

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

April 2017

What's the difference between a maze and a labyrinth? You might be wondering if this is a belated Christmas cracker joke because both of them are dizzying, disorientating and ultimately confusing! But, this isn't a joke; there is a difference.

Most obviously, a maze has hedges to stop you getting a clear view of where you're going or coming from. A maze then becomes about smallness and limited vision, it is confusing because we can't see how everything fits together. A labyrinth, on the other hand, has low walls, often little more than earth banks or chalk lines. In a labyrinth, we think we're lost precisely because we can see the centre that we are trying to reach and yet seem to be going in the wrong direction.

Crucially, you can get lost in a maze, but if you are willing to trust and simply follow the path you can't get lost in a labyrinth. Keep putting one foot in front of the other and trust the way and you get to the centre.

Now, what has a labyrinth got to do with Easter? I think a lot more than we might expect. Repeatedly, Jesus reassured the disciples to trust, to believe and everything would be OK. This question of trust is throughout the Easter story, from Thomas's questioning at the Last Supper, to the women wondering how to get into the tomb on Easter morning and onto the encounter full of questions on the road to Emmaus before back to Thomas again in the upper room. Through it all, the message is to trust and follow Christ the Way; may God give to us the grace to do that this Easter.

Rev Michael

Rev Michael's days off in April: Thurs 6, Weds 13, Thurs 20, Friday 21, Thurs 27.

**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

Wingfield: St Andrew. John McCracken 01379 384181

APRIL 2017	2 April 5 th of Lent	9 April Palm Sunday	16 April Easter Day	23 April Easter 1	30 April Easter 2
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion~		11.15am Benefice Comm in Syleham. Lay Elder Recomm. Service+
Denham				11.15am Family Service	
Horham		9.30am BCP Communion *		11am 95 th BG Service	
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Communion *	11.15am BCP Matins	11.15am Easter Communion~ and baptism	10am Family Service	
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Communion *			10am Morning Prayer	
Syleham	4pm Messy Church *		10am Easter Praise and baptism*	9.30am BCP Holy Communion*	
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion *	7.45am Stations of the Resurrection* 9.15am Said BCP Communion*	6.30pm BCP Evensong#	

Friday 7 April, Compline for Lent at St Andrew's Wingfield*, 6pm.

Tuesday 11 April, Midweek Communion at St John's, Denham*, 7.30pm.

Maundy Thursday 13 April, Benefice service at St Peter & St Paul, Hoxne*, 7.30pm.

* with Rev Michael

~ with Rev Richard

with Canon Harry and Rev Michael

+ with Archdeacon Ian and Rev Michael

Services for Holy Week

Midweek Communion at Denham

on Tues 11 April, 7.30pm, now back in church – our monthly simple communion takes on added poignancy in Holy Week as we focus on Jesus at the Last Supper.

Maundy Thursday, 13 April We will gather as a benefice for Maundy Thursday at Hoxne, 7.30pm with a Taize style Communion service. Our thoughts move on from Tuesday's service and into Jesus' anguish in the garden at Gethsemane.

Good Friday, 14 April

Services of reading and meditation: 9.30am at Hoxne, and Wingfield at 12noon; At Horham from 7.30pm, the stories around Jesus' death will be read.

Services for Easter Day, Sunday 16 April

7.45am Stations of the Resurrection in Wingfield. We meet at Wingfield church to reflect on the first appearance of Jesus on Easter Day, then as we make our way to the Rectory for breakfast we take time to reflect on the last appearance of that day. Breakfast will be served in the Rectory, accompanied by sparkling wine, sparkling fruit juice and the jubilant toast of, 'Christ is risen, Alleluia! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**'

9.15am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion in Wingfield. A short, said Communion service.

9.30am Common Worship Holy Communion in Athelington. Easter Communion in the ultimate country church!

10am Easter Praise in Syleham. Join us for joyful songs and a baptism.

11.15am Family Communion in Hoxne. Everyone welcome in Hoxne as William Hall is baptised, which, as he played Jesus in our Live Nativity a few months ago, seems very appropriate.

Fundraiser to support the diocesan Kagera Lent Challenge

You are invited to a Taste of Tanzania at The Old School Hall, Horham on Saturday 1 April, 7pm featuring Tanzanian food and drink and a 'magic lantern show'! Admission only by pre-booking with your host and hostess, Michael and Mary Womack. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event. Places must be reserved by Weds 29 March, by phone on 01379 388889, or hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

Monday prayer and breakfast

continues. We meet weekly at 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. We are finished by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for more details.

Messy Church for the benefice is Sunday 2 April, 4pm at Syleham village hall.

Compline for Lent 6pm on Friday 7 April at St Andrew's Wingfield.

Our next Evensong service will be Sun 23 April, 6.30pm in the choir stalls of St Andrew's Wingfield. Canon Harry Edwards will be the cantor and preacher.

Our Hoxne Benefice Holy Communion with recommissioning of lay elders will take place on Sunday 30 April, 11.15am in Syleham, with our guest Archdeacon Ian.



Sign up for easyfundraising and whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for **Churches of the Hoxne Benefice**.

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice/ follow the easy sign up procedure and join for free.

Coffee in the Old School Hall in Horham every Wednesday morning from 10.30am with coffee, cookies, cakes and chatter, internet access and tuition.

The Rural Coffee Caravan is back!

* in **Redlingfield** on Weds 5 April
* in **Wingfield** on Tues 18 April, both 10am to 12 noon. The caravan is a great source of information as well as a chance for a chat over a drink and delicious cake. Just come along and see for yourself. Donations welcome.

Redlingfield Church PCC is holding a quiz at the Horham Community Centre on Saturday 22 April to raise funds for the church. It is 7pm for 7.30pm start of quiz. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are £5 a head from Chris on 01728 628474.

Intrigued by Rev Michael's comments about labyrinths? If so, come and explore the labyrinth, indeed help make one, in Syleham churchyard on **Sat 15 July**. We have arranged for Kay Barrett, an experienced worship leader in her church in Girton, Cambridge, to come and spend a day with us. We will make a labyrinth in Syleham churchyard, using seed or grain, use it for prayer and meditation, learn how to draw a labyrinth, about their history and much more. 10am start, finishing around 4pm with a break for lunch in the village hall. To cover costs, the suggested donation is £20 but more importantly, as Kay only has so many labyrinths, numbers are limited to 25, so reservation is essential. Please contact Rev Michael with queries or to reserve your place.

This newsletter is found in all churches, but you can get it early by email. Please email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Hoxne Benefice Mothers' Union – renamed! No meeting in April. Resuming Mon 15 May. New members welcome. Contact Cathie McGregor on 668434.

Friends of St Peter & St Paul Hoxne The next coffee morning will be held on Easter Sat, 15 April, 10am to 12 noon in church.

Lent Group to watch the DVD and discuss Philip Yancey's *The Jesus I never knew*. The last session will be 6 April, 2-3pm at Reading Hall, Denham. Contact Barbara on 870500 or Mary on 669258.

Black Dog at The Swan

'Black Dog at The Swan' every Tuesday pm, 2 to 3pm in Hoxne, with a group of non-judgemental, caring, supportive, like-minded people to chat with. Whatever your black dog; grief, anxiety, trauma, depression... please come and join us. Further details from Rev Michael Womack, 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

Advance notices

Sat 1 April Tanzanian Evening, see left
Sat 22 April Redlingfield Church quiz, 7.30
Sat 20 May Horham village fete, the church is having a 'Jar Bar' and is looking for donations of any-size clean jars with lids and any items that could fit into these.
Sat 3 June Denham Fair, teas, stalls, Games at the church
Sat 10 June Horham car boot sale, with church bric a brac stall
also 10 and 11 June Redlingfield, Summer Scenes event in church
Sun 11 June 3pm Amici Singers concert, Syleham Church – this, by their request, will be in memory of John Leader.
Sat 24/Sun 25 June Wingfield Open Gardens
Sat 1 July Hoxne Fête
Sat 15 July Syleham Labyrinth Day
Sat 22 July Ceilidh Dance and BBQ at the barn at Park Farm Hoxne