



Hoxne Benefice Churches

Athelington Denham Horham

Hoxne Redlingfield

Syleham Wingfield

December 2023 News



Dec 2023	Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday	Sunday 10th Advent 2	Sunday 17th Advent 3	Christmas Eve Advent 4	Christmas Day
Athelington	4pm RC Advent Carol Service				
Denham			11am BI Carol Service	3pm Denham team Live Nativity	11am EG CW Holy Communion
Horham			4pm EG Carol Service	11.30pm EG Midnight Service	
Hoxne	9.30am JM BCP Holy Communion	9.30am EG for 10am Café Church	9.30am EG CW Holy Communion	11am EG Benefice Holy Communion	9.30am EG CW Holy Communion
Redlingfield		9.30am JM CW Holy Communion			9.30am RC CW Holy Communion
Syleham	4pm ML+team Messy Church Christmas Party, Vill Hall		11.15am EG Carol Service		10am ML Christmas Celebration
Wingfield	4pm EG Confirmation / commissioning of lay elder by Bishop Mike		4pm JM Carols by Candlelight		11am JM CW Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December - First Sunday of Christmas, 11am Benefice Holy Communion, Redlingfield. All weekday carol services detailed inside.

On the rotas.... EG - Revd Eleanor Goodison JM - Revd John McCracken
RC - Revd Richard Court ML - Mary Lewis BI - Barbara Irwin



Online Services

Every Saturday and Sunday:

Morning Prayer on facebook.com/WingfieldChurch, 8am

Every Friday: Compline on Zoom at 6pm.

For an invitation to Zoom services, please email eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

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	Peter Demetriadi 01379 586231

O hush the noise of mortal strife and hear the angels sing!

As we prepare for Christmas, the church's observance of the penitential season of Advent helps to remind us how far we still fall short of the message brought by the angels to the shepherds outside Bethlehem two thousand years ago: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace..." Yet today, as then, the angels still bring good news of great joy for all people. Jesus Christ is born as a human being to save the whole world from sin and death and to bring us the hope of eternal life with God. The best of all reasons to rejoice!

The Church of England's motto this Christmas is Follow the Star: Join the song.... and we will be indeed be joining the song with our usual busy programme of carol services. The songs begin with our Advent carol service at Athelington church on Sunday 3rd December. They continue with a Christmas concert by the Waveney Choir at 7pm on Wednesday 6th December at Wingfield church. No need to book, just turn up on the evening. There are loads more carols to enjoy singing, all detailed later in this newsletter. Plus don't miss our always popular Live Nativity in a stable in Denham at 3pm on Christmas Eve – look out for more details coming soon! (*see inside*)

For Christmas itself, Horham church will hold its usual Midnight service at 11.30pm on 24th December and there will be services in most of our churches on Christmas morning.

As the carol says: "For lo, the days are hast'ning on when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing."

I wish you all a joyful and peace-filled Christmas when it comes and a very happy New Year. **Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison**

Revd Eleanor usually works Friday to Monday and is available for urgent matters on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday is her day off. Messages received Thursday will normally be dealt with Friday.

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

Revd Eleanor: 07876 143579, eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Revd John: 07876 507288, vj.mccracken@gmail.com

Revd Richard: rev.richard.court@icloud.com

December 2023

Services for December

NB: there are lots of changes to our usual pattern of services – please check!

Saturday 2nd/Sunday 3rd

Decorated windows at Redlingfield church on the theme of 'All I Want For Christmas...' Refreshments available. Donations invited to church funds.

Also Saturday 2nd/Sunday 3rd

Wingfield Barns Christmas Fair with our usual stall selling gifts and edibles in aid of Wingfield church. Open 10am to 3pm both days.

Also Sunday 3rd

The Messy Church Christmas Party is at 4pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall. For children aged 3-7 with parents or carers and siblings. All welcome, but please let us know you are coming for catering purposes.

Also Sunday 3rd

Confirmation service at Wingfield church at 4pm with Bishop Mike, who will also be commissioning our new Lay Elder. Do come along and show your support!

Tuesday 5th

Coffee and cake: drop-in café at the village hall in Syleham. 10 to 11.30am. Come with a friend or on your own for a friendly chat or to browse a few books.

Also Tuesday 5th

Little Lambs will meet in the church for their Christmas crib service. 12.30pm as usual.

Weekday Christmas services. All others are on the rota grid

Monday 18th, 6pm, Lessons and Carols, Hoxne EG

Tuesday 19th, 6pm, Carol Service at Redlingfield JM

Saturday 23rd, 6pm, Crib Service at Athelington EG



Wednesday 6th

The winter coffee morning at Redlingfield will be held at Rush Meadow, Woodlane Road, hosted by Midge Gibbons. 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to come along for coffee (or tea), cake and a natter.



**Waveney Choir
Christmas Concert**

**Wednesday 6th December
7pm
at St Andrew's Wingfield**

**A varied programme of Christmas music
with some congregational carols**

**Suggested donation £10
Refreshments available
Proceeds to the church**



Monday 11th

We will be singing Christmas carols and saying prayers, 2.30pm, **The Depperhaugh**. Additional singers are always welcome.

Tuesday 12th

A special Bible Study session for Advent on Zoom at 7.30pm. Contact Revd Eleanor for the Zoom link if you do not receive an e-mail about it.

Wednesday 13th

The Book Club meets at 5pm (note earlier time) at the De La Pole Arms in Wingfield to discuss *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevenne* by Robert Louis Stevenson, maybe with a little festive fun thrown in. Everyone welcome – we are very informal and everyone gets a chance to contribute.

Saturday 16th

Hoxne Church Coffee Morning and book sale, 9.45 to 11.15am in the church. All welcome.

Sunday 17th to Friday 29th

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival at Hoxne church will be open to visitors from 17th to 29th Dec, 10am to 4pm. The church will be filled with Christmas trees decorated in all sorts of styles. Entry is free - donations invited.

Monday 18th

There will be no **Mothers' Union** fellowship meeting this month.

Tuesday 19th

Wingfield winter coffee morning at Wingfield Barns. 10am to 12 noon.

Thank you to all who helped raise money for our churches during the sponsored Ride and Stride event in September!

Christmas Eve

Our biennial **Live Nativity** will be taking place as usual this year. We are looking for actors to play the parts and are inviting any children who would like to dress as angels or shepherds to join in the action. Venue and other details will be confirmed nearer the time: look out for posters, or contact Revd Eleanor for further information.

Sunday 31st

First Sunday of Christmas, 11am, Benefice Holy Communion at Redlingfield.

easyfundraising.org.uk

It really is easy for anyone who shops online...**It costs you nothing and gives the benefice a percentage of everything you spend. So far, we have raised over £1000.** easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice.

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

For email newsletters from the diocese, email communications@cofesuffolk.org

Samaritans - It's alright to ask for help

Tel: 116123

Refuge, against domestic violence

Tel: 0808 2000 247

ChildLine Tel: 0800 1111

Waveney Foodbank Tel: 07484 394749

- more food always required please.

If you can, please make extra donations either at Hoxne church or when you do your supermarket shop. Tinned and dry foods along with jams (not home-made) and pasta sauces always welcome or you may donate money online.

We wish you a happy Christmas!