

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

May 2017

MAY 2017	7 May Easter 3	14 May Easter 4	21 May Rogation	Thursday 25 th May	28 May Sunday after Ascension
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion	Ascension Day Deanery Service at All Saints' Mendham 7.30pm	
Denham					11.15am Family Service
Horham		9.30am BCP Communion *			11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Communion *	11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Communion * 11.15am Rogation Service *		10am Family Service
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Communion *				10am Morning Prayer
Syleham	4pm Messy Church *		10am Rogation Service		9.30am BCP Holy Communion #
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion *			6.30pm BCP Evensong ~

This year Ascension Day is Thursday 25 May, Ascension Day is a 'difficult' festival. Like the original disciples, we are tempted to stare into the sky and wonder what happened! Perhaps this is why it has slipped the furthest in status in living memory; it has gone from a day off school to all but ignored.

Personally, I shall be taking to the air on Ascension Day; not in rapt ascension to heaven but by the more mundane method of a plane. We're going to Rome to visit the catacombs and excavations underneath St Peter's Basilica. With my fascination of paradox and spiritual truth, it seems appropriate that I will be ascending so that I can descend. Or, staying with St Peter but turning to his letters in the Bible, how Christ descends into hell before ascending into heaven.

Christianity is often described as the upside down religion; Christ humbled himself to be exalted (*kenosis* for the Greek lovers) or how Jesus himself said that to find life we have to be willing to die. Put into the context of this upside down faith, it doesn't seem so odd to go up to go down. And there's another paradox to consider; Ascension Day is also about the future; of how the angels, after asking the disciples why they are staring into the sky, add 'this Lord Jesus will come again'. Yet, Christianity is a very historical, 'looking backwards' faith. Within this paradox, going to look at old Christian sites on a day for looking forward makes a lot more sense. May this Ascensiontide be a season when we better see the paradoxes within our faith.

Rev Michael

Rev Michael's days off in May: Sat 6, Thurs 11, Thurs 18, Thurs 28 to Weds 31 May.
St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Diss, IP21 5RB. 01379 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com

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 9 May, Midweek Communion at St John's, Denham*, 7.30pm.

* with Rev Michael

~ with Rev Richard

with Rev Canon Andrew Vessey



Sign up for easyfundraising and whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for **Churches of the Hoxne Benefice**.

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice/ follow the easy sign up procedure and join for free.



St Andrew's Redlingfield PCC

We have vacancies on our PCC for a secretary and two PCC members and we need your help. Usually we have just 4 meetings a year. If you are interested in supporting us in any of these roles or would like more information, please phone; Rev Michael Womack on 01379 388889 or email hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or Lesley on 01379 678455 or 07940 742887.

Hoxne Rogation Sunday walk – 21 May, 2pm from the church lych gate; (new route) and tea and cake at the Old Vicarage.

Castleton Brass will be staging a concert at St Peter and St Paul Hoxne on Saturday 20 May, organised by the Friends of the Church. Tickets £10. Call 668352 for more details.

Kagera Lent Challenge Fundraising

Thank you to all who took part in any fundraising for the diocese Kagera campaign putting on events, attending events or putting aside money each day on the challenge. As a benefice, we have raised a fantastic £643.00, which will be 'given' on a presentation cheque to Archdeacon Ian at the benefice service on Sunday 30 April at Syleham.

Monday prayer and breakfast continues

We meet weekly at 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start 8.30am, using a Celtic pattern. We are finished by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for more details.

Messy Church for the benefice is Sunday 6 May, 4pm at Syleham village hall.

Our next Evensong service will be Sun 28 May, 6.30pm in the choir stalls of St Andrew's Wingfield. Reverend Richard Court will be the cantor and preacher.

Horham

Saturday 3 June, afternoon tea at the Old School from 11.30am to 3.30pm, £6 per head to include a glass of prosecco or fruit punch, a selection of sandwiches and cakes. Proceeds to the West Door restoration fund. Places limited, so please reserve / book with Jill, 01379 384988.

Horham village fête Sat 20 May. The church is having a 'Jar Bar' and is looking for donations of items that could fit into jam jars (that have already been donated), eg costume jewellery, ping pong balls, embroidery cottons, puzzles, soaps and toiletries, balloons, crayons, hair bands, tissues, craft items, paperclips etc. Call Jill on 384988.

Denham Fair 1.30 to 4pm on Saturday 3 June with teas, stalls and games in the church and churchyard.

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 back!

* in **Redlingfield** on Weds 3 May
* in **Wingfield** on Tues 16 May, both 10am to 12 noon. The caravan is a great source of information as well as a chance for a chat over a drink and delicious cake. Just come along and see for yourself. Donations welcome.

Syleham

We had a lovely Easter Service, the church packed with family and friends for the baptism of Harriet Barker.

Summer Lunch on Sun 14 May, in the garden of Manor House, (IP21 4LN) by kind invitation of Major Andrew Napier. Lunch 12.30 to 2pm, plants and handcraft items available. £10/head to include a glass of wine, children eat free. A select raffle includes Sunday lunch for two at the Fox and Goose, Fressingfield.

Rogation Service on Sun 21 May. Our 10am joint service with Wingfield this month will mark Rogation, the season when prayer is offered for God's blessing on the earth and its fruit and on our communities. Much of the service will take place in different areas of the churchyard (weather permitting). Coffee and croissants from 9.30am!

Amici Concert on Sun 11 June, 3pm. Amici are a highly regarded local acappella choir. Lasting approx. 1½ hours, including an interval with light refreshments, the performance will be dedicated to the memory of 'J' Leader. Parking available and there will be a retiring collection.

Cheese and Wine on Fri 30 June, from 6pm in the garden of the Old Vicarage (IP21 4LN) by kind invitation of Colin & Jackie Campbell.

Hoxne Benefice Mothers' Union

Mon 15 May. New members welcome. Contact Cathie McGregor on 668434.

Friends of St Peter & St Paul Hoxne

The next coffee morning will be held on Sat 20 May, 10am to 12 noon in church.

Black Dog at The Swan

'Black Dog at The Swan' every Tuesday pm, 2 to 3pm in Hoxne, with a group of non-judgemental, caring, supportive, like-minded people to chat with. Whatever your black dog: grief, anxiety, trauma, depression... please come and join us. Further details from Rev Michael Womack, 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

Advance notices

- Sat 3 June Afternoon tea Horham, 11.30am to 3.30pm
- Also Denham Fair, 1.30 to 4pm
- Sat 10 June Horham car boot sale, with church bric a brac stall
- also 10 and 11 June Redlingfield, Summer Scenes event in church
- Sun 11 June 3pm Amici Singers concert, Syleham
- Sat 20 June Horham village fête
- Sat 24/Sun 25 June Wingfield Open Gardens
- Fri 30 June Syleham cheese and wine
- Sat 1 July Hoxne Fête
- Sat 15 July Syleham Labyrinth Day
- Sat 22 July Denham church Ceilidh Dance and BBQ in the barn at Park Farm Hoxne

This newsletter is found in all our churches but if you would prefer to receive yours in advance, by email, please send your details to [Virginia on hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Virginia@hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)