

Hoxne Benefice Newsletter

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

January 2014

January is a strange month; technically the Christmas season continues until 2nd February but alongside this, looking back to Christmas, there is the urge to look forward and start the New Year with new things. Perhaps the Romans were right to picture their God, Janus, with two faces so that he could look both ways at once.

It makes me call to mind the words of St Paul, admittedly in a different context, (writing to the Corinthian church about the Eucharist) saying, 'I receive from the Lord what I also passed onto you'. Often in life we have to look two ways at once, that we give as we receive. That is definitely a feature of my diary and absence from the benefice in January.

I am receiving, as the diocese is sending me on a residential course, but I am also giving, as I have been invited to be part of the spiritual guidance available on a retreat the diocese is running at the end of the month. Giving and receiving also goes on in our relationship to the broader diocese and I am very grateful that Canon Andrew Vessey will be leading the Holy Communion services in the benefice when I am away, so we receive something from the diocese just as in turn others in the diocese receive from my ministry which you so generously and graciously support in many ways.

Giving and receiving from one another was what knitted the early church together, as the Body of Christ. I rather expect that as 2014 unfolds, we will find that as a benefice we increasingly give as we receive from each other in all sorts of different ways and become knit together as part of the Body of Christ.

Revd Michael's planned rest days and days away from the benefice in January.

As you've read above, it's a complicated month for keeping track of when I'm not in the benefice: Thurs 2nd, Mon 6th, Weds 8th, Fri 10th, Sun 12th to Thurs 16th, Mon 20th to Weds 22nd, Tues 28th, Thurs 30th, Fri 31st January.

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, 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

The Hoxne Benefice Newsletter is available in all seven of 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

Wingfield Barns - Robin Hood

Saturday 19th January 3pm & 6pm. A fun-filled panto for all ages from 3 to 103. Puzzle House Productions. Book on 01379 384505 or online: www.wegottickets.com

Wingfield College - Invitation to View.

Book from January invitationtoview.co.uk for Sat 17th May, 21st June, 18th July, 12th September.

The Wingfield Christmas Fayre held at Wingfield Barns on Saturday 7th December raised just over £400. Thank you to all who worked hard to make it happen and to those who came and supported us.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and sang carols at the Depperhaugh on Monday 16th December. I know it was really appreciated by residents and staff alike; one of those times where we, having received the joy of Christmas, were able to pass it on.

Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

Saturday 18th January, 7pm at Syleham Village Hall (free event). 01379 668251.

.Book of Common Prayer

Communions. Some people find the structure of the Book of Common Prayer communion service a source of comfort, and from this month it is available three times a month across the Benefice:

*12th January, 9:30am at Horham

*19th January, **8:30am** at Hoxne

*26th January, 9:30am at Syleham

The 8:30am on the 19th at Hoxne is a new venture, as previously we haven't had an early communion offered. It will be a simple said service with a very brief homily and I hope will appeal to those who like a particularly 'gentle' but structured style of worship. These are shown in the list of services as BCP.

News from Syleham

After a busy October, church fund-raising events are taking a break until the evening of Saturday 15th February, when Call my Bluff with Wine is again being held at the Village Hall. An hilarious evening, of sipping, guessing, cheating – and sipping some more! This event is for church fabric funds and bookings/details will be available from Colin Campbell 01379 668306.

At the time of writing, our Carol Service was still to come and we always enjoy having Amici choir with us. We are planning to make a donation to the Salvation Army from the offering taken.

Regular activities at the Village Hall include carpet bowls (01379 668102), line dancing (669123), jive (652291) and a monthly craft group (668251).

- **Deadline for the February issue, Sunday 19th January**

Lent Events – What would YOU like? Lent begins in early March, but I'm already thinking about events that we could run. I have two in mind that could happen.

A practical course in prayer- this would explore different ways of praying, such as silence, with hymns and Bible passages.

A book group – Rest assured, the book I have in mind is not heavy theology but John Rogers, *The Undelivered Mardle*. It's one of the few books I've found about church life in rural Suffolk.

Please can you let me know (hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 01379-388889) if either or both of these appeal to you and what sort of time of the day and week would be most convenient, or indeed if you have other ideas and then I'll see what we can manage.
(Revd Michael Womack)

An overflowing Athelington St Peter's enjoyed its Advent Carol Service by Candlelight. Afterwards its congregation enjoyed mulled wine and mince-pies and the enticing home-made decorated cake table.

Thank you everyone who came and also many who helped with this special gathering on this first Sunday of Advent.

Hoxne Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Hoxne Christmas Fair such a success. Approximately £2200 was raised.

Redlingfield's Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project (RCCIP) 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 1st January, (Yes, New Year's Day) at Midge and Chris Gibbons' home, Rush Meadow, Redlingfield.

Wednesday 5th February 2014, Linda Hudson's, Woodvale, Redlingfield

The Bishop's Blog. If you are looking for a fascinating insight into how the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr David Thomson, spends his days, you can follow his blog.

<http://bpdt.wordpress.com>.

The bishop is encouraging us to use the diocesan prayer for growth. Please use whenever you can.....

A diocesan prayer for growth

God, who brings life to creation and to people, help us to serve you at work in Suffolk and to work with you so your kingdom grows here.

By the grace of your Spirit, be the source of our love, our energy and our songs so that, separately and together, we may draw closer to you.

May we speak of you and share your life with people who live, work and visit here, bringing glory to your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

**Wishing all of you, your families and your friends,
a joyful, peaceful and healthy 2014.**

You are welcome to any of our services around the benefice

5th January 2014	9.30am	Redlingfield	Holy Communion Family Service with Epiphany play
Epiphany Sunday	10.00am	Wingfield	Family Service
	11.15am	Horham	Holy Communion
	11.15am	Hoxne	Morning Prayer
	11.15am	Syleham	
12th January 2014	9.30am	Horham	Holy Comm. BCP
1st after Epiphany	11.00am	Wingfield	Holy Communion
	11.15am	Hoxne	Morning Prayer
19th January 2014	8:30am	Hoxne	Holy Comm. BCP
2nd after Epiphany	9.30am	Athelington	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Redlingfield	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Syleham	Family Service
	10.00am	Wingfield	Family Service
	11.15am	Hoxne	Family Service
	11.15am	Horham	Family Service
26th January 2014	9.30am	Syleham	Holy Comm. BCP
3rd after Epiphany	10.00am	Redlingfield	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Hoxne	Family Service
	10.00am	Wingfield	Matins BCP
	11.15am	Denham	Family Service
	11.15am	Horham	Family Service