

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

January 2019 - Happy new year!

Jan 2019	Sun 6 Jan Epiphany	Sun 13 Jan Baptism of Christ	Sun 20 Jan 3 rd Epiphany	Sun 27 Jan 4 th Epiphany
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion *	
Denham		11.15am~ Benefice Family@church		11.15am+ Holy Communion and baptism
Horham		9.30am+ BCP Communion		11.15am Family Service
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 and Baptism			6.30pm+ Benefice BCP Evensong

* with Rev Michael + with Rev Eleanor
~ with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor Goodison

From the rector

Epiphany this year falls on the first Sunday of the year. How very appropriate that as we journey into the new year, our thoughts and meditations will be focused on those enigmatic travellers coming from the east. Enigma and mystery will be with us throughout 2019, both at an international and national level but also as a benefice as we increasingly pray and think about the future of it.

But, I've also had some thoughts about travel and movement. Rev Eleanor and I were reflecting on the benefice and what goes on within it at the moment. We've been pondering the very obvious and weekly fact of Sunday services and worship as the whole point of a church.

One thing we've noticed is that some churches, such as The Forge in Debenham, are very good at the simple, practical business of getting people to church! Admittedly, they often use a fleet of mini-buses, and it's abundantly clear that we can't do that; but what we can do is offer lifts. Surely there's more than enough cars and drivers to be able to get anyone to church who wants to go?

We've already seen what a huge difference the 'Horham charabanc' has made with people sharing lift between them to get to Redlingfield and Athelington.

So, here's a new year resolution for you to think about taking up; if you'd like to go to church more often, but need a lift OR can offer someone a lift to church, please get in touch and let us all travel together to encounter God so we can adore Christ just as the magi did.

Rev Michael's rest days:

Thurs 3, Thurs 10, Thurs 17, Thurs 24, Mon 28 to Thurs 31 January.

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

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

January 2019

Wednesday 2

Redlingfield winter coffee morning (instead of the Coffee Caravan) - 10am - 12 noon at Linda Hudson's home, Woodvale. Come along for a drink, delicious cake and great company.

Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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.

Thursday 3

Home Group continues, exploring the bible with art, poetry and music. Alternate Thursdays, 7.30 to 9pm at Barbara Irwin's home, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane, Hoxne. Any queries? Contact either Barbara Irwin cobowner@gmail.com or Mary Lewis. mary.lewis43@icloud.com, 01379 669258.

Sunday 6

Messy Church for the benefice Christingle at Syleham Church at 3pm (note different location, different time but there will still be scrummy tea). Back to Syleham Village Hall, 4pm in Feb.

Friday 11

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

Sunday 13

Benefice family@church, 11.15am, St John's Denham. (See right). This month's theme is *The Gift*.

Tuesday 15

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.

Monday 21

Hoxne benefice Mothers' Union
21 January, meeting at Time House, Hoxne, 2.30pm. Contact Cathie on 01379 668434.

Sunday 25

Evensong at Wingfield, 6.30pm with our guest preacher.

Saturday 26

'Future of the benefice' meeting (see right), 4-5pm, St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.

Wednesday 30

Behind the Scenes at the diocesan office, St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich IP1 1UQ. As part of our Growing in God vision and to continue supporting you, we would like to invite you to a Diocesan Open Day. We hope this will be an informal opportunity for you to meet the team here in the Diocesan office and to put a face to a name! Do come along to learn what we do and how we are here to support you in any church roles. We are holding two bookable sessions: 12noon to 3pm or 4pm to 7pm.

Each session will include a short presentation followed by an 'open' office. You will be able to walk round the office to meet the staff, understand more about their roles. They can answer your specific questions and demonstrate the full range of resources available to help you. We can discuss opportunities, projects and initiatives, helping you realise your vision for growth in parishes and benefices. The Environment and Kagera Link teams will also be here to update you with their latest news. This event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will also be available. For more information and to book please visit <https://cofesuffolk-office-tour.eventbrite.co.uk>

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

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 for the venue, as it changes.

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.

Thank you!

A huge thanks to everybody who worked so hard making all our churches look so lovely during Advent and Christmas; it made them particularly welcoming in these drab months and I'm sure lots of people appreciated them.

'Future of the benefice'

meeting Thank you to everyone who came and took part in the first meeting about the future of the benefice. The next meeting will be **Saturday 26 January 4-5pm in St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne**. Refreshments will be provided! Last time, I mentioned how important it was to talk with Rev Susan as our rural dean, and I'm very pleased to say that she will be with us for this meeting so please come and talk to her. The date of the next meeting after this will be **Saturday 11 May, 4-5pm, with the venue yet to be chosen**.

Let's raise funds for Churches of the Hoxne Benefice with easyfundraising! Please register to support us - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice> **£354 raised to date!**

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 per person, includes cheese buffet and wine. Bar open for purchase of other drinks. Raffle and tombola.

Wednesday 6 March

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

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

Lent 2019 - prepare to be 'transported', as you eat at this year's Lent Lunches! Plans are underway.

Bishops Lent Appeal 2019, is in support of Kagera again. Rev Michael is looking for suggestions for a fund-raiser.

Christmas Eve... Stop press! Stop press!



Our Live Nativity is back! It's on Christmas Eve, 2.30pm in Nora's Yard, Denham (about 400 yds from Hoxne school). This year to help relieve the parking a mini-bus shuttle service (sorry no child seats provided) will run from 1.30pm between St. Edmund's Hall, Hoxne (IP21 5AN), Nora's Yard, and East Anglia Fruit Farms, Church Rd, Denham IP21 5DE. Admission is free and all the animals (and baby Jesus) look forward to seeing you there!