

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 8 November 2020 Issue 34

Remembrance Sunday

Holding a COVID-Safe Remembrance Weekend

The four parish churches of the Bexley Team have long been the focus for local people to honour those who have lost their lives in war and we continue with that proud tradition. As you will all appreciate, we must do things rather differently during the Pandemic. Government Regulations have now been announced. There can be no services in church buildings, however, there are various ways you can join in.



St James, North Cray, we will hold a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard, prior to the two minutes silence at 11.00 am, with representatives of the local community, and the Royal British Legion attending.

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood have created a simple 'River of Poppies' on the grassed area in front of the church. Over the Remembrance Weekend, you are invited to place a poppy on this, either a British Legion poppy, or one you have made yourself. We will hold a short Act of Remembrance at the 'River of Poppies' prior to the two minutes silence at 11.00 am, with representatives of the local community attending.

St Mary's Bexley will be open for Private Prayer for an hour from 10.00 am on Sunday 8 November. Details of the 23 official war graves in St. Marys' Cemetery are on display in the church. The two minutes silence will be observed at 11.00 am.

St. Johns Bexley . There will be no gathering at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, but a pre-recorded Act of Remembrance, filmed at the War Memorial, will be available to view from Sunday morning at www.stjohnsbexley.org. or <https://youtu.be/RLrllhcqzG0>. St Johns will be open throughout the day for Individual Prayer on **Sundays** and **Wednesdays** (Foodbank donations can also be left on those days). 'Suspended Sermons' will continue to be posted.

For all of the above- for everyone's safety- observe social distancing and wear a face-covering including when outside. Please do not attend if you, or any of your household are displaying symptoms or have been asked to isolate. Those in vulnerable groups are advised not to attend the ceremony but to pay their respects at the various War Memorials at other times over the weekend.

The Collect: Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Additional Collect : God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible readings Micah 4 v1-5, Romans 8, 31-39, John 15, 9-17

Reflection

Remembrance Sunday always gets me thinking about my grandfathers. Both were soldiers of the Great War. Grandad Joe was injured at Gallipoli and spent a long time in hospital; it would have been a lot easier on him if antibiotics had been discovered earlier. I remember he wore a built up boot as his injury and treatment left him with one leg shorter than the other. Grandad Stan was a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery in Northern France. He 'only' suffered a broken leg. I heard but one story of his war experience- both were apparently sanguine about it all. I also remember many times walking to school and passing a poor man who did sentry duty up and down the same bit of road. What was then called 'shell shock' working itself out. And in my early days as an optometrist I would see patients whose eyes had been damaged by mustard gas.

These memories get me thinking about the human suffering that is an inevitable part of warfare and the bravery and humanity of those who get caught up in it. You are left thinking- surely there must be a better way than this whilst at the same time wanting to honour those whose lot it was (or is) to fight. For many the 20th Century marked the end of faith-how could there be a God when such terrible things happen? I (most of the time) take an opposing view to that. For example, the beauty and order of creation lead me to think that there must be a God at work who is better than all that is destructive and harmful. And this I believe is a much more hopeful view to take. God is at work in the world and one day he will put right all wrong. The scriptures abound with the message that a very bright future awaits the creation that currently 'groans' with birth pangs (Romans 8 v22). Just selecting from today's readings- 'He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall no longer lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.' (Micah 4 v3-4) Yours hopefully, Revd. Clive

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

Living in Love and Faith Mosaic Conference

A free online conference to launch the Rochester Diocese branch of MOSAIC – Movement Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church and to introduce the Church of England resource- *Living in Faith and Love*. Tuesday 17th November 9.30 am to 1.15 pm. To register visit www.livinginloveandfaith.eventbrite.co.uk

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. We had planned 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. This will be reviewed in the light of the current restrictions.

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.

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 Team churches.

St. Mary's, Bexley in November

The church will be open for private prayer from 10.00- 11.00 am on Sundays and Wednesdays. The church will be open for Memorial pop in private prayer from 3.00 – 4.00 pm on Sunday 15th November for any who would like to come and remember loved ones.

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

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