
Churches Together in Bexleyheath

Welcome!

Unity Service 2025

Words of Welcome

by Rev Trevor Wyatt
Chair of Churches Together
in Bexleyheath (CTiB)



It is my privilege to be the chair of CTiB. In 2024 our traditional Acts of Witness were held at the Clock Tower on Good Friday and in December (for Christmas). The events were well attended by many of our churches and were great missional opportunities for us to come together as the body of Christ and share the Good News of the gospel to the people of Bexleyheath. As we look around at our churches in Bexleyheath, there is much to celebrate and give thanks to God for, I am so glad for the work of various organisations, that continues to flourish e.g. CRiBS, Bexley Foodbank, Good News for Everyone, Street Pastors and the Town Centre Chaplaincy to the shops etc. Let us each encourage, support and build up one another in our various ministries and continue to build the Kingdom of God here in this place of Bexleyheath.

“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” 1 Corinthians 12:5-6

The dates for the **Acts of Witness** at the **Clock Tower in 2025** are:

Good Friday is on **Friday 18th April**; the Bishop of Rochester will be attending
Christmas Acts of Witness is on **Saturday 13th December**.

Trinity Baptist Church (TBC)

by Andy Banks



**Trinity
Baptist
Church**

Our verse for 2025 is 1 Peter 3:15: “In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

We are grateful for another good year, with a focus on growing in prayer.

In August, we finally appointed our new Youth Leader, Isaac, from Lubbock, Texas. Isaac has made a wonderful start with us and in his half-time secondment to CRiBS. Alice, our brilliant new administrator joined us in December 2023. At Easter, we baptised two young adults. In October, we successfully trialled a “Try Church Sunday,” where we re-designed our service specifically for those for whom church might be unfamiliar and set up a marquee in Trinity Place to serve tea and coffee before the service. Trinity Tots continues to sell out each week, our Oasis coffee shop has had a new lease of life since moving to our middle hall, and our care home services continue to be well received. We are about to start something similar in a home for adults with learning difficulties. We hosted BWS four evenings this year, alongside the Street Pastors and BCU Life Skills Centre. We’ve just recruited several volunteers for an expanded Pastoral Care Team for 2025. We strive to be a truly multi-cultural, multi-generational, and increasingly neuro-diverse family. How to grow discipleship will form part of pastor Andy’s sabbatical after Easter - Visit us at www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk

Bexley Street Pastors (BSP)

Registered charity
1186106



At present, BSP have Christians from ten different Churches who come together to take the love of Jesus out into the night-time economy. BSP patrol on the Broadway from 10pm until 2am, most Fridays and some Saturdays. Although the Team is small, each volunteer commits to patrolling once a month. In 2024 BSP made contact with over 1300 people, helping, caring and listening to those they met on the Broadway regardless of gender, race, age, sexuality, belief or no belief. They have engaged with venue users, door staff, rough sleepers, those waiting for transport and people who were passing through the Broadway. They have given out flip flops, bottles of water and numerous lollies. At times Street Pastors have signposted people to other organisations, administered First Aid or just directed people to where they want to go. They have helped those suffering from the effects of drink or drugs, waited with people on their own (usually females) who are waiting for transport. However, often BSP just listen to what people have to say, which may lead to prayer or a “God Chat” - want to know more, please contact 07528 811952 or bexley@streetpastors.org.uk

Bexley Foodbank



In the last year, 14,161 three-day emergency food supplies were given out to people in crisis. We constantly need food to keep up with the demand.

Current needs are **washing pods, squash, toothpaste, deodorant, baby wipes, long life milk, fruit, size 7 & 8 nappies**

Visit us at www.bexley.foodbank.org.uk

St. Peter's Bexleyheath
by Jim Charles



Continuing to serve the community of north Bexleyheath, we have seen growth this year with new members joining us, and more regular attendance from families with children, which has given us greater continuity in our work with children and young people. We continue to share evening services with St John's Welling and hope that will continue after their vacancy has been filled. We have reached out to our community through our toddler group, Easter holiday club, Craft in the Church and Prime Time, our group for those over 55. We continue to support Bexley Food bank, CRiBS and Bexley Women's Aid, as well as range of overseas mission links. Our hall continues to be used by a variety of community organisations. The pine trees outside our south aspect have now been felled, and once the ground is ready, we hope to proceed with more sensitive planting which will enhance our grounds considerably.

Visit us at www.stpetersbexleyheath.org.uk/Groups/318910/_St_Peters.aspx

Geddes Place United Reformed Church (GPURC)
by Paul Ayliffe



2024 is the first year, since 2019, in which GPURC has had a Minister, Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal, as part of the Pastorate which also includes Bexley and Emmanuel Sidcup. We have continued to serve the community in as many ways as possible, our lunch club on Thursday is well attended and we serve free tea, coffee and biscuits at our café on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and as such provide a warm space. We continue to provide a venue for a wide range of community groups and this year have developed a particularly strong relationship with Age UK. We have also managed to overcome the substantial risk to those using our building from motorbike delivery riders, by using a private monitoring company. We meet for worship on Sundays at 10am, the first Sunday of each month is our café church, which allows greater involvement of all present in worship. Visit us at www.geddesplaceurc.org.uk

CRiBS
by Paul Davis
(CRiBS Director)



2024 was a year of significant change at CRiBS. Mark Leveson left his role as CRiBS CEO in the summer and Paul Davis, who has worked at CRiBS for 10 years, was appointed as Director, with Adam Parfett and Dan Milne joining him, as Operations Managers, to form a new senior leadership team. All three share their time between leadership, management and continued participation in frontline school's work. We also said goodbye to Joel from our secondary team, but we have welcomed Isaac Givens who has joined us and TBC (as their Youth Leader) from Texas, he has certainly settled in well as part of our team. Our work continues to be well received in many schools, with our Christianity RE lessons continuing to be booked by a number of local schools. Our Christmas play for 2024 went to 38 schools in Bexley, Greenwich, North Kent (even Snodland) reaching around 12,500 children with the real message of Christmas. Our Unlimited work continues to provide crucial wellbeing support in primary and secondary schools across Bexley Borough and neighbouring areas. We are so thankful to God for guiding us through a year of change as He continues to be our 'Firm Foundation' at CRiBS.

Please visit www.cribsonline.org to find out more about our work.

Barnehurst Methodist Church (BMC)
by Zac Smith - Churches Together Representative



BMC continued to play a role in the community. Our uniformed organisations continue to meet and grow, providing development for the young. Our membership is growing slowly but steadily with new members received this year – our transfer members from Pantiles have really settled in and become an integral part of the church. We held our usual community events during the year, including our annual buffet lunch and church bazaar - raising funds for the work of the church. Coffee Morning has continued throughout the year and the proceeds donated to the MacMillan charity. The proceeds from the Carol Service held in December went to Bexley Women's Aid. Our Harvest offering was again donated to Water Aid and all the food given to the Food Bank. We continue to enjoy our Sunday services, with tea and coffee always afterwards in the lounge. We enjoyed Christmas Eve Communion Service at 11pm followed by Christmas Day service at 10 am. The church encouraged everyone to participate in CTiB activities in 2025 as part of the wider CTiB Family.

Visit us at www.lesnesabbeymethodist.org.uk/barnehurstchurch.htm

Good News for Everyone!
by Allan Nicholls



The local branch serves this community by giving Bibles, New Testaments (Psalms & Proverbs) freely into schools, colleges, University, hotels, hospitals, prisons, care homes and through personal witness. Much appreciation is expressed when these scriptures and the magazine "Hope" are received. We're happy to share more with you in your churches, or you can become members or friends of the branch.

To learn more - contact Allan Nicholls MBE - nicholls_allan@hotmail.com

**St John Vianney
Catholic Church**
by Fr Michael Jones



There have been quite a few changes in 2024. Fr Jeff (a retired priest) came to help me after my stroke in 2022. Having had cancer treatment, he left us in August to become Chaplain to the Little Sisters of the Poor. After a hip replacement in October 2023, the Archbishop realised I needed help from a younger priest, Fr Luke Afam Malunze arrived in September from Enugu, Nigeria. He is very kind and helpful. Thanks to our secretary Cath and the help of parishioners I have been able to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments with a few adaptations. I am sorry not to have attended meetings and outdoor events with you all. The parish is still active. We are still involved with the Night Shelter and with helping the homeless. We have a Bereavement Group and an active PPC. Canon Victor Darlington Confirmed our young people and we had the usual First Communion celebrations. We are trying to formulate a Parish Plan. Several adults are being prepared for Baptism or Reception. The Annual Mass Count average was down, even though we have new families. We must try to encourage people to return or to come more often, unfortunately sports clubs on Sundays means we don't see as many children in church. Visit us at www.stjohnvianney-bexleyheath.org

**Christ Church Bexleyheath
(CCB)**
by Rev Trevor Wyatt



Our vision as an Inclusive church continues, we welcome all to share the love of God, showing compassion in serving our local community and enabling every member of our church family to flourish and grow in their faith in Christ. Our three Sunday services weekly – at 8am (Holy Communion/Book of Common Prayer), 10am (Holy Communion with modern language), and 6pm Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer), plus a mid-week service of Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.30am grow our community. Morning Prayer is live streamed on weekdays at 9am via Facebook. We give thanks to God for a growing church. Community outreach continues with Sunbeams (stay and play group under 5's) on Thursday mornings, our outreach café (Josie's) on Saturday morning, monthly lunchtime concerts (every first Wednesday in the month at 1pm), and our monthly ladies fellowship meeting. Under the leadership of our music director Luke Green, the senior and junior choirs continue to grow. Hosting the local Ukrainian community in the South East of London for their Orthodox Mass each Sunday at 2pm. Our plans to redevelop the CCB site have been delayed, but 2025 will be a critical year as we discuss detailed plans with Bexley Council. We would appreciate your prayers for this. We give thanks to God for all his goodness towards us.

Visit us at www.christchurchbexleyheath.org.uk

**Bexleyheath Methodist
Church (BCM)**
by Lucy Parry
(Senior Church Steward)



BMC play a vital role in our local community. We give thanks to God for our continuous association, with the CTiB. Mrs. Di Spowles (a church leaders) and our Minister, the Revd. Dr. Chellaian Lawrence, are our representatives on CTiB committee meetings. We usually participate in the CTiB Christmas Carol Services, Unity Services and Good Friday Services. We will soon be celebrating the centenary of our present church building, and we look forward to providing valuable services to our members, local organisations, local charities and groups, for many more years to come. Our attempts to reinvigorate our church continue, beside our 10am Sunday Services, we meet twice a month for an hour, at 7.30pm, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays for prayers. Recently, we also had weekly Advent Reflections. A new Leadership Team has been in place in September and we seek your prayers as we embark on various exploits, to engage with residents of the Borough. Visit us at www.bexleyheathmethodist.org.uk

**Bexley Christian Life
Centre (BCLC)**
by Matthew McCann



To really understand mission, we need to know, God, whose mission it is, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" - Matthew 28:19

BCLC give thanks for God's faithfulness and His presence among us, working hard for the gospel through the various ministries, highlights include serving with fellow churches at SPARK in the Park each summer. Our Sunday and mid-week services continue to be open to all, as do our children and youth groups which meet on Sundays and Thursdays, and our women and men's ministry groups.

We give God thanks for our community toddler group, Diamond Jubilee Club (where we use music as reminiscence therapy), Life Groups, Alpha courses and for many of our members who are active in the community, supporting CRiBS, Street and School Pastors, Prayer Pastors, Good News for Everyone! and TBB.

We remain fully committed to proclaiming and embodying the gospel as a church and as part of the wider church in Bexley. Please visit us at www.bexleylife.co.uk

**Bexleyheath Town Centre
Chaplaincy**

by Marilyn Ormes



The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. How many times have we all read those words? They certainly apply in the context of our Town Centre Chaplaincy! At the moment we are a team of 5 chaplains. We are about to lose one as she will be moving away from the area shortly. We visit ASDA and the smaller shops around it. But think how many shops there are in the Broadway! We all know shops are going through a tough time now, with rising costs and competition from on-line shopping. For the people who work to serve us all in those shops, life can be uncertain and sometimes a bit scary. Just to know that at least once a week there will be a listening ear is so important for them. This is a ministry that we are passionate about. We would love you to join us! You will be ministering to your local community; you can choose the day and time you visit; there is training and support. What are you waiting for? To find out more, do please email me on m.ormes@btinternet.com and we can arrange to meet and explore whether this would be a ministry for you.

New Hope Church (NHC)

by John Masheder



NHC have continued with our mission to build the church and to reach out to the community in all ways with the love of God. This year we celebrated a huge landmark as a church in becoming one church on two sites – Bexleyheath and Slade Green. Our Friday Club (run in Slade Green) for Primary aged children goes from strength to strength with family events drawing good numbers for things such as our Firework Party in November and a wonderful Christingle service in December. Our combined youth had a great trip to Newday – the youth camp in Norfolk which led to baptisms for one young person and her mother. Our Christmas show, a nativity based around the music of Moana was a huge success both for building church as well as reaching hundreds in the communities we serve. We have much to do as we build church on two sites but we are following God's exciting purposes for us. Visit us at www.newhopechurch.co.uk

**Bexleyheath Salvation
Army (SA)**

by Richard Welch



We continue to thrive and grow in our new building. As well as our normal church programme, we have a growing Come and Meet Each Other (CAMEO) group for 50+s that meets on Tuesday afternoons. Our popular Community Voices Choir meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm. Everyone is welcome and no experience is needed. We continue to provide a Warm Meeting Space for the lonely and those struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis throughout the year. This initiative is open on Tuesday and Friday from 10am-2pm providing free WiFi as well as an area to meet other people with free tea/coffee and biscuits/cake as well as soup and a roll at lunch time. We have also provided a drop-in centre for the homeless on a Tuesday, where we are able to provide shower facilities, emergency support as well as signposting them to help with accommodation. The local DWP and Bexley Borough Council Homeless provision send representatives each Tuesday to help with this service. As this has been so successful, we will be moving the Homeless Drop-in to Thursday from 10-2pm in the new year. Currently Bexleyheath & Welling SA fellowships are looking to partner together to make better use of our facilities in serving the local communities. The local branch of Mencap continue to meet in our building twice a week. We also work with Bexley Winter Shelter by providing our building on a Saturday night from January to the end of March for evening meals. Two other churches also use our building for their worship services. Bexleyheath Corps continues to be responsible for providing an emergency response vehicle, which is available 24/7 365 days to provide refreshments for fire, police and ambulance personnel in the event of large call-outs. We thank God for all His many blessings on our church fellowship during 2024 and look forward to all that 2025 has to offer with confidence in Him.

Please visit us at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/bexleyheath

**Others in
Churches Together in
Bexleyheath:**



Visit: www.bexleyheath-eng.uk-churches.com/rccg-restoration-house



Visit us at www.schoolpastors.org.uk
