

**BEXLEY UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH**



**AUTUMN
OCTOBER 2025**

50p

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

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500 Hurst Road
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philshepherd97@yahoo.co.uk

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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 19th October 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 October 2025 at 10.30am except where stated

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder</u>
Sunday 5 th October	The Minister	Keith
Harvest Festival Parade Service		
Sunday 12 th October	John Twidale	Ann
Sunday 19 th October	Valerie Loader	Keith
Holy Communion		
Sunday 26 th October	The Minister	Suzanne

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.

Thank you. *Philip Shepherd*

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

Sunday 5 th October	Colin & Penny Denyer & Family, John & Bee Twidale, June & Don Bobby
Sunday 12 th October	Helen & Mike North, Francis Christou
Sunday 19 th October	Margaret Hunt (Sisby), Peggy Simmonds
Sunday 26 th October	Elizabeth Whorlow, Philip Shepherd

Please also remember in your prayers – Tony and Ann Ball,
Margaret Hunt (FCL), Ann Markey

Pause for Thought

Sunday 5 th October	Harvest Parade Service
Sunday 12 th October	Stephanie
Sunday 19 th October	Essie
Sunday 26 th October	Linda

Flowers for October

Sunday 5 th October	Harvest
Sunday 12 th October	Margaret Hunt (Sisby)
Sunday 19 th October	Michael
Sunday 26 th October	Keith



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

Guides

(for 10 to 14 year-olds)

Wednesdays, 7.30pm to 9pm

Brownies

(for 7 to 10 year-olds)

Mondays, 5.45pm to 7pm

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.



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

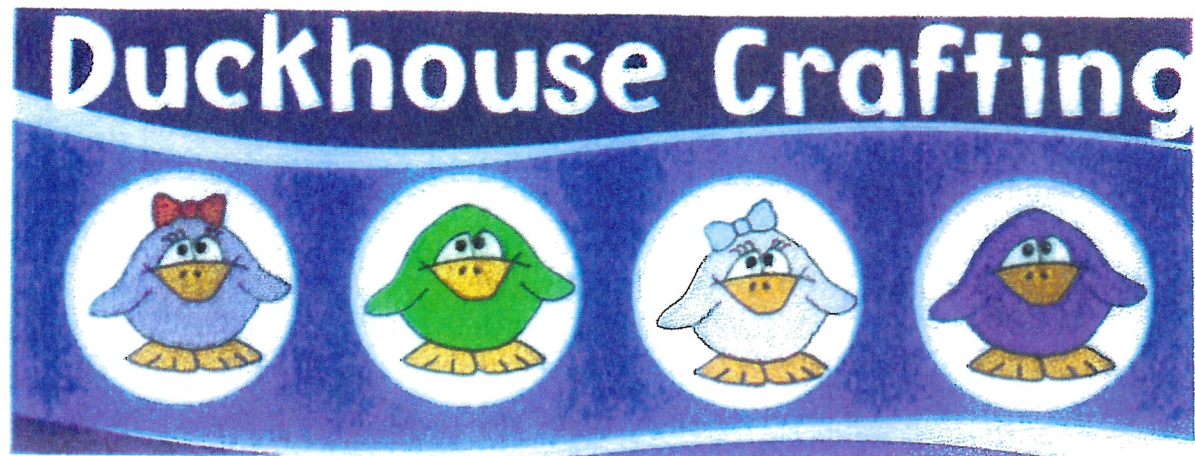
Singing for Fun 1st and 4th Wednesday
1.30pm – 2.30pm (H)

Thursday

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

(C) in the Church (H) in the Hall

All Welcome



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, 15th October, 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)



Faiths

Many years have passed since at one of the Lent courses I had a discussion/ argument with a lady from one of the Anglican churches, who believed that the only way to God was through Christianity. In my life I have met people from other religions who were far more devout than me and I just could not accept what she was asserting.

Religious Education in schools is based on the premise that while Christianity is the predominant religion in this country, recognition should also be given to other faiths. Thus, pupils might gain some knowledge of Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Sikhism. I belonged to a generation that didn't have the above experience, but I have enjoyed some visits to Buddhist temples and listened without understanding to Buddhist worship and yet appreciating the reverence present. I have also worked alongside a Sikh and appreciated the place his faith played in his life and values. Have also been able to quiz two of my Muslim fiends about their beliefs.

Islamists in Afghanistan do not represent Islamists worldwide nor do some orthodox Jews in Israel represent the view of Jews everywhere. So, we should not judge the religion because of the few. I have read about Islam and how Muslims, Jews and Christians lived in harmony in Medina and later in Spain when it was part of the Muslim empire. The early years of Christian history did not show such tolerance. I am sure that with some research I could find examples from the other religions to discredit them because all religions have carried out acts which are the cause of shame.

All religions believe in a supreme God, but misguided teaching and corruption have always existed in each of them. History tells us that missionaries proclaiming Christianity converted people at the point of a sword wielded by conquerors in South America, India and Africa, with scant regard to the culture and traditions of the land they now occupied.

I believe there are many ways to worship and know more about God. If only we could live in a world of tolerance. *John Johnstone*

Harvest Festival Service
5th October – 10.30am

We shall be decorating the Church for our Harvest Service on Saturday 4th October between 9.30am and 12.30pm. If you would like to come and give us a hand we shall be very grateful.

We plan to decorate the window ledges with fruit and vegetables again this year as we found it was profitable to sell the vegetables and fruit after the service and donate the money raised to Bexley Food Bank which was much appreciated. (Please bring veg and fruit by 10.30am). Flowers and greenery are also very acceptable.

Do come if you can, even if it's only for a little while. You will be welcome.

PS. Fruit and veg, flowers and greenery need to be with us by 10.00am please.

More fun than I expected

10 am was the start but on arrival Keith was already working hard. Suzanne and Mike were setting up and soon to be joined by Gary. Very quickly we were all working cutting back, weeding and making the car park and front flower beds look better. Usual banta 'is it coffee time yet', after 10 minutes. At 11 Mavis served up coffee and in came Suzanne with donuts from the bakery. Not sure if they had energy enhancing chemicals, but work continued after very easily. We all helped each other, cutting down the effort and doubling the production. Lunch was soup and roll in the Ruxley Room. This was super. A great time to share our achievements, intentions, and laugh at banta. This was true Christian fellowship eating together. The last part was planting and watering bulbs in the front and public garden and weeding the paths.. We finished at 2. I went home happily tired but felt the whole effort was well worth it. A lot more fun than I expected.

Many thanks to Mavis and Keith for organising a great day.
Tony Ball

Getting to use a local facility like a pub or a coffee shop or after noon tea. Is not easy for individuals. It took effort. It took time, and now I have another place to escape to, and talk whenever I need to.

People know about my church life and I am ready for the questions ‘ Why do I go to church? Why do I believe my faith is real? And I look forward to being asked.

Everyone should be ready to answer these questions. Matthew 28:18-19—Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

Are you ready? *Tony Ball*

Jesus taught that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, one must "change and become like little children" (Matthew 18:3),

Struggling to read through Job. NIV version really confused me the way sentences were created. By chance I picked up my sons International childrens bible. Wow, the way it is written for children makes it so much easier to understand

What was it Jesus said?

Tony

Letter from a non-serving Elder

Dear Friends,

The Royal Oak, Bexleyheath is affectionately known as the Polly Clean Stairs. In all my childhood days it was there, talked about, and well used by grown ups in my road. Many stories circulated, I assume some true and some changed by Chinese whispers.

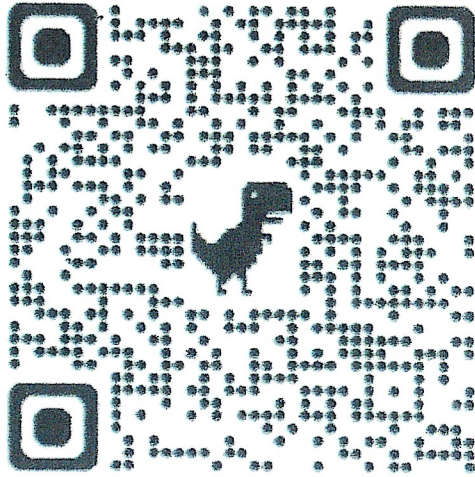
It nearly closed in 2000 when the landlord died. It was taken over by a family and they really tried hard to keep it open. It was always just surviving. I was going in for a pint whenever I was on my way home from training. Often I was the only one in the pub so it did not look good.

I went in on my own. My shirt had my name on it. This I found made it easier for people to talk to me. They could easily remember my name. Often I would only talk to the bar staff and sit on my own.

Gradually, I associated names with faces as their names were called out by other people. Then I was able to say hello to them, and with my name on my shirt ,they easily got to know my name. By remembering what people liked to talk about, I was able to initiate conversations. I feel if people came in with no one to talk to they can talk to me.

On one occasion one of the most flamboyant characters on his own started talking about being made redundant with legal implications. I felt it helped by having someone to listen to him.

Now with great concern about Anne. I was able to share what was happening. It is really helpful when people ask How is Anne?, and I can share what is happening.



Alison and the rest of her team have collectively all been counting their steps every day to 'walk' to Delhi, which they have achieved and are now 'walking' to Kathmandu, then it will be back to Bangalore as these are where their matches will be held. Apart from helping to raise money it is keeping the team fit in readiness for their impending trip. If you want to follow the team's progress they have a Facebook page for you to follow their journey. Just click the following link <https://www.facebook.com/.share/.1AmYbCQHfO/>.

Thank you. Written by Valerie Loader





Many of you will remember my daughter Alison, who is blind and plays cricket, competed in the IBSA World Blind Games held in Edgbaston in 2023. She has just heard that she has been selected as part of the 15 player squad to take part in the first ever T20 World Cup this November hosted by India and Nepal. This tournament will also feature teams from Australia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka & USA.

The cost of taking part in the World Cup is around £60,000 and a very generous donor has funded half of this. Can you help raise the other half to ensure the UK are part of this historic event? If so donations can be made at: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/paul-toplis-1> Please mention 'Alison' if supporting her team in this way. I will also have a sponsor form with me for those of you that prefer to put pen to paper and those that understand (not me) there is a QR Code to donate directly.

FROM: VALERIE LOADER

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER

3.00pm – 4.30pm

CAROL ANN WELLS

All Welcome

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER

7.00pm – 9.30pm

**Tickets: £8.00
Incl. Supper**

**Tickets are available
from Social Committee**

AUTUMN BAZAAR

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

10.00am – 12 noon

Free Admission

Light Refreshments

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