

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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



January 2020

January 2020	Sunday 5 Epiphany	Sunday 12 Baptism of Christ	Sunday 19 Epiphany 2 Sunday in week of prayer for Christian Unity	Sunday 26 Epiphany 3 Conversion of Paul
Athel'ton			9.30am * Holy Communion	
Denham				11.15am + Holy Communion
Horham		9.30am * BCP Communion		
Hoxne	8.30am * BCP Communion	9.30am + Café Church	11.15am * Holy Communion	11.15am BCP Matins
Redl'field	9.30am * Holy Communion			10am Morning Prayer
Syleham	4pm Benefice Messy Christingle		10am Village Praise	9.30am + BCP Holy Communion
Wingfield	11.15am * Holy Communion			6.30pm Evensong. Benefice Christingle

- * with Rev Michael Womack
 + with Rev Eleanor Goodison ~ with Rev John
 # with Revs Eleanor and Michael

Every Christmas, a relative would send me a diary for the coming year. Come the new year I would start to fill in that diary. And every year I would last no more than a week before I stopped writing anything in it.

I expect that this is the fate of the vast majority of new year's resolutions. Sadly, there is something very human in our fickleness and lack of commitment. Often, we then feel guilty and despondent. I think one of the features of modern life is the burden of unatoned guilt, be it parents about what Brexit will do for their children, or everyone about the environment!

Fortunately, Christianity has always been realistic about the human condition, and our worship includes a period of reflection and general confession for the things we've done wrong. And it is then followed by the assurance, the remembering of God's forgiveness. This is part of our worship because it is what we hope for. Not in the way that we hope for a white Christmas, or a particular present but in the way that our hope is based on a faith, a confidence in God.

It is good to remember that, as the Christmas decorations are tidied away for another year, that to paraphrase the Dog's Trust slogan, 'Christ isn't just for Christmas!' Rather, God, being equally knowledgeable of the human condition, came as the baby to save us from our sins, to save us from ourselves and to free us from guilt.

But I don't want to discourage new year resolutions, so why not join us at the new Café Church in Hoxne when we'll be thinking about them as well? Sunday 12 Jan, 9.30 for 10am.

Rev Michael Womack

Rev Michael's holidays/rest days: Weds 1, Thurs 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 January.

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Church contacts

Athelington: St Peter.	Colin Palmer 01728 628747
Denham: St John the Baptist.	Barbara Irwin 01379 669077, Hilary Castleden 01379 668458
Hoxne: St Peter & St Paul.	Guy McGregor 01379 668434, Wilf White 01379 668046
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, Sarah Buckley 01379 668480
Wingfield: St Andrew.	Rev Michael Womack

Sunday 29 December

Benefice Holy Communion 11.15am at St John the Baptist, Denham. **You can stuff the turkey..... this is a Blue Christmas!**

For many, it is never a happy Christmas. Historically, the church knows this - the lectionary after Christmas contains St. Stephen the first martyr; St John, to whom, in the words of Amy Carmichael, was entrusted the slow martyrdom of exiled longevity, and Thomas Beckett - killed in Canterbury Cathedral - a weighty counterpoint to the joy of Christmas. The modern church realises the pastoral need of many for whom it is a Blue Christmas and offers a service that is calmer and more reflective. This year, our benefice Holy Communion will be our Blue Christmas, with some gentler carols to sing, a lovely hymn from the Benefice Blasters during Communion, and the whole service will have a soft tone for it. My text will be 'extra-canonical' but for something to anticipate I will explore what I regard as the most spiritual song ever (and it's not a Psalm or by George Harrison!!)

Sunday 5 January Messy Church for the benefice, Christingle making in Syleham Church, not the hall, 4pm. Lots of oranges, candles and fun, with the usual scrummy tea afterwards.

Wednesday 8 Redlingfield winter coffee morning (instead of the Rural Coffee Caravan) 10am -12 noon at Linda Hudson's 'Woodvale' home. Come along for a chat with friends over a drink and delicious cake. Donations welcome.

Wednesdays 8, 15, 22, 29

Coffee and internet café in the Old School Hall in Horham, 10.30am -12 noon for coffee, cake, good company, computer support.

Sunday 12 NEW Benefice Café Church at 9.30am for 10am in Hoxne church. Starts with coffee and croissants and moves through discussion to prayer and worship. Come and try our new informal service!

Wednesday 15 Meeting with Rural Dean, 7pm, Syleham Village Hall. Benefice PCC members are invited to finalise the arrangements for Rev Michael's successor.

Saturday 18 Friends of Hoxne church coffee morning in church, 9.30am to 11am. All welcome. Book stall and raffle.

Tuesday 21 Wingfield winter coffee morning (instead of the Rural Coffee Caravan) - 10am -12 noon at Wingfield Barns. Come along for a chat over a drink and cake. Donations welcome.

Sunday 26 Our benefice Evensong becomes a benefice Christingle for adults with a focus on the work of The Children's Society. This follows on from the 'Kagera' Evensong in November.

Prayer for our farming communities

Following the announcement that avian flu has been found on a farm in Athelington, Archdeacon Sally Gaze and the Rev Canon Sally Fogden would like to ask everyone to pray for local poultry farmers. We pray not only to mourn the loss of life at the farm where birds have had to be culled but also for the infection to be contained. Please also remember that birds in surrounding farms will now need to be kept under cover, as we pray for all those worried about their livelihoods: *Father God, Jesus reminded us that not even a single sparrow falls without your knowledge and care. We pray for all those affected by the threat of avian flu, especially the birds and poultry farmers of this region. Bring to them your protection, your blessing and your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Prayer breakfasts continue

Monday mornings - breakfast and prayers. We meet at 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start at 8.30am. We always aim to finish by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for venue details.

Mothers' Union January's meeting will be Monday 20 January, 2.30pm at Time House, Hoxne. Please contact Cathie McGregor on 01379 668434.

Diocesan News



Bishop Martin with Rev Jeanette Gosney

The Rev Jeanette Gosney is to be the next Archdeacon of Suffolk. She will be collated as Archdeacon on Saturday 18 January at 3pm at St Michael's Framlingham, and installed at the Cathedral on Candlemas, Sunday 2 February at 3.30pm. Jeanette has been serving as Acting Archdeacon of Suffolk since May 2019 during Archdeacon Ian's illness, and we feel the joy of her appointment alongside our grief at Ian's death and continue to hold Ian's family in our prayers. Jeanette has served as Bishops' Ministry Officer since May 2017 and prior to that was Parish Development Officer in the Diocese of St Albans, after periods as parish priest, theological college tutor and university chaplain. She was ordained in this diocese in 1995 and was curate at St Margaret's Ipswich.

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* Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
* Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike cufe Suffolk

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Submissions for this newsletter always welcomed. Please send early notice of events around the year so we can show them in advance and try and avoid parishes having events on the same day. There are paper copies of this newsletter in each church; for emailed copies, please email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

Wishing you a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2020!