

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Queuing for Worship



This was the scene last Sunday morning before the church door was opened, a queue to get in! Everybody waiting patiently in the morning sunshine, all keeping to the government guidelines of two metre distancing. Well done, we can show the world that we know what needs to be done. However my attempt at recording the service didn't go so well. I managed to record the whole service at the correct speed BUT cut my head off along with David and Geraldine who were reading and leading the prayers. Hopefully, this week will be third time lucky!

Change in Government guidance

On Wednesday this week I woke to hear that guidance regarding the numbers we could socialise with had changed and I know that for some this led to uncertainty as to whether worship in church would once again be halted. There was no need to worry for later that morning the **Archbishop of Canterbury** tweeted the following, "**After contact with Government we hear that there is no change to guidance on places of worship. Worship is the work of God – not a social gathering – and gives the strength to love and serve.**" The message put a smile on my face in more ways than one.

The new guidance, called the 'Rule of Six', not only comes into play on Monday but also then becomes the 'Law of Six', placing a somewhat different emphasis from guidance to law. There is uncertainty as to how long this will stay in place, but I think we must be realistic as autumn draws into winter that it will probably be for some time. I know this is not the news that we really want to hear but we must all try to play our part to keep the virus under control. All the time that we can continue with worship and the opening of our church for private prayer, however restrictive that might be, we will continue to do so. What we are not able to do is all the social and fund raising activities that are so much part of our church outreach and community life. Wherever and in whatever way possible we will mark our usual calendar of worship, celebrations and events but in much smaller and different ways.

Harvest

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday 4th October. I am in the process of planning for this and will have details ready for next weeks letter.

School Worship & Bibles for Year 5 Pupils

I am able once again to lead school worship and on Tuesday I was delighted to return to school to do just that. Because the children must remain in their 'bubbles' they are not allowed to meet to worship as a whole school. Each week I will lead a different 'bubble'. The worship this week was based on rebuilding community, looking at the story of Nehemiah, who living in exile in Babylon returned home to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah knew it wasn't just the bricks and mortar building but the rebuilding of a community that was of greatest importance. When I asked the children what could help them rebuild their school community after having been apart for so long their immediate response, without any prompting, was by using their Christian values of **Love, Respect, Trust** and **Courage** and by '**letting their light shine**' (taken from their school vision statement based on Matthew 5:15-16). They were amazing!

A massive thank you for your immense generosity we have been able to buy each child in year 5 a Youth Bible. Usually we hold a special presentation service in church for the year 5 pupils but this year I am hoping it will take place in school during a class 'bubble' act of worship.

Birthdays

There is just one birthday that I know of from the church community this week and that is Seb Sullivan. Happy Birthday Seb. I hope you have a lovey day.

APCM

A reminder that because of lockdown our APCM has been rescheduled to take place on **Sunday 11th October 2020** at **11.15am** in church. **We need to elect the following**

Churchwardens

These are elected each year. Angela Beale is happy to continue to stand, Rosemary Gray is standing down after 10 years of service, which I thank her for (more will be said at the meeting). I have also had an offer from somebody who is willing to stand.

Deanery Synod Representatives

We have space for two representatives on synod who are elected for a three year term.

PCC Representatives

We have nine members on PCC who sit for a term of three years. These members are elected on a rolling programme of re-election with three standing down each year. Once you have served a three year stint you cannot be re-elected for a year.

The **election forms** for church warden, deanery synod and PCC representatives are **available from me**. I will have some with me after church but do contact me if you would like one and I can either email it to you or post it through your door. **If you are interested in standing for any of the vacancies and would like to know what the role involves please contact me.**

The updated Electoral Roll will be posted both at the back of church and on the website from next Sunday 20th September and the **Annual Report & Accounts** from Sunday 27th September. If you are not able to view the website and would like a copy please contact me and I will make sure you receive a hard copy.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah