

JAN 2016	1 Jan Naming of Jesus	8 Jan Epiphany	15 Jan Epiphany 2	22 Jan Epiphany 3	29 Jan Candlemas
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion*		
Denham				11.15am Family Service*	
Horham		9.30am BCP Communion*		11.15am Family Service	11.15am Benefice Comm at Horham*
Hoxne		11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Communion* 11.15am Plough Sunday Celebration* at The Swan	10am Family Service	
Redl'field	11am Benefice Communion * at Redlingfield			10am Morning Prayer	
Syleham		4pm Messy Church*	10am Village Praise	9.30am BCP Holy Communion *	
Wingfield		11.15am Holy Communion*		6.30pm BCP Evensong#	

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

January 2017

As we turn to the New Year, some thoughts on how life in the Benefice is proceeding with some appropriate headings...

Ring in the new! When Bishop Martin talks about living within our means, he doesn't just mean financially, but also in terms of what we can do. The majority of our services are admirably led by lay-elders. This puts a great burden on them, so from this month the 3rd Sunday services in Syleham and Wingfield will merge and be at Syleham at 10am. This will also mean a bigger congregation and more fellowship in the combined service.

Ring in the old! Many really appreciate the serenity of Evensong, so from this month every 4th Sunday in Wingfield (6.30pm) will be BCP Evensong, and we'll sing it! To help, I'm very pleased to say that Rev'd Canon Graham Owen will come and cantor in January. So, if you love Evensong, what better place for it than in the candle-lit chancel of Wingfield Church?

A New Year's Resolution? April and AGMs might seem a long way off, but several long-serving officers have let me know that they will be retiring this year. Across the benefice we need wardens, treasurers, secretaries and PCC members; could your New Year resolution be to help with the behind the scenes activity that makes so much possible?

Rev Michael's Rest Days.... Thurs 5, Weds 11, Thurs 12, Tues 17, Thurs 19, Thurs 26 January

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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

Tuesday 10 January, Midweek Communion, at Barbara Irwin's home, Reading Hall, 7.30pm^

* with Rev Michael # with Canon Graham and Rev Michael ^ with Rev Richard

Monday prayer and breakfast continues

If your New Year's resolution is 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! On Monday 2 January we are in Syleham and on the 9th we are at Barbara Irwin's in Denham. Contact Rev Michael for more details.

Prayer for Syria

The tragedy of Syria and Iraq continues to unfold, as a diocese our Bishops are encouraging prayer at noon every Friday. Horham is our designated church, but here is a prayer you can use wherever or whenever you like:

Lord we pray for the people of Syria and Iraq;
for an end to killing and terror;
for an end to hostilities,
for a lasting peace;
for courage for those delivering humanitarian aid;
for all those seeking to bind up wounds and alleviate suffering;
for those made homeless by the conflict;
for those fleeing as refugees,
and for those providing welcome and hospitality.
We pray for your church in Syria and Iraq,
and for faith in the midst of tragedy and suffering.
We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

Charity Acts 435 This is a wonderful, church-based charity (an initiative of Archbishop Sentamu), putting into modern terms the practice of early believers: those who had more gave to those who had less. People suffering a particular financial hardship approach participating churches, whose 'advocates' check the circumstances and then post requests on line and donors contribute what they can. Requests are for basics: beds, cleaning materials, food, carpets, bus fares. The focus of the charity's current prayer cycle is for the increase of their work and mission in East Anglia - where there are few really active participating churches, Haverhill an exception. Norwich and Ipswich are particular targets for growth. I am asking that our parishioners join me in adding prayers for the work of Acts 435 in our region: the charity is a wonderful way of 'doing Church' and of showing Christian love. And, of course, if you can spare money for contributions, you would know that every penny goes to the recipient. Visit <http://acts435.org.uk>.
Meg Hilditch,
margarethelen2016@btinternet.com

St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne has accumulated a considerable quantity of books which are sold at the monthly coffee mornings. A slimming down of the 'library' is planned and supplies will be available – please contact Brian Chester on 669157.

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 4th January at the home of Linda Hudson, Woodvale;
* in **Wingfield** at Wingfield Barns on Tues 17 Jan, both 10am to 12 noon.

Athelington church was overflowing with friends, families and surrounding churches enjoying the celebration of candlelight Advent.

A special thank you to Mathew and Nick for being hosts at the Old Rectory afterwards. Welcome to Athelington!

Thank you to the ladies who decorated our church and made mince pies.

Thank you also to Christine and the wonderful choir, whom with Dougie the organist are so faithful to Athelington.

Benefice Service, 29 January

In our benefice service at the end of the month, 11.15am at Horham, we will be celebrating Candlemas. As with last year, please bring something that gives light, perhaps a candle or a torch or something imaginative; these will feature in our worship. Also for church wardens, please bring one (or as many as you like) candles from your church.

Hoxne

Mothers' Union, Hoxne branch AGM, 16 January, 2.15pm at Time House, Hoxne.

Friends of St Peter & St Paul monthly coffee morning, Sat 28 January, 10am to 12 noon in Hoxne church.

Syleham

A reminder of an interesting new venture starting this month: congregations from Wingfield and Syleham will be coming together in St Margaret's at Syleham for a joint Village Praise service on 15 January. It will, as always, be a simple service followed by coffee and chat, but leadership and participation will be shared. We encourage Syleham folk to take advantage of the monthly Evensong service now being offered in Wingfield, in the lovely setting of the choir stalls of St Andrew's. Messy Church for all families returns to the village hall in Syleham in January at its usual time of 4pm but on 8th, not New Year's Day.

Hoxne

The prayer 'God speed the plough' will be heard outside the walls of St Peter and St Paul, Hoxne when the annual service to mark Plough Sunday is held this year in the Swan Inn on Sunday 22 January. Following the success of the St Edmund's Day 'hymns and beer' event, The Swan has kindly agreed to host the January service starting at 11am. The Rev Michael will lead this traditional country festival.

Plans for a kitchen unit in the north aisle and a toilet accessed through the north door have received initial approval from the all-important Diocesan Advisory Committee. The project has been ten years in the making! Now the search begins for grants to add to the significant sum already raised.

**We wish you all
a very happy Christmas and a
peaceful and healthy 2017**