

# Bexley Team News

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

Sunday 25 October 2020 Issue 32

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Don't forget -clocks go back one hour Saturday night



## Team Churches services this Sunday -

**St. Barnabas** 10.45 am Service of the Word 4.00 pm Sunday @ 4

**St. James** 9.30 am Service of the Word

**St. Johns** 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion. Church open 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.

**St. Mary's** 10.00 am Family service 3.30 pm Holy Communion **Wednesday-** 10.00 am Team Holy Communion

**The Collect :** Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, 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, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Bible Readings

Nehemiah 8, 1-4a (5-6), 8-12 Colossians 3, 12-17 Matthew 24, 30-35

## Reflection

On Monday the Church celebrates Alfred the Great, King of West Saxons. Alfred was born in 849 and began his reign in 871 at the age of 22, he died on 26<sup>th</sup> October 899.

Alfred was never canonised and some would say this put him at something of a disadvantage in the later medieval world. Both Edmund of East Angles and Edward the Confessor were made saints.

Alfred was someone who had greatness thrust upon him. He survived four older brothers which gave him a sense that he had been specially destined for high office. Alfred promoted himself as the defender of all Christian Anglo Saxons against the pagan Viking threat through his liberation of neighbouring areas from Viking control. This paved the way for future unity of England which was bought to fruition by his son and grandsons.

With the help of advisors from other areas of England, Wales and Francia, Alfred studied and translated from Latin into Old English certain works which at the time were regarded as providing models of ideal Christian kingship. Alfred tried to put these ideals into practice, through his law code. Alfred became convinced that those in authority in church or state could not act justly or effectively without the "wisdom" acquired through study. As a consequence he set up religious houses which became Christian Centres for Education. They ensured future generations of priests and secular administrators would be better trained as well as

encouraging those in his courts to emulate his own example of reading and study. These religious houses also cared for the sick, the poor and provided respite for travellers.

Alfred's interest in learning made him the obvious choice to be retrospectively chosen as the founder of Oxford University when the institution felt the need to establish its historical credentials in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Alfred's lack of a saintly epithet, a disadvantage in the Middle Ages, was the salvation of his reputation in the Post Reformation world. As a pious King with an interest in promoting the use of English, Alfred was the ideal figure head for the emerging English Protestant Church.

In 1844 Queen Victoria gave one of her sons the name of Alfred. He was the first Prince Alfred since the Anglo-Saxon period.

Today if we take one thing from the life of Alfred it should be that we all as Christians have the responsibility to read our Bibles and other appropriate Christian material. By studying the Bible and works of Christian scholars we can grow in wisdom and understanding. During September people from across the four churches of the Bexley team came together to study the book of Nehemiah. It was successful and all would agree that they learnt much from it.

We hope to build on this success by offering more studies in the future, beginning with a study of Isaiah during Advent (more details to follow).

Please consider taking part in this study so that we can grow in wisdom together. Rev Susan Twynam

### **St. Mary's news**

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.

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.

### **St James North Cray services**

1<sup>st</sup> November 9.30 am Memorial Service (with Communion) 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 services**

1<sup>st</sup> November the church will be open between 10.00 am 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.

8<sup>th</sup> November 9.00 am Informal Communion.

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 FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN. Car park will be kept free of cars, parking is available in the surrounding roads.

### **St. Mary's, Bexley services**

1<sup>st</sup> November 8.30 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion with prayer for wholeness and healing.

### **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) and Twitter (@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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