

# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

\* Athelington \* Denham \* Horham  
\* Hoxne \* Redlingfield \* Syleham \* Wingfield



## April 2016

APRIL 2016	3 April Easter 2	10 April Easter 3	17 April Easter 4	24 April Easter 5
	Acts 5:27-32 Rev 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6,(7-20) Rev 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Rev 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Rev 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
<b>Athel'ton</b>			9.30am Holy Comm	
<b>Denham</b>				11.15am Family Service
<b>Horham</b>		9.30am Holy Comm		11.15am Family Service 'Drive it Sunday'
<b>Hoxne</b>	11.15am Family Comm & Baptism of Maisie Amps	11.15am Matins	8.30am BCP Holy Comm 11.15am Hoxne Heritage Group Service	10am Family Service
<b>Redl'field</b>	9.30am Holy Comm (see below)			
<b>Syleham</b>	4pm Messy Church for the benefice		10am Village Praise	9.30am Holy Comm
<b>Wingfield</b>	10am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	10am Family Service	6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 12 April, 7.30pm, Midweek Communion  
at Denham Church

Sunday 3 April, 9.30am, Redlingfield's Holy Communion at the home of  
Richard and Avril Court, Brookside, Green Lane, Redlingfield (01379 678772)

As the Benefice Blasters were practising for the Maundy Thursday Taize service, I described how I wanted one of the pieces to end as an explosion of joy; there was a wry laugh and the question, 'Why do people look so sad when they're singing in church?'

It's a good, searching question. Here we are revelling in the post-Easter joy of the resurrection. Easter is the season when we rejoice in the hope of God's ability to take any situation, even the heart-breaking pain of losing a child, and turning it around, transform it into something new and enduring because death itself is dead; a season marked by the sheer number of resounding alleluias, yet so often we give little impression of being a people, a community transformed by the prospect of the resurrection and God's overflowing and overwhelming goodness.

For part of April, Mary and I will be with our son, Jonny, in South Africa, a country lurching towards economic collapse. It has got much worse in the 4 years he has been there, stricken by a drought, protests over migrant labour and student tuition fees (does any of this sound familiar?). Jonny's dissertation is on South African church history and its response to apartheid (far more complicated, nuanced and divided than Europeans appreciate). Yet for all this, South African Christians, in common with so many African Christians, have joyful people trusting in God.

Maybe, just maybe, Jesus was right, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. This Eastertide as we proclaim 'Christ is Risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed Alleluia!', try saying it with a smile of your face? Trust me, around the world you won't be the only one!

**Rev Michael**

Rev Michael's days off in April.....Fri 1, Thurs 7, Tues 12 to Sat 30.

St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Diss, IP21 5RB. 01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

**Churchwardens**

**Athelington: St Peter.** Evelyn Adey 01728 628428

**Denham: St John the Baptist.** Michael Reeves 01379 668179

**Hoxne: St Peter & St Paul.** Brian Chester 01379 669157, Guy McGregor 01379 668434

**Horham: St Mary.** David Spall 01379 384239, Daphne Harvey 01379 384216

**Redlingfield: St Andrew.** Hazel Abbott 01379 678217

**Syleham: St Margaret.** Mary Lewis 01379 669258, John Leader 01379 668205

**Wingfield: St Andrew.** John McCracken 01379 384181

## Wingfield Barns

**Sat 2 April**, 8pm, Diss Corn Hall presents The Hosepipe Band with Martin Newell, The Song of the Waterlily and Black Shuck. Tickets £9/under 18 £6.

**Sat 23 April**, 7.30pm, Mustard Theatre Company's Ten Times Two. Tkts £8, from [www.mustardtheatrecompany.org.uk](http://www.mustardtheatrecompany.org.uk)

**Tues 26 April**, 2-4pm, HM Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Tea Party. Free cream tea with royal quiz, films and memorabilia, organised by the Rural Coffee Caravan.

**Sat 23 April - 2 May**, 11am -4pm Weds - Sun, Royal Photographic Society and Creative Group exhibitions in Galleries 1-2, Anne Rea paintings in studio 4.

## A new venture before Pentecost

With Easter behind us, celebrating God's amazing gift of his Son, it is a good time to reflect more on this overwhelmingly generous love and our response to it. Rev Michael is giving his support to a Bible study course, produced by our diocese but welcomed as a valuable national resource. Generous God, Generous People provides *'Four Bible study sessions from St Mark's gospel exploring who Jesus is and how we can respond to his love by living generous lives'*. Unlike some such courses, it seems user-friendly, with thought provoking starter activities and 'so what?' and 'action' points. For any who wanted to go further, there is an entirely optional daily study booklet to use between sessions.

It is a four week course and, with Rev Michael's blessing, I am offering it on Tuesday evenings 12, 19, 26 April and 3 May. It would be at 7.30pm and at my house at least initially. If it goes well in this benefice where I believe a heart-warming generous spirit is already flourishing, it would be used in other benefices in the area. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Lewis  
01379 669258 [mary.lewis43@icloud.com](mailto:mary.lewis43@icloud.com)

## Denham midweek Communion

Tuesday 12 April, 7.30pm in Denham Church. Everyone is welcome to this simple, reflective service.

## The Friends of St Edmundsbury

**Cathedral** warmly invite you to bring a group to the Cathedral for a Sunday Pilgrimage, Tea and Choral Evensong.

An opportunity to enjoy a reflective pilgrimage of the Cathedral and the Cathedral Choir at Choral Evensong, followed by tea and cakes, meeting with members of the Cathedral's community, clergy and Friends of the Cathedral.

Programme:

2.20pm, arrive and welcome.

2.30pm, reflective pilgrimage of the cathedral.

3.15pm break.

3.30pm choral evensong, cathedral quire

4.15pm, tea in the cathedral centre

5pm onwards, depart. There is no charge for this monthly opportunity, as costs are generously defrayed by the Friends of the Cathedral. To book a date (please note maximum group size 30), contact Kim

Judge, Liturgy and Music Administrator, 01284 748733 or email

[liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org](mailto:liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org).

What an opportunity! Anyone interested?

**Horham's family service** on Sunday 24 April is for classic cars (and their owners) Promoted as 'Drive it Sunday', the service starts at 11.15am.

## St Elizabeth Hospice's Open Gardens

Looking for people willing to open their garden between Spring and Autumn 2016 to help raise funds by charging entry fees, holding raffles, selling plants and having other appropriate stalls. Gardens of all shapes and sizes, from small cottage plots to whole villages. Contact Megan Johnson on 01473 707029.

## Syleham

Our **Soup and Snowdrops** event was great fun: people were clearly exhilarated by their walk and very complimentary about the quality of the food offered. We made £350 for church funds. A big 'thank you' to all who supported us and to John Leader for opening up his woodlands.

**Messy Church** in February produced an amazing piece of artwork (currently on display in Horham Church) based on the story of the tiny seed that grew - and GREW. On Mothering Sunday, we had a full house and enjoyed celebrating mothers' love and God's love together: there is a big heart on display in Denham Church to remind us all. The next sessions, to which any families from the benefice are welcome, will be at the Village Hall in Syleham at 4pm on 3 April (when we shall celebrate Easter) and on 1 May. You can find photographs and updates on Facebook 'Hoxne Benefice Messy Church' - why not 'like' us?

**Advance notices** - We shall be holding our annual **Summer Lunch** at Monks Hall, Syleham on Saturday 16 July, and this year it will be extended to include family activities and stalls. We are planning a **Harvest Supper** on Saturday 24 Sept.

## Redlingfield

Pub on the Green, 28 May, 6pm till midnight. Monthly throughout the summer.

**Redlingfield church** is now closed for work to be carried out on the roof. It will remain closed throughout April and is due to reopen on Sunday 29 May when a celebratory benefice service will be held there, led by the Rt Rev Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich. More details next month. It would be lovely to see the church full of flowers for this special service. Contact Jacqueline on 01379 678805 for advice or with offers.

## Always plenty of coffee to drink!

\* **In the Old School Hall in Horham** every Wednesday morning from 10am there is coffee, cookies, cakes and chatter and now, internet access and tuition!!

\* **The Rural Coffee Caravan** is back in April and will be in **Redlingfield** Weds 6 April and in **Wingfield** on Tues 19 April, with news of what's happening around and about us. Coffee and biscuits. Donations welcome.

**Mothers' Union**, Hoxne branch will meet on Monday 18 April, 2.15pm at Time House, Low St, Hoxne.

**The annual meetings** of St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne and the Friends of the Church will be held on Tuesday 19 April in St Edmund's Hall, from 7pm.

**Hoxne historian** Stephen Govier will be holding a sale of books and pictures at St Peter and St Paul on Saturday 23 April at the Friends of the Church coffee morning, 10am to 12 noon.

**Gone missing!** Only two of six BCP prayer books presented to St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne by John Chapman in memory of his parents, remain in church. Each book has note inside the front cover. The Chapman family would greatly appreciate their return.

## Annual Rogation Sunday Walk

Sunday 1 May 2016, 2pm from the Lych Gate, St Peter and St Paul's, Hoxne, after which tea and cakes will be served in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, Hoxne. (estimated return around 4pm). We may come across livestock so dogs must have a lead please.

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**This newsletter is found in all churches, but you can get it early by email. Please email [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)**