



Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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



December 2019

DEC 2019	1 Dec Advent and St Andrew	8 Dec 2 nd Advent	15 Dec 3 rd Advent	22 Dec 4 th Advent	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Athel'ton	4pm * Advent Service		9.30am + Village Carol Service			
Denham				3pm + Carol Service		
Horham		9.30am + BCP Holy Communion		4.30pm * Carols by candlelight	11.30pm * Midnight Mass	
Hoxne	8.30am # BCP Holy Communion		11.15am ^ Holy Communion	11.15am * Holy Communion		11.15am # BCP Holy Communion
Red'field	9.30am # Holy Communion			10am Morning Prayer		9.30am > Christmas Praise
Syleham	4pm + Benefice Messy Church party		10.00am * Advent Praise	11.15pm > Carols with Amici		9.30am + BCP Holy Communion
Wingfield	11.15am # Holy Communion		4.30pm > Carols by Candlelight		4pm > Crib Service	11.15am + Family Communion

The familiar words of Luke's account of the nativity begin 'in those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria'. In the telling of the momentous event of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, who was anointed by God as the Christ, Saviour of the world, God's Son, Luke describes the political circumstances of the time.

In the weeks before Christmas, the news is normally not dominated by politics to the same extent as we are finding in 2019. The last UK December election was in 1923.

Rather than thinking about politics, we might prefer to be making preparations for Christmas: buying presents, making Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings, getting the house ready for visitors, organising Carol Services: all the things that normally occupy us in December. But Luke reminds us that worldly affairs were the backdrop to the original Christmas story, so instead of tossing aside the latest electioneering leaflet to drop through the letterbox, let it remind you that God's Son was born in a country in the midst of power struggles between different groups, a country which was difficult to govern.

This Advent season, more than ever, fix your eyes on the forthcoming celebration of Jesus' birth, and the message of hope that he brought in his life and teaching. But also spend Advent reflecting on why the world needed Jesus, and still needs Jesus. And for all that December is so often a busy month, on the 12th, recall Luke's focus on political matters, and vote!

Reverend John McCracken

Rev Michael's rest and teaching days in December are: Thurs, 5, 12, 19, 26, Mon 30, Tues 31

St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Diss, IP21 5RB. 01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

and
Sunday 29 December, a benefice Communion service at Denham at 11.15am, followed by refreshments

* with Rev Michael + with Rev Eleanor > with Rev John
~ with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor # Rev Michael with Rev John
^ with Rev Richard Court

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 Michael Womack



Sunday 1 Candlelight Advent service at St Peter, Athelington, 4pm. Please join us for a warm welcome and advent carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Also Sunday 1 Messy Church will be holding a Christmas party 4pm in Syleham village hall. Seasonal activities and games, tea and a Real Advent calendar gift.

Wednesday 4

Horham Coffee Morning at the School Hall in Horham and every Weds morning, 10.30 to 12noon up to Christmas, with mulled wine on the 18 December. Back on January 8.

Wednesday 11

Redlingfield village Christmas lunch, 1pm at Thorndon Black Horse. No coffee morning this month.

Also **Wednesday 11**

Carol Service at the Red Feather Club Horham with Diss Salvation Army brass band, 7.30pm. Singing round the flagpole, so wrap up warm. Followed by refreshments. (Location Denham IP21 5DG)

Wednesday 18 Carols at Wingfield

Dear Friends, you are cordially invited to a Christmas BBQ with mulled wine at Oaklands Farm, Bleach Green, Wingfield from 6.30pm. Nativity scene (donkey and other animals) and a craft stall. Carols in barn if weather inclement. A free event, kindly hosted by Charlotte and Ben Claxton. Donations appreciated for food and mulled wine. Please let us know by 8 Dec if you are able to join us, to help with catering. Proceeds to St Elizabeth's Hospice and St Andrew's Church. Sharon, 01379 384854. Best wishes, the Wingfield Events team.

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

Sunday 1	Athelington Syleham Vill Hall	4pm 4pm	Advent Carols with mulled wine/mince pies Messy Church Christmas party
Wednesday 11	Horham	7.30pm	Carol Service at Red Feather Club, Horham
Sunday 15	Athelington Wingfield	9.30am 4.30pm	Village carol service Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 17	Hoxne	7pm	Hoxne Village Carol Service
Wednesday 18	Wingfield Hoxne Horham	6.30pm 6pm 7.30pm	Carols at Oakland Farm (see left) Hoxne School carols Beer and Carols, Community Centre
Thursday 19	Syleham/Wingfield	6pm	Carol singers out and about in the villages
Friday 20	Redlingfield	6pm	Village Carol Service
Saturday 21	Wingfield	2.30-4.30pm	Rectory open house
Sunday 22	Syleham Denham Horham	11.15am 3pm 4.30pm	Carols with Amici Carol Service Carols by Candlelight
Monday 23	Hoxne	2.30pm	Depperhaugh carols
Christmas Eve	Wingfield Horham	4pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	Syleham Redlingfield Hoxne Wingfield	9.30am 9.30am 11.15am 11.15am	BCP Holy Communion Family Communion Family Communion Family Communion

Monday 16 Hoxne Benefice

Mothers' Union 2.30pm at Time House Low Street, Hoxne. Contact Cathie McGregor, 01379 668434.

Tuesday 17

Winter coffee morning in Wingfield Barns, 10am to 12noon.

Saturday 21 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, from 2.30 to 4.30pm

Also Saturday 21

Friends of Hoxne Church coffee morning, 9.30am in the church.

Monday 23 Depperhaugh carols

2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Sunday 29 Benefice Holy

Communion, 11.15am at St Mary, Denham, followed by refreshments.



Once again, the **village carol singers** will be out and about (Syleham, Wingfield and Weybread) on the evening of Thurs 19 December, from 6pm, in aid of EACH. Anyone wishing to join them or invite a visit should contact Adrian Knott on 669320.

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.

Advance notices

Sunday 5 January Christingle Messy Church at Syleham Church, not the hall. 4pm. Lots of oranges, candles and fun.

Sunday 12 January NEW Benefice Café Church at 9.30 for 10am in Hoxne church. Starts with coffee and croissants and moves through discussion at tables to prayer and worship. Come and try our new informal service!

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. **Total raised to date is £508!**

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

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2020!