

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 6 September 2020 Issue 25

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Team Churches services this Sunday -

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion

St. James 9.30 am Holy Communion

St. Johns 8.00 am and 10.00 am Holy Communion. 3.00 pm Evening Prayer. Church open for private prayer between Morning services and Evening Prayer

St. Mary's 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion with prayer for healing and wholeness

Wednesday at St. Mary's 10.00 - 11.00 am Nehemiah Bible Study 2. Chapters 3-4 'Working Together' and 'Opposition from Outside' Matt leading. Do feel free to join us for this study.

The Collect: Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33, 7-11 New Testament: Romans 13, 8-14 Gospel: Matthew 18, 15-20

Reflection

One of the biggest culture-shocks since moving to Bexley is how car-centric life seems to be for so many: travel information for events and venues will often give parking details and sat-nav directions first with details about public transport routes as an afterthought (if at all). Assumptions will be made that I will be travelling to a place by a car and 'I took the bus' or 'I walked here' will be met with the sort of reaction I might expect if I claimed to have travelled by fighter-jet or Sinclair C5! There are places in the village where you can stand for a good five minutes waiting to cross the road as car, after car, after car drives past – so many cars! How many of those cars are necessary? How many could be achieved through the frequent local bus services? How many could be achieved on foot or bike?

My lens on this is, naturally, skewed by my own inability to drive: there is no chance I will be tempted to 'just pop in the car' for a short hop, and so I find it hard to empathise with those for whom this is the norm. There must of course, be plenty of other behaviours, actions, and attitudes of which I am guilty and which, in various ways, contribute to the catastrophic sledgehammer damage that humanity continues to inflict on God's World. I suspect too that a great many of them go under my radar to the point where I become ignorant to my culpability and to be called to account for my failures in stewardship would prove an uncomfortable wake-up.

In today's Gospel, Christ discusses those moments when we must call one another out- part of a community of mutual accountability. Being held to account can be challenging and we may often react defensively with denial or excuses when the image held up in the mirror is not the one we thought we were projecting. And it's often the ingrained habits that are the most difficult to take ownership of – we may feel personally

affronted by the prospect that we need to change.

In recent years the call to be mindful of our impact on the environment is one we have heard over and over again and need to continue to hear because things simply aren't getting better at the rate they should be. So much of the call-out is over those ingrained practices, the ways we dispose of our waste, use our household energy or choose to travel which require some personal effort on the part of each one of us if we are to bring about the cultural shift needed to make a difference.

At St John's this Sunday we are observing [Climate Sunday](#). This ecumenical initiative encourages churches to hold climate-themed services on any Sunday from September 6th onward. We will be exploring the Gospel's call to mutual accountability in particular light of our environmental stewardship and care for God's creation. This is a call to be willing to speak out when we observe irresponsible behaviour but also to admit that we must listen for those times when our own behaviour is called out as well and be open to change our ways. It is particularly appropriate that this should also happen in the context of a family service. Climate change impacts all people, but it is the youngest who will have to live with the greatest damage in the years to come. It is often also the youngest members of our community who will be the most aware of the changes that need to be made. They have had less time to develop dangerous habits, and behaviours that must be challenged are less established to them. When they call us out for our faults, we should listen. Rev'd Edward

From C of E website- Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Ed.

Prayer

God of all creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen. (Prayer from Catholic Charities)

Messy Church at home is having a break and will return soon

Our Ministry in local Schools

As we look towards the new term, please do pray for the local schools in the parishes of the Bexley Team. Old Bexley School is a Church of England School, and there are four others, Joydens Wood Infants, Joydens Wood Juniors, Maypole Primary in Bexley Park, and Hurst School.

Pre-Lockdown, clergy and ministers would take assemblies in these schools, but with COVID-19 regulations, we now have to find a different way to connect. We are producing a library of YouTube videos which the schools will be able to access, short talks on bible stories or Christian festivals. Please pray for us as we put these together and pray for our children and all school staff as they start a new term.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

St James, North Cray 7.30pm for 8.00 pm Thursday 17th September. St Barnabas 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm Friday 18th September. St Mary's 11.30 am Sunday 20th September. The date for the St John's APCM will be announced shortly.

St. Barnabas

Percy's funeral will take place at 1.30 pm Wednesday 16th September at St. Barnabas followed by committal at Eltham Crematorium. Due to current restrictions, it will not be possible to accommodate anyone other than those directly invited by Percy's family. Please continue to pray for Barbara and wider family and for the church family at St Barnabas.

St. Mary's

Congratulations to Clive and Christine who celebrate a special anniversary. They married at Christ Church, Dartford on 6th September 1980.

We are having another work party to finish clearing the box hedges, Thursday 10th September 9.30 am start. Please let Clive or John Bowerman know if you plan to come, or just come along.

The Friends of Kent Churches Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride will be taking place on Saturday 12th September. We are grateful to Chris Thomas who will be riding for St. Mary's. If you would like to sponsor Chris then sponsor forms are available in church. For further details please contact Clive.

Congratulations to Sarah Bramley and Nick Wright on their forthcoming wedding at St. Mary's, 1.30 pm Saturday 12th September.

St. Mary's services for September

13th 10.00 am CW Holy Communion (Matt Hodder to preach) 3.00 pm Messy Church tea in church grounds

20th 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion, 10.00 am CW Holy Communion

27th 10.00 am Family Service, 3.30 pm CW Holy Communion

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](https://twitter.com/stjohnsbexley)).

BEWARE!

I have been notified of a scam which seems to use clergy email addresses from church websites to appeal for recipients to purchase Amazon gift vouchers and send them on. Please be very careful and do not respond to any emails that seem in the least suspect! *Ren*

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

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