

BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John's, Bexley
St Mary's, Bexley

Working Together to Offer Christian Support, Prayer & Advice during the Coronavirus Outbreak

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS NOW BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP. FOR THE MOMENT, CHURCH BUILDINGS CAN BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND REFLECTION, PROVIDING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE IS FOLLOWED.

"³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ."

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

OUR STRATEGY

The Churches in the Bexley Team are working together to ensure that during the current coronavirus outbreak we take all possible measures to protect our church congregations and the communities we serve. We will follow the guidance issued by The Church of England
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

We will do all we can, during the coming weeks, within the limits of our resources to support people encountering difficulties.

Team Clergy, Ministers and church wardens are available to talk with you if you are anxious. See phone numbers overleaf.

We will keep our churches open for a short time each day, if at all possible, for prayer and private reflection and to light candles. Contact your local church warden.

All hygiene measures advised by the Church of England are being observed in our churches, which includes disinfecting door handles etc, and having hand sanitiser available, and observing the two metre proximity rule. If you feel you are in the at-risk group you might prefer to pray at home, and use the many prayer resources available online

PRACTICAL ADVICE



Wash hands frequently with soap & water or alcohol-based hand rub. It has been suggested that instead of singing Happy Birthday to ensure we wash our hands for long enough - that we say the Lord's Prayer!

Avoid touching eyes, nose & mouth as this can transfer the virus.

Stay informed (but not obsessively so!) on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your own healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer. National & local authorities have the most up to date information for your area.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Wherever you are, and whatever your personal circumstances, we invite you to pause at midday each day, to join with your brothers and sisters across the Bexley Team Ministry to pray for our churches, our community, our nation and the world. We pray the prayer that unites all Christians, the Lord's Prayer. This is the Traditional version:-

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory; for ever and ever. Amen."

You may wish to use this prayer written by Malcolm Duncan of Spring Harvest: -

"May you be given the gift of simple faith. When the world around you is full of uncertainty, may God remind you that you are not alone and you do not need to be dominated by fear. May you find peace amidst chaos from God's promises. Hold onto the God who holds you."

Pray for those infected or in quarantine

Loving Jesus may they feel your power of healing through the care of medical staff. Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Pray for those at high risk

Dear Lord, we lift to you the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.

Adapted from prayers of World Vision

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayer>

WORSHIPPING AT HOME



The following are resources which you may like to use as aids to your own personal prayer and worship. As the weeks progress we will make additions to the list via a weekly newsheet, and will endeavour to make these prayer resources available in paper form in the coming days.

If you have access to the internet this is a good site to visit.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Radio 4

Prayer for the Day @ 5.43 am – if this is too early for you it can be found at a time to suit you online at bbc.co.uk

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB

Sunday worship @ 8.10am

Lent Talks Wednesday @ 8.45pm

Radio 3

Choral Evensong Wednesdays at 3.30pm or Sundays at 3pm

Radio 2

Pause for thought at 5.45 am and 9.20 am

Television

Songs of Praise BBC1 Sunday at 1.15pm

Church of England. churchofengland.org

Live Lent Daily Reflections via internet, app or print. Daily Prayer via internet, app or print

The Bishop of Rochester has recorded a podcast, offering a theological reflection on the current situation. He explores where can we find refuge and comfort and how as Christians we can support others.

Listen to it here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-727736776/bishop-james-a-reflection-during-the-coronavirus>

There is an 'Alexa' smart speaker app to be used with a smart speaker

Offers Prayer for the Day,

Enables you to ask the Church of England for Prayers

Enables you to ask questions of the Church of England

Other online resources which may be of interest:

corrymeela.org has under its media tab some interesting and a wide range of short programmes based on biblical texts.

Northumbriacommunity.org has morning, midday and evening prayer for each day of the week.

24-7prayer.com lots of ideas on ways to help you pray and some interesting articles based on journeys of faith

Hillsong Worship - for those who enjoy modern worship there are plenty of YouTube videos

Live streaming services - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches

[All Hallows by the Tower](#)

[Buckingham Parish Church](#)

[St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island](#)

[St James' Church, Clitheroe](#)

[St Mary's Kenton](#)

Canterbury Cathedral YouTube channel will stream The Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day

THE BEXLEY TEAM

please feel free to contact any of the following for support and help.

Clergy**Team Rector: Reverend Ren Harding,**

renharding@hotmail.co.uk

01322 528923 07836644782

Associate Priest: Reverend Sue Twynam

susantwynam@btconnect.com

01322 559501 07952 468127

Team Vicar: Reverend Edward Barlow

fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com

01322 521786

Team Vicar: Reverend Clive Wood

revclivewood@gmail.com

01322 270942 07982 392809

Lay Ministers

Pauline Mace 01322 550438

Christine Wood 07905561120

David Stevens 07804555892

Val O'Sullivan 01322 631833

Bishop's Certificate

Andrew Hill 07982129624

Lay Ministers

Pauline Mace 01322 550438

Christine Wood 07905561120

David Stevens 07804555892

Val O'Sullivan 01322 631833

Bishop's Certificate

Andrew Hill 07982129624

Church Wardens**St Barnabas, Joydens Wood**

Eileen Hollingsworth 07958696676

Steve Harding 07778483681

St James North Cray

Maxine Heath 07908053425

Suzy Higgs 07799072548

St John's, Bexley

Janine Wooster 07885700334

Julia Wickham 07905913552

St Mary's, Bexley

Mary Andrews 01322 523071

Information produced on 18 March 2020