



Welcome to the
Services in our
Benefice
CONNECTIONS CHURCH
part of St. John's Church Family



January 27th The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Services in the Benefice today

Readings: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-1 and Luke 4.14-21

- 9:30am St. John's Holy Communion**
Leader and president Pam P; speaker: Nic S
- 9.45am Connections CAD Xtra**
- 11am Kelsale Holy Communion**
Leader Jill S; speaker and president: Nic S
- 6:30pm St. John's Evening Worship**
Leader Stephen H; Speaker Malcolm S.

Prayer for the Week

*God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, 9am - Morning Prayer
Friday, 7pm - Choir Practice
... numerous Homegroups!

EVENTS

Mission impossible planning meeting

Our holiday club is fast approaching, running between 8th and 11th April. We are looking for a team of volunteers to help us make this year another fantastic week. Whether you have volunteered before or you're new to this, please join us for our first planning meeting on Saturday 16th February at the Church at 9am. If you have any questions please get in touch with Kirsty Christmas.

The HUB



Our new after school drop-in begins on Wednesday 30th January in the church shop - 'At the Crossroads'. We will be welcoming young people school years 5-8 (aged 9-13) between 3:30-5:30 for games, homework space and a luxury hot chocolate. Please invite

young people to join us and please pray for us as we open the doors.

Bereavement Café

We are starting a new Ministry next month. Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. It is a space to talk about the pain of loss, express those emotions and find mutual support and encouragement, when it is most needed. It is a drop-in session so needs no advanced booking and it will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 2 till 3:30 At the Crossroads, starting on February 20th. Tea and cake will be provided! If you have experienced bereavement recently or are still struggling to cope with loss, do come along. Do also think about neighbours, friends and loved ones who may be experiencing these feelings and invite them.



(Nic and Jill)

Sizewell Weekend



Yes, it may be winter now but it'll soon be time to head for the beach again. The church weekend away will be held at Sizewell Hall from arrivals after 4 pm Friday 12th July to departure around 4 pm on Sunday 14th July. Do get it in the diary now - many more details to follow!

NOTICES

Fun and games!

If you have any board and table games gathering dust, we might have a new home for them. Our children's and youth work team are in need of some additional board and table games for our new Youth Café. We would love to have a variety of games on offer,

Need to Talk? Contact details for St. John's church officials can be found on our Website -- www.saxstjohns.org.uk/contact-us/ -- and on the notice board in the church porch.

so if you can gift any to us please speak to Kirsty Christmas or email stjohnsyncwork@talktalk.net

Party Time!

You won't need to bring a bottle - it's not that kind of party. Tom Lodge (bless him!) is willing to coordinate a work party to get various jobs done around the church and hall. Things like repairing the curtain and rail in Swann chapel which has fallen down (the curtain not the chapel!) and fixing the bolt on the door in the lower hall. So - would you like to party with Tom? Please say 'yes' as he needs a few volunteers. Ring him direct on 604822 and he'll fill you in. (Shirley T)

Egg Roll. Cheese Roll. Electoral Roll.

The forms are now available!! This year we have to prepare entirely new Electoral Rolls before the APCMs – which means all of us will have to complete a new registration form and give it to our Electoral Roll Officers – Sue Potter for St John's and Auriol Marson for Kelsale cum Carlton.

Breaking News...

At the PCC last Thursday, a couple of decisions were made in order to help out the Connections team during Tom & Lou's Sabbatical 'break'. These are:

1. To move the Connections 'CaD' service from the third week of each month to the second week of each month. This gives more planning and preparation time for those meetings which require film-clips and ice-breakers, etc., very helpful as the team is reduced in number. As a bonus, folk normally at the school for week 3 could now get to Communion in St. John's, if they so wish.
2. To relocate the Family Service out of the school and into St. John's. Again, very helpful as the Connections team will have only 2 rather than 3 weeks where P.A. kit has to be transported and set-up.

These changes have been agreed for the duration of 'the sabbatical'.

The APCMs!

The St John's annual meeting this year is scheduled for Wednesday, 20th March, and Kelsale cum Carlton for Sunday, 24th March following the 11.00am service. Early warning, you might think, but that's only weeks away!! Shirley and Adrian for St John's, and Elizabeth for Kelsale cum Carlton are aiming to produce booklet-style handouts – as last year – but this will only make sense if we have stuff to include. If you have been involved in helping with any event or 'happening' in the Benefice during 2018 please consider writing just a paragraph about it and submitting it by the end of January to either churchwardens@saxstjohns.org.uk for St John's or hen25ley@sky.com for Kelsale cum Carlton ... or hand them a good old-fashioned piece of paper. Thank you.

Rachel Battle

Rachel was admitted to Ipswich Hospital last weekend with severe breathing difficulties and it is with sadness that I have to report that she died on Tuesday morning. Despite the very considerable disadvantages that life had thrown her way, she nevertheless maintained a solid if simple faith. By the grace of God, she is now enjoying a resurrection body free of the disability that she experienced in her earthly life. Please pray for her sister and wider family in their loss. (Nic)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

...Kelsale cum Carlton PCC meeting on January 31st at 7pm at Kelsale Methodist Church Room.

...for Tabitha Stancombe-Duhm and the family as we remember her baptism in January 2015.

Thank-you for praying for the new Alpha course being hosted by the Wild West Homegroup. At the first session last Monday the 9 homegroup members were joined by 16 guests! Please pray that the guests carry on coming and for their continued 'Growing in God'. The next session 'Who is Jesus'.

...for Sally Hartley as she undergoes a course of chemotherapy, and for Paul and Lizi as they support her.

...for the family, friends and carers of Susan Pickering who died in Hospital on Sunday 20th aged 67. Susan was one of Saxmundham's characters and would turn up to services in St John's irregularly but often on her bicycle and under a wide brimmed hat. Susan's funeral will be held in St John's on 8th February at 1:30pm followed by burial at the Greenwood burial site.

...for Margaret Bezant, recovering at home.

Next Sunday: February 3rd Candlemas - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Readings: Malachi 3.1-5 and Luke 2.22-40

9:45am St John's Family Service

in St. John's Church and not at the school

11am Kelsale Holy Communion

Leader and President: Nic, Speaker: Andy

6:30pm St John's Holy Communion

Leader: Malcolm Speaker and President: Andy

Please send your contributions for the next Weekly Welcome Sheet – and any prayer requests - to notices@saxstjohns.org.uk by noon on Thursday.