

## **From Edward:**

Some changes feel bigger than they are. This week I felt a slight frisson of excitement in rebranding (or should that be 'de-branding'?) the Suspended Sermon to simply a 'Sermon', as the reintroduction of Holy Communion means that the sermon for the day's Gospel will actually be preached in church today!

That said, today's sermon will still be blogged and if you are unable to attend today, or simply uncomfortable coming into church at the moment, that's fine. The sermon is still being blogged and the readings and Devotional Pattern are still being sent out, along with the Team News. We will also be holding Evening Prayer at 3pm if you would prefer to attend a more 'non-contact' service, and there is also the option of 'spiritually' joining in prayer in your own home at the same time.

At every Communion Service we will be praying a special Eucharistic Intention for those who are shielding and self-isolating. If you are not ready or able to attend yet, please do not feel you have been forgotten.

I expect today's service will look very different to the services we are used to: The service will be shorter than usual with be no singing and the roping off of pews limits the capacity of the church. The Communion will be administered in one kind, from the chancel step and I will be wearing a mask and gloves to administer the consecrated wafers with tongs.

But it will still be a valid Eucharist none the less, the first to have been publically held at St John's since the suspension of public worship began and my hope is that this will grow, step by tentative step toward the 'normality' we were once used to.

Stay safe!

Edward

**Church Open:** St John's is open on Sundays from 9am-3.30pm, with services at 9am 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. Please see the Bexley Team News for opening arrangements at our sister churches.

**Mattins and 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 services when attending Mattins or 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](#).

## **Forthcoming Services:**

26<sup>th</sup> July: Holy Communion 9am, Evening Prayer 3pm

2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August: Mattins 9am, Evening Prayer 3pm

16<sup>th</sup> August onward (*provisional plan*): Holy Communion 8am & 10am, Evening Prayer 3pm.

**Volunteers Needed:** We are incredibly grateful to those who have stepped forward to assist with supervising the church during opening hours. If you would like to join this rota please email Edward ([fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com](mailto:fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com)). Please do not volunteer if you are currently shielding.

**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.

**Sermon:** Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'The Colour Purple'.

**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

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**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 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!:** Toddler Church Activities from the past four months are still available on our website. We wish all our Toddler Church members a happy and safe Summer.

**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 currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...For all grandparents as we commemorate Saints Anne & Joachim on the 27th July.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Margaret Quick, Gladys Verran, Amy Jones, Barbara, 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.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Ernest Cramp, Peter Wilson, Margery Priest, Nellie Barley.

...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**