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BENEFICE NEWS

26th 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 ... 10am!

- all together now -

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.

Get it 'LIVE' on the [Connections Facebook page](#)
(and later as a recorded service on the [Connections YouTube channel](#), the [St John's church website](#) and the [St John's YouTube channel](#))

- and -

6:30pm - a ZOOM follow-on with the Bishop Mike and all the usual suspects!
Accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

Church of England Guidance

As part of the Government policy on the wearing of face masks in enclosed public places, the Church has issued its own guidance. It "strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship". Please be aware of this. It is not a legal requirement. However, coming from both the Church and the Government it does carry considerable weight and you should consider it accordingly.

Page Turners Book Club

We are going to meet in the Community Garden of Saxcess House (old Barclays bank) on Thursday at 2:30pm to discuss "The Salt Path". Do bring a cup of tea or coffee and hopefully we might have some cake too. If the weather looks dreadful Jill will be in touch to suggest an alternative

Jill Stuchfield"

Florence's Trip to South Africa

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came to support me at any of my fundraising evenings e.g. my coffee morning or my quiz night and the generous donations or even simply just buying one of my homemade cards.

Just by that you were able to transform my dreams into a reality and I was fortunate enough to travel halfway around the world to South Africa with St. John ambulance. The experience of even just stepping foot on a place like that was incredible but we got to discover so much about the country that you couldn't even imagine.

We all made friends with people from other countries; this was such an amazing opportunity, being able to learn about other people's cultures and understand the way that they live is something I will never forget.

Once again thank you so much for everything that you have done for me each and everyone of you i will never forget the kindness.

All the best, Florence Maynard

[Click this link to read the full report of her memorable trip that Florence has written for us on the St John's website.](#)

At the Crossroads

The church shop will continue to be open on Monday mornings (from 10.30 - 12), for the purchase of books, Bibles, cards & gifts. However, it is with regret that it has been decided not to open the cafe again for the foreseeable future. It is not possible to implement and regulate adequate social distancing and it is felt that there is an unacceptable risk to customers and volunteers. This will be reviewed in September. We know that this will not be a popular decision for those who miss the friendship and atmosphere of the cafe and we do hope that it might one day be possible to open again.

Doug Fletcher

Reflection on Genesis 29:15-28

The further on we go in the Biblical accounts of the Patriarchs and the furthering of the fulfilment of the promise of God to Abraham, the more we encounter the similarities between the stories and the evidence of the oral tradition of the scriptures before they were written down.

Here we encounter the story of how Jacob met not one wife, but two and it is remarkably similar to the account of how Isaac, Jacobs father obtained his wife. This time it is not a servant who goes to the house of Laban, but Jacob, himself. Having, no doubt heard many times during his life how his grandfather, Abraham had not wanted Isaac to marry one of the Canaanite women, Jacob took it upon himself to go to his uncle Laban and start there in search of his future wife.

Rachel, the younger daughter was not only beautiful to look at, but also had an attractive personality and Jacob immediately falls in love with her. He makes a bargain with Laban that he would work for him for seven years without payment in order to secure marriage with the one he loves. Laban counters this cunning plan by omitting to tell Jacob that in their culture, the older daughter must be married before the younger – the question of birthright rearing its ugly head again – and so when the seven years are up and the marriage takes place Jacob discovers that he is not married to Rachel, but to Leah. Having worked a further 7 years for nothing, Jacob eventually ends up with the wife he wanted in the first place – the wife through whom God's promise to Abraham would be fulfilled.

How is this relevant to us? I guess the obvious answer is that God will fulfil His promises to us whatever may happen on the way to frustrate Him and he will fulfil them in His time not ours which may mean that we have to wait some time as Jacob did.

Please Pray For...

Prayer is requested for Jack Hague awaiting surgery. Also for Debbie Gallienne-Ward waiting on an appointment with a consultant and for her mother awaiting heart surgery.

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

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