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BENEFICE NEWS

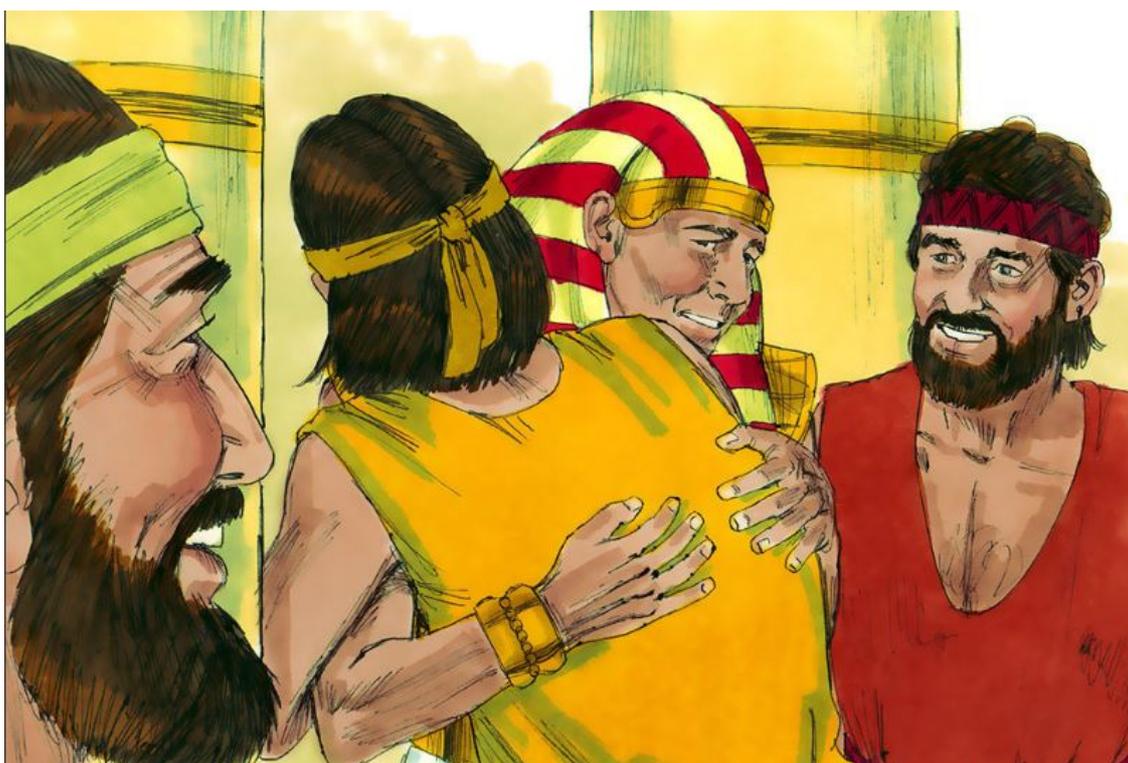
16th August 2020

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

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



Worship this Sunday

- 9am Service of the Word, led by Nic Stuchfield
[St John's church website](#) and the [St John's YouTube channel](#)
- 10am Connections Staycation on the [Connections Facebook page](#) (and later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#))
- 10:30am - a shortened service of Holy Communion - live this week in Carlton church
- 6:30pm Unpacking the Word
a Zoom accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

The Readings for today are from Genesis 45 and John

God's Plan to save the World from itself

Last week we found Joseph 'the Dreamer', his father's favourite with his coat of many colours, hated by his brothers and sold to Midianite traders ending up as a slave in Pharaoh's court in Egypt (Genesis 37.1-4, 12-28).

We pick up the story with Joseph in charge of distributing food during a famine, his brothers sent again to Egypt for food and an emotional reunion of the brothers (Genesis 45.1-4).

Joseph is still holding on to God's Promise to his ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to preserve a 'remnant on earth'. He tells his brothers, 'it was not you who sent me here but God who has made me lord of Pharaoh's house and ruler of all the land of Egypt (v.8). He instructs them to bring their father and their households to Egypt as there were still five more years of famine to come (v13).

The story moves on ... Jacob dies, Joseph and his brothers prosper. Then a new king arose in Egypt 'who did not know Joseph' (Exodus 1.8). We come now to the end of our series on the Patriarchs; yet God has not finished with his 'chosen people', not by a long way!

As one commentary puts it the, 'Dominant theme of the Bible is God's Plan to save the world from itself. In the story of Joseph we can see a connection between Joseph whose brothers did not recognise him and Jesus who was crucified by his brothers (the Jews) but raised by his Heavenly Father to be the means of blessing and salvation for the world. As Christians we believe that in Christ the Promise of Abraham has been

fulfilled'.

Our Gospel reading today is one of Jesus' post resurrection appearances to his disciples. They went fishing all night and caught nothing (John 21.3). They didn't recognise Jesus standing on the beach. He said, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some' (v.6). No one asked, 'Who are you? Because they knew it was the Lord' (v.12).

What of us? What is Jesus saying to His Church today? What is the 'right side of the boat' equivalent for us to carry on God's mission to the world today? The only certainty for people of faith is to believe God has not yet finished with His 'Chosen People'!

Pam Peeling

The Benefice of Saxmundham with Kelsale-cum-Carlton

An Open Air Service

At Saxmundham Sports Club at Carlton Park
Sunday 30th August

The Joint PCC's of our Benefice are inviting you to an open air 'Service of the Word' to be held in front of the Cricket Pavilion.

We hope that you will be In for this, and not out !

Please come with your family and friends, but also please be aware that Social Distancing will apply at all times. We will not be providing seating so please bring your own deckchairs, blankets or rugs and sit 2m apart from your neighbours.

We aim to start the Service at 11.00 am and after this, we ask you to bring your own picnic with sandwiches etc.. Loaves or fishes will do!
We will have the use of the Male and Female Toilets on that day.

We will be hearing how God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3.1-15) at the Burning Bush and how that might speak to us today.

The Site may be accessed off the Kelsale Main Road by turning into the Caravan park and Cricket club grounds where you will find parking near the cricket ground, just beyond the Tennis club. It can also be approached on foot from the Brook farm Estate, and from Carlton Road past Carlton Church.

We look forward to seeing as many there as possible, but remember, be careful on arrival to maintain Social Distancing at all times!

The Benefice Wardens.
Stephen, Adrian and Elizabeth

Please Pray For...

- Jack Hague returning home from surgery
 - for Tony Gibbs that his ongoing condition can be alleviated
 - for the people of Beirut as they continue to recover from the devastating explosion, and that effective relief reaches all who are in need
 - for our local students as they receive their 'A' Level and then GCSE results under unusual circumstances
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[Click here to see the Lectionary readings for every day.](#)

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