



## **BENEFICE NEWS**

**FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Services In The Benefice Today**

*Romans 8.18-25 - "Future Glory"*  
*Matthew 6.25-34 - "Do Not Be Anxious"*

9.30am Kelsale Family Service  
11.00am St. John's Holy Communion  
6.30pm St. John's Evening Worship

### **Prayer For The Week**

*Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over  
all things, now and for ever.*

### **Next Sunday - February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Exodus 24.12-18 - "...on the mountain..."*  
*Matthew 17.1-9 - "The Transfiguration"*

9:30 St John's Holy Communion  
9:45 Connections @ Sax' Primary School  
11:00 Kelsale Holy Communion  
18:30 St John's Evening Worship

## **WHAT'S GOING ON?**

### ***What's My Game***

The next games afternoon is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February in the Church between 2 and 4 pm. Look forward to seeing you there. (Chris Williams)

### ***Bereavement Cafe Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 1:45pm to 3pm***

Our Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet 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 'At the Crossroads', so needs no advanced booking. 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.

### ***Lent Book***

The study booklet for this year is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book:- "Saying yes to life" by Ruth Valerio. Anyone wanting to order a copy of the book (£7) should place their orders directly with the shop, which will carry minimal stocks of the book but order on bulk demand. (... *the lent book cannot be borrowed and should be bought. HaHa! Ed.*)



### ***Electoral what?***

The church's Electoral Roll is a register of people who attend or are connected with a Parish Church. Being on the roll entitles you to "have a say" and to vote at the Annual Parish Church Meeting. Attending only Connections allows you to go on the roll if you want, as it is all part of the Saint John's church family.

### ***St John's Electoral Roll***

We are revising our Electoral Roll in readiness for the Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone who had enrolled on the 2019 Roll is included automatically and so do not need to apply again. If you wish to be included please complete the form which is available at services or can be obtained from Sue Potter (tel 602177) to whom they should be returned. Forms may be downloaded from <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/> Forms need to be received by 21<sup>st</sup> Feb to qualify for voting at the APCM.

### ***Kelsale cum Carlton Electoral Roll***

As above. APCM to be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Application forms will be available at Kelsale services from Sunday and will need to be returned by 21<sup>st</sup> February. (Cheryl Payne, Electoral Roll Officer)

### ***A token offering please ... green ones***

The Community Fridge project ... Amazing? This joint St John's Connections / Access Trust venture, has been chosen as one of the Waitrose Community Matters for February! Please pour in those green tokens and ask friends if they will support us. Lets get competitive and win this!

### ***Prayer Walk***

At the February Connections Church prayer meeting, I felt a clear prompting to organise a Prayer Walk around Saxmundham. We had been praying for our community and were encouraged to be bold in our thinking and in our prayers for revival. So, what is a Prayer Walk? We will arrange a starting point and then walk round

Saxmundham, stopping at strategic places to pray for the people within; for businesses, for public servants, medical staff, teachers & children, etc. Please contact me if you would like to join me and we can arrange the best time to do it.

If you are unable to walk too far, you can still join in! We will let you know where we are and you can join in from the comfort of your armchair.

God bless, Doug (605715 or 07714 213502)

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS....

Prayer is requested ...

for Bridget who is unwell and currently in hospital

for Pauline Sparks (now at home) and her continuing recovery

for our Holiday Club planned for April and those involved with preparations.

Also for families in our locality over half term that they may be safe and enjoy the break.

### Need to Talk?

Contact details for St.John's church officers can be found on our Website, [www.saxstjohns.org.uk/contact-us/](http://www.saxstjohns.org.uk/contact-us/) and on the notice board in the church.

## Watcha doin'?

On a foggy autumn day nearly 800 years ago a traveller happened upon a large group of workers adjacent to the River Avon. Despite being tardy for an important rendezvous curiosity convinced the traveller that he should inquire about their work.

With a slight detour he moved toward the first of three tradesmen and said "my dear fellow what is it that you are doing?" The man continued his work and grumbled, "I am cutting stones." Realising that the mason did not wish to engage in a conversation the traveller moved

toward the second of the three and repeated the



question.

To the traveller's delight the man stopped his work, ever so briefly, and stated that he was a stone-cutter. He then added "I came to Salisbury from the north to work but as soon as I earn ten quid I will return home." The traveller thanked the second mason, wished him a safe journey home and began to head to the third of the trio. When he reached the third worker he once again asked the original question. This time the worker paused, glanced at the traveller until they made eye contact and then looked skyward drawing the traveller's eyes upward. The third man replied, "I am a mason and I have journeyed many miles. I have spent many months

away from my family and I miss them dearly but I am here constructing this magnificent cathedral."

## Keeping it simple

During the Second World War, C.S.Lewis (author of the *Narnia* stories) was invited by the BBC to give a series of Broadcasts on Christian faith. Delivered over the air from 1942 to 1944, these speeches eventually were gathered into the book we know today as *Mere Christianity*.

In the Preface to this book, Lewis himself wrote the following, pointing out where our focus should be.

"But in this book I am not trying to convert anyone to my own position. Ever since I became a Christian I have thought that the best, perhaps the only, service I could do for my unbelieving neighbours was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times. I had more than one reason for thinking this. In the first place, the questions which divide Christians from one another often involve points of high Theology or even of ecclesiastical history, which ought never to be treated except by real experts. I should have been out of my depth in such waters: more in need of help myself than able to help others. And secondly, I think we must admit that the discussion of these disputed points has no tendency at all to bring an outsider into the Christian fold. So long as we write and talk about them we are much more likely to deter him from entering any Christian communion than to draw him into our own. Our divisions should never be discussed except in the presence of those who have already come to believe that there is one God and that Jesus Christ is His only Son."

## The Wall

If you can, visit <https://www.thewall.org.uk/> ... scroll down and be amazed!