

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 what a drop in temperature from this time last week. As sit here writing to you today it is grey, windy with rain in the air. I'm trying not to moan about the weather too much, at least not about the rain, because we are very much in need of it. The land is very dry at a time that crops need water for growth. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it could rain whilst we sleep and the sun shine during our waking hours, although of course that wouldn't work if we were awake and working during the night and then sleeping through the day. It appears that our weather has changed just as we are allowed to meet up to five other people socially distancing in our gardens or out in open spaces.



We did however manage just that on Thursday in the churchyard. Whilst carefully keeping at a distance a much needed clear up took place. Thank you so much to all who turned up to give a helping hand, Pauline, Julie, Geoff, Brian, Ann, Pat, Jakki and of course our leader Don, who has been working tirelessly trying to keep everything under control. Here you can see two of our wonderful volunteers, Geoff and Ann, hard at work. We hope to be able to repeat this again, **not** this coming week but **the week after next**. More information will

follow in next weeks letter.

Although our church is, sadly, closed at the moment it is important that the churchyard is kept looking 'spick and span'. As soon as we are able we will continue with ongoing maintenance of the building. Although Pat worked hard on Thursday clearing all of the gutters around the church there are other jobs that need to be completed. Don and I continue to keep a check on the inside. Once contractors are allowed in there are several jobs that will need to be finished. Somehow in these extremely difficult times we have to maintain our beautiful church with very little income. All the bills still have to be paid, this morning I authorised a single payment of over £1200 for our insurance cover. Our expenditure at this time far exceeds our income and with no major fund raising events in the foreseeable future and no regular plate giving we are eating into our small reserve of funds very quickly. A massive thank you to everybody that has found they are able to continue to give on a regular basis via online banking or standing orders and those that have given one off donations. They are very much appreciated and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I promise you I will do all



that I can to keep our church afloat for us today and for future generations like Finley Powell here who enjoys stopping for a rest and snack on the bench outside our main door. What a wonderful smile Finley! (You have grown so much since the last time I saw you in church).

I thank Kim for her skill and diligence with our accounts, always ready and able to answer my numerous questions.



Togetherness

This past week children in reception, year 1, and year 6 started back at our church school, joining the children of key workers. The school has been open for key workers children every week day, including all through school holidays, since 19th March. Mrs Phillips, the head teacher, along with her staff worked tirelessly putting in place all the necessary measures to make sure that the school was safe and ready for the children to return. On Wednesday I will be leading another school Act of Worship over ZOOM.

Jon Battershill continued his marathon walk around the village this week, delivering the remaining prayer books and taking photographs. I believe the montage is coming along very nicely.

I do still have a few prayer books left, if you know of anybody that would like one please let me know. Also if you hear of anybody that would like to receive the weekly mailing please also let me know.

As a church family we have no birthdays to celebrate this week but I am aware that there are quite a number of people for whom I have no information. So if it is your birthday and you haven't received birthday wishes and a card please forgive me and help me to rectify things by sending me your birthday date, I know there are at least 20 of you!

Prayer and Worship

*" O Lord, You have searched,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar."*

These are beautiful words from Psalm 139, the psalm goes on in verse 14 to say *"I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;"* We are all wonderful, because God made us as wonderful beings. It doesn't mean that we always do what is right, we all mess up at some time. In fact, because of my human nature, I know that I mess up in some way every single day, but I am assured of God's forgiveness when I acknowledge what I have done and say that I am sorry. If you get a moment read verses 1-16 of this psalm. I don't know about you, but I'm finding that things are getting to be rather tedious the longer our current situation goes on and yet I know that I am blessed in so many ways and that I must **see every day as a blessing from God**. I admit that although the worship I tune into on a Sunday Morning via the Church of England website is good I am struggling with being the only physical presence and long to be able to worship with you all again. It is hard to keep a structure of prayer and worship when we are not able to meet together but do try. If nothing else, each morning as you wake, lift the day to God and ask him to be at the heart of all that you do that day. This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, where we celebrate God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Please do look at and use the Sunday worship sheet and read Rev Harriet's Reflection on The Trinity. **Every Blessing Rev Sarah**