



sCHURCH SERVICES

In keeping with government guidelines our church buildings are closed for services but ministry continues....

Tas Valley Benefice 'Zoom' Sunday services are held every week with details sent out on the Emma information village email list. For details of 'Zoom' Sunday service contact the Team Rector: Revd Dawn Davidson 01508 498924 or dawndavidson@btinternet.com

Or find us at: Website: tasvalley.org Facebook: Tas Valley Team Ministry

Churches Open: The Churches, All Saints and St. Marys, will be open for private prayer on Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm (subject to variation). (Please follow government guidelines while inside the church).

WHAT'S ON

8-14 Litter pick around the village

A reminder to all dog walkers in the village.

There has been an increase in the incidence of dog fouling in the village on footpaths and verges. Please clear up after your dogs and use the bin provided at the bottom of church hill or take your dog bags home and put the bags in your own black bin.

Trades' Directory for Shotesham with small personal ads

Issued twice a year. Next issue will be with April 'Contact'. The fee for a trade entry is £10.00 per year for both issues or £3.00 to place a small personal ad. To advertise please contact Trish Leighton 01508 558487 or email mp95@btinternet.com. The entry should be up to 3 lines on A5 at this sized text (extra fee for more lines) Entries by **10th March** please to be included in April directory.

Check your website- www.shotesham.com for all up to date information, photographs, village history etc.

Thanks to Geoff and Jean Brand who have kindly sponsored this edition of 'Contact'



SHOTESHAM CONTACT

March 2021

Thought from Dawn Prepare to Celebrate

We find ourselves in a season of preparation in terms of the pandemic.... vaccinations are happening at a cracking pace, each one delivering a shot of hope – hope of a regaining a little more freedom, a step towards a return to the kind of life we were created for - a face-to-face kind of life where masks can be removed, hands shaken and hugs given and received. A return to social community where we can once again invade each other's space, jostle shoulders and tread on toes! As annoying as some of those aspects of community can be, many of us are missing even that. Now we begin to anticipate a move forward, a regaining of lost ground, and a rediscovering of relationship in all its fulness. This coincides with the Church's season of Lent which has just begun - a period of 40 days when Christians prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day. Traditionally Lent is a time to take stock of how we're doing on our Christian journey. To examine those areas in life where we need to put things down, or take things up, to change, to grow, or to do differently. We spend these 40 days having the equivalent of a spiritual MOT – assessing where we need to improve so that we can make progress as followers of Jesus.

Looking back over the past year of pandemic and the changes in lifestyle that we've been obliged to make – what is it that you've missed the most? What will you do differently as a result? How have your priorities changed? Will the future we step into be 'new and improved' or will it be simply a pale, insipid shadow what once was?

I guess that depends on each one of us and how we choose to take things forward. Much of this is about attitude and outlook, which for me, is linked to faith and belief. In a changing and uncertain world, I choose to journey with God who is faithful and true. He will heal the hurts of what has gone before and give us hope for all that lies ahead.

May you discover God's blessings through Lent.

Dawn

Dawn Team Rector dawn@tasvalley.org 01508 498924

Shotesham Parish Council....

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to do the litter picking. We are suggesting that it is done anytime during the week March 8th-14th before there is too much Spring growth. This last year the village has been used much more with so many walkers that there does seem to be a lot more litter, so the effort is really needed. If you want to leave the collected bags of refuse at the end of the drive at Grove Farm, we can ask the council to come and collect it at the end.

The library telephone box....The Book Box... at the end of the Grove is really well stocked with free and up to date books. There is regular turnover so always something new to find. Remember it's there when you're in need of a good read.

The village has several really good forms of communication with Contact being distributed to every property, an easily accessed and regularly updated website- shotesham.com and a very comprehensive email list which is used for instant notifying about village events. Please make use of these to keep in touch with village events.

Shotesham Village Association

...hey everyone, fingers crossed we're on our way back for the summer! Your SVA committee have been busying away in the background looking at the art of the possible, with options depending on the now published Unlock Plan. So a few things are being lined up, but it'll be a gentle start as only 6 people allowed to gather outdoors until mid May. More details on other events will follow in due course but, with Easter falling at the very start of April, here's some information on our revised children's event.

As you know, we normally have an Easter Monday extravaganza, but this year we're planning an event across the whole Easter weekend, 2nd to 5th April. This will involve a themed 'Treasure Hunt' around Church Hill, All Saints and further afield, with hidden clues, Easter eggs and other 'stuff' for the kids (of all ages!) to search out. However, we will have to follow some guidance to stay safe and within the appropriate government restrictions. More details will follow by email, but in the meantime, if you plan to get the family involved, can you please pick a day - Fri, Sat, Sun or Mon, and time, either am or pm (obviously these will be adjustable if the weather goes awry) and let Ken know on resotan@aol.com or 07880801674 so we can keep an eye on numbers.

Also in April, there will be Christine's Willow Weaving class at Hillside on the w'end of 24th/25th, details in next month's Contact, and if the

Unlockdown goes to plan, watch this space for other stuff to come. Hopefully that includes an AGM as soon as practicable.

As usual at this time of year, we're hoping for everyone to continue to support the Village Association by taking an annual membership, with a minimum contribution of £3 per head (adults only, children come free). A small price to pay to help maintain Shotesham as the active, inclusive and people friendly village we know and love. Many thanks from the SVA committee for all your contributions, both financial and otherwise, and hope to see you outside at the Globe on 12th April.

The ruined church of St. Martins

The ruin is all that remains of an early medieval Church that it is thought might have been constructed towards the end of the 11th century.

The Church is dedicated to St Martin – (c.316 – 397), Bishop of Tours, missionary to Gaul and one of the fathers of Western monasticism.

St Martin is one of four Medieval Churches in Shotesham and it is most likely the oldest foundation? All Saints and St Marys are complete, but only a small fragment of masonry survives of St Botolphs on the corner of Hollow Lane. In around 1050 Edward the Confessor gifted St Martins to the Abbot of St. Benet's. During the reign of Henry VIII it is reported that the Church was partly destroyed as part of his programme to dissolve the monastery of St Benet's; even so in 1603, when the parish, which also included the hamlet of Grenville, was served by St Marys, there were 70 communicants in the parish. During the English Civil War it is said that an attempt was made to completely eradicate the Church? Whatever actually took place it was certainly abandoned and described as ruinous when Bloomfield carried out his survey of the county's fine heritage of medieval Churches around 1806? Even so, the Tower still stands virtually complete, together with the walls that contain the nave and chancel still visible. The whole site is still consecrated and is in the care of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

By 1959 ivy was taking hold of the masonry and scrub beginning to take root in the Churchyard as well as the nave. This natural transformation hid just how much of the ruin remained and how much damage was taking place beneath the undergrowth. Work started on the consolidation of these ruins in 2009 by which time the whole structure was covered with Ivy and impenetrable brambles etc. Thanks to the work of volunteers and fundraising from the village the whole site was cleared and the ruin preserved. Ongoing work to stabilise the ruin and improve the surround is being undertaken.

SHOTESHAM VILLAGE **ASSOCIATION**

Membership Application – 2021

I/We apply for annual membership of the Association (minimum donation of £3.00 per person per annum)

Name(s) (in block capitals please):

Address:

Tel No:

E-mail:

If possible, can you please pay your membership contribution by bank transfer to account name Shotesham Village Association, A/C no. 23782145, sort code 60-15-31. Please use reference of your surname & SVA (e.g. Munro SVA).

Or return the completed form to - Raz Woollacott, 5 the Grove, The Street, Shotesham All Saints. NR15 1XJ, or Ken Munro, Flint Cottage, The Common, Shotesham All Saints. NR15 1YD with cash subscription or a cheque payable to Shotesham Village Association.