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BENEFICE NEWS

14th June, 2020 - Trinity Sunday

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

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

Why choose one when you can have them both!

This Sunday, from 9am on the [St John's church website](#), you will find our morning worship "Sending us out in the name of Christ" hosted by Stephen Hart.

Additionally, 'Live from the Lounge' begins a new series "Jesus is..." and you can tune in at 10am by clicking this link >>> the [Connections Facebook page](#). Stick around afterwards for some ZOOM jibber-jabber as you consume your own coffee and cake(s)!

Reflection on the readings from Matthew 9:35-10:8 and Romans 5:1-8

In this reading from the Gospel of Matthew we hear firstly of the need for labourers to go into the harvest fields to gather in a plentiful harvest. This would have been a familiar picture for those who were hearing Jesus' message as they would have seen the sower sow his seed, water it and wait for the harvest when the seed had grown to maturity and was ready to be harvested. What would have been not quite as familiar was the allusion that Jesus puts on this familiar picture to the readiness of people to be harvested into His kingdom. Whether those who heard Jesus speaking would have made the connection or not is ours to reflect upon and draw our own conclusions.

Matthew's Gospel then goes on to record the sending out of the disciples into the

locality to proclaim the Good News that the Kingdom of God has come near – but not to everyone – just to the ‘lost sheep of the house of Israel’.

Time has moved on since Matthew wrote his Gospel and through the death and resurrection of Christ and the empowering of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the mission of the Church has been to include both Jews and Gentiles and to those who are far off including us. But the mission of the Church has always been to go and share the Good News with those who need to hear it, those who are ‘harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd’.

At this uncertain time in our experience, when even those of us who have a relationship with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit are finding it hard to cope with the unfamiliar, the mission of the Church – that is us – is to share the Good News of the love of God for each one of us with our friends and neighbours, many of whom don’t know quite what has hit them in the wake of Covid 19.

Lockdown is being eased, relationships are being enabled to be renewed and we, as the Church in this benefice are charged with taking the Good News of Christ into our neighbourhood.

So Sorry to Tell You ...

... but the 4th of July film evening has to be cancelled. Hopefully when everything is back to normal it will happen; I have provisionally booked the event for 3rd July 2021. God willing! Carol C

Men’s Group

Calling all men! We continue to meet every few weeks on a Thursday evening via ZOOM to offer each other support and generally put the world to rights! Our next get-together will be at 8PM or shortly thereafter on June 18th and can be accessed through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>. There’s no need to book. God bless, Nic

The Chosen

The Chosen is a well-produced drama on TV that tells the story of Jesus and, intriguingly, explores the characters of those around Him. We meet Nicodemus as he tries to make sense of what is going on and the struggles within the temple leadership. Matthew is presented as a rather feeble character but with a very sharp mind. Peter finds it difficult to pay his taxes and even resorts to subterfuge. We gain an understanding of life under Roman rule. All of the storylines are accurately based on the Bible but the backstories are brilliantly portrayed and give an insight into what might have been happening during Jesus' ministry.

We have found it both moving and insightful, occasionally opening our Bibles to

explore the detail. The Chosen might make a good basis for a small group discussion and it is excellent family viewing.

We recommend it. Watch it at thechosen.tv - you can download the app, watch it on YouTube and if you can cast it to your TV, the viewing experience is much improved.

Doug & Christine Fletcher

Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre

For nearly two years now, St John's, working together with CAP and a number of other churches in the area has been running the Debt Centre. Unable to meet physically, we are holding an open meeting on ZOOM (twice) for anyone currently supporting the Debt Centre or CAP (in any way: volunteering, financially or through prayer) to share our current thinking and our plans for the future. The meetings, which will take place on Thursday 18th from 6PM and again on Friday 19th from 2:30PM can be accessed through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>. Nic

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is now offered twice a week at 9AM. On Tuesdays, there is an Open-air service (weather permitting) at Kelsale Lych Gate for up to 6 people (to comply with Government guidance). If you would like to join us, please bring your own Bible and a copy of the Tuesday service sheet which can be downloaded from the web-site, as well as your own seating (if you would like to sit).



On Thursdays, there is a service via ZOOM accessed through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>.

Again, please print a copy of the Thursday service sheet from the web-site. Nic (452423)

[Click this link](#) to read Nic's commentary on Tuesday Morning Prayer in Kelsale.

Please Pray For...

... Janice Cobb who is due to have heart surgery in London this coming week
... Shirley Thomas' nephew recovering from surgery
... Sue Potter who will be on her last 2 weeks of chemo/radiotherapy
... Liz and Martin Simmonds. Liz's Mother, Jean Antenbring, died on May 28th and the funeral is to take place at Seven Hills Crematorium on Monday 15th
... and Jack Hague writes:- "On Monday I was given the very unwelcome diagnosis that I had an early bird bladder tumour, although treatable surgery will be required sometime in July. Another contest to win, so prayers please not only for me, but Sheila and the family. I draw strength from the scripture, 2Cor.12:9 ' My grace is all you need, for My power is strongest when you are weak '."

We also pray for the awareness regarding racism that the Black Lives Matter movement has raised across much of the World. All mankind is equal under God and we ask that the intense focus on surrounding issues does not create division and that we may continue towards a World where all are respected and valued.

The Bible Readings for this Sunday are:

Romans 5:1-8 ... Peace with God Through Faith
Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 ... The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Labourers Few

... written by Kathleen O'Meara

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently

and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived
in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Don't get lost

Click this link for the [St John's](#) YouTube channel, and
Click this link for the [Connections](#) YouTube channel, and
Click this link for the [St John's](#) church website, and
Click this link for the [Connections](#) website.

[One click here to see the Lectionary readings for every day.](#)

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