



From Edward:

Today marks another shift toward some semblance of normality as we resume our pattern of Holy Communion at 8am and 10am. It will still be eerily unlike the manner of services we know and enjoy but will be another small and significant step.

We will also continue to hold Evening Prayer at 3pm to give the option of a more 'non-contact' service, and if you're still unable to join us in person you may wish to do so spiritually by praying Evening Prayer at the same time as us in your home.

As a dad, I know just how hard the pandemic has been for the youngest members of our church community who haven't been able to engage with our staple ministries of Toddler Church, Family Services, and Sunday School and so we're also beginning to include a few members which will help our children feel they can return to St John's too, in a safe and appropriate way.

Our children's corner must still remain off-limits, but we will be making our children's activity bags available at the 10am Sunday Service. These will then be quarantined for the week before they can be used again (we would ask parents to help by ensuring all the activities are returned to the bag at the end of the service!).

We also have our first 'Garden Church' in the Vicarage Garden at noon on the 22nd August. This will include a simple act of family worship, a craft activity (materials will be quarantined in advance) and a 'Bring and Don't Share Picnic'. Please bring your own picnic and a picnic blanket if you have one. There's plenty of room in the Vicarage Garden, but it would be useful to know numbers in advance in order to space everyone out so please email me at fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com if you haven't already done so to book a place.

...I think our next step will be action songs – we may not be allowed to sing yet but we can still do the actions!

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)

Midweek: As we consider how best to reinstate our midweek Eucharist Services across the Team, a weekly Bible Study will be held at St Mary's on Wednesday mornings throughout September. For more details see the Bexley Team News.

Garden Church: Socially distanced worship for families including a 'Bring and Don't Share' picnic will be held in the Vicarage Garden at noon on Saturday 22nd August. To book a place email Edward: fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com.

Church Open: St John's is open on Sundays from 8am-3.30pm, with services at 8am, 10am and 3pm. 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.

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](#).

Volunteers Needed: We are incredibly grateful to those who have stepped forward to assist with supervising the church during opening hours. If you would like to join this rota please email Edward (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com). Please do not volunteer if you are currently shielding.

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](#). This week's sermon is entitled '...On Hold...'

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!: Toddler Church Activities from the past four months are still available on our website. We wish all our Toddler Church members a happy and safe Summer.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for the forthcoming week, with suggested hymns, prayer intentions and questions to consider 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:

...those who have received A-Level and BTec results and those who will receive GCSE results, their teachers, families, friends and schools.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

... Julie Hopkins & Steve Cave whose wedding has been postponed from the 22nd August.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Margaret Quick, Gladys Verran, Amy Jones, Barbara, 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, David Potter.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Robert Aylwin.

...residents living in and around our parish.

O gracious and holy Father,
Give us wisdom to perceive you,

Diligence to seek you,
Patience to wait for you,
Eyes to behold you,
A heart to meditate upon you,
And a life to proclaim you,
Through the power of the Spirit
Of 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>

You are receiving this email because you or someone you know has given us your email address. If you do not wish to receive further emails from St John the Evangelist, Bexley please let Julia Wickham (julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com) or Rev'd Edward Barlow (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com) know.