DECEMBER 2018

2nd December	9.45am	Family Service, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	**Morning Worship, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	6.30pm	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
9th December	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	11.00am	Morning Praise, St John's, Saxmundham
	6.30pm	Evening Worship, St John's, Saxmundham
16th December	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	9.45am	Connections CAD, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
	12.30pm	Solos buffet lunch, St John's Church Hall
	2.30pm	**Carols by Candlelight, St Peter's, Carlton**
	6.30pm	Carol Service, St John's, Saxmundham
23rd December	9.30am	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
	9.45am	Connections CAD, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	**Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	6.30pm	Evening Worship, St John's, Saxmundham
24th December	11.00pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
25th December	**10.00am**	**Family Service with Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
30th December	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham

JANUARY 2019

6th January	9.45am	Family Service, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	**Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter, Kelsale**
	6.30pm	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
13th January	**9.30am**	**Holy Communion, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	11.00am	Morning Praise, St John's, Saxmundham
	6.30pm	Evening Worship, St John's, Saxmundham
18th January	**4.30pm**	**Messy Church, Kelsale Village Hall**
20th January	**9.30am**	**Messy Praise, St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	9.45am	Connections CAD, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
	12.30pm	Solos lunch, St John's Church Hall
	6.30pm	Evening Worship, St John's, Saxmundham
27th January	9.30am	Holy Communion, St John's, Saxmundham
	9.45am	Connections CAD, Sax Primary School
	11.00am	**Holy Communion at St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale**
	6.30pm	Evening Worship, St John's, Saxmundham

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

There are a number of occasions to celebrate Christmas together, and sing Carols in and around the village. The first is the annual Village Hall Carol Concert, which is taking place on Saturday, 8th December from 6.00pm. As usual the evening will end with mince pies and snacks, and a collection will be taken for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Kelsale Primary School will have their Christmas service in St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale on Friday 14th December at 9.30am; then on Sunday 16th December St Peter's, Carlton will have its Carols by Candlelight service starting at 2.30pm – this is a lovely opportunity to join together to celebrate the true message of Christmas in the lovely setting of Carlton church. At 6.30pm that day, St John's, Saxmundham will be holding its Carol Service. On Christmas Eve at 11.00pm this year the Midnight Communion service will be held in St John's, whilst the 10.00am Family Service with Communion will be in St Mary & St Peter's. We do hope to see you at one of these services.

ST MARY & ST PETER, KELSALE SERVICES

From January 2019 we will be changing some of our Sunday services at St Mary & St Peter's, Kelsale. On the first Sunday each month it will be Holy Communion at 11.00am, and on the third Sunday each month it will be either Morning Worship or a Messy Praise at 9.30am. The other two Sundays each month will remain as Holy Communion. Please check the noticeboards in the village or church porch each month in case of any late changes to these arrangements.

MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on Friday 18th January from 4.30pm in the Village Hall. Come and join the fun for the youngsters and their families/helpers, with crafts and story-time. For more information contact Jenny Bridson (602582) or Elizabeth Masterton-Smith (604402). Stay for our usual meal, and then join us again on Sunday, 20th January, for more fun, songs and stories at our 9.30am Messy Praise service (note earlier start time). Other Messy Church dates in 2019 are: 15th March; 17th May; 19th July; 13th September; 15th November.

RAFFLE PRIZE

The Quilt raffle, which has been ongoing during this year, will be drawn at the Carol Concert on 8th December.

FROM THE RECTORY

Christmas Eve. When we were young, my brother and I would get so excited that we'd be awake again well before the dawn and debating whether we dared wake our parents to find out what was in store for us. A very childlike approach to Christmas of course, one focussed on receiving.

Who would you expect me to be critical of at Christmas: folk focussed on receiving or folk focussed on giving? Did you go for folk focussed on receiving, guessing that the bible must have something to say along those lines? You'd have guessed right. Acts Chapter 20 verse 35 quotes Jesus as saying 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' and I can't argue with that! But what I can argue with is the idea that we should feel guilty about receiving. Why? Well, to put it simply, no one can know the blessing of giving if there is not someone who will receive.

Many of you, but not all, will know both the blessing of giving and the joy of receiving some sort of gift this Christmas. Yet however great or small those gifts, there remains one that surpasses all others. A gift given to the whole world one day a couple of thousand years ago. A gift to be treasured beyond all others. A gift called Jesus. A gift to be received and shared.

May you find happiness in doing just that this Christmas.

Rev'd Andy Wolton