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BENEFICE NEWS

13th September 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

Service of the Word, 9am and thereafter, either through the [St John's YouTube channel](#) or the [St John's website](#).

Connections "Live from the Lounge" 10am 'live' via the [Connections Facebook page](#) or, later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#)

Our on-site **Communion Service** this week is at 10:30am in Kelsale
Coronavirus rules still apply

- and don't forget -

Unpacking the Word zoom meeting
at 6:30pm accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

... not to be sneezed at ...

If you have a smart phone or tablet, you might be interested in the COVID symptom study app. This is a research project run by Kings College London and the NHS. It's a simple app to download and is designed to help researchers understand COVID-19 better. [[Get it here](#)] Once you have the app you just need to state each day how you're feeling. It only takes a minute. The more people that get involved the better becomes our understanding of this virus. Which hopefully means a quicker end to the pandemic. A great benefit for everyone! {Julia}



TOMORROW (Saturday 12th) - The SHCT annual sponsored ride and stride.

It's not too late to sign up. Riders / Striders so far include:- Elizabeth Masterson-Smith; David May; Roger Mills; Fran Raven; Carol Raymond. They would all welcome donations of sponsorship – however you can get it to them! and you could use

[Fran's "Just Giving" sponsorship page:](#)

Benefice Profile

The Diocese have loaded our Benefice Profile on to its own website so it is now in the Public Domain... also available on our website if you haven't seen it but want to.

[Click here!](#)

Calling all menfolk

You are invited to join us for an evening of catching up, banter, and general conversation at 8pm on Friday, September 18th.

Unfortunately it is only virtual again because of COVID-19 but, nevertheless, it will be good to meet. Bring your own drink & snacks!

If you have not received the invitation by e-mail, please contact Nic or Doug

Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre

Since Kirsty's decision to become a full-time Mum, we have been looking for a new Debt Centre Manager for the Debt Centre. After a full recruitment process, I'm pleased to announce that we have now made an appointment: Karen Storer, a Leiston mother of two, who originally hails from Felixstowe. Karen is full of energy and passion for the Gospel and will join us formally on Monday September 21st. Her first couple of months will involve completing CAP's extensive training process (now online) but I hope to have the opportunity to introduce her to you (realistically it'll probably be online) in the upcoming weeks. I continue to be extremely grateful for Chris Cotton, who, having been the main man for over a year will continue as a Debt Coach but as back-up to Karen (once she is fully trained). The same gratitude is extended to Doug, our administrative genius, who will continue as before. Please pray for the augmented team that we will continue to work together very effectively and that the saving love of Christ will be shown to those in debt distress in East Suffolk. {Nic}

'allo, 'allo

... just a reminder that the church ZOOM account is available for anyone to have a group video call without the 40-minute time limit or restriction on participants. BUT PLEASE first book it through Sheila Hague who will tell you whether or not your requested time-slot is available. Merci.

... for your Prayers ...

Norman Morton was supposed to have had his op this week but it was put back at the last minute and he is now due to have it next week. Please pray for him and Paula.

Prayer is also requested

- * for Sue Potter who is having surgery on Tuesday...
- * for Jack Hague who starts a new treatment regime this week...
- * for Auriol Marson as she recovers from her surgery...
- * and for Hugh Aldous who has a sore back.

Today's Readings for 14th Sunday after Trinity
Exodus 14.19-31 and Matthew 14.17-29

Seeing with the eye of Faith

The Exodus from Egypt is central to the faith of the Old Testament. One description above all others of the God of the Old Testament is, 'I am Yahweh your God who

brought you out of the land of Egypt'. The Psalmists praised this God, 'Thy way through the sea, thy paths through the great waters yet thy footprints were unseen. Thou didst lead thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron' (Psalm 77.19).

Several commentaries paint a different picture. The 'Red Sea' is rather a 'reedy salty marsh' and the strong easterly wind separates for the Israelites travelling light to get through, but the Egyptian army in their chariots get bogged down in the mud. It is with the eye of faith that this event is interpreted as an act of God's providence using his servant Moses stretching out his hand over the water (Exodus 14.21-23).

It is also with the eye of faith that the story of Jesus walking on the water in our Gospel reading today can be seen. Again there is a strong wind and the disciples are in danger. Then Jesus comes towards them walking on the water. They are terrified but Jesus says, 'Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid'. Peter joins him and walks on the water as well but doubt overtakes him and he starts to sink. 'Lord save me!' he cries out. Jesus saves him and the wind stops.

Both of our readings end with a sense of 'awe and wonder' at what God can achieve when we trust in him. 'So the people feared the Lord and believed the Lord and in his servant Moses' (Exodus 14.31) and 'Those in the boat worshipped him saying 'Truly you are the Son of God' (Matthew 14.33).

Another link is the power of water in the Sacrament of Baptism where we believe we are rescued from sin by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ ... a topic for the zoom room tonight, maybe?

Inevitably our lives are a mixture of believing and doubting. Our constant prayer in all the insecurities of our present situation ... globally the threat that Covid-19 presents; our attitudes to climate change, poverty and injustice as well as our own particular fears and worries is ...

'Lord I believe, help Thou my unbelief. Amen.'

{Pam Peeling}

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

It was the inventor of the dishwasher's funeral today. The coffin was lowered into the ground only to be taken out by his wife and put back properly.

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