

Parish Church of  
**St. Edmund King & Martyr**  
West Kingsdown

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**Rector:**

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**This is our 2020 Paschal Candle**  
**The light of Christ**

Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and for ever. Amen

**Alleluia, Christ is risen**  
**Happy Easter!**

**Dear Friends**

It has been such a joy for me to have had contact with so many of you this past week, thank you so much for your phone calls and messages, your pictures and videos. We may be separate but we are trying so hard to stay connected. Please continue.

I must admit to travel through Holy Week alone has been a struggle but it has also given me much more time for personal reflection and to connect to things I wouldn't have done if we hadn't found ourselves in the situation that we do.

## Prayer and Worship

Last Sunday, Palm Sunday, I joined in with a virtual Eucharist service, posted on the Church of England website, taken by Bishop David the bishop of Manchester. I found it all quite emotional especially his words, "Crowds don't have to be in the same place to connect, there is something extra special knowing that we are together spiritually although physically apart." He went on to retell a tale from his past where long before he was a bishop he found himself in a situation where a priest had travelled a fair distance, through difficult conditions, to celebrate at a Eucharist service and it turned out that he was the only member of a congregation. David apologised to the priest for bringing him out on such a difficult night and suggested that they both go home to which the priest replied, "Most certainly not, we will go ahead. It isn't just you and me at the Lord's Table tonight, we are surrounded by the whole company of angels and archangels." How wonderful! The prayers at the service were around psalm 46, a psalm that has been open on my reflection table since I set it up, it begins '*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, .....*' When you get a moment why not read it for yourself. I hope it brings you comfort and hope as it does me.

Part of my Good Friday reflection time I spent watching a short film called 'In the shadow of the cross', made by Rev Mandy Carr, a priest in our diocese, which is shared on our diocesan website. The film consists of four short clips and looks at the crucifixion through the eyes of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, a Roman soldier, the executioner, a disciple, Mary Magdalene, and the chief priest, Caiaphas. It's well worth a watch if you have time.

This week I attach a service for Easter Morning and a Morning Prayer service for the whole of Eastertide. However we worship tomorrow let us remember one another as we do so, although we are apart we are united as a church family. May God bless you.

## Togetherness

I thought it might be useful to list once again the various phone numbers, email addresses and web sites that you might find useful.

Rev Sarahs phone number 01474852265 and email [revsarahcorry@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahcorry@gmail.com)

Rev Harriets phone number 07919477809 and email [revharrietjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:revharrietjohnson@gmail.com)

Church website [www.st-edmunds.co.uk](http://www.st-edmunds.co.uk)

Church Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/StEdmundKingandMartyr/>

Pray As You Go <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> and Sacred Space <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

Rochester Diocese [www.rochester.anglican.org/resources](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources)

[www.rochester.cathedral.org/worship-online](http://www.rochester.cathedral.org/worship-online)

West Kingsdown Parish Clerk [wkpclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wkpclerk@gmail.com)

Also remember to check on the BBC radio and television listings that I sent you last week.

Pauline Jenner has put a display of flowers in church with a list of names remembering our loved ones this Easter time. Please see the attached list. **Many thanks to you Pauline.**

Ann Munro has had various plants that she has been selling in aid of church funds. She has raised £150. I think she may have a few tomato plants left. If you are interested please call her on 01474 852140. **Thank you so much Ann.**

This week we wish Happy Birthday to **Robyn Abel, Jon Battershill, Peter Chalk, and Jenny Robinson.** I hope you enjoy your birthdays as best as you can.

Lastly I hope you have received an Easter Card from me. **Thank you Geraldene Mullen** for your hard work in designing it. I also attach a recorded Easter message (I hope it works!) My son Jamie assures me that it should work on whatever you pick this email up on, your phone, iPad, laptop or computer. Those that get a hard copy I have printed out the message. I wish you all a very Happy Easter. With every blessing **Rev Sarah**