

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 29 November 2020 Issue 37

Advent Sunday



There will be a **Zoom Service this Sunday at 10.00 am.**

Log-in details have been sent to regular members of our congregations on email.

Do contact a member of clergy if you have not received this.

Public Worship has been suspended - Team Churches open for Private Prayer only this week-

St James, North Cray will be open for Private Prayer on Saturday 28th November 10.30- 11.30 am

Contact St James's church warden Suzy Higgs 077990 72548

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood will be open for Private Prayer on Saturday 28th November from 9.00 - 10.00 am

Contact St Barnabas' church warden Steve Harding on 07778483681

St John's, Bexley will be open throughout the day for Individual Prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays (Foodbank donations can also be left on those days).

St Mary's, Bexley will be open on Sunday and Wednesday 10.00- 11.00 am for Individual Prayer

10.00 am on Wednesday 2nd December midweek Team Holy Communion at St John's

All hygiene measures advised by the Church of England are being observed in our churches, which includes disinfecting door handles etc, and having hand sanitiser available, and observing the two-metre proximity rule. Face coverings must be worn. If you feel you are in the at-risk group you might prefer to pray at home and use the many prayer resources available online.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in this time of mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Bible readings Isaiah 64, 1-9 1 Corinthians 1, 3-9 Mark 13, 24-37

Reflection

"We are the clay, you are the potter" Isaiah 64 v 8. Many of us are old enough to remember a time when television wasn't 24/7, when there were interludes between programmes, these interludes were filled with short films. As a child I was always fascinated by the one about the potter moulding the piece of clay. The potter would mould it beautifully, only for it then to collapse, before he started again in an effort to get the perfect vase.



This reminds us that we are creatures who are helpless when we are separated from our creator. Our lump of clay is useless by itself, it is only when we allow the potter to reclaim it and reshape it that we can fulfil our

full potential and be useful again. In fact when we offer ourselves to our creator there are endless possibilities for all our lives.

We know that the potter has endless patience and that he will keep remoulding us but that is also wasting time because every time the clay ends up as a messy lump on the turn table means that we are not doing God's work. So we have to help ourselves!

Advent is a time when we can offer ourselves afresh to the Lord. Let us use this time to identify what needs attention and ask God to help us put it right.

Imagine you are a clay vessel which has just collapsed onto the potter's wheel.

Search through the messy lump of clay, take out the things which you know distract you from God's purpose for you, and cause both you and God pain.

Leave them in a heap – ask God to forgive you for those things.

Now allow God to remould you into a beautiful vessel of your choosing; a vase, a bowl, a cup, a jug, a pot.....

Decide how you are going to use that new vessel to ensure that it brings life and joy not only to you but also to those you meet and also to God. Rev. Susan Twynam

A prayer for Advent season

At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time!

Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

from *The Lion Prayer Collection* compiled by Mary Batchelor

Christmas Hampers Update

All the information is now in from the schools. A total of 150 hampers will be made and distributed to families on free school meals across the five schools in the Bexley Team Ministry. Those with larger families will receive more in their hamper to accommodate the needs of the extra children. 10 hampers have been delivered, a further 39 will be delivered on Tuesday and the remaining ones in the next two weeks.

If you haven't already done so and would like to make a donation, it can be done by placing the cash or cheque in an envelope marked Christmas Hamper and handing it to any of the Team clergy by the 30th November. Cheques should be made payable to "St Barnabas Joydens Wood" with the word HAMPER written on the back of the cheque. Alternatively, a donation can be transferred by BAC to Sort Code 51-70-14

Account 01844237 Reference HAMPER

If you would be willing to help with the shopping and the preparation of the hampers please contact Rev Sue Twynam on either 01322 559501 or 07952 468127, or by email at susantwynam@btconnect.com.



Christmas Trail flyer – please see attached

Deanery Confirmations

Will be on Sunday 18th April 2021 at 6.30pm at Holy Redeemer, Lamorbey with Bishop James. Please speak with any of the Team clergy if you are interested in being confirmed.

A recommended book for Advent

Freedom is Coming: From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah by Bishop Nick Baines gives an introduction to each week and a short Bible reading and reflection for each day from Advent to Epiphany. Available from Amazon from approx £3-50 used to £7-50 new. The planned **six-week Bible study** on Wednesdays starting 25th Nov has been put on hold due to lockdown restrictions.

St James North Cray

Sunday 6 December 9.30 am Informal Communion with Baptism

Sunday 13 December 9.30 am Toy Service

CHARITABLE GIVING – As well as supporting the Team Christmas Hampers Project, we will once again be supporting Bexley Women's Aid by donating gifts from our Toy Service. They have particularly requested smaller toys, gift cards, stocking fillers and sweets or chocolates. Please bring your new, unwrapped gift to church on 13 December, you are welcome to leave these in the porch if you do not feel able to join us inside. We have postponed our annual Christingle service until early next year, hopefully on Sunday 31 January (Candlemas)

Sunday 20 December 9.30am Communion.

3.00 -5.00 pm Christmas Reflection - The church building will be open, decorated for Christmas and lit with candles. Please come and go as you please, to enjoy a quiet moment of reflection, and listen to a selection of Christmas music and readings.

St Barnabas

St Barnabas is linking with the Christmas Journey Trail and inviting the local community and beyond to join with our **STAR IN THE WINDOW PROJECT**. We are encouraging people to decorate a star and put it in their window over the Christmas period.



PLEASE NOTE! Because the church building is in Tier 3 and the figures show that rates of infection in Joydens Wood and Bexley Park are fairly high, the PCC have made the decision NOT to open for Public Worship for Sunday 6 Dec and Sunday 13 December.

We aim to continue with our Bexley Team Zoom Services at 10am

We will keep the situation under review and hope to reopen on: -

Saturday 19 December 3-5pm The church will be decorated for Christmas and will be open for Christmas Reflection with music and readings. Come and go as you please within that time.

Sunday 20 December 10.45am Communion

Open for Private Prayer on Saturday 28th November from 9.00 - 10.00 am

Saturday 5th December from 9.00 – 10.00am

The church will NOT be open for Private Prayer on Saturday 12 December as the building is being used by a local Medical Practice.

CHARITABLE GIVING – As well as supporting the Team Christmas Hampers Project, we are collecting financial contributions for our regular Christmas charity – Homestart. Payments to Rev Ren or to David Peters please.

St Mary's

Sunday 6th December- 10.00 am Holy Communion

Wednesday 9th December- 10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December- 10.00 am Family Advent Service. 3.30 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 20th December – 10.00 am Holy Communion 6.00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols Admission by ticket only. To book contact Andrew Hill at chaplain.glsescouts1@ntlworld.com or 07306 330356.

Clive has eleven 30 cm high wooden **angels** that need decorating! Ideal for children and craft-lovers. Please contact Clive for angels. The angels will be part of the Christmas Trail.

Calendars and Diaries- there 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 church funds.

Do you enjoy organising and maintaining records? We need someone to love our church files and records! If this might be you please have a word with Mary or Clive.

Clive will be leading a holiday to Austria and Oberammergau including the Passion Play 22-29 June 2022.

Brochures and booking forms are at the back of Team churches.

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)), Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](https://twitter.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Instagram ([@stjohnsbexley](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbexley))

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

Team Rector: Rev'd Ren Harding	renharding@hotmail.co.uk	01322 528923	07836644782
Associate Priest: Re'vd Sue Twynam	susantwynam@btconnect.com	01322 559501	07952 468127
Team Vicar: Rev'd Edward Barlow	fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com	01322 521786	
Team Vicar: Rev'd Clive Wood	revclivewood@gmail.com	01322 270942	07982 392809
Team Curate: Rev'd Matt Hodder	matthodder10@gmail.com		07889873125