



From Edward:

If you're reading this on Sunday Morning, our local Covid-19 alert level will have just moved from 'Tier 1', Medium-Risk to 'Tier 2' High Risk - unless you live over the Kent Border, in which case you'll still be in the Medium category (that could have changed since my writing this missive on Friday!), although St John's along with the rest of the London Borough of Bexley are firmly in the High Alert area.

This will be greeted with a range of emotions: Frustration, panic, and in some quarters *angry defiance*. Acknowledging that these are perfectly human responses to experience, it's probably worth pointing out that these levels are contingent on risk of infection which is itself contingent on people's behaviour. Whilst we may not *want* to cancel our visits, leave the pub at ten and limit our movements it is by *complying* with the rules that we're going to bring the alert level down to Medium and we need to be mindful that *there is a higher level we could be moved to* - and speaking to friends and relatives in the North West, Tier 3 carries a shattering sense of restriction coupled with a fear for health and wellbeing as infection rates rise.

To be measured in this, it will be a relief to hear that the vast majority of Church activities remain unaffected by the change as Places of Worship continue to carry special exemptions and I look forward to seeing those who of you who can make it to our Sunday and Midweek services.

That said, if you remain cautious about your health and that of those you love: If you are shielding, self-isolating or simply too uncomfortable to come to our services please do not feel under any pressure to join us. We will continue to pray for you at all services and look forward to seeing you when the time is right. Feel free to get in touch with myself or other members of the congregation to let us know how you're getting on and how best we can support you.

Stay safe!
Edward

Sunday Services: Holy Communion 8am & 10am
(Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Midweek: The next Midweek Eucharist will be at St John's this coming Wednesday (21st). 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.

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.

All Souls: Given current restrictions, we will not be holding the All Souls memorial in the

same format as previous years: The church will remain open after the services on 1st November for people to come and go as they please, and from 1pm-4pm we will provide devotional resources and the provision to light a candle in remembrance of those we love but see no more. The names of the departed will be displayed. If you would like a loved one to be named on the memorial list please send their name to fr.edwardbarlow@hotmail.co.uk with the subject header 'All Souls'.

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November: In order to maintain social distancing there will be no formal 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial this year (Although we will remember the fallen in the Sunday Services). A pre-recorded Act of Remembrance on video, produced in partnership with the Ex-Servicemen's club will be made available. Details on this to follow.

Situations Vacant: We have a number of roles and activities which require volunteers to assist with the running and growth of our church. Please see the attached 'Situations Vacant' pack and contact Edward on fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com if you would like more information on any of the positions advertised.

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](#).

Church Open: St John's is open during the day on Sundays and Wednesdays. If visiting other than for a service, please collect a laminate card from the table by the door and leave in your pew.

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.

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 'A Cat May Look At A King'.

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:

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...the sick in need of our prayers, Gill Rogers, Carol & Peter Amura, 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,those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Reginald Gorham, Albert Jones, Ian Turvill, John Ritte, Sally Ritte, Douglas Ritte, Alice Nock, William Trenaman.

*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>