

Parish Church of St. Edmund King & Martyr West Kingsdown



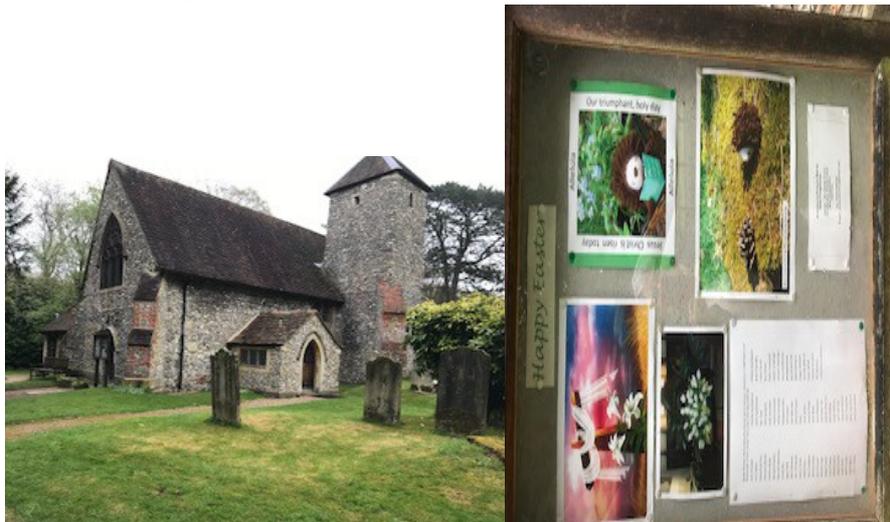
Rector:

The Rev'd Sarah Corry, The Rectory, School Lane, West Kingsdown TN15 6JL
Tel: 01474 852265 E-mail: revsarahcorry@gmail.com

Dear Friends

My goodness we are now into week five of our church not being open either for worship or for people to pop into for a time of solace and although we know that the 'church' is not the building but the people, it is still very difficult not to be allowed to go into the place where Christians, over the centuries, have gone to worship week by week.

As part of our exercise routine Don and I will walk the dogs through Church Woods two to three times a week, which allows me to not only keep an eye on the building but also make sure that the notice boards are kept up to date. I know some of you are not able to leave your homes and so I thought I would share some up to date pictures in this weeks letter.



The day I took these photos I'm afraid the sun wasn't shining. The pictures in one side of the notice board relate to Easter. There is a photograph of the flowers that Pauline arranged, and that can be seen through the window of the church door, with the list of names that I sent out last week. Also Bert the hedgehog makes his appearance. Bert is one of the hedgehogs knitted for Easter and he has been getting up to a number of different activities since being in lock down. The top picture shows him heartily singing 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia' on Easter morning and the second shows him practicing 'social distancing'. Thank you Geraldene for your daily update on Bert and his antics.

How the scenery all around has changed over the past few weeks. Blossom abounds, some trees are now fully in leaf



whilst others are still in bud, and the bluebells have come into their own. As you walk through a carpet of blue captures the eye and a beautiful sweet smell the nose.

Togetherness

It is wonderful to hear how the people of our village are coming together to support one another during these strange and difficult times. Sadly I have had to conduct two funeral services this past week at a time when only five mourners are allowed to attend. On Tuesday we laid to rest our own Margaret Lane and on Wednesday Irene Bowen from Viking Way. On both occasions the families were overwhelmed but the sheer amount of neighbours that stood outside their homes to pay their respects as the hearse went by. Thank you.



Margaret's flowers are beside the fir tree opposite the main church door.

This week please hold Angie Barnes in your prayers it's Dave's first anniversary of death this Tuesday 21st April. Also Angie Skinner whose brother died last Sunday, 12th April.

We remember too, Sue Carter, whose son Clive, father of Annabel who attends West Kingsdown Primary School, died at the beginning of this week. My thoughts and prayers are with them all.

This week we wish Happy Birthday to **Jenny Smith**, hope you have a nice day.

Last week I listed once again various contact details, unfortunately I got carried away and added an extra 'k' to our village clerk, her email address should read wkpclerk@gmail.com – sorry Lynda.

Prayer & Worship

Whilst our church remains closed I hope you are able to find alternative ways to worship. Ways that sustain you. I have found a great comfort in people telling me they are doing Morning Prayer each day around a similar time as me. I now sit and focus in on that fact and as I have said it brings me comfort, not only that but it really does show that although we are apart we can be together. The early church met in their own homes and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, they were amazing communities, that were ambitious and imaginative filled with hope and they grew. My prayer is that we to, although apart, may grow in faith.

For those with access to the internet there are a number of things I draw your attention to – visit the diocesan website www.rochester.anglican.org/resources or www.rochestercathedral.org/worship-online and read the Beacon of Hope stories that are posted there two or three times a week. From this Sunday you will be able to share in Choral Evensong that was pre-recorded before the social distancing rules came into place. Also on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org at 9am each Sunday morning you can share in a virtual Eucharist service.

For those without internet access there are two services on BBC 1 television on a Sunday, Sunday Worship at 10.15am and Songs of Praise at 1.15pm. I have also attached a Sunday Service sheet to this letter along with a prayer list. I was asked if we could share our weekly prayer list, which I think is a great idea. I have updated it as of this Sunday. Please phone or email me if you would like to add a name to the list. With every blessing **Rev Sarah**