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# BENEFICE NEWS

## 23rd 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

This Sunday, in addition to Connections Staycation at 10am [[Connections Facebook page](#) and later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#)], there will only be *one morning service* rather than the recent pattern of two. At 10:30, there will a live-streamed Communion Service from within St John's, accessible through [St John's church website](#) and the [St John's YouTube channel](#). So you either can come along in person or watch live from your home. Note that if you join 10 minutes after the service has begun, you will not start at the beginning! As is the recent pattern, there will still be a 6:30pm Unpacking the Word Zoom meeting, accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

For a while now I have been looking for ways to bring together our online and church-based congregations. To do that we have had to overcome a number of obstacles, starting with the fact that we had no wi-fi in church! A lot of testing time and effort has been expended by many people and, as I write this notice, success is by no means assured. So please bear with us as we boldly go where we have not gone before. We'd really appreciate your feedback – not so much about any technical glitches – but rather about whether the service works for you. But do please bear in mind that with COVID we cannot conceivably offer worship that matches what you were used to before the virus struck.

Nic

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## A Reminder...

... about next Sunday, 30th August. As per last week's announcement we are planning an Open Air Service at the Saxmundham Sports Club. Please read again you Benefice News from last week... or watch out for final details in next week's issue... an on the website.

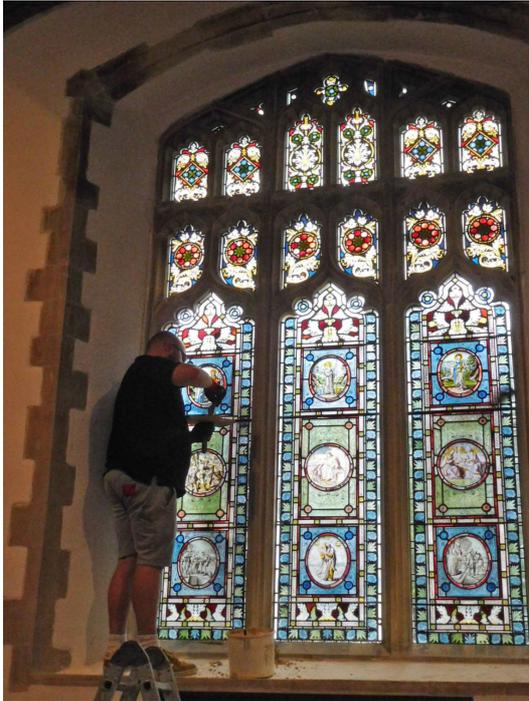
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## ... and another reminder...

'At the Crossroads' – the Church Shop – is open on Monday mornings from 10.30 – 12 for the sale of cards, books, Bibles and gifts. If you have a regular order for Bible reading notes, we now have the September and October issues available for collection. The shop will not be open on Bank Holiday Monday so if you require the notes for September, you will need to collect them on 24th August or call me to make alternative arrangements.

Doug Fletcher

## Windows (the real kind)



[Rob Potter writes:–] *At last the windows are getting finished as you'll see from the photos! Fitting of the East window in the Swan Chapel and also the repair done to the West window above the kitchenette. You'll remember that the area of glass under Christ's feet was badly repaired from way back – it now looks as it should.*

*The window by the War memorial was refitted a few weeks back – they replaced the green tinted glass with clear and that area is now much lighter.*

*The East window repair has been done with particular sensitivity to the historic Flemish Roundels. Two which were cracked have been restored and each of the 9 have been offset into the window so they are protected at the rear by clear, high impact, acrylic material.*

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## Reflection on Exodus 1:8-2:10

After the death of Joseph it would be easy to assume that all continued to progress well for the Israelites as they settled into their new home in Egypt and lived happily ever after. The story of Joseph and his brothers, however is not a fairy story and we need to bear in mind that neither was the land that God had promised to their fore fathers Egypt. Somehow, therefore the story had to change and so we find ourselves with today's reading from Exodus.

There was a new king in Egypt, who didn't know Joseph. This meant that he didn't know the history around why the Israelites were living

where they were or the position Joseph had held in the Egyptian court or how he had managed the great famine in Egypt and saved them and the surrounding nations from starvation and almost certain death.

All the new king saw was a nation thriving despite the fact they were not Egyptians, and he felt threatened by their success and decided he needed to get rid of that threat by subtle means in case in the event of a war they joined Egypt's enemies and defeated them.

This is how persecution can start and this was the world into which Moses, the leader who eventually led the Israelites into the Promised land, was born. With hind sight we see God's hand in all of this but it was not easy at the time.

This sort of thing can often happen with a change of leadership. Misunderstandings can occur and no one is prepared to ask for clarification about what has gone before. That is the purpose of the Parish profile in a vacancy, but even that can be misunderstood.

In the light of this, may I ask you to continue to pray for our on-going vacancy, for the candidates reading our benefice profile, for those involved in the interviewing process and God's supreme guidance for the eventual appointment of His choice of Andy's successor. [Reverend Sheila Hart]

## **Please Pray For...**

- Prayer is requested for Jack Hague, recovering at home after surgery. For Wendy Hurr, recovering at home after a fall. Also for Ron Howarth that his health improves and continued prayer for Tony Gibbs that his condition improves.
- We also recognise those students who have received their results in the last 2 weeks and pray that all are able to go on to their chosen future placements or find acceptable alternatives.
- The next step towards us filling the 'Priest in Charge' Vacancy happens this Tuesday evening when we have our 'Section 12' meeting; the Benefice PCCs will ZOOM together with our Patron, Acting Rural Dean, Archdeacon and Bishop as we finally agree the profile, finally set out the timetable and sweep up any other loose ends. Please pray for smooth communication and full harmony of ideas and plans.

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

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