



# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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



## December 2017

The key human aspect of the Nativity story is how a pregnant, migrant woman is given shelter where she can give birth. It is a very powerful image that features on many Christmas cards.

Hospitality and welcome are central to Benedictine monasteries and I am equally concerned that churches are also places of welcome and hospitality. This came home to me very forcibly on our trip to Norway where time after time we tried to get into a church only to find it locked. This seemed particularly ironic in the case of the railway carriage that had been converted to a church that even had a notice on the locked door saying that everyone was welcome to come in. Actions speak louder than words! It is easy enough to print a notice saying 'welcome', it doesn't take a great deal to say 'welcome'; but there is an adage that you should listen with your eyes - what welcome is seen by a locked church? What welcome is received from a cold heart?

A lot of Christmas is trimming and frills. All the wrapping paper, cards and decorations will be gone twelve days later (sooner if the shops have their way). Beneath all the trimming and frills though, what will really last? What message of Christmas will visitors to our churches, to our homes see this Christmas? Will it be a Christian one of welcome, reconciliation and hope? Or will it be a 'commercial' one of you can come in as long as you pay your part?

The landlord welcomed Mary and Joseph at Christmas. God welcomes us every second of our lives. May we be people of God who are just as welcoming. **Reverend Michael**

Rev Michael's rest days and days away from the benefice:  
Thurs 7, 14, 21, Weds 27, Thurs 28, Fri 29 December.

**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

DEC 2017	3 December Advent and St Andrew	10 December 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	17 December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
<b>Athel'ton</b>	4.30pm Advent Carols+		9.30am Holy Communion+		
<b>Denham</b>			3pm Carol Service+	11.15am* Family Communion	
<b>Horham</b>		9.30am * BCP Holy Communion	4.30pm Carols by Candlelight	11.30pm Midnight Mass*	
<b>Hoxne</b>	11.15am * Holy Communion	11.15am Matins BCP	8.30am * BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Christingle		11.15am * Family Communion
<b>Redl'field</b>	9.30am * Holy Communion				10am ^ Holy Communion
<b>Syleham</b>	3.30pm * Messy Church with Steve Sausage		11.15am Christmas with the Amici Singers*		9.30am BCP Holy Communion *
<b>Wingfield</b>	10am Morning Prayer	11am * Holy Communion	4pm ~ Carols by Candlelight	3pm Crib Service+	10.30am+ Family Communion

and  
**Sunday 31 December, a benefice Communion Service at Denham at 11.15am, followed by refreshments. Theme – commitment to the New Year**

Tuesday 12 December, Denham mid-week Communion at the home of Ian and Carol Rose, 01379 669337.

\* with Rev Michael    + with Rev Eleanor    ^ with Rev Richard  
~with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor



**What happens if you cross a book group with a lunch club?** I don't know! OK, probably no worse than a Christmas cracker joke, but I'm interested to find out. For Lent in 2018, I am planning a series of lunchtime sessions along the lines of the Return of the Prodigal series of last year. This time the subject will be Babette's Feast by Karen Blixen. If you'd like to come, let me know which days you can't manage and I will try to avoid them.

**The Lammas Service** in August prompted very generous donations and £2490.55 has been forwarded to the Addington Fund to help farming families in distress. Thank you!

**Rectory Open House** Everyone is warmly invited to the Rectory, St. Andrew's, Vicarage Rd, Wingfield IP21 5RB for this year's drinks and nibbles on Saturday 16 Dec from 2pm to 4pm. It's an open house so please bring along any friends and relatives.

**St Edmund's Day pageant at the Hoxne Swan** Many thanks to everyone who took part, from the assembled crowd, actors, and all who joined in the singing. Revd Eleanor's sheep-dog skills and Nina's performance as the human hymn-book with the keyboard were wonderful.

**Good news** Thanks to the collection at the end of Beer and Hymn, a generous private donation and income from [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), we have repaid the loan for the keyboard and the Benefice Blasters now have a keyboard to call their own, further enhancing our worship across the benefice (including pubs). It is not too late to register to support <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice> to raise free donations for our churches from your Christmas shopping.

**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 25 Nov</b>	Hoxne	12-2.30pm	Hoxne Christmas Fair, St Edmund's Hall
<b>Sun 3 Dec</b>	Athelington	4.30pm	Advent Carols with mulled wine/mince pies
	Syleham Vill Hall	3.30pm	Messy Church Christmas party
<b>Sat 16 Dec</b>	Wingfield	2.00pm	Rectory open house
<b>Sun 17 Dec</b>	Hoxne	10.30am	Christingle Service
	Syleham	11.15am	Carol Service with the Amici Singers
	Denham	3.00pm	Carol Serv followed by mulled wine/mince pies
	Wingfield	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
	Horham	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
<b>Mon 18 Dec</b>	Hoxne	2.30pm	St Edmunds Primary School, carol service
	Redlingfield	7.00pm	Carols followed by refreshments
<b>Tues 19 Dec</b>	Hoxne	7.30pm	Hoxne village Carol Service
<b>Weds 20 Dec</b>	Horham	7.00pm	Beer and Carols, Community Centre
	Wingfield	6.00pm	Carols on the Castle Green. Food available
	Syleham/Wingfield	6.00pm	Carol singers out and about in the villages
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Denham	11.15am	Family Communion
	Wingfield	3.00pm	Crib Service
	Horham	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Syleham	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	Redlingfield	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Wingfield	10.30am	Family Communion
	Hoxne	11.15am	Family Communion

**Prayer breakfasts** Monday mornings - breakfast and prayers. 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. Finished by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for where we will be, as we rotate venues.

**Wingfield Carols on the Green** Castle Crescent, Weds 20 Dec. Christmas starts here. Join us to sing your favourite carols with friends and neighbours. Burgers and mulled wine available. From 6pm.

*Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2018*

**Coffee morning in Redlingfield** on Weds 6 Dec, 10am to 12 noon at the home of Nick and Maria Ford at The Willows, Cranley Road, including a free raffle, mince pies, sherry, tea and coffee but you don't have to have all of them!

**Coffee morning in Wingfield** at Wingfield Barns on Tues 19 Dec, 10am to 12 noon.

There will be no **Friends of the church** coffee morning in Hoxne in December. Normal service will resume in January.



**Syleham** has its Carol Service, with Amici, on Sunday 17 December at 11.15am. Once again, the village carol singers will be out and about (Syleham & Wingfield) on the evening of Weds 20 December, from 6pm, in aid of EACH. 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 on Sunday 3 December, 3.30 - 5.30pm in Syleham village hall. Please could families arrive promptly so as not to miss the start of entertainment. Contact Mary Lewis, 01379 669258 [mary.lewis43@icloud.com](mailto:mary.lewis43@icloud.com).

**Coffee and internet café in the Old School Hall in Horham** every Wednesday morning, 10.30am to 12 noon up to Christmas, with mulled wine on the 20 December. No coffee morning on the 27 December. We open again on 3 January for delicious coffee and cake, good company and computer support.

**Hoxne Benefice Mothers' Union** For the meeting on Monday 18 December we are joining the children of St Edmunds School for their carol service at Hoxne church at 2.30pm. The i-Chameleon shop at Halesworth raised £1,608.55 less £145 in expenses. Thank you to everyone for your support. Cathie McGregor Branch Leader 01379 668434.

**Very advance notice.....**Hoxne Friends of the Church quiz, 3 Feb in the village hall. Tables of 6, £5 per head. Bring your own picnic, bar open.

*This newsletter is found in all our churches but if you would prefer to receive yours by email, please send your details to [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)*