

NOTICES FOR THE WEEK

All meetings in St John's Church Hall unless otherwise stated

Monday 18th.

- 1.00-2.45pm Parent and Toddler Group
7.30pm Barnabas Group
7.45pm Orwell Home Group meet at 2 Orwell Avenue
Please note the St John's PCC planned for today has been cancelled in favour of the provisional one arranged for Monday 29th February at 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th. *Rector's day Off*

- 5.00pm Drama Group

Wednesday 20th.

- 9.00am Morning Prayers in St John's Church
9.15-11.00am Parent and Toddler Group at the Fromus Centre, Seaman Avenue
7.30pm Discipleship Group meet (venue as arranged)

Thursday 21st.

- 10.30am Funeral of Mike Rowson at St John's Church
7.30pm Home Group at 8 Haylings Grove, Leiston

Friday 22nd.

- 10.00am Funeral of Amy Victoria Lovatt at St John's Church.
2.00pm Funeral of Shirley Skelton at St. John's, followed by burial at Greenwood burial ground
7.00pm Choir Practice

OTHER NOTICES

Way out West

Away in the west, beyond the A12, lie Sweffling and Rendham, and in this foreign land there now exists a new homegroup. Meeting each Tuesday morning at 10:45, we've just begun to use a study course called "40 days of community". Please remember us in your prayers, and if you'd care to visit you'd be very welcome. As we are sharing hosting privileges, please contact The Boult's [663454] or the Kinseys [664085] to find out where we'll be meeting next.

Farewell to the Warnocks

Our Connections CAD Service on 17th, **today**, is being followed by a Bring and Share Lunch to say Farewell to Pete and Lynne Warnock, who are leaving us for pastures new in Stowmarket. We shall sorely miss them when they finally move, but they will certainly take with them our gratitude for all that they have done for St. John's over the years, and our prayers go with them for a happy and blessed future.

Eva Rudd, Michael Rowson and Mark Secrett

We were very sad to hear of the deaths very recently of three of our friends who were longstanding members of St. John's Church. They will be much missed, and we send our deepest sympathy to family and friends who were closest to them. Michael's funeral has been arranged for Thursday 21st. January at 10.30am, followed by cremation. Eva's funeral will be on Monday 25th. January at 12 noon, followed by interment in Saxmundham Cemetery. Both services will take place at St. John's Church, Saxmundham. There will be a private cremation for Mark Secrett, and a Memorial Service at St John's on a date yet to be decided.

Connections Prayer Meetings

These meetings are being held in 'At he Crossroads' at 7.30pm on Monday evenings. The first one was held on Monday 4th January, the next two will be on 15th February and 14th March; the third one will be on 11th April if you would like to insert these dates in your diaries. Anyone is welcome to attend. Prayer is essential for the Church's mission to be a success.

Connections Church - Mobile Phone Prayer Chain.

Following our first monthly prayer meeting Robert & Lesley Aldred have agreed to head up another important prayer initiative. If anyone within our church fellowship at Connections would like prayer support then they should let Rob know by calling or texting him on 07760122336. This request will then be passed on by "group text" to everyone who would like to join us in praying. Those who would like to be part of that praying group should let Rob and Lesley know by texting "PRAYER" and your name to the above number. All prayer requests should be considered, as always, as confidential but if a more private prayer support is required please let Rob know and he will ensure that the message is relayed only to a small select group. This group will consist of the Connections Prayer Ministry Team and some members of the Leadership Team. Please note that this is not intended to replace the Prayer Box that Jenny Mann has installed at Connections Church services but simply offers a quick route to a wider audience if that is desired. It is also an additional prayer option to the existing St John's telephone prayer chain.

Suffolk Coastal filling Station - Thursday 28th January from 7.00pm

Happy New Year and you are invited to join us for the first Filling Station meeting of 2016 at The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew, IP17 1LL. Jack Timpany will be giving a talk entitled 'Because You're Worth It.' No prizes for guessing where he works, but he has just taken twelve months out of the office to work on the evangelical team of his church, St Peter's in Fulham, and as a young evangelist, full of energy, vigour and enthusiasm, you can be sure he will have much to say. For more information, visit www.thefillingstation.org.uk or contact Katie Boulton of 01728 663454 or katiejboulton@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you then.

Home Group Leader Meeting

Home group leaders (or home group representatives) are invited to a meeting in St John's church hall on Thursday 4 February at 7.30 pm. More details of that will be published next week (it might involve food!) but the object is to provide an opportunity to compare notes, look at how home groups work now, and look to how they might work in future. It will also be a useful chance for those willing to run the Lent course in their groups to share thoughts on planning

Easter Holiday Club

This will be held at the Primary School, Saxmundham, from Monday 4th. - Thursday 7th. April. Please consider whether you would like to help, as with crafts and other activities many hands will be needed to manage the 100+ children expected. The Title and theme is to be 'SUPER HEROES' and we will be focussing on four Heroes in the Bible. There will be a Planning Meeting on Saturday 30th January at 9.30am in St John's Church Hall. Please try and come to this with some ideas for crafts to be included.



Are you a leader or a follower?
Why do you choose to follow someone?
How do you believe what people say?
Do you follow out of fear or faith?
(convenience or conviction)



One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and **listening to the word of God**.² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.⁷ So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and **followed him**.

Luke 5v1-11

**FOLLOWING
JESUS**

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**"^{John 8v58}

God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"^{Exodus 3 v14}