

BENEFICE NEWS

April 12th, 2020 - Easter Day

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

St Peter, St Mary & St Peter, St John, Connections

If you can be online on **Sunday for 10am**, use this link to go directly to the [Connections Facebook Page](#) where you can share in the Benefice Easter Communion, co-hosted by Nic & Tom.

An experience not to be missed (technology permitting!)

For up-to-the-minute directions, please visit the St John's website by [clicking this link](#).

So, then, the Benefice News - no longer just a piece of paper handed to you at the door, but something to read on a screen in the comfort of your favourite armchair. Well, this emailed version, at any rate. To you lovely people who haven't been sucked into the digital age... a printout for you ☹️, but sadly without working links to click.

With us - always!

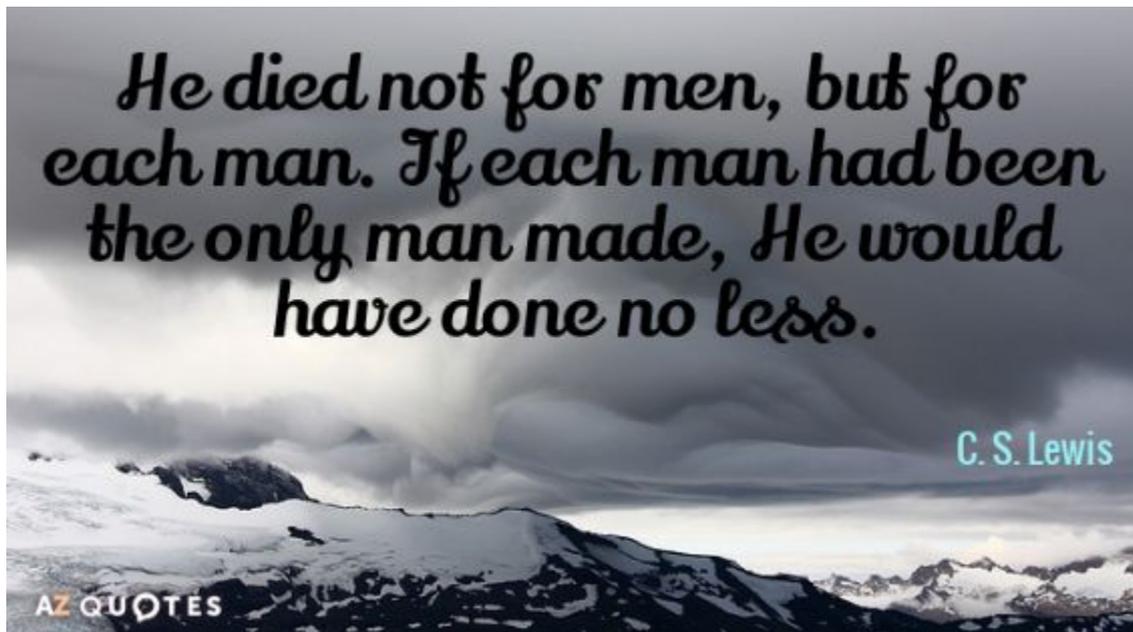
Few of us will have heard of Popayan, Columbia. In 1983, an earthquake struck, killing 267 people, many in the cathedral, worshipping in the days before Easter. "How was that?", some might ask. "How could God allow that to happen to those worshipping Him?" This event was referred to in Eddie Askew's book, "Disguises of Love", where he goes on to ask a question others may have asked on Good Friday. "Where was God to allow Jesus to die?"

During this time of isolation from others because of the coronavirus outbreak, we may well be asking similar questions. Perhaps, in answering the second one, we can get some insight into answering the first. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus, realising

what was ahead of him, pleaded with his Father, “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me” (Mark 14:36). The agony and ignominy that he suffered at the hands of fellow Jews and Romans alike highlights the intensity of his prayer. Yet he was willing to bow to his Father's will. Again we ask, “Why would God let Jesus die like this?”

The fact that Jesus, the Son of God, was equal with his Father, makes it clear that his death was the sacrifice of God himself; it wasn't just that of a good man or a prophet. And yet that sacrifice was for us, for “He bore the sins of many”. Sombre though that is, the glorious news is that death could not hold him. His third day resurrection was also for us, for it opened for all for all time the opportunity for eternal life. So, yes, despite the restrictions of the present, we can celebrate Easter, because of the triumph of Christ's resurrection. Although we are called to follow in the steps of Jesus, we always have a companion. God is with us – always! So he is with all of his children, whatever they suffer!

Roger Mills



PRAYER CORNER

- Prayer for the Dunnett family following the death and funeral of Mark's mum. Also that the family can resolve Mark's fathers ongoing problems.
- Prayer for the Clay family in Carlton who lost their house in a fire this week.
- Prayer for Jackie & Michael as they fear that Jackie may have contracted Covid-19.
- Prayer for the NHS; all our medical marvels and all essential servants, particular where they are men and women with Christian faith, serving on the front line as true ministers of salt and light. "Lord, anoint your servants for such a time as this."
- Prayer for world leaders at a time where strength and wisdom are needed, not least in our own country. Additionally for Boris, just one among thousands, but a man on the world stage. Now, if he came to faith... !

The Choirmistress Corner

This is from Marjorie in response to being asked to choose "a piece of Easter music that stirs the soul".

I could spend for ever choosing some music...but I have decided to choose a song which I heard for the first time last week. It's uplifting, easy to learn and sing along with and expresses the truth of how Christ's resurrection changes us and our relationship with God for ever. "Christ is raised so our struggles have a purpose, He's alive so our work is not in vain, and we'll serve for the glory of our Saviour..."

[Click on this link to watch the song on YouTube.](#)

Avoid Covid-19 and catch some repeats instead.

Links to services recorded since the beginning of Lockdown.

[St John's website](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [Connection website](#)

<click the little icons below>



One click here to see the Lectionary readings for every day.

Good News! Good News! Good News!

4th/5th May community weekend

It is so nice to be able to give some Good News, I had a telephone call the other day from Waitrose to say that the March Community fund amount for us will be £333! Because of the situation we are in they decided to split the amount.

At the moment the film is still booked, but who knows what will happen.

God bless you. Carol Cotton

ZOOM!

You have no doubt heard about ZOOM in recent days. We're not talking about the best ice lolly ever, but the latest craze in video conferencing. In fact, seventeen logins covering about twenty seven people, picked up on Nic's invitation to join a Maundy Thursday Holy Communion ZOOM! (Supply your own bread and wine.)

There will undoubtedly be more about this style of getting-together over the coming weeks (Westerlys are already using it to continue their weekly homegroup) but this notice is to let you know that we have purchased a one year license which means we can have unlimited conference calls with any number of people. As a member of the Benefice, we're offering free use of this to you... if you want to catch up with friends and family during the Lockdown, and not be snipped off at 40 minutes; Obviously

church booking will take precedent, but if you'd like to use this facility, please book a slot in exactly the way you might have booked the Hall - ring Sheila Hague and she will put your ZOOM on the church booking diary. We'll pass you sign-in details as and when you need them.



How beautiful is the Spring

Life bursts open and little birds sing.
Their fine tuned melodies, so joyful and cheering.
With little notes of hopefulness, bright and endearing.
How innocent of this world. One made full of light.
A time of renewal will soon be in our sight.

Carol Raymond

... a little message from France ...

You may remember meeting Christophe and Magali Wavrant at our Sizewell weekend last year. Tony Gibbs has heard from them and they wish us all to know that they have very good memories of meeting us last summer, and are praying for us during this season. (Christophe is working from home now - less travelling but different.)

Adrian made a wee spelling mistake in a global email this week and he is truly sorry!

Coincidentally, the man who invented predictive text died yesterday.

His funfair is next monkey.

Sorry, but there was a slight error in last week's information about the church bank account for Kelsale, but it is correct here!

Also, if appropriate, you might want to consider completing a 'Gift Aid' form.

Kelsale-cum-Carlton

Santander
Sort code - 09 01 52
Account number - 01429705

Or: Cheques sent to:
David May
2 The Vines,
Kelsale
IP17 2PU

... and payable to:
Kelsale cum Carlton PCC

St John's & Connections

Barclays
Sort code - 20 98 07
Account number - 60694827

Or: cheques sent to:
Doug Fletcher
6 Bright Close,
Saxmundham
IP17 1GB

... and payable to:
Parochial Church Council of
Saxmundham

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