

# Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 13 September 2020 Issue 26

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

## Team Churches services this Sunday -

**St. Barnabas** 10.45 am Holy Communion

**St. James** 9.30 am All age service

**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 Holy Communion 3.00 pm Messy Church tea in church grounds

**Wednesday at St. Mary's** 10.00 - 11.00 am Nehemiah Bible Study 3. Chapters 5-6 'Opposition from within' and 'Facing Intimidation' Sue leading. Do feel free to join us for this study.

**The Collect:** Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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:** Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins upon the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 50 v15-21 New Testament: Romans 14, v1-12 Gospel: Matthew 18, v21-35

## Reflection

The Romans reading for this Sunday reminds us that we are all different, we have different strengths and weaknesses and that we all approach things in different ways. We all come from a different starting point both in our everyday lives and also in our faith journeys. The only constant in all our lives is that we are all equal in the eyes of God. It is for this reason alone that we must remember that it is not our place to judge others, however tempting that may be. When we judge others based on our own opinions, our personal preferences and our own experiences we are putting our own weaknesses on show. The only person we are accountable to is Christ, it is his place to judge not ours. We stand before him presenting our own actions to him – not those of our neighbours – and it will be those actions alone which he will judge.

Forgiveness is an original and basic element of our Christian life, Jesus holds it up as a model by which we should live and by which we will be judged. As in all matters we have a choice, we can choose who and when we will forgive BUT given that God frequently forgives us as flawed individuals should that not compel us to offer the same forgiveness to others? God's forgiveness of us is a free and generous gift which begins the process of growth, change and transformation, a process which can bring about healing and reconciliation not only for ourselves but for others as well.

*I recently found this story which illustrates today's readings-*

The owner of a successful company was asked what he attributed the success of his company to. His reply was "forgiveness". He went on to say that his "employees were given big jobs and big responsibilities and inevitably they made mistakes, they learn, we forgive and they don't make the same mistake again."

Throughout life we are all given large tasks and huge responsibilities, we all make mistakes and mess things up, not intentionally but just because we are human. For me being a parent for the first time was the biggest learning curve of all. But as in all areas of our lives, if we know that we will be forgiven for our mistakes and not punished, we do grow in confidence, something which benefits everybody. So let us be kind to ourselves, asking for forgiveness for ourselves and being prepared to forgive others.

### **Prayer**

Let us pray for our families, our church communities and our places of work. May they all be places where it is possible to make mistakes and where forgiveness is at the centre. Give us the courage to ask for forgiveness for ourselves and in turn pass that forgiveness onto others. Amen. Rev'd Sue

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

### **Annual Parochial Church Meetings.**

St James, North Cray 7.30pm for 8.00 pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. St Barnabas 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. St Mary's 11.30 am Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. St John's 11<sup>th</sup> October after the main service.

### **St. Barnabas**

Percy's funeral will take place at 1.30 pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

Clive and Christine would like to say thank you for the gifts of wine, flowers and a gift card presented after last Sunday's service as they celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Thanks to all who were able to help with the removal of box hedges from the church grounds last Wednesday.

### **St. Mary's services for September**

20<sup>th</sup> 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion, 10.00 am CW Holy Communion  
27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley)  
Sermons are posted each Sunday at [fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com](http://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](mailto:chrisawood2003@yahoo.com)  
St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 [kacrat@btinternet.com](mailto:kacrat@btinternet.com)  
St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 [davidstevens112@aol.com](mailto:davidstevens112@aol.com)  
St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

### **THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY**

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