

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 9 August 2020 Issue 21

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Services in Team Churches this Sunday-

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion

St. James 9.30 am Holy Communion

St. Johns 9.00 am Matins 3.00 pm Evening Prayer.

St. Mary's 10.00 am 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 10.00 am service and on Wednesdays 10.00 am to midday

The Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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.

The Additional Collect

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: 1 Kings 19 v9-18 New Testament: Romans 10 v5-15 Gospel: Matthew 14 v22-33

Reflection

Many years ago on holiday with my husband and friends, we hired a motor boat to explore the coast and beaches of the Greek island of Paxos. On our way home from our days exploration the motor cuts out and we are left drifting in the sea with what appears to be no way of getting back to land. I don't like boats at the best of times so inside I was quietly terrified. I prayed over and over again "please Lord help us", "please Lord save us". It was this that helped me to stay calm, if I had allowed my thoughts to wander any further my panic would have spilt out into the open and that wouldn't have been helpful to anyone else in the boat. After about 40 minutes we were able to attract the attention of a passing boat which very kindly towed us into the harbour. I have never been so relieved and as I stepped onto solid ground I thanked God for sending that boat to rescue us.

In our gospel reading today we are reminded that when the disciples find themselves in trouble, they see Jesus walking towards them. Jesus is showing them through his presence that his help, his salvation is always there, just in front of them, just in front of us. All any of us have to do is look for him and ask for help. Peter as he stepped out of the boat wasn't testing Jesus, he wasn't bargaining with Jesus, he wasn't trying to complicate matters. He was demonstrating his faith and his trust in Jesus.

Our salvation is quite simple, all we have to do is believe in our hearts and ask with our lips. God will always stand before those believe and call upon him to be saved.

Peter only started to sink because he began to focus on the high waves around him and not on Jesus. As we go through tough situations, as we experience chaos, if we focus on this then the despair, the doubt, the panic are likely to overwhelm us also. So let us keep our eyes firmly focused on Jesus, as he walks over troubled waters to reach us allow him to calm us, to calm our storms and to calm our fears and in doing so save us.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are everything and truly are the Son of God.

Without you we are helpless.

You calm the waters of our fears and dry the waters of our tears.

You take the flotsam of our shipwreck and make us into new vessels.

Lord Jesus, thank you. Amen

Rev Susan Twynam

Prayers

'Father we love you, worship and adore you, glorify your name in all the earth.'

Dear Father,

We praise you for each new day you give us, for every fresh opportunity to appreciate your world and all the beauty in it. We ask for forgiveness when we fail to look after it properly, and for courage to stand up and be counted when we see things that need to change. In your name, Amen

We remember the people and the country of Lebanon at this terrible time. We pray for all those affected by the explosion on Wednesday; for those wounded and the families of those killed; for those whose homes were destroyed and livelihoods lost; for the relief workers and all who are willing to help that they will be strengthened, encouraged and supported by each other. Pray too, that the government will reform its ways, and put the good of the people first. Amen

Pray for our government here in the UK: that God will give them wisdom in the decisions they make, and for guidance to control the coronavirus. Amen

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them, we pray for those in hospital; surround the frightened with your tenderness; give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of love, and give hope and patience to those who are recovering; we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

God of love and light, in this time of fear, give us your peace. In this time of isolation, give us your presence. In this time of sickness, give us your healing. In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom. In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you that we read in our Gospel that you call us to come into your presence, and that we are safe when we keep our eyes on you, not on our difficult surroundings. Help us to respond to you with the courage that Peter had and to trust in you all our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

New Wine Christian Conference online

The Christian conference 'New Wine' was held over last weekend and many talks and seminars are now available on-line. Go to breaksout.new-wine.org and follow links. Very good short series on 'A revival



spirituality for the age of anxiety'... a heavy title for three very down to earth sessions to help if you're anxious..



It's a beautiful weekend and this week messy church at home are looking at the beaches in the Bible. They have some lovely activities to enjoy in the sunshine. Give them a go on the link below.

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Bible%20beaches%20at%20home.pdf>

Katrina

Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St James, North Cray will be at 8pm on Thursday 17th September

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St Barnabas will be at 7.30pm for 8pm on Friday 18th September

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St Mary's will be at 11.30 am on Sunday 20th September.

The date for the St John's APCM will be announced shortly.

News from St. Mary's

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.

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

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com

Social Media - engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter (@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

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 kacrat@btinternet.com

St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com

St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

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