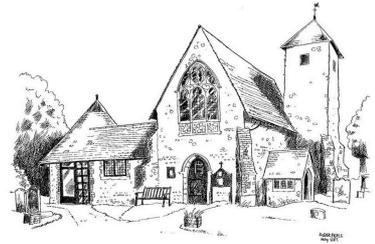


Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

The Rev'd Sarah Corry, The Rectory, School Lane, West Kingsdown TN15 6JL
Tel: 01474 852265 E-mail: revsarahcorry@gmail.com

Dear Friends

Yet another week has passed, things are slowly moving on but we are far from getting back to what was before. I fear we must continue to be patient and resolute for a number of weeks yet. I continue to get updates from the diocese three times a week and try to keep abreast of what is going on. Church buildings still remain closed to all but one church member and their household. There are many considerations to be made and decisions taken before we are able to open our church doors once again. Here at St. Edmunds over the coming days I will be discussing with Rev Harriet, the churchwardens and members of the PCC all that will need to be put into place before we can even begin to think of opening our door, once permission is granted to do so.

Togetherness

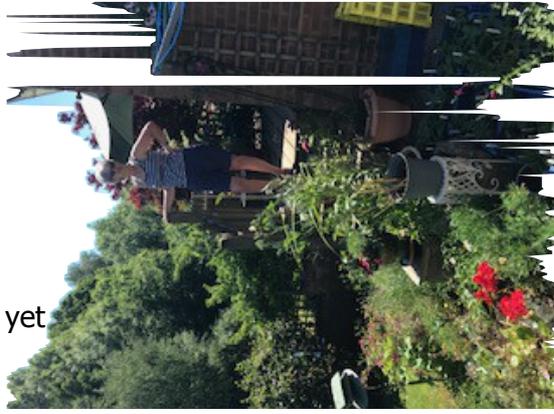
We must continue to be positive, stay connected and reach out to our church family and local community in different ways and not loose heart. I hear from many of you how you are playing your part during these very difficult times, helping with shopping, picking up medication, picking up the phone and having that much needed conversation, sending that much appreciated text or email or having that quick doorstep catch up keeping to the social distancing rules. Last week one of our lovely congregation said to me, "I feel so useless I can't do anything when so many are doing so much for me." I was about to say that there was something she could do when she said, "I do say my prayers though." She had taken the words right out of my mouth, she was doing something that was more important than anything else, she was praying. So when you too feel you are not able to do anything for



*'All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew
Me through change and chance he guideth
Only good and only true.*

others remember the task for you is to pray and that is the most important thing of all. I ask that you all continue to pray for our church and its people, its mission within the community especially at this time, and for the situation we currently find ourselves in remembering the words of the hymn,

Another initiative that I know many of you have already agreed to be part of is the Doorstep Photograph Montage that Jon Battershill is putting together. It is a wonderful way of connecting together from our own doorsteps, although apart we are still connected we are one community. What a fantastic record for our church to keep of our time of COVID-19



yet

lockdown. I know that Jon still has others to contact. There is no obligation to be part of this Montage but if you would like to be and haven't heard from Jon, call me and I will pass your details on to him.



Ann
Munro

has been very busy as well. She has been planting and nurturing a whole variety of plants, gaillardia, delphiniums, blue scabious, eryngium (blue), hostas, red pokers, perennial fuschia, lavenders, physostegia, perennials, salvia which are ready, along with some made up pots. All very good prices with money raised going much needed church funds. If you are interested **please give Ann a call on 01474 852140.** She has a side entrance

hot
now
at
to

and you will be able to choose your plants whilst social distancing. (This photo is of Ann and I social distancing) If you are not able to get out and choose your own I'm sure Ann will put them aside for you and I will then arrange delivery.

During this time of lockdown Don has continued to work in the **churchyard** keeping the grass cut and doing other small jobs when time has allowed. He has been working extremely hard but without the usual work parties at this time of year there are jobs that have not been done. To this end if any of you are able to **help with 'small' scale maintenance tasks, e.g. clearing around burial plots, could you join Don in the churchyard between 10am and 12noon this coming Thursday, 4th June.** Each individual or household will be given tasks that abide by the rules of social-distancing. You would need to bring your own gardening tools and any refreshments that you need. Unfortunately tools cannot be shared or communal refreshments provided. Neither will the toilet be available.

At this time we are still not able to deliver hard copies of SEKAM to every household in the village, however a condensed copy for the month of June has been produced. I attach a copy for all those that receive this mailing via email and a printed copy for those that receive a hard copy of the mailing. From the 1st June it can also be found on our church website <http://www.st-edmunds.co.uk> If you are asked about the June edition please direct people to our website.

This week we see another of our congregation becoming a nonagenarian, the fourth in the same number of months! We say a very **Happy 90th Birthday** to Bill Crocker for the 5th of June. Hope you have a great day Bill and so sorry that we will not be sharing it with you as a congregation. There will be lots of cake eating to catch up on once we do all meet together again.

Prayer and Worship

I want, for a moment to pick up on the conversation I had this week about 'I wish I could do something' and then realising that they were, in fact, doing the most important thing of

all **praying**. For each one of us this week would be an excellent time to reflect on our daily prayer life. Not to go on a guilt trip about what we are not doing but focusing on what we are and how we might change or improve on it. I put my hands up and admit some days my daily structure of prayer is absolutely rubbish. However I know that God knows me inside out and understands me and forgives me but I also know that he is most happy when I am in close conversation with him. That conversation does not always have to be a long drawn out formal prayer session full of words but can be a short pause in the day, a time of being with hands held open on your lap, no words being spoken. Prayer can take so many different forms find what is right for you but most of all make space in your day to **pray. It is something that every one of us can do.**



This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, where God sent his Holy Spirit to be with his people for all time,

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.*

A day of great joy and celebration, a time for a party with cake and balloons, which is the norm at St. Edmunds, this year however I'm afraid this picture will have to suffice. However when we are able to once again meet together, as promised earlier, there will be cake and there will be lots of it! Please do engage with a service either on television or on-line and when you share in that service think of our church community at St. Edmunds and imagine us gathered together for worship. Think too of our wider community of West Kingsdown and hold them all in prayer. I once again share with you the various ways you can engage with worship in your own homes.



- ! the weekly Sunday Worship sheet attached
- ! the daily Morning Prayer service for Ascension through to Pentecost (in last weeks mailing).
- ! Sunday Worship 10.15am on BBC 1 television
- ! Songs of Praise 1.15pm BBC 1 television
- ! Daily Hope, **free** phone line **0800 804 8044** where you can listen to hymns, reflections and prayers
- ! visit the diocesan website www.rochester.anglican.org/worship-online and share in the various prayers, sermons, reflections that are there as well as the weekly Choral Evensong service hosted by the Canon Presentor of the cathedral
- ! each Sunday morning at 9am there is a virtual service, sometimes this is Eucharistic, hosted on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org This service can also be listened to on BBC radio.
- ! Daily meditation - Pray As You Go <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> or Sacred Space <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>
- ! Before you go to sleep listen in to the Bible Sleep App – Bible Sleep Talk Down, I will be with you.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah