

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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



February

| Feb 2019 | Sun 3 Feb Epiphany 4 | Sun 10 Feb Epiphany 5 | Sun 17 Feb Epiphany 6 | Sun 24 Feb Epiphany 7 |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Athel'ton | | | 9.30am Holy Communion * | |
| Denham | | 11.15am Benefice Family@church | | 11.15am* Holy Communion |
| Horham | | 9.30am+ BCP Communion | | |
| Hoxne | 8.30am+ BCP Communion | | 11.15am* Holy Communion | 11.15am BCP Matins |
| Redl'field | 9.30am+ Holy Communion | | | 10am Morning Prayer |
| Syleham | 3pm+ Benefice Messy Church | | 10am Village Praise | 9.30am BCP Holy Communion* |
| Wingfield | 11.15am+ Holy Communion | | | 6.30pm+ Benefice BCP Evensong |

From the rector

I expect many of us have heard it said that the phrase, 'Fear not' appears in the bible 365 times so those who seek to follow the way of Christ can be reassured every day of the year. The blogger, 'Musings of a minister's wife' (Melinda Martin), set to work to find them. But there are only 80, add in variations like 'do not be afraid' adds on another 35, but that's only a third of the oft stated number.

I am here to look for the signs of God's kingdom- the good news, and you might be wondering where the good news is in hearing that 'fear not' doesn't turn up in the bible very often. Especially as we venture deeper into a year when there is plenty to be afraid of? Things to fear in the world, and as we get ready for AGMs and think about life after I leave next year there seems to be plenty to be fearful about.

Yes, there are problems but in this season of the snowdrops coming through we are reminded of possibility and signs of hope. We all want to see younger people connecting with the church and family@church is getting established. We know that it is ever harder to be able to provide services as often as we'd like, but there is a huge range of worship on a Sunday, and people willing to offer lifts to church.

These are times of change and uncertainty, but I shall leave the last word to Melinda, 'However, hopefully we are at that point in our Christian walk that we don't need to hear God say something 365 times. Once should be enough... Be blessed....and not afraid.

Rev Michael

Rev Michael's holidays and rest days in February:

Fri 1 to Thurs 14, Thurs 21, Weds 27, Thurs 28 Feb

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

* with Rev Michael + with Rev Eleanor



Church contacts

Athelington: St Peter.

Denham: St John the Baptist.

Hoxne: St Peter & St Paul.

Horham: St Mary.

Redlingfield: St Andrew.

Syleham: St Margaret.

Wingfield: St Andrew.

Colin Palmer 01728 628747

Rev Michael Womack

Guy McGregor 01379 668434, Wilf White 01379 668046

David Spall 01379 384239, Daphne Harvey 01379 384216

Hazel Abbott 01379 678217

Mary Lewis 01379 669258

Rev Michael Womack

Thursday 31 Jan

Home Group will meet on 31st January and then take a break during Lent. Queries to Barbara Irwin cobowner@gmail.com or Mary Lewis. mary.lewis43@icloud.com, 01379 669258.

February 2019

Sunday 3

Messy Church for the benefice at Syleham village hall, 4pm. Come and join our growing group for lots of fun and the usual scrummy tea.

Wednesday 6

Redlingfield winter coffee morning (instead of the Coffee Caravan) - 10am - 12 noon at Maria Ford's home, The Willows, Cranley Green. Come along for a drink, delicious cake and great company.

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27

Coffee and internet café in the Old School Hall in Horham, 10.30am - 12 noon for delicious coffee and cake, good company and computer support.

Friday 8

Holy Communion service at The Depperhaugh at 11.30am. Everybody welcome to join us at this special service.

Sunday 10

Benefice family@church, 11.15am, St John's Denham. (See right). This month's theme is *Shine the light!*

Saturday 16

Friends of Hoxne church coffee morning in church, 9.30am to 11am. All welcome. Book stall and raffle.

Monday 18

Hoxne benefice Mothers' Union 18 January, meeting at Time House, Hoxne, 2.30pm. Contact Cathie - 668434.

Tuesday 19

Coffee at Wingfield Barns (instead of the Coffee Caravan) - 10am - 12 noon. Come along for a chat over a drink and delicious cake with great company.

Sunday 24

Benefice Evensong at Wingfield, 6.30pm.

Christingle

On Sunday 6 January, Messy Church went to church! We gathered in Syleham church, which was bedecked with lovely candles for an interactive Christingle service- moving around the church making christingles. Different location, but same scrummy tea as delightful picnic boxes were served. We sent a donation of £40 to The Children's Society as a result - thank you to all the 'Messies' who took part. Following this event, we have a good supply of medium-size pillar candles so if other churches would like a few, please just ask.

Syleham church decoration. We are hopeful that internal redecoration of St Margaret's will take place this year - and then the memorial tablet for J Leader can be installed.

New Church Electoral Roll Every six years, each parish is legally required to compile a new electoral roll, and 2019 is one such year. You can help us to do this by contacting your parish's electoral roll officer, or church secretary and complete the necessary form. Being on the roll allows you to be fully involved in the running of the church from a legal point of view, but is also an encouraging sign of support for the parish church. Thank you. Rev Michael.

Thank you to Barbara and Harry Irwin for hosting the Live Nativity on Christmas Eve, and the wonderful acting troupe! Thanks to your donations, £50 has been given to Fressingfield Scouts and we are very grateful for their help with the park and ride service.

Prayer breakfasts continue on Monday mornings - breakfast and prayers. We meet at 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start at 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. We are always finished by 9am. Contact Rev Michael venue details, which change.

Family@church

Volunteers still wanted to join the team for our family@church 2nd Sunday benefice services attractive worship for all the family. If you are interested in being part of this new, monthly project, please let me know. Many thanks, Rev Michael.

Lent Lunches- armchair pilgrims!

This Lent, the popular lunches will be back and we're going on pilgrimage without leaving the comfort of the armchairs in Syleham Village Hall! Each week we will visit a pilgrimage site, there will be an explanation of the 'facts' of where it is, historical significance etc. and then a reflection on the spiritual impact that the pilgrim experienced, all accompanied by local food. One week will be the Italian Chapel on the Orkneys, with a consideration of how it was built, the spiritual moment accompanied by Scottish food (no deep fried Mars bars). Mondays - 18, 25 March, 1, 8, 15, 22 April. As usual there's no need to book but it would be helpful to know if you're coming, for catering purposes. Rev Michael

A loss We are sad to tell you of the death on 29 Nov of Betty Chapman, for many years a stalwart of Syleham church and a very active fundraiser. She had been cared for in The Trees Nursing Home in Harleston in recent years. Her funeral service was held here on 19 December and the beautiful coffin wreath was later returned to the church, and laid on the altar which she helped to maintain so diligently.

Advance notices

Saturday 16 February Cheese and Wine Evening, 8pm at Horham Community Centre to raise funds for St Andrew's church, Redlingfield. Tickets £10, includes all cheese, wine and nibbles you can consume! Bar open for purchase of other drinks. Raffle and tombola. Tickets available from Hazel Abbott on 678217 or Lesley on 07940 742 887.

Wednesday 6 March

Deanery Ash Wednesday service, 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul, Fressingfield.

Friday 8 March and each Friday in Lent - Compline at Wingfield Church at 6.00pm.

Monday 11 March Bishops Martin and Mike will walk from Wingfield to Hoxne as part of their Lent pilgrimage from the coast to the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds.

Saturday 23 March We plan to hold a Safari Supper around the benefice in aid of the Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera. If you would be able to help by hosting a group of people for either a main course or pudding, please contact Mary Womack on 01379 388889. marywomack63@gmail.com or Sue Harvey on 01379 668076, sueharvey355@gmail.com

Sunday 9 June

Fun dog show in Redlingfield.

Sunday 1 September

Redlingfield village produce show.

Let's raise funds for Churches of the Hoxne Benefice with easyfundraising! Please register to support us - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice> £361 raised to date!

There are paper copies of this newsletter in each church. For emailed copies, please email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com