



Forthcoming Sunday Services:

9th August: Mattins 9am, Evening Prayer 3pm

16th August onward: Holy Communion 8am & 10am, Evening Prayer 3pm.

(Children's activity bags will be available for use at the 10am service)

Garden Church: Socially distanced worship for families including a 'Bring and Don't Share' picnic will be held in the Vicarage Garden at noon on Saturday 22nd August at noon. To book a place email Edward: fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com.

The Feast of the Transfiguration: Edward's short video message for the Feast of the Transfiguration (6th August) is still available on our website.

Church Open: St John's is open on Sundays from 9am-3.30pm, with services at 9am and 3pm. Our capacity is limited and social distancing measures are in place. Please read them carefully before you enter the building (a copy is attached to this email), and note that you will be expected to bring a facemask. Please see the Bexley Team News for opening arrangements at our sister churches.

Mattins and Evening Prayer: Whilst we have endeavoured to produce orders of service that can be used as safely as possible, we would encourage those who can to download the Church of England's *Daily Prayer* app and change the settings to 'Traditional' in order to follow the services when attending Mattins or Evening Prayer. If you wish to join in prayer from home you can find the services in the Book of Common Prayer, via the Daily Prayer App, or through the [Church of England's Website](https://www.churchofengland.org/).

Volunteers Needed: We are incredibly grateful to those who have stepped forward to assist with supervising the church during opening hours. If you would like to join this rota please email Edward (fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com). Please do not volunteer if you are currently shielding.

Contacts: Whilst Edward is on leave, if you have an urgent concern regarding the church please contact the wardens, either Julia (julia.wickham1@ntlworld.com) or Janine (janinewooster@aol.com) or should you urgently require a priest then please contact the Team Rector the Rev'd Ren Harding on 01322 528923.

Sermon: Edward is not providing sermons whilst on leave, however previous sermons are available [here](#).

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.

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

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.

Rochester Cathedral: Rochester Cathedral celebrating Choral Evensong [via their website](#), using material produced prior to lockdown. Please also see the Cathedral website for details about the Cathedral's reopening plans.

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! Toddler Church Activities from the past four months are still available on our website. We wish all our Toddler Church members a happy and safe Summer.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for the forthcoming week, with suggested hymns, prayer intentions and questions to consider are attached to this email.

Face coverings: Please be aware that from 8th August 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:

...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

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

...the sick in need of our prayers, Margaret Quick, Gladys Verran, Amy Jones, Barbara, Mavis Johnson, Samantha Pout, Ray Mace, Marie Berry, Maggie Rankine, Ann Harlow, Joyce Forrest, Dorothy Samuel, John Beddison, David Watkins, Nicola Johns and any others known to you.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time, Richard Gorham, Ann Drummond, Charlotte Tabrar, Henry Andrews, May Baker, Ian Grant, Cecil Forwood, Phylis Tandy, Roland Brumby.

...residents living in and around our parish.

Lord as I put on my mask, let it be a filter
For my words to pass through as well as my breathing.
Let through only those words which are helpful breathings of love
and stop those things in my speech that will be harmful to others.
Protect me also, O Lord from the harmful things others may say to me.
Help me to realise that I may be a carrier of bitterness,
thoughtlessness, judgement and prejudice without realising,
and that some people are more word-vulnerable than others.
Give me grace to love those who cannot or will not filter to protect others
and special grace to them, because they go through the world unprotected.
Help me to be prepared to adapt and be brave and transparent
so that all may have chance to hear.
Lord, be a mask to my mouth
And pin my ears forward for listening. **Amen**
'A Masking Prayer': Reverend Caroline Beckett

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>