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BENEFICE NEWS

28th June, 2020

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

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



See you in church?

We've all said it... meaning we'll meet up in a certain building at a certain time. Well, it's been a bit different, recently, hasn't it! 'Meeting' has meant seeing the same faces and hearing the same voices but not being in the same location. Still church, though! 'Church' in the bible is about a people, not a place.

This Sunday we have two offerings again. Via the [St John's church website](#) and the [St John's YouTube channel](#) you can share in a service hosted by Nic where Tom is guest speaker. More from the book of Genesis ...and available from 9am onwards. Also, at 6:30pm you could try the new whole-church-bible-study looking at the same bible passage. It's a ZOOM meeting and you can access it by just clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

Additionally, 'Live from the Lounge' has the second in its new series "Jesus is..." Tune in to the [Connections Facebook page](#) at 10am, or catch it later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#). This week, Jesus is... healer.

The Bible Reading for this Sunday is: Genesis 22.1-14 - The Offering of Isaac

Trusting God

Up to this point, Abraham's experience of God seems to have been one of swings between faith and doubt.

Leave your country and your father's house and go to a land which I will show you. So Abraham obeys God's leading and follows Him, not knowing where he and his family will end up. On the journey Abraham recognises that some of the people he meets may not be altogether friendly towards him and especially to Sarah so he is economical with the truth concerning their relationship in order to help God get them to where they should be.

I will make of you a great nation. Yet Abraham and his wife Sarah remain childless until well past the usual age for child-bearing. So rather than trust God's promise to him, again Abraham and Sarah give God a helping hand in order to fulfil that promise which results in the birth of Ishmael.

Ultimately Sarah does conceive and bears a son – Isaac – who is the child whom God promised them in the first place.

When all seems settled for the family of three, God tests Abraham by telling him to take Isaac, his only son, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah.

This time, it seems, there is no questioning of God's promise that it is through Isaac that the promised great nation will come. There is no doubting that God's purposes will be fulfilled through Isaac despite all that points to the contrary and Abraham

obeys God even to the point of telling Isaac that God will provide the lamb for the sacrifice when he asks the 64,000 dollar question and obeying the voice of the Angel who tells him, 'Do not lay a hand on the boy!' when Abraham lifts the knife to kill him.

The change we see in Abraham in this account is phenomenal. He listens to God; he obeys God; he does not question the wisdom of God in telling him to sacrifice his son; and he does not try to fix it for God when it might appear that God could have 'lost it'.

This is evidence of spiritual growth and maturity in faith and trust. Abraham trusts God; Isaac trusts his father for the outcome; and God honours the faith of both.

Let us pray that we learn to trust God as we mature as Christians in our faith as we learn to walk more closely with Him on our spiritual journey of life.

Reverend Sheila Hart

At the Crossroads

The Church Shop will be open on Monday mornings from 10-12 for the time being. This is primarily to enable the collection of Bible Reading Notes, the ordering or purchase of books and the purchase of greetings cards, etc. Payment will be by contactless card or the correct cash and strict social distance rules will apply. The cafe, of course, will unfortunately not be open.

Church Services

You will no doubt be aware that the Government has now allowed churches to resume worship services in Churches, with effect from Sunday July 5th. This news is, of course, extremely welcome but leaves us with a dilemma as to how to proceed given the obvious desire for church services, the enthusiasm and support for our online services and the real anxieties of the vulnerable about meeting together once again.

In the short term (the month of July, at least), this is likely to mean that we will continue with the online services but also add a short service of Holy Communion in one of our churches each Sunday. Government guidelines and Church of England regulations will apply and the details of these will appear in due course in a separate web-post. Please consult the Service Schedule elsewhere on this web-site for precise timings and venues but the Service on July 5th will be at St John's starting at 10:30am.

I very much looking forward to seeing you in Church soon! (Nic 452423)

St Johns Church Building

A notice has gone up on the door!

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would like to welcome you back to our Church for some times of private Prayer. The Church will initially be open twice a week: On Mondays from 10am to 12 noon, and on Thursdays from 2pm until 4pm, starting on Monday 29th June.

Its important to respect other people's space by maintaining a distance of 2m where possible, and also to note that some areas of the Church may not be accessible.

We look forward to welcoming you to an act of Worship in July when the Government advises us that it will be safe to do so.

Meanwhile we would ask you to sign our Visitors sheet and let us have the information required so that we may contact you if necessary to let you know about future Services. Hand sanitizer is also available, which we ask you to use on entry, and on exit from the building."

The Church Wardens. [Stephen Hart 01728-602456 & Adrian Kinsey 01728-664085]

Please Pray For...

Prayer is requested for Betty Wiseman who is still in Aldeburgh Hospital... for Jack Hague having surgery next week... for Beth Selwood who is currently in hospital... for Janice Cobb recovering at home after surgery (who says thanks to all for the prayer support she received)... for Archdeacon Jeanette - grieving the death of her mother... for anyone considering the role of Debt Coach at the Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre and wisdom for Nic, Chris and Doug in working with applicants.

Sue Potter also thanks all for their prayers now she has completed her chemo/radiotherapy course and awaits the next stage of her treatment.

Don't get lost

Click this link for the [St John's](#) YouTube channel

Click this link for the [Connections](#) YouTube channel

Click this link for the [St John's](#) church website

Click this link for the [Connections](#) website

Click this link for '[Life from the Lounge](#)' on facebook

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

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