 and were to Help for Heroes The British Legion, The Children's Society (Christingle), Emmaus (Christmas).

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

All Saints participated in the Annual Cycle Ride during Open Churches week.

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

The Christmas Eve community carol singing and carols round the tree outside was hosted by the Village Association this year and brought so many people to All Saints' that it was a crush to fit everyone in. .

Following success in the Olympics year Adrian again organised the flying competition. It was on a lovely July day that Adrian and Bob ascended All Saints' tower to launch various designs of model planes. The flights varied from ignominious to glorious and provided much entertainment to the crowd gathered below. Prizes were awarded to winners and tea and cakes enjoyed by all.

Tas Valley Cell Church

The purpose of the Tas Valley Cell Church 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. We seek to live by 5 values (right)



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.

Prayer 24-7 - The cells prepared Prayer Stations for and sternly supported the week of round the clock prayer Tasburgh Rectory from 22nd-29th May. The overall theme was BLESSING and tells provided lots of creative resources to help everyone to pray for God's blessing on our local area and local people

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.

Houses of Prayer Local houses of prayer 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. It's purpose is 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) It is hoped that in 2014, there will be a monthly House of Prayer in Saxlingham supported by the cell there and that other cells will seek to develop a House of Prayer as a monthly part of their programme

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

The name "Cell" 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. Members come from across the entire benefice. In 2013 there were about 50 adults and about 25 young people involved in the Tas Valley Cell Church on a regular basis.

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 & Charitable Status: In 2013, the Cell Church becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This is a kind of charity which is able to operate very much like a PCC but without a building. Importantly, we are now able to claim tax back on donations. Please could any donors who are taxpayers fill in a declaration form to enable us to reclaim tax on donations made since this date.

In August, the Cell Church received a Bishop's Mission Order. This means that the Cell Church is recognised by the Bishop and diocese as a new Christian community, equivalent in some ways to a parish church within the life of the Tas Valley Team. The Cell Church is now officially involved in decision-making which affects the Team Ministry, for example, the appointment of our new Team Vicar. Bishop Alan is the official "Visitor" of the Cell Church and works with Sally to help the Cell Church grow in a way that complements the mission of the other churches in the Team.

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.

Rural Evangelism Project: The Tas Valley Cell Church has set up the Rural Evangelism Project in Partnership with the Fountain Network and employed Jessie Walrond as a Rural Evangelist. Her activities will include:-



- Facilitation and support of church projects which serve identified needs in the local community, especially, In Swainsthorpe, where she is based.
- Training workshops given to churches of different denominations across Norfolk, on sharing faith, how to answer difficult questions of faith and creative mission in a rural setting. These will be appropriate for both clergy and laity, and will be flexible and context specific.
- One to one advice on mission strategy in their specific context to rural churches, with the length of this project allowing for follow up and continued support and advice.
- Creating a support network for people in their 20's and 30's in rural churches across Norfolk. This will result in meetings where people gather together to encourage one another, share examples of good practice and inspire and challenge one another.
- Creation of a record of good practice in innovative mission in rural settings, which could be shared with other rural areas across the country. Collecting these examples will occur naturally over the three years but will increase towards the end of the project to form a resource which will benefit others.

Sunday Cell (Older teens) Sun cell was led by Emily Poyser and Steph Bond at the beginning of the year. Many former members went to University in September and Martin Hartley has started a new Sunday cell with the next generation of older teens.

JAM (2 Youth cells meeting on Mon) During the year some of the youngsters left JAM to join Sunday Cell, but with new people joining the group at the younger age range we ended the year with 15 young people. Once a month we do a social and this year this has included games nights, swimming and outdoor laser (like paintball but less painful). We have spent most of the year working our way through the key events in the Old and New Testaments to form a timeline. The leaders for the year were Chris Gaze, Clair Amerigo, Emily Poyser and joined by Rachael Mutesi in the second half. Our key challenge at this time is to help involve the youngsters in Sunday church so that they can see they can contribute and to help them realise they are needed and wanted.

Daytime Alpha - led by Kate Cakebread and Sally Gaze with the help of Sally Gaze, met in the early part of the year and is now being followed up with a Wed Ev course called “The God Lab” in 2014.

Wed eve cells - - 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

The cell, meeting in **Tasburgh**, has grown this year and is running Alpha in early 2014. Outreach in 2013 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 meets for bible study and prayer most weeks - but also to have a monthly working party helping with practical jobs in homes, gardens, churchyards etc. In 2013, two of their number were confirmed and in 2014 they have begun outreach in a pub through “TableTalk”.

Messy Cell - In January a Mum's Alpha course became a cell whose outreach was 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 was about supporting parents in helping whole families to explore faith together. Unfortunately, due to family circumstances, the cell was not able to continue to meet after the summer of 2013 but we have hopes that Messy Church will be carried forward in some form in Newton Flotman School.

Thurs eve cell A happy cell meeting in Newton Flotman who help the community in various ways

"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. In 2013 20-30 people met from 1.30-3.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, at Newton Flotman Primary School. 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. They are beginning to develop new leaders among those who attend, including people with special needs. It is hoped 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.

In Conclusion

As Team Rector, I would like to warmly thank on your behalf, Adrian Miller, David Lancaster, David Sochon, Mark Morgan, Jenny Cooper, and all the Pastoral Leadership Team for their pastoral care, servant-hearted leadership, teaching and worship leading. We have been truly blessed to have such a great team and I am sorely missing Adrian's ministry in 2014! Special thanks also to the church wardens and cell church trustees 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 our wonderful voluntary Benefice Administrator.

In 2012 & 13, the Tas Valley churches been focussed on praying for 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 used this as the focus of our Prayer 24-7 week and have begun to learn about what that

means - the joys and the cost. This year we have the opportunity to learn to bring God's blessing in a new way through a Norfolk-wide project called "WHO CARES?"



WHO CARES? DARE TO ASK
WHAT HURTS THE MOST

WHO CARES? is an initiative across Norfolk. It all starts with local churches, listening to the deepest hurts of our local communities, by a simple one question survey 'What hurts the most?' (or put another way, what is the one thing in your life which you find hardest to handle?)

Starting in June 2014 the mission will begin with churches surveying their congregations, who then ask their friends and can conduct the survey through their existing church activities and visiting in our villages. Additionally we have the opportunity to have a coach load of enthusiastic and trained young people from the Norfolk Christian Camp, NewDay, to come and knock on doors, stand on street corners and conduct the survey gaining thousands more responses than otherwise possible.

We can then respond to the survey in their own way, adapting our church activities to what we learn. For example, our Alpha course taster event could be based around responding to the survey with a title like 'Is there hope when life hurts?' or specifically address what comes out as the top issue. We could run a series of talks responding to the most popular issues. It will also give us guidance for prayer and pastoral care activities. We want to answer the question "Who Cares?" With the answer that God Cares and because of his love, the Church cares too and is strengthened to respond to people's needs.

Who Cares? We Do!