

# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

Athelington \* Denham \* Horham

\* Hoxne \* Redlingfield \* Syleham \* Wingfield

## May 2018

May 2018	6 May Rogation	13 May Sunday after Ascension	20 May Pentecost	27 May Trinity Sunday
Athel'ton			9.30am Holy Communion* and baptism	
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*	10am Family Service
Redl'field	9.30am Holy Communion+			10am Morning Prayer
Syleham	4pm Messy Church~		10am Village Praise+	9.30am BCP Holy Communion*
Wingfield	10am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion*		6.30pm Evensong with Canon Graham Owen

No midweek Communion at St John's Denham this month as.....  
on Thursday 10 May there is a deanery Ascension Day Communion, 7.30pm at St Mary's Wilby.

\*with Rev Michael, +with Rev Eleanor, ~ with Rev Michael and Rev Eleanor,

May starts with the last of the Annual Meetings, and, this year, ends with Trinity Sunday. Apart from being incomprehensible to the mortal mind, what do these two events have in common?

This year's Annual Meetings have seen a lot of change with 9 people standing down from their positions; encouragingly we welcomed 4 people as church officers. Clearly it doesn't take much to do the maths and see that we are running out of people willing to take on positions.

We're all very grateful to those who've served as church officers, those who continue to serve and those taking on new positions. The Trinity is a festival of the essence and eternal nature of the Godhead; the AGM season with all its changes seems even further removed from the God who is lauded in the words of Abide with me, with phrases such as 'O though who changes not, abide with me'.

I'm delighted that Canon Graham Owen has agreed to preach at the benefice evensong for Trinity Sunday - one less chance for me to say something heretical (though he assures me he won't explain the Trinity!). I think a big insight to the Trinity is to think of it as a relationship, a relationship within the Godhead. Furthermore, it is not a static, fixed relationship as between the elements of a sculpture but a relationship that moves and changes, like participants in a dance.

When we think of the Trinity not as dry doctrine, but as something that dances and moves, then the changes of the AGM season are less threatening - part of the life into which God draws us all.

**Reverend Michael**

Rev Michael's rest days and days away from the benefice in May:  
Thurs 3, Tues 8, Thurs 17, Thurs 24, Weds 30 and Thurs 31 May.

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

### Churchwardens

**Athelington: St Peter.** Contact Rev Michael

**Denham: St John the Baptist.** Contact Rev Michael

**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

**Wingfield: St Andrew.** John McCracken 01379 384181



### Prayer breakfasts

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.

### Wingfield Poetry

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Wingfield Poetry Evening on 21 April by reading poems on the theme 'Darkness into Light' or by swelling the audience. We enjoyed hearing a wide variety of poems, from well-known to unusual and including one read by the poet herself. There was also plenty of chat over refreshments and £85-00 was raised for church funds. Rev Eleanor

### A house group for the benefice

'Surprised by Hope - fascinating and thought-provoking insights into heaven, the resurrection and mission. Continues alternate Thursday afternoons 2pm to about 3.30pm on 26 April; 10, 24 May; 7, 21 June at Reading Hall, Denham (Barbara Irwin's home). Guided via DVD by Tom Wright a former Bishop of Durham.

'As you enter into this study of hope, it is my prayer that you will see Jesus inviting you to experience and extend hope in this world, and that you will feel him walking at your side along the way'. Questions? Mary (669258) or Barbara (870500).

Visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and enter Churches of the Hoxne benefice to help raise money for our churches when you shop online – at no extra cost to you.

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**There are paper copies of this newsletter in each church. Please email [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.**

### The coffee caravan is back for the summer....

**Redlingfield** - on Wednesday 2 May from 10am until 12 noon. The caravan is a great source of local information as well as a chance for a chat over a drink and delicious cake with great company. Just come along and see for yourself...

**also at Wingfield's** Castle Green on Tuesday 15 May, also 10am to 12 noon.

### New family service

Over the past few years, the biggest growing church in our benefice has been the Messy Church which is very popular amongst families with young children; but young children grow up and so we need to offer a service which is suited to older children. This along with other changes means that it's a very good time to look at the pattern of services across the benefice and think what else might need to change, or it would be good to change.

As everyone involved with Messy Church knows, children's services are very labour demanding and tiring so we will need a lot of volunteers to run a worthwhile family service alongside Messy Church and in turn may need to change other services to make that possible.

Eleanor and I will be thinking and praying about this over the next few weeks and are going on a retreat in the middle of June to devote ourselves to reflecting on the life of the benefice. So..... if you've got any thoughts, ideas, dreams or visions about the services we offer, please let us know. Don't worry about them being too far-fetched or outrageous- it will help us to think widely and creatively!

I'd like to launch the new service in October, but try to keep within the service pattern the ability for us all to move around the benefice that is a rich part of our life together already. Rev Michael

**Coffee and internet café** in the Old School Hall in Horham every Wednesday morning, 10.30am to 12 noon for delicious coffee and cake, good company and computer support.

### Hoxne benefice Mothers' Union

The next meeting is Monday 21 May, 2.30pm at Time House, Low Street, Hoxne.

**Friends of Hoxne church** coffee morning in the church on 19 May, 10.30am to 12.

**Summer will come** and with it Syleham's Garden Lunch, on Sunday 13 May. This year our generous hosts are Jim and Liz Woodger at Kindling, The Cross, Syleham IP21 4LN and we hope parking will be in the field opposite. Lunch 12.30 - 2pm, £12.50 per person (Under 5s free, older children £5). Select raffle and one or two stalls. All proceeds to Syleham Church Fabric Fund for our re-decoration project.

**Hoxne Village Fete** (for church funds) Saturday 23 June at Abbey Farm.

### Sponsored Swim

We have booked an hour at Stradbroke Pool for a sponsored swim on the afternoon of Sunday 8 July, to help fund this year's internal re-decoration of Syleham church. Any keen swimmers like to join us? Minimum distance at least one length of the pool (20 metres) - otherwise, it is up to the swimmer - or to how many participants we get. Sponsor forms coming.

### Archdeacon's Visitation for the deaneries of Hoxne and Hartismere

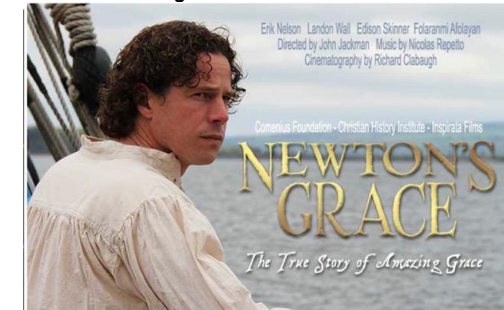
Monday 21 May, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Wingfield. Archdeacon Ian will come to re-charge our churchwardens for the year. Please support your churchwardens!

### Messy Church for the benefice

Sunday 6 May at Syleham village hall, 4pm. Come and join our growing group for lots of fun and the usual scrummy tea.

### Film Night

Friday 18 May, 7.30pm at Barbara Irwin's home, Reading Hall.



A troubled young man, John Newton, was sold into slavery for a time and later became a slave ship captain. Following a profound conversion at sea, his spiritual growth led him to become a pastor in the Church of England; he would write many hymns, including the beloved *Amazing Grace*, and become a leader in the movement to abolish the slave trade.

### Deanery Ascension Day Service on

Thursday 10 May, 7.30pm at St Mary's Wilby.



### Advance notices

#### Sat 2 June

Horham Fête, church tower open.

#### Sat 16/Sun 17 June

Redlingfield 'I remember when' Festival. Also Horham, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 95<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group, church tower open.

#### Sat 23 June

Hoxne Village Fête – see left.

#### Sun 8 July

Syleham Sponsored swim – see left.

#### Weds 1 August

Addington Fund Service, 6pm, Hoxne church.