

# Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

Welcome to the first edition of the benefice newsletter. As the year draws to a close, we can reflect on what huge changes there have been for all of us in our churches. We have been re-organised, gained a new rector, rural dean and even bishop! Hopefully the coming year will see stability for us and we will start to find our identity as a benefice.

One of the main purposes of having a benefice newsletter is that everyone can be aware of services being offered across the benefice. This is very important as we are not big enough to offer (in the words of a telephone company) 'Everything Everywhere' so special services such as the Christmas Vigil service at Athelington (Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm) might otherwise pass people by. Likewise, if you prefer to receive communion on a weekly basis you can see where it is being offered Sunday by Sunday. Another purpose is to help us support each other by highlighting events in the different churches.

Turning then to what I do not want it to be..... I do not want it to be in competition with our excellent community magazines; if there is space after we have listed church events there will be brief reminders for other events in the villages.

The newsletter will be available in all our churches, but you can get it as soon as it is produced, and save paper by receiving it by email. To be on the distribution list (which is by bcc to hide addresses) please send your email address to [hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com)

**Revd Michael's planned rest days in December.** It is a complicated month, as my globe-trotting children come home for Christmas, but my planned rest days and holidays are: Tues 3rd, Fri 6th, Sat 14th, Weds 18th, Fri 20th, Thu 26th, Fri 27th, Tues 31st December.

## **Revd Michael**

St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Suffolk IP21 5RB. 01379 388889  
[hoxnebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebenefice@gmail.com)

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## **Churchwardens**

**Athelington: St Peter.** Evelyn Adey 01728 628428, John Davey 01379 741455

**Denham: St John the Baptist.** Michael Reeves 01379 668179, Maria Price 01379 668032

**Hoxne: St Peter & St Paul.** Brian Chester 01379 669157

**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

### **Book of 'treasures'**

A full-colour book to celebrate our magnificent churches and their 'treasures' has been published to mark the centenary of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The diocese was formed in March 1914 from parts of the dioceses of Norwich and Ely; the parish church of St James, Bury St Edmunds became the cathedral. The 120-page book 100 Years, 100 Treasures: A Celebration of Suffolk Churches, costs £5 a copy and is part of the 2014 Centenary celebrations that start in earnest next March when the Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Revd Justin Welby visits Bury St Edmunds.

The book features 'treasures' from every period represented in the diocese from the Anglo Saxons and Normans through to Middle Ages, on to the Victorians and up to the present day. Hoxne and Worlingworth are both included. The concept of pilgrims and visitors touring parishes to discover these remarkable treasures ties in neatly with the Centenary theme of 'Pilgrims in Time'.

Generous sponsorship means that the book can be sold for much less than a normal retail price. If you buy the book through your parish, then your church is able to retain £2 of the cost price of £5. Please contact Brian Chester, Flaxfield, Witton's Lane, Hoxne IP21 5AE (01379 669157 / email bc@bcnewslink) to place an order.

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*What is happening in your church community each month? Please email all details to Michael Womack, (email over) or to Virginia Skoyles on hoxnebeneficeoffice@gmail.com*

**Long lasting, Needle-retentive Christmas trees** of all shapes and sizes. Dig your own if preferred. £6 donation from each sale shared equally between the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Southwold lifeboat. Trees available from Thursday 12 December. Ring Brian Chester on Hoxne 669157 for details.

**Christmas Fayre** , Saturday 30 November, 11am – 2.30 pm, in Syleham Village Hall. Contact 01379 668251.

**Wingfield Christmas Fayre**, Saturday 7 December, 10am to 2pm at Wingfield Barns. Craft stalls, games, Christmas hamper raffle, refreshments. Free entry.

**Hoxne Christmas Fair**, Saturday 7 December, 2pm to 4pm, St Edmund's Hall. Stalls, cakes, preserves, gifts, refreshments. Father Christmas.

**Quattro Amici at Wingfield Barns**, Saturday 7th December, 7.30pm. Book on 01379 384505 or online at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com).

**Carol Singing in Wingfield, Syleham and Weybread** with Adrian and friends, Wednesday 18 December. Please join us from 6pm at Adrian and Jane's home, White House Farmhouse, Syleham. Tel: 01379 669320. Proceeds to Kids' Company.

**Carol Service with The Amici Choir** at St Margaret's, Syleham, Sunday 22 December, 4pm.

**Senior Citizen's Christmas Party** Saturday 18 January, 7pm at Syleham Village Hall (free event). 01379 668251.

## **Hoxne and Redlingfield back the Food Bank.**

More than 150 tins and packets of food were collected at harvest services at both Hoxne and Redlingfield, and delivered to the collection centre of the Waveney Valley Food Bank at Diss.

Children from the St Edmund's Pre-school brought items for the bank when they took part in a harvest service at the parish church on Friday October 18 led by the Revd Michael Womack. On the following Sunday, members of the congregation at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service increased the supply with a range of foodstuffs. And more boxes were filled at a harvest service held in the church by St Edmund's Primary School on October 25. A permanent collection box is now sited in the church (by the font) for anyone wishing to help meet this growing demand. This move follows an initiative by members of Hoxne Phoenix Group who are collecting items at their monthly meetings for the food bank. The collection taken at the harvest service is being donated to famine relief in Syria.

## **Early Communion**

Starting on January 19, a service of Holy Communion for the Hoxne Benefice will be held on the third Sunday of each month at Hoxne Church at 8.30am. This early morning service, the first for many years, will be taken by the Revd Michael Womack. It will be followed at 11.15am by a new pattern of services which will open fresh opportunities for worship.

**Athelington. Advent carol service** on Dec 1 at 4.30pm. Candle light, mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

## **Can you knit? - Can you help?**

I have the wool and the pattern but, much to the disappointment of my mother, not the skill to knit the 22 small sheep that I need to complete the Nativity project I am hoping to take into Hoxne School. Each child in the primary class will have the opportunity to take home a Nativity set and story book for a night. On return, they can select a biblically named sheep to hang on their Christmas tree, as a reminder of the real Christmas story. If you have a little spare time before December, I would be very grateful for offers of help from the benefice. I can be contacted on 01379 870500 or [cobowner@gmail.com](mailto:cobowner@gmail.com).

Many thanks  
Barbara Irwin

## **Redlingfield has a Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project (RCCIP)**

visit the village each month in the summer. In the winter, various residents host coffee mornings in their homes until the next summer arrives. Both summer and winter coffee mornings are on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am until noon. Coffee and biscuits are provided; no charge although a donation is appreciated. Everyone welcome.

The next two coffee mornings are as follows:

Wednesday 4 December, at Pat Kelly's home, Red Mill, Redlingfield.

Wednesday 1 January, (Yes, New Year's Day) at Midge and Chris Gibbons' home, Rush Meadow, Redlingfield.

## You are welcome to any of our services around the benefice

<b>Week 1</b> Advent Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	9.45am	Redlingfield	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Wingfield	Family Communion
		11.15am	Hoxne	Holy Communion
		11.15am	Syleham	Morning Prayer
		3.30pm	Wingfield	Christingle
		4.30pm	Athelington	Christmas carols
<b>Week 2</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	Horham	Holy Communion
		11.00am	Wingfield	Holy Communion
		11.15am	Hoxne	Family Service + Baptism
<b>Week 3</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.45am	Athelington	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Syleham	Village Service
		11.15am	Hoxne	Holy Communion
		4.00pm	Wingfield	Carols by Candlelight
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>		7.30pm	Hoxne	Carols
<b>Week 4</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.00am	Wingfield	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Hoxne	Christingle
		11.15am	Denham	Carols
		4.00pm	Syleham	Carols with Amici Choir
		4.30pm	Horham	Carols
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>		6.30pm	Redlingfield	Carols
<b>Christmas Eve</b>		4.30pm	Athelington	Vigil
		11.15pm	Wingfield	Midnight Mass
<b>Christmas Day</b>		8.00am	Syleham	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Redlingfield	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Hoxne	Family Communion
<b>Week 5</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Christmas	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.15am	Horham	Benefice Eucharist