

**BEXLEY UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH**



Sun Rise

**SPRING
MAY 2025**

50p

Minister: Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal
minister@bexley-urc.co.uk
Tel: 07484 257534

Church Address: Bexley United Reformed Church
500 Hurst Road
Bexley, Kent DA5 3JN

Church Website: www.bexley-urc.co.uk

Church Contact: anthony.ball73@ntlworld.com

Church Treasurer: Philip Shepherd
philshepherd97@yahoo.co.uk

Magazine Compiler: Ann Markey
ann.markey@btinternet.com

Disclaimer

This Magazine is published by Bexley United Reformed Church but the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Church.

Deadline for the next Magazine will be
Sunday 18th May 2025

**BEXLEY URC CHURCH HALL
& RUXLEY ROOM**

Junction Bexley High Street and Hurst Road
Facilities include a Stage and a Fitted Kitchen
Reasonable rates include Heating and Lighting

Inquiries to: Letting Secretary 07702 185702
elliestocker@talktalk.net

Services for May 2025 at 10.30am except where stated

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder</u>
Sunday 4 th May	The Minister	Keith
Sunday 11 th May	John Twidale	Suzanne
Sunday 18 th May	Rev. Ian Gow	Philip
	Holy Communion	
Sunday 25 th May	The Minister	Mavis

Communion Fund The Communion Fund is for those who are known to us who are in need. Gifts may be placed in the box near the entrance of the church on any Sunday whether or not there is a Communion Service. *Philip Shepherd*

Family News – on our prayer calendar for May are:-

Sunday 4 th May	Val Howe, the Benson Family
Sunday 11 th May	Peter & Patricia Linder, Tony & Ann Ball
Sunday 18 th May	Margaret Hunt (Sals)
Sunday 25 th May	Ellie Stocker and Sue Clark

Please also remember in your prayers – Barbara Johnstone and John, Dorothy Down, Angela Davis, Ann and Tony Basll

Pause for Thought

Sunday 4 th May	Essie	Sunday 18 th May	Keith
Sunday 11 th May	Stephanie	Sunday 25 th May	Linda

Flowers for April

Sunday 4 th May	Val Howe	Sunday 18 th May	Margaret(Sals)
Sunday 11 th May	Albert	Sunday 25 th May	Pam Collins

Every now and again I read a bible passage that hits home. This time it was about King Manasseh.

Sone of King Hezekaih who truly followed God's law, Manasseh was very much against the Lord God. So God let the King of Assyria, take Manasseh prisoner. Manasseh cried out to God. Against all the atrocities Manasseh did when king, God heard Manasseh true repentance, and restored him to his kingdom. A good read. 2 Chronicles 33 vs 1-20. Takes 3 minutes to read. There is hope for everyone. *Tony*

The Minister's Pastoral Letter for May



Dear Friends,

This year, on Saturday 7th June, we are holding our Pastorate Away Day* on the theme of Eco-Church. We will be reflecting on how we can renew our commitment as a congregation to the environment. I know that some things have been put in place over the last few years in our three congregations. I know that none of us would question good practices that have been put in place over the years. Certain measures have become standard practice. Recycling paper or plastic is no longer a choice that shows people's good will, but a rule that everyone must apply.

In Christianity, awareness of the ecological crisis began in March 1967 when a Catholic theologian, Lynn White, said in an article in the journal *Science* that 'Christianity is the most anthropocentric religion the world has seen' (Lynn White (1967), 'The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis', *Science* 155 (37) p.1203-1207). In other words, the ecological problem stems largely from an understanding of our environment that is too focused on ourselves as humans. Everything cannot revolve around us alone. We are part of an environment without which we cannot live and in which other creatures live. It's a question of justice. The political and economic responses that have been given to this ecological crisis over the last 60 years are inadequate and lack continuity. They are too easily sacrificed when other crises appear that are deemed more urgent.

As the environmental movement has grown, new disciplines have emerged, such as ecotheology, a branch of theology that deals with the environmental crisis. The international organisation to which Eco Church belongs is called A Rocha. It was founded in 1983. Eco Church encourages and evaluates local churches. It suggests as

number of good ecological practices and gives awards based on the commitment of the congregations.

In my life as a Christian, I wanted to deepen my commitment to the environment a few years ago. I've always felt very concerned by the problems of pollution and climate change. But one thing particularly bothered me: the fate of farm animal theology and discovered that our civilisation perpetuates traditions of cruelty towards animals that are not founded in God's love, nor in line with his will for his creatures. We kill animals on a massive scale to eat them, when we have no need to do so. We do it only for our gustatory pleasure, and a little for our nutrition of course, but in reality it is not necessary for our life or our health. We all need nutrients, but not meat or dairy products. Everything we need to thrive is available in the plant kingdom.

Because we live in an age where everything has been industrialised and is mass-produced, animals, their lives and their bodies, are treated like commodities. Our urban lifestyle does not allow us to see this. Those who trade in animal bodies are careful not to show the bloodiest stages. And then we are able to desensitise ourselves. It's a horrible thought, but it's our reality: we are capable of blinding ourselves to the ugly or immoral things we do, in order to preserve our conscience. This whole system of exploiting animals and desensitising ourselves to their suffering needs to be deconstructed and abolished. In the kingdom of peace that Jesus shows us and makes us approach, these things no longer exist.

I hope many of you will be able to make it at the Pastorate Away Day* and wish you all an excellent Easter season!

Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal

**TABLE TOP SALE
*WITH PLANTS***

**SATURDAY 17th MAY
10.00am – 12noon**

Free Admission

Light Refreshments

VE 80 CONCERT

**SUNDAY 11th MAY
3.00pm – 4.30pm**

All Welcome

VE Day Celebrations

On Sunday 11th May at 3pm we shall be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day at the monthly Sunday Concert from 3pm – 4.30pm.

Please come along for this joyous celebration.

Letter from a Serving Elder **Easter Celebrations**

Our Easter events went well. We were able to distribute 71 Easter Eggs kindly donated by our Rainbow, Brownies and Guides Organisation and members and friends of the Church to the Children's Wards at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Greenwich, and Darenth Hospital in Dartford also to Bexley Women's Aid and Demelza House for children with special needs before Good Friday, and their letters of appreciation can be seen on the opposite page.

We also welcomed twenty six people from the Pastorate to the Easter Breakfast in our Church Hall on Easter Sunday at 8.30am followed by Holy Communion lead by our Minister Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal who went on to lead the service at Emmanuel Church, Sidcup.

Our Easter service in our Church at 10.30am was conducted by our friend Rev. Ian Gow, which included the congregation helping to decorate our especially large Cross with spring flowers which looked lovely and very meaningful.

After the service, the flowers used to decorate the Church were taken to members and friends unable to be with us on this special day.

Our thanks to all who made the weekend a success.

Mavis

Darent Valley Hospital
Darent Wood Road
Dartford
Kent
DA2 8DA

Tel: 01322 428100

Dear Rev Blandard-Kowal, Rainbows,
Guides, members and friends of your
church.

Thankyou for your kind donation
of easter eggs to the children
on Willow ward. We really
appreciate you thinking of us!
Love

Justine, Donna (play specialists,
& all staff on
Willow ward
Darent Valley
Hospital

X

Lewisham and Greenwich



NHS Trust

Safari / Tiger Ward

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Stadium Road
Woolwich
London
SE18 4QH

Tel: 020 8836 4042
Fax: 020 8836 6247
catherinewilde@nhs.net
www.slh.nhs.uk

17 April 2025

To the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and friends of The United Reformed Church at Bexley.

Thank you so much for generous donation of Easter Eggs for Safari/ Tiger ward.
The Eggs will bring some smiles to all the children and their families who will be in Hospital over the Easter period.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter

Huge Thanks

The Team on Safari/ Tiger

Judas Iscariot

Most people would understand what the term 'Judas' was, even if they did not know its derivation. It would imply betrayal or treachery. As Christians, we know it refers to Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin in the Garden of Gethsemane.

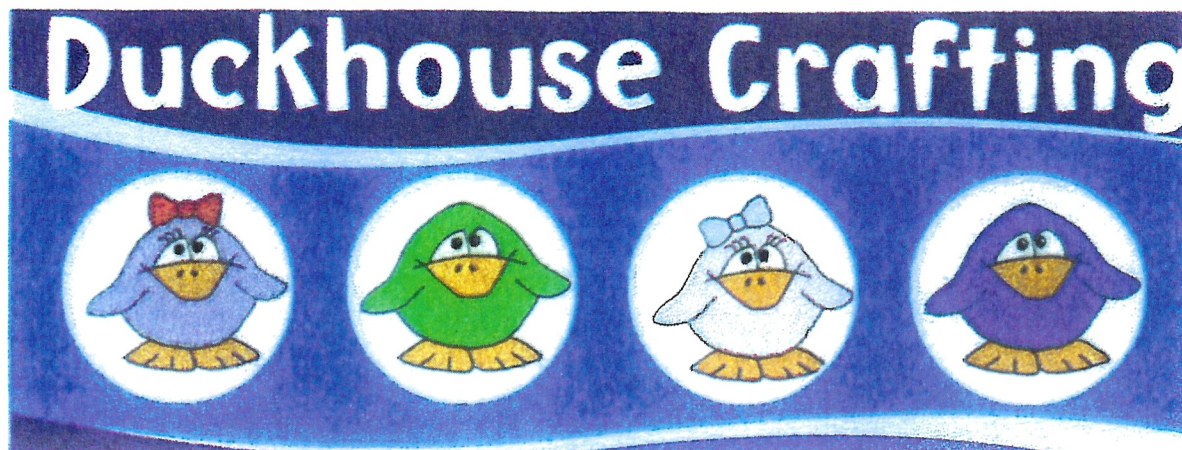
The intriguing question is; 'Why did he do it?' Judas was one of the twelve apostles and must have heard the wise words spoken by Jesus and witnessed many miracles performed by him. Judas would have realised that Jesus was more than an itinerant preacher but perhaps he was not going to be the expected Messiah, who would lead a national rebellion against the rule of Rome. Surely, he would not have acted as he did if he believed Jesus was the 'Son of God'.

Judas was already a bit of an outsider as the only apostle who came from the South of the country. Maybe his disappointment about Jesus not being a rebel leader led him to accept the 30 pieces of silver offered by the temple priests. However, his action led inevitably to the crucifixion. It was this outcome that brought about his feeling of guilt and remorse and suicide by hanging. The 30 pieces of silver had been returned to the Chief Priest and used to purchase a field to be used for the burial of strangers and henceforth known as 'The Field of Blood'.

Jesus had indicated at the Last Supper that he knew he was about to be betrayed and would have known that he would die an agonising death. Yet without this sacrifice there would not have been the salvation of humanity. We believe, as Christians that Jesus died to atone for our sins. So, was Judas merely a pawn in the grand plan?

The cross has become the ultimate symbol for Christianity and what would seem to be the end of the mission of Jesus became its beginning with millions of followers all over the world.

John Johnstone



CRAFT WORKSHOP

This is a full day craft workshop from 10am until 4pm.

Location: - Bexley United Reform Church Hall, Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 3JN. (Parking available)

Date: - **Wednesday 21st May 2025**

Cost: - £15.00 (All materials will be supplied.)

We will be making 4 cards using different materials and techniques.

To book a place contact Penny: -
duckhousecrafting@gmail.com 07415 138284

(Please ensure you bring a packed lunch - tea/coffee and cake will be provided)



Lord, for tomorrow and its needs, I do not pray

This is not a hymn that I know or have sung, but the above line was given to me recently and I have done a little research. The words of this hymn were written in the early morning hours of 1877 by Sister Mary Xavier while attending the bedside of an elderly nun whose life was ebbing away. In time, Sister Mary Xavier sent the words of the hymn to her mother, who had them published in the January issue of the Messenger of the Sacred Heart 1880 and is the earliest known publication of the hymn to exist.

The verses reflect the words of Our Lord, *"Enough then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own"* (Matt. 6:34). The words are slightly different in GNB! A number of tunes have been composed over the years but I like the one by Horatio R. Palmer which can be heard on You Tube

Lord for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin
Just for today.
Help me to labour earnestly,
And duly pray;
Let me be kind in word and deed,
Father today.

Let me be slow to do my will,
Prompt to obey;
Help me to sacrifice myself,
Father, today.
Let me no wrong or idle word
Unthinking say;
Set Thou a seal up on my lips
Through all today.

Let me in season, Lord, be grave,
In season gay;
Let me be faithful to Thy grace,

Father, today.
Lord, for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray;
Still keep me, guide me, love me, Lord,
Through each today. Amen.

Kathy

BEXLEY TINNITUS SUPPORT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1003815

**Meetings are held on the second Tuesday
of each month**

2 - 4 pm

**in the Fellowship Room of
Christ Church
Main Road, Sidcup DA14 6NJ**

We are a self help group
for those in Bexley and beyond
who seek help to cope with tinnitus.
Please come along – bring a friend if you wish

HELP LINES

01322 525115

0208 302 2377

0208 309 0983



Bexley
United
Reformed
Church

Weekly Programme

Sunday

Worship Service 10.30am (C)

Afternoon Concert (once a month) 3pm-4.30pm (C)

Monday

Exercise Classes (over 50s) 10am-11am (H)
(School Term Time only)

Afternoon Teas 2pm-4pm (C)

Tuesday

Whist Drive 2nd Tuesday 2pm-4pm (H)

Knit and Natter 3rd Tuesday 1pm-3pm (H)

Wednesday

Singing for Fun 1st and 4th Wednesday
1.30pm – 2.30pm (H)

Thursday

Exercise Classes (over 50s) 10am-11am
(School Term Time only) (H)

(C) in the Church

(H) in the Hall

All Welcome



Meeting weekly in Church Hall during term time as well as
enjoying
outdoor activities

Girlguiding at Bexley URC

Rainbows

(for 4 to 7 year-olds)

Mondays, 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Brownies

(for 7 to 10 year-olds)

Mondays, 5.45pm to 7pm

Guides

(for 10 to 14 year-olds)

Wednesdays, 7.30pm to 9pm

Rangers

(for 14 to 18 year-olds)

Mondays, 7.30pm to 9pm

To register your daughter, visit
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

To register as an adult volunteer, visit
www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved



Children are Welcome

At present we do not have a Junior Church BUT for Young Children we do have a well equipped children's corner in the church where parents are welcome to supervise their little ones whilst being able to participate in worship.

Bexley United Reformed Church complies with The United Reformed Church Good Practice Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Young People in the Church.

Some Useful Contact details for Bexley residents :

Age UK Bexley – Services for older people
020 8300 0883 www.ageuk.org.uk/bexley

Alzheimer's Society – Dementia advice and support
01322 524950 www.alzheimers.org.uk

Bexley Accessible Transport Service – Telephone support & prescription pickup
01322 322333 www.bexleyct.co.uk

Bexley Carers' Support - Support for Carers
020 8302 8011 www.carerssupport.org

Bexley Council Contact Centre – 020 8303 7777 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

Bexley Deaf Centre – support for deaf & hard of hearing residents
01322 351122 www.bexleydeafcentre.com

Bexley Mencap – Support for people with a learning disability & their families
020 8303 6336 www.bexleymencap.org.uk

Bexley Moorings – Befriending & virtual social group for ages 10-15
020 8304 9609 www.bexleymoorings.co.uk

Bexley Voice – Service for parent/carers of SEND children
07512 409936 (Thurs a.m.) www.bexleyvoice.org.uk

Bexley Women's Aid – Domestic abuse support for women
020 8301 1536 (Mon-Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm) www.bexleywomensaid.org.uk

CAP – debt advice
0800 3280006

Citizens Advice – Advice for legal, financial and housing issues
01322 517150 Mon-Fri 9.30am-3.30pm www.bexleycab.org.uk

Counselling Matters – low cost counselling
07498 377305 www.counsellingmattersbexley.org

Crimestoppers UK – 0800 555111

Darent Valley Hospital, Darent - 01322 428100

Family Lives – support for parents with a child under 5 years experiencing challenges 07739 788120 www.familylives.org.uk

London Fire Brigade – general enquiries 020 8555 1200. Emergency 999

ManKind – domestic abuse helpline for men
01823 334244 weekdays 10am-4pm

Mental Health Crisis Line - 0800 330 8590

Metropolitan Police – general enquiries 101. Emergency only 999.

Mind in Bexley – Talking therapies and support for Mental Health
020 8303 8932 www.mindinbexley.org.uk

National Rail Enquiries – 03457 484950

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich - 020 8836 6000

Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup – 020 83022678

Re-instate – Employment retention support
01322 438155 www.re-instate.co.uk

Samaritans freephone - 116 123