



From Edward:

Well I spoke too soon last week, didn't I? – Or possibly even a fraction too late!

Having confidently said that places of worship would open no sooner than the 4th of July, I'd missed a statement released fewer than twelve hours before the email went out authorising opening from the 15th of June... And then by Wednesday night this had been revised to the 13th of June!

Before you all rush off to St John's for your private devotions, the standing committee and I need to make it absolutely clear that we will not open the doors until we are confident that this can be done in a manner which safeguards the health and wellbeing of all who would enter the building.

As such a plan has been formed (with thanks to those who've been able to cast a qualified eye over it) and circulated to the PCC that will allow for the building to be opened, in a restricted and safe manner. The other churches of the team have been devising their own approaches.

It's worth mentioning that across the country the decision to re-open church building (or, in many cases, keep the closed) is based on local circumstances and resources – just because one church is doing something one way it does not mean the rest should necessarily follow suit.

Our *provisional* plan at St John's as it presently stands is as follows:

- We hope to reopen the building on **Sundays Only** beginning next week (**21st June**), for a set period throughout the day which will be determined soon.
- The capacity of the building will be **strictly limited** with a rather lengthy set of social-distancing instructions which will be circulated later this week and displayed by the door.
- We will be reliant on volunteers, working in pairs, to be present to maintain hygiene and cleanliness during the day, and to advise those visiting on the social distancing guidance. Detailed instruction packs will be sent to volunteers. Under guidance volunteers cannot be over 70 or currently Shielding, and will need to wear facemasks and gloves. I would urge you to consider whether yourself and/or members of your household could commit to this for an hour on a Sunday: **If we cannot muster sufficient volunteers we will not be able to re-open.** Please email me at fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com if you can do this.

It would be fantastic if we can reopen: Prior to lockdown St John's, served the local community as a Spiritual pit-stop, offering sanctuary and peace to those who came through the doors. The closure of places of worship has provoked a spiritual thirst amongst those seeking comfort through this difficult period and to be able to reopen for private prayer, even in a limited way would be a panacea for many.



Edward

Corpus Christi: Edward's short video message for the Feast of Corpus Christi (Thursday 11th June), is still available on the [St John'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.

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

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*).

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.

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!: Children's activities continuing to explore the story of Samuel 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.

The funeral of: Jean Antenbring is on Monday (15th) at 12 noon. Please pray for Jean and her family at this time.

This Week Please Pray For:

...the people of the United States and all who are adversely affected by racism.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Barbara, Rob Soar, 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.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...the recently departed, Keith Parry (Pr), Jean Antenbring, Ray Miller, Reg Haddaway.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time Barbara Allen, Leonard Denton, Eileen Nolans, Caroline Davies, Sybil Small, Stephen Rogers, Pauline Waghorn, Cyril Samson, Elsie Samson, Les Truman, William Bray, Ronald Sharp, Evan Lougher, Amanda Webb.

...residents living in and around our parish.

Lord God, creator of all people,
May your Son who suffered the inhumanity of the cross,
Comfort us in our anxiety and our horror,
In times that take our breath away.
May your Holy Spirit inspire us to repentance and to action
In dismantling the virus of racism
From within the Church, our nation and our world. **Amen**

*Prayer by the Rev'd Canon Jeremy Blunden; Rector of St George's
Beckenham and Bishop's Adviser for Black & Minority Ethnic(BAME)*



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>