

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 4 October 2020 Issue 29

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Team Churches services this Sunday -

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion

St. James 9.30 am Holy Communion

St. Johns 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Harvest Family Holy Communion. 3.00 pm Evening Prayer.

Church open for private prayer between Morning services and Evening Prayer

St. Mary's 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion including commissioning of new PCC

The Collect: Almighty God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect: Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord

The Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving: Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect: Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 5, 1-7 New Testament: Philippians: 3, 4b-14 Gospel: Matthew 21, 33-46

Bible Readings for Harvest Thanksgiving

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8, 7-18 New Testament: 2 Corinthians 9, 6-15 Gospel: Luke 12, 16-30

Reflection

Early October is the time when we have our Harvest Thanksgiving services, with two today and two on the 11th. Harvest Thanksgiving services are a relatively recent innovation, dating back to the mid 19th Century when the Revd R S Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall, chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to the secular 'harvest home' celebration, though there is evidence that such services were already relatively widespread the celebrations coalesced around Harvest Thanksgiving which grew greatly in popularity (Ref Common Worship, Times and Seasons).

I have taken part in many Harvest services and as lovely as they are there is a certain disconnect between



their origin in an agricultural society and life today, certainly for the vast majority who do not live in the countryside or work in agriculture. Indeed I have imagined Harvest services where members of the congregation are invited to talk about and show examples of the 'harvest' they produce in schools, offices and factories.

Harvest Thanksgiving might benefit from a few tweaks to update it but I would not like to see it disappear altogether. Harvest can still be a reminder that everything we have comes from the bounteous hand of God. Indeed, the very skills and strength we have in order to produce and create are a gift from him. "Do not say to yourself 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth'. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who has given you power to get wealth...." (Deut 8 v17,18a).

As we give thanks it is good to remember the needs of others and the importance of being generous. The gospel reading contains a stark warning about storing up our goods and ignoring the needs of others who are less fortunate (Luke 12 v16-21). This is why I am so grateful that Team Churches will have the opportunity to bring harvest gifts, offering them to the service of God and then out into the wider community to meet very specific needs. May you enjoy a blessed Harvest. Rev'd Clive.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St John's is on 11th October after the main service.

St. Mary's

We are sad to hear of the death of Samantha Hope-Stewart who with husband Gordon worshipped at St. Mary's until prevented by illness. Please remember Gordon and family in your prayers. Samantha funeral will be at St. Mary's at 10.30 am Tuesday 27th October.

St. Mary's services for October

11th Oct 10.00 am Holy Communion 3.00 pm Messy Church in hall. 18th Oct 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion. 25th Oct 10.00 am Family service 3.30 pm Holy Communion

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

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

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