

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Dear Friends

I hope you have all had a good week, although I understand the weather here in West Kingsdown has been rather mixed. Don and I spent another few days in Westgate where the weather was generally pretty good. We were able to spend the whole of last Saturday on the beach with family members which included my sister and brother-in-law, their children and grandchildren. We effectively had two "Bubbles", however the children all had a wonderful time on the beach and in the sea together. I have no further leave planned until the first week of December, when we are due to visit the Christmas Markets in Berlin. This was booked in January but whether it will go ahead is anybody's guess.

Worship

At the moment I don't plan anything too far ahead as guidance in many areas changes constantly. Usually by now all the prominent dates and events of the coming months leading up to Christmas would be firmly fixed in the diary and planning well in progress but that is not the case this year. The really positive piece of news is that next **Sunday 30th August at 10am**, we will hold our first public act of worship since the beginning of the pandemic. Unfortunately, as I stated last week you will need to **indicate your intension to attend** by phoning **Angela Beale** on **01474 852513**. You can do this from this coming **Monday, 24th August**. If you are then unable to attend please also let Angela know in case there is anybody else who would like to take that place.

For everybody's safety I once again list the following

To keep to the rules on social distancing we will only be able to take a total of **24 people** at any one service.

- ! You can only book one week at a time. Bookings will be taken from the Monday leading up to the Sunday.
- ! All members of the congregation **will need to wear a face covering**
- ! You will be asked to **gel your hands** on entering the building
- ! Unfortunately you will not be able to sit where you choose or with whom you choose. You will be shown to your seat and the church will have to be filled from the front to the back. There will be only one person in each pew. Groups from the same household will be able to sit together. Please give all names when booking so that seating can be worked out.
- ! We are not able to sing but we will have hymns and music to listen to
- ! An order of service will be in each place and you are asked to take it home with you.



! Your name will be kept for 21 days from the date you attend worship.

Please do not let this put you off coming to worship.

We have come through and dealt with so much over the past five months and we will adapt to this too. I look forward to welcoming you back to our spiritual home.

For the first two weeks the service will not be Eucharistic but a service of the word as I need to assess how things are going. If all goes to plan, the first Eucharist service will be on the 13th September.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

For the time being there will not be any baptism or funeral services in church. The reasons for this are twofold. Firstly if the church is not left for 72 hours between opening/services it has to be deep cleaned each time it is used. Secondly the church building is not big enough whilst adhering to government and the Church of England guidance on numbers and social distancing. I constantly keep this under review as new guidance comes out.

I do have two weddings booked for the end of September and the middle of October. These are both very small affairs and both couples know of all the regulations. It does however mean that the church will have to be given an extra clean on the Saturday afternoon after each wedding.

Church Open for Private Prayer

The church will be open tomorrow Sunday from 9.30-12.30pm and on Wednesday from 2-4pm. From next Sunday (30th) it will be open for from 9.45-11am for worship and on a Wednesday for private prayer from 2-4pm

Weekly Mailing and recorded service.

I'm really sorry, but as I only returned from leave today, there hasn't been time to record a service this week.

From next weekend there will be changes to the weekly mailing and recorded service. There will be **NO** emailed out mailing. Instead the Order of Service for the week and letter will be available through our church website www.st-edmunds.co.uk . It will also be referenced on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/StEdmundKingandMartyr . The Sunday service will be recorded as it takes place and put onto the website as quickly as possible afterwards. Please bear with me whilst we adjust to these changes. For as long as I can I will deliver out the Order of Service and letter to those that already receive it this way (those without internet). The letter may not be as full and will for the time being take the place of the Pew Sheet.

Over the coming weeks and months we will, as we have been doing for many weeks now, have to adapt and find new and different ways of doing and being church. The various groups that run week by week will be reintroduced as soon as guidance tells us it is safe to do so.

Please rest assured that I am here for you all and will do my very best to keep us all connected but there is only one of me and only a certain number of hours to each day. From this week I will go back to taking my day off on a Monday. Please pray for me as I pray for you and for our church in this place, that both as individuals and as a church our faith may grow.

Thank you to you all for your continued commitment and generosity during what has been and continues to be a very difficult time.

Birthdays this week



We wish a very **Happy Birthday** to two wonderful ladies this week. On Tuesday 25th **Ann Munro** celebrates her birthday and on Thursday 27th **Janet Jones**. I hope you both enjoy your special day doing the things you like to do most.

Hope you have a lovely week and that I might catch up with some of you very soon.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah