

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



**Rector:**

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## Newsletter 6<sup>th</sup> December (9)

I hope this newsletter finds you all keeping safe and well if maybe a little dispirited and sad. These are very difficult times, but we must keep going especially as there is now light at the end of what has been a very long and dark tunnel. Those two words – light and dark – complete opposites are so appropriate to the time of the church year that we find ourselves in. As I said in the notes on last weeks service sheet, for Christians darkness is a metaphor for the absence of God and light is the symbol of his presence. So, may we continue to look to the light however difficult we find that at this time. As we prepare and look towards the celebration of our Lord's birth at Christmas I know that you may not be able to celebrate in the way you had hoped and that may sadden you but I am reminded of some words from our Bishop, James sent out in a pastoral message this week, "The message of Christmas is about God being with us in all our life" not just one day a year. May Christ be our light and shine in the darkness.

I also recommend this prayer to you remembering the different and somewhat difficult situations we find ourselves in.



**Heavenly Father,**  
We pray for all those across the country  
Struggling today to adjust to new measures,  
Trying to work out what it means for them.  
We pray for all who are weary,  
All who are fearful,  
And all who are in danger of losing their  
income.  
We pray for good governance,  
For wisdom to prevail,  
And a clear pathway out of this crisis.

**Amen**

Prayer: Diocese of Truro



### Advent 2020

#### **Preparing for Advent & Christmas 2020: Comfort and Joy**

This year the Church of England have taken as their Advent and Christmas theme the words Comfort and Joy.



From the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) resources/ preparing for Advent and Christmas

“Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church’s role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation”.

They have produced a wonderful free app which can be downloaded either onto an iPhone or pad or your computer. if you have either I recommend it to you. Go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk> Comfort and Joy, scroll down to ‘Download the app’ either on Apple App store or Google Play.

**Advent Course**

It was really good to be able to join in with the Advent Course this week lead by Rev Harriet. I’m so sorry that because it is via ZOOM I know that it has ruled quite a number of people out. If you do have the facilities to be able to join the group, I highly recommend it to you. There were nine of us in total and another has joined this week and so there are still 5 spaces should you wish to join. For me it was wonderful to be able to take part and not have had to do any of the preparation or lead and my grateful thanks go to Rev Harriet.



If you would like to be part of the course and are unsure to do to sign up to ZOOM just drop me an email and I will try isn't too difficult. It runs on a Tuesday between 4 and 5pm..

about what you need help you to sort it. It

**Worship**

Please remember you will need to **indicate your intension to attend** Sunday worship by phoning **Angela Beale** on **01474 852513**. You can do this from the **Monday** prior to the service you wish to attend. If you are then unable to attend, please also let Angela know in case there is anybody else who would like to take that place.

Morning Prayer on a Wednesday begins again this week, **9<sup>th</sup> December**. No need to book.

**Morning Prayer Readings for the week**

Date	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
06.12.20	80	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Luke 1:5-20
07.12.20	44	Isaiah 45:14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
08.12.20	56, 57	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
09.12.20	62,63	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2:13-end
10.12.20	53,54,60	Isaiah 48:1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
11.12.20	85, 86	Isaiah 48:12-end	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
12.12.20	145	Isaiah 49:1-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

The church will continue to be open for Private Prayer on a Wednesday afternoon 1.30-3.30pm

**Sad News**

I am very sad to tell you that Joy Johnson's husband Victor died on Monday. Please hold Joy in your prayers at this distressing time. May Victor rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral will take place at St. Bernadette's on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

I also heard this week that David Murphy died on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. I have no other information at present.

Any of you that have visited or been part of the services we normally hold in Manordene Nursing Home may remember Paul Hole and his wife Brenda. Paul passed away last Saturday.

Please remember them all in your prayers.

### **Birthdays**

On Tuesday this week Angie Barnes will celebrate her birthday, sadly Angie is now receiving palliative care at the Lions hospice in Northfleet. We send her our love.



On Thursday **Jackie Rousell** celebrates her birthday. We hope you have a lovely day Jackie whatever you are able to do

to celebrate.

## **Christmas 2020**

### **Community Cupboard**

As part of our giving this Christmas I would like us, together as a church, to make up a box of goodies for the Community Cupboard who are working flat out to provide individuals and families with food. If you are able to donate anything, particularly any Christmassy treats, please place them in the box at the back of church or bring them to the Rectory and we will make up a box from St. Edmunds church. We have a few items spare from those donated to the Grand Draw hampers which we would like to include if you are in agreement.

### **Christingle**

There will be no Christingle in church this year, but I will be holding a Christingle service with each 'Bubble' in school this week, one on Thursday morning and another on Friday. Many thanks go to Angel, Mike and Rosemary for the preparation of the Christingles.

**Carols by Candlelight** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm.

This will be a service of readings and carols, we are still not allowed to sing indoors but **we will be able to listen to some of our favourite carols** in our beautiful church and all in candlelight. If you would like to attend please phone Angela (01474 852513) to book your place. \_



Further guidance has come out this week that Carols may be sung **outside**. For anybody that would like to **join in the singing of Carols** I am intending holding a short Carols by Candlelight in the churchyard, outside the Millennium Room, at 6pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. Numbers will be restricted to 30 and people will have to be socially distanced. It will be undercover of one of our large gazebos and chairs will be correctly spaced out. If you would like to attend (well wrapped up) please book a place with Angela.

### **Christmas Eve**

The church will be open for private prayer and the lighting of candles from 10am – 4pm.

### **Christmas Day**

There will be a 10am Eucharist Service, for which you will need to book a place. You will be able to do this from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

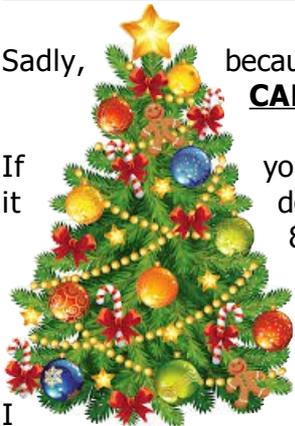
### **Christmas Draw**

**Thank you so much** for your amazingly generous donations for the hampers. We now have plenty to fill them. **Thank you too** to those of you who have already sold draw tickets. We still have plenty to sell and so if you are able to help out by buying or selling some tickets please do.

**Tickets are a £1 each, come in books of 10** (individual tickets can be bought) **and are available from the Rectory or by calling Don on 07769708251.** We will deliver books of tickets to you. Stubs and money can either be returned to the Rectory or we will pick them up from you if you are not able to get out.

There are **10 prizes**. 1st prize is £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 bottles of Wine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Hamper (1), 4<sup>th</sup> Chocolate Hamper, 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Hamper (2), 6<sup>th</sup> Bottle of Champagne 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Floral Arrangement, 8<sup>th</sup> Bottle of Southern Comfort, 9<sup>th</sup> Fat Face: Ocean Escape Gift Set, 10<sup>th</sup> Tub of Chocolates.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Sadly,  because we will be in Tier 3 the Christmas Tree Festival has had to be **CANCELLED.**

If you have already completed your tree or have everything made for it do continue to decorate it. Then, please ring Geraldine (01474 852201) about sending her a photograph or, alternately, she will arrange to come round, you stand your tree outside and she will take the photo for you. The photos will then be displayed at the back of church and put up on the website. \_

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Geraldine for all her hard work and many hours of preparation for the festival. Let's hope for better luck next year.

Please do remember if I can be of any help or you would like a chat either give me a ring or drop me an email.

**Every blessing Rev Sarah**