

All change!

It has become quite apparent that this is a season of frequent and often sudden changes: With our patterns of living jumping, often at a rapid pace from one set of restrictions and allowances to another.

Not all of these changes have been negative and I'm delighted to report not one but two positive changes to life at St John's and across the Team in the forthcoming week.

Firstly, you will have heard that the government has given the green light for church services to be held in a limited way from the 5th July and we will be sending out details about our service times in an extra email over the next couple of days. This will be in addition to our Sunday opening times and we are still looking for additional volunteers to assist with 'Pray and Spray' (Thank you to the person who suggested that slogan –you know who you are!).

Secondly comes the exciting news that our new Assistant Curate Matt Hodder and his family have moved into their new home and Matt is due to begin duties (as far as possible) from the 5th of July. Matt will be licensed to serve across the whole Bexley Team under the supervision of the Team Rector and is due to be ordained Deacon at Rochester Cathedral on the 26th September, lockdown restrictions permitting. Please keep the Hodders in your prayers through the coming weeks.

Stay safe!

Edward

Church Open For Private Prayer: St John's is 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.

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 step forward and join this rota please email Edward (fr.edwrdbarlow@gmail.com). Volunteers must be under 70 and not shielding.

Welcome!: Should you wish to send any welcome cards or gifts to the new Assistant Curate Matt Hodder and his family then please contact the Team Rector: renharding@hotmail.com

Marion 'Renee' Burke, RIP: Following the sad news that Renee Burke died on the 9th June, a small funeral will be held for close family at Eltham Crematorium on the 3rd July. Her ashes will be interred with those of her husband in our memorial garden at a later date. The family have requested that anyone wishing to give flowers send them directly to the funeral director: W. Udens, 6 Townley Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7HL – to arrive no later than noon on the 3rd July.

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.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'Switching it Off and On Again'.

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.

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 King David 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:

...the Hodder family.

...all who are adversely affected by racism.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...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, Irene Farge, George Thompson, William Baker, Adam Hunt, Ronald Smith, Henry Nolans, Sarah-Ann Knudsen, Thomas Sullivan

...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>