

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Dear Friends

My goodness another week has past by and on Wednesday we see the beginning of another new month. The past week has been busy in a different way with a number of meetings in gardens, thank goodness for sunny weather. Life has changed unbelievably in the past three months and some things will never be the same again. Sadly for us, as a congregation at St Edmund's, after having lost our friends Margaret and Derek we have lost too, our dear friend Val.

Val's funeral

This coming Thursday, 2nd July, Val's funeral will take place at Bluebell Cemetery, Halsted at 12.30pm. She will make her last journey from West Kingsdown leaving her family home in Hever Avenue at 11.30am, she will then journey along Hever Avenue, turning left into London Road, left into Fawkham Road and then into St Edmund's church car park. She will rest for a few moments at the lych gate before journeying onward, followed by the cortege, back along the church track, right into Fawkham Road, right onto London Road and out through the village.

If you are able please do either come down to the church track, and keeping to social distancing rules of 2 meters, line the track to bid farewell or come out on any other part of the route. Let us all give Val a wonderful send off, clapping her on her way. If you are coming down to the church track please could I ask you not to park in the main car park leaving this free for the cars that will be part of the cortege and giving the hearse room to manoeuvre. Jakki Haysom is kindly opening the scout hut car park for those that need to park.

The service can be **viewed live via webcast** and these are the details you will need

www.obtius.com

User name: Tufi3113

Password: 534696

Service viewing time: 12.25pm-1.35pm

The service will be available to view for 28 days. However, it takes 3 days from the date of the service to be uploaded before it can be viewed again.



Opening of our church building

I know that many of you are patiently waiting to get back into our beautiful church and wondering when that might be. A couple of weeks ago the government gave the go ahead for churches to be open for private prayer and funerals and then just over a week ago that they could be opened for worship services and weddings. I said in a previous letter that I would be working on this with Rev Harriet, the churchwardens and PCC. I haven't finalised anything with the PCC but feel that now is the time to prepare.

During this coming week the church building will be deep cleaned, following the guidance we have been given, and prepared for opening for Private Prayer on Sunday 5th July. Initially it will be opened twice a week on a Sunday and Wednesday (times will be published next week) We will then hopefully add a Quiet Time hour once a week, looking to holding Sunday worship after that. Specific guidance from government and the Church of England is still awaited regarding collective worship and although the number of 30 has been mentioned for weddings no number has been given for worship services. As you will appreciate the size of our building will greatly reduce the number of people able to attend at any one time. On Thursday Angela Beale and I went into church, tape measure in hand, to see how many we could accommodate at any one time keeping to the 1 meter social distancing rule coming in on the 5th July, and started to draw up a plan. I have been asked about holding worship service outside, which I am all for, but nothing has yet been announced about such a possibility and I'm sure there would still be a restriction on numbers. Let us take one small step at a time and praise God that at least we are now allowed to open our church albeit with restrictions.



Togetherness

Thank you to you all for your thoughtfulness and care of one another. So much is being done each day that brings light into people's lives. For some of you I know it continues to be extremely difficult, especially those of you who are still self-isolating. People are coming up with unique ways of staying connected from 'Letter's from Bosco, the Rectory Dog, a doorstep sharing of the peace montage, to a good old cuppa and chat in the garden and this week I attach to the mailing a quiz on our church building compiled by Geraldine and David. **Don't** cheat and look at the answers before you've had a go, but when you have, count up your score and read the analysis that fits it. When I did it, I read mine and then the others and my, it made me feel good – **thank you so much Geraldine and David.**



My Sunflower Seedling

Last week I shared with you the picture of my beautiful sunflower seedling, a gift to me after I revealed I didn't have one, such a loving and kind thought. Unfortunately I attributed the gift to the wrong person. In my defence I blame my husband Don, who received the gift whilst I was out and told me that it was Ann Munro's husband! Wrong! He recognised the person but got the wrong name. When I asked him for a description, so that I might thank the right person, all I got was 'it was a tall man!' Not very helpful I must say, but after a little sleuthing and undercover work I am able now to publicly thank the right person -**thank you so much Reg Roots**

Churchyard Maintenance



On Thursday morning, in the beautiful sunshine, we held another churchyard maintenance morning. (I'm sorry I forgot to put a reminder in last weeks letter.) **Thank you to all those that came along to help Julie, Pauline, Ann, Roger, Brian, Angela, Jakki, Emma, Oliver & Lexi.** It was great to see everybody and to have a catch up. Whilst we were there a friendly, smiley face appeared around the corner of the church



building, somebody who makes quiet a regular appearance in my letters – Madison.



She was there with brother Finley and dad

Eran. As she stood outside the church door she said, without any prompting, 'I wish we could go inside church.' I think she verbalised what so many of us are thinking.

Birthdays

This week we say **Happy Birthday** to three lovely ladies on the 29th June to **Sharon Rivers**, on the 1st July to **Greta Chesney** and on the 3rd July to **Doris Healy**. I hope you all have a wonderful day and that the weather is kind to you so that you might be able to meet up outside with family and friends.

Worship

I hope that you are all managing to engage in some form of prayer and worship as often as possible. I know that it can become more and more difficult to keep focused when we are not meeting in person to share in worship.

This weekend I celebrate the tenth anniversary of my ordination as a priest and had planned to share this celebration with you all in church. Sadly, along with so many other things, this was not to be. However I do want to say that, for me, there is no better place to be than here among you all in West Kingsdown. I thank you for the love and support I receive from you.

This week, for those of you with internet access, besides having a printed copy of the service for the Third Sunday after Trinity, you are able to join in with a recording of the service that Harriet and I made in the Rectory garden. I hope you enjoy sharing this together. Please click on the link <https://youtu.be/vcSPUvuPE-I> As a warning, towards the end there is a space for private prayer which lasts for approximately a minute, two pictures will appear on screen during this time of silence.

It is the first time we have attempted a whole service and we are learning as we go. The afternoon that we recorded was the noisiest since we began lockdown, the road traffic was constant, there was even the sound of an aeroplane overhead and so there is a background noise throughout the outside recording I'm afraid. I want to say a **huge thank** you to my son **Jamie**, who edited and put it all together, without him there would be no completed video. Please do let me know what you think. I continue to hold you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah