



BENEFICE NEWS

March 22nd - Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 16.1-13 "David anointed King"
John 9.1-41 "Jesus heals a man born blind"

We regret that all services are curtailed during the Coronavirus outbreak. Please use the above Lectionary Readings for your meditation this week.

Prayer For The Week

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through 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.

Next Sunday - March 29th

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130 and John 11: 1-45

WHAT'S GOING ON?

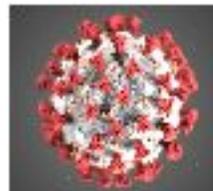
A time to share... and a time not to share...

Covid-19 is an unwelcome invasion into our ordered lives... but it is a reality that we have to deal with, making adjustments as we go.

One casualty of this virus is the 'Bring and Share' lunch we have been planning to mark Andy & Jan's retirement and departure from us. In the light of government advice, we have decided that we must, regrettably, cancel this event.

Pastoral Support in the current crisis

During the current circumstances, many in our congregations are anxious about COVID-19 and understandably self-isolating or social-distancing. Our sizeable pastoral team (augmented by extra volunteers) is there to support you, and if you are on our electoral rolls or GDPR databases, you can expect a phone call from one of the team over the next few days. We are seeking to provide social interaction - by phone but not in person - to reduce loneliness, as well as to see whether you have any needs that you are not able to meet. This might include small amounts of shopping for essential perishable foodstuffs (subject to our ability to buy them, of course!). Feel free to contact the pastoral care co-ordinators (Sue on 602177 or Chris on 831587) or myself, preferably by email at pastoral.care@saxstjohns.org.uk or discuss it with your allocated pastoral team supporter when (s)he calls you. (Nic)



Services in the Benefice

Following the Archbishops' announcement, we have ceased to conduct public worship services in the Benefice. However, as an aid to worship within the Benefice, we will attempt to provide access to recorded or live-streamed acts of worship conducted behind closed doors with only leader and preacher present and hopefully in varied styles. **This Sunday** will be our first: Andy and Nic will together record a service to be accessed through the website on Sunday morning, **any time after 10am**. This will be a sound-only recording. The following weekend, we hope to have a sound and vision recording and thereafter we hope to broadcast

some such acts of worship live (rather than pre-recorded). Please see the website for updates.

www.saxstjohns.org.uk

Spectacular - Waitrose Community Tokens

Open-air cinema for the Community.

Put your tokens in the box for St John's film and community picnic night.

Save the days - 4th and 5th July...

Film:- "The Greatest Showman"

Growing in God

Stephen, Jack, Fran & Adrian are going to pick up the mantle of seeing what could be done to further St John's "Growing in God" agenda. This isn't just an activity for PCC members, though! If you'd like to contribute in any way, please let one of them know. Then, depending on the volunteer count, some get-togethers can be planned with a view to ACTION!!

Keep in Touch

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

Clarification

The Selection committee for choosing Andy's successor, will be Malcolm Shoote and Geoffrey Boulton representing St John's and Elizabeth Masterton-Smith and Cheryl Payne representing Kelsale-cum-Carlton.

Blue Service Book Round Up !

The St John's blue service books are being updated this month. If you have any copies at home, please return them to church or pass them on to Fran or Viv for the new pages to be inserted. We will liaise with those leading services to ensure that you know the date of the changeover and have copies of the new pages well in advance.

Please ask Viv or Fran if you have any questions.

Funerals

Please remember in your prayers the funeral of Max Ratcliffe at the local Greenwood Cemetery next Wednesday at noon, requested for family members only.

Please also remember the funeral of Jill Barnfield on 10:45am Tuesday, March 31st at Ipswich Crematorium, Cemetery Road.

Temporary closure of At the Crossroads - The Church Shop

Following much discussion and reading of guidelines for churches and from the government, it is with huge regret that we have made the decision to close the shop until the current CV-19 crisis is over. (Doug)

STOP PRESS

To avoid social contact, Sunday Mayhem, The Easter Holiday Club and the Lent Course have also been cancelled

Books & Cards

Your continuing support is even more important in these turbulent times and if you want to order a book (or collect a pre-ordered book) or find a greetings card for a special occasion - including Easter(!), please either email the shop (atthecrossroads@saxstjohns.org.uk) or 'phone me on 01728 605715 (when answered by Call-guard, simply say, "for the shop" - or something similar). I will then arrange a time to meet you at the shop.

We are so sorry that this action is necessary but hope that you will understand that it is in the best interests of our customers & volunteers. (Doug)

Bereavement Café:

In light of the current situation with Coronavirus we have decided to suspend the Bereavement Café. We will

review whether or not to restart at a later date when things are safer.

In the meantime we still have a Bereavement Care Team who would be happy to speak to anyone in need. If you need any support please ring Jill Stuchfield on 07917 690275. Jill will either speak to you herself or arrange for someone else to speak with you. Please do not hesitate to call if you need to.

Listening Ear

A reminder that the Listening Ear ministry is still available. If you have a problem or difficult time that you would like to talk about, Jill is available. She will listen to you, keep your confidence and help you to find your own way through the difficulty. Contact Jill either by phone 07917 690275 or by email to: listening.ear@saxstjohns.org.uk

From Keith Pickersgill....

We are sorry to inform you that the Suffolk Coastal Filling Station meeting on the 26th March is cancelled. I am sure you can all understand our reasons for this. We will hope to get Jonathan Aitken to visit later in the year. Meanwhile keep praying, stay safe and love your neighbours wherever they are.

What is Normal?

Looking through my window at the big tree across the road, I can reliably tell you that there are a lot of pigeons getting pregnant at the moment! Our Lord really is the Lord of Life, and we live in a world that teems with it... by His grace! It says in Psalm 24, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it!' True! Read the whole Psalm if you'd like to rebalance your world.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS....

Pray for each other in this unusual time of stress and anti-social behaviour; that the measures will be adhered to and have the effect of limiting the spread of this frightening virus.

In View of the Current Coronavirus Crisis.....

Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.

Nothing Looks the Same Anymore!



And finally.....A Note to Contributors

During this time when social contact is so restricted, please be aware that readers may need contact details to respond appropriately to your notice.