Parish Church of

St. Edmund King & Martyr

West Kingsdown

Rector:

The Rev'd Sarah Corry, The Rectory, School Lane, West Kingsdown TN15 6JL

E-mail: revsarahcorry@gmail.com Tel/Fax: 01474 852265



To all members of our church family and local community

We are living through extremely difficult and anxious times. Coronavirus has taken hold and we must do whatever we are asked if we are to bring the pandemic under control. I know that this will not be an easy task especially if you are living alone and having to selfisolate. It is at times like these that it would be so good to be able to get together face to face and share our concerns and worries, however we must accept that this is not possible and therefore find other ways of doing so. Please try and keep in touch with family and friends by telephone or, if you are able, with any of the various forms of technology that exist.

As you probably know by now, ALL church activities, groups and services are suspended until further notice. We are putting various things into operation over the coming days and we will keep you informed as to what is happening via our website www.st-edmunds.co.uk and Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/StEdmundKingandMartyr/

First and foremost please remember that Harriet and I are here for you and only an email or phone call away. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are in any sort of need, we have very good listening ears. (Harriet is on leave for a week starting 23rd March, so please do not contact her during that time unless it is an absolute emergency). As a church we are also here to help with the practical things that may need doing and, along with others in the village will help in any way we can. In the first instance either make contact with me via phone 01474 852265 or email revsarahcorry@gmail.com or Lynda Harrison, Clerk to West Kingsdown Parish Council wkpclerk@gmail.com

In trying to support individuals spiritual needs I list some of the things that are going on that you might find helpful.

- The church will be open every day should you wish to spend some time there for quiet reflection or prayer. Please do not go into the building if you are suffering any symptoms of the virus. Also please uphold the social distancing rule of 2m if others are there at the same time.
- I will be saying Daily Prayer in church every day at 9.30am, sadly I have been advised that, this cannot be open to all as it would then be classified as public worship. Although you are not able to physically join me perhaps you might join in in your own home. There is an app called 'Daily Prayer' that you can get on your mobile phone, if you have one.

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I will be producing a paper copy which I can either email you or deliver to you if you let me know that you would like a copy.

- ! At 4pm each afternoon wherever you are please join with me for a short time of prayer. There is a prayer printed at the bottom of this letter that you might like to use at this time. I will be sending out others over time.
- Daily meditation you can listen to or read on line 'Pray As You Go https://pray-as- you-go.org/ or Sacred Space https://www.sacredspace.ie/
- Nationally broadcast acts of worship which will be carried across much of the BBC radio network including local radio. This coming Sunday is Archbishop Justin Welby from Lambeth Palace at 8am

I will keep you updated with other things as time goes on.

The Archbishops of Canterbury & York call us to make this Sunday a focus of **prayer**, and at 7pm place a lighted candle in our window as a symbol of the light and hope of Christ.

During the next few days either Harriet or I will try to phone all of our church family. We will then be looking for people to help keep in touch with others. Some people have already intimated that this is something that they would be interested in doing. If you would like to offer your services in this or other ways, for instance collecting and delivering peoples medication, getting essential shopping for those in isolation, I would be really grateful if you could let me know and then I can start to compile a list that, if you are happy for me to do, could feed into the list already held by Lynda Harrison.

> Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Be assured that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

With every blessing **Rev Sarah**