

December

CHURCH SERVICES

3	11.00a.m.	Holy Communion with Advent Carols	St Mary's	Dawn
10	9.30a.m.	Crib Service	St Mary's	John
17	6.30p.m.	Carols by Candlelight	St. Mary's	Dawn
25	9.30a.m.	Short service with Holy Communion	All Saints	Dawn & John
31	11.00a.m.	Benefice Service with Baptism	All Saints	Dawn

January

7	11.00a.m.	Plough Sunday with short Holy Communion	St Mary's	Dawn
14	9.30 a.m.	'My Church' morning service	St. Mary's	John
21	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	All Saints'	TBA
28	9.30a.m.	Morning Service	All Saints'	TBA

TBA - please check church website (Tasvalley.org)

Saxlingham December 3rd 9.30am 10th 11.00am 17th 15.00pm carol service

24th 15.00pm crib service & 23.30pm HC 25th 10.30am

Jan 7th 11.00am 14th 9.30am 21st 8.00HC & 11.00am 28th 11.00am

CHURCH FLOWERS December. – All Saints- Jenny Walters,

South Window Jane Blease, St. Mary's –, Valerie Crowle, Betty Torbitt,

Sheila Warne, Bernie Fenn,

January - All Saints –Jane Blease, South Window Christine Howes

St Mary's –Betty Torbitt, Bernie Fenn

WHAT'S ON December

1/2	Saxlingham Play The Heiress	7.30pm Saxlingham village hall
2	Village market/	10.00-12 Trinity hall
6	Garden Group talk	7.30am Trinity hall
8	Village walk	
8	Film –Hamstead	7.30pm Poringland
9	Wine Tasting	7.30pm Trinity hall
12	Mobile Library	Afternoon
15	Shotesham Film Night - The Ladykillers	7.30pm Trinity hall
20	Children's Christmas party	2.30-4.30pm Trinity hall
24	Carols round the tree	6.00pm Church hill
31	Village walk	10.30 am Trinity hall
31	Fun Run Shotesham	10.30am All Saints'hill

January

9	Mobile Library	Afternoon
11	WEA Classes	1.30 pm Saxlingham village hall

The Foodbank. we are still collecting and perhaps people could remember, particularly at Christmas, to make a donation, please. Collection points in both churches.

Thanks to Ros Dix who has kindly sponsored this edition of 'Contact'.



SHOTESHAM CONTACT

December 2017/January 2018

Thought from Dawn A Christmas Story

A tale is told of a Scottish farmer who didn't believe in the Christmas story. The idea that God would lower himself to become a man seemed ridiculous to him. One winter's evening, a blizzard struck as the farmer was relaxing at home. He heard a dull thud against the window, followed by another. Venturing outside to investigate he discovered a flock of grey geese, disoriented by the storm, had landed in his farmyard.

The farmer had pity on them – unless they found shelter they would likely die. He opened the doors of his nearest barn and hung up a lamp but they wouldn't go in. He laid down a trail of bread but still they remained in the farmyard. He tried to shoo them in, to no avail. Nothing he could do would persuade them into the warmth and shelter of the barn.

Utterly frustrated he exclaimed, 'Why don't they follow me in? Can't they see this is the only way to survive the storm?' Then he thought, 'How can I get them to follow me? They won't follow a man – if only I could become like one of them, I could save them.' The penny dropped as the words echoed in his mind. At last he understood God's heart towards mankind. He fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped Him. When he looked up, to his amazement, he saw the grey geese entering the barn – and a white goose was leading them....

May you be led to the peace of the Christ Child this Christmas.

Dawn PS. The White Goose is a Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit!

Team Vicar dawn@tasvalley.org 01508 498924

Crib service at St. Marys 9.30 am 10th December Bring your young children or grandchildren.

Candlelight Carol Service with local choir St. Mary's 17th December at 6.30pm - Bring a Torch.

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Carols round the tree on All Saints' hill. Bring a Torch. Christmas morning 9.30 a.m. All Saints' there will be a short 45-minute service with Holy Communion suitable for all the family During the Christmas period there will be charity collections at services.

Remembrance Day collection: Thank you to those who donated during the service. £105 was sent to British Legion and the same amount to Help for Heroes.

Parish Council

Homewatch. The Parish Council sought views in Contact about restarting Homewatch group across the parish. No response has been received. Does this mean there is no support to restart such groups? If you are interested please contactThe Clerk Jeff Gough at clerk.shotesham@outlook.com

The Trinity will be closed for the month of January while it is redecorated etc. As a result any parish meeting will be held at All Saints' Church which is the only publicly accessible building.

The mini-free-bookstore at the Grove, the ex-BT box, is full of excellent books. Do help yourself! If you have bulging book shelves at home add a few to the stock. If it needs tidying please feel free to do so .

The past year has seen many people helping keep our village as a welcoming valued place...whether it's by litter picking, maintaining/contributing to the website, running and attending the events in the Trinity, conservation works or being a good neighbour/friend/helper... A big **THANK YOU** to one and all.

Shotesham Village Association There are still be a few places left at our **Wine Tasting** event on Sat 9th December. If you think you'd like to join us, you'll find all the details at Shotesham.com but don't waste any time!

Following a successful event last year, the SVA are organising a **Children's Christmas Party on Wed 20th Dec.2.30-4.30.pm.** Make sure your youngsters don't miss out, see the enclosed leaflet for more details.

At 6pm on Christmas Eve everyone is once again invited to gather around the tree on **All Saints' Church hill for carol singing followed by more carols and hand bell ringing in the church** with mulled wine and mince pies. The highlight as always will be the children's handbell ringing. Any children interested in taking part should contact Ted Burton

at tedburton221@gmail.com or 07718066519. Rehearsals will be 3/12,10/12,17/12 at 3.00pm at Ted's house & 24/12 at 5.30 in the church. We look forward to seeing you and don't forget your torch. There will be a collection to be donated to East Anglia Children's Hospices (EACH) on behalf of Max Muntingh, a 10 year old fellow villager who had excellent support from EACH before he very sadly passed away in July after struggling with cancer. Please give generously for this worthy cause.

Once again, the village (and friends) are invited to take part in the annual Shotesham Fun Run on New Years Eve. Runners of all ages and abilities can come along and see out 2017 with a 5 mile run around the village. Please meet at **Shotesham All Saints Church at 10:30 to sign in,** with the race starting at 11am. Please note this is a casual, free to enter fun run designed for families and friends of the village. For further details, please contact Matt Sykes - matt@mind-span.co.uk.

Village Market December 2nd. 10 - 12. Lots of stalls including wreaths 🎄 Christmas 🎄 items 🎁 and Tombola for Nelson Journey. Any unwanted gifts would be much appreciated for the Tombola please contact Gwen Jackson 01508 550337/07788932646 Thanks.

Shotesham Gardening and Conservation group We welcome everyone interested in gardens to a talk by **Shelagh Ashe** in the **Trinity on Wednesday December 6th at 7.30pm.** The subject is **Shrubs for all Seasons** and as she has given very informative talks here previously, it should be well worth attending. No need to book. £3 contribution includes a glass of wine.

SHOTESHAM SCREEN Friday December 15th 7.30 Trinity Hall.

The Ladykillers (1hr 37mins) 1955 British black comedy made by **Ealing Studios.** Five diverse oddball criminal types planning a bank robbery rent rooms from an octogenarian widow under the pretext that they are classical musicians. Mulled wine and trifle interval. 50's dress would be admirable! **Tickets £5. Raz 550122 razwoollacott@gmail.com**

Saxlingham Players are performing the play "The Heiress" at the Village Hall, Saxlingham on Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd December 2017. Tickets are £7 each and can be obtained by ringing Vicky Stocks on 01508 499631.

Saxlingham Baby and Toddler group- Saxlingham Village hall, Wednesday term time 9.30-11.30am. **6th Dec** - Christmas fair- Games, Bric-a-brac, cakes, pottery painting- Everyone welcome **13th Dec** - Father Christmas visits the group . Please bring a small gift to the value of £5 for your child.

WEA Class in Saxlingham Village Hall

After another excellent course, WEA at Saxlingham Village Hall starts again on **Thursday 11th January (1.30/3.00)** for 9 weeks, with **The Earth on Fire** - volcanoes world wide, rocks, landscapes and evidence for volcanic activity in Britain. Ring 01508 550368 for more information.

Operation Christmas child -We managed to fill over **300** shoe boxes for children in need in Central and Eastern Europe and Africa. Thank you very much if you have contributed any items for the boxes. I will continue to leave a box in the church for anyone who would like to contribute items throughout the year. For more info phone 01508 550306. **Jill masters**

Do you have a spare room to rent? Solo Housing are searching for rooms in this area. For more information contact Sara Forder 07760166139 or email sara.forder@solohousing.org

