

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Newsletter 24th January 2021 (14)

Dear Friends

Here we are again, another week has past and we are fast approaching the end of January. This time last year the first cases of Coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan City, China in late December 2019, were beginning to rear their ugly heads on our shores leading to the countrywide lockdown on the 23rd March. Who would have thought then that a year on and we would be in an even more critical position than we were back then? It's been extremely tough on everybody. We are created to interact with one another and by nature that is what the majority of people want to do and yet that is precisely what we are told not to do and we must adhere to that guidance. We have been told to stay away from one another and I have missed you all, not just on a Sunday when we meet to worship together but also on all the other occasions that we look forward to. The times spent catching up in the Pop-In, the Coffee and Chat sessions, Toddler Church, our monthly trips out for a pub lunch as well as all the other social and fun raising events.

The longer this goes on the more I feel the disconnect. This doesn't mean that you are out of sight and therefore out of mind. Indeed, it does not, in fact that is far from the case. You are all constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I must admit that with the pressures of my workload I find it extremely difficult to keep in contact with you all as individuals and ask you to forgive me if I have not been in personal contact with you for a while. I do hope that these weekly letters go someway towards addressing my lack of individual contact. As I have said in the past, if you email or phone me, I will always get back to you, although this can take a little time, for which I apologise. I have in recent weeks had problems both with my phone line and email and so if you were expecting a reply from me and haven't received one this may be the reason. Do please try again.

Although I moan about technology, especially when it breaks down, where would we have been without it in the last ten months? I have to admit to being a bit of a technophobe, something that I have admitted many times before. However, the situation I have found myself in means that I have been on and continue to be on a very steep learning curve. This time last year I had never heard of ZOOM let alone conducted school worship, held study groups and numerous meetings via it. I had never recorded worship, had it put on to YouTube (for which I thank my son Jamie for his tireless work in preparing the recording that I send to him) and never contemplated holding Sunday Morning worship via ZOOM or even live streaming

worship from church, both of which I am now working on, so watch this space. It is the way forward and we must keep up with the times BUT please do not fear that all of this will replace what has gone before. It will not replace it but will enhance it. I cannot wait until we are able to meet once again in person to worship and that time will come, I can assure you, so just hold in there. A number of you have told me that you have either had your vaccination or have been called to book your appointment. That is absolutely brilliant news. Those of you who haven't heard yet I am sure will be hearing very shortly as the vaccines are rolled out.

Some of you, the more tech savvy, may wonder how I might be able to live stream worship from church when we have no internet connection there. Well from today, with a little help from our friends, we do! Mr Hulme, the new headteacher at our church primary school, has been speaking with his IT consultant as to the best way forward to having internet connection at church and has given us a device called a 'dongle' which enables this – absolutely brilliant – and it works! Why hadn't I thought of this before? Because I'm not tech savvy! Thank you Mr Hulme. Please don't expect anything to happen overnight, it is a work in progress, but St. Edmund's is slowly coming into the 21st century. But I promise you it will not forget all that is good about it's past. The two will work side by side in proclaiming the Gospel.

Worship

As I said in last weeks newsletter I will **record a short service each week** which will be **on our website www.st-edmunds.co.uk ready to be viewed from 6am on Sunday morning**. It will remain on the site for a week. The Order of Service to go with it will also be on the website.

Next Sunday is Candlemas and I hope to record a Eucharist service to celebrate the end of the Christmas and Epiphany season. Although the church is closed we are allowed to record a service with two or three in attendance. If you would like to read or lead the intercessions for this service and are happy to come into church to do this please let me know.

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in joining a live ZOOM act of worship on a Sunday Morning. It is now in the planning stages and I am exceedingly hopeful that this will happen. There will be more information to follow.

Rochester cathedral, (which is closed for worship) is live streaming worship twice a week, a Sunday Eucharist at 11am and Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on a Thursday. www.rochestercathedral.org On the top left hand side of the Home page there is a box 'Online service', click here.

The Church of England also hold online services on a Sunday and throughout the week www.churchofengland.org

If you are without internet remember that you can watch Songs of Praise on BBC1 at 1.15pm each Sunday.

Morning Prayer Readings

Date	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
24.01.21	113	Jonah 3:1-5,10	John3:16-21
25.01.21	66, 147:13-end	Ezekiel 3:22-end	Philippians 3:1-14
26.01.21	34, 36	Hosea 4:1-16	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
27.01.21	45,46	Hosea 5:1-7	1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1
28.01.21	47,48	Hosea 5:8-6:6	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
29.01.21	61,65	Hosea 6:7-7:2	1 Corinthians 11:17-end
30.01.21	68	Hosea ch 8	1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Our Community

People continue to show so much kindness in so many ways. Thank you again to Jon for delivering this mailing out to those of you in the village who have no internet access or for whom I have no email address. I know that he tries to see and speak to as many as he can as he goes around, keeping to all the social distancing rules of course. He does pass messages on to me. Thanks also to Angela Beale who has been keeping in contact with many by phone and again passing back messages. These messages help me to keep up to date. I'm sorry to hear that a number of you have been unwell and I wish you better. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am also very aware that there are others of you who are keeping in touch with those who are unable to get out. Thank you all.

If you have been offered an appointment for a vaccine and are unable to get to the location, please phone me. One of our congregation has kindly offered to help.

Birthdays

I only have one birthday on my list this week. Remember I can only wish you a happy birthday if I know it is happening! Wishing a beautiful little girl a very **Happy Birthday - Isla Bennett 2 years old today, 24th January**. I have missed seeing you at Toddler Church Isla. Hope you have a lovely day. I'm sure Mummy and Daddy will have some lovely surprises for you.



I hope you all have a good week.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah