

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

Another week has passed by with encouraging news that we have hopefully reached the peak of the pandemic here in the United Kingdom and that preparations are being made for us to enter phase two. However now is not the time to become complacent as we are far from 'out of the woods' yet. Whatever new plans are presented to us on Thursday the road ahead will be long and drawn out and we must continue to be patient. I am sure many of us are experiencing a whole host of emotions from sadness, depression, frustration through to fear and uncertainty in what the future holds. What we must not lose sight of is **hope**, hope for a better future where we will live lives of compassion, caring for one another, continuing the amazing spirit that has been shown by people in such amazing ways during these dark times. The stories are numerous but the one that everybody must have heard this week is that of Captain Tom on his 100th birthday raising over 31 million pounds for the NHS. We are not all Captain Tom, we are who we are, God's wonderful unique creation made in his image, and we are all in our small way, I'm sure, playing our part.

Sadly as a church family we lost another one of our flock this past week. Derek Kirby, a lovely gentleman died last Sunday afternoon. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral service will take place on Tuesday 19th May attended only by close family members. We will however, when all this is over, hold a memorial service which we will all be able to attend where we will celebrate his life. Please hold Derek's family in your prayers.

I want to share with you a picture that one of the younger members of our congregation drew at Easter. Some of you may already have seen it on our Facebook page but I just think it says



hope

much from them.



everything that we need to hear and know.

Another one of our children wanted to go and see the church and check on it. This is Madison looking at the notice on the church door seeing if she could find an 'M' for Madison.

Our young people bring us such for the future. We can learn so

Togetherness

So many people are pulling together and helping one another through these times of struggle. I have several other pictures and thoughts to share with you over the coming weeks but if you have something that you would like to share please let me know and I will try and include it.

Trying to stay connected with people during this time can be difficult. In the past two weeks I have managed to meet up with a number of children in our church school by sharing together in their class ZOOM sessions. It's a way of linking together via the internet and I have thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the children from Sapphire and Topaz classes. Now I am quite a technophobe and so this has been a tremendous experience for me. On Tuesday I am conducting a whole school act of worship via ZOOM, I'm rather nervous as to how it will go but know that it is a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with the children and staff, so please hold me in your prayers on Tuesday at 11am. I'll let you know how it goes in next weeks letter.

On Friday we celebrate VE Day and although we aren't now able to meet together for any of the planned activities I know that people are planning celebrations in their own homes and again one of the classes at school is having a ZOOM VE day virtual party!

This week we wish a very Happy Birthday to **Sarah Cashman**. Hope you have a day where you are waited on hand and foot by all those in your household. Have a lovely day.

I asked if Madison's mummy and daddy would send a picture of her birthday celebrations



and here it is to bring you cheer. Madison with her brother Finley and a beautiful birthday cake.

Prayer & Worship

I hope that you are all, by now, finding a way to worship that is right for you. I know it is so very difficult not being able to meet together but remember our Lord is with us every step of the way in our good days and even more so in the down ones.

I have tried to establish a daily routine of prayer, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't and on a Sunday morning I join in with the virtual service from the Church of England at 9am. Please look back over past letters for all the various resources you can access. This week the Church of England launched a **free** telephone line, Daily Hope, where you can listen to hymns, reflections and prayers **0800 804 8044**. Why not give it a try?

I'm sorry that I am not keeping in touch with you all as regularly as I would like but please do phone or email I love to hear from you. You all remain in my prayers.

Every blessing **Rev Sarah**