

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.



## Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

**April 2020**

Bishop Martin has said that in the current situation we have to change from being a worshipping church to being a praying church. Of course, these are not separate boxes with no overlap; we say the Lord's Prayer in every service, so we pray as we worship. And on a traditional format that prayer follows the order of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (ACTS), then prayer starts with worship.

But we are used to gathering together to worship, and that can no longer happen. Though as you'll see (inside) we've lots of ways that the rhythm of worship is continuing and being relayed by facebook, or joining in on Skype.

It is increasingly difficult to do anything, especially with the growing restrictions on movement and the need for people to be self-isolated and be protected from infection. So, more and more, we can't be a worshipping or an engaged church, which leaves us to be a praying church.

The Orthodox church is known for the splendour of its worship, but behind the scenes its monasteries have long been its place of prayer; one Greek monk described them as the church's radio operators. Perhaps that's what a praying church is, the radio operators transmitting the supplications of the world to God and in turn passing on God's message of love, grace and mercy.

What would it look like? Well, radio operators are usually hidden away, out of the front line and kept safe from harm, ideally in a quiet spot without interruptions or distractions. That sounds like the place many of us find ourselves in at the moment. Maybe now is our chance to join that monk as a radio operator. As a praying church, let us be faithful and diligent in that task.

**Rev'd Michael Womack**

### Church contacts

Athelington: St Peter.	Colin Palmer 01728 628747
Denham: St John the Baptist.	Barbara Irwin 01379 669077, Hilary Castleden 01379 668458
Hoxne: St Peter & St Paul.	Guy McGregor 01379 668434, Wilf White 01379 668046
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, Sarah Buckley 01379 668480
Wingfield: St Andrew.	Rev'd Eleanor Goodison 07876 143579

## Our response to the risk from Covid 19

We are responding to the risk from Covid-19 (also known as the coronavirus), to protect the vulnerable, maintain our common life, albeit at a distance, and help those in need. We must all avoid physical contact with others over the coming weeks, except for essential purposes including supporting the vulnerable. This requires major changes to the way we 'do church'.

## Cancellations

As you know, public worship has been suspended and churches have been closed on the direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, so no public services are being held in our churches and they are not available for private prayer. Funerals will be held by the graveside and will be restricted to close family mourners.

Baptisms and weddings will have to be postponed, except for emergency baptisms in hospital or at home. Sadly, we have had to cancel Rev'd Michael's farewell service and party but we have given him a farewell present (for a video of the presentation go to [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://facebook.com/WingfieldChurch)). We hope to invite him back for a celebration of his ministry here in the autumn. You may post any farewell cards or messages to Michael and Mary at St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield IP21 5RB.

All PCC meetings and APCMs are postponed until further notice. Urgent business may be dealt with by email or phone.

## New approaches

Be assured that your ministry team is praying for everyone in the benefice on a regular basis, both in church and at home, and your prayers will be included if you so request. Phone or email us: our contact details are below.

### \* joining together from our homes in a prayer breakfast on Monday mornings.

Have your breakfast and then say Celtic Morning Prayer at 8.30am. We are trying out doing this via Skype but you can also just join in without technology if you prefer. Service sheets can be emailed or delivered to your door if you wish. Please contact Rev'd Eleanor if you would like to join in.

### \* live streaming certain events,

including a Holy Communion service at 9.30am each Sunday, via [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://facebook.com/WingfieldChurch). For this you will need internet access, but you do not need a facebook account. Contact Rev'd John if you would like to be kept informed about this.

\* circulating a weekly service sheet for a service of Compline to be said at home. Rev'd Eleanor and Rev'd John will be saying the service at 6pm each Friday.

## We will be staying in touch by:\*

### \* increasing our presence on social media.

Check out our [facebook](https://facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) pages: [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) or [facebook.com/athelingtonchurch](https://facebook.com/athelingtonchurch).

Follow Rev'd Eleanor on Twitter: @ReverendEleanor (you do not need your own Twitter account to read her tweets, just search for @ReverendEleanor).

\* the Hoxne Benefice News will be posted on church notice boards but you can also receive it by email. If you are not already on the list, get in touch with our administrator, Virginia Skoyles, [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com) and she will add your name.

\* contacting church officers regularly, by e-mail or phone as appropriate.

### \* putting posters on church notice boards

If you need help or just want to chat, please contact us:

Rev'd Eleanor:  
[eleanor.goodison@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.goodison@gmail.com);  
07876 143579

Rev'd John:  
[vj.mccracken@gmail.com](mailto:vj.mccracken@gmail.com);  
07876 507288

Rev'd Richard:  
[rev.richard.court@icloud.com](mailto:rev.richard.court@icloud.com)



## Other resources

Both the Church of England website ([www.churchofengland.org](https://www.churchofengland.org)) and the diocesan website ([www.cofesuffolk.org](https://www.cofesuffolk.org)) will be live streaming services and offering other resources during this period, including prayers for use at home.

Morning Prayer is being live streamed from the Bishop's oratory every morning. Monday to Saturday at 8.30am on the Bishops' facebook page @BishopsCofEsuffolk.

The Prayer Book Society is maintaining a list of streamed BCP services on its website ([www.pbs.org.uk](https://www.pbs.org.uk)). Local radio and national broadcast media will also offer live services for you to tune in to – check the schedules.

# The building is closed but the church is open!