

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 7 June 2020 Issue 12

Trinity Sunday

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP.

The Additional Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of
your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery
of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-31 New Testament: 2 Corinthians 13. 11-13 Gospel: Matthew 28. 16-20

Reflection

As I watch the tragic and shocking events unfolding in the USA surrounding the death of George Floyd I am reminded of an event in 2008. I was very fortunate to be one of 900 people invited to attend the “Keeping the Dream Alive; A Service of Hope on the 40th Anniversary on the Death of Martin Luther King JR” at Westminster Abbey. The service was the final part of a day conference where 150 people; young, old, black, white, Christian, Jew, Muslim spent the day focused on MLK ‘s dream in which all people could live in equality, justice and harmony. The conference stated that “to build an inclusive harmonious and peaceful society here and throughout the world is one of the greatest challenges we face as a civilization”. This is clearly still a challenge we face today.

The gospel reading and the reading from Paul’s letter to the people of Corinth both come at the end of their respective books, they both look to the future, a future of how things could and should be.’ Both passages give us instructions of what we are to do in order to achieve a future worthy of our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sustainer.

Jesus instructed us to proclaim and live by the Good News of Christ and to make disciples of all nations. Paul instructs us to “aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you”.

Working for equality justice and peace should be at the centre of all we do, we should constantly remind ourselves that God loves each and every one of us intimately and without favour, we are all equal in his sight and when we treat a fellow human being with less than perfection then we are treating God with less than perfection.

Peace and harmony can only be achieved when all people feel they are of equal worth.

I leave you with some of the words of MLK-

"People are still not free. Lives of people are still crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. People live on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. People still languish in the corners of the world and find themselves an exile in their own land."

"The world has given some people a bad cheque, a cheque which has come back marked "insufficient funds, but we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt."

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day even the world, a place sweltering with heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice"

"I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children...will be able to join hands and sing. Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty we are free at last"

Please meditate and act upon these words, pray for equality, justice and peace.

Rev'd Susan Twynam

Prayers

Lord God, creator of all people,
may your Son who suffered the inhumanity of the cross
comfort us in our anxiety and in our horror,
in times that take our breath away.

May your Holy Spirit inspire us to repentance
and action in dismantling the virus of racism
from within the Church, our nation and our world. Amen

Rev'd Canon Jeremy Blunden, Bishop's Adviser for Black
and Minority Ethnic (BAME)



Keep us, good Lord under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen



Ella and Emilee working on last week's MC Pentecost fire pictures

The lockdown is easing slightly and some children will begin to return School albeit in a different way. This change can bring anxiety and worry even in children. This week in messy church we are thinking about creative ways we can help children to pray in these times of change. Please see the link below.

Katrina

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/prayers-times-change>

Do you have news, information or ideas for Bexley Team News? Please contact Rev'd Clive, contact details below.

Church Magazine Howlers

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Why not bring your husbands?

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



Between ourselves

Church Security A number of local churches, including St John's Bexley, have suffered break-ins this week. Thankfully Rev Edward was vigilant, nothing had been stolen, everyone is safe and the churchwardens have ensured that the church building is now secured. We have checked the three other churches in the Team and all is well, however please do be extra watchful, prayerful and alert. Ren

Matt Hodder We would like to welcome Matt and his family by providing a box of food treats (sweet or savoury, but non-perishable only please) when they move into their new home on 23 June. Please contact Mary Andrews on 01322 523071 or maryrose.andrews@gmail.com if you would like to contribute.

St. Mary's We are grateful for the ongoing financial support for St. Mary's even as we are unable to meet. The box hedging in the memorial gardens has been affected by box blight and will have to be replaced. This will be done over the coming months. Donations towards the cost of this work will be most welcome. It is expected to cost several hundred pounds.

St. John's The funeral of Reg Haddaway is at 2pm on Tuesday 9th June. Please remember the family in your prayers. 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

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com Social Media- engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](https://twitter.com/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, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com

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

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