



From Edward:

October the 11th, 11am.

Mark it in your diary.

Set a reminder on your phone.

Get your friends/family/neighbours to remind you.

Write it on a post-it and stick it to the fridge.

October the 11th, at 11am is the date of our **APCM**; the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This was due to be held in April as is usually the case however with the circumstances of lockdown the Bishops gave special dispensation to extend the deadline to the 31st of October. So as we approach October it's high time we got a shufti on and the meeting will be held on October the 11th.



When was that? October the 11th.

Admittedly it will be a surreal event - we will be reviewing the life of St John's through 2019, which now feels like a lifetime ago: However it is also an importance chance to celebrate everything we love about our church and parish while also looking forward to the future and laying some of the first paving-slabs of the path ahead.

I've used the term 'turning it off and on again' several times since services were suspended back in March - The APCM is, I hope, a very definite step in switching our church back on again!

That said, we will be under social distancing restrictions. It will not be wise to be gathered for a longer period than necessary, and as the extension of the deadline only applies to this year we will probably be doing the same thing all over again in a mere five or six months time! Those who are used to long APCMs, should expect something considerably more concise this year (this may be considered a mercy).

The APCM is also an important occasion to inspect the inner workings of St John's (including the finances), hold those in leadership to account, elect Wardens and PCC members and to generally have your say. Participants at the meeting must be members of the electoral roll. You are eligible for membership of the electoral roll if you are baptised (but not ordained), over sixteen, a member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church of England and a resident in the parish or have habitually attended worship on a regular basis during the last six months).

Please note that the last clause has a 'get out' for those who would have attended but were prevented from doing so due to a mitigating circumstance - please note that 'Global Pandemic restrictions' *absolutely counts as such circumstances!*

Many of you reading this are already on the electoral roll, however I know as well that many of you are not - a copy of the form is included should you wish to apply before the APCM, and if you are unsure whether you are on the roll please do email me to ask: I'd really like our electoral roll to be a true reflection of those who consider St John's to be their spiritual home, especially as we journey together toward a brighter future after what has been a very difficult period.

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)

Harvest Festival: Our next Family Communion will be the annual Harvest Festival on the 4th October. This occasion will see the reopening of our Foodbank Donation Point. Please see future emails for the 'Shopping List' of goods currently needed by the Bexley Foodbank.

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.

Beryl Parry: We recently received the sad news of Beryl Parry's death. Beryl was married to Keith Parry, former vicar of St John's, who died earlier this year. A short tribute can be found in this week's Bexley Team News.

Holy Cross Day: A video message from Edward for *Holy Cross Day* (14th September) is still available on our website.

Ordination: Matt Hodder, Assistant Curate to the Bexley Team Ministry is due to be ordained Deacon at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 26th September. Under social distancing restrictions we are unable to join him for this occasion, although the service can be watched online (Please see Bexley Team News for details). Please keep Matt, Jen, Zach and Annie in your prayers. Any cards or gifts may be passed onto Matt via the clergy.

Parish Office: Tuesday 8th September, 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: As we consider how best to reinstate our midweek Eucharist Services across the Team, a weekly Bible Study focusing on the *Book of Nehemiah* is being held at St Mary's on Wednesday mornings throughout September. For more details see the Bexley Team News and let Rev'd Clive Wood know if you hope to attend. A midweek Eucharist will be held after the Bible Study on the 30th of September.

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 and a pen for completing the Track & Trace form. 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](#).

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 from the Family Service is entitled 'Eat out to Help Out'.

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.

Planned Giving - Week 43. Planned giving envelopes can be handed to Edward or a churchwarden at services.

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 September 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:

... Matt Hodder, and his family as they prepare for his ordination.

...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, Amy Jones, 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, Beryl Parry, Suzanne Winnister, Don Hunt.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Leonard Perry, Mabel Ashworth, Robert Drummond, William Tizzard

*Lord, at this time of pandemic,
Let us foster respect and solidarity with others,
Especially those who are weak or poor.
Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.
Let us take advantage of living together as a family.*

*Let us attend to moments of prayer.
Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope.
Amen*

(Prayer adapted from Rodolfo Valenzuela Núñez; Roman Catholic Bishop of LaVerapaz, Guatemala)

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>