



Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

September 2019

Sept 2019	Sunday 1 Trinity 11	Sunday 8 Trinity 12	Sunday 15 Trinity 13	Sunday 22 Trinity 14	Sunday 29 Trinity 15
Athel'ton			9.30am ^ Holy Communion		11.15am ^ Benefice Harvest Communion at Horham
Denham		11.15am * Harvest family@ church		11.15am ^ Holy Communion	
Horham		9.30am * BCP Communion			
Hoxne	8.30am * BCP Communion			11.15am # Harvest Festival	
Redl'field	9.30am * Holy Communion and after the Produce Show at approx. 2pm - Harvest sing-song on Doorstep Green! *			10am Morning Prayer	
Syleham	4pm * Benefice Messy Church		10am * Village Praise	9.30am ^ BCP Holy Communion	
Wingfield	11.15am * Holy Communion			6.30pm # Harvest Evensong	

* with Rev Michael Womack
with Rev John McCracken

^ with Rev Richard Court

From the rector

September, and the nights are noticeably longer and cooler. The dark night is one of the most powerful images in our imaginations.

It's no surprise that it's an image that artists have explored. George Harrison, comes to it at least twice on the album *All things must pass*, once in the title track with the verse 'Now the darkness only stays at night time. In the morning it will fade away. Daylight is good at arriving at the right time but it's not always going to be this grey'. But also in *Beware of Darkness* (which does contain problems for a Christian - ask me if you're interested!).

Likewise, St John makes rich use of the darkness metaphor. The opening of his gospel celebrates the triumph of light over darkness with even more grandeur than Harrison with the declaration, 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.' Jesus talks of darkness when, as he heals the man born blind in chapter 9 he says, 'I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.'

Or at least, that's how the King James version translates it! More recent translations make a subtle, crucial shift and prefer, 'As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.' Returning to *Beware of Darkness*, Harrison advises, 'It can hit you. It can hurt you. Make you sore and what is more. That is not what you are here for.'

Indeed, we are not here to be scared of the dark, because Christ has overcome the darkness, and the sun will come! **Rev Michael Womack**

Rev Michael's holidays/rest days: Thurs 5, 12, 19, Sun 22 to Mon 30 Sept

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

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 Michael Womack

Saturday 31 August

Traditional and popular summer fête at Syleham, in the garden of Manor House, IP21 4LN, 2pm. Burgers, a bar and cream teas as well as traditional games and stalls.

September

Sunday 1

Redlingfield village produce show, Doorstep Green. Exhibits to arrive 10-11am, judging 11am-1pm, prize-giving 1.30pm. Licensed bar and barbeque lunch. Classes £1 each on the day. Refreshments, entertainment, raffle, demonstrations. Followed by Harvest sing-song on the Green. Proceeds to Redlingfield Church.

Also Sunday 1

Messy Church for the benefice at Syleham village hall, 4pm. Come and join our growing group for lots of fun and the usual scrummy tea.

Wednesday 4

Redlingfield, Rural Coffee Caravan with advice and information, coffee and cake. 10am-12 noon. Donations welcome.

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25

Coffee and internet café in the Old School Hall in Horham, 10.30am-12 noon for coffee, cake, good company, computer support.

Sunday 8

Benefice family@church, 11.15am, St John's Denham. This month's theme is *Harvest*. Crafts, food and fun.

Thank you to everyone involved in Hoxne Church's summer fête, all those who ran stalls, contributed produce, movers of furniture, those who came along and Wilf White for the use of his garden. The total profit for church funds is £1403.74. Well done everybody. A fantastic result.

Saturday 14 Suffolk Churches Trust, Ride and Stride, sponsored bike ride or walk round churches in the diocese. Take part or volunteer to record. Speak to the co-ordinator in your church.

Tuesday 17 Wingfield, Rural Coffee Caravan with advice and information, coffee and cake. 10am -12 noon. Donations welcome.

Saturday 21

Friends of Hoxne church coffee morning in church, 9.30am to 11am. All welcome. Book stall and raffle.

Sunday 22

Benefice Evensong at Wingfield, 6.30pm, with Rev John McCracken – a Harvest special edition!

Saturday 28

Future for the benefice meeting, 4pm in Syleham Village Hall. Come and join in the discussion.

Lammas Service This annual celebration, on 1 August, attracted a congregation of about 120 who enjoyed the tractor parade, service and the hog roast, (provided by Peter Havers of Athelington Hall). The final collection, to go to the Addington Fund for farming families in need, came to £2600, which is amazing. Thank you to all who came.



Family@church

Volunteers still wanted to join the team for our family@church 2nd Sunday benefice services attractive worship for all the family. If you are interested in being part of this new, monthly project, please let me know. Many thanks, Rev Michael.

Prayer breakfasts continue on **Monday mornings** - breakfast and prayers. We meet at 7.45am for breakfast; prayers start at 8.30am. For the early part of the month we're using the Eddie Askew reflections on Jesus stilling the storm for our meditation. We always aim to finish by 9am. Contact Rev Michael for venue details, which change.

Mothers Union No September branch meeting but please note we are once again renting the 'I-Chameleon' shop in Halesworth from 30 Oct for one week. Any portable donations to sell gratefully received – except clothing. Please contact Cathie McGregor on 01379 668434.

Advance notices

Sunday 13 October Friends of Hoxne Church Harvest lunch. More details from Anne Swann on 669322.

Also, Sunday 13, Bishop Mike will be visiting Syleham to dedicate J Leader's memorial. More details next time.

Saturday 19 October

Syleham Harvest Lunch at Syleham and Wingfield village hall, 7 for 7.15pm. Always a fun evening so save the date! Call Mary Lewis on 669258 for more details.

What's on?

Hoxne benefice news. Paper copies of this newsletter are in each church. For emailed copies, please email hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com

facebook pages

- * Hoxne benefice Messy Church
- * Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
- * Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike cofe Suffolk

Raise funds for churches of the Hoxne Benefice with easyfundraising! Please register to support us - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice> **£470 raised to date!** This goes towards Messy Church and family@church expenses, so very valuable.

The Denham Kubb Tournament that took place on 17 August was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Competition was fierce with the two teams in the final battling it out for the golden kubb! It came down to the wire but in the end 'The Girls' were victorious, with 'The Bear Kubbs' in second place and 'The Irvins', last year's winners, in third place. Thanks to all who came and a huge thank you to everyone who helped out and to Margaret and Michael Reeves for their delicious scones! The event raised a much needed £300 for Denham Church.