

CHURCH SERVICES



December

3	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Marys	Austin
10	9.30a.m.	Morning Service	St Mary's	John
17	6.30p.m.	Candle lit Carol Service	St Marys	Dawn
25	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion	All Saints	Dawn
31	10.30a.m.	Benefice Service	Tacolneston church	Dawn

January

7	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion	St. Mary's	tbc
14	9.30 a.m.	Morning Service	St. Mary's	tbc
21	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion	All Saints	tbc
28	9.30a.m.	Morning Service	All Saints	tbc

CHURCH FLOWERS *St Mary's* Bernie Fenn and Betty Torbitt *All Saints* will be decorated for Christmas as usual. Thanks to all who help with this and during the year.

WHAT'S ON -December

3,10,17	Handbells /crafting	3.00pm Church View Barn
5	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm Trinity hall
6-9	Saxlingham Play – Humble Boy	7.30pm Saxlingham village hall
6	Mobile Library	10.15 Grove, 10.35 The street
7,14,21	Warm welcome	2-4pm Trinity hall
7,14,21,	Table tennis	7.30pm Trinity hall
8	Shotesham screen -Polite Society	7.30pm Trinity hall
9	Christmas fair	2-4pm Stoke Primary School
10	Christmas Wreath making	10.30a.m. Hillside
20	Globe Pub Quiz	7.30pm The Globe
24	Carols round the tree	5.15pm All Saints hill
31	Fun Run Shotesham	10.50am All Saints' hill

January

3	Mobile Library	10.15 Grove, 10.35am The street
4,11,18,25	Warm welcome	2-4pm Trinity hall
4,11,18,25	Table tennis	7.30pm Trinity hall
12	Shotesham Sreen - Medusa Deluxe	7.30pm Trinity hall
24	Globe Pub Quiz	7.30pm The Globe

Thanks to Malcolm and Angela Ackerley who have kindly sponsored this edition of Contact and who wish everyone a happy peaceful Christmas.



SHOTESHAM CONTACT

December 2023 January 2024

Thought from Dawn

I inadvertently upset someone recently by mentioning that although we celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25th December, we don't actually know on what day he was born – and it's highly unlikely to have been in December at all.

Some of the beliefs we have about Christmas have been 'handed down' to us, or gleaned from various other sources.... Christmas carols for example. *We three kings*.... the Bible doesn't say how many there were and doesn't describe them as kings. *Little donkey*.... it's possible that Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem but the Bible doesn't give us that information.

Here's another one:

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright....

A holy night, without doubt. But hardly silent. Bethlehem was filled to bursting with visitors obliged to come and register for the census. There was no "calm" in all of Israel – only tension and conflict between the Jewish people and the Roman occupiers. Hardly a place of 'heavenly peace' it was a land torn apart by oppression, persecution, and terror. *All is bright?* The darkness of fear gripped the people...

Yet on such a night, the light of the world – Jesus – was born, bringing real hope and the power to transform lives of pain and brokenness with lasting joy. In the middle of our own dark nights of pain and anguish, God comes and transforms them into 'holy' nights of his peace.

May you carry his gift of peace with you throughout the coming year.

Blessings

Dawn Team Rector dawndavidson@btinternet.com 01508 498924

17th December at 6.30pm. Candle lit Christmas Service at St Marys
25th December Christmas morning 9.30 a.m. at All Saints'. There will be a short 45-minute service with Holy Communion

The Original Norwich Charity Christmas Card shop

is in St Peter Mancroft church this year.

It is open Monday -Saturday 10.45-3.00 until the 15th December.

There are cards from 25 different charities and every penny goes to the charities.

Parish Council

We have been made aware that there are two schemes available for people who may need some help.

The first is for grants to assist with a need that may not be affordable and the second is something called “handypersons” which can help with small jobs that the householder can’t manage for themselves.

Both of these schemes are there for the older and/or more vulnerable people within our and every other parish.

If you feel that either could be useful to you then you can contact Jeff - on **550358** or clerk.shotesham@outlook.com ...who is the clerk- in confidence - and he will see what is possible.

The Warm Welcome continues on Thursday afternoons in the Trinity Hall 2-4pm . Everyone is invited to drop in.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on the 5th December in the Trinity at 7.30pm. Open to everyone.

Shotesham Gardening group

It’s hard to believe but Christmas is coming so you will be delighted to know that Christine is running our annual popular wreath making workshop. So come along on **Sunday December 10th 10.30 onwards to Christine Burton’s potting shed at Hillside, The Common, Shotesham NR15 1YD to make Christmas wreaths and decorations from willow and other natural materials.** Everybody welcome and bring anything dried or fresh that you might like to use. We will be providing soup and bread at the end of the morning, but any offers of mince pies, flapjacks will be gratefully received. £5 to cover costs Phone Christine on 550364 for directions or more information. **PS Don’t forget to bring your own secateurs or scissors**

Saxlingham Players present

Humble Boy

byCharlotteJones



An hilarious

modern adaptation of “Hamlet” **6th - 9th December 2023, 7.30pm**

Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall

Book tickets now at boxoffice@saxlinghamplayers.org.uk

Or 01508 826 516 10am-5pm.

Tickets £8, pay on door

The Globe pub quiz

will be held on **Wednesday 20th Dec and also on Wed January 24th,** 7:30pm start. Spaces are limited and recommended 4 players per team.

There is no charge as it is just for fun in the winter months.

Contact The Globe PH if you require further details.

Shotesham Village Association Christmas Eve Carols round the

Tree, featuring carol singing with live music and our very own children’s handbell extravaganza, will take place on Sunday **24th Dec.** All Saints Church will be open for mulled wine, mince pies and other sweet treats, and our village barista will be serving coffee and delicious hot chocolate. Goodies will be served from 5.15pm, with carols etc starting at 5.30. Can all able bodied people please arrive on foot, wearing suitable clothing and footwear, as there are only limited parking on the hill for disabled or infirm, and don’t forget to bring a torch!

Practice for the handbell ringing, along with crafting decorations for the church, will take place this year at **Church View Barn, Hawes**

Green, courtesy of hostess Anna. Lessons for both will be from 3pm - 5pm on Sundays, with the first hour for craft with Lesley, followed by bell ringing practice with Anna. First one will be Sunday 3rd December, and all children between 2 & 18, are invited. If your children are interested, please contact Anna on 07939 422301. Apologies and please note the corrections from last month’s Contact.

Our **Old Year’s Day Fun Run** will be run on Sunday 31st Dec, starter’s gun at 11am on Church Hill, but please turn up around 10.50 for registration. The course is 3 x round half of the village, map available on shotesham.com and on the day. And could last year’s winner, Steve Blomfield, please return the trophy (engraved) beforehand and we hope to see you there.

Friday 8th December Shotesham Screen presents

Polite Society, 7.30pm at Trinity Hall. Tickets £5, book via Ken 07880801674 or resotan@aol.com, Ice creams on sale as always. Polite Society throws, kicks, and punches the genre etiquette book out the window to deliver a fun film that blends Bollywood splendour and British wryness. You can read Critics Reviews here - https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/polite_society/reviews?intcmp=rt-what-to-know_read-critics-reviews. Film goers are invited to embrace the Bollywood theme and to dress accordingly should they wish to.

The new Spring Season of films will start on 12 January

with Medusa Deluxe - A murder mystery set in a competitive hairdressing contest. Extravagance and excess collide, as the death of a contestant sows seeds of division in a community whose passion for hair verges on obsession.

Christmas Fair at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School Saturday 9th

December 2pm - 4pm. Santa's grotto, Christmas Karaoke, Crafts, refreshments, gifts, raffle and more...