

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

January 2016

JAN 2016	3 Jan Epiphany	10 Jan Baptism of Christ	17 Jan Epiphany 2	24 Jan Epiphany 3	31 Jan Candlemas
	Jerem 31:7-14 Ephes 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18	Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinth 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehem 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Cor 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jerem 1:4-10 1 Corinth 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Comm		
Denham				11.15am Family Service	
Horham	11.15am Epiphany Gift Service	9.30am Holy Comm		11.15am Family Service	
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Comm	11.15am Morning Prayer	8.30am BCP Holy Comm 11.15am Plough Sunday	10am Family Service	10am Benefice Holy Comm
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Comm			10am Morning Prayer	
Syleham	4pm Messy Church for the benefice		11am Village Praise	9.30am Holy Comm	
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	10am Family Service	10am Morning Prayer	

Tuesday 12 January, 7.30pm, Midweek Communion

Have you noticed how the Church seems to have an ability to get things muddled up, possibly wrong? I'm not thinking about commissioning something to be shown in cinemas before researching the restrictions on adverts or the different regulations that apply to short films as opposed to adverts! I'm thinking about something far more established; how for all the deep winter darkness that is January, it is a month when the Church is ablaze and revels in light!

Perversely this cold and bleak month is one of the most hopeful and optimistic in the Church calendar. Early in the month we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday 3rd and 10th with its richness of the revealing of the light of Christ to the world. Later in the month is the Feast of the Conversion of Paul, another story in which light, a blinding light at that, plays its part.

We end the month with Candlemas. Historically this was the service at which all the candles to be used in Church in the coming year were blessed. I've developed that idea for our benefice service and have written more fully about it inside. One of the enduring images from the readings is the aged Simeon declaring, 'Lord lettest now thy servant depart in peace... mine eyes have seen thy salvation... a light to lighten the Gentiles.'

Sometimes the Church is back to front and wrong; sometimes it is seems back to front but actually is pursuing a great truth. At our Christmas services we read from St John's gospel, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'. With that in mind please enjoy January- the month of light!

Reverend Michael Womack

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With my phased return and post-Christmas holiday, it seems easiest to say which days I AM working this month... Mon 1 (pm), Sun 3, Mon 4, Tues 5, Weds 6 (am), Thurs 21, Fri 22, Sat 23, Sun 24, Mon 25, Tues 26, Weds 27, Sat 30 (am), Sun 31 January.

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



Carols and Champers

A huge success last year and to be repeated, due to popular demand. This lovely event is not a concert, not a service but an enthusiastic celebration of Christmas for those who love Christmas carols, old and more well-known. 5pm, Sunday 27 Dec, St Andrew's Church, Wingfield. Join in or sit and listen as you wish. All voices and abilities welcome. Musical instruments welcome too. If you would like copies of the music or would like to bring an instrument, contact Peter Demetriadi on peter_midpet@btconnect.com. Champagne, wine and soft drinks will be served after the service.



Wingfield Barns 01379 384505

Puzzle House Pantomimes present Aladdin, a fun-filled family panto. Sunday 17 January at Wingfield Barns. 3pm. All tickets £7. Suitable for ages 3 to 103. Box office 01379 384656.

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

Cathedral Lent Retreat: Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 March 2016, Belsey Bridge Retreat Centre, near Beccles.

Led by Bishop Tim Stevens and members of the Cathedral ministry team. Find space, reflect and pray together. There will also be plenty of space for personal reflection. The cost is £145 per person (plus £5 supplement for en-suite room). For more details or to book contact the Cathedral on 01284 761982 or via reception@stedscathedral.org. Bishop Tim recently retired from being Bishop of Leicester and the most senior bishop in the House of Lords. Those with long memories will remember Bishop Tim when he was Bishop of Dunwich, another (more tenuous) connection to this diocese is that he was Chairman of Westcott House Council when they appointed our current Bishop who was there as Principal. Given Bishop Tim's thoughtful style and years of wisdom and experience, I believe this will be a very appropriate retreat for Lent.

Syleham and Wingfield Senior Citizens Lunch Saturday 16 January at the Village Hall. If you live in either of the villages, are over 65, have not yet had an invitation and would like one, please call either Julie on 01379 668169 or Alison on 01379 668251 before 2 January, if possible.

Syleham

Messy Church for the benefice, continues on Sunday 3 January, 4pm at Syleham Village Hall.

Christmas Eve at 3pm at St Margaret's Church Crib Service, a new (to us) carol service for all ages, with traditional carols and a focus on the nativity narrative. All are welcome, from Syleham and elsewhere. Why not make an 'angel' to join our angel-choir? There are many ideas on the web - search for *angel craft*.

Denham midweek Communion

Tuesday 12 January, 7.30pm at The Brambles (home of Michael and Margaret Reeves). Everyone is welcome to this simple, reflective service.

Benefice Service, 31 January Through Advent and Epiphany many of us are filling collecting boxes for The Children's Society, sometimes the little collecting box with a candle that they provide or in anything we can find, like an old margarine tub. Please bring these to our Candlemas celebration at our benefice service at **Hoxne church at 11.15am** and they will feature in our worship as we gather them in. Also, please bring something that gives light, perhaps a candle or a torch or something imaginative; again these will feature in our worship.

Always plenty of coffee to drink!

* **In the Old School Hall in Horham** every Wednesday morning from 10am there is coffee, cookies, cakes and chatter and now, internet access and tuition!!

* **Redlingfield's monthly winter** coffee morning, Wednesday 6 January 2016. Linda Hudson, Woodvale, Redlingfield.. Includes a free raffle. Usual coffee, tea, cakes and fellowship plus a book swap.

* **Wingfield coffee** in the foyer at Wingfield Barns, 10am to 12 noon, Tuesday 19 Jan.

A Mammoth Book Sale is planned for Sat 23 January at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne. This all day event, organised by the Friends of the Church, will take the place of the monthly coffee morning but refreshments including a lunchtime soup and roll will be available. Would you all be kind enough to donate any good quality books please, either to our new committee member, Chris Johnson, (01379 668220) or bring them to Hoxne church beforehand so that they can be sorted into the different sections. Or we can collect.

The choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A rare treat for those who enjoy church music – will be at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne to sing Choral Evensong with all its musical splendour on Sunday 21 February beginning at 5.45pm. This will be the first time the highly regarded choir has visited the Hoxne Deanery and is part of the cathedral's outreach programme to churches in the diocese.

Plough Sunday will be celebrated at St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne with a Community Service at 11.15am on 17 January. In times past, when ploughs were more manageable in size, a plough was brought into church to be blessed. The service has a farming theme with prayers for all involved in the agricultural industry.

We wish you all
a very happy Christmas and a
peaceful and healthy 2016