

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 22 November 2020 Issue 36

Christ the King (The Sunday before Advent)

There will be an online Service via ZOOM this Sunday at 10.00 am. 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. Please also see information below about a Zoom practice session hosted by Rev'd Matt

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

St James, North Cray will be open on Saturday 10.30 am to 11.30 am for Private Prayer and Reflection and to light candles also on Saturday 28 November.

Contact St James's church warden Suzy Higgs 077990 72548

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood will be open on Saturday 9.00 am to 10.00 am for Private Prayer and Reflection and to light candles also on Saturday 28 November.

Contact St Barnabas' church warden Steve Harding on 07778483681

Sunday @ 4. Sunday @ 4 is our family friendly service, suitable for all ages. This month Sunday @ 4 has gone online! You can watch the service on YouTube from 3.45pm on Sunday 22nd November by clicking on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnQuHPkHxqU> or by searching for our 'Bexley Team School Resources' page on YouTube.

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 and Wednesday 10.00- 11.00 am for 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

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Bible readings Ezekiel 34, 11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1, 15- 23, Matthew 25,31-46

Reflection

"Hi Grace!"

"Hi Dad, thanks for coming to pick me up from school."

"That's OK my love. How was your day?"

"Good."

"What did you learn today?"

"Nothing."

"Did you eat your lunch?"

"Maybe."

"Well, did you have fun?"

"Sort of I guess."

"I see. OK, tell me what was different about today."

"Well, I got a button to put in the kindness jar."

"Right, that's good. What's the kindness jar?"

"Every time someone in the class does something kind we put a button in the jar. When the jar is full we all have a party!"

"Ooh that sounds exciting. So what did you do that was kind?"

"I helped Ethan. He fell over in the playground and cut his knee. I went over to him and took him to the first aider."

"Ah right, that was kind. So why did you decide to help him?"

"Well, he kind of fell over right next to me and he was crying and snotty and his leg was bleeding, so I thought I should probably help him."

"Mmm yes, Well done. That was a kind thing to do. Remind me, wasn't Ethan the boy who pushed you over and called you stupid last week?"

"Erm...yes. But I try not to think about that too much."

"Yes, right. Good idea. Sounds sensible to me."

"I guess so. Mrs Herrera says that all kindness is good kindness, but the best kindness is when you're kind to people you don't like. Like the people that really annoy you. Ethan really annoys me. But Mrs Herrera says that the kindness is sort of bigger than the 'not liking'."

"I see, Mrs Herrera sounds like she knows a lot about kindness."

"Maybe, I think so. She knows a lot about maths anyway. What's for dinner?"

"Whatever you want my love. I'm very proud of you."

Matthew 25:34-36 & 44-45

Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then they will answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and we would not help you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.'

Rev Matt



Logging into Zoom- Practice session

If you're new to Zoom and are a bit unsure how to use it we've set up a chance for you to practice logging in. Rev Matt will be hosting a 'Practice Log in Session' on Saturday 21st November between 12.30 pm-1.30 pm. During that hour you can log in, discuss some of the practicalities of Zoom and how best to use it ahead of our Team service at 10am. If you have any problems logging in during that hour you can call Rev Matt on 07889873125 to chat it through.

Matt Hodder is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Logging in to Zoom - Practice session

Time: Nov 21, 2020 12:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83217033654?pwd=eFRBRlNBbnN1SXdWTFZ3OFZsUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 1703 3654

Passcode: 32d3yD



Christmas Hampers Update

Thank you so much for the donations and offers of help which have already been made for the provision of Christmas Hampers for families in need within all four of our parishes. Across the team there are 206 primary school children receiving free school meals and we plan to provide each family with a hamper. I calculate that we will need approximately £2000 to cover the costs. So far we have received in excess of £1300 through donations.



If you haven't already done so and would like to make a donation, it can be done by 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!). **ALSO IF ANYONE HAS ANY OUTDOOR LIGHTS THEY DON'T WANT TO USE THIS YEAR WE WOULD LOVE TO BORROW THEM FOR OUR CHURCH GROUNDS.**



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.

Rev'd Ren writes-

I am pleased (and slightly shocked!) to have been invited by Bishop James to accept appointment as an Honorary Canon at Rochester Cathedral, one of four others appointed in the present round.

The Bishop has indicated that amongst other things, this is in particular recognition of my ministry within the Bexley Team which he sees as "offering a model of such a collaborative structure within the Diocese."

The College of Canons is part of the Cathedral's governance structure, so I will be involved in occasional meetings and worship services and will be asked to preach at the cathedral once or twice a year. Date of Installation is not certain – given the present circumstances. Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Bexley Team churches, I am so grateful for everyone's contribution to the ministry we all share." *I'm sure we would all want to add our congratulations to Ren! Ed.*

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)

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. The planned **six week Bible study** on Wednesdays starting 25th Nov has been put on hold due to lockdown restrictions.

St James North Cray are collecting items for Bexley Women's Aid – hopefully at their 9.30am service on Sunday 13 December. They would love to have 'small toys, gift cards, stocking fillers, sweets/chocolates for hampers'

St Barnabas are collecting financial contributions for our regular Christmas charity – Homestart. Payments to Rev Ren or to David Peters please.

St Mary's

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).

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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