

You will be warmly welcomed at all our services around the benefice

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

January 2015

January, and whilst I have a little time relaxing with my family (see over), I'm very grateful to the hard working church treasurers who will be working even harder than ever. The 31st December marks the end of the church accounting year, so, with one last mince pie, they have to set to work preparing the annual accounts for examination.

When those accounts are finished, we will see how generous our parishes have been this year. Generosity and giving are very Christmas and Christian virtues and it is hugely encouraging to remember your generosity. Across the benefice there have been donations to international charities for famine relief, national charities such as the Addington Fund for supporting farmers and local causes such as supporting a school in Ipswich.

On top of this should be added the donations that don't come through the church accounts such as Remembrance for the Royal British Legion and the impressive amount of food donated from our harvest services to the Waveney Valley Foodbank. The list goes on. Research has shown churchgoers to be the most generous donators to charities.

All cause for thanking God for the generous spirit that has been bestowed upon us! However, something that our treasurers will be acutely aware of is that it costs between £30 and £75 per day to keep our parish churches open with a priest available. You may like to consider a way to wish a treasurer a 'Happy New Year' by starting or reviewing your standing order to the PCC, so that we can keep our churches open and continue to be such an effective channel for God's generosity. Thank you.

Revd Michael Womack. St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Suffolk IP21 5RB.
01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

January 2015	Week 1 Sun 4th Jan Epiphany	Week 2 Sun 11th Jan Baptism of Christ	Week 3 Sun 18th Jan 2nd of Epiphany Week of prayer for Christian Unity begins Plough Sunday	Week 4 Sun 25th Jan Conversion of Paul
Athelington			9.30am Holy Communion	
Denham				11.15am Family Service
Horham	11.15am Family Service	9.30am Holy Communion		11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Communion	11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Holy Communion 11.15am Plough Sunday	10.00am Family Service
Redlingfield	9.30am Holy Communion			9.30am Morning Prayer
Syleham			11.15am BCP Matins	9.30am Holy Communion
Wingfield	10.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Service	10.00am BCP Matins

Churchwardens

Athelington: St Peter. Evelyn Adey 01728 628428, John Davy 01379 742878

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, John Leader 01379 668205

Wingfield: St Andrew. John McCracken 01379 384181, Michael Harvey 01379 586355

Do you know your Facebook from your Twitter or even how to use Whatsapp? Not a foreign language but the world of social media and how to spread news about activities and what is happening in our churches more fully.

We already have websites for our churches provided by the Church of England, and a limited Facebook and Twitter presence, but we need to improve all of these to help communicate with those around us. I'd like to set up a small group to make this possible. If you could be part of that group, please don't be shy as we desperately need your help. In the first instance, please contact Virginia Skoyles on hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com. Thanks.

Wingfield Barns - Tel: 01379 384505

Sunday 18th Jan 3pm, Puzzle House Pantomimes present *Dick Whittington*. All tickets £7. Call the pantomime box office on 01379 384655.

Community Art Exhibition Gallery 1 -

28th March - 11th April. Wingfield Barns invites amateur artists to submit work. No entry fee. Email volunteer.staff@wingfieldbarns.co.uk for further details and an application form. Completed forms by 9th February please.

The Hoxne Benefice Newsletter is found in all 7 churches, but you can get it early by receiving it by email.

To be on the email list, (bcc to hide addresses), please send an email to hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com Deadline for February HBN is 26th Jan.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy 2015!

Rev Michael's days off and holiday in January;

Thurs 1st, Mon 5th to Thurs 21st, Weds 28th to Fri 30th January.

During my holiday, Canon Andrew Vessey has again kindly offered to look after any pastoral situations such as funerals and can be contacted on 01379 588389 or email andrew.vessey@btinternet.com and Virginia Skoyles will continue to handle the benefice administration on 01379 586708 or email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com.

Horham coffee mornings every Wednesday, 10.30am at the Old School - coffee, cakes, chat and good company. Free admission, donations welcome.

Syleham

The work of Syleham's Mary Lewis, as a Local Giving Advisor, is given a special slot in the January issue of the diocesan newsletter, The East Anglian. Copies are available at the back of each church.

A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard cleaning our churches, decorating them and welcoming people to the many services during December and at Christmas. There were times when the flower arrangements completely took my breath away; they were simply beautiful. Thanks to everyone's hard work we were able to offer a great range of services from the simple, reflective to the joy of Carols and Champers (yes it will be back next year!) along with more conventional Christmas services; who says nothing ever happens in the country?!

Our new bishop Revd Canon Martin Seeley....visit the diocesan website for more information about him.....
<http://www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org>

Coffee, chat and choose

On the first Wednesday of each month, (7th Jan), 7pm to 8.30pm, at Barbara's, Reading Hall, Denham, where a selection of Christian books will be available to borrow - both adult and children's. Coffee and cake will be served if you wish to stay, but please feel free to just pop in and out. Contact Barbara on 01379 870500.

Messy church

It being the holiday season, there is NO Messy Church in January, but you don't have to wait too long for the next one as we'll all be back on **Sunday 1st February in Syleham Village Hall**, with the famous scrummy tea and thinking about Jesus as the light of the world.

Books to buy

Brian Chester has a supply of copies of Roy Tricker's book on the history of the diocese - *100 Not Out; A Century of the Church in Suffolk*. Price £3 if bought via the PCC; full price £5. He also has two or three copies of *100 Treasures* available. Contact Brian on 01379 669157.

Looking ahead to the beginning of Lent, an Ash Wednesday service for the deanery will be held at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne on 18th February beginning at 7.30pm. If you have any thoughts about content, location or form for this year's Lent Study Group, please let Rev Michael know by the end of January.

Learning Together is a quarterly bulletin from the Diocese of local learning opportunities. This is a re-vamped version of what used to be called the 'CME Bulletin', and it includes a wide range of extremely good events and courses, many of which are open to anyone, not just authorised ministers. To access it, search google for *St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Learning Together*.

Redlingfield and Wingfield

Coffee mornings, 10am to 12 noon, to replace the coffee caravan for the winter months, November to March. At Redlingfield on Wednesday 7th January, it will be held at the home of Jan and Neville Butcher, Hill Cottage and in Wingfield, Tues 20th Jan, in the foyer at Wingfield Barns. Come for a chat, good company, coffee, tea and biscuits. Donations welcome.

Evening Communion at Denham

It being too dark and cold, there will be no mid-week communion in January, but we plan to be back in February.

Hoxne

A series of special services for the third Sunday of each month has been arranged for the New Year at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne, beginning with Plough Sunday in January, followed by Heritage Sunday (February), Mothering Sunday (March), Gardeners' Sunday (April), The Phoenix Group (May) and a Civic Service (June).

Fête date – please note Saturday 27th June as the date for Hoxne's annual fête – this time to be held in the gardens of Abbey Farm.

A thank you from Brian Chester to those who bought Christmas trees in December. A total of £262 is being shared equally between the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Southwold Lifeboat, as a result.

Friends of Hoxne Church coffee morning, Saturday 24th Jan, 10-11.30am in the church.

To read Bishop David's Christmas blog visit <https://bpdt.wordpress.com> very interesting advice for all of us at the beginning of a new year!!