

Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 30 August 2020 Issue 24

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

A Team Bible Study in September

We will be looking at the book of Nehemiah over five Wednesdays, 10.00 -11.00 am at St. Mary's. This is for everyone, whether you are new to Bible studies or an old hand! To help with numbers please let Clive know if you are planning to come. Study guides are now available price £4.

There will be a service of Holy Communion after our final study on 30th September. Come along and discover more about Nehemiah as he rebuilt the ruined places!

Team Churches services this Sunday -

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion

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 8.30 am and 10.00 am Holy Communion.

Wednesday 10.00- 11.00 am Nehemiah Bible Study 1. Chapters 1-2 'Depending on God' Clive leading



Open Prayer

Come and join us at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 5 September from 9.30am-10.30am for a time of quiet open prayer. Our theme this month is 'Broken, yet still beautiful.' This is a good opportunity to be still and spend time with God. Come and go as you please within the hour.

The Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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: God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us; remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Jeremiah 15, 15-21 New Testament: Romans 12, 9-21 Gospel: Matthew 16, 21-28

Reflection

Roller coasters aren't particularly my thing, I could count how many times I have been on one on the fingers of one hand. They might not be your thing either. But even from a distance you get a feel for what it is like to ride one. The boring bits, being cranked up to the start and trundling slowly on the flat parts. The adrenaline rush of plunging down or swooping around a tight bend, the mix of exhilaration and fear, the shared experience, some huddling low and others with arms flung excitedly in the air. To me life itself is a bit like a roller coaster ride! Perhaps even more scary at times; at least you generally know what coming next on a ride. In life you can never be quite sure...

Think of Peter in our gospel reading - he was riding the roller coaster! Last Sunday, in response to Jesus' question 'who do you say that I am?' we heard of his confession of Jesus as 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God' (16.16). For this, Peter was highly commended by Jesus and learnt that he, the Galilean fisherman turned disciple of Jesus would become the rock on which the church would be built (16. 17-18). What a high! Think how Peter must have felt. But now everything goes pear shaped for Peter. Jesus reveals to his disciples that he will go to Jerusalem, undergo suffering and be killed and then be raised to life again. But that is way off Peter's understanding of Jesus. The Father had revealed to him something of who Jesus really was but not this particular destiny. Oh no says Peter, taking Jesus aside, this will never happen to you (16.22). Then Peter the rock 'gets it in the neck' from Jesus for trying to divert him from the cross (16.23) What a low! Hero to zero within a few verses.

But, as ever, Jesus has the knack of turning a life event, good or bad, and turning it into a teaching opportunity. He teaches the disciples (and us) how to survive and thrive on the rollercoaster of life. In a nut-shell – just hand your life over to me (easier said than done). in life I AM the very best companion on the roller coaster. Ride with me and know that I am the Lord of the ride, in fact I built it and I maintain it. And be humble – deny yourself take up your cross and follow me (16.24). And whatever choice you end up making, for me or against me, in the end I will be still be there (16.27). The roller coaster ride of life can be routine, exhilarating and sometimes frightening. But when you ride with Jesus you will always have a faithful companion and guide beside you. Rev'd Clive

Prayers

Lord Jesus, You are the Lord who walks beside your people. So we pray for people who walk for justice, remembering the people of Belarus at this time.

You are a Lord who raises up those who are bent low. So we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world.

You are a Lord who feeds the hungry. So we pray for all who long for bread, and the means to provide it.

You are a Lord who celebrates the small and the insignificant. So we pray for the children and for those who are never noticed.

You are a Lord who says 'Follow me'. So we pray for courage and faith in our hearts that we may take up the cross and find it leads to life.

~ posted on the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> (adapted)

Messy Church at home is having a summer break and will return in September!

Our Ministry in local Schools

As we look towards the new term, please do pray for the local schools in the parishes of the Bexley Team. Old Bexley School is a Church of England School, and there are four others, Joydens Wood Infants, Joydens Wood Juniors, Maypole Primary in Bexley Park, and Hurst School.

Pre-Lockdown, clergy and ministers would take assemblies in these schools, but with COVID-19 regulations, we now have to find a different way to connect. We are producing a library of YouTube videos which the schools will be able to access, short talks on bible stories or Christian festivals. Please pray for us as we put these together and pray for our children and all school staff as they start a new term.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

St James, North Cray 7.30pm for 8.00 pm Thursday 17th September.

St Barnabas 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm Friday 18th September.

St Mary's 11.30 am Sunday 20th September.

The date for the St John's APCM will be announced shortly.

St. Barnabas

It is with very great sadness that we announce the death of Percy Hicks at home on 27 August. Percy originally attended St Mary's, had been a churchwarden there, and until recently was one of their bell-ringers. He was a key founding member of the church plant in Joydens Wood which became St Barnabas Church and a parish in its own right. As well as ministry as a Lay Reader, Percy served on the St Barnabas PCC, was a churchwarden and a faithful member of the congregation. He also served on Deanery Synod and was made 'Reader Emeritus' by Bishop James last year. He, with his wife Barbara were regular in their support of Churches Together in Old Bexley events. He will be missed very much. Please pray for his wife Barbara, for his own family, and for his church family at St Barnabas. *Well done, good and faithful servant.*

St. Mary's

We are having another work party to finish clearing the box hedges morning of Thursday 10th September starting 9.30 am. Please let Clive or John Bowerman know if you plan to come.

St. Mary's services for September

6th 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion, 10.00 am CW Holy Communion with prayer for healing and wholeness
13th 10.00 am CW Holy Communion (Matt Hodder to preach) 3.00 pm Messy Church tea in church grounds
20th 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion, 10.00 am CW Holy Communion
27th 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

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)).

BEWARE!

I have been notified of a scam which seems to use clergy email addresses from church websites to appeal for recipients to purchase Amazon gift vouchers and send them on. Please be very careful and do not respond to any emails that seem in the least suspect! *Ren*

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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