

[View this email in your browser](#)

# BENEFICE NEWS

3rd May, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Easter

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton



## ONE CHURCH

## four congregations

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

On **Sunday, at 9 a.m.** prompt (technology permitting) there will be a live Communion service for you to share in, so have bread and wine on stand-by and visit the [St John's website](#).

Speaking of the St John's website, it's having another shake-up to make accessing things easier - leave a comment with your views and opinions. Also, please feel free to leave comments about the services.

As has become usual, 'Live from the Lounge' with Tom & Lou will be on the [Connections Facebook Page](#) from **10 a.m. on Sunday** (and later an edited version on the [Connections YouTube channel](#)). This Sunday begins a new series called 'Anchored', aimed at helping you to weather this storm.

## Where is God's Church Today?

In the Easter Season we are directed to use the opening chapters of the Book of Acts showing the change in the believers from being frightened and confused to being empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. They then begin fearlessly witnessing to Jesus' Resurrection, healing the sick in His Name and founding the Early Church.

Following Peter's sermon (Acts 2. 22-41) over 3,000 people are baptized (preacher's nightmare!). In today's reading we find they 'devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer ... Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles' (Acts 2. 42-43).

What a picture of the Early Church! Where is the Church today?

In lockdown like everything else but not down and out when we use this time wisely ... to watch and wait on God to guide us ... to listen, like lost sheep to the voice of the Good Shepherd (John 10 v10). This time of isolation gives us an opportunity to look at what Globalisation is doing to our lives and our climate. Asking do we really want to return to the 'old normal' driven by economic growth at any cost or can we find another way? This was a question posed in a newspaper last Sunday ... 'our attitude and rituals are being transformed by the Covid-19 crisis, can we hope that lasting good will come of it?'

Is this the time for the Church today to answer this question? The 16th C. nun St Teresa of Lisieux reminds us of our calling ...

**CHRIST** has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.

**Yours** are the eyes through which must look out Christ's compassion on the world.

**Yours** are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.

**Yours** are the hands with which He is to bless people now.

*Alleluia Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!!*

Pam Peeling

... a little word of thanks to Rob, Jack & Sheila and Stephen who are taking it in turns to visit the church premises in order to keep a watchful eye... !

## For your Prayers... particularly

- Rob Aldred's mum - peaceful, not in pain but not responsive and expected to slip away quite soon now. Remember Rob & Lesley and the whole family at this difficult time...
- Fran's aunt Helena Hill who is still in the James Paget...

## Kirsty Christmas

It seems a very long time ago that Kirsty went off for her Maternity Leave and I'm very pleased to report that she, Andrew and baby Eleanor (now six months old!) are all coping well under these difficult conditions. Kirsty is enjoying the challenges of being a Mum and has decided that should be the focus of her life for the foreseeable future. Personally, I admire her for thinking that way. The result is that Kirsty will not be returning from Maternity Leave next month as previously planned. During her nearly three years with us, she brought her vibrant personality and new ideas to our Church. Unlike Narnia, it was always Christmas and never winter! Aside from the youth and children's work she did, I worked particularly closely with her on setting up the Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre (our CAP branch covering East Suffolk), where her passion for helping those in need really shone through

and laid the foundations for this outreach today - when it is more needed than ever. Please join with me in wishing the whole Christmas family the full riches of Christ's blessings as they grow together.

Nic



#### YOU CAN HELP!

Ask your MP to back Coronavirus Emergency Income Support scheme. Click the logo on the left to go to a simple 'petition' which you can 'sign'.

Together we can end the need for food banks.

### Morning Prayer

Before the lockdown, Andy or I (often both) would lead Morning Prayer on Thursdays in one of the churches. Obviously, we are not able to do that physically now but there is no reason why we cannot do it virtually. So from next Thursday (7th) at 9am, I will be present in the Zoom meeting room

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

praying Morning Prayer. If you would like to join me, you will be more than welcome: it only takes about 45 minutes at most and is a simple time of prayer and worship and a lovely way to start the day. For more details, see the Church web-site. Why not give it a try?

Nic

### Men's Group

Remember those happy days when we used to be able to meet in a pub and have a drink? Well, I'm missing them. But there's no need for total abstinence. We're organising a virtual Men's Group meeting to take place on Zoom on the evening of Thursday, May 7th, from 8:15pm. It won't be the same but hopefully it should be fun and will make a change. Do come along by joining the Church ZOOM meeting room at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

...and bring a drink with you! If you need help joining (or you think you might) then speak to any of Chris (603221), Doug (605715) or me (452423).

Nic

### Wholeness and Healing

As we can't meet in church, the wholeness and healing team would like to offer this ministry over the phone. If you have a personal prayer need then please do get in touch with Jill 452423, Shirley 602866 or Fran 602907 and we would be happy to listen and pray for you. It is clearly going to have a different feel to the ministry in church but please feel free to call.

### Your little grey cells

Actually, this is more of a 'Where's Wally' than it is a 'Who-Dunnit', but have a go.

In the following passage a number of bible books are named. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to find them and send a list to [notices@saxstjohns.org.uk](mailto:notices@saxstjohns.org.uk) by the end

of Sunday (May 3rd) No prize, but the winner(s) will be those who name them all (in the order in which they occur) and your names will appear in a roll of honour next week. No clue as to how many there are except to say there are less than sixty-seven.

---

"This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman, in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving; she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam; especially since the books names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha-Delta- Philemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right here, in plain view, hidden from sight.

Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind, that punctuation & spaces in the middle are normal.

A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible, lurking somewhere in this paragraph, just waiting to be found."

---

Your memories of VE Day, May 8th 1945 (probably handed down - but just as interesting!) shared in next week's Benefice News. Hopefully published on Friday - please send them to [notices@saxstjohns.org.uk](mailto:notices@saxstjohns.org.uk)

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

The Bible Readings for this Sunday are: Acts 2:42-47 [The Fellowship of the Believers] and John 10:1-10 [I Am the Good Shepherd]

---

*No Copyright infringement is intended with cartoons and images appearing above.  
Copyright © 2020 St Johns, Saxmundham, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

