

And so we take the next tentative steps out of isolation...

This week sees the return to public worship in churches across the country. Whilst we're grateful that we are once again allowed together we do so cautiously and, like many clergy in the Church of England at present, I'm quite keen that we don't attempt to paraglide before we can walk.

The services we're introducing are simple, said offices of Mattins and Evening Prayer: Being ordained, I'm obliged under my ordination vows to say these offices daily and have been doing before and after the church opening hours on Sundays. Now I will say those offices within the opening hours and invite those who feel comfortable in doing so to join me.

I am conscious however, that for many this won't be an option – I know quite a few of you are still shielding, self-isolating, and being as cautious as possible, and this is utterly understandable. The weekly emails will continue for the time being and I would hope that access to the church building and our worship is seen as something supplemental for those who can, rather than being the 'core' of parish life from which others are excluded. I don't want anyone to feel left out.

If you are unable to attend our services and have access to the Book of Common Prayer (which is also available online or through the Church of England's Daily Prayer app), I would encourage you to join us in spirit by reading the services of Morning and Evening Prayer in your own home if you can.

Stay safe!

Edward

Church Open: St John's is open on Sundays from 9am-3.30pm, with Mattins at 9am and Evening Prayer at 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 on Sunday.

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 <<mailto: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 <<mailto:renharding@hotmail.com>>

Matt has written an introduction in the Team News and there is also a link to a short video he's recorded.

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.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available here [<https://fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com/>](https://fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com/) . This week's sermon is entitled 'Do I Disappoint You?'

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 [<https://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley>](https://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley) . 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 [<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistbexley/>](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistbexley/) . 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 [<mailto:cceprojectworker@hotmail.com>](mailto:cceprojectworker@hotmail.com) .
Rochester Cathedral: Rochester Cathedral celebrating Choral Evensong via their website [<https://www.rochestercathedral.org/worship-online>](https://www.rochestercathedral.org/worship-online) , 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 [<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online) , 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 [<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/new-free-dial-in-worship-phone-line-launched.php>](https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/new-free-dial-in-worship-phone-line-launched.php) 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 [<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/domestic-abuse-during-coronavirus.php>](https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/news/domestic-abuse-during-coronavirus.php)

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 Elijah 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.

Gent's Lunch: Lunch at The Anchor resumes this Wednesday (usually the first Wednesday of the month). Details from Andrew Melling (via Edward if you don't have Andrew's details).

This Week Please Pray For:

...the Hodder family.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...the sick in need of our prayers, 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, Irené Burke.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Ena Ryan, Peggy Vergette, Patricia Duncan, Grace Harwood, Cyril Stapleton, Edward Crow, William Small, William Edwards, Isabel Ogilvie.

...residents living in and around our parish.

Keep us, good Lord,

Under the shadow of Your mercy

In this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, And lift up all who are brought low; That we may rejoice in Your comfort Knowing that nothing can separate us From Your love In Christ Jesus 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>

You are receiving this email because you or someone you know has given us your email address. If you do not wish to receive further emails from St John the Evangelist, Bexley please let Julia

Wickham (julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com) or Rev'd Edward Barlow (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com)
know.