

FOOD BANK

Unbeknown to Janice Algar, her husband had signed her up for a place on the London marathon. Little did she imagine that she wouldn't be running around the streets of London jostling for space with thousands of other runners, but around the Cyclopark in Gravesend with a handful of others, in the middle of a pandemic. Having taken up the challenge, her next decision was which charity could she possibly support? Seeing a plea for monetary donations for the Bexley Foodbank in the pew sheet, her min was made up.

So it was then that on Sunday 4 October, in wet and windy weather, Janice and her team set off to run 26.2 miles (42 km) around the Cyclopark. A JustGiving page is was set up with a goal of reach £500. A message soon arrived on my 'phone to say that Janice had completed her challenge. That's when the money started to arrive. It continued until it reached an incredible £1600, triple what she'd hoped for.

I'm sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Janice on her brilliant achievement and saying a huge thank you on behalf of the Bexley Foodbank.



Janice Algar with her medal

Christmas Day Toy Service 25th December 10am

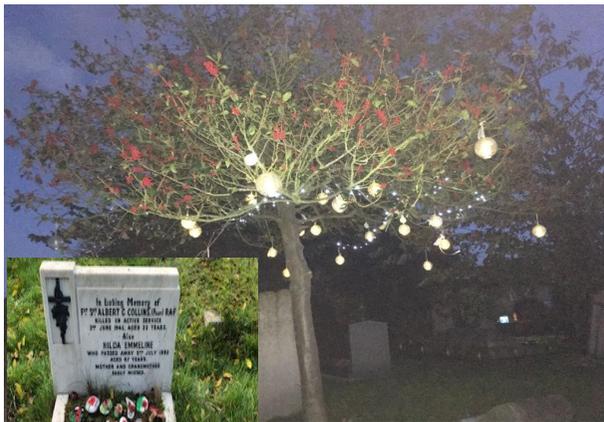
During this 10am service we can come together and show and tell our gifts, while coming together to celebrate the greatest gift of all. Welcome to join us in prayer.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love
always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.



Tree of light

The Tree of light was lit after the All Souls service

on 2nd November. Lights were sponsored and the names of loved ones put on the tree.

War Graves. The attached photo is a that Mayplace School placed there Poppy Stones on and then recited 'In Flanders Field'. St Paulinus & Temple Grove also took part.



Advent Sunday - 29 November 2020 –No church service

Advent is expectation a sense of alert watchfulness in our anticipation of Christmas but, preparation for the coming of Christ is a powerful reminder of the real meaning of the coming season. It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Some people are anxious about Christmas. We pray that God to be close to them in the coming days. During the morning you may wish to join in with these words, as we celebrate at St Paulinus at the 8am or 10am service.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Each Sunday we will light the Advent Wreath, if you would like the set of prayers for each week, please contact the office.

What's coming up:

- ◆ Advent Sunday 29th November
- ◆ 6 December 6pm Christingle
- ◆ There is also a service of readings and carols for Advent 6th December
- ◆ Christmas Eve 4pm A Celebration of Christmas
- ◆ Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass
- ◆ 26 December St Stephen
- ◆ 27 December St John
- ◆ 28 December Holy Innocents

What's been going on:

- ◆ Remembrance Sunday 8 November
- ◆ Janice's Marathon for the Bexley Foodbank



Church is still open for quiet prayer each morning except Wednesday's when it is open from 5.30 - 7pm.

Christingle—6th December 10am

Over 50 year ago, John Pensom of The Children’s Society first introduced the Christingle Service to the Church of England as a symbol of Christ’s light and love.

It is an opportunity for children and adults of all ages have come together to celebrate Christingle. Together we light Christingle candles, celebrate Christmas and raise money to help vulnerable children in our communities who are living with serious problems.

Our Service will take place on Sunday 6 December 2020 at 10am and don’t forget to come dressed as an Angel or a Shepherd and join in the fun.

Each element of Christingle has a special meaning helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represent s the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God’s creations

The lit candle represents Jesus’s light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Christingle celebration have raised millions of pounds to support our life-changing work with children and young people. The money you raise can help connect them to our services and rekindle the hope they deserve.

Please note that due to current Covid restrictions you will need to book in via the office for the 10 am service and if fully booked there will be a 3pm Zoom service.



Nativity—A celebration of Christmas 24th December 4pm

The gospel accounts of the first Christmas provide so many ways for us to enter into the mystery of God becoming human. There are hosts of angels filling the night sky with singing; a group of astounded shepherds on a hillside who find their lives and expectations turn upside down; there is a shining star and the birth of a child, which, like many other births before and since, bring hope and possibility.

We hope to welcome in some children as we traditionally do for our nativity. Please join us in prayer.

Come, Jesus Christ, come in the wonder of your birthing along the divine pathway and into the toughest realities of human life.

Come, Child of God, and meet the child within each one of us, gathering us into the loved community of your people, all people, even us.

Amen

Dorothy McRae-McMahon



A Guide to December Services

6th December, 8am Mass, 10am Christingle, 6pm A service of Reading & Carols for advent

20 December, 6pm A Celebration of Christmas
Christmas Eve, 4pm A Celebration of Christmas
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Toy Service

26 December St Stephen 10am Said Mass

27 December St John 8am Said Mass
10am Parish Mass

28 December Holy Innocents 10am Said Mass

3 January The Epiphany 8am
10am Parish Mass

Antiphons

As we may not gather as we normally do, the Advent Antiphons will be available online. They are addressed to God, calling for him to come as teacher and deliverer, using scripture and pictures that describe his saving work in Christ. The antiphons begin on 17 December and there was an additional antiphon ('O Virgin of virgins') on 23 December; 17 December is designated O Sapientia (O Wisdom). Please use the enclosed to join us in this journey of Advent.

A Celebration of Christmas - 20 December 2020

Midnight Mass - 24th December 11.30pm

At this time, we are sharing in the anticipation of the joy of Christmas and celebrating its message of good news.

'At the centre of it is someone who is joy and love ... When we meet Jesus Christ, we find love and healing and hope and certainty and an underpinning of our lives that gives us a sense of where we're going and what we're called to be.' Archbishop Justin Welby, 2018

Advent Sunday

29 November

Unfortunately there will be no church service

We meet to celebrate anew the coming of God’s kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God’s loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

As we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ’s Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Please join us with this prayer.

*Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.*

Amen.

