

# Bexley Team News

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

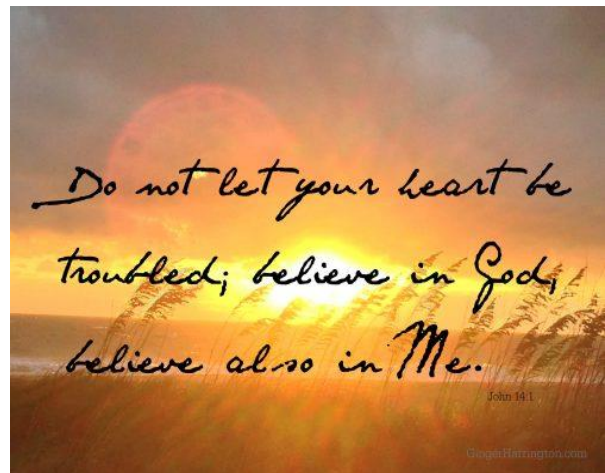
Sunday 10 May 2020 Issue 8

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

## Collect

Almighty God,  
who through your only- begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.



## Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 8 v1-19 New Testament: Acts 7 v 55-60 Gospel Reading: John 14 v 1- 14

## Reflection on today's gospel reading

As we read this passage in John's Gospel - a passage we have heard many times before - we are reminded that the disciples are feeling anxious and they panic. Their reaction is understandable because for the past few years their lives have been closely linked to Jesus. The prospect of his departure is devastating, despite Jesus's attempts to prepare them for such an eventuality.

As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe this weekend we are reminded that the people across Europe lived lives for six years which were filled with fear and anxiety. And today in our present circumstances we are also feeling anxious and fearful. In times like these we ask questions. You may have heard yourself ask questions like – how long is this going on for? Where do we go from here? How will this end? ...and probably many more questions! The answers seem to be vague and are ambiguous, they do not give us reassurance and that is probably because nobody has the answers at this present time. The disciples asked the following question “Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Unlike our present situation Jesus is able to give a very clear and definitive answer to the disciples, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Jesus is able to offer reassurance and a way to alleviate the fear and replace it with hope and peace. The disciples and ourselves have no need to fear because Jesus is preparing a way for us, he is walking with us and is providing a dwelling place for us. Jesus is the one who offers us unity as individuals, as communities, as a nation and as the world. Our faith and our trust are bound up in the nature of God. The God who is steadfast and dependable, the one who is the only certainty in our lives. When we look to Jesus, we see and know God!

We may have to wait quite a while longer to hear the answers to our everyday, human questions! We know that things will be different in the future and we can deal with that future because we can be certain that - just as the disciples moved forward after the death and resurrection of Jesus - Jesus is walking with us, giving us the confidence we need to make changes and adaptations in our individual lives and in our world.

A prayer- Lord Jesus, grant me to walk in your way, to know your truth and to experience the life you shared with your Father. Amen. Rev. Susan Twynam

### Prayers

A prayer for VE Day- from the Act of Commitment for Peace  
Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

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.



If we weren't in lockdown, this Sunday would have been St. Mary's monthly Messy Church gathering. A time when children and adults can have fun and come together in creativity and celebration. We may not be able to gather physically this month but we can still take part in Messy Church in our homes.

To help with this the Messy Church website are producing weekly Messy Church at home sessions for families to enjoy. This week they have a session called Messy Peace, thinking about peace as we celebrate VE day. The link to the session can be found below for you to use and enjoy this bank holiday weekend.

Katrina

<https://www.stmarysbexley.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1588925796.pdf>

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

**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Find out more at [www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us)

**Church and lockdown** There have been some changes in the guidance given by Rochester Diocese concerning church buildings, although it is important to stress that buildings remain closed for public worship. In agreement between the wardens and incumbent, one person is to be appointed for each church. (The person should be under 70 years of age and not required to shield.) That person may pray the Daily Offices, film an act of worship, ring one bell to announce that prayers are being said and check the fabric of the building. If that person is a priest, they may also celebrate communion on behalf of the community.

As the nation marks VE Day, Rev'd Ren has recorded a short reflection for this weekend. Visit <https://youtu.be/vblsYw1JVzM> This can also be accessed via the St Barnabas Joydens Wood and St. James, North Cray websites.

**Memories of 1945** I remember being put to bed just inside our shelter down the garden. Mother slept on the floor underneath and her sister and brother-in-law had the other end. Another vivid memory is when I was on my way to Brownies. An enemy aircraft went over the field opposite Wansunt Road. I dropped to the ground as instructed and watched it go over. One grew up quickly in those days! Another memory is of King George VI coming to the listening post which was in the garden of a bungalow. We were turned out of school to form a guard of honour. On VE day long tables were placed in the road and we all had a meal together. Mary Andrews, St. Mary's.

On the advice of the Trussell Trust, Bexley Foodbank have changed their opening hours for details visit <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/2020/05/07/bexley-foodbank-covid-19-important-update/>

**St John's, Bexley** Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at [fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com](http://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-

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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

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