

Bexley Team Ministry News

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

Sunday 22 March 2020 Issue 1 Mothering Sunday - The Fourth Sunday of Lent

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP. AT PRESENT, CHURCH BUILDINGS CAN BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION, PROVIDING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE IS FOLLOWED

**Bexley Team Churches will be open wherever possible this Sunday morning and during the week
Please observe hand hygiene and social distancing advice**

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living



that in joy and sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and 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 for ever **Amen**

Collect for Fourth Sunday in Lent

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Bible Readings appointed for this Sunday

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel chapter 16 verses 1 to 13
New Testament Reading Ephesians chapter 5 verses 8 to 14
Gospel Reading The Gospel of John chapter 9 verses 1-41

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Coronavirus /Covid- 19 The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have advised that 'public worship will have to stop for a season'. Therefore there will be no midweek or Sunday services, nor any group meetings at the Team Churches until we are advised that they can resume.

If we don't have your email address please email chrisawood2003@yahoo.com with the subject 'Bexley Team News' so we can co-ordinate across the churches and include you in the circulation list. Copies of Bexley Team Ministry News will also be available in the Team Churches to collect whenever they are open.

We were sorry to say goodbye this week to Reverend Alison Davis, the Minister at the United Reformed Church, Hurst Road. Alison will be taking up a teaching post as well as looking after a church. It has been a joy to work with Alison in the Churches Together in Old Bexley ecumenical group. A gift was given to her with our love & good wishes.

A prayer from the United Reformed Church

Lord Jesus, in the midst of a storm, you said, 'Peace be still.' Bid our anxious fears subside. Sustain your church in faith, hope and love. Bring our nation through this tumult. Grant wisdom to those with heavy responsibilities and healing and hope to those who are suffering. Amen



British Summer Time starts next Sunday 29 March. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour.

THE BEXLEY TEAM: please feel free to contact any of the following for support and help, and information about when churches are open for prayer.

Team Rector: Reverend Ren Harding renharding@hotmail.co.uk 01322 528923 07836644782

Associate Priest:

Reverend Sue Twynam susantwynam@btconnect.com 01322 559501 07952 468127

Team Vicar: Reverend Edward Barlow fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com 01322 521786

Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood revclivewood@gmail.com 01322 270942 07982 392809

LIGHT A CANDLE ON SUNDAY EVENING

Churches in Britain and Ireland have urged Christians to take part in a National Day of Prayer and Action about the coronavirus on Sunday 22 March. People are asked to light a candle in their window at 7 pm on Sunday "as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ".



The call has been issued by the presidents of the ecumenical grouping Churches Together in England.

As well as calling for prayer for the Government and those working to contain the virus, such as health-care workers, and those who are most vulnerable, the statement lists some actions that Christians might take:

"Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour."

The statement urges churches to follow Government health advice: "Wisdom and flexibility about worship gatherings are a key part of our Christian discipleship during this period."

NEWS FROM THE FOUR CHURCHES

St Mary's, Bexley

The concert last Saturday raised £260 for the **Extension Fund**. Thanks to Gibbons Ensemble for an excellent programme of entertainment and to Chris and Suzy Kirk for arranging the refreshments.

Thank you to the **Knit and Natter** group for the kind donation of £100 to church funds. We will be purchasing two oil filled candles for use in the baptismal area.

The work party on Saturday 28th March has been postponed.

Please contact Christine Wood on 01322 270942 or chrisawood2003@yahoo.com if you can **offer** help with shopping and keeping in contact with others or if you **need** such help. We are trying to keep everyone 'in the loop' but please get in contact if you need support

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood

The Nursery that meets each morning on church premises has now closed, like all our church groups, so we aim to have St Barnabas Church open most mornings for private prayer and reflection.

Our well-established 'Snow Buddies' Scheme has morphed into what we are jokingly calling 'Bug Buddies'. Each of our frail or elderly members are linked with an able-bodied Buddy who keeps in touch and delivers essential items. This has worked well this week, so thanks to Kevin Clarke who has master-minded the scheme! Contact Kevin on 07791582546 or kacrat@btinternet.com

St James, North Cray

Church members are looking out for each other, as they always do!

Rev Ren is in touch with those who may be isolated or vulnerable. We have a number of people who have offered help. Please let us know if you know of someone who needs assistance, or if you can offer help yourself. Contact David Stevens on 0208300 0867 or davidstevens112@aol.com

St John's, Bexley

We are grateful for the generosity that has allowed us to purchase 27 **Easter eggs** for the Bexley Foodbank. Please keep bringing donations of food and toiletries and leave in the boxes at the back of church.

St John's is open daily for personal prayer and reflection.

Every Sunday there will be a 'Suspended Sermon' at fr.edwardbarlow.wordpress.com.

Engage with us on Twitter (@stjohnsbexley) and Facebook (facebook.com/stjohnsbexley).

