Church calendars for June/July

\* Every Wednesday at 10.30am, Holy Communion in St Michael's Church

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| June Services at St Michael’s |
| 2nd 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 9th 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 16th 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 23rd 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 30th 9.30am Parish Communion |
| July Services at St Michael’s |
| 7th 9.30am Family Communion |
| 14th 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 21st 9.30am Parish Communion |
| 28th 9.30am Parish Communion |

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| June Services at All Saints Saxtead |
| **2nd 11.30 Rogation at Trust Farm** |
| 9th 11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 16th 11.15am Holy Communion (CW) |
| 23rd  6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP) |
| 30th 11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| July Services at All Saints Saxtead |
| 7th 11.15am Holy Communion (CW) |
| 14th 11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| **21st 3.30pm Pet Service at Cullingford’s**  |
| 28th 6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP) |

St Michael’s Church News:

**St Michael’s Knitters and Stitchers go to Felixstowe - May 13th 2019**

The Knitters have been very busy since Christmas; over 50 hats, 8 balaclavas, 7 pairs of mitts, and more than 20 scarves all knitted by us and some of our friends. We packed them all in boxes and bags plus jigsaws, lots of toiletries, some games and plenty of good clothing as thirty two of us travelled on a beautiful sunny day to the Seafarers Centre in Felixstowe Docks.

We met Manager Anita and Volunteer Ships Visitor David in the very comfortable lounge, games, bar, library and shop area. We learned of how seafarers are often away from home for nine months at a time, shifts around the clock and as they say “Every day is a Monday”

Even the huge container ships have a maximum of 20 sailors, often of different nationalities so English is used for communication. Facilities on the large ships are good with cabins often having en-suite facilities with a gym and mess room for when not on shift, but smaller ships are not usually so well equipped.
When in dock sometimes seafarers are not allowed onshore, so David will visit the ship; he might find himself helping by giving information on Unions and Helplines if they are troubled.

When allowed off the ship sailors can go to town by minibus or visit the centre itself with its shop of souvenirs, sweets and snacks, play games, or attend a service upstairs in the Chapel or Multifaith room. There is a pretty garden opened by The Princess Royal with seating, bright flowers and greenery, a place to sit and relax or maybe have a smoke.

Over the years communications have changed; where once there were rows of phone booths now there is internet and some charging points for phones so sailors can contact their loved ones back home. The Centre can also be a meeting place if sailors have family or friends in the area. At lunchtime we drove to Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club where we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the dining room. It is situated in a lovely spot overlooking the sea, Martello Tower and towards Bawdsey Manor on the other side of the River Deben. It was a super day out.

**Prayer Corner**

Lord, pour down upon us your Spirit of peace and reconciliation: Challenge us to go out in service, and to transform the world through self-renewal. Teach us how to proclaim the Good News, that we may be instruments of justice, committed to peace and equality for all. Amen.

St Michael’s Church Framlingham with
All Saints Saxtead

Parish Newsletter: June 2019
**Please take this home with you.**

**Everyone is welcome to join us at all our Services, see inside for all the details.**

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**Visit our website for lots more information:**

<http://www.stmichaelsframlingham.org.uk/>

A Letter from our Rector, Mark

**Ethical questions**

There seems to be a lot of these around at the moment. The new regulations about abortion in Alabama, euthanasia in so many western countries, let alone issues of divorce, just war… How as Christians can we make sense of them? I remember going at some of these forty years ago and not coming to firm conclusions. Edith as part of her Reader training is studying them at the moment.

For some the definitive answers are in the Bible. I’m not sure I’d phrase it like that – the Bible sometimes put different emphases on similar questions. The Bible shows how different ages and societies work at these issues. We are called to use our medical knowledge, our intelligence which along with the Bible shapes experience and understanding. As Christians we ask ourselves: what did Jesus say, how did Jesus react, how does the love and challenge he consistently showed, challenge and love us into new reactions.

Some Christians look for definitive answers, personally I think Bible, prayer, intellect, and a sense of the Spirit makes us ask new questions. So when we sit alongside those who are going through these issues we deeply listen before we open our mouths in judgement.

I can’t remember what marks I got in my ethics essays! You may want to disagree (ethics seems to be full of people doing that) – but in the face of suffering let us listen and let us pray together. . Mark.

**Some sad news to share:**

I am sad to share with you that Graham Owen who had been ill for some months but wished to keep it as quiet as possible died in St Nicholas Hospice on the 21st May. Our prayers are with Mary and his family. Before he died he shared his wish to have his funeral at Framlingham and to be buried at Saxtead. The dates for this will be shared as soon as they are known.

Diocesan News

**You are warmly invited to 'Catching the Fire'** **on Sunday 9th June,** followed by a picnic. This Pentecost worship for all, led by Bishops Martin and Mike, will be the culmination of the 10-day wave of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Worship will be sung by the Cathedral choir as well as a choir and musicians drawn from across the diocese. As a sign of the light of Christ with which we are called to shine in our world, we will distribute and light candles which will continue to be used in churches, fresh expressions and small groups in prayer in the months ahead. The service will include the Bishop’s commissioning of leaders in Lightwave, our new county-wide Fresh Expressions Community. Please come to your Cathedral and hold this exciting new initiative in your prayers.  **Worship is at 4.00pm, and the picnic at 5.00pm**

All Saints’ Church News

**ROGATION**

It never ceases to amaze me how many days of importance in the Christian calendar are still related to the agricultural year. Let’s start with Rogation which has its roots in a Roman ceremony, in which a dog would be sacrificed each year to appease the god Robicus and stop him spreading rust on the crops. Fortunately, our pets are no longer at risk, but we still ask God to protect us from such calamities. In many places, the old ceremony of beating the bounds is still carried out ; a great procession of everyone from the minister down would proceed round the parish, marking out the area they wished to be protected.

Partly because of traffic problems, this practice has been altered to fit in with modern life, as Bill Roberts explains:

"**The Rogation Service is to be held this year at Trust Farm (Spring Lane, Dennington, IP13 8AN) starting at 11:30 am on Sunday 2nd June.** We are so glad that Edith ( on keyboard) and Mark will be there to lead us in the Hymns and the Service. This will be followed by a picnic and BBQ for all attendees, so do bring good weather plus enough food and drink for your own consumption and a little extra for someone else, perhaps for the Organist and the Canon! Children are very welcome; see you there (come rain or shine)!"

Next on our schedule will be that very important event, **our** **Fete, on Tues 25th June, at the Barn Saxtead** . Though not quite attaining religious significance, it plays a huge role in the raising of funds for the church; a time for all to have fun. Please let Sarah Rimmer or her helpers know if you can man a stall or provide cakes or flowers. This year the jewellery [stall is](http://stall.is) branching out to include other finery (hats, handbags etc) that lie half-forgotten in dark wardrobes.

**Celebrating Saxtead**

**The next meeting of all concerned is on Monday 3rd June at Old Mill House.**

Project leaders please bring along completed requirement forms for Bill R. If you haven't done one yet, please speak to Bill. We need to be aware of requirements such as chairs, materials, etc. Help is still needed with children's activities (pageant, creative art and literary work) and catering, as well as volunteers for the tug of war

And please, **don't forget to look at the Celebrating Saxtead website'** *Sue Ward.*