



DEC 2016	4 December 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	11 December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent	18 December 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Athel'ton			9.30am * Holy Communion		
Denham				3pm * Live Nativity	11.15am * Family Communion
Horham		9.30am * BCP Holy Communion	4.30pm Carols by Candlelight	11.30pm * Midnight Mass	
Hoxne	11.15am * Holy Communion	11.15am Matins BCP	8.30am * BCP Holy Communion 10.30am * Christingle		10am * Family Communion
Redl'field	9.30am * Holy Communion				10am Holy Communion
Syleham	4pm * Messy Church Fennings Farm Pixey Green		11.15am Christmas with the Amici Singers		9.30am + BCP Holy Communion
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11am * Holy Communion	4pm * Carols by Candlelight		10am Family Service

\* with Rev Michael + with Canon Andrew

# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

## December 2016

2016 has been quite a year at the national and international level, and yet Christmas rolls around again. The regularity of Christmas' return can be seen as a symbol of God's steadfastness.

In the Old Testament, the storms of the sea were often used as a symbol for the turmoil of nations; they thrash around before settling back to calm, this was in contrast to the stability of God in heaven. The ancient Jews were not a sea-faring nation- they were scared of the sea, and there were also scared of the power and manoeuvrings of surrounding nations. In their imagery they joined their fears together but then set the power of God over those fears.

But many of us have been more pre-occupied with events in our own lives and of our loved ones than by current affairs. In the Christmas Story, we see this all woven together in the Holy Family; Mary and Joseph, along with all their people, struggling to satisfy the requirements of a foreign and remote ruler and at the same time with deal with the enormity of Mary's impending delivery.

It might be ambitious to wish you a Happy Christmas, but I hope we can all take comfort this Christmas that Emmanuel translates as God is with us. **Reverend Michael**

Rev Michael's rest days and days away from the benefice in December  
Thurs 1, Tues 6, Thurs 8, Weds 14, Thurs 22, Weds 28, Thurs 29, Fri 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

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



**Syria.....For how long?**

**Bishop Martin says**

‘Our cries and the cries of people around the world go up for the people of Syria and Iraq. We live by faith, and our prayer is an expression of that faith. I am asking all of us each Friday at noon to pause whatever we are doing, and spend a minute in prayer for those who are suffering, those providing help, and for peace. One minute, at noon, every Friday. Prayer makes a difference, and by this simple commitment we can help those who are in such desperate need.’

**Lord we pray for the people of Syria and Iraq; for an end to killing and terror; for an end to hostilities, for a lasting peace; for courage for those delivering humanitarian aid; for all those seeking to bind up wounds and alleviate suffering; for those made homeless by the conflict; for those fleeing as refugees, and for those providing welcome and hospitality. We pray for your church in Syria and Iraq, and for faith in the midst of tragedy and suffering. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

We have nominated Horham Church as a venue open for anyone who prefers to be with others, Christian or not. So, if you would like to join us at noon on Fridays, you would be very welcome.

For more details please contact: Tanya Mason on 01379 871065, realityshines@talk21.com or Evelyn Adey on 01728 628428, evelyn.adey@btinternet.com.

**There are plenty of Christmas celebrations (other services on rota) in the churches of the Hoxne benefice this December; we look forward to welcoming you...**

<b>Sat 26 Nov</b>	Hoxne	12-2.30pm	Hoxne Christmas Fair, St Edmund's Hall
<b>Sun 27 Nov</b>	Wingfield	3.30pm	Christingle Service
	Athelington	4.00pm	Advent Carols with mulled wine/ mince pies
<b>Sat 3 Dec</b>	Redlingfield	10.00am-4.00pm	Scenes of Christmas, stalls and displays.
<b>Sun 4 Dec</b>	Redlingfield event continues	9.30am with Communion, church then open with displays ending with carols round the tree at 4pm	Messy Church Christmas party, Fennings Fm
	Benefice	4.00pm	School Carol Service
<b>Tues 13 Dec</b>	Hoxne church	6.00pm	Benefice Communion Carol Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine
	Denham	7.30pm	Christingle Service
<b>Sun 18 Dec</b>	Hoxne	10.30am	Carol Service with the Amici Singers
	Syleham	11.15am	Carols by Candlelight, followed by mince pies/ mulled wine in Wingfield College
	Wingfield	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
	Horham	4.30pm	Village Carol Service
<b>Mon 19 Dec</b>	Hoxne	7.30pm	Carols
<b>Tues 20 Dec</b>	Redlingfield	7.00pm	Open House afternoon
<b>Weds 21 Dec</b>	Wingfield Rectory	2.00-5.00pm	Beer and Carols, Community Centre
	Horham	7.30-8.30pm	Carol singers out and about in the villages
	Syleham/Wingfield	evening	Live Nativity, Nora's Barn, Denham Road
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Hoxne	3.00pm	Midnight Mass
	Horham	11.30pm	

**Prayer breakfasts**

Monday mornings - breakfast and prayers. We meet 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. We are finished by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for where we will be, as we rotate venues.

**Denham** After the family service at 11.15am on 27 November, there will be bric-a-brac and Save the Children Christmas cards for sale. Please support.

**Hoxne**

**Friends of St Peter & St Paul** coffee morning, Sat 3 December, 10am to 12 noon, in the church. Re-plastering work completed in the north aisle of Hoxne church; now it's the painters' turn. Apologies to visitors as viewing the history display panels will be limited for the time being.

**Live Nativity on Christmas Eve**



**3pm-4pm at Nora's Yard, Hoxne**  
**Come and see the animals and hear the Christmas story. Children are welcome to dress up!**

Just 400 yards up the Denham road from Hoxne School

**Syleham** has its Carol Service, with Amici, on Sunday 18 December at 11.15am.

The village carol singers will be out and about (Syleham & Wingfield) on the evening of Weds 21 December and anyone wishing to join them or invite a visit should contact Adrian Knott on 669320.

**Messy Church** for the benefice will be holding a Christmas party at 4pm, Fennings Barn on Sunday 4 December. The following Messy Church will be 8 January. Contact for any of the above - Churchwarden Mary Lewis, 01379 669258 mary.lewis43@icloud.com.

**Coffee and cyber café in the Old School Hall in Horham** every Wednesday morning, 10.30am up to Christmas, with mulled wine on 21 Dec. No coffee morning on 28 Dec but resuming on 4 January, with coffee, cookies, cakes and chatter, internet access and tuition.

**The Rural Coffee Caravan is taking its winter break** but there are still monthly coffee mornings \* in **Redlingfield** on Weds 7 Dec at the home of Pauline Abbotts, Rookery Farm. \* in **Wingfield** at Wingfield Barns on Tues 20 Dec, both 10am to 12 noon.

**Redlingfield Quiz**

On Saturday 26 Nov, Redlingfield Church quiz to raise funds for continuing work to update the church. The quiz is to be held at Horham Community Centre at 7pm for 7.30pm, with tables for four, at a cost of £5 per person including a plated supper.

*These newsletters are found in each church but can also be received by email. Send your email address to [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)*

