

DEC 2025	Sunday 7 th Advent 2	Sunday 14 th Advent 3	Sunday 21 st Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Athelington	9.30am JM CW Holy Communion		6pm DM Crib Service		
Denham					11am JM CW Holy Communion
Horham			4pm EG Carol Service	11.30pm JM Midnight Service	
Hoxne	9.30am EG BCP Holy Communion	9.30 for 10am Café Church JM	9.30am JM CW Holy Communion		9.30am EG CW Holy Communion
Redlingfield		9.30am EG CW Holy Comm			9.30am RC CW Holy Communion
Syleham	4pm Team Christmas Party Syleham/ Wingfield village hall		11.15am EG Carol Service		9.30am JM BCP Holy Communion
Wingfield	11am EG CW Holy Communion		4pm JM Carols by candlelight	4pm EG Crib Service	11am EG CW Holy Communion

**Sunday 30th November is Advent Sunday. Benefice Comm, Redlingfield, 11am
Advent Carol Service at Athelington, 4pm, Evensong at Wingfield, 6pm
Carol Services - inside the newsletter**

On the rota: Revd Eleanor Goodison EG Revd John McCracken JM
 Revd Richard Court RC Revd David Mulrenan DM

Online Services

Every Friday: Compline on Zoom at 6pm.

For an invitation to Zoom services, please email eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Church contacts

Athelington: St Peter	Colin Palmer 01728 628747
Denham: St John the Baptist	Barbara Irwin 01379 669077,
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	Revd Eleanor Goodison 07876 143579
Syleham: St Margaret	Revd Eleanor Goodison 07876 143579
Wingfield: St Andrew	Revd Eleanor Goodison 07876 143579



Hoxne Benefice Churches

**Athelington Denham
Horham Hoxne Redlingfield
Syleham Wingfield**

December 2025



The Word became flesh and blood

It will soon be Christmas and already we are starting to prepare. Advent Sunday falls early this year, 30th November, and Athelington church will be holding its usual Advent Carol Service at 4pm. Over the next few weeks, there will be lots more carol services (details in this newsletter), not to mention Christmas parties for Messy Church (7th November) and the Youth Café (12th December), but there will also be some opportunities to slow down and reflect on the significance of God's amazing gift to the world. God sent his Son Jesus to be one of us and to bring us life and light and we need to take time to prepare ourselves to receive him. So we will have a special Advent Bible Study on Tuesday 2nd December and a drop-in Quiet Morning on Saturday 13th December at Syleham church to help us do that.

If we have lived through many Christmases it may be difficult to think afresh about the mystery of the Incarnation. The Message – the version of the Bible in contemporary language – can perhaps help. Its version of the beginning of John's gospel says: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood". The mission of the church is to follow Jesus' example and "move into the neighbourhood" as well. As a church, we aim to be a Christian presence in each of our villages and, especially perhaps at Christmas time, to provide a focus for the celebration of God's great gift to us in the birth of Jesus.

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas, when it comes, and a happy New Year!

Revd Eleanor Revd Eleanor and Revd John will be taking a break after Christmas from Monday 29th December to Friday 2nd January.

Revd Eleanor usually works Friday to Monday and is available for urgent matters on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday is her day off. Messages received Thursday will normally be dealt with Friday.

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

Revd Eleanor: 07876 143579 , eleanor.goodison@gmail.com

Revd John: 07876 507288, vj.mccracken@gmail.com

Revd Richard: rev.richard.court@icloud.com

December 2025

Sunday 30th Nov is **Advent Sunday**.

We have a **benefice service** at Redlingfield at 11am; the well-loved **Advent Carol Service** at Athelington at 4pm and a special **Evensong for St Andrew** at Wingfield at 6pm.

Tuesday 2nd December **Coffee and cake**: drop-in café at the village hall in Syleham, 10 to 11.30am. Come with a friend or on your own for a friendly chat.

Also **Tuesday 2nd** Our **Bible Study** will be a special session on an Advent theme. 7.30pm on Zoom for an hour. All welcome to join in without commitment to future sessions – contact Revd Eleanor for the Zoom link.

Wednesday 3rd Redlingfield's **Winter Coffee Morning** will be held at Bright Thinken, Church Road, 10am to 12 noon. Everybody welcome for coffee and chat.

Saturday 6th **Hoxne's Christmas Fair** takes place in the village hall from 12 to 2.30pm, with a range of great stalls, a soup lunch and a visit from you-know-who!

Saturday 6th/Sunday 7th There will be **decorated windows at Redlingfield** on the theme of "pets in the window" to admire, with refreshments including Hazel's famous bakes. Church open for visits, 10am to 4pm.

Also **Saturday 6th/Sunday 7th** Wingfield church is participating with its own stall in the **Wingfield Barns Christmas Fair**. 10am to 4 pm on Saturday, 10am to 3pm on Sunday. Free entry. Local crafts and hand-made gifts.

Christmas Carol and Crib Services

Sunday 30th November	4pm at Athelington church:	Advent Carol Service
Sunday 7th Dec	4pm at Syleham/Wingfield Village Hall:	Messy Church Christmas party
Wednesday 10th Dec	6pm at Redlingfield church:	Carol Service
Thursday 18th Dec	6pm at Denham church:	Carol Service
Friday 19th Dec	2.30pm at The Depperhaugh:	Christmas Service
Sunday 21st Dec	11.15am at Syleham church:	Carol Service
Sunday 21st Dec	4pm at Horham church:	Carol Service
Sunday 21st Dec	4pm at Wingfield church:	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 21st Dec	6pm at Athelington church:	Crib Service
Tuesday 23rd Dec	6pm at Hoxne church:	Carol Service
Wednesday 24th Dec	4pm at Wingfield church:	Crib Service
Wednesday 24th Dec	11.30pm, Horham church:	Midnight Service

Sunday 7th The **Messy Church Christmas party** will take place at 4pm in Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall as usual. We have our entertainer back with loads of fun, plus a particularly scrummy tea. Please let us know if you are planning to come along, for catering purposes.

Tuesday 9th The **Coffee Caravan** is visiting Wingfield a week early this month, 10am to 12 noon. Pop along for friendly chatter, a cuppa, cake and sausage rolls too.

Wednesday 10th onwards. The **Christmas tree festival** at Hoxne church will be ready for viewing from now (setting up 6th, 8th, 9th). The church will be filled with trees.

Also **Wednesday 10th** We're taking part once again with Horham Baptist church in **Beer and Carols** at Horham Community Centre, 7.15 for 7.30pm. We do requests!

Also **Wednesday 10th** **Christmas Concert**, 7pm at Hoxne Church, performed by the Waveney Choir. Retiring collection in aid of church funds. Approx 1hr 15 mins, followed by refreshments. Come along to listen to (and join in) Christmas music of mixed genre, including carols.

Saturday 13th We will be holding a "drop-in" **Quiet Morning** at Syleham church from 10am to 12 noon. Come along for the whole two hours or for a shorter time of prayer and meditation away from the busyness of Christmas preparations.

Also **Saturday 13th** Come along to a "**Crafternoon**" at the recently reopened village hall in Denham, 1 to 3pm, in aid of Denham church. Wreath making, Christmas crafts and games. Wreath making is £10 and your wreath will be yours to take home. Mulled wine, mince pies and tea and coffee available.

Raise money for Hoxne Benefice, Christmas shopping with easyfundraising.

We have raised over £1100 since we started this scheme.

Please sign up and support us. It is completely **FREE** and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hoxnebenefice

Tuesday 16th The **Book Club** will meet to discuss *The Sweets of Pimlico* by A N Wilson. Further info from Revd Eleanor.

Friday 19th We will be **carol singing at the Depperhaugh** at 2.30pm and would love to have more singers. Contact Caroline Abbott if you are able to come along and swell the joyful strain!

Saturday 20th The regular **coffee morning** at Hoxne church will be held as usual from 9.45 to 11.15am.

Sunday 28th There will be a **benefice service at Hoxne** at 11am. No services at Denham or Syleham this Sunday.

Looking ahead Sunday 4th Jan Our Messy Christingle will take place at 4pm at Syleham church. All welcome.

Weds 14th Jan Community Lunch Club. The launch date of our new lunch club, for adults and children, at Hoxne village hall. More details next time.

WAVENEY FOODBANK

Please don't forget to donate food (in Hoxne church or your supermarket) or go to the website to donate online. **Non-perishables always urgently required.** 07484 394749 Visit <https://waveney.foodbank.org.uk>