



From Edward:

'Remember, remember'...

In November we *remember*. Not only the Gunpowder Plot, which we remember on the fifth but for much of the month, especially in the first few weeks we turn our faces to the past for a time, before looking ahead as the new Church Year begins in December with Advent; a time of waiting and expectation.

On the eve of the month; All Hallow's Eve, we allow our imaginations to wander onto speculation of those things we cannot explain: the supernatural, the dead, the things we fear, and the myths and folktales that have come to shape our identity.

This prepares us then, to cast our attentions beyond the veil, dedicating the 1st of November to the Feast of All Saints: Those Christian men and women of the past who, having kept the faith in life, join in perpetual and joyous worship around the throne of Christ Himself where (we believe and hope) they pray for us too.

From there we commemorate the Feast of All Souls – giving time and consideration to those whom we see no more but whose lives continue to resonate in our own. As Christians we believe we must pray for one another, and as Christians we also believe that we are a part of a Universal Church which extends beyond the world of the living – and so, as the saints pray for us, so we too pray for the departed. As part of our annual memorial for the departed our church will be open as a special place for remembrance and reflection throughout the afternoon of the 1st November: Details are below.

Then we come to Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day when we will remember those who have lost their lives as a result of armed conflict, and details on how we'll be doing that this year can also be found below..

For those in or from the USA, the fourth Thursday in November will also be a chance to look back in national memory at the celebration of Thanksgiving.

For some of us, we may carry raw, painful memories, particularly if we are grieving a recent loss, and especially this year as the nature of the pandemic and restrictions have given us more time with our memories, and also drawn us to consider our own mortality. For others such memories will be deeper-seated: An established part of who we are with joy and sadness maintaining a balance in our souls.

Whomever, whatever and however we remember this month we may well find ourselves drawn into a place where the boundaries between the past and the present, the dead and the living, are paper-thin and this will have an impact on us emotionally and spiritually. It is my hope that our All Souls Memorial this weekend will provide a comfort and consolidation for many, but if it is a struggle please feel free to get in touch to talk – and the details of Counselling Matters Bexley's *Talkline* can also be found below.

Stay safe!
Edward

Sunday Services: Holy Communion 8am & 10am
(Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Family Communion: Our next Family Communion will be on the 1st November when we will be celebrating the Feast of All Saints. Please do spread the word to your friends and neighbours, particularly those with children who may wish to attend.

All Souls: Given current restrictions, we will not be holding the All Souls memorial in the same format as previous years: The church will remain open after the services on 1st November for people to come and go as they please, and from 1pm-4pm we will provide devotional resources and the provision to light a candle in remembrance of those we love but see no more. The names of the departed will be displayed. If you would like a loved one to be named on the memorial list please send their name to fr.edwardbarlow@hotmail.co.uk with the subject header 'All Souls'.

Midweek: The next Midweek Eucharist will be at St Mary's this coming Wednesday (28th). Service pattern: 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.

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November: In order to maintain social distancing there will be no formal 11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial this year (Although we will remember the fallen in the Sunday Services). A pre-recorded Act of Remembrance on video, produced in partnership with the Ex-Servicemen's club will be made available. This will be available to view via the St John's Website from Remembrance Sunday.

Living in Love & Faith Conference: In response to the forthcoming publication of the *Living in Love & Faith* report, which seeks to help the Church of England understand better the current questions surrounding gender, sexuality and identity, the newly formed Rochester MOSAIC group (Movement Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church) will be holding a Zoom Conference on the morning of Tuesday 17th November. Places are limited so book soon at www.livinginloveandfaith.eventbrite.co.uk. A flyer is attached to this email.

Situations Vacant: We have a number of roles and activities which require volunteers to assist with the running and growth of our church. Please see the attached 'Situations Vacant' pack and contact Edward on fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com if you would like more information on any of the positions advertised.

Bexley Foodbank: Our Foodbank Donation Point is now open and you can bring your donations when the Church is open on Sundays and Wednesday. You can also give financially [here](#).

Parish Office: Tuesday office hours have been suspended due to Covid Tier-Two restrictions. We will reinstate our usual times when we return to Tier-One, in the meantime, for Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please email Edward.

Church Open: St John's is open during the day on Sundays and Wednesdays. If visiting other than for a service, please collect a laminate card from the table by the door and leave it in your pew.



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.

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 onward. This week's sermon is entitled 'Motley Crew'.

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 November 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:

... The electorate of the United States of America.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...the sick in need of our prayers, Gill Rogers, Carol & Peter Amura, George Berry, Margaret Quick, Gladys Verran, 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, Dora Hutchinson, Matthew Bray, Herbert Swain, Kathleen Puplett, Frank Knight, Victor Sweeney

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Dora Hutchinson, Matthew Bray, Herbert Swain, Kathleen Puplett, Frank Knight, Victor Sweeney.

... And all whom we remember in our All Souls commemorations.

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,

And give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones, O Lord, Jesus Christ;

Rest your weary ones; bless your dying ones;

Soothe your suffering ones; pity your afflicted ones;

Shield your joyous ones; and all for your love's sake. Amen

St Augustine

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>