

Bexley Team News

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John the Evangelist, Bexley
St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

Sunday 15 November 2020 Issue 35

The Second Sunday before Advent

There will be an online Service via ZOOM this Sunday at 10am. Log-in details have been sent to regular members of our congregations on email. Do contact a member of clergy if you have not received this.

Public Worship has been suspended - Team Churches open for Private Prayer only this week

St James, North Cray will be open on Saturdays 10.30am to 11.30am

for Private Prayer and Reflection and to light candles

also on Saturday 21 and 28 November.

Contact St James's church warden Suzy Higgs 077990 72548

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood will be open on Saturdays 9.00am to 10.00am

for Private Prayer and Reflection and to light candles

also on Saturday 21 and 28 November.

Contact St Barnabas' church warden Steve Harding on 07778483681

St John's, Bexley will be open throughout the day for Individual Prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays

(Foodbank donations can also be left on those days)

St Mary's, Bexley will be open on Sunday 10.00- 11.00 am Individual Prayer

On Sunday 15 November 3.00- 4.00 pm Memorial pop in for individual prayer and to light a candle.

Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Individual prayer

All hygiene measures advised by the Church of England are being observed in our churches, which includes disinfecting door handles etc, and having hand sanitiser available, and observing the two-metre proximity rule. Face-masks are mandatory. If you feel you are in the at-risk group you might prefer to pray at home, and use the many prayer resources available online

The Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect : Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible readings Zephaniah 1, 7, 12-end , 1 Thessalonians 5, 1-11, Matthew 25, 14-30

Reflection

On the 16th of November the Church remembers St Margaret, Queen of Scotland (1046-1093). A Princess of the Anglo-Saxon Royal household of England, Margaret grew up in exile in Hungary and in 1069 married Malcolm III of Scotland. She is remembered for the holiness she brought to the Royal Household, influencing her husband and children to be just and godly rulers and taking time to share the scriptures with her family. This painting of St Margaret, by the contemporary artist Paula Rego, is displayed in the Chapel of the Nine Altars in Durham Cathedral. As with any painting of a saint, it is worth spending some time with. At first it is striking – perhaps even terrifying: Margaret's skin is pale and her cheekbones are pronounced, her eyes are deep-set and her fingers gaunt – The whole appearance is skeletal and death-like. In 1093,



Margaret's husband and eldest son Edward were killed in battle and her son Edgar was tasked with informing his mother of their deaths. Margaret died three days later, on the 16th of November. Her cause of death was reported as *grief*. The picture is large: Margaret's eyes gaze fixed over the head of the viewer – we don't know what she is looking at. Perhaps her sight is not even fixed on this world but beyond the horizon, anticipating the world to come. A bony hand rests on a Bible, open: The Gospel words she would read to her family. The other sits on the shoulder of her youngest son, David, later David I of Scotland. She been reading to him: The boy-prince hearing his Mother read the words of the Prince of Peace – the Gospel of love and justice. David looks ahead too but being smaller and lower in the picture his eyes connect with those of the viewer. Here we enter a relationship with the people in the painting. We feel the saintly hand on our own shoulder, channelling a mother's love. We hear her speak the Gospel words.

David is a boy at his mother's footsteps, but his path to manhood has been chosen for him: behind him rests the helmet he must one day wear in war and in his hands, resting as gently as the sacred book rest on his mother's lap, David holds a battle-axe.

The Gospel is preached: words which call all who hear them to live in love and faith... but as the ears receive the words, the hands have already taken the hilt of the weapon, taken up either by one's own volition or by virtue of the roles others have prescribed.

But the Gospel must prevail: The eyes of the reader must be set, as St Margaret's were, beyond the horizon to the Greater Kingdom. Whatever weapons the hearer may wield, the words must be spoken.

Look again at Margaret. Feel the Gospel Love in the hand that rests on David's shoulder. Allow your eyes to connect with the boy's. What weapons are you holding? Rev'd Edward.

Christmas Hampers

In a practical effort to support families in our communities who are most in need over the Christmas period, The Bexley Team is proposing to gift a food hamper to families in our local schools who receive free school meals or have specific needs. The schools in our team have been approached and are happy to work with us on this project. We would like to invite you to make a monetary donation towards this work to supplement a donation from a local business. This can be done by placing the cash or cheque in an envelope marked Christmas Hamper and handing it to any of the Team clergy by the 30th November. Cheques should be made payable to "St Barnabas Joydens Wood" with the word HAMPER written on the back of the cheque. Alternatively, a donation can be transferred by BAC to Sort Code 51-70-14 Account 01844237 Reference HAMPER



If you would be willing to help with the shopping and the preparation of the hampers please contact Rev Sue Twynam on either 01322 559501 or 07952 468127, or by email at susantwynam@btconnect.com.

Plans are being made for a Bexley Team Ministry Children's Activity over the Christmas school holidays. This will be a **Christmas Trail** which will be promoted through the five Primary Schools in the Team, and through our many links with nurseries and other groups. Families will be invited to visit each of the four parish churches, (or as many of them as they want to) where there will be an outdoor activity for them to do with children and adults working together.

Rev Sue and Rev Matt are working to produce the material – so look out for that.

St Barnabas are linking with the Christmas Journey Trail and inviting the local community and beyond to join with our **STAR IN THE WINDOW PROJECT**. We are encouraging people to decorate a star and put it in their window over the Christmas period. (This is a well-loved tradition in Sweden!)



A Time of Prayer during Lockdown

Thank you to everyone who is joining by praying with the Daily Psalms. If you would like to sign up to receive a WhatsApp or email you can still do so. Please contact Rev Matt on matthodder10@gmail.com or 07889873125 to be added to the list. For those who prefer to know what's coming up here are the Psalms we will be praying this week: Saturday 14th Nov - Psalm 13, Sunday 15th Nov - Psalm 19, Monday 16th Nov - Psalm 20, Tuesday 17th Nov - Psalm 27:1-8 & 13-14, Wednesday 18th Nov - Psalm 30, Thursday 19th Nov - Psalm 32, Friday 20th Nov - Psalm 28.

Lockdown Labyrinths: As the Archbishops call us to a Month of Prayer through this period of lockdown, are you looking for a project that could also enrich your spiritual disciplines? Why not take on the 'Lockdown Labyrinth'? Suitable for beginners, seasoned crochet-enthusiasts or any ability level between the two. The pattern, along with suggestions for devotional engagement can be found [here: http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/images/pewsheets/Lockdown-Labyrinth.pdf](http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/images/pewsheets/Lockdown-Labyrinth.pdf)

Living in Love and Faith Mosaic Conference

A free online conference to launch the Rochester Diocese branch of MOSAIC – Movement Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church and to introduce the Church of England resource- *Living in Faith and Love*. Tuesday 17th November 9.30 am to 1.15 pm. To register visit www.livinginloveandfaith.eventbrite.co.uk

Care for the Family 'Mum's the Word' event. Supporting busy mum's with some me time. More information and booking at <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online>

A recommended book for Advent

Freedom is Coming: From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah by Bishop Nick Baines gives an introduction to each week and a short Bible reading and reflection for each day from Advent to Epiphany. Available from Amazon from approx £3-50 used to £7-50 new.

We had planned that the book would form the basis of a **six week Bible study** on Wednesdays at 10.30 am 25th Nov at St. Mary's, 2nd Dec at St John's, 9th Dec at St. Mary's 16th Dec at St. Johns, 30th Dec at St Barnabas and 6th Jan at St. John's. This is subject to review in light of the latest restrictions.

Scam alert Scammers are asking for money for 'track and trace results' or trying to get phone calls to premium phone lines. Beware.

St. Mary's, Bexley

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on 20th December at 6.00 pm. Admission will be by ticket only. To book contact Andrew Hill at chaplain.glsescouts1@ntlworld.com or 07306 330356.

Calendars and Diaries- there is a box at the back of the church, choir vestry side, for any 2021 calendars and/or diaries which are surplus to your requirements. After Christmas, we plan to sell them for church funds.

Do you enjoy organising and maintaining records? We need someone to love our church files and records! If this might be you please have a word with Mary or Clive.

Clive will be leading a holiday to Austria and Oberammergau including the Passion Play 22-29 June 2022. Brochures and booking forms are at the back of Team churches.

St. John's

Giving to St John's: You can give financially to the continuing upkeep and ministry of St John's via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley

Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com

Social Media - engage with us via Facebook (/stjohnsbexley) and Twitter (@stjohnsbexley).

Help offered/needed If you or someone you know **needs help** or if you **can offer assistance** please contact-
St. Mary's Bexley contact Christine Wood 01322 270942 chrisawood2003@yahoo.com
St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 kacrat@btinternet.com
St. James, North Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com
St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Team Rector: Rev'd Ren Harding | renharding@hotmail.co.uk | 01322 528923 | 07836644782 |
| Associate Priest: Re'vd Sue Twynam | susantwynam@btconnect.com | 01322 559501 | 07952 468127 |
| Team Vicar: Rev'd Edward Barlow | fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com | 01322 521786 | |
| Team Vicar: Rev'd Clive Wood | revclivewood@gmail.com | 01322 270942 | 07982 392809 |
| Team Curate: Rev'd Matt Hodder | matthodder10@gmail.com | | 07889873125 |