

DEC 2015	6 Dec 2nd of Advent	13 Dec 3rd of Advent	20 Dec 4th of Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	27 Dec 1st of Christmas
	Malachi 3:1-4 Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zeph 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-55		Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14[15-20]	
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Comm			
Denham			3pm Carol Service			10am Benefice Comm
Horham		9.30am Holy Comm	4.30pm Carol Service	11.30pm Benefice Midnight Mass		
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Comm	11.15am Morning Prayer	8.30am BCP Holy Comm 10am Village Christingle Service		10am Family Service with Holy Comm	
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Comm				10am Holy Comm	
Syleham	4pm Messy Church for the benefice		11am Christmas Service with Amici		9.30am Christmas Comm BCP	
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	4pm Carols by Candlelight		11am Family Comm	5pm Carols and Champers

Tuesday 8 December, 7.30pm, Midweek Communion, Reading Hall, Denham

Thursday 17 December at Hoxne, 6pm, School Carol Service

Monday 21 December, 7.30pm, Carol Service at St Peter & St Paul, Hoxne

Tuesday 22 December, Carol Service at St Andrew's Redlingfield

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

December 2015



Firstly a huge thank you to everyone for being so supportive while I have been off sick. Your love and generosity from meals to coffee to offers of places to hide away have been wonderful; indeed there were so many I couldn't keep up with all of them!

An equally huge thank you to everyone who stepped in and 'filled the gap' - Church Wardens and Officers along with the Lay Elders. At the risk of embarrassing them, the members of the clergy who have helped so generously, (I was going to say tirelessly but I know that they are now very tired from all that they have given these past few months).

So, what of me? How have I been filling my days? Modelling; perhaps I should clarify, I mean model- making in case you were have disturbing thoughts of me modelling. Seriously this was part of the rehabilitation from my breakdown as it built up my motivation and concentration. As I was painting, I spread out copies of Church Times to protect the table and found myself gazing at job adverts. I noticed that a couple of them required the prospective vicar to have a full medical; I think we can safely assume I'd fail that at the moment! Two thoughts; I am very grateful to the diocese for the professional support that I have received. The second was just how much 'perfection' do we expect from clergy, or from each other? In the season of Advent we anticipate the coming of the perfect Son of God, it is a good time to reflect that none of us humans is perfect this side of eternity.

Reverend Michael

Churchwardens

Athelington: St Peter. Evelyn Adey 01728 628428, John Davy 01379 742878

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 Community Carol Singing.

Monday 21 Dec, 6pm. Please come along for Community Carol Singing on the Green at Castle Crescent. Mulled wine and hotdogs will be on sale. A great way to start your Christmas Celebration. Everyone welcome! Proceeds going to charity and community fund.

Cleaning of Wingfield church

We have regular cleaning and churchyard cleanups and would like to encourage more people to help us. Please contact Michael or Sue Harvey on 01379 586355.

Saturday 5 December 12-4pm:

Wingfield Christmas Fayre at Wingfield Barns. Lots of stalls, crafts, decorations, paper flowers, scarves, shabby chic, vintage items, Body Shop, Christmas wreaths, hand painted wooden items, jewellery, raffle, mince pies. An afternoon out for the family.

Carols and Champers

Not a concert but an enthusiastic celebration of Christmas for those who love Christmas carols, old and more well known. 5pm, Sunday 27 Dec, St Andrew's Church, Wingfield. Join in or sit and listen as you wish. All voices and abilities welcome. Musical instruments welcome too. If you would like copies of the music or would like to bring an instrument, contact Peter Demetriadi on peter_midpet@btconnect.com. Champagne, wine and soft drinks will be served after the service.

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

The Shoebox Gift scheme makes a happy Christmas for children around the world. Anne Swann (01379 669322) at Hoxne is the local organiser and welcomes offers of help before 16 Nov.

Cathedral Lent Retreat: Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 March 2016, Belsey Bridge Retreat Centre, near Beccles.

Led by Bishop Tim Stevens and members of the Cathedral ministry team. Find space, reflect and pray together. There will also be plenty of space for personal reflection. The cost is £145 per person (plus £5 supplement for en-suite room). For more details or to book contact the Cathedral on 01284 761982 or via reception@stedscathedral.org. Bishop Tim recently retired from being Bishop of Leicester and the most senior bishop in the House of Lords. Those with long memories will remember Bishop Tim when he was Bishop of Dunwich, another (more tenuous) connection to this diocese is that he was Chairman of Westcott House Council when they appoint are current Bishop there as Principal. Given Bishop Tim's thoughtful style and years of wisdom and experience, I believe this will be a very appropriate retreat for Lent.

Afternoon of Christmas Cheer

5 December, 2pm to 4pm, at St John's Church in Denham. With gifts to buy, cakes, Christmas cards, mulled wine and mince pies, and carols, we are hoping to set the mood for the Christmas season.

Benefice Services this Sunday (29 Nov)

Benefice Communion at St Andrew's Wingfield, 11.15am. Please come early for coffee and croissants before the service. Parking available at The Rectory. **Also**, Benefice Advent Carols at St Peter's Athelington, 4.30pm.

Syleham

Remembrance Sunday - as usual, a simple Act of Remembrance was centred on the stone war memorial in St Margaret's Church and this year it was led by Canon Andrew Vessey.

Messy Church Sunday 6 December, 4pm at the Village Hall. We shall be thinking Christmas, with Rev Michael, making Christingles, and other seasonal activities before sharing a scrummy tea. Sessions last about an hour and all are most welcome - but children must bring an adult. (Our next session will be on 3 January).

Carol Service with Amici Sunday 20 Dec, 11am, St Margaret's Church, Syleham. Once again we are privileged to be joined by Amici for this popular Carol Service, giving a lovely start to the season. Festive refreshments will follow. Please remember that parking is very limited and car-share if at all possible.

Carol singing in aid of East Anglian

Children's Hospice Tuesday 22 Dec from 6pm. Anyone is welcome to join Adrian and Jane Knott at White House Farmhouse, Syleham, between 6pm and 6.30pm for a glass of wine and a bite before setting off to sing around the village OR if you would like the carol singers to sing for you at your home give Adrian a call on 669320.

Christmas Eve at 3pm at St Margaret's Church Crib Service, a new (to us) carol service for all ages, with traditional carols and a focus on the nativity narrative. All are welcome, from Syleham and elsewhere. Why not make an 'angel' to join our angel-choir? There are many ideas on the web - search for *angel craft*.

Denham midweek Communion

Tuesday 8 December, 7.30pm at Barbara Irwin's, Reading Hall, Denham.

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.

* **Redlingfield's monthly winter** coffee morning, Weds 2 Dec, will be at the home of Andrew and Christine Gerken, Eastern Barn, 3 Abbotts Meadow, Redlingfield. Includes a free raffle. Usual coffee, tea, cakes and fellowship plus a book swap.)

* **Wingfield coffee** in the foyer at Wingfield Barns, 10am to 12 noon, Tuesday 15 Dec.

Also in Redlingfield

The Redlingfield Swing Dance at The Red Feather Club, Horham Airfield, last month, raised £1335 for repairs to Redlingfield church.

Christmas begins in Hoxne on Saturday 28 November with the Christmas Fair in St Edmund's Hall. Opening at 12noon and running through to mid afternoon, the fair is always a source of festive treats and all-round enjoyment. Lunch-time refreshments will be available - and Father Christmas is planning his annual visit.

A Mammoth Book Sale is planned for Sat 23 January at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne. This all day event, organised by the Friends of the Church, will take the place of the monthly coffee morning but refreshments including a lunchtime soup and roll will be available. Would you all be kind enough to donate any good quality books please. Chris Johnson, (01379 668220) is the contact.

<p>You are invited..... to Rev Michael and Mary's Christmas Open House, Saturday 19 Dec, 5-7pm St. Andrew's House, (The Rectory) Wingfield.</p>
--