

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 27 September 2020 Issue 28

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Congratulations to Rev'd Matt Hodder as he starts his ministry as a Deacon within the Bexley Team.

Team Churches services this Sunday -

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion 4.00 pm Sunday@4

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 10.00 am Family Service 3.30 pm Holy Communion

Wednesday at St. Mary's 10.00 - 11.00 am Nehemiah Bible Study 5. Chapters 9-10 'Confession and Commitment' and 10 'Big Decisions' Ren leading followed by Holy Communion, Sue presiding . Do feel free to join us.

The Collect: O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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: Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Ezekiel 18 v1-4, 25- 32 New Testament: Philippians 2, v1-13 Gospel: Matthew 21 v23-32

Reflection

As Matt is ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England in a special (if socially distanced!) service at the Cathedral, you will forgive me for quoting at length from the Church of England service for the Ordination of Deacons, words that Bishop James will say to the candidates.

In some senses, this is Matt's To-Do List – and also his To-**Be** List! I hope you will agree with me that these are lovely and inspiring words.

"Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world that the love of God may be made visible. Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound. Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us."

In our epistle reading today, we read about the need for God's people to act with humility, and to have that same willingness to serve that we see in the self-emptying (*kenosis*) of Jesus in his incarnation. In our gospel reading the words concern authority, and obedience. All these are reflected in the deacon's role, the role to which Matt has been called by God. We wish him well, as he seeks to follow that calling. *Reverend Ren*

Prayers

Lord, help us to work together for the common good with those we live amongst. As we find ourselves walking alongside those who hear a different drummer and walk to a different beat, help us to adjust our pace to theirs, so that we may become synchronised to walk in step. If we find others who delight in leadership for its own sake, let us press on towards our common goal. If the way seems a struggle, and obstacles never-ending, we pray for your strength to continue upwards along the road. (from layanglicana.org)

Lord of all worlds, look in love upon your people. Pour the healing of your compassion on a world that is wounded. Send us out in search of the lost, to comfort the afflicted, to bind up the broken and to free those trapped under the rubble of their fallen dreams. (based on a prayer by Sheila Cassidy)



The start of the new school year begins in a new way for children and this can bring about mixed emotions. This week we have a lovely printable that can be copied or printed to add to children's lunchboxes to remind them of not only our love but God's love and strength in these times. Katrina <https://happyhomefairy.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/inspirational-lunch-notes.pdf>

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St John's is on 11th October after the main service.

St. Mary's

Thank you to Chris Thomas for riding in the Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride last Saturday and those who sponsored him. Chris visited ten churches and raised a total of £323- 28.

St. Mary's services for October

4th October 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Communion. 11th Oct 10.00 am Holy Communion 3.00 pm Messy Church in hall. 18th Oct 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion. 25th Oct 10.00 am Family service 3.30 pm 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

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)).

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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