

**Let us pray: -**

Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the waters at creation and descended upon your Son at the River Jordan: as we remember the Baptism of Christ, renew in us the grace of our own baptism. As the light of Epiphany continues to shine, open our eyes to behold your glory revealed among us. May the voice that proclaimed Jesus your beloved speak again to our hearts, assuring us of your mercy, your calling, and your delight in your people. By your Holy Spirit, lead us deeper into the way of Christ: to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you all our days.

Strengthen your Church throughout this Epiphany season to bear the light of Christ in a world longing for hope. Make us faithful witnesses to the One who came to dwell among us, who was revealed in water and word, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**A prayer for the Box River Benefice during the Interregnum**

Faithful God, in this time of waiting and transition, hold our Benefice in Your gentle care. Bless our Churchwardens, PCC members, Volunteers, Clergy Team and all who serve, as we seek your wisdom and steadying peace. Strengthen us in fellowship and prayer, so that together, we may prepare hearts and homes for the shepherd you are sending. May patience grow, compassion deepen, and hope be renewed, as we continue your work, anchored in grace and love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Please remember in your prayers**

**In Need of our Prayers:**

Colin Bloomfield, Paul Goldsmith, Joey Jane,  
Jill Nation, Sharon Oliver, Jean Watling, John Daniels,  
Janet Daniels, Rob Jones, John Overton,  
Audrey White, Carol Langley, Heather Abel

*Heavenly Father, giver of life & health, comfort & relieve those who are challenged by physical, mental & emotional health. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness & have confidence in your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

**Those who have died recently or whose anniversary of death falls at this time:**

Reginald Tricker

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory! Amen.*

Please note: to keep the prayer list 'current,' we refresh it regularly. If you would like a name to be added to the prayer list or to remain on the prayer list longer than 4 weeks, please contact the Benefice Office.



**The Box River Benefice**

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January  
Baptism of Christ**

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January  
Epiphany 2  
1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity**

**Associate Priest:** The Ven. James Ridge  
Tel: 07394 715223  
Email: [james.ridge@justice.gov.uk](mailto:james.ridge@justice.gov.uk)  
Day off: Saturday

**Priest with PTO:** The Revd Diana Garfield  
Tel: 01787 703457  
Email: [dianagarfield@hotmail.com](mailto:dianagarfield@hotmail.com)

**Lay Minister:** Maggie Cogan  
Tel: 01787 310588  
Email: [maggie.cogan@btinternet.com](mailto:maggie.cogan@btinternet.com)

**Lay Minister:** David Ball  
Tel: 07801 416191  
Email: [dmjball@gmail.com](mailto:dmjball@gmail.com)

**Benefice Administrator:** Liz Potter  
Benefice Office, Mary's House,  
5 Swan Street, Boxford, CO10 5NZ  
Tel: 01787 828046  
Email: [boxriverbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:boxriverbenefice@gmail.com)

Normal working hours: 9.00 am – 1.00 pm  
Tuesday – Thursday, emails of an urgent pastoral nature will be responded to outside of these working hours

Website: [www.boxriverbenefice.com](http://www.boxriverbenefice.com)  
Follow us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice](https://www.facebook.com/boxriverbenefice)  
Or find us on A Church near You  
[Box River Benefice - A Church Near You](#)

If you would like an electronic copy of this notice sheet each week, please contact the Benefice Office to be added to the list.

**Welcome to the Box River Benefice**

**Pastoral visiting, spiritual guidance,  
confession, blessings:**

The Benefice offers a rich ministry of Spiritual Guidance, Confession and Pastoral Visiting to the sick, housebound, or hospitalised. If you would like a Pastoral Visit, Home Communion, Spiritual Guidance, Confession, House Blessing, Hospital Visit for yourself or someone you know please contact the Benefice Office.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Baptism of Christ**

9.30 am – Sunday Eucharist (Groton)  
11.00 am – Sunday Eucharist with Choir (Boxford)  
4.00 pm – BCP Evensong (Boxford)

**Readings**

Acts 10.34-43  
Matthew 3.13-end

**Hymns - Eucharist**

513 – On Jordan's bank  
135 – Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round  
413 – God of our life  
495 – O let the Son of God enfold you

**Hymns - Evensong**

467 – O breath of life  
591 – Spirit divine  
104 – Come Holy ghost  
Mag and Nunc – A  
Psalm 46

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Aelred of Hexham, 1167**  
**Benedict Biscop, 689**

10.00 am – Drop in for Coffee (Mary's House)

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Hilary of Poitiers, 367**  
**Kentigern (Mungo), 603**  
**George Fox, 1691**

10.00 am – Communion & Coffee (Mary's House)  
7.30 pm – Bell Ringing Practice (Boxford)

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January**

6.00 pm – Choir Practice (Boxford)

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Boxford)

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Epiphany 2**

**1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

9.30 am – Sunday Eucharist (Edwardstone)  
11.00 am – Sunday Eucharist with Choir (Boxford)

**Readings**

1 Corinthians 1.1-9  
John 1.29-42

**Hymns**

32 – And did those feet  
368 – Just as I am – Tune 2  
146 – Father of heaven whose love  
15 – All hail the power of Jesus name

**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Wulfstan, 1095**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

7.30 pm – Joint Benefice Council Meeting (Mary's House)

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Richard Rolle, 1349**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

10.00 am – Drop in for Coffee (Mary's House)

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Agnes, 304**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

10.00 am – Communion & Coffee (Mary's House)  
10.00 am – Coffee Morning (Newton)  
7.30 pm – Bell Ringing Practice (Boxford)

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Epiphany 3**

**Last Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

11.00 am – Sunday Eucharist (Newton)  
11.00 am – Family Worship (Boxford)

**WELCOME** to the Box River Benefice. Whether you are a long-standing member of our congregations or visiting for the first time, we're delighted you are here. May you find space to rest, reflect, and be renewed. If you're new or returning after some time away, please make yourself known to our Ministry Team.

**GIVING:** Ministry to our communities & the upkeep of our church buildings costs money. We are therefore extremely grateful to all our donors. Please consider contributing as a part of your faith commitment.

You can find out more about how to give on our website at: [www.boxriverbenefice.com/support-us/](http://www.boxriverbenefice.com/support-us/), ask a church warden, minister, our administrator or follow the directions on our notice boards. You can also give during any service or when visiting church; please place your offering in the giving plate, alms box or use the card reader by the door.

**VOLUNTEERING WITHIN THE BENEFICE:** We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to support our existing volunteers within the Benefice, who do an incredible job keeping our church and communities alive. You don't have to be a churchgoer to volunteer, levels of commitment also vary, everyone is welcome. Is 2026 the year for you to try something new? There is something for everyone: - choir, flower arranging, opening/closing churches, helping at coffee mornings, helping at Mary's House, cleaning, maintenance, gardening, fund raising. There are also voluntary roles associated with our regular services, such as setting up the church, reading, stewarding. Please contact the Benefice Office in the first instant for more information.

**St Mary's, Boxford - Food Bank: Here for You:** If you—or someone you know—could benefit from help, please reach out to the Benefice Office in confidence. We know that asking for assistance isn't always easy, especially during the winter months, but you are never alone. Our commitment is to walk alongside our community, providing practical help throughout the year.

**Fun Quiz at Groton Village Hall:** St Bartholomew's Fundraising Team is delighted to host a fun-filled Quiz Night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. Doors open at 7:15pm, with the quiz kicking off promptly at 7:30pm. Form a team of up to six and enjoy an evening of friendly competition, laughter, and community spirit. A hot supper will be served, followed by tempting puddings—all included in the ticket price of £15 per person. Don't forget to bring your own drinks, and look forward to a raffle with fantastic prizes. It promises to be a wonderful night, so gather your friends and book your team today by contacting Jayne on 01787 211360.



