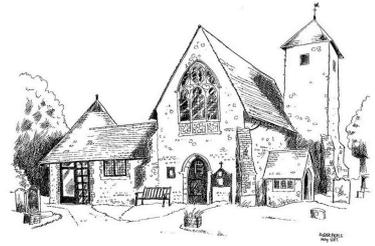


Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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

Dear Friends

As I sit here writing this third letter to you I look out of my window and see the beauty of the sun that is shining, the daffodils that are blooming and the trees that are bursting into life, coming out of the darkness of winter into the new light of spring. Darkness and light, two words that are of great significance to Christians, out of darkness came light, the light of Christ.

We are, metaphorically speaking, in dark times as a country and a world and yet the sun continues to shine, the birds sing and the flowers grow, this is the goodness of God's creation. I have always loved the beauty of the great outdoors, from snow covered mountains to the rolling seas, nothing revives me more and makes my heart sing. This time of enforced confinement has given me the space to appreciate this even more as Don and I have been able, along with our two dogs Bosco and Penny, to take daily walks together. I have explored new tracks and pathways that, although I have lived here for almost six years, I have never made the time to do before. We have a tendency to take so much for granted don't we? Especially the freedom to go about our daily lives as we please, that is until that freedom is taken away from us.

Togetherness

It gladdens my heart that through these difficult times the very best of (most) people comes to the fore, so many wanting to help in any way they can, from phoning those that are alone, to shopping and providing hot meals for others. An enormous thank you must go to Charmain and Steve at the Portobello who not only have been providing upward of a hundred hot meals to people in the village two to three times a week but also to NHS staff at Darrent Valley hospital. A massive thank you to them.

Times are hard but we will get through this and my prayer is that when we do we will be a changed and different people who will continue to love and support one another in similar ways.

Prayer and Worship

I have so missed being able to share worship with you face to face especially at this important time in the churches year and this next week, Holy Week, will seem very strange. I have felt so blessed to have had contact with many of you either by

phone or email and one or two of you face to face (of course within the guidelines of social distancing), for your wonderful words and willingness to share things that have touched you. I look forward to the day when we will once again be able to meet in our beautiful 'church in the woods' to pray and worship but until then we must do it from a distance remembering that we are journeying together.



Tomorrow is **Palm Sunday**, the first day of Holy Week, the day Jesus journeyed through Jerusalem and the people greeted him as King. Tomorrow we must make that journey in our own homes but there various ways we can join with others, by using the sheet that Harriet and I have put together and which is attached, through the internet (see last weeks letter for details), BBC television, Sunday Worship at 10.30am and Songs of Praise at 1.15pm, or on the radio. I also know that some of you have been able to link with relative and friends churches (enjoy your time linking with your brother Geoff).

During this **Holy Week** Rochester Diocese www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/seasonal/easter-and-holy-week have a number of things going on including online services www.rochestercathedral.org/worship-online

I also attach two reflections for **Good Friday**, one written by Rev Harriet and based on the East Window of our church and a second produced by Rev Dr Peter Hayler of Shipbourne with Plaxtol using pictures of the Stations of the Cross.

I intend, wherever possible, to keep to my pattern of daily prayer (see last weeks letter), although occasionally the times may vary a little, and I now light the candle in my window at **8pm**.

The readings for the next three weeks that accompany Morning Prayer are also attached.

I love to hear from you. Please do let me know how you are and how you are journeying this Holy Week, apart and yet together.

Lastly, birthday wishes this week go to **Val Wesley, Angie Skinner and Owen Abel** . You may not be able to celebrate in the way you would like but I wish you all a very Happy Birthday whatever you do.

With every blessing **Rev Sarah**