

Edward is currently on leave:

Sunday Services Across the Team: 6th December:

Please choose how you worship according to your best judgement on personal risk and the level of contact you are comfortable with.

8am: Holy Communion at St John's: Led by The Rev'd Susan Twynam.

9.30am: Holy Communion at St James, North Cray: Led by The Rev'd Ren Harding

10am: Morning Prayer at St John's: Led by Pauline Mace.

10am: Holy Communion at St Mary's: Led by The Rev'd Susan Twynam.

10am: Team Zoom Service: Led by The Rev'd Matt Hodder: See details below.

Please note that there are no services at St Barnabas, Joyden's Wood this Sunday.

Sunday Services At St John's From Next Week (13th December): 8am & 10am Holy Communion

Midweek Services in December: 10am Wednesdays:

9th & 23rd December: St Mary's

16th December: St John's.

30th December: To be Confirmed.

There will be an additional 10am Eucharist at St John's on the 29th December to keep the Patronal Festival (translated from Sunday 27th).

Christingle: We cannot hold our family Christingle Service this Sunday as we would normally do. However should you wish to make a Christingle at home, Edward has produced a video you can view via [our website](#). Please also consider supporting the Children's Society's [Hope](#) campaign for children who are victims of and at risk from county-lines exploitation

Christmas Services:

11.30pm, 24th December: Midnight Mass.

10am, 25th December: Christmas Day Communion Service: 10am.

Christmas Trail: Please see the attached flyer for details of the Bexley Team Ministry Christmas Trail which replaces the Crib Services across our churches this year and will run from 18th December to 3rd January. If you'd like to assist in preparing the church grounds for the trail please email either Edward on fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com or the Reverend Sue Twynam on susantwynam@btconnect.com. We have a number of angels and shepherds we would like children and families to decorate: Please contact Edward to participate.

The Feast of the Holy Family (27th December): Please note that on Sunday 27th December there shall be no 10am service at St John's, but we are invited to join our friends at St Mary's for a joint service, also at 10am.

Social Media: Remember you can engage with us on Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](#)), Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](#)) and Instagram ([@stjohnsbexley](#))

Needing Support: Team pastoral support is being coordinated by Assistant Curate Rev'd Matt Hodder. If you, or someone you know, is requiring assistance with accessing food, medicine, essential shopping or other need (or simply wants a chat!) please contact Matt on 07889873125 or matthodder10@gmail.com.

Church Security: We have had a number of incidents in the church grounds after dark, including the lighting of fires. If you are near the church after dark and encounter any suspicious or criminal activity please do not hesitate to contact 999.

Confirmations: The Bishops of Rochester and Tonbridge are setting dates for Confirmations in the Sidcup Deanery next year. If you, or anyone you know is interested in Confirmation, Adult Baptism, or Formal Reception into the Church of England, then please contact Edward on fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com.

Public Libraries Consultation: Public libraries provide a vital hub for resources and connection for all ages and cuts to library services can have a catastrophic impact on the whole community, not least the most vulnerable. Bexley borough has opened a consultation on the future of library services across the borough, please consider having your say [here](#).

Christmas Hampers: To support families in our communities who are most in need over the Christmas period, The Bexley Team are distributing food hampers to families in our local schools who receive free school meals or have specific needs. We are very grateful to all who have given donations or assistance so far. Please see the Team News for further details.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons continue to be available [here](#).

Lockdown Labyrinth: Attached to this email is the pattern, along with some prayer resources for a *Lockdown Labyrinth*. Suitable for any level of crochet-ability: This is can be a Lockdown Project and Devotional Resource to accompany the ongoing Month of Prayer.

Daily Psalm: Throughout this period, Team Curate Rev'd Matt Hodder will be sending out a Daily Psalm over email or WhatsApp to provide a sense of prayerful togetherness across the four parishes. To participate, please contact Matt on matthodder10@gmail.com or 07889873125.

Situations Vacant: We have a number of roles and activities which require volunteers to assist with the running and growth of our church. Please see the attached 'Situations Vacant' pack and contact Edward on fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com if you would like more information on any of the positions advertised.

Church Open: St John's is open during the day on Sundays and Wednesdays for Individual Prayer. Please collect a laminate card from the table by the door and leave it in your pew.

Bexley Foodbank: Our Foodbank Donation Point remains open and you can bring your donations when the Church is open on Sundays and Wednesday. You can also give financially [here](#).

Parish Office: Tuesday office hours have been suspended due to Covid Tier-Two restrictions. We will reinstate our usual times when we return to Tier-One, in the meantime, for Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please email Edward.

Track & Trace: In order to support the NHS in containing the spread of Covid-19, we are recording Track & Trace information for those who enter the building. There are three ways to give your data:

- 1: By scanning the QR code displayed in the building using the *NHS Covid-19* App.
- 2: By completing the slip provided and placing it in the Track & Trace box (please use your own pen).
- 3: By emailing Edward (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com) directly with your name and the date and time of your visit. Please mark the subject header: St John's Visitor Track & Trace.

Giving: St John's continues to need your support financially throughout the current emergency. If you wish to give regularly please use the standing order form attached to this email or for a one off giving please use our [JustGiving Page](#). If you have a social media presence please also help us out by sharing this link.

EasyFundraising: If you're shopping online please remember you can give to St. John's by shopping via [our Easy Fundraising page](#). There is also a link from our website.

Talkline: If you're feeling lonely, isolated, stressed or anxious *Counselling Matters Bexley's* new *Talkline* offers free, non-judgemental counselling and support and can also give you information on other relevant services. Freephone: 08000472600 or email mail@cmbtalk.org. The line is open from 5pm-9pm every week day and 9am-9pm on weekends and bank holidays.

Memory Cafe: For anyone in Bexley Borough living with dementia and those who care for them, to offer friendship and support, the *Christ Church Erith Memory Cafe* will take place over Zoom on Thursdays from 10.45am-11.45am. For access details please contact Christchurch Erith Project Worker Jacki Clement at cceprojectworker@hotmail.com.

Prayers for use during the Coronavirus Outbreak: The Church of England has produced a booklet of prayers to aid devotions at home during the current crisis. It is available [here](#), along with other prayer resources and advice (scroll down the webpage for the booklet).

Daily Hope: The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phonenumber with hymns, reflections and prayers to enable worship from home throughout the lockdown. Details are available [here](#) and you may wish to pass the information on to those you know who cannot access resources online.

Domestic Abuse: As you will have heard, the current situation has seen an unpleasant increase in incidences of Domestic Abuse. Bishop Simon has commended recent advice issued by the national church in response to this and details can be found [here](#).

Bexley Team News: The weekly newsletter connecting us with our sister churches across the Bexley Team is attached to this email.

Toddler Church Fun!: We are still considering how to safely hold our Toddler Church in line with social distancing and hygiene requirements. We are grateful for your patience and support during this time. Toddler Church activity packs from last term are still available on our website. If you would like us to produce further resources in a similar style then please email Edward.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for December with suggested prayer intentions are attached to this email.

‘Not Another Cookbook’: The Sidcup Ladies Luncheon Club has produced a charity cookbook (containing over 80 recipes!) with all proceeds going to *Cancer Research UK*. Copies are priced at £7.95 and can be ordered by emailing sandra.vamplew@btinternet.com. Local delivery is free.

Face coverings: Please be aware that it is a requirement that face coverings must be worn in places of worship unless you have a legitimate exemption. Thank you for your cooperation.

This Week Please Pray For:

...On the Feast of St Nicholas, for all children in the parish.

...The Children’s Society and those they serve.

... Dan & Sian on the occasion of their marriage.

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...all are who continuing to shield or self-isolate.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Gill Rogers, Carol & Peter Amura, Margaret Quick, Gladys Verran, Mavis Johnson, Samantha Pout, Ray Mace, John Wright, George Berry, Marie Berry, Maggie Rankine, Ann Harlow, Joyce Forrest, Dorothy Samuel, John Beddison, David Watkins, Nicola Johns and any others known to you.

...the recently departed, Tommy Wetton, Laura Harrex.

....those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Jeanne Wostear, Percival Sampson, Frances Weigel, Arthur Jones, Roland Small.

*Come, Lord, and visit us in peace
That we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart. Amen*

(Advent Antiphon)

Our Safeguarding Statement can be read at
<http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/safeguardingstatement.html>

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999

<https://bexleywomensaid.org.uk/>

<https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>