



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

Rector:

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## Newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (12)

Dear Friends

Although rather late and because this is my first newsletter of 2021 may I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy New Year. I'm sure that many of us are moving very cautiously into 2021, not quite sure what to expect of the year before us. We have come through ten long and very difficult months and still must wait patiently whilst the vaccine is rolled out. We hear at the moment how rife the virus is and that we must face the next weeks and maybe months ahead staying resolute and complying to all the guidance.

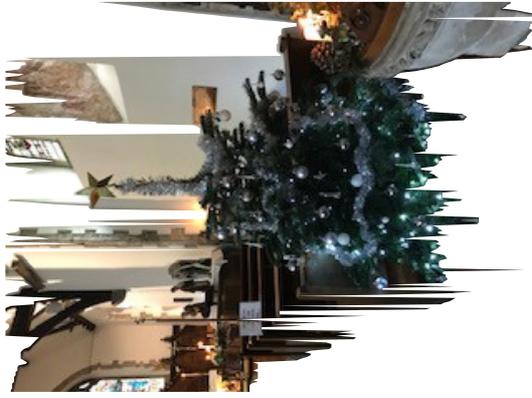
I am reminded of the words from the hymn 'He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster'. The hymn based on words from John 12 verse 26  
*"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be"* reminds us that the servants of Christ must follow him and have the courage to be with him. Know that God is with us in this, take courage and trust in him.

For many I know it wasn't possible to get to our beautiful church over the Christmas and Epiphany season and so I thought you might like to see a couple of photographs. On Christmas Eve we held our usual 'Open House'. The church was open between 10 am and 4pm, during which time almost 70 people visited, sadly we were not able to offer our usual hospitality of food and drink. Below is a picture that Maria Cordier shared with me of her children kneeling down in front of the crib.

Maria said, *"Not quite our usual Christmas eve at church but George and Layaly loved being able to be back at our church"*.

After Christmas I took a few days leave and Rev Harriet came and covered for me on Epiphany Sunday. We were, at last, able to give her a leaving gift from the Parish, a rose called 'Rambling Rector' and a cheque for £225. Harriet sent me an email of thanks which included the following, *"Thank you for the very generous gift from the congregation. I'm not sure what I will buy with it yet - I will try and get something by which I can remember you all (not that I am in danger of forgetting). And I will send some photos of the rose once it is established. It was lovely to be back at the church in the woods."*

Julie Mills sent me a beautiful picture of Harriet outside church but I wasn't able to copy it into this letter. I'll see if I can sort it for next week.



## Our Church at Christmas



## **It looked truly beautiful.**

Thank you to Pauline, Pat and Mike who did all the hard work.

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## **Worship and Private Prayer**

During this lockdown places of worship have been allowed to remain open, something that the Bishop of London lobbied for. Individual churches have been able to make their own decisions on this. I, along with the churchwardens, decided that we should remain open for as long as possible. However, I do believe we are coming to the day when we may need to alter our position. The message from the government is now "Act as if you have Coronavirus", in other words they are telling us that we should stay away from one another at all times. The Bishop of London, today (Saturday) stated that "*churches must think seriously about whether they should open for gathered worship tomorrow.*" We will be open for worship tomorrow (Sunday) but after that I must consult with the PCC as to the future. We are one of the last churches in the area to remain open.

## **Morning Prayer Readings**

Date	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
10.01.21	89:19-29	1 Samuel 16:1-3,13	John 1:29-34
11.01.21	2, 110	Amos ch 1	1 Corinthians 1:1-17
12.01.21	8, 9	Amos ch 2	1 Corinthians 1:18-end
13.01.21	19, 20	Amos ch 3	1 Corinthians ch 2
14.01.21	21, 24	Amos ch 4	1 Corinthians ch 3
15.01.21	67, 72	Amos 5:1-17	1 Corinthians ch 4
16.01.21	29, 33	Amos 5:18-end	1 Corinthians ch 5

## **R.I.P.**



Angie Barnes funeral will take place this coming Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January in church at 10.30am and then on to Vinters Park Crematorium.

Please hold Caroline, Paul and all the family in your prayers.

Sadly, another of our congregation, Brian Jones, died at the end of last week. Brian was a staunch 8am BCP communicant. He will be greatly missed.

## **Birthdays**

This week we wish three of our church family a very **Happy Birthday**. Two have celebrated in the last week and one celebrates tomorrow. **Pauline Jenner** celebrated her birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> and **Kim Johnstone** on the 5<sup>th</sup>. I hope you both had a lovely

day, even though you were very restricted as to what you could do. Roger Brindle celebrates his tomorrow. Again, Roger I hope you have a lovely day.

**Although we are unable to see one another at present you are all  
constantly in my thoughts and prayers. Every Blessing Rev Sarah**