

From Edward:

It feels like a long time ago now, but shortly before services were suspended we began to explore our church's relationship to our world and our role as Christians in safeguarding God's Earth in the face of the ravages of climate change.

We were beginning to commit to becoming an *Eco-Church*, following the programme devised by the charity *A Rocha* which serves to guide churches and their members toward a more sustainable lifestyle and a positive mission of environmental stewardship.

Of course, that journey has been placed on hiatus by Lockdown - but it has not been forgotten and so as our family services begin again today so too we renew our commitment to the world we live in.

The [Climate Sunday](#) initiative has been devised as an ecumenical approach to resource churches to talk openly and intentionally about the pressing environmental issues faced by our planet and calls all participating churches to commit at least one Sunday during the year from the beginning of September as a 'Climate Sunday'.

Not wanting to delay, we're observing Climate Sunday on the first date possible to do so and my hope is that this will kick-start a proactive endeavour toward Eco-Church status.

Stay safe!

Edward

Sunday Services: Holy Communion 8am, Family Communion 10am, Evening Prayer 3pm. (Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Parish Office: Will reopen on Tuesday 8th September, 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: As we consider how best to reinstate our midweek Eucharist Services across the Team, a weekly Bible Study focusing on the *Book of Nehemiah* is being held at St Mary's on Wednesday mornings throughout September. For more details see the Bexley Team News and let Rev'd Clive Wood know if you wish to attend.

International Buy A Priest a Beer Day: Is on September the 9th... We're not sure why Edward wanted us to include this in the email...

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.

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](#).

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). 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 or call 01322521786.

Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#) from Sunday Morning. This week's sermon from the Family Service is entitled 'Greta and the Giants'.

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.

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!: 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 September with suggested hymns, prayer intentions and questions to consider 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:

...Those returning to school.
...Our returning hall hirers.
...The healing of our damaged world.
...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...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.

...the recently departed, Percy Hicks.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time: George Hance, Vera Wellard, Lily Knight, Margaret Bearfoot, Bob Gonda, John Harlow.

*All-Powerful God, you are present in the whole Universe
And in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your life,
That we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace,
That we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
Creative spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. 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.