

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2018	4 February 2 before Lent	11 February Sun before Lent	18 February 1 st of Lent	25 February 2 nd of Lent
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion*	
Denham				11.15am* Family Service
Horham		9.30am + BCP Holy Communion		11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am + Holy Communion	11.15am Matins BCP	8.30am * BCP Holy Communion 11.15am Family 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	11am + Holy Communion		6.30pm Evensong #

No Denham midweek Communion on 13 February because there will be a deanery Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes on Weds 14 February, 7.30pm at Hoxne.

- * with Rev Michael
- + with Rev Eleanor
- ^ with Rev Richard
- ~ with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor

There are hard copies of this newsletter in the churches. Email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

At the **Benefice Evensong in Wingfield Church** on 28 January at 6.30pm, we will mark Candlemas with a candlelit service. The service will be taken by Canon Tim Jones who is the diocesan director of ordinands (responsible for the selection and training of new clergy). It is traditional on the feast of the Presentation in the Temple to bless lights that people will use in the year ahead. Please bring any light that you would like blessed in this way: whether it is a traditional candle, or a bicycle lamp, smartphone torch app, reading light or whatever.

January and February 2018

How much can be fitted into two months? All of life is here! January and February see a lot being squeezed in; quite possibly all of life's experiences are represented.

We start the month, still in the celebration of Christmas with Epiphany; that great moment when the mysterious magi have the wisdom to recognise the baby Jesus as the Messiah of the ancient prophecies. In Hoxne we have Alby's baptism that morning - will we have the humility to recognise the potential of him and every babe?

The joy of Christmas carries on through January until we get to the last Sunday of the month and Candlemas. This year there is no 5th Sunday in January to make the space for a benefice Eucharist, but I'm glad to say that Benefice Evensong in Wingfield celebrates its first birthday with the chance for lots of candles! Rev Canon Tim Jones will be officiating and the service will include the blessing of candles from our parishes, along with our own lights for the coming year.

'One last look back to Christmas, and now, turn towards the cross!' Is how one adage describes Candlemas. In years where Easter is late this doesn't always feel the case, but this year Ash Wednesday is on the 14th February (lesser saints are over-ridden but I think shops have a different rule!). After the beginning of life at Epiphany comes the reminder of our mortality and the Deanery Ash Wednesday service which this year is in Hoxne.

Lent lunches are back for this year and will be every Tuesday in Syleham Village Hall - food and thought all in one place! Maybe all of life really is here!!

Reverend Michael

Rev Michael's rest days and days away from the benefice in January and February:
Thurs 4, Thurs 11, Weds 17 - Weds 31 Jan. Thurs 1, Fri 2, Thurs 8, Thurs 15, Thurs 22 Feb.

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

Syleham Saturday 10 March, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Call my Bluff (wine). Hilarious evening at Syleham - details to follow.

Messy Church for the benefice on Sunday 7 January and 3 February, 4pm in Syleham village hall. Contact Mary Lewis, 01379 669258 mary.lewis43@icloud.com.

Hoxne Friends of the Church quiz, 3 Feb in the village hall. Tables of 6, £5 per head. Bring your own picnic, bar open.

Friends of the church coffee morning in Hoxne on Saturdays 20 January and 17 February, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Hoxne Benefice Mothers' Union, the 3rd Monday in the month, so 22 January and 19 February, 2.30pm. Contact Cathie McGregor Branch Leader, 01379 668434.

Food for Thought is back!

Following its previous success, Food for Thought is back for 2018. This year we will be looking at Karen Blixen's **Babette's Feast**; there'll probably be some of the film version in the mix! This is an excellent book for Lent as we reflect on Christ: who is the enigmatic stranger that nobody recognises but one person has an inkling about. And as we approach Maundy Thursday and the institution of Holy Communion, there's a meal that transforms its recipients! Tuesdays from 20 Feb 12.30 until 2pm at Syleham Village Hall.

Ideally you will need a copy of Babette's Feast (and other stories). It can be picked up very cheaply on the internet, (originally published as the collection Anecdotes of Destiny). Please let Rev Michael know if you're planning to attend (for catering numbers) and any dietary requirements. The course costs nothing, though donations to cover costs and top up benefice funds will be very welcome on the day. Mary Womack will be pleased to hear from anyone who can help with the catering.

Prayer breakfasts

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 for the venue as it changes.

Winter Coffee mornings in Redlingfield

The next will be on Wednesday 3 January 2018 from 10am until noon at the home of Linda Hudson, Woodvale, Redlingfield. It will be the usual mix of tea or coffee, cakes and conversation plus Garry will be calling in with the camper van and all his useful information. All village members are welcome to join us at no charge but donations will be welcomed. Also, 7 February, venue to be confirmed. Contact Jacqueline on 01379 678805.

Coffee mornings in Wingfield at Wingfield Barns on Tues 16 Jan and Tues 20 Feb, 10am to 12 noon.

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.

Coffee and internet café in the Old School Hall in Horham every Wednesday morning, 10.30am to 12 noon from 3 January for delicious coffee and cake, good company and computer support.

Athelington says a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our candlelight Advent carol service taken by Rev Eleanor. Chris Stanford's choir filled the church with joyful singing accompanied by Dougie Chittock on the organ.

Deanery Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 14 February, 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul Hoxne with clergy and congregation from around the deanery.

JANUARY 2018	7 January Epiphany Transfiguration	14 January 2 nd Epiphany	21 January 3 rd Epiphany	28 January Candlemas
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion+	
Denham				11.15am+ Family Communion
Horham		9.30am BCP Holy Communion*		11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am * Family Communion and Baptism	11.15am Matins BCP	8.30am + BCP Holy Communion 11.15am Plough Blessing at The Swan+	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+	11am Holy Communion*		6.30pm BCP Evensong#

Tuesday 9 January – 7.30pm, Denham Midweek Communion at Barbara Irwin's home, Reading Hall, Denham, with Rev Richard^

* with Rev Michael + with Rev Eleanor
 ~ with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor
 # with Rev Eleanor and Canon Tim ^ with Rev Richard

Redlingfield Cheese and Wine, Saturday 17 February, 8pm at Horham Community Centre. Tickets and more details from Lesley Freitas on 01379 678455.

At Denham church we are organising a quiz at St Edmunds Hall Hoxne on Saturday 17 March, with the doors opening at 7pm and the quiz beginning at 7.30pm. Teams of six are invited, with nibbles provided but teams should bring their own picnic. £5 per person.

A deanery course exploring the Ministry of Healing, Wholeness and Reconciliation is to be held fortnightly from 22 Jan to 19 March, 2.15 to 4.30pm on Monday afternoons in Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield. We will be looking at the theology, model and example from a Christian perspective and experience, Luke 4:18, Psalm 103. Contact Rev Rosemary Willis, willisbb@btinternet.com.