

# Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 26 July 2020 Issue 19

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

**Congratulations to St. Barnabas- today is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of commissioning as a church!**

## Services in Team Churches this Sunday-

**St. Barnabas** 10.45 am Holy Communion (first after lockdown) 4.00pm Sunday@4 (see details below)

**St. James** 9.30 am Holy Communion (first after lockdown)

**St. Johns** 9.00 am Holy Communion (first after lockdown) 3.00 pm Evening Prayer. Please if you can download the Daily Prayer App and get the service by switching to 'Traditional' in the menu. Hard copies will be available.

**St. Mary's** 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Family service  
- these will all be said services with no hymns/songs

## Team Churches open for private prayer-

**St. Johns** Sundays between Mattins and Evening Prayer

**St. Mary's** Until midday after 10.00 am service and on Wednesdays 10.00 am to midday

## Message from Rev Ren to all Team Churches

We are able to restart our monthly **Sunday@4 service** this week Sunday 26 July at St Barnabas Church starting from 4pm. This is an informal all age service and suitable for both children and adults. It's really exciting as we will be out in the lovely church grounds. Come along and meet our new curate Matt and his family. Matt will be leading alongside Steve and Rev Ren. As usual it will be lots of fun but rather different as social distancing and hand hygiene measures will be fully observed. Because of current restrictions we can't provide a tea this time – sorry! - but do bring your own refreshments and a picnic rug or blanket if you have one. Seats will be available for those who don't want to sit on the ground – or would worry about getting up again! We can't wait to be together again, all are welcome and if you can let us know in advance that you're coming, that would be great.

## The Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 29 v15-28 New Testament: Romans 8 v.26-39 Gospel: Matthew 13 v31-33, 44-52

## Reflection – small beginnings

On Thursday a work party started the job of removing the sickly box hedges from St. Mary's churchyard. It was hard work but we enjoyed each others company, the fresh air, exercise and a refreshment break mid morning. We discovered that a chest tomb can make a useful table from which to consume our drinks and cakes! As we enjoyed our break a gentleman strolled past, then doubled back and introduced himself.

Church wasn't his thing but we got chatting, he was at a loose end and he was soon at work helping with the moving of hedge cuttings. Details were exchanged with the promise to let him know that date of the next work party. Will anything more come of it? Who knows, but any enterprise has to start somewhere, and often that is in a small way.

We get this feeling of things that start small becoming big in the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13 v31-32). It is the smallest of all the seeds (apparently). But someone nevertheless has the faith and takes the trouble to plant and tend it. Then it grows into a shrub and then a tree and is useful, especially if you happen to be a bird in search of a place to build a nest... where eggs are laid and hatched and more growth...you get the idea.

Jesus was teaching that these small beginnings of planting a tiny mustard seed are like the Kingdom of Heaven. So the Kingdom of Heaven (or God, it's interchangeable) starts small but has the potential to grow **big**. How we need to remember that when we feel small and not much use and that we can't make a difference. It's as if those very things that we so easily take to be a big negative are in fact a big positive. They are a gracious invitation to grow the kingdom by doing what we can do- the small things ... and leave the rest to God.

But things growing from small beginnings can happen in undesirable ways too. Towards the end of last year a virus that had confined itself to the animal kingdom 'worked out' how to jump species and managed to infect a single human being. Now look at where we are. We need to be careful and remember that small bad can grow big too. What 'rabbits' have we set running that we later wished we hadn't?!

As we crawl nervously out of lockdown it is almost as if we feel diminished. People have lost their lives. Church budgets are bashed. National debt soaring. Jobs gone or at risk. Can we trust enough to begin again with the small 'kingdom' things that we can do and see where that takes us? Rev'd Clive

### Prayers

Creator God, we are troubled by the conflict in the world  
Help us to confront and challenge prejudice, greed and hatred  
and all that prevents people from living fully and freely.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, your son Jesus Christ,  
called ordinary people to follow him as disciples.

Help us to respond to that same call  
and to share your gospel of hope in our communities.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Healing God, we pray for all those who are sick, that they might be deeply aware of your presence with them.  
We pray also for those who care for the sick and the broken.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Eternal God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us,  
with those we love, and with those whom we love who have gone before us. We hold before you those who  
have recently died and those bereaved.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God, May we all be changed and transformed to become, day by day, more like your Son Jesus  
Christ.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**





This week we have a lovely activity from Scripture Union from their make and pray video series. Check out the video on the link below. They have lots more ideas on their you tube channel playlist, Make and Pray SU, if you would like more activities. Enjoy! Katrina

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvk5fboUt6LROHiL9JnMYbp-nLBYppXWd>

### **News from St. Mary's**

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be at 11.30 am on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

We have available a small Hitachi 'Turbo Brush' cylinder vacuum cleaner in very good condition and with all the attachments. Interested? Please contact Clive for further details/ viewing.

### **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](http://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley)

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at [fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com](http://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](mailto:chrisawood2003@yahoo.com)

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 [kacrat@btinternet.com](mailto:kacrat@btinternet.com)

St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 [davidstevens112@aol.com](mailto:davidstevens112@aol.com)

St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

### **THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY**

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