

BENEFICE NEWS

12th July 2020

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

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



This Sunday...

- 9am Morning Prayer for the whole Benefice (via the [St John's church website](#) or the [St John's YouTube channel](#))
- 10am 'Live from the Lounge' on the [Connections Facebook page](#) and later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#). This week's guest is Pete Warnock
- 10:30am - actually in Kelsale church - a shortened service of Holy Communion

- 6:30pm an opportunity to dig deeper into our Genesis passage in a ZOOM accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>.

The Bible Reading for this Sunday is: Genesis 25 19-34

Sheila Hart writes:-

The reading in Genesis 25 sets the scene for the 3rd generation of the children of the promise which God made to Abraham when He said that he would become the father of many nations.

Abraham has proved himself a man of great faith and obedience to God. Isaac, his son, has prospered both in land and through his continuing in his father's faithfulness to God and now we begin the story of Jacob.

Interestingly both Isaac and Jacob have been born to women who have been described as barren and who have, along with their respective husbands, prayed for the sons who will continue the line of the promised people of God. Since the answers to their prayers have not been instantaneous the couples have learned patience and grown in their faith in God.

The story of Jacob could be construed as one of trouble and conflict; trouble and conflict which begins in the womb when Rebekah recognises that the twins which she is carrying will become the fathers of two nations. Not only that, but that the older twin will serve the younger twin. As the story unfolds, as in so many families where there are more than one child, the boys divide their parents' affections with Isaac favouring Esau, the older son – the heir to the promise and his family wealth in the world's eyes – and Rebekah favouring the younger son who is, perhaps, a more interesting and challenging character than his brother – willing or even, needing to take risks to get what he wants out of life.

At the end of the passage we read how Esau, sells his birthright for the sake of a bowl of stew. His natural hunger overcame his need to be watchful over the craftiness of his younger brother who wished to gain those things which his older brother took for granted.

In this time of lockdown, the Church seems to have taken one of two stances: firstly one which says the Church has always been there and so we just have to wait until things get back to normal; and secondly one which says here is an opportunity to do things differently while we can't continue as we normally do.

Whichever stance we have taken, let us recognise that during this time things have been different and may never get back to what they were. So let us seek to recognise where God is working in our new 'world' and look to join in with Him or possibly miss out on growing in faith.

Benefice Profile

We are in the process of putting together a Benefice Profile for potential candidates for the Vacancy to see; this will include information about both Parishes and all four congregations. As part of this, we would very much like to have some photographs showing life in the Benefice, so if you have anything that might be suitable (quality doesn't matter), please forward them to churchwardens@saxstjohns.org.uk

We also want to include bubble quotes from members of our congregations; again if you have a short sentence of something you particularly want to say about being part of your particular congregation or the Benefice as a whole, please again forward to the same email address. If you are happy for your name to be included with your quote please let us know.

The Churchwardens

Leadership in Lockdown - Back to the Future

(Taken from the latest Diocese weekly eNews)

Thursday 16 July 2020 10.00am to 11.00am

The Church has done some amazing things over the past three months. The summer lies before us. Lockdown is easing for now. Church buildings can open up in limited ways for gathered worship. Leaders now face some difficult decisions. Surveys reveal many of us are exhausted, and when tired it is easier to take the path of least resistance. But... this may be a once in our lifetime kairos moment for the Church.

This webinar will explore how we can lead through the next two months to make the most of the missional opportunity before us. Can we embrace the possibility not simply to return to how things were, but to look back in order to build a stronger future.

Our speaker is James Lawrence, Leadership Principal at CPAS, who is conducting a series of webinars around the country. He teaches and trains on issues of leadership and mission. And just like you, he is finding this season a heady-mix of challenge and opportunity.

The webinar will last for one hour, but James and diocesan staff will stay online afterwards for those who would like to chat further about the issues raised. Limited spaces available please book here: <https://leadership-in-lockdown-3.eventbrite.co.uk>

Men!

Are you ready to face the reality of meeting face to face on 16th July, assuming that government guidelines allow? - Seems we may have jumped the gun!! Regulations don't yet allow us to meet in the sort of numbers we might get from different households - unless we all move in together!!

If you have any ideas where we could meet, that would be great. Thanks for the ideas, they are stored for when we can meet.

In the meantime we will set up another Zoom Gathering - we will send the link in plenty of time but invite you to put it in your diary (16th July)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Doug [605715 dougcefletcher@gmail.com] and Nic [452423 nic@saxstjohns.org.uk]

Juniper Barn

We have been generously lent a marquee which is now situated behind the barn and so we are now able to re-open the cafe. Juniper Barn cafe and shop will be open from Tuesday - Saturday, 9.00 am - 3.00 pm. We will be offering all day breakfast and light lunches as well as our usual coffee/tea, cake & scones. Saturday is 'brunch day!' Ring 01728 663773 to reserve a table and we look forward to seeing you. The shop remains fully stocked with everything that we have been supplying during lockdown and we are still doing deliveries.

We are doing all we can to comply with government COVID-19 secure guidance for keeping our staff and customers as safe as possible.

We do thank all those who have supported us so far during these strange times.

Please Pray For...

Prayer is requested for Jack Hague for a speedy recovery from surgery. For Debbi Gallienne-Ward recovering after a stay in hospital. For Tony Gibbs for his continued recovery from Sarcoidosis.

Also please pray for all those who still need to self-isolate and deal with all the difficulties that this creates for them and their families.

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

I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

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