

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 18 October 2020 Issue 31 Luke the Evangelist/ The Nineteenth 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 Holy Communion. Church open for private prayer throughout the day on Sundays and Wednesdays. Please adhere to social distancing and hygiene restrictions and guidance. An explanatory video is available on the St John's website in addition to signage around the building. **Wednesday-** 10.00 am Team Holy Communion

St. Mary's 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion

The Collect : Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your church the same love and power to heal; 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 forever.

The Collect for 19th after Trinity: O God, for as much as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 forever.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 35, 3-6 2 Timothy 4, 5-17 Luke 10, 1-9

Bible Readings for 19th after Trinity

Isaiah 45, 1-7 New Testament 1 Thessalonians 1, 1-10 Matthew 22, 15-22

Reflection

A couple of years ago, as we sat down to lunch, a dear friend named Marie said to me "Matt, I've had an idea. I'm going to start praying with John about Brexit." On the face of it this was a fairly ordinary statement. Marie and John were both Christians, so why wouldn't they pray about something like Brexit? But if you'll allow me to add a little context you might then understand why I had a knot in my stomach and a worrying sense that something bad was about to happen.

You see my friend Marie is from Europe. She is politically and socially liberal and bases much of her Christian faith around reconciliation and love for her fellow neighbour. My friend John is from another part of the world entirely. He is politically and socially very conservative and sees much of his Christian faith as being black and white. He prays about things, makes up his mind and won't be persuaded otherwise.

So perhaps now you might be able to see why I wasn't sure this would end well. Marie and John met together every week to pray about Brexit. They discussed and prayed, prayed and discussed. There were moments of unity and moments of division. There were smiles and laughter, and most definitely times of sorrow and tears.

But somehow through it all, Marie and John struck up an unlikely and unique friendship. Their time spent praying together made them realise that their common unity as followers and beloved children of God meant far more than the 52-48 split between them.

In our Gospel reading today Jesus is asked a politically charged question by two unlikely groups, the Pharisees and the Herodians. They believed in very different things but came together in order to try and trap Jesus.

“Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar?” they ask Jesus.

If Jesus says yes he’s likely to be seen as colluding with an oppressive regime which many of His followers would like to see overthrown.

If Jesus says no he’s likely to be seen as an upstart revolutionary, trying to do away with the Empire.

But Jesus wasn’t trying to do either of these things. He was here to bring the Good News. He is the light shining in the darkness. He is the one on whom all our sins are laid, bringing salvation to all. Jesus answers the question in such a way which demonstrates an understanding that there is more to life than our minor disagreements.

I suspect if we sat down with each other like Marie and John did, we could find plenty that we disagreed on. Whether it’s taxes or Brexit, environmental concerns or nuclear weapons, to mask or not to mask; there’s plenty that could divide us. But let us not forget that one enormous unifying bond that we all have; that we are created and beloved, and so very precious in His sight.

The next time I’m tempted to roll my eyes and the person with whom I disagree, I’m going to remember Marie and John and their unlikely friendship. I hope you will too. Rev Matt

St. Mary’s news

We are sorry to report the sad news that Valerie Hughes- Narborough died peacefully on Monday 12th October. She was 91. Val and her husband Ken worshipped at St. Marys every week for many years taking an active role in many ways. After her husband Ken passed away in 2011 Val continued to attend church until she moved away several years ago to be near her daughter. If you would like to join a Live web link to Val’s funeral please contact Maureen Denman or Clive for details of this. The service will be on 3rd November at 12.30 pm in Chelmsford.

Calendars and Diaries-

here is a box at the back of the church, choir vestry side, for any 2021 calendars and/or diaries which are surplus to your requirements. After Christmas, we plan to sell them for much-needed church funds.

St James North Cray services

25th October 9.30 am Service of the Word, 1st November 9.30 am Memorial Service (with Communion) 8th November 9.30 am Service followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial with two minutes silence at 11.00 am

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood services

25th October 10.45 am Service of the Word, 4.00 pm Sunday @ 4 – worship and activities for all ages. 1st November the church will be open between 10.00 am and 12 noon for you to come and go as you wish and to light a candle in memory of a loved one. There will be music, readings & prayers throughout the morning. 8th November 9.00 am Informal Communion.

During the Remembrance Weekend (Saturday 7 November & Sunday 8 November) you are invited to wear a poppy and also BRING a poppy to place on our River of Poppies in the St Barnabas Church Grounds.

Prayers will be said, and two minutes silence held at 11.00 am on Sunday 8th November. We gather from 10.45am FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN. Car park will be kept free of cars, parking is available in the surrounding roads.

St. Mary’s, Bexley services

25th October 10.00 am Family service 3.30 pm Holy Communion 1st November 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion with prayer for wholeness and healing.

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

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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