

Christmas Space



Free Festive Fun!

**On Saturday 20th December from 10-12am at
St Mary's Newton Flotman**

Come and join in with our festive crafts
or just chill with drinks and snacks!



Partnership

*The Community Magazine for the Parishes of
Newton Flotman & Swainsthorpe
December 2025 & January 2026*



We are very grateful for the financial support associated with the printing costs of this Parish Magazine provided by: **St Mary's Church, Newton Flotman & Swainsthorpe Parish Councils, Newton Flotman Village Centre and our advertisers.** Without this support, this magazine could not be distributed free of charge to every household in our villages.



@ Christmas with St Mary's

Wreath Workshop 29th November

12-3pm Church Room booking advised caroline@uv6.com

Christmas Space Saturday 20th December 10 - 12noon

Carols on the Green @ the Bus Shelter

Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

Carols @ Olive House

Tuesday 23rd December 2.30pm

Village Carol and Crib Service

Wednesday 24th December 4.00pm



NORWICH

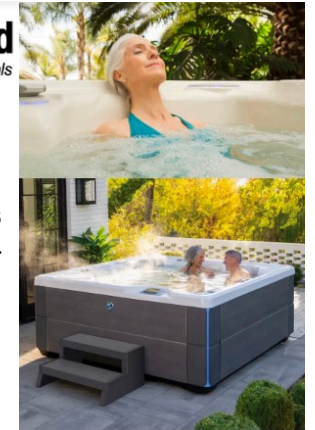
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Church Room 10-12



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Parson's Page

I wonder which sights and sounds, tastes and smells you associate with Christmas? I'll enjoy seeing my family and the sound of laughter as we play silly games. I like the taste of chestnut stuffing and the scent of winter spiced candles.

Historically, bells have been associated with this wonderful season; villagers would gather to hear the bells ring out across the frosty fields; a signal that the Christ child had been born. The familiar sound is a comforting reminder of tradition and community. It calls us together - young and old, faithful and curious - to share in the wonder of the nativity story.



After many years of hard work it will be fantastic to hear the bells ring out this Christmas from St. Peter's Church Swainsthorpe. Bells are a symbol of celebration, joy and spiritual awakening; their sound evoking cherished memories: midnight mass, candlelit carols, and the warmth of fellowship.

This Christmas, as we listen to the bells ring out once more, let us pause to reflect on their message. They speak not only of joy and celebration but also of hope and renewal found in Jesus. In a world that can feel hurried and uncertain, the steady rhythm of bell-ringing reminds us to be still, to listen, and to rejoice.

So whether you hear them from the church tower, on a Christmas playlist, or in the laughter of children as they sing jingle bells, may their sound fill your heart with peace and gladness and may they make you curious to discover more about Jesus.

Wishing you a very warm welcome to our services and many blessings this Christmas time.

Reverend Rachel Hayden

Holy Communion at Home

Are you unable to get to church but would like to receive Holy Communion at home? There is a tradition in the Church of England that Holy Communion is taken to those at home who are unable to get to church because of illness or other circumstances.

Home Communion normally takes place once every four to six weeks and can be a one off or for a longer period of time. If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home or find out more, please contact me on 07722413589 and I will be happy to have a chat or arrange a visit.

Reverend Austin Uzoigwe

Church Contact Details

For home visits, Communion at home, or to enquire about Christian faith, please contact:

Rev'd Dawn Davidson (Team Rector),
dawndavidson@btinternet.com tel: 498924 The Rectory, The Street, Saxlingham Nethergate, NR15 1AJ

Rev'd Austin Uzoigwe (Team Vicar)
revaustinuzoigwe@aol.com Tel: 01508 470901 The New Rectory, Church Hill, Tasburgh, Norwich, NR15 1NB

Rev'd Rachel Hayden (Curate) racheljhayden1@outlook.com 01508 826971
Lesley Cox (Reader) coxlesley16@gmail.com

Church Buildings and Church yards

On matters to do with the church buildings or churchyards, please contact one of the church wardens:

Kirsten Remer 01508 471580 St Mary's Newton Flotman

Susan Peters Corbett 01508 470539 - St Peter's Swainsthorpe

To donate to St Peter's Church, Swainsthorpe, contact the treasurer
Andy Haggith - 01508 470921

How to donate: Newton Flotman Parish Church Council sort code 08-92-99 a/c 67438770 it is classed as a business account. Please reference it 'Fabric'. To give regularly, why not become a *Friend of St Mary's?* - contact Kirsten Remer – 01508 471580 kirstenrem@gmail.com

To contribute to the running costs of the church and provision of clergy please go to **DofN.org/donate** to donate to our Parish Share. If you wish to leave a legacy please visit for further details

www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy Thank you!

St Peter's Church Community Centre

Swainsthorpe Community Centre is situated within St. Peter's Church on Church Road in Swainsthorpe. The centre is available for hire on a one off or regular basis at £7 per hour. There is a well-equipped kitchen area with cutlery, crockery and glasses to serve 40 people. The entrance and toilet have wheelchair access.

For enquiries please contact: Jackie Baker 01508 470415

Church Room for Hire Newton Flotman

The Church room at St Mary's in Newton Flotman is available for hire at £7 per hour. It is suitable for meetings and small birthday parties. It has kitchen facilities and disabled access. Please call Caroline Wolfe on 01508 471238 for availability.

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Village Café Saturday
 Church Room 10-12

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Worship Events in December
St Mary's, Newton Flotman

Sunday 7th Dec 11:00	Morning Worship - Lesley Cox
Sunday 14th Dec 11:00	Morning Worship - Rachel Hayden
Sunday 21st Dec 11:00	Holy Communion - Rachel Hayden
Sunday 24th Dec 16:00	Carols with Crib Service - Rachel Hayden
Sunday 28th Dec 11:00	Morning Worship - Lesley Cox

St Peter's, Swainsthorpe

Sunday 7th Dec 09:30	Swainsthorpe Special - Lesley Cox
Sunday 14th Dec 09:30	Holy Communion - Austin Uzoigwe
Sunday 21st Dec 18:00	Carol Service with dedication of the bells - Dawn Davidson
Sunday 23rd Nov 10:30	Benefice Service for all parishes at Newton Flotman
Sunday 28th Dec 09:30	Swainsthorpe Special - Lesley Cox

For January services in Newton Flotman, Swainsthorpe and all other churches in the Tas Valley benefice please visit www.tasvalley.org

Keeping the villages in touch:  Visit us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/newtonflotmanvillage/
 Swainsthorpe's private group for residents:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/151438831588930>

Village Café Saturday
 Church Room 10-12




Come and join us in Newton Flotman for home made bakes & a cup of something hot.

Room Booking
 Newton Flotman Village Centre:
 Martin Brooks 07454 573410 martinbrooks949@msn.com
 Newton Flotman Church Room: Caroline Wolfe 01508 471238
 Swainsthorpe St Peter's: Jackie Baker 07858 740763

 **NEWTON FLOTMAN OUTREACH POST OFFICE**
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS CHURCH ROOM
9.45am – 11.30am

NFaST
Heritage Group

2026 calendar
...is available now
for just £5.

2026

NFaST
Heritage Group

Email nfasthg@outlook.com to order yours (monitored weekly).

The calendar, featuring historical photos of Newton Flotman through the ages, makes a great Christmas present!



St Mary's Churchyard Prayer Trail



Bishop Ian, our local rural bishop, joined us at St Mary's, Newton Flotman for a Benefice Service last month, during which our new prayer trail was blessed.

The prayer trail was created following a bequest from a member of our village community who had been aware of support from church members during her illness. Mei-See loved gardens, outside spaces and wildlife, so we decided to use her legacy to create a prayer trail around the churchyard. It comprises ten noticeboards with written reflections about nature, with a spiritual focus reflecting the long-standing position of the church in our village.

We will take time to remember Mei-See Man (1975-2024), loved and missed by family and friends. We hope she would have loved the Prayer Trail.

OLIVE HOUSE CHRISTMAS EVENT

★ Food ★ Stalls ★ Crafts ★ Gifts ★

ALL WELCOME

Dec 13th
2-4pm

STALLS TO INCLUDE BEADING, ARTS & CRAFTS, SKIN CARE, CHRISTMAS GIFTS, SCHOOL RUNDRAISER STALL, CAKE STALL, NAME THE BEAR, WINE OR NOT PLUS ENTERTAINMENT WITH STEVE

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St Mary's Guild Annual Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December

10.30 – 12

In the Church and

Church Room

Tasburgh

- Raffle
- Come and win a Christmas Hamper
- Christmas Goodies
- Cake & Produce Stall
- Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

ST. PETERS CHURCH, SWAINSTHORPE

ANDY & JILL'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SAT 6TH DEC 10.30AM – 12.30 PM

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£1.00 TOMBOLA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU !

Christmas and New Year at Cherry Tree Café

Cherry Tree Café will be celebrating Christmas this year on Wednesday 17th December 9.00am – 12.00 noon.

We will have a Christmas sing-a-long with Mister John, with mince pies and mulled wine to get us into the festive mood.

Please come and join us if you can. Christmas jumpers are optional!

Cherry Tree Café will be closed on Wednesday 24^h and 31st December 2025, and 7th January 2026 when the Village Hall will be redecorated.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Cherry Tree Café team



43rd Saxlingham Nethergate

Scout Group

We would like to say a massive thank you to all those who came to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 22nd November, especially the 'Crafting for a Cause' group. We raised over £1100 for Scout funds!

If you would like to get involved with Scouting, please message Group Lead Volunteer Chris Backhouse - Chris.Backhouse@43rdsaxlingham.org.uk

Comment on the draft

Swainsthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

2026-2046



Drop-in exhibition

**Tuesday,
2nd December 2025,
3pm to 8pm,
at St Peter's Church,
Swainsthorpe
Community Centre**



Consultation closes for comments on 20th January 2026.

**Read a copy
of the Plan**

From 2nd December 2025
to 20th January 2026
read a physical copy of the
Neighbourhood Plan at
St Peter's Church,
or online at
[www.swainsthorpepc.info/
neighbourhood-plan](http://www.swainsthorpepc.info/neighbourhood-plan)

Newton Flotman Youth Club

**NF Village Centre - For 8-16 year olds
Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm (term time only)**

YMCA

Here for young people
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YMCA

Here for young people
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What's On In Our Villages:

Social Club - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Friday 5th December - Christmas Quiz - JP Paninis
Friday January 16th TBC (Check NF Village Facebook page)
Friday January 30th - Games night - Marky D's

Youth Club - Newton Flotman Village Centre

For 8 -16 year olds - Wednesdays 6-8 pm (term time)

Cherry Tree Café

Wednesdays, 9am to 12 midday - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Village Café

Saturdays 10am - midday - Newton Flotman Church Room

Film Night - Newton Flotman Village Centre

Tuesday 16th December - The Ballard of Wallis Island
Tuesday 20th January - Downton Abbey: the Grand Finale
Bar open from 7pm; Film starts at 7.30pm

Outreach Post Office

Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.30am - Newton Flotman Church Room

Mobile Library

3rd December and 28th January

Crafting for a Cause

1st Weds of the month, 2 - 4pm, Newton Flotman Church Room
3rd Saturday of the month - 10-midday at Village Café

Village Walks

2nd Saturday of the month

For more details contact Richard Beach 07963006091.

Meetings

Newton Flotman Parish Council:

Tuesday 27th January, 7:30pm - NF Village Centre

Swainsthorpe Parish Council:

Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm - St Peter's Community Centre

Room Booking

Newton Flotman Village Centre:

Martin Brooks 07454 573410 martinbrooks949@msn.com

Newton Flotman Church Room: Caroline Wolfe 01508 471238

Swainsthorpe St Peter's: Jackie Baker 07858 740763

Partnership Deadline

The next edition of Partnership will be for February 2026. Deadline 14th January. Contributions by email to caroline@uv6.com or call **07855 838553**. The editor reserves the right to edit copy and print as space permits.

Newton Flotman Parish Council

Season's Greetings

The Parish Council would like to wish residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Councillors are looking forward to working with residents and developing new projects in 2026.

Christmas Closures

The Parish Council will be closed over Christmas and New Year from 19th December until 5th January. During this time support is available at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1 or by calling 01508 533933

For highways issues please contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020 or go to www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem

Who does what?

In Norfolk there are three tiers of local Government. Newton Flotman is affected by Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council and Newton Flotman Parish Council. Each tier has distant roles;

Norfolk County Council (NCC):

Adult Social Services*Children's services including education*Highways (including roads, footpath and public rights of way)*Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

NCC be contacted on 0344 800 8020 or www.norfolk.gov.uk where you are also able to report an issue online.

South Norfolk Council:

Planning*Bins and Recycling*Business Support*Community and safety (including Help Hub)*Council Tax*Housing*Licensing*Outdoors, leisure and events*Abandoned vehicles*Environment and Climate Change

South Norfolk Council can be contacted on **01508 533701** / Freephone: **0800 3896109** or at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk. To contact the help hub call 01508 533933 or go to:

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/help-hub-1

Parish Council:

Allotments*Bus Shelters*Dog waste bins*Youth Club (in partnership with YMCA Norfolk)*Cutting of the village green

The Parish Council can be contacted clerk@newtonflotman-pc.gov.uk or 01508 447688

Crimes and antisocial behaviour should be reported to the police on 101 or www.norfolk.police.uk/ro/report/ If the situation is life threatening call 999.

Bus Shelter

The Parish Council are aware of the increasing graffiti in the bus shelter next to ARTS. The police have been aware of the situation. The Parish Council will be looking to cover up the graffiti and repaint the bus shelter in due course.



Diss

FREE 5-WEEK BABY MASSAGE COURSE

Meet other parents and create special moments between you and your baby

Book! Now! Call Sam on 07860 832568 or email sam.charvoniam@homestartnorfolk.org

Diss United Reformed Church
Starts Saturday, 10th January
10:30am-12:00pm

In our baby massage course, you will learn how to massage your babies, learning different strokes in each lesson. You will learn **strokes that relieve colic, constipation and teething pains, aid sleep and relaxation and reduce crying** and emotional distress. Our courses provide wonderfully relaxing **bonding time for parents with their new baby.**

To find out when our next Baby Massage Course is running or enquire about a private course, visit www.homestartnorfolk.org/get-support or call 01603 977040



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www.homestartnorfolk.org flourish

Home Start Norfolk is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales, Number 5196432. Charity registered in England & Wales Number 1106362.

Newton Flotman Village Cinema

TUESDAY 16th December - BAR OPENS 7:00PM FILM STARTS 7:30PM



The Ballad of Wallis Island

An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favourite musicians to perform at his home.
Cert. 12

Advance Tickets: £5.00

Call or email William Ball to book your tickets on
01508 471506 or william.ball@outlook.com



TUESDAY 20th January - BAR OPENS 7:00PM FILM STARTS 7:30PM

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale



In the summer of 1930, the Crawleys grapple with the threat of social disgrace when Mary finds herself at the centre of a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble.
Cert. PG

Advance Tickets: £5.00

Call or email William Ball to book your tickets on
01508 471506 or william.ball@outlook.com



Meetings

The Parish Council meets every month (except August and December) on a Tuesday evening.

The next meeting will be held on 27th January from 7:30pm at the Village Centre (at the time of writing the date and venue had not been confirmed, please check before attending the meeting)

The public are very welcome to attend parish council meetings and there is always an opportunity for you to ask questions and to have your say. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the Parish Council website:

www.newtonflotman-pc.gov.uk

Newton Flotman Parish Council is on Facebook. Follow the Parish Council at www.facebook.com/NewtonFlotmanPC

Contacting the Council

clerk@newtonflotman-pc.gov.uk | 01508 447688

*Maria Hutson,
Clerk to the Parish Council*

Mobile Library for December and January

The mobile library will be visiting Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe on Wednesdays 3rd December and 28th January.

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
SWAINSTHORPE	THE CHURCH	09:50	10:05	NR14 8PN
NEWTON FLOTMAN	GROVE DALE	12:00	12:20	NR15 1QG
NEWTON FLOTMAN	JOY AVE	12:45	13:05	NR15 1RD
NEWTON FLOTMAN	SCHOOL ROAD	14:20	15:30	NR15 1PR

Crafting for a Cause

We are a small, friendly group who meet to bring and share crafting skills which are put to use to raise money for good causes.



We meet twice a month – every first Wednesday afternoon and every 3rd Saturday morning, in Newton Flotman church room. We quite often have the materials needed for items to be made, so there needn't be any cost to individuals.

In December we will be at Olive House for their Christmas Event on Saturday 13th December 2pm-4pm. Come and support us please!

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in, give us a call and be part of our fund-raising efforts - please ring Vicky on 07598 325840 or Hilary on 07806 762296.

Long Stratton Medical Partnership

Swan Lane Surgery, Swan Lane, Tharston, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2UY

As I write my final article for 2025, I want to sum up the year for the practice and reflect on what has been a challenging year in many ways. Change is inevitable and my motto is once we accept that, the journey to whatever change we need to undertake is half done and that sets the foundation for the rest of the journey.

One of our major challenges of the year has been the software system change that we undertook in the summer. I have written about it in a previous article. The change over was challenging and however much we had been prepared, the realisation of what we took on hit most of us only on the day it happened. To be honest, I squealed and cried for the first week (my colleague had forewarned me). The impressive aspect of this system change was the practice team effort that went into action from day one. People helping each other, asking for help when needed and ensuring positive energy flowed through the building. We came to work determined to make this work and that attitude continues.

The major change in the last few weeks has been the GP contract change. I wrote about one of the major changes in the contract in the last issue – GP practices having to offer a digital online tool to allow patients to request routine GP appointments. We started the process on the 6th of October and plan to hold a triage clinician meeting early December to assess the process so far and make changes where necessary.

I would encourage you to use the online tool rather than call Reception for routine appointments as they have to enter all information into the digital online tool and a triage doctor then decides on the appointment. This is to ensure that there is fairness across the board. We have picked up some urgent appointment requests and that is the danger of this system. My plea to you is that you use the tool appropriately. At present we are managing the system fairly efficiently and that is due to the incredible effort of our triage clinicians.

We have had some staff changes in the past year and the practice has dealt with the changes in the best way possible. These are not easy changes and yet the wheel rolls on.

We wish you a warm Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year from all of us here at Long Stratton Medical Partnership.

Mini Nelson

Newton Flotman Climate Care

Top tips from the RSPB to reduce your Carbon Footprint

Climate change is such a big, global issue that it can feel as though only governments and businesses can make a difference and that any changes we make as individuals are insignificant. But we all have a role to play in protecting our planet. Every single action we take – however small – adds up, and collectively they can have a powerful impact.



Why is it so important to limit warming to 1.5°C?

Limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C would have a whole range of benefits. For example, it would:

- Help save birds and other wildlife, both here in the UK and globally.
- Help to protect and restore the natural landscapes and habitats we treasure.
- Ensure that people can breathe cleaner air.
- Set up the young people of today and tomorrow to live in a more stable and secure world.
- Boost our economies by limiting the costs of extreme weather events.
- Prevent further warming that would trigger 'feedback loops', where natural ecosystems are destroyed and release very large amounts of carbon and methane. Potential feedback loops include the melting of the Arctic and Antarctic ice caps, the melting of the Arctic permafrost, wetlands drying up, and forest fires.
- Protect our farming from the consequences of extreme weather, supporting our food supply and keeping prices low.

Low-cost ways to reduce your energy use at home

There are lots of simple and affordable ways to cut the amount of energy you use at home, which is great news not just for the planet but for your bank balance too! Here are some effective options to lower energy consumption:

LED lightbulbs and A-rated appliances use less energy, so not only will you reduce your electricity consumption, you'll save money in the long run. Simple steps like switching off lights and appliances when you're not using them can make a surprising difference too.

Reduce heat loss by properly insulating your home. This will reduce the amount of energy needed to heat it, helping the planet and your pocket. If you have single glazing, consider installing film to windows to act as secondary glazing – although it's not as effective as new double-glazed windows, it's an affordable option to reduce heat loss. Draught excluders are helpful too. You can also insulate your hot water tank with a boiler jacket, which could save you around £100 per year.

Reduce, reuse, recycle - choosing greener products that are second-hand, reusable or recycled, and repairing appliances rather than replacing them, will help to reduce the carbon emissions from manufacturing and shipping.

Taken from an on-line article from RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature



FANCY A COFFEE OR A CUPPA?
WEDNESDAYS AT CHERRY TREE CAFÉ

9-12 NEWTON FLOTMAN VILLAGE CENTRE

COME AND HAVE A DRINK & SNACK ON US

TOYS AVAILABLE FOR TODDLERS - WELL BEHAVED DOGS ON LEADS WELCOME TOO!

SUPPORTED BY NEWTON FLOTMAN CHARITIES AND WAVENEY FOODBANK