

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

February 2017

Have you given any thought to what you will do in Lent yet? On 28 December I received an email telling me that it was only 10 weeks until Lent (not that I wanted to know) and that I should be ordering my resources (have you seen how much they cost?). Needless to say, I deleted it. Pausing for a moment, it made me wonder what the Bible would look like if the early Church had a delete button. Fortunately the early church realised that they weren't receiving junk mail and preserved many of the letters. One thing that emerges from them is how the different churches, spread around the eastern Mediterranean, supported one another with collections for the needy.

Coming back now to getting ready for Lent (which starts on the 1 March), amongst the circulars that I've received was one from the Diocese about a Lent appeal for Kagera, our partner diocese in Tanzania. At this point I must declare an interest as when we were in Tanzania, a lot of the relief flights that I arranged were to refugee camps in the area. Now Kagera needs relief as there is a drought and our diocese is appealing to us to help our brothers and sisters in Christ there.

The diocese has launched the Kagera Lent Challenge. It asks various questions and suggests an amount you donate, e.g. if on the 5 March you drive to church, it suggests giving 20p. Over the course of Lent and across the diocese we should be able to send a tidy amount to Kagera and so maintain the early church's practice of supporting those churches in need. A good Lenten practice! I have copies available or you can get them from kagera@cofesuffolk.org

Rev Michael

Rev Michael's days off in Feb are: Thurs 2, 9, 16, 23 and Fri 24.

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

FEB 2016	5 Feb 4 th before Lent	12 Feb 3 rd before Lent	19 Feb 2 nd before Lent	26 Feb Sunday before Lent
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion*	
Denham				11.15am Family Service*
Horham		9.30am BCP Communion*		11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Communion *	11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Communion* 11.15am Gardeners' Service*	10am Family Service
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Communion *			10am Morning Prayer
Syleham	4pm Messy Church *		10am Village Praise	9.30am BCP Holy Communion *
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion*		6.30pm BCP Evensong+

Tuesday 14 February, Midweek Communion at Denham, 7.30pm*, at the home of Ian and Carol Rose, Willow Cottage, off Hoxne Road, Denham IP21 5DF. 01379 669337 for directions

* with Rev Michael + with Archdeacon Ian and Rev Michael

Monday prayer and breakfast continues

If your New Year's resolution was to make your pattern of prayer more regular, you are very welcome to come and join us on a Monday morning. We meet 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. We are finished by 9am; a gentle but nourishing start to the week in so many ways! Contact Rev Michael for more details.

Email addresses

Please remember that we have 2 emails for the Hoxne Benefice. Rev Michael's is hoxnebenefice@gmail.com. This is completely confidential and nobody else sees it. Rev Michael checks it several times a day, so this, along with its confidentiality, makes it the best one for pastoral matters. hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com is used by Virginia. This is the one to use for general administrative matters. She is only *meant* to check it once a week (generally Monday mornings, though realistically every couple of days) so is not suitable for urgent or pastorally sensitive matters. Though I would add that Virginia is very discreet so don't worry if you use the wrong one; it just might be a while before you get a reply!

hoxnebenefice@gmail.com - Michael

hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com - Virginia

Future dates

We would be very happy to publish in each newsletter this year's dates of church fairs and other church fundraising. Please send dates as soon as they are decided. It will help all our diaries and avoid any clashes.

Sun 11 June, 3pm. Amici Singers concert, Syleham Church – this, by their request, will be in memory of John Leader.

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

A Spirituality for every day – The Sermon on the Mount.

Thursday 16 March 2017 10.00am - 4.00pm The Edmund Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral. A day led by Bishop Mike who writes "One of the greatest gifts of Jesus to us is his Sermon on the Mount - but some of the ways we interpret it can seem like bad news in terms of how high the bar is set or what we are required to do. This day looks at Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount and how it is wonderfully wise teaching, enabling our spiritual transformation, a transformation rooted in the action of actually following Jesus and his teaching in ways which enable us to begin to take on something of his character. The Sermon on the Mount is not about a new and sterner legalism but pointers to what life can become for devoted disciples and apprentices of Jesus. There will be three talks during the course of the day with plenty of room for silence and reflection." This event is free and drinks will be provided. This is part of the ongoing Diocesan prayer and spirituality initiatives aiming to encourage the priority of prayerfulness at the heart of all we do. To register, please go to www.cofesuffolk.org/events. Enquiries to Caroline Redman at spirituality@cofesuffolk.org or phone 01359 269335.

A Lent Group is being planned to watch and discuss Philip Yancey's 'The Jesus I never knew.' Each individual session intends to offer a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work - who he was and why he came. Details yet to be finalised, but if you are interested in coming to a friendly, no pressure, cake and coffee group to take another look at Jesus and his life, please contact Barbara Irwin on **01379 870500**.

Coffee in the Old School Hall in Horham every Wednesday morning from 10.30am 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 1st February at the home of and on 1 February at the home of Midge and Chris Gibbons, Rush Meadow, with a book swap too.

* in **Wingfield** at Wingfield Barns on Tues 21 Feb, both 10am to 12 noon.

There will be a deanery wide Ash

Wednesday service on Wednesday 1 March, 7.30pm at All Saints' Stradbroke. All benefices will be taking part and we look forward to as many as possible being able to join us for this poignant service.

Black Dog at The Swan

Is a black dog holding you back? Winston Churchill described his bouts of mental anguish as his black dog. If it feels like a black dog *is* holding you back, you're in good company. The churches of the Hoxne benefice and the Hoxne Swan are jointly launching 'Black Dog at The Swan'. Every Tuesday afternoon, 2 to 3pm at The Swan in Hoxne, there will be a group of non-judgemental, caring, supportive, like-minded people to chat with you. So whatever your black dog; grief, anxiety, trauma, depression... please come and join us. Further details from Rev Michael Womack, 01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

Midweek Communion at Denham

on Tuesday 14 February, 7.30pm, at the home of Ian and Carol Rose, Willow Cottage, off Hoxne Road, Denham IP21 5DF. Phone 01379 669337 for directions.

Messy Church for the benefice is Sunday 5th February, 4pm at Syleham village hall.

Hoxne

Mothers' Union, Hoxne branch, 20 February, 2.15pm at Time House, Hoxne. Speaker: Rev Michael

Friends of St Peter & St Paul Hoxne

February coffee morning will be held on Sat 25 February, 10am to 12 noon in Hoxne church. From March, it will be on the 3rd Saturday of the month. (18 March).

Village Voices Choir present a concert for the Friends of the church on Saturday 11 March, 7pm for 7.30pm. Cheese and wine after the performance. Details and tickets from Rhona Bertie on 01379 871850.

Gardeners' Service at Hoxne church. We are inviting all gardeners to bring their favourite garden tool for a blessing. Usual time of 11.15am. A timely celebration as we look forward to spring!

Syleham

We really enjoyed sharing our joint Village Praise service on 15 January when congregations from Wingfield and Syleham came together in St Margaret's. Join us for next month's service on Sunday 19 February. Leadership and participation will be shared. Refreshments will follow.

Our next Evensong service will be Sunday 26 February, 6.30pm in the beautiful setting of the choir stalls of St Andrew's Wingfield. The January service with Rev Canon Graham Owen as cantor was very much enjoyed. We are very fortunate to have Archdeacon Ian as our next cantor and preacher in February.

Thank you to those who have already answered my plea of last month and have volunteered to join our PCCs. However, we still need more volunteers across the benefice - wardens, treasurers, secretaries and PCC members. Interested? Please call Rev Michael to discuss further. It can be great fun to be involved!