

# Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 19 July 2020 Issue 18

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

## Services in Team Churches this Sunday-

**St. Barnabas** 10.45 am Service of the Word (not HC as prev advertised)

**St. James** 9.30 am Service of the Word (not HC as prev advertised)

**St. Johns** 9.00 am Matins 3.00 pm Evening Prayer. Please if you can download the Daily Prayer App and get the service by switching to 'Traditional' in the menu. Hard copies will be available.

**St. Mary's** 10.00 am CW Holy Communion

- these will all be said services with no hymns/songs

## Team Churches open for private prayer-

**St. Johns** Sundays between Matins and Evening Prayer

**St. Mary's** Until midday after morning service and on Wednesdays 10.00 am to midday

## The Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 28 v10-19a New Testament: Romans 8 v.12-25 Gospel: Matthew 13 v24-30, 36-43

## Reflection

As we emerge, slowly and (we hope!) carefully from behind our closed front doors, it seems like we are surrounded on all sides by confusion and uncertainty. There is a mass of detailed regulations and guidance coming at us that we are required to navigate daily, and which seems to change so fast we can't keep up! What are we to do with it all? It is all so unclear, and some of you have shared with me that you are feeling bewildered, exhausted and frustrated.



The gospel reading appointed for this Sunday reflects this idea of uncertainty. Here the farmer can't tell the difference between the good plants and the weeds in his field. All is confusion. Those gardeners amongst us will recognise the dilemma. It is often difficult to tell a flower seedling from a weed seedling, when all you can see is a pair of tiny green leaves. Patient gardeners will know that only time will tell which is good and which is not good as we allow the little plants to grow and to show their true nature.

I am a great fan of the Mapp & Lucia novels, written by EF Benson. In one of them, Daisy Quantock a rather foolish lady who is always following the latest fad, has dismissed her gardener because she thinks she can do a better job herself. She clearly can't! She pulls up the seedlings that the gardener had planted, thinking them to be weeds, and then muddles up his brussels sprout seedlings with those of the phlox flowers and so is uncertain which of them she has planted in her vegetable patch and which in the flower bed under her dining-

room window! EF Benson remarks - "The seedlings in both places were growing now, so she would know the worst or the best before long."

So it is with us in this time of changed realities. We will know the worst or the best before long, but for the moment, we are uncertain what the future will look like and what will emerge that will be of lasting value. As four parish churches within a Team, we will all need time and patience to consider what has been grown in us over these last months. And perhaps sometimes the ecclesiastical equivalent of the mundane brussels sprout will be the thing we need most, even though it grew up where we didn't expect it to! Rev'd Ren

### Prayers

Creator God, we are troubled by the conflict in the world  
Help us to confront and challenge prejudice, greed and hatred  
and all that prevents people from living fully and freely.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, your son Jesus Christ,  
called ordinary people to follow him as disciples.

Help us to respond to that same call  
and to share your gospel of hope in our communities.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Healing God, we pray for all those who are sick, that they might be deeply aware of your presence with them.  
We pray also for those who care for the sick and the broken.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Eternal God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us,  
with those we love, and with those whom we love who have gone before us. We hold before you those who  
have recently died and those bereaved.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God, May we all be changed and transformed to become, day by day, more like your Son Jesus  
Christ.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**



We are coming to the end of the school term and we are all looking forward to the summer break. Many of us may not have been able to take part in school sports days this year so we have a special Jonah Olympics from the messy church team this week. Best wishes, Katrina

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Messy%20Church%20at%20home%20-%20July.pdf>

### News from St. Mary's

The box hedges around the memorial gardens are diseased and have to come out. We will be starting to remove them on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. If you can help with this please come along at 9.30 am for some fresh air and exercise. See Clive or John for further details. Later in the year the PCC will be considering the matter of a replacement.

We have available a small Hitachi 'Turbo Brush' cylinder vacuum cleaner in very good condition and with all the attachments. Interested? Please contact Clive for further details/ viewing.

**The 200 Club** raises funds for St. Mary's. Further details from Ann Watson tel 01322 526869. June winners are 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs P. Sarton £35, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr J. Bowerman £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs M. Smith £10.



## St. John's

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](http://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-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-

St. Mary's Bexley contact Christine Wood 01322 270942 [chrisawood2003@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisawood2003@yahoo.com)

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

### THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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