

# 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

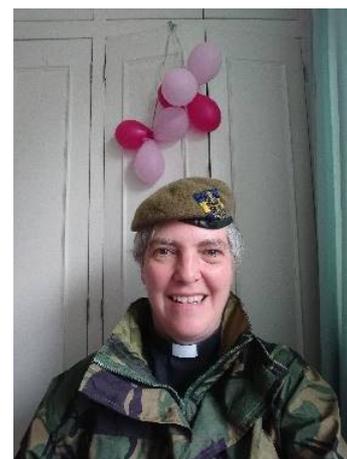
This weekend we were due to be hosting our Flower Festival on the theme of 'Community'. The displays and arrangements were going to showcase all of the various groups and activities that happen both at St. Edmunds and within the wider village. Sadly, as with everything else at this time of pandemic it has been postponed until another time, if all continues to go well 2021 could end up being a very busy year! There was to be a 'display in a yoghurt pot section', where we were going to encourage our young people from Toddler Church, Sunday Fun Club and our school to create their very own display. So as to avoid disappointment, Bert the hedgehog, who has appeared in a previous mailing and on the noticeboards at church, put together the display here on the right using **Hawthorn**, **Oak**, **Photinia** and **Euonymus** which spells the word **HOPE**. What a clever hedgehog he is! Well done Bert and thank you Geraldine.



## Togetherness

On Sunday Don and I, along with the dogs Bosco and Henry, paid a 'socially distancing' visit to Rosemary to wish her a very Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Her neighbour Andrew had very kindly put a garden chair outside her front door so that she could chat to any callers she might have. Rosemary phoned to ask me to pass on her thanks for the many cards, flowers and good wishes she received.

On Tuesday we said our farewells to Derek, it was wonderful to see so many of you along the roadside as he left West Kingsdown for the last time. His family were very moved by your presence. Thank you so much. On Friday the reception class children had a virtual Fancy Dress Party on ZOOM. The picture on the right is not of Rev Harriet in her new role but in fancy dress, dressed as an Army Chaplain. She is all ready to party with her pink balloons!! I shared a ZOOM quiz with year 1, the children all got 10/10, I only managed 8! Well done to Topaz class.



Thank you for sending me your rainbows, keep them coming in and I'll add them to the display.

Thank you too for your phone calls and emails, I so enjoy receiving them. Please forgive me if I don't always respond as quickly as I would like. I love to hear of the ways that you are all caring for one another and keeping in touch. What a fantastic job you are doing.

This week we have two birthdays to celebrate, and say **Happy Birthday** to Steve Garrett and Mike Wesley. I hope you both enjoy your day.

### **Prayer and Worship**



*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul. 'therefore I will hope in him.' "* Lamentations 3:22-24

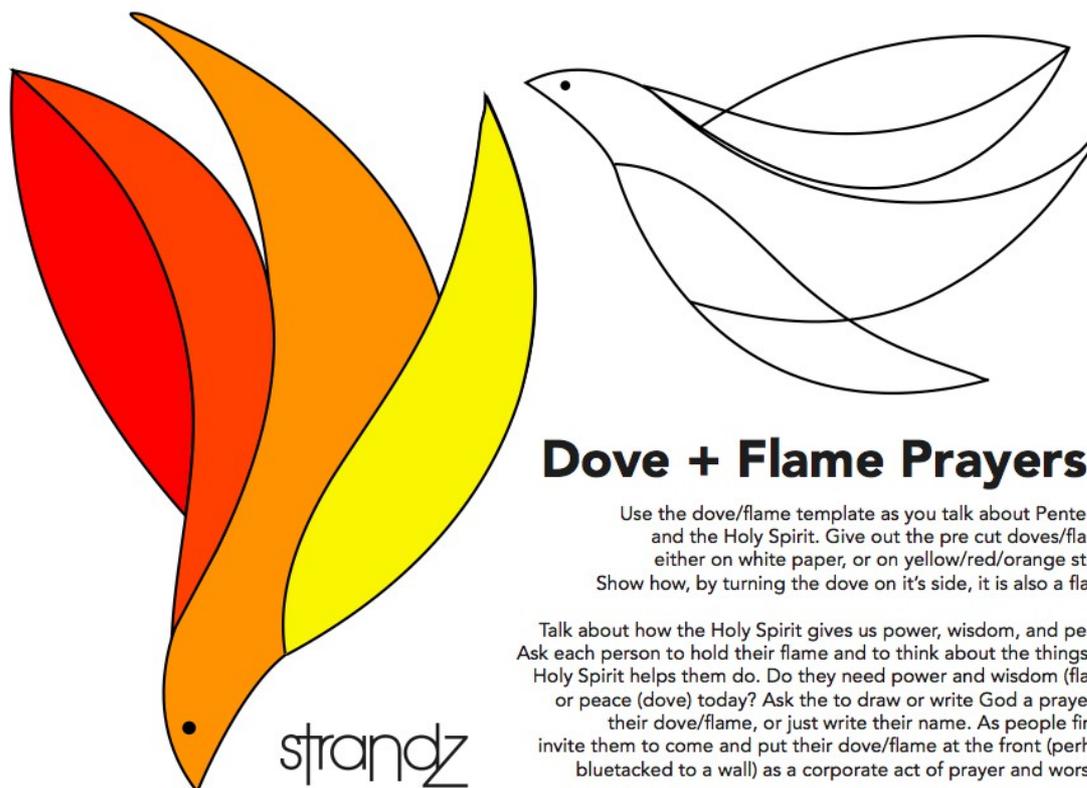
This verse brings me a lot of comfort as it tells me God's LOVE never ceases and that we must HOPE in him. Although we are very slowly coming out of our enforced lockdown I fear that it will still be many weeks before we are able to meet together in any sort of large groups and then probably still having to keep to social distancing rules. The longer this continues the more isolated we can become and so the assurance of God's love is of paramount importance and we must never give up hope (remember the plants in Bert's flower arrangement). Prayer is a very important part of our connection with God however, sometimes in our darkest times, we can find that difficult and need help. In the past week Jon has been delivering a little prayer book, a gift from me to you, which I hope will be of some help especially through the more challenging times. There are still quite a few to give out (I didn't order enough!) so if you haven't had your copy yet it will be on its way to you shortly. The book is compiled and published by the Church of England and is beautiful in its simplicity. In the picture above you can see Madison reading hers as she walks around Leybourne Lakes. Hannah, her mum tells me she wouldn't let anyone else have it. I hope you enjoy using it as much as Madison appears to.

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

We are, at present, in the period of time between Ascension and Pentecost, a time where we especially pray for God's Kingdom to come and for there to be an outpouring of his Holy Spirit. For those of you that are able you might like to visit the Thy Kingdom Come website that will give you information and a wide range of free resources to help you engage in this global initiative [www.thykingdomcome.gobal](http://www.thykingdomcome.gobal)

### **Dove and Flame Prayers for Pentecost**

The dove and flames of fire are both signs of the Holy Spirit and his coming at Pentecost. You might like to cut out the templates below and put them up in your homes or the window of your home for all to see as they pass by. You could also make them bigger by copying the original template. This is something for all generations, however young or old. Go on why not give it a go!



## Dove + Flame Prayers

Use the dove/flame template as you talk about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. Give out the pre cut doves/flames either on white paper, or on yellow/red/orange stock. Show how, by turning the dove on it's side, it is also a flame.

Talk about how the Holy Spirit gives us power, wisdom, and peace. Ask each person to hold their flame and to think about the things the Holy Spirit helps them do. Do they need power and wisdom (flame) or peace (dove) today? Ask the to draw or write God a prayer on their dove/flame, or just write their name. As people finish, invite them to come and put their dove/flame at the front (perhaps bluetacked to a wall) as a corporate act of prayer and worship.

### Reminders of all the ways you can engage with worship

In my weekly letter during this period of lockdown I have shared with you the various ways that you can engage with worship in your homes and I list them here again as a reminder. Why not try something new this week. Establishing a daily/weekly rythm of worship and prayer is important for our spiritual well-being.

Firstly there is

- ! the weekly Sunday Worship sheet attached
- ! the daily Morning Prayer service for Ascension through to Pentecost (in last weeks mailing).
- ! Sunday Worship 10.15am on BBC 1 television
- ! Songs of Praise 1.15pm BBC 1 television
- ! Daily Hope, **free** phone line **0800 804 8044** where you can listen to hymns, reflections and prayers

For those with internet access

- ! visit the diocesan website [www.rochester.anglican.org/worship-online](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/worship-online) and share in the various prayers, sermons, reflections that are there as well as the weekly Choral Evensong service hosted by the Canon Presentor of the cathedral
- ! each Sunday morning at 9am there is a virtual serivce, sometimes this is Eucharistic, hosted on the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) This service can also be listened to on BBC radio.
- ! Daily meditation - Pray As You Go <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or Sacred Space <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>
- ! Before you go to sleep listen in to the Bible Sleep App – Bible Sleep Talk Down, I will be with you.

You all remain in my thoughts and prayer.

Every blessing **Rev Sarah**