

Bexley Team News

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John the Evangelist, Bexley
St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

Sunday 21 June 2020 Issue 14

The Second Sunday after Trinity

We welcome our new Team Curate Matt Hodder and his family as they arrive this week!

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE OPENING FOR SMALLER GATHERED WORSHIP (WITH RESTRICTIONS) FROM 4TH JULY ONWARDS. THIS IS DEPENDENT ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND CHURCH GUIDELINES. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS AND UPDATE YOU SOON.

IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE THE TEAM CHURCHES ARE NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ONLY-

St. Barnabas- from 20th June open on Saturdays and Sundays 9.00 am – 11.00 am

St. James- from 22nd June open on weekdays midday – 1.00 pm

St. Johns- from 21st June open from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm. *Full details of social distancing restrictions are on our website, please read them before you visit. We are grateful for the time and talents of those who have volunteered to assist with ensuring we can open in a safe and appropriate way. If you would be able to volunteer an hour on a Sunday, please email fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com.*

St. Marys- from 21st June open on Sundays and Wednesdays 10.00 am - midday

The Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 21. 8-21 New Testament: Romans 6. 1b-11 Gospel: Matthew 10. 24-39

Mission Earth

It is a mark of some progress in the corona virus battle that life is beginning to return to some form of normality for some people. Part of this move towards normality is that the Team churches will be open for private prayer, albeit with careful control of cleanliness and appropriate distancing. Some will choose to come to church to pray. Others

will feel that they are more comfortable staying away or that they simply feel able to pray as effectively in their own home or as they take a walk. At least now we have a bit more choice about it.

On top of this marker we also have the prospect that, subject to government and Church permission being given, we will be able to return to some form of public worship from early July. It will be worship (Jim) but not as we know it under normal circumstances. Most likely there will be no singing for a while and we will still be 'keeping our distance' even as we are together. Beyond that, who knows? But for now, let's be thankful that some progress is being made.

One of the things that I am keen to focus on at St. Mary's and throughout the team churches is mission- reaching out to those on the fringe of or outside the life of the church. Mission I believe should be a top priority in our church life. In preparing this year's Annual Report for St. Mary's I was pleased to write as the opening words 'the primary objective of St. Mary's Bexley Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.'

I know that we have to peer down drains and evict the squirrels and mice that have been having a lockdown party in the church hall and think about budgets and so on and on- but if it all becomes just that and we don't see these things as a means to an end, mission, then we probably might as well give up! And what is more, we will lose the joy that can be so infectious and such an invitation to others who as they see us, should be invited to ask themselves- what has she (or he) got that I haven't got - and where can I get it?'

In Matthew 10, a chunk of which forms today's reading, Jesus sends out the twelve on mission. They are given authority over forces of darkness. They are instructed who to go to, what the message is, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near', what to do and what to expect- persecution and opposition but also the 'Spirit of your Father' giving strength and the right words to use. What I long for as I think about mission is that we can escape the tired catch phrases and worn out ways of doing things that reach nobody and wear out those who try to practise them. What about something so fresh, so scintillating, that it takes our breath away and draws in those who are tired of just words but know when they see something new and authentic and real? Rev'd Clive

'So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never, like earth's proud empires pass away, thy kingdom stands and grows for ever, till all thy creatures own thy sway.' John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Prayers

Let us pray to our heavenly Father,
who is familiar with our world
and understands our humanity.
Lord of all, wherever Christians are ridiculed
or persecuted for their faith,
we ask your courage and inner strength;
wherever we are called to be your witnesses,
we ask for the grace to communicate your love.
Wherever love for you has grown cold
We ask to fan the flames again. Amen



Keep us, good Lord under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen



This Sunday is Fathering Sunday and we have found a lovely resource that encourages children to put down their screens and engage with family, reminding us that we never stop needing the father figures in our lives

https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/assets/site/FD_Pancake_Fathers_Day_Ideas.pdf#asset:44998:url

Katrina

Church Magazine Howlers

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



Church Security Please continue to be watchful, prayerful and alert.

St. John's Giving to St John's: You can give financially to the continuing upkeep and ministry of St John's via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com Social Media- engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](https://twitter.com/stjohnsbexley)).

Help offered/needed If you or someone you know **needs help** or if you **can offer assistance** please contact-

St. Mary's Bexley contact Christine Wood 01322 270942 chrisawood2003@yahoo.com

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 kacrat@btinternet.com

St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com

St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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