

Six Faiths

Following on from my October article about faith, I have been reading about the six major world faiths. These are Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. Each of these faiths exist in our country and the one you are most likely to be aware of, apart from Christianity, is Islam. There are now many Mosques that have been built, some like the one near Regent's Park, London, are quite grand, while others are just the size of a house

There are fewer signs of Buddhists, but several temples exist in the London area. I visited one near Wimbledon, which had a beautiful garden, similar to one you might find in Thailand. Hindu and Sikh places of worship are present in the Dartford/ Gravesend area. Worship usually includes a meal together and visitors are likely to be invited to share in the meal.

It would be impossible in a short article to present all the similarities and differences between the other religions and Christianity. However, I have tried to find 3 items which give a flavour of each religion.

Sikhism Principles

Sikhs worship one God, they are against renunciation of the world, and beliefs in omens and miracles.

They accept the theory of karma, (the belief that good and bad actions shape your life), and the transmigration of the soul along with a belief In the grace of God.

They believe in the sharing of the product, or profit, of one's honest work with others.

Buddhism, (extracts from The Noble Eightfold Path)

You should develop unselfishness, loving kindness, generosity and compassion.

You should refrain from telling lies, and defamatory, harsh, rude and impolite talk, which may cause hatred, enmity and disharmony.

You should pursue good actions, peaceful conduct and help others.

Judaism

In Orthodox synagogues much of the service will be in Hebrew.

The Talmud teaches;

In finances, be strict with yourself, and be generous with others.

If two men claim your help, and one is your enemy, help him first.

Greatness seeks out the man who runs away from greatness.

Hinduism

Every physical object is a manifestation of God and can be used for the focus of worship if it symbolises divinity for the devotee.

The worship of God helps to keep material progress balanced by spiritual progress.

There is allowance for the widest freedom in matters of faith and worship, and absolute freedom with regard, to the nature of God, the soul, the creation and the form of worship.

Islam

There is no god but Allah and Muhammed is the Messenger of Allah.

A Muslim should pray five times a day, at dawn, mid-day, in the afternoon, just after sunset and at night.

Every Muslim hopes to visit Makkah once in his life.

In summary, most of the religions welcome visitors and some will invite you to share a meal. Some may dress differently and adopt

different modes of prayer, but all believe in one God. Even in my limited selection of information you will notice some similarities with Christianity. However, I am sure that the members of the other faiths would be critical of my selections, above, to illustrate their faith.

John Johnstone
Cole

Ref. Six World Faiths Edited by W. Owen

PEACE WITH CREATION

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home.

We confess how estranged we have become— from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves.

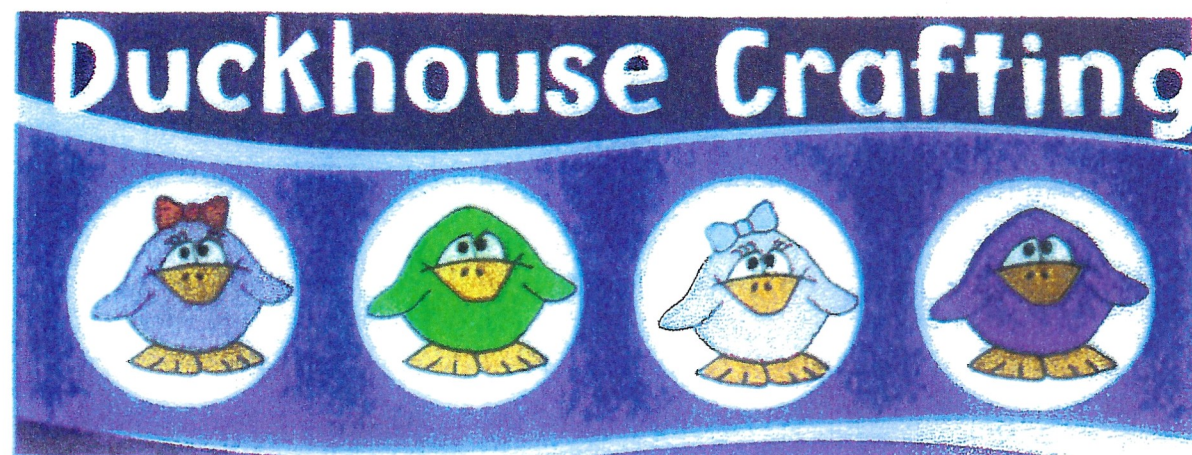
We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth. Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate, oceans and rivers are polluted. Thriving communities have become places of suffering, and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ, who spoke “Shalom” to frightened hearts, stir us to compassionate action. Inspire us to work for the end of conflict, and for the full restoration of broken relationships— with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace, through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity with the woundedness of others, of creation, and of the world. Through your resurrection, make us people of hope— with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares and tears transformed into joy.

May we come together as one family, to labour for your peace— a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety, and rest in quiet places. Amen

From A Rocha Season of Creation 2025 - submitted by Kathy



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 19th November 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)



Dear Valued Supporter,

Bexley Foodbank would like to take this opportunity to say from the bottom of our hearts a huge thank you to you all.

Your donations really do make a difference to the lives of people experiencing food poverty in Bexley.

It's been an incredible Harvest and our volunteers have worked their socks off receiving, sorting and dating the food coming in and the following numbers are staggering!

In total we received 7798.42 kilos!!! (287.95 out of date).

Your collection contributed to **113.4kg**

Bexley Foodbank give out on average 5000kg every month to those most in need, so this gives you an idea of the scale of food poverty.

We feel incredibly blessed by you all, your kindness is unmatched.

Blessings to you all.

Gill Bates & Kate Harris

EASYFUNDRAISING

It's a while since I have reminded you about this website but with Christmas approaching I feel sure many of you will be buying items online and if you were to access the Easyfundraising website and then the website from which you wish to purchase items Bexley URC would get a percentage donation. It may be only be a small amount, just pennies but if we look after the pennies, the pounds mount up!! This is a purchase I made recently.....

Kathy



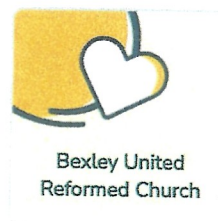
Your total raised
£504.18

We've added a donation to your account.

You've raised a donation with **Amazon** for **Bexley United Reformed Church**.



£0.63



Purchase date: **30/09/2025**

Amount spent: **£124.99**

Donation ID: **68ddec07db3846f6328e1326**

[View donation details](#)

[View my donations history](#)

£63 million Raised

2.5 million Users

190,000 Causes



© Copyright 2003 - 2025 easyfundraising.org.uk. All rights reserved. Registered Address: St Chads House, Suite 6, Cross Keys, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6DN. Please do not reply to this email. Email responses are not monitored. Should you wish to contact us, please feel free to do so using our [online form](https://easyfundraising.org.uk). easyfundraising.org.uk is a member of the Institute of Fundraising.

[View email in browser](#)





Praying about debt, prosperity, and peace

by Sue Richardson, Just Money Movement

Life-giving God, we are held by you between gift and obligation.
We thank you for your abundant gifts in our lives. These we do not deserve and cannot repay except by loving others as you have taught us.

We live in your world, however, between loan and debt.
Our lending to others seeks a material return which is not always faithful to the needs of our borrowers and heedless of their security as we seek our profit. The bond of mutual obligation becomes the chain of indebtedness.

Teach us to live in interdependence, building links of peace and prosperity for all through the breaking of the fetters of debt.
Help us to see that the most valuable return on our giving is a world of mutual enrichment, that we can know our own security most fully when peace is enjoyed by the most vulnerable among us. Amen

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

The Meeting Place has now reopened!

THE MEETING PLACE

**The MEETING PLACE is held every Wednesday
9.30am - 1.30pm
in St John Fisher Church Hall,
Thanet Road, Bexley DA5 1AP**

**This is an opportunity to meet others and chat, and to come
and go as you please.**



ALL ARE WELCOME



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, Darenth - 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