



It was with great sadness that I received the news earlier this week of the death of Ray Miller. From my arrival in the parish last year Ray made an impression with the sheer warmth of his welcome and his dedication to the life of St John's which he contributed to so greatly over the years. This news follows on the back of that of Reg Haddaway, another very longstanding stalwart of St John's and also John Harrington whom many of you will know from the congregation at St James North Cray. John, like Reg and Ray was a regular at the Wednesday morning Team Eucharist and at the monthly Gents' Lunch, and all three will be missed across the team. Please join me in praying for the repose of their souls and also those they leave behind.

Perhaps one of the greatest blows of the current time is that we cannot grieve as our hearts tell us we should: Attendance at the crematorium is strictly limited, and we cannot even meet together to console one another as we would wish.

Reg's family intend to livestream his funeral which is due to take place on Tuesday 9th June, and there will be ways in which we can gather to mourn together at such a time as we are able. But until then we have to wait... Which isn't easy.

As the pandemic continues we pray for its end, we pray for our release from isolation and the chance to see each other again... But these must all come when the time is right – And we must also pray for patience.

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 01322521786.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'Send In The Clowns'.



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.

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

Ascension Day: A videoed reading and reflection for Ascension Day will be available on our website from Thursday

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: 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 phoneline 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 exploring the story of Joseph 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:

... Benjamin Edwards who should have been Baptised today, and for his family.

...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, Ray Miller, Ken Burghall (Pr), John Harrington, Reg Haddaway, Jack Onyewuenyi, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time Maud Benge, Daisy 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>