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BENEFICE NEWS

19th 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 Benefice Holy Communion
(via the [St John's church website](#) or the [St John's YouTube channel](#))
- 10am 'Live from the Lounge' with guest is Pete Warnock.
Get it on the [Connections Facebook page](#) and later on the [Connections](#)

[YouTube channel.](#)

- 10:30am - actually in St John's - 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 Readings for this Sunday are: **Genesis 28.10-19 & Matthew 21:12-17**

Jacob's Dream

'I have a dream ...' for many of us these words conjure up Rev. Martin Luther King's haunting speech about racial equality which sadly, to our shame, is still unresolved.

In the bible there are many examples of God and His angels using visions and dreams to communicate with His people ... Moses and the burning bush (Exodus ch.3), Joseph not wanting to shame Mary (Matthew 1.20) and Paul's Damascus Road conversion (Acts ch.9).

Here in today's reading God appears in a dream to Jacob who sees a ladder reaching up to heaven with Angels ascending and descending and God speaks to him (Genesis 28.12).

Catch up time! We left the story of the Patriarchs last week with Jacob tricking his brother Esau out of his birthright and then (with his mother's help) gaining his father Isaac's blessing who then sends Jacob away to his mother's family to find a wife.

The dream is the beginning of Jacob's conversion. Having deceived his brother of his father's birthright and blessing he knows how unworthy he is to take on his grandfather Abraham's mantle - yet God knew better. As one commentary puts it, 'God saw in this crafty trickster the stuff that saints are made of. In God's hands he could be moulded and disciplined to bear the high role God had destined for him'. At Bethel Jacob woke up ... 'How awesome is this place, it is none other than the house of God and the gate of Heaven' (Genesis 28.17-19).

Quite a page turner! How does God communicate with us? Through Prayer when we 'waste time' with Him – waiting expectantly, watching to see if co-incidences are 'God' incidences - what is God saying, where is God in this situation in our own lives, as a church and in the world. 'I have a dream' can be our mantra too.

Many of us are familiar with the 'Footprints' poem and have taken comfort and hope from using it as a prayer ... One night I dreamed a dream ... As I was walking along the beach I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one set belonging to me and one to the Lord. After the last scene I noticed at my lowest times only one set ... He whispered, 'My precious child, I love you and will never leave you ... When you saw one set of footprints it was then that I carried you'.

Pam Peeling

Calling all men!

On the first Sunday of each month, our 9AM service has been planned and led by a Home Group. In a slight change from this pattern, the service for August 2nd will be organised by the Men's Group. A number of men have already agreed to help out but we have room for more and invite offers of support and assistance.

If you are interested (you don't actually have to have been to the Men's Group yet but you have to be eligible!), please let Nic know within the next few days either by email at nic@saxstjohns.org.uk or phone at 452423.

Sunday Worship - 26th July

Next Sunday, we are doing something quite bold. Having successfully live streamed worship Sunday-by-Sunday "Live from the Lounge" throughout lockdown (along with a range of pre-recorded services) and more recently opened the Church buildings for acts of worship, we are now trying to bring them together! So next Sunday, at 10AM, we will be offering united worship across the Benefice with a difference.

A congregation within St John's will worship live interacting with Tom and Lou in the Lounge and with the guest speaker being Bishop Mike from his home in Mendlesham. All three groups of participants will be able to see and interact with each other and the whole ensemble will also be live streamed as normal to the online congregation. So you can join in the service online or take part directly in it by coming to the church building! Please pray that the technology will work: we've trialled it and it looks like it will but with IT you never quite know! One thing we do know is that God will be present in our togetherness: come and meet Him!

Please Pray For...

Prayer is requested for Sylvia Churchyard and family following the death of her brother-in-law, for Carol Golding's mother who has had a fall and for Carol and Wendy who are unable to visit her because of Covid -19 in the home. Also for Jack Hague awaiting further hospital tests, as is Debbie Gallienne-Ward. Please also pray for Debbie's mother who has heart surgery scheduled for August 8th.

Thanks from Spencer Turner for the prayer – he has received an all-clear result from the Consultant.

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

"Life Hack: When too tired to do all the things on your To Do list, try a To Don't list. Simply write down all the things you're not going to do and then... don't do them. Huge sense of achievement with none of the effort." Eleanor Tiernan



Prayer News Bulletin

From David and Ros Dykema

July/August 2020

*...your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey,
... He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the
River to the ends of the earth. Zechariah 9: 9-10*

Dear Friends,

What a picture Zechariah prophecies, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, the proclamation of the gospel, and the reality that His rule is being extended from sea to sea. On reading this I could not help but praise God the servant King, who is giving me the privilege of being part of extending His rule among all peoples. As we continue in the upheaval in the world may we grow in knowing Him, listening to Him and fulfilling His purpose.

I have been in the role of OMF Canada Candidate Coordinator for six months, and have found it helpful to define the stages of the Candidate process (see *textbox*). Though I am primarily focused on the application and appointee stages, all of us are involved in the inquiry stage as individuals explore how God is wanting them to be involved in mission: learning; praying, going, sending, mobilizing, welcoming internationals. Stay tuned for more details on the application and appointee stages in future letters.

Inquiry - leads to a decision about whether or not to apply. Involves mentorship, checking whether vision and values align, and finding opportunities.

Application - leads to acceptance in OMF or redirection. Involves confirming the call and available placement, screening, assessment, interviews and initial training.

Appointee - leads to going to the people one will serve. The Partnership team forms, clearances are sought before proceeding to International orientation and service area, and practical arrangements (visas, etc.) are made.

Items for praise and Prayer requests

- Praise God - One family and one couple were granted clearance to leave for Asia. Pray as they participate in Part 1 of our International Orientation Course (virtually) starting July 16, before leaving Canada. Pray that borders will open and practical needs (visa, schooling) will be met.
- Praise God for the opportunity my parents have taken to move to Fairview Mennonite Retirement Community - pray they will settle well.
- Praise God for answered prayer as Ros has accepted a full time job starting in September, teaching at a small private school here in Cambridge.
- Pray for discernment as we work with inquirers interested in becoming applicants. There are a number applying to OMF to go overseas, serve as staff or as volunteers.
- Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, a Candidate Course was not feasible this summer. Pray as I plan and work on a Candidate Course (most likely virtual) in the fall.
- For a wonderful wife and God's faithfulness over 22 years of marriage: anniversary this week!

Thank you for partnering with us as we seek God's glory and His salvation of East Asian peoples.

David, Ros, Katherine and Nathan

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