

## CHURCH SERVICES



The following services will follow the government guidelines. **Please bring a mask** to wear during the service.

|    |                  |  |             |      |
|----|------------------|--|-------------|------|
| 6  | 11.00a.m.        | Holy Communion                                     | St. Marys   | Dawn |
| 13 | 9.30a.m.         | Morning Service                                    | St Mary's   | John |
| 20 | 11.00a.m.        | Crib Service ( <b>see below*</b> )                 | All Saints' | Dawn |
| 24 | <b>10.00p.m.</b> | Candle lit Christmas Service ( <b>see below*</b> ) | St Marys    | Dawn |
| 25 | 9.30 a.m.        | Christmas Communion ( <b>see below*</b> )          | All Saints  | Dawn |
| 29 | 10:00 a.m.       | Zoom Service for all Benefice Parishes             |             |      |

**\*Important note:** For social distancing to be organised **please contact Jane Blease** if you plan to attend the Crib service at All Saints on Dec 20th and **before December 23<sup>rd</sup>** for services on Christmas eve (10.00pm) at St. Marys or Christmas day (9.30am) at All Saints .  
( [janeblease@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeblease@hotmail.co.uk) tel.01508 558787)

**Church open times** All Saints & St Mary's will be open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm (subject to change) and limited to 2 people in the church at any time

**CHURCH FLOWERS** The churches will be decorated for Christmas as usual. Thanks to all who help with this and during the year.

### ***WHAT'S ON December***

|    |                        |                          |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3  | Village lights turn on | 6.00 pm                  |
| 10 | Village walk           | 10.15am Trinity hall     |
| 31 | Fun Run Shotesham      | 10.45am All Saints' hill |

### ***January***

|    |              |                    |
|----|--------------|--------------------|
| 3  | Village walk | 10.15 Trinity hall |
| 15 | Village walk | 10.15 Trinity hall |

*Christmas Greetings are enclosed with this edition of contact*

*Thanks to Mark and Kim Dyke who have kindly sponsored this edition of 'Contact' celebrating 25 happy years in Shotesham this Christmas.*



## SHOTESHAM CONTACT

December 2020 January 2021

### **Thought from Dawn**

Rumour has it that Christmas may be cancelled this year. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christmas will be celebrated in the hearts and homes of believers around the world – with or without turkey and trimmings, with or without family and friends.

The celebration of Christ's birth does not depend on our circumstances. Jesus was born into this world to bring us hope. That message is for all people and for all time.

We are mindful of the fact that this Christmas will be particularly painful for those who have lost loved ones to the virus and difficult for those whose livelihood has been affected because of a suffocating economy. The pandemic has touched us all in some way. Nevertheless, into this and every situation, Jesus speaks hope.

Jesus came to set captives free. Don't let fear hold you in bondage, look to Jesus and trust in him for the future. Into death, Jesus speaks the hope of resurrection; into bereavement, peace; into fear, love.

Of course, we should all be taking the necessary steps to keep others and ourselves safe and well. But worry and anxiety help no one – and if not dealt with, can turn to fear so invasive that we are paralysed by it. Look to the baby in the manger, who became the man upon the Cross, who three days later showed the power of love as he emerged from the tomb. Receive the God-given gift of hope and watch your life take on fresh perspective and renewed purpose as you celebrate Christmas like never before.

God's richest blessing to you all.

**Dawn** Team Rector [dawndavidson@btinternet.com](mailto:dawndavidson@btinternet.com) 01508 498924

**Christmas services will be very restricted this year because of the Government protocol for the epidemic. (See back page)**

**20 December at 11.00a.m. Crib Service at All Saints'**

**Christmas Eve at 10.00p.m. Candle lit Christmas Service at St Marys**

**Christmas morning 9.30 a.m. at All Saints' there will be a short 45 -minute service with Holy Communion**

**Please contact Jane Blease** if you plan to attend any of these services.  
([janeblease@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeblease@hotmail.co.uk) tel.01508 558787)

**Parish Council** Though our meetings throughout the year have been held on zoom you can still find the agenda and the minutes from the meetings on the village website -[shotesham.com](http://shotesham.com)

Our Remembrance Sunday commemoration went ahead this year, but this time with just a short but moving outside service which was attended by around 50 villagers.

We would like to thank everyone, who this year particularly, have kept our village in such good heart. There are so many small things that taken in isolation seem insignificant, but which together have helped us through this year. Thank you. We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and our very best wishes for a good and more normal 2021.

### **Shotesham Village Association**

#### **Plan for Shotesham Christmas and Festive celebrations.**

Alongside national campaigns, the SVA is hoping to encourage our friends and neighbours in Shotesham to help us to brighten up our Festive Season and celebrate Christmas. Everything will of course depend on restrictions in place at the time, but we are planning a few events at least some of which can **hopefully** go ahead.

Whether lockdown ends or not, we can all help to brighten December in Shotesham with Christmas lights etc in our gardens. Many of us do this already but, with the lockdown due to end at midnight on 2nd December, we're hoping as many people as possible will **light up on 3rd December**, with a coordinated village switch on at 6pm for those who want to take part.

**The Christmas trees** at All Saints and St Mary's Churches will also be in place early to coincide with this, and children (all ages!) of Shotesham are invited to make decorations and place them on one or both trees. Christine Burton is hoping to have a workshop for kids to make tree decorations from natural materials on **Sunday 13th at Hillside**.

Following our successful children's Hallowe'en letter hunt, we're hoping to organise a similar Christmas themed competition, and there will also be a visit from **Santa who will ride through Shotesham in his sleigh on the evening of 21st or 22nd Dec**, perhaps with a small gift for any children who come out to see him. Final possible Christmas event (and this will most definitely be dependant on restrictions) we are hoping to have an event to coincide with with the National Carol singalong on 20th December at 5.30pm. Unfortunately, we have to apologise to our many friends from surrounding areas who normally join us as we will have to limit this to **Shotesham residents only**, and even

then it will be reduced numbers similar to our Remembrance Sunday event in November. The idea for this will be for people to take a Candlelit walk from their own home, or at least away from All Saints as no parking will be available, and gather socially distanced on Church Hill just before 5.30 for a short carol service. We would hope to take a collection at this and the Santa event with proceeds going to a local charity.

And finally, finally, it is intended to have our **New Years Eve, 5 mile Shotesham Fun Run**. A fun event for runners of any age and ability for families and friends of Shotesham. The race will start and finish on All Saints Hill and participants are asked to come along at **10.45** to sign in for an 11am start. However, recognising some probable restrictions, we may have to take steps to avoid crowding, perhaps with staggered starts etc. If you intend to give it a go, please contact ken at [resotan@aol.com](mailto:resotan@aol.com) so we can manage the numbers.

There will be more details on these events on the website and by email in due course.

### **Shotesham Gardening and Conservation group**

Shotesham Gardeners- although it is cold and dark out there, I'm sure we're all looking forward to spring, when we very much hope to be able to have the annual plant sale. With that in mind when you are dividing up plants or starting off seedlings please pot up any spares, label them, and put aside for the fair.

### **Village walks for December-**

10<sup>th</sup> -10.15am Meet at Trinity hall

#### **January**

Sunday 3rd 10.15 Trinity hall

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.15 Trinity hall

### **Stoke Holy Cross Living Advent Calendar**

Throughout December Stoke Holy Cross will be hosting a living advent calendar. From **1st to 24th December** someone in the village will be revealing a new decorated window or garden. Grab a map and discover a touch of Christmas magic. Maps can be found at 60 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross or email [juliaharris29@yahoo.com](mailto:juliaharris29@yahoo.com). Suggested donation for the maps £2, all proceeds will go to Stoke Holy Cross Pre-school.