

[View this email in your browser](#)

BENEFICE NEWS

9th 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

Our offerings of worship this week are :-

- 9am Music with a Message, hosted by Stephen Hart
[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 Kelsale church
- 6:30pm Unpacking the Word
a Zoom accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

Church of England guidance on wearing face coverings during worship

The Church of England has now published guidance on the use of face coverings, which had previously been “strongly advised”. The new guidance can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na> but I have reproduced it below:

In England, face coverings are currently required by law to be worn in shops, supermarkets, indoor transport hubs, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices and on public transport.

From 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship, museums, galleries, cinemas and public libraries.

There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups not to wear a face covering in these settings. In particular, those who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer) do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. distributing consumables). This exemption does not apply to worshippers, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.

Please be aware therefore that the churches in the Benefice will adopt this policy. Speaking personally, I am pleased that the national Church has taken this line as I

believe that the wearing of face coverings by those leading aspects of worship would detract from its spiritual blessing.

Nic

The Story of Joseph, 12 years a slave ?

It is Jacob's son Joseph we are thinking about today. Jacob is said to have had 12 Sons by 4 women, his wives Leah and Rachel, and his concubines Bilhah and Zilpah.

Joseph was his favourite son and Jacob gave him great attention and privilege which led to his gift of a very special coat of many colours.

However, this led to a situation where Joseph's Brother grew to hate him and eventually wanted to kill him as we have seen in our reading.

When an opportunity arose they almost did kill him, but threw him into a pit instead. They changed their minds at the last minute when they saw a passing Camel Merchant who offered to take Joseph as a slave into Egypt; so they sold him to them for 20 shekels of silver which was not worth very much in today's money.

So, Joseph was a Servant in Potiphar's house in Egypt for 11 years, rising to responsibility there, but was sorely tempted by his wife and then thrown into prison for two years. There he gained his place in History by interpreting the dreams of the Cupbearer and the Baker and then of Pharaoh himself.

The story of Joseph has often been painted in a rather romantic way, but it is far from romantic. We read that his brothers hated him and wanted to kill him and would have done so if it was not for Reuben who stopped them from doing so. In a strange way Joseph was saved by the fact that he was sold into Egypt as a slave and taken there by the Ishmaelite Merchants who were passing on their camels. But we discover with Joseph that God turned his situation to good, and He can do the same for us, if we trust Him and allow Him to work with us in the place He has put us into ?

So we have discovered that almost all of Joseph's brothers betrayed Him in one way or another, but we must play a different role now, and in loving Jesus show love and care to each other, so that the situation we have seen here, does not, and cannot happen again in the History of the Christian Church as it is today. We hear of modern slavery and abuse in many forms and we must be ready to recognize this and challenge it in the Name of Christ, who is our judge in all that we do in our lives today. Those who have been trapped in these situations will need to know God's

healing and we can be the Agents of this if we are ready to listen and act on what we hear and see.

Stephen Hart

Please Pray For...

- Wendy Hurr, now recuperating from her torn hamstring at her daughter Meryl's in Ipswich, and her husband Brian alone at home
- Dorothy (Dot) Naylor, who is grieving the loss of her beloved sister Margaret, who died in Australia last Sunday
- Jack and Sheila Hague with Jack having surgery this coming week, and
- continued prayer for Tony Gibbs for his health to improve.

Also please pray for the situation in the Lebanon with so many deaths and for those rendered homeless by the recent disaster.

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

*No Copyright infringement is intended with cartoons and images appearing above.
Copyright © 2020 St Johns, Saxmundham, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

