

# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

March 2015

My impression is that it has been an extremely good year for snowdrops. They seem to have laid an extremely thick carpet in Syleham churchyard and along the Waveney valley and brought a splash of brightness to the churchyard in Hoxne. Judging by the popularity of snowdrop walks, I'm not the only person who enjoys them. They are a cheerful little flower that brings hope and optimism for better times during the darker days of winter. Jesus told us to consider the lilies of the valley, but what can we learn from considering snowdrops?

What I like about snowdrops is that they lighten the dark days of winter and reassure us that things will get better and the corner will be turned. In St Mark's gospel, Jesus comes and proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand, just when the despotic King Herod has thrown John the Baptist in prison. Like the snowdrops, Jesus says things are about to get better.

Another thought, again linked to John the Baptist; on seeing Jesus, (this time in St John's gospel) he declares that Jesus must increase and he must decrease. Snowdrops are very good at giving way to the daffodils; of playing their part and then being humble enough to let another have their turn. In the Bible this is 'forbearing one another', a good Christian virtue. Jesus was right (no surprise there); we do well to consider the lilies of the valley or even the snowdrops of the Waveney.

**Rev Michael is away on a course, helping to lead a retreat, occasionally having days off on the following....** Weds 4, Fri 6, Sat 14, Tues 17, Thurs 19 until Sat 28, Mon 30 March.

**Revd Michael Womack.** St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Suffolk IP21 5RB.  
01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

## 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, Michael Harvey 01379 586355

March 2015	Sun 1 March 2nd Lent	Sun 8 March 3rd Lent	Sun 15 March Mothering Sunday	Sun 22 March 5th Lent	Sun 29 March Palm Sunday
Athelington			9.30am Mothering Sunday Service		11.15am Benefice Communion at Denham
Denham				11.15am Family Service	
Horham		9.30am Holy Comm	11.15am Mothering Sunday Service	11.15am Family Service	
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Comm	11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Holy Communion  11:15am Mothering Sunday Service	10.00am Family Service	
Redlingfield	9.30am Holy Comm			10.00am Morning Prayer	
Syleham	4.00pm Messy Church		9.30am Mothering Sunday Service	9.30am Holy Communion	
Wingfield	10.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Holy Comm	10.00am Mothering Sunday Service	10.00am BCP Matins	

### **Open the Book**

Locally in Hoxne school, but more broadly across the deanery, we have several Open the Book groups. Open the Book is a great way to present Bible stories to primary schoolchildren and new 'actors' are always welcome to join. Di Barker, who heads up Open the Book in Suffolk is able to come and give the relevant training /update for us. We will be meeting on Wednesday 18 March from 2 to 4pm at the Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield. Please come and we look forward to seeing you.

### **Friends of Hoxne Church**

Coffee morning, Saturday 28 March, 10-11.30am in the church.

### **Wingfield Barns - Tel: 01379 384505**

\* Friday, May 15, 7.30pm, Open Space Theatre presents Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Tickets £10 and £8.50 (concs). A maximum of 50 tickets available for this performance. Phone box office or email enquiries@wingfieldbarns.co.uk

\* 28 March – Richard Digance in concert 7.30pm. All tickets £15. Richard will bring an exhibition of his paintings prior to his concert. The exhibition will be called The Art of Comedy and will run for two weeks.

\* Community Art Exhibition in Gallery 1 from 28 March - 11 April

### **Wingfield College - Invitation to View**

Thur 21 May, Sat 27 June, Fri 11 September. Advance bookings on 01206 573948. www.mercurytheatre.co.uk

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**The Hoxne Benefice Newsletter is found in all 7 churches, but you can get it early by receiving it by email.**

**To be on the email list, (bcc to hide addresses), please send an email to hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com  
Deadline for April HBN is 22 March.**

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**Easter Day, 5 April, 3.30pm, Bury St Edmunds Cathedral.** We have been invited to Evensong at Bury St Edmunds' Cathedral to say a fond farewell to Bishop David and his wife Jean as they return to Ely. To help them with arrangements for this service, please contact Jayne Whiteman 01284 748722, email deanspa@stedscathedral.org by Friday 13th March if you would like to attend.

There are plans to present Bishop David with a farewell gift at the service. If anyone would like to donate towards this, please could donations be sent, clearly marked for Bishop David's farewell gift, to: Katy Reade, Diocesan Offices, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.

### **Introducing Pilgrims' Kitchen**

A new restaurant, Pilgrims' Kitchen, is receiving excellent reviews from its customers at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, offering all visitors a warm welcome and a great new place to eat and meet. The former Refectory has been transformed over the winter months into an inviting eating space with home cooked, locally sourced produce. Open Mon to Sat, 8.30am to 5.30pm. Well worth a visit!

**At Hoxne**, the first stage of the north aisle improvement scheme has been completed. At least a year must elapse before the north wall can be re-plastered and repainted but the time will be spent preparing plans for the next phase - a kitchen unit, toilet and re-erection of the St Edmund screen.

**The joint annual meeting** of the Hoxne Parochial Church Council and the Friends of the Church will be held on Wednesday 15 April at 7pm in St Edmund's Hall.

### **Books to borrow**

Barbara's lending library has a stock of Christian books you can borrow. Contact Barbara on 01379 870500.

**Sharing your faith.** In February, Dave Gardner, the director of mission for the diocese, came and led a first session on Sharing your Faith. Lots of people found it very helpful and not as threatening as they'd feared. Dave returns to lead a second session, 9.30am to 12noon, Sat 7 March, Sancroft Hall in Fressingfield. Don't worry if you missed the first session, you're still very welcome to join us (which may be the heart of the Gospel in any case).

### **Practising prayer in Lent**

Our Lent groups continue. Each one will start with a talk about a prayer technique, then plenty of time to practice it and a chance to reflect and share our thoughts. They will be on Wednesday evenings at the Rectory (St Andrew's House, Wingfield) from 7.30pm to 9pm. 4 Mar- Imaginative mediation with the Bible, 11 Mar- Silence, 18 Mar- Using hymns as prayer, 25 Mar- Art and creativity as prayer.

### **Holy Dusting at Wingfield!**

We're trying to get Wingfield church 'super-shiny' ready for all the weddings and special services this year and are having a cleaning session on the last Friday of every month from 10am until noon, followed by a 'coffee' in the De La Pole. Everyone welcome to come and join us as many hands make light work.

**Thank you** to all who came to our Ash Wednesday service at Hoxne. It was an excellent service and really good that it was well supported. The offering raised just short of £200 which will go to the The Addington Fund.

### **Plenty of coffee to drink!**

Every Wednesday morning from 10am there is coffee, cookies, cakes and chatter in the Old School Hall in **Horham**.

The Coffee Caravan continues to hibernate, but the coffee keeps flowing! Weds 4 March the **Redlingfield** gathering will be in David and Jacqueline Love's - Western Barn.

Tues 17 March, the **Wingfield** gathering will be in Wingfield Barns.

Both from 10am and both fully stocked with coffee and cakes.

**Redlingfield** Village litter pick – 22 March. Come and help make the village look smart for the spring.

### **Evening Communion at Denham**

Denham's mid-week Communion is back on 10 February at 7.30pm. We will be singing some taize chants to prepare us for.....

### **Taize at Denham**

As part of our Holy Week reflections, there will be a Taize service at Denham (Tues 31 March). If you can help to lead the singing with this, or indeed play an instrument, please let Rev Michael know and he will make sure he gets the words and music to you for practising. If you're unfamiliar with Taize, a quick search on You Tube should be enough to give you a taste of it.

### **Compline for Lent**

As in previous years, compline will be said at St Andrew's, Wingfield on Friday evenings in Lent at 6pm. All very welcome to one of the gentlest pieces of liturgy in the Church of England.

### **Messy church**

Sun 1 March, 4pm, Syleham Village Hall, with the famous scrummy tea and thinking about Jesus as the light of the world.