

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 1 November 2020 Issue 33

All Saints' Day

Team Churches services this Sunday -

St. Barnabas 10.00 am – 12.00 midday 'A time to remember'- see below for details

St. James 9.30 am Memorial Service (with Communion)

St. Johns 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Family Service 3.00 pm All Souls Service. Church open for private prayer throughout the day on Sundays and Wednesdays. Please adhere to social distancing and hygiene restrictions and guidance. An explanatory video is available on the St John's website in addition to signage around the building. **Wednesday-** 10.00 am Team Holy Communion

St. Mary's 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion with prayer for Wholeness and Healing

The Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Additional Collect : God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age; as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings

Revelation 7, 9-21 1 John 3, 1-3 Matthew 5, 1-12

Reflection

This Sunday, which is All Saints Day, and next Sunday, which is Remembrance Sunday, are both days of Remembering. We will as parish churches, mark these days in a rather different way than in previous years because we cannot gather in large numbers, as we have done in the past. It is my prayer that the very fact that things are different will help us to press new meaning into them in these troubled times. But, as every year we will remember and honour the lives of those who have died and name them before God.

I have wept many tears this week because there are other deaths, and there are other names. These too are deaths that it would be right to hold before God in this Season of Remembering.

As I have watched the News, I have wept for young parents Rasul Iran Nezhad and Shiva Mohammad Panahi, and their children - Anita who was 9 and Armin who was 6. They had another child too. Their youngest son Artim was just 15 months old – but as I write, his small body has not yet been found. The family drowned because a boat carrying refugees sank just a few miles away from us here, in the English Channel off Dunkirk. They left their country of Iran because they were fleeing from hardship and discrimination as Iranian Kurds. They tried to come to Britain because they sought asylum, wanting to be in a country where they believed they would find refuge, freedom, kindness and a place of hope where they could see their children thrive and

learn and grow. They thought they would find those things in Britain. Who am I to say that they were mistaken?

Pause for a moment and reflect how desperate your life must be that you would travel 6000 miles, and finally face the bleak November waters of the Channel in an inadequate boat with your terrified young children. Just the thought of that makes me want to go and hug my young grandchildren close to me and give thanks that their parents are not faced with such a stark choice.

I am not going to take sides in the political wrangling that surrounds this topic of refugees. But whatever your position *surely* we must all agree that a better way must be found so that small children and desperate adults do not die in the waters off our shores.

Please, go to your Bible and read again that first part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit.... Blessed are the meek.... Blessed are those that are persecuted..." Reverend Ren



To light an online candle visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

A recommended book for Advent

Freedom is Coming: From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah by Bishop Nick Baines gives an introduction to each week and a short Bible reading and reflection for each day from Advent to Epiphany. Available from Amazon from approx £3-50 used to £7-50 new. The book will also form the basis of a **six week Bible study** on Wednesdays at 10.30 am 25th Nov at St. Mary's, 2nd Dec at St John's, 9th Dec at St. Mary's 16th Dec at St. Johns, 30th Dec at St Barnabas and 6th Jan at St. John's.

St. Mary's , Bexley

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on 20th December at 6.00 pm. Admission will be by ticket only. To book contact Andrew Hill at chaplain.glsescouts1@ntlworld.com or 07306 330356.

Calendars and Diaries- there is a box at the back of the church, choir vestry side, for any 2021 calendars and/or diaries which are surplus to your requirements. After Christmas, we plan to sell them for church funds.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mary Chapman, a past member of St. Mary's. Mary's husband Roger was a past Church Treasurer. Mary was 88. Mary's funeral service will be at St. John the Baptist, Erith at 12 noon on Tuesday, 10th November followed by committal at Eltham at 1.15 pm.

Clive will be leading a holiday to Austria and Oberammergau including the Passion Play 22-29 June 2022. Brochures and booking forms are at the back of church.

St James North Cray

8th November 9.30 am Service followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial with two minutes silence at 11.00 am

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood

To ensure social distance our annual Memorial Service will be replaced by 'A Time to Remember' on Sunday 1 November. St Barnabas Church will be open between 10am and 12 noon for you to come and go as you wish and to light a candle in memory of a loved one. There will be music, readings & prayers throughout the morning. .

During the Remembrance Weekend (Saturday 7 November & Sunday 8 November) you are invited to wear a poppy and also BRING a poppy to place on our River of Poppies in the St Barnabas Church Grounds.

Prayers will be said, and two minutes silence held at 11.00 am on Sunday 8th November. We gather from 10.45am. Car park will be kept free of cars, parking is available in the surrounding roads. FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN at these services.

St. Mary's, Bexley services in November

8th 10.00 am Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance 3.00 pm Messy Church in hall
15th 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion 3.00 – 4.00 pm Memorial pop in
22nd 10.00 am Family Service 3.30 pm Holy Communion **29th** 10.00 am 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

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

Team Rector: Rev'd Ren Harding	renharding@hotmail.co.uk	01322 528923	07836644782
Associate Priest: Re'vd Sue Twynam	susantwynam@btconnect.com	01322 559501	07952 468127
Team Vicar: Rev'd Edward Barlow	fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com	01322 521786	
Team Vicar: Rev'd Clive Wood	revclivewood@gmail.com	01322 270942	07982 392809
Team Curate: Rev'd Matt Hodder	matthodder10@gmail.com		07889873125