

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

October 2014

In Celtic Christianity, great importance is attached to *thin places*, where the barrier between heaven and earth is particularly porous. They can be places, but can also be times and seasons. Autumn was held to be just such a thin place and it seems very appropriate to me that this autumn has become a *season of prayer*. We've already had the successful Dean's pilgrimage in September and the monthly workshops continue in Fressingfield.

As well as time, place was a very important component of *thin places* and I am sure that I am not alone in valuing the sacred atmosphere in our church buildings that I'm sure has come about through the prayers offered there by countless generations of our predecessors. Tapping into that tradition of prayer, I am very glad that some members of the international prayer guild, to which I belong, are coming to visit this month and we will be able to offer prayers in all the churches of the benefice over the course of a couple of days.

If the phrase 'members of an international prayer guild' conjures intimidating images of caped super-heroes, I'm sorry to disabuse you; come and join us and see for yourself how mundane they are. For all the imagery of *thin places* being of special times and places, the point was that the Celts held that prayer was for everyone everywhere. My prayer is that somewhere in this season of prayer you will find a form of prayer that works for you.

Rev Michael's *planned* rest days and days away from the benefice in October:
Fri 3rd, Thurs 9th, Fri 10th, Fri 17th, Weds 22nd, Weds 29th, Thurs 30th, Fri 31st.

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 Davey 01379 741455

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 Abbot 01379 678217

Syleham: St Margaret. Mary Lewis 01379 669258, John Leader 01379 668205

Wingfield: St Andrew. John McCracken 01379 384181, Michael Harvey 01379 586355

Coffee morning with stalls, raffle and cake stall. Saturday 4th October, 10-1pm, 18 Castle Crescent, Wingfield. Proceeds to the Colney Cancer Centre, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Sale of household, vintage and curios Saturday 11th October, a sale of unusual and interesting items. 11- 4pm Wingfield Barns. Refreshments and cakes.

Christmas carols (already!)

One of the more enjoyable challenges with Christmas, is that there are more carols than time to sing them. We're going to try and overcome that by making more time to sing carols this year. On **Sunday 28th December at St Andrew's Wingfield from 5pm** we are going to do nothing but sing carols. There will be 18 in all, ranging from the very popular to the rarely sung, such as the Coventry Carol and In Dulce Jubilo to more obscure gems. Join in or sit and listen, as you wish.

We not planning a concert performance but an enthusiastic celebration of Christmas so all voices and abilities welcome, from any parish or denomination, harmony singing welcome, musical instruments welcome too. Champagne, wine and soft drinks will be served afterwards. If you would like copies of the music or are planning to bring an instrument, please contact Peter Demetriadi peter_midpet@btconnect.com.

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 November HBN is 20th Oct.

Suffolk historic churches' sponsored bike ride Thank you to all cyclists, organisers, stewards and sponsors who took part in this annual event. We were blessed with the weather and are extremely grateful for the money that the cyclists have raised for our churches.

Evening Communion at Denham

Our next monthly midweek Communion at Denham will be on Tuesday 14th, at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to come and join in this reflective service.

Hoxne harvest lunch

Come join our harvest lunch at Hoxne on Sunday 12th October, 12.30 for 12.45pm in St Edmund's Hall. Adults £8, children £5. For tickets, please phone Margaret Brawn on 01379 668352.

Praying round the benefice

As mentioned, I have arranged for some friends to come and pray with me in all the churches of the benefice over the course of a few days. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us at any time.

Tuesday 14th October

5.00pm Evening Prayer, Wingfield
7.30pm Holy Communion, Denham

Wednesday 15th October

8.00am Morning Prayer, Syleham
10.30am Holy Communion, Redlingfield
Noon prayer, Redlingfield
3.00pm Afternoon prayer, Horham
5.30pm Evening Prayer, Hoxne
8.30pm Compline, Wingfield

Thursday 16th October

8.30am Holy Communion, Wingfield
10.00am Prayer, Athelington.

Horham coffee mornings now every Wednesday, 10.30am at the Old School - coffee, cakes, chat and good company. Free admission, donations welcome.

Memorial and thanksgiving service

On Saturday 1st November at Hoxne, 4pm, we will be having our annual service remembering those we have loved who are no longer with us. The service will be followed by tea and refreshments. Grief has no regard for time nor physical boundaries and everyone is very welcome to attend regardless of when or where you suffered loss. An important part of the service is reading out the names of those we miss and I am starting to write that list. Please contact me with the names of anyone you'd like remembered. If you don't want to come but would still like someone remembered in that service, please let me know and I will make sure that their name is read out. Rev Michael

Coffee, chat and choose

On the first and third Wednesday of each month, (1st and 15th Oct), 7pm to 8.30pm, you will be most welcome to Reading Hall, Denham where a selection of Christian books will be available to borrow - both adult and children's. Coffee and cake will be served if you wish to stay, but please feel free to just pop in and out. Contact Barbara on 01379 870500.

Messy church – our next, 5th October in Syleham but for all parishes in the benefice - a new approach to church for all ages: fun and friendship with a biblical theme, creative activities and games, celebration with story and song, and a scrumptious tea. At Syleham village hall, 4pm every first Sunday, lasting about an hour. All very welcome. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Revd Michael.

Deanery Prayer Workshops

The next workshop will be 10am-12 noon, Sancroft Hall, Fressingfield on Sat 11th Oct. Two ways of using the bible in personal prayers, lead by Rev Michael. (Also 8th Nov).

Rural coffee caravan info project in Redlingfield and Wingfield

The caravan comes to Redlingfield on Weds 8th (not 1st) and to Wingfield on Tues 21st Oct, from 10am until noon, with coffee, tea, biscuits and information about local events, services and organisations. Donations welcome.

Also in Redlingfield - Pub on the Green, Saturday 11th Oct, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Friends of Hoxne church coffee morning, Saturday 25th October, 10-11.30am in the church.

Coffee, chat and gifts

Saturday 25th October 10.30am – 12 noon at Little Hemplands, Syleham, IP21 4LT. Fairtrade gifts and cards available to buy, supporting poor communities worldwide through Christian relief charity Tearfund (Disasters Emergency Committee member). 01379 669258.

Syleham harvest supper is at the village hall on Saturday 4th October, 7pm for 7.30pm. A convivial evening with a delicious two-course meal. It's not too late to book (£8 adult/£5 child includes first drink) – contact mary.lewis@tecova.com, 01379 669258.

Rural Dean licensing

Bishop David will license Rev Susan as our Rural Dean on a permanent basis (she's been temporary Rural Dean for the past year) in a service of Evening Prayer at All Saints', Thorndon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th October. All are welcome to attend the short service. Even if you can't attend, please remember Susan in your prayers. Many of us have benefitted from her leadership and guidance in the past year and look forward to her continuing ministry amongst us.

You will be warmly welcomed at all the services around the benefice

October 2014	Week 1 Sun 5th Oct 16th a/ Trinity	Week 2 Sun 12th Oct 17th a/ Trinity	Week 3 Sun 19th Oct 18th a/ Trinity	Week 4 Sun 26th Oct Bible Sunday
Athelington			9.30am Harvest Festival	
Denham		3.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise		11.15am Family Service
Horham	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	10.00am Baptism		11.15am Family Service
Hoxne	11.15am Holy Communion	11.15am BCP Matins	8.30am BCP Holy Communion 11.15am Harvest Festival	10.00am Family Service
Redlingfield	9.30am Holy Communion			9.30am Morning Prayer
Syleham	4.00pm Messy Church		11.15am BCP Matins	9.30am Holy Communion
Wingfield	10.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Family Service	6.30pm BCP Evensong