



Hoxne Benefice Churches

Athelington Denham Horham Hoxne
Redlingfield Syleham Wingfield



January 2021 Newsletter

Jan 2021	3rd Jan Epiphany	10th Jan Baptism of Christ	17th Jan Epiphany 2	24th Jan Epiphany 3	31st Jan Candlemas 'Growing Younger Sunday'
Athelington					
Denham				11am JM Holy Communion	
Horham			11.15am EG BCP Holy Communion		
Hoxne	9.30am EG BCP Holy Communion		9.30am EG Holy Communion	9.30am JS BCP Matins	
Redl'field		9.30am EG Holy Communion			
Syleham	4pm Benefice Messy Church on facebook (see below)		10am ML Village Praise	9.30am EG BCP Holy Communion	
Wingfield	11am EG Holy Communion				11am EG Benefice Holy Communion
Zoom Services	11am RC Holy Communion	9.30am JM Café Church	6pm JM Evensong <i>Not Evening Prayer in church</i>		4pm Service designed by young people

Online services

Every Sunday, Morning Prayer on [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch), 8am

Messy Church on Sunday 3rd on [facebook.com/HoxneMC](https://www.facebook.com/HoxneMC)

To join our Zoom services, email Revd Eleanor at eleanor.goodison@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

EG - Revd Eleanor Goodison JM - Revd John McCracken

RC - Revd Richard Court ML - Mary Lewis JS - John Swann

Time to renew our commitment

January is a time to look back, and to look forward, as the two-faced Roman god Janus did. 2020 is finally over, and some of us may feel it was a year to forget. But not only is that difficult, while Covid-19 continues to threaten us, but I suggest it would also be wrong. During repeated lockdowns and constantly varying restrictions on what we could do, where we could go and who we could see, we learned a lot. We learned about what was really important to us; we learned to live without many of the things we previously thought were essential; we learned to enjoy just being; and we learned about looking after each other and our beautiful world.

The new year gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to put that learning into practice. As we look forward, in the light which the birth of Christ brought to the world, the light which shines in the darkness, we can see ways in which we can all help each other. We can see more clearly the injustice which has left whole groups of people more vulnerable to the pandemic and its side-effects. We can see the need to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate climate change. Let's take the opportunity to change our lives and grasp the hope of a better world in 2021.

And let's continue to take care and stay safe.

Revd Eleanor Goodison

Revd Eleanor and Revd John are away from the benefice from 28th December to 2nd January. Eleanor usually works Friday to Monday and is available for urgent matters on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday is her day off. Messages received Thursday will normally be dealt with on Friday.

If you need help or just want to chat, please contact us:

Revd Eleanor: 07876 143579 eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Revd John: 07876 507288 vj.mccracken@gmail.com

Revd Richard: rev.richard.court@icloud.com

Returning to church services...

We are out of lockdown again, at the moment, and back to services in church in January (*see rota*). We will, of course, still be adhering to the strict government guidelines of social distancing, hand sanitising and mask wearing.

However, things could change quickly. With the increases in the new strain of the virus, the Government may decide to impose stricter lockdowns further down the line. We will obviously update you, as and when.

If you're nervous about attending church,

you are self-isolating or you can't get out and about for any reason, we have alternative online services for you. Try our new Zoom Holy Communion service with Revd Richard on Sunday 3rd January at 11am. Or join us for our informal Café Church via Zoom at 9.30am on Sunday 10th – just remember to make your own coffee! Given the cold and the dark in the evening at this time of year, BCP Evening Prayer will also be via Zoom at 6pm on Sunday 17th January. Plus there is a regular service of Compline on Zoom every Friday evening at 6pm. Just get in touch with Revd Eleanor for an invitation to any of these services.

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'd Eleanor Goodison 07876 143579

Hoxne Benefice Advisory Committee

Our new Benefice Advisory Committee met for the first time on 9th December. We agreed to focus on issues of general benefice interest in the area of mission and ministry. One outcome was the schedule of services shown in this newsletter, which we hope will provide a standard framework from now on, with space for new ideas as well, such as additional Zoom services and new activities for children and young people.

The members of the Benefice Advisory Committee are Alison Smith, Sarah Hawes, Graham Alldis, Jill Peters, Caroline Abbott, Sarah Buckley and Hazel Abbott, along with members of the clergy and our four Lay Elders. If you have any ideas or comments, do let them know.

Growing younger Sunday

31st January (Candlemas) has been designated Growing younger Sunday by our diocese. We are hoping to mark it with a special service put together by children and young people from our villages. Would you like to get involved or do you know someone who might? If so, please get in touch with Revd Eleanor as soon as possible.

Save the date

Lent begins on 17th February this year. We are planning a Quiet Afternoon at Athelington church in preparation for it on **Saturday 13th February**. This will be an opportunity to stop and reflect (and we have much to reflect on) before we enter the season of penitence and growth which is Lent. Put it in your diaries now!

We are also considering a weekly Lent study group.

Possibilities for this study group include looking at the Five Marks of Mission or alternatively a Bible study course. If you have a preference, or a better idea, please let Revd Eleanor know.

Feeling lonely or low?

Many of us find this time of year makes us feel low and Covid-19 restrictions don't help. If you would like to talk, please just get in touch.

Virtual Christmas Market

Our virtual Christmas Market went extremely well. At the time of writing we do not know the total raised for our churches and for the new Mission Fund, but it is certainly in the hundreds of pounds. Many thanks for everyone who contributed items and to everyone who bought them! Special thanks to Wilf White who was a splendid Father Christmas at our Zoom event and congratulations to the prize winners in the quiz.

And please don't forget..... easyfundraising.org.uk

It really is easy. If you are finding that you are ordering more goods online at the moment, why not sign up to support the benefice? It costs you nothing and gives the benefice a percentage of everything you spend. So far we have raised £635 for the benefice this way – so it is well worth it! www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice. Thank you for signing up!

Church open for private prayer

Most of our churches are open once a week for private prayer:

Horham	Sunday	9am - 5pm
Redlingfield	Tuesday	10am - 4pm
Denham	Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Hoxne	Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Syleham	Thursday	10am - 2.30pm
Wingfield	Thursday	2.30pm - 5pm

Athelington Church is open on request.

Stay in touch:

Check out our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) pages: [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch) or [facebook.com/athelingtonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/athelingtonchurch).

Follow Revd Eleanor on Twitter: [@ReverendEleanor](https://twitter.com/ReverendEleanor) (you do not need your own Twitter account to read her tweets; just search for [@ReverendEleanor](https://twitter.com/ReverendEleanor)).

Hoxne Benefice News

will be posted on church notice boards and left in churches. Email Virginia on hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com to receive it by email.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2021!