



Edward has been on leave this week this letter has taken from our website:

Dear Friends,

Among the many uncertainties of the current crisis there is, understandably, huge concern over the state of money: What will be the impact on the economy? How are the poorest families going to get by if they cannot access their support channels? Will business survive the loss of trade? Will there even be any money left when we come out of lockdown? This is having an impact on the church as well, and while we continue to be appreciative and extremely grateful to those who continue to give generously whilst services are suspended, we have come to learn how dependent we are on the weekly passing of the collection plate, and also the revenue generated by our Church Hall. St John's does, of course have a series of 'silent' running costs simply to ensure the building remains standing and will be usable at such a date as we can re-enter its walls. We also, like the vast majority of churches, give a significant amount to our Diocese which goes to support a vast enterprise including projects such as foodbanks which supporting the most vulnerable and international outreach in our partner Dioceses across the world (and not to mention covering the stipends of the Diocesan Clergy!). With the amount that we receive down we are hit in the amount that we can give, and so churches everywhere are needing to appeal to the generosity of those who can give: You may already give to St John's, you may be in a position to give a bit more, or you may be considering giving to us for the first time. There's a standing order form for regular giving and if you wish to make a one off donation then please use our Just Giving page. You may also wish to share the Just Giving link to encourage a bit of 'crowd funding' – you never know who might have a few spare millions they don't want their kids to inherit!

Stay safe!

Edward

**Suspended Sermon:** Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'The Locked Room Mystery'.

**Ascension Day:** Edward's Ascension Day video, recorded in St John's, is still available through [our website](#).

**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 [Just Giving Page www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley](http://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley). If you have a social media presence please also help us out by sharing this link.

If you shop online please also use our Easyfundraising link  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistbexley/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistbexley/)

**Social Media:** Remember you can engage with us on Facebook (*/stjohnsbexley*) and Twitter (*@stjohnsbexley*).

**Thy Kingdom Come:** The Archbishops' *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer initiative runs from Ascension Day until Pentecost. You may wish to participate using the attached prayer activities which come from Team Rector the Rev'd Ren Harding.

**Beacons of Hope:** Throughout the lockdown the Dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury are working together to bring us a series of video reflections. These can be accessed [on the Diocesan YouTube Channel](#).

**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 exploring the story of Moses 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.

**The funeral of Ray Miller** (close family only) is on Friday 29 May at 3.30 pm. Please hold Margaret and the family in your prayers at this time.

### **This Week Please Pray For:**

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

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...the recently departed, Jean Atenbring, Ken Burghall (Pr), John Harrington, Reg Haddaway, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time Kenneth Trenaman, Christina Weighill, Charles Midwinter, William Puplett, Jane Norton, William Gorham, Doreen Stapleton.

...residents living in and around our parish.



God our Father, by whose mercy  
The world turns safely into darkness  
And returns again to light:  
We place in your hands our unfinished  
tasks,  
Our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,  
Knowing that what you bless will  
prosper.  
To your love and protection  
We commit each other and all those we love,  
Knowing that you alone are our sure defender  
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>