

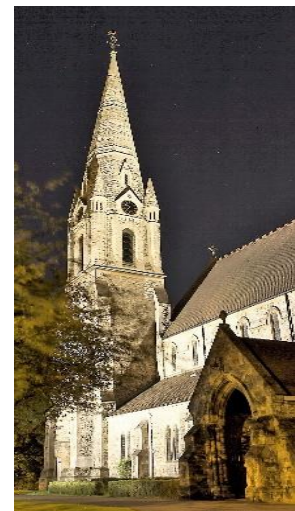


From Edward:

Another week, another set of changes!

Firstly a profound change for The Reverend Matt Hodder, and his family following Matt's ordination yesterday: Matt will be formally welcomed at the 10.45 service at St Barnabas today, then he and his family will be informally welcomed this afternoon at the 4pm Sundays@4 service (also at St Barnabas) – then follows a string of formal welcomes to Matt as curate as he attends each of the churches in the team for the first time as Deacon. His next Sunday at St John's will be the 18th October when he will attend the 8am and 10am services: If you can make it then please do come and wish him well!

Next change: As you'll know, over the past few months we have been very grateful to our 'Pray and Spray' volunteers for giving up their time to supervise the building so that we have been able to open our doors throughout the day on Sunday. After consulting with the Standing Committee, the Area Dean and the volunteers themselves we will be implementing a new system from the 4th October which will also enable us to open the doors on Wednesdays whilst freeing up the volunteers so that they don't need to commit to as many hours. More details on that in next week's email. My deepest gratitude to Andrew, Nick, Yvonne, Steve & Julie, Kate, Aly, Kim, Heather, Janine, Julia, Pauline, Judith, Amber, Jo, Izzy, Sheetal, Alana, Zhiyan, Lara, Natalie and Gill for their commitment over the past few months.



This Wednesday will see the last of the Team Bible Studies which will conclude with a Midweek Eucharist. The hope is that this will then reintroduce the pattern of Midweek Eucharists from the beginning of October – more on that next week!

And another change: The Family Communion Service for Climate Sunday at the beginning of this month worked effectively and I'm very grateful to Yvonne and the Music Group for their dedication and talent. We'll be doing the same on the 4th of October which will be our Harvest Festival and we'll be taking donations for *Bexley Foodbank*. The Foodbank tell me they have plenty of food at the moment, and what they really need are *toiletries and money* so please bring appropriate offerings to the Harvest Festival on the 4th. Details on how to give financially are further down this email. This will mark the reopening of our Foodbank collection point.

For the technically minded, if you have downloaded the NHS Contact-Tracing App to your personal field-telephone then you'll find QR codes in both the church and the hall for you to 'check-in'. They look a bit like those 'Magic-Eye' pictures we used to get in the nineties, but before you begin squinting at them trying to see 3D images, please be assured that they're not (I've already tried!).

And finally, don't forget the APCM on the 11th of October: Please keep those electoral roll forms coming in!

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. The Foodbank is in urgent need of *toiletries, sanitary and personal hygiene products*, so please bring appropriate donations. You can also give financially [here](#).

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.

Ordination: Matt Hodder, Assistant Curate to the Bexley Team Ministry was ordained Deacon at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 26th September. Please keep Matt, Jen, Zach and Annie in your prayers. Any cards or gifts may be passed onto Matt via the clergy.

Parish Office: Tuesdays, 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: A midweek Eucharist will be held after the Bible Study on the 30th of September. More details on midweek services from October onward will be released next week.

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. QR codes for the NHS Contact Tracing App are displayed in both the church and the hall.

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 'Authority Issues'.

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:

... Matt Hodder, and his family following Matt's ordination.

... All who have committed their time to supervise our building during the reopening period.

...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, 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.

...the recently departed, Suzanne Winnister.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, John Wallace, Albert Troubridge, Betty Haddaway, Kathleen Midwinter.

*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>