



From Edward:

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often called *Good Shepherd Sunday* due to the Gospel set for the day in which Christ describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, and relays a sequence of parables on this theme.

When you watch sheep being herded you get a sense that the animals themselves have very little idea of what's going on and, bewildered place considerable trust in the rest of the flock to sway them in the direction they should be going when the time is right: As in our current situation with so much uncertainty and with no single one of us having the agency to respond or take action as an individual. As we reach out to each other we find a sense of security in amongst the flock and take a mutual guidance from each other as we live from day to day.

Today's Gospel runs up to John 10:10, but had it extended to verse 16 (as it will do next year) we would read the words "*I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold*": Reminding us that the world does not end at the walls of our church, our homes, at the end of our road or the boundaries of our borough. There may be other people beyond our congregation, families or immediate network who we can support at this time and give some sort of comfort to – with this in mind, if you feel anyone would find the material in these emails please do send it on and encourage them to get in touch.

Stay safe!

Edward

Needing support?: The current global situation is a cause of anxiety and worry for many of us. If you need someone to talk to, spiritual support, or if you are looking for assistance with shopping or collecting medication please contact Edward at fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com or call 01322 521786.

Reg Haddaway RIP: We were informed yesterday of the very sad news that Reg Haddaway died at his home on Friday Evening, at the age of 99. Reg was a long standing and much loved member of our congregation and he will be deeply missed. Arrangements for Reg's funeral are in progress and we will keep you informed as to how we hope to celebrate his life and mourn his passing. We pray for Reg's repose and comfort for his family.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'Exit Requirements'.

Social Media: Remember you can engage with us on Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](#)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](#)).

VE Day: Please see the Bexley Team News (attached to this email) for details of how we will be commemorating VE Day across the Team Ministry.

Beacons of Hope: Throughout the lockdown the Dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury are working together to bring us a series of video reflections. These can be accessed [on the Diocesan YouTube Channel](#).

Rochester Cathedral: Worship from the Cathedral is available [via their website](#), using material produced prior to lockdown.

Prayers for use during the Coronavirus Outbreak: The Church of England has produced a booklet of prayers to aid devotions at home during the current crisis. It is available [here](#), along with other prayer resources and advice (scroll down the webpage for the booklet).

Daily Hope: The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phonenumber with hymns, reflections and prayers to enable worship from home throughout the lockdown. Details are available [here](#) and you may wish to pass the information on to those you know who cannot access resources online.



Domestic Abuse: As reported across the media, the current situation has seen an unpleasant increase in incidences of Domestic Abuse. Bishop Simon has commended recent advice issued by the national church in response to this and details can be found [here](#)

Bexley Team News: The weekly newsletter connecting us with our sister churches across the Bexley Team is attached to this email.

Toddler Church Fun!: Children's activities exploring the story of Noah's Ark are attached to this email.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for the forthcoming week, with suggested hymns, prayer intentions and questions to consider are attached to this email.

This Week Please Pray For:

...the sick in need of our prayers, Barbara, Rob Soar, Mavis Johnson, Samantha Pout, Ray Mace, Marie Berry, Maggie Rankine, Ann Harlow, Ray Miller, Joyce Forrest, Dorothy Samuel, John Beddison, David Watkins, Nicola Johns and any others known to you.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...the recently departed, Reg Haddaway, Jack Onyewuenyi, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time Eileen Nolans, Caroline Davies, Sybil Small, Stephen Rogers, Pauline Waghorn, Cyril Samson, Elsie Samson, Margaret Fudger.

...residents living in and around our parish



O God,
Help us to trust you,
Help us to know that you are with us,
Help us to believe
That nothing can separate us
From your love
Revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen