

Other resources

Both the Church of England website (www.churchofengland.org) and the diocesan website (www.cofesuffolk.org) will be live streaming services and offering other resources during this period, including prayers for use at home.

Morning Prayer is being live streamed from the Bishop's oratory every morning. Monday to Saturday at 8.30am on the Bishops' facebook page @BishopsCofEsuffolk.

The Prayer Book Society is maintaining a list of streamed BCP services on its website (www.pbs.org.uk).

Local radio and national broadcast media will also offer live services for you to tune in to – check the schedules.

In difficult times

Written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was imprisoned and killed by the Nazis:

Nothing can fill the gap when we are away from those we love, and it would be wrong to try and find anything. We must simply hold on and win through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, since leaving the gap unfilled preserves the bonds between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; he does not fill it, but keeps it empty so that our communion with another may be kept alive, even at the cost of pain.

Taken from Celtic Daily Prayer, © 2000, 2005 The Northumbria Community Trust

A prayer for the current situation

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

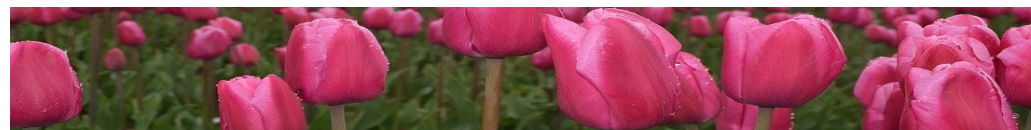
in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord.



Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

May 2020

'Strange times' is the comment I have heard most often on the lockdown in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. We have been jolted out of our normal routines – perhaps with some good effects like greater neighbourliness or keeping in touch with friends. But it's an uncomfortable experience and we may be feeling disorientated, frustrated, perhaps lonely, saddened, even anxious and frightened by the situation and cut off from normal life.

The Bible teaches us that a sense of disorientation, alienation and discomfort is a natural part of our faith. In the book of Hebrews, we read of the people of God: 'they confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.' St Peter also speaks of Christians as 'aliens and exiles'.

Our home is in heaven and all our life on earth is spent in a kind of exile from it. Yet Jesus Christ has gone before us through this exile in a strange land. On Ascension Day (21 May this year), we celebrate his return to heaven, opening the way for us to join him there. Sometimes it feels as if God is far away, but actually he is very near if we will only turn to him and open our hearts and minds to his loving kindness.

Rev'd Eleanor Goodison

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

Rev'd Eleanor: 07876 143579 eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Rev'd John: 07876 507288 vj.mccracken@gmail.com

Rev'd Richard: rev.richard.court@icloud.com

Church contacts

Athelington: St Peter.

Colin Palmer 01728 628747

Denham: St John the Baptist.
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Barbara Irwin 01379 669077, Hilary Castleden 01379

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

Church finances

We all have a lot to deal with at this time and keeping the church going financially may not be top of your priority list! But all our churches still have to contribute to the cost of ministry and still have bills to pay (insurance is a good example), even though we are not able to hold services in the buildings. We cannot take up physical collections or hold fundraising events and this is hitting our finances hard.

If you normally contribute in the collection, would you consider making an equivalent donation, either electronically into your church bank account (your treasurer can give you the details) or by cheque? This will allow our churches to maintain at least some income at this difficult time. Of course, you should consider your own and your family's needs, which may have changed in the current situation, before making a decision.

Another way of giving

If you are finding that you are ordering more goods online at the moment, why not sign up to support the benefice with easyfundraising.org.uk? It costs you nothing and gives the benefice a percentage of everything you spend. So far we have raised £559.45 for the benefice this way – so it is well worth it. Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice

Access to services while the church buildings are closed

During April, we have been live streaming services at 9.30am each Sunday via [facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch). We are gradually improving our grasp of the technology! As the lockdown continues into May, we are adding BCP Evening Prayer at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday of the month (starting on 26 April) and Messy Church at 4pm on the first Sunday of May.

Thank you to everyone who wrote to send us their love and good wishes as we move into retirement. We were humbled too by your generous and extravagant gifts. We were thrilled with the planters and coloured glass paper weight....a beautiful reminder of our time with you. Then a box of wine turned up which made Michael very happy, and a cheque, which enabled us to replace our washing machine of 16 years which didn't survive the move, and made Mary very happy! We miss you all and send our love and thanks. We hope to see you all again in the near future to say a proper goodbye. **With our love, Michael and Mary x**



Our prayer breakfast at 8am on Monday mornings via Skype continues – do let Rev'd Eleanor know if you would like to join in.

Are there other services you would like to see? We could try Café Church via Zoom if enough people are interested, for example! Please tell us what would work for you.

Internet-based services do not work for everyone and service sheets to use at home can be made available for our Friday evening Compline and for our Sunday services if wanted. Thanks to Rev'd Richard, we are also experimenting with downloading our streamed services onto laptops that we can lend to people without internet access so they can see the services too. Again, please let us know if you would like this.

The building is closed but the church is open!

Services for May

live streamed via
[facebook.com/WingfieldChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WingfieldChurch)

Sunday 3 May Easter 4

9.30am BCP Holy Communion
with Rev'd Eleanor and Rev'd John

4pm Messy Church via
[facebook.com/HoxneMC](https://www.facebook.com/HoxneMC)

Sunday 10 May Easter 5

9.30am Holy Communion
with Rev'd Richard and Rev'd John

Sunday 17 May Easter 6

9.30am Holy Communion
with Rev'd Eleanor and Rev'd John

Sunday 24 May Sun after Ascension Day

9.30am Holy Communion
with Rev'd Eleanor and Rev'd John
6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer, Rev'd John

Sunday 31 May Pentecost

9.30am Holy Communion
with Rev'd Richard

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 Rev'd 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)).

The Hoxne Benefice News

will be posted on church notice boards but you can also receive it by email. If you are not already on the benefice email list, get in touch with our administrator, Virginia Skoyles, hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com and she will add your name.

Highly recommended watching

Our bishops have begun a series of vlogs on their facebook page ([facebook.com/BishopsCofEsuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCofEsuffolk)) on the subject of prayer. They are posting once a week on a Tuesday. So far, Bishop Martin has spoken about the Daily Office. Next up is Bishop Mike on Adoration and then Bishop Martin will be covering Intercession. If you are using your extra time during the lockdown to enhance your prayer life, or if you would like to do so, or if you are just interested, these short talks are highly recommended.

