

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

I'm sure that most of you will have heard by now the very sad news that Val Wesley passed away on Tuesday (16th) morning. Val was a much loved member of our church community and she will be greatly missed. She was a long serving member of the PCC, churchwarden and chair of the Fun and Fund Raising Committee only standing down from these positions in 2018. She worked tirelessly for the church in so many ways. She was a committed long standing member of the choir, offered pastoral support to many and recently, along with Mike, took on the leadership of a very successful Bible Study group. In 2014 Val was pivotal in my appointment as Rector and her support was boundless.



The picture to the right was created by Bert the hedgehog with the help of Geraldine. Bert has featured several times in my letters during this time of pandemic and this appeared the morning after Val's death and I believe says what many of us feel – we hold her in our hearts with love.

Val's funeral will take place on Thursday 2nd July at 12.30pm and, because of the times we are in, will be attended by twenty invited mourners. Unfortunately it will not take place in our beautiful church, Val's spiritual home for many years, a place that she loved, because the building is too small to allow for social distancing. Val knew this and accepted the situation with grace and understanding. It will instead be in the chapel at Bluebell Cemetery, Halsted.

I know there are many church members, as well as members of the village community that would want to attend and pay their final respects if they were able to do so. There will be two opportunities for you all to do this, one on the day of the funeral and the other at a time in the future.

On the day of the funeral Val's cortege will leave from the church lych gate. The hearse will drive in, position itself at the gate and wait a few moments before driving back out along the track. Those attending the funeral will be in their cars in the car park and will follow behind the hearse. I would encourage as many of you that are able to either come and line the track from the church to Fawkham Road or take your place on any other part of the route, Fawkham Road and the A20 London Road going towards Eynsford, making sure that you keep to the social distancing guidelines. I will give a reminder next week with an indication of the time scale.

Please hold Mike, Vicki, Simon and all the family in your prayers.

Togetherness

As I indicated last week Jon had completed his montage he is now delivering a picture to everybody who is in it. When Jon first spoke to me about it he said he hoped it would be a way of us, each from our own homes, connecting with other members of the church family – a doorstep sharing of the peace. Please do use this wonderful image to help you focus on the members of our congregation as we hold one another and our households in prayer.



Look carefully there are faces from far and wide not just those of our congregation that live in the village. Can you spot our dear friend Reg Endres, a face that we haven't seen for such a long time. Thank you for bringing us together in this way Jon.

I had a lovely gift arrive at my door this week, a sunflower plant. After posting a spoof photograph of a sunflower last week Ann Munro potted me one of her seedlings. As you can see from the photograph it has pride of place on the table outside my study window. I will make sure I tend to its every need and hopefully it will grow to a great height and be adorned with a beautiful flower, as they say 'watch this space'.

After having a couple of weeks without a birthday to celebrate we have a very special celebration this week, one with a zero on the end.



Happy Birthday Elizabeth Stoneham

Hope you have a wonderful, if somewhat different day from the one you had hoped to have.

Prayer and Worship

Rev Harriet and I met together in the rectory garden this week to talk about worship and a way forward as we continue to come out of lockdown. I'm afraid, there's not much to report regarding going back in to church to share worship but we are hoping to sort something a little different for next weeks mailing, again watch this space.

I know it is getting more and more difficult to stay focused as time goes on. But do try and dip into some of the things I've listed in previous letters. If something you have listened to, watched, taken part in has spoken to you please do share it with me and then I might be able to pass it on to others.

Included in this mailing is a service for tomorrow with a reflection by Rev Harriet. For those of you that have internet access tomorrows Church of England on line service is a Eucharist which recognises Windrush Day and at the end includes a special video to mark Father's Day.

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online