



From Edward:

"Contact has been made!"

These words, from the 1977 *Doctor Who* serial *The Invisible Enemy* are spoken by characters at the moment they are infected by an aggressive space-virus whose symptoms include victims developing very bushy silver eyebrows and homicidal tendencies.

At the point of writing this email contact *may* have been made in the Vicarage: Whilst none of us have suddenly developed bushy silver eyebrows, we did, late this week, encounter a different symptom: The '*New, Continuous Cough*'.

Part of the reason for sharing this with you is to let you know how *efficient* we found the test at the new test centre which has opened at 221 Erith Road (near Barnehurst Station): Appointments were easily available for the same afternoon, and the staff were organised, efficient and had a very reassuring manner to them. If you or any of your household need a Covid test please do not be put off by the prospect of going through the booking or testing process - it really was very easy to navigate.

The other reason I'm telling you this is that it could affect services at St John's over the next few weeks. I can envisage three possible outcomes at this stage:

- A negative test result before Sunday: In which case, all services proceed as originally planned.
- No test result received by Sunday: In which case the 8am Communion Service will be cancelled, the 10am and 3pm services will be led by Pauline Mace - those wishing to attend a Eucharist should consult the Team News for times of Communion services in our sister churches.
- A positive test result received by Sunday: In which case, in addition to the measures previously mentioned, the Team Rector will chair the APCM the following week.

As I am currently symptom-free myself, I would hopefully still be engaged in duties remotely by phone or email (a bit like in *Charlie's Angels*, where nobody ever sees Charlie).

In *The Invisible Enemy*, the Doctor was able to defeat the space-virus by sending miniature

clones of himself and his companion into the centre of his own brain for a head-on confrontation with the nucleus of the virus (which looked like a giant prawn)...

Disappointingly we do not have this as an option.

Thank you in advance for your patience as our Sunday plans potentially go 'up in the air'. In the current crisis, a situation such as this was inevitably going to be a possibility.

I am very much hoping for a negative result by Sunday - I have a new facemask to match my chasuble.

Stay safe!

Edward

Sunday Services: Holy Communion 8am (*Subject to clergy availability*); Family Communion 10am, Evening Prayer 3pm.

(Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Harvest Festival: Today's Harvest Festival sees the reopening of our Foodbank Donation Point. The Foodbank is in urgent need of *toiletries 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. *The Annual Report and accounts are attached to this email.*

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: The midweek Eucharist is scheduled to begin again at 10am This coming Wednesday (7th October): 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at St John's, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at St Mary's. If there is a 5th Wednesday in the month the service will be held at St James North Cray.

Gent's Lunch: The next Gent's Lunch is scheduled for Wednesday 7th October at the Anchor at noon.

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. 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.

Track & Trace: In order to support the NHS in containing the spread of Covid-19, we are keeping Track & Trace information for those who enter the building. There are three ways to give your data:

- 1: By scanning the QR code displayed in the building using the *NHS Covid-19 App*.
- 2: By completing the slip provided and placing it in the Track & Trace box (please use your



own pen).

3: By emailing Edward (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com) directly with your name and the date and time of your visit. Please mark the subject header: St John's Visitor Track & Trace.

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 'Butterwort'.

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:

... Bexley Foodbank and all whom it serves.

...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, 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, Ian Clarke Suzanne Winnister.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Winifred Rogers, Peter Denton, Henrietta Ashby, Masie Allen, Norman Antenbring, Crispin Wilson.

*God of grace,
As You are ever at work in Your creation,
So fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us
And in all for whom we pray,
That with them and in all that you have made,
Your glory may be revealed
And the whole Earth give praise to You*

*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>