

What's it like returning to a place for the first time in ages?

Today will be the first day in a long time when the public have been able to re-enter St John's: Not for a service and not to socialise, but to pray, find sanctuary, and hopefully to reconnect with the spiritual hub that takes a central place in so many of our lives.

Many thanks to all who have come forward in the past week to assist with the reopening: Your response means that we can open the building from 9am to 3pm today.

We don't know how long this current state of opening will be, and in order to make our reopening programme sustainable in the longer run we will need more volunteers in order to implement a weekly rota: If you've been spending the past week considering whether to volunteer, please get in touch! If you've been holding out on the hope others will come forward, get in touch –we need you too! If you didn't open last week's email and this is the first you've heard – get in touch!!!

As was said last week, volunteers must be under seventy and not shielding. This restriction remains in place although it is a personal hope that the guidance we're receiving may be reviewed in future weeks as we've had a number of responses from those of you who would wish to volunteer, but are unable to do so due to the age restriction.

Edward

**CHURCH REOPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:** St John's is now open for private prayer on Sundays from 9am-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.

**Marion 'Irené' Burke, RIP:** This week we received the sad news that Irené Burke died on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. A small funeral will be held for close family at Eltham Crematorium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Her ashes will be interred with those of her husband in our memorial garden at a later date.

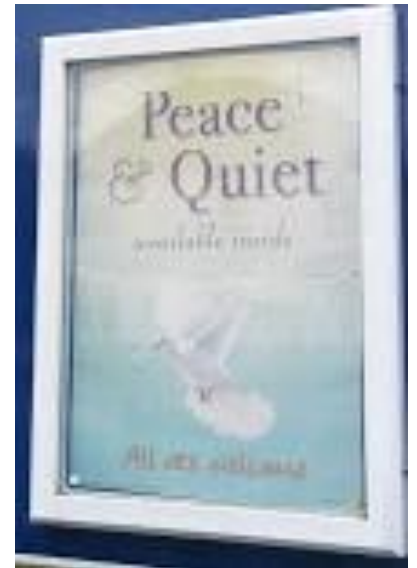
**Needing support?:** The current global situation is a cause of anxiety and worry for many of us. If you need someone to talk to, spiritual support, or if you are looking for assistance with shopping or collecting medication please contact Edward at [fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com](mailto:fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com) or call 01322521786.

**Suspended Sermon:** Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'Sins of the Fathers'.

**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](mailto: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 David & Goliath 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:**

...All who are adversely affected by racism.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...Garrett Farley whose Baptism has been postponed from today.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Amy Jones, 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.

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

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time Evan Lougher, Amanda Webb, Victor Howard.

...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>