



On Thursday the Church marked *Ascension Day* when we recall Christ's Ascension to the Father; His work on Earth having been completed.

One frustration we may feel all too often is that our own work, tasks, projects, the things that others expect us to do (and that we expect of ourselves), can *never* be completed – our work expands to fill the time we give it and so often that means our entire lifetime.

Instead we must train ourselves to 'ascend' away from that work and feel, even for a moment some sort of completion where we can rest and find our personal Sabbath time.

On that note I'm on leave for the forthcoming week: We're not actually going anywhere, but for seven uninterrupted days I'll be able to give my complete attention to the family whilst the answermachine and autoreply take the workload!

I hope you're managing to find some downtime too.

Stay safe!

Edward

Ascension Day: Edward's Ascension Day video, recorded in St John's, is still available through [our website](#).

Contacts: Whilst Edward is on leave, if you have an urgent concern regarding the church please contact the wardens, either Julia (julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com) or Janine (janinewooster@aol.com) or should you urgently require a priest then please contact the Team Rector the Rev'd Ren Harding on 01322 528923.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'Lockdown Time'.

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](#)).

Thy Kingdom Come: The Archbishops' *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer initiative runs from Ascension Day until Pentecost. You may wish to participate using the attached prayer activities which come from Team Rector the Rev'd Ren Harding.

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 Moses 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.

The funeral of Ray Miller (close family only) is on Friday 29 May at 3.30 pm. Please hold Margaret and the family in your prayers at this time.

This Week Please Pray For:

...Zhiyan Bharucha, whose Confirmation has been postponed from the 21st May.

... 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, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time Kenneth Trenaman, Christina Weighill, Charles Midwinter, William Puplett, Jane Norton, William Gorham, Doreen Stapleton.

...residents living in and around our parish.

God our Father, by whose mercy
The world turns safely into darkness
And returns again to light:
We place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
Our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
Knowing that what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
We commit each other and all those we love,
Knowing that you alone are our sure defender
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>

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