

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 5 July 2020 Issue 16

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

IT HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT WE MAY OPEN FOR PUBLIC GATHERED WORSHIP (WITH SOME RESTRICTIONS)

Services in Team Churches this Sunday-

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Service of the Word

St. James 9.30 am Service of the Word

St. Johns 9.00 am Mattins 3.00 pm Evening Prayer. Please if you can download the Daily Prayer App and get the service by switching to 'Traditional' in the menu. Hard copies will be available.

St. Mary's 10.00 am Common Worship Morning Prayer

- these will all be said services with no hymns/songs

Team Churches that will be open for private prayer-

St. Johns Sundays between Mattins and Evening Prayer

St. Mary's Until midday after morning prayer and on Wednesdays 10.00 am to midday

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis chapter 24 v34-38,42-49,58-66

New Testament: Romans chapter 7 v15-25a

Gospel: Matthew chapter 11 v16-19, 25-30

Reflection

Jesus said "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market place and calling out". He uses the example of girls reproaching the boys for being unwilling to play weddings and for the boys complaining that the girls are refusing to play weddings. He describes a situation where people take an opposing view and are unwilling to come together and work together. Jesus found to his cost that whatever he said or did people took the opposing view and John the Baptist also experienced the same. This resulted in John being written off due to his abstention from normal social intercourse and Jesus being written off because he interacted with the "wrong people" – those who were marginalised and rejected and deemed to be sinners. Both were dismissed as irrelevant. I wonder have you ever been dismissed by other because of your behaviour or your views on a certain subject or particular situation? How did you react? How did you feel?

Today we find a world where our views and actions have become increasingly polarized, resulting in a society which is less tolerant, less willing to embrace difference and make compromise. Jesus came to do the exact opposite of this, to bring people together, to show humanity at its best, to bring about healing and show us

what the Kingdom of God really does look and feel like. The wisdom of both John and Jesus were demonstrated through their actions.

During lockdown we have certainly seen people coming together, people have gone out of their way to get to know and to help one another. Tragedy has resulted in a change of attitude and behaviour in all sorts of ways. Jesus challenged the people of his time and we have been challenged in our generation.

This weekend sees the easing of some of the measures of lockdown. For some that will be a sign of things getting back to "normal". But what "normal" do we want?

Do you want your life to go back to exactly as it was before lock down?

Or do you want to embrace some of the changes which you have experienced in lockdown and embed them into a new way of life? If something has had a positive effect on your life and your wellbeing have the courage to sit with it!

We know that our worship will not be the same when we return to church this Sunday, but over lockdown we have all been able to explore new ways of meeting with God and many have found it to be a positive experience. I am sure also that the new challenges of worshipping in a different way over the coming months will also give us opportunities to further explore our relationship with God. Embrace those challenges and do not be frightened to make changes if it results in you deepening your relationship with the one who came to bring us new life. Rev Susan Twynam

Prayers

Creator God, we are troubled by the conflict in the world
Help us to confront and challenge prejudice, greed and hatred
and all that prevents people from living fully and freely.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, your son Jesus Christ,
called ordinary people to follow him as disciples.

Help us to respond to that same call
and to share your gospel of hope in our communities.

We pray for our new curate Matt Hodder, and for his family as the

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Healing God, we pray for all those who are sick, that they might be deeply aware of your presence with them.
We pray also for those who care for the sick and the broken.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Eternal God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us,
with those we love, and with those whom we love who have gone before us. We hold before you those who
have recently died and those bereaved.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God, May we all be changed and transformed to become, day by day, more like your Son Jesus
Christ.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**



This week's Messy Church at home session is up - it's on the epistles or 'Messy messages and messengers'
<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-messages-and-messengers>. You could ping it out to your
families and send them your love. For those of you that are missing our messy church songs check out this
song on you tube, let's hope we can all get together to sing it one day soon!

<https://youtu.be/vdMlxCdIY-c> (it's called 'Love the Lord' by CJ and friends- recommended! Ed.) Katrina



A message from our new Team Curate, Matt Hodder

Hello everyone,

This Sunday begins my first week working with the Bexley Team. After spending the last three years at theological college my family and I are so thrilled to be joining you all here. I'll be spending the first few months as a licensed lay minister before being ordained a deacon at the end of September.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months and am keen to get to know each church community within the team. In a distant meeting before the current pandemic affected our lives in the ways that it currently does, the plan for my first few months in Bexley was to try and get to know each church community. Whilst our church buildings are now beginning to reopen, the weekly rhythm of activities will no doubt take longer to return to normal.

So in an attempt to get to know as many people as I can, it would be great to make contact with anybody who wanted to. This could be done by you writing me either an email or a letter. It doesn't necessarily have to be anything profound or lengthy, just a note to say 'hello' and to tell me a bit about yourself. Perhaps you could mention which church you normally would attend and something you love about that church? You could tell me a bit about yourself and perhaps something that I could be praying about with you.

If you'd like to make contact you can do so via any of the following:

Email - matthodder10@gmail.com

Address - St Mary's Vicarage, 29 Hill Crescent, Bexley, DA5 2DA

Mobile telephone - 07889873125 Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Matt

This is a link to a video clip of Matt's hello message <https://youtu.be/dVHYuTpFlls>

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)).

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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