



From Edward:

The Church is Open! - Or, depending on how you look at it, a bit less shut than it was before: We've now brought in a system which allows us to keep the Church open for personal prayer throughout the day on Wednesday as well as Sunday.

If you're planning on visiting, there are a few things you do to make your visit as safe as possible, for yourself and others:

- **Show us where you've sat:** As you enter the church you'll find a stack of laminated cards. Please take one and leave it in your pew before you leave. Please do not sit on or near a card that has already been placed. You will not need to use these when attending services.
- **Track & Trace:** There are three ways to check-in with Track & Trace at St John's. If you have the NHS Covid Tracker App you can scan the QR codes displayed, or you can complete a Track & Trace slip and place it in the box provided (please use your own pen!). If you're not able or comfortable doing either of those you can also email me directly to inform me of your visit. QR codes are also displayed in the hall and hall hirers have their own Track & Trace systems in place.
- **Wear a Facemask:** Unless you have a legitimate exemption.

These extended opening times also mean we can reopen the Foodbank donation point. Please see the notice below.

The Midweek Eucharist pattern has also been re-engaged, the next one will be at St Mary's on Wednesday.

As I've been mentioning quite a bit recently, our APCM is being held today. Please come and support this if you are on the electoral roll - I'm hoping it will be quite short.

Plans are forming over All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance: More on our November programme in next week's email.

And finally, many thanks for your good wishes and prayers as we awaited a Covid test last week - As those of you who attended the 10am service will know, we had a negative result come through on Sunday morning. Once again, the process of booking and attending the new test centre on Erith Road was very efficient - if you or a member of your household are displaying any Covid symptoms then please don't be put off from getting tested!

Stay safe!

Edward

Sunday Services: Holy Communion 8am & 10am, Evening Prayer 3pm.

(Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Family Communion: Is held on the first Sunday of every month at 10am. Our next Family Communion will be a celebration of *All Saints Day* on 1st November.

Bexley Foodbank: Our Foodbank Donation Point is now open and you can bring your donations when the Church is open on Sundays and Wednesday. You can also give financially [here](#).

APCM: We will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11am on **Sunday October 11th**. Social distancing rules will apply. In order to participate you will need to be on the electoral roll. If you are not already a member, please see the attached form which includes criteria for eligibility. There is no fee for joining the electoral roll and personal details given are subject to data-protection under GDPR. If you are unsure whether you are on the electoral roll or have any further questions then please email Edward. *The Annual Report and accounts are attached to this email.*

Parish Office: Tuesdays , 7pm-8pm in the hall. This is usually the first stop for booking Baptisms and Weddings at St John's. We are very grateful to our parish clerk, Susan Jones for her hard work in this area of the church's ministry.

Midweek: The next Midweek Eucharist will be at St Mary the Virgin, Bexley this coming Wednesday (14th). Service pattern: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at St John's, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at St Mary's. If there is a 5th Wednesday in the month the service will be held at St James North Cray.

Gent's Lunch: The next Gent's Lunch is scheduled for Wednesday 7th October at the Anchor at noon.

Church Open: St John's is open during the day on Sundays and Wednesdays. Our capacity is limited and social distancing measures are in place. Please read them carefully before you enter the building (a copy is attached to this email), and note that you will be expected to bring a facemask. Please see the Bexley Team News for opening arrangements at our sister churches. QR codes for the NHS Contact Tracing App are displayed in both the church and the hall.

Track & Trace: In order to support the NHS in containing the spread of Covid-19, we are keeping Track & Trace information for those who enter the building. There are three ways to give your data:

- 1: By scanning the QR code displayed in the building using the *NHS Covid-19* App.
- 2: By completing the slip provided and placing it in the Track & Trace box (please use your own pen).
- 3: By emailing Edward (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com) directly with your name and the date and time of your visit. Please mark the subject header: St John's Visitor Track & Trace.

Evening Prayer: Whilst we have endeavoured to produce orders of service that can be used as safely as possible, we would encourage those who can to download the Church of England's *Daily Prayer* app and change the settings to 'Traditional' in order to follow the service when attending Evening Prayer. If you wish to join in prayer from home you can find the services in the Book of Common Prayer, via the Daily Prayer App, or through the [Church of England's Website](#).

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 01322521786.

Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#) from Sunday Morning. This week's sermon is entitled 'Retrofitting the Goalposts'.

Giving: St John's continues to need your support financially throughout the current emergency. If you wish to give regularly please use the standing order form attached to this email or for a one off giving please use our [JustGiving Page](#). If you have a social media presence please also help us out by sharing this link.

EasyFundraising: If you're shopping online please remember you can give to St. John's by shopping via [our Easy Fundraising page](#). There is also a link from our website.

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

Talkline: If you're feeling lonely, isolated, stressed or anxious *Counselling Matters Bexley's* new *Talkline* offers free, non-judgemental counselling and support and can also give you information on other relevant services. Freephone: 08000472600 or email mail@cmbtalk.org. The line is open from 5pm-9pm every week day and 9am-9pm on weekends and bank holidays.

Memory Cafe: For anyone in Bexley Borough living with dementia and those who care for them, to offer friendship and support, the *Christ Church Erith Memory Cafe* will take place over Zoom on Thursdays from 10.45am-11.45am. For access details please contact Christchurch Erith Project Worker Jacki Clement at cceprojectworker@hotmail.com.

Rochester Cathedral: Rochester Cathedral celebrating Choral Evensong [via their website](#), using material produced prior to lockdown. Please also see the Cathedral website for details about the Cathedral's reopening plans.

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 you will have heard, 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!: We are still considering how to safely hold our Toddler Church in line with social distancing and hygiene requirements. We are grateful for your patience and support during this time. Toddler Church activity packs from last term are still available on our website. If you would like us to produce further resources in a similar style then please email Edward.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for October with suggested prayer intentions are attached to this email.

Face coverings: Please be aware that it is a requirement that face coverings must be worn in places of worship unless you have a legitimate exemption. Thank you for your cooperation.

This Week Please Pray For:

... Our APCM and PCC

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...all are who continuing to shield or self-isolate.

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

...the recently departed, Ian Clarke Suzanne Winnister.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Victor Beardon, Frank Stinson, Ernest Baker, Beryl Auty.

God of grace,

As You are ever at work in Your creation,

So fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us

And in all for whom we pray,

That with them and in all that you have made,

Your glory may be revealed

And the whole Earth give praise to You

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our Safeguarding Statement can be read at

<http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/safeguardingstatement.html>

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999

<https://bexleywomensaid.org.uk/>

<https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>