

Parish Church of  
**St. Edmund King & Martyr**  
West Kingsdown



**Rector:**

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**Dear Friends**

I took these photographs last Sunday morning, the first time the church had been open for over 16 weeks. It was such a joy to open the door and for people to be able to come inside once more for private prayer. In the photograph on the right the board to the left of the door gives all the information needed from sanitising your hands to keeping a social distance. The photograph below shows the open west door and looks straight down the aisle to the altar where the candles are lit. Not only was it good to welcome members of the congregation into church but also to catch up with the numerous people that walk through the churchyard, many accompanied by their dogs, whom I hadn't seen for such a long time. The sun



shone and the door was flung wide. Although the weather was far from bright and sunny on Wednesday afternoon it

was good to welcome several others into church then. Unfortunately we are unable to have any candles out for individuals to light, neither do we have any bibles or prayer books out so if you would like to light a candle and have it placed on the altar please can I ask that you bring your own. Also if you would like to read from scripture whilst you are in church please bring your own bible along with you.

No services will be held in church for the time being including baptisms, weddings and funerals. A number of people have asked why this is as the government have given permission for services to take place. However along with giving permission

for buildings to be open for worship came a list of things to be considered before it could happen. When we do finally hold services, because we must allow a minimum of one metre social distancing, we will only be able to have 30 people at any one service.

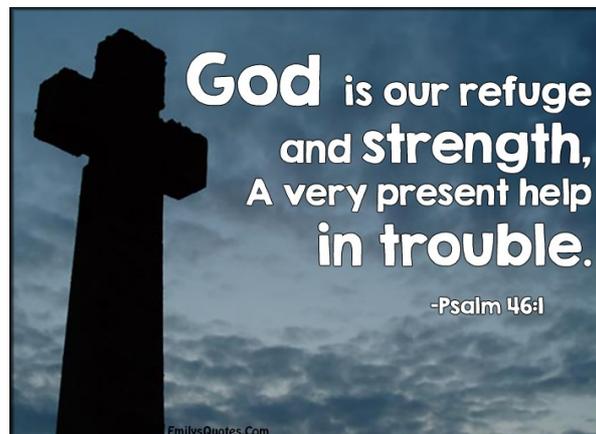


## Togetherness

As each day passes it appears that more and more restrictions of lockdown are being lifted. However we must not become complacent or careless but must remain ever vigilant when we are out and about, the virus is still with us.

For those of you who are still shielding, on the one hand, it must be increasingly frustrating not to be able to go out and on the other the possible thought of doing so quite fearful. I offer you words from Psalm 46 verse 1. I hope they help.

I am afraid that this week has brought some more sad news. Last Sunday afternoon a dear member of our congregation, Greta Chesney, lost her husband John. John had suffered ill health for some while but had always fought bravely on. I am sure Greta's loving care of him helped him so much. Please hold Greta in your prayers.



We celebrate two more birthdays this week, two lovely ladies **Happy Birthday to Moya Arundel** on the 12<sup>th</sup> and **Joan Mayes** on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Whatever you are able to do I hope you have a lovely day.

### Worship

This week Harriet and I recorded our worship inside our church building. I'm afraid with just two of us inside there is quite an echo. If you are able print off the order of service that is sent with the weeks mailing so that you are able to follow it through. I remain extremely grateful to my son Jamie for putting together our amateur recording (done using an ipad) into something that is quite professional.

This is the link for this week's service <https://youtu.be/Lyh7a9xza58> which goes live at 7am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. You can also view it via our website [www.st-edmund.co.uk](http://www.st-edmund.co.uk) I am so sorry that many of you are not able to connect with worship in this way but hope that you are able to use the printed service sheet in your own homes.

I end my letter this week by sharing with you one of the prayers from the C of E booklet 'Prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak. Especially for those of you that are feeling isolated or fearful.

**O God, help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe  
that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Blessing **Rev Sarah**

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