

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Newsletter 20th December (11)

Dear Friends

I'm sorry that the newsletter is late this week. After the Downing Street briefing late on Saturday afternoon I was waiting for clarification on a number of points before putting this letter together. By the time there was some from the diocese and the Archbishop of Canterbury it was too late for me to produce something.

I don't know about you, but I was not expecting the severity of what came out of the briefing. I think I was either very naive as to what was going on or just burying my head in the sand. However, the fact that there was the creation of a new Tier 4, that we are in it and the implications of it didn't take long to sink in. Such a lot to cope with after we have already coped with so much but cope with it we must and with the grace of God we will get through. As I have said before there is light at the end of this very long tunnel, but it is still only a distant light and we must remain ever vigilant until the vaccine has been rolled out at least throughout the nation.

I know that the new restrictions will have brought great disappointment and that the limited plans already in place for Christmas will have had to be changed or probably cancelled altogether. Please do read my reflection in this weeks Order of service, which I hope will bring you some comfort.

Worship

We have fully risked assessed staying open and comply with all the current guidance. However, services are cut to the bare minimum. As it stands today (Dec 21st) we are remaining open for the 10am Christmas Morning Eucharist and then for a Eucharist service at 10am each Sunday. Everybody must keep at a distance and on entering the church building must go straight to their allotted place and remain seated there, not standing to chat with anybody. You are then asked to leave the building promptly at the end of 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. You will also need to book your place for Christmas Morning worship in the same way.

There will be Morning Prayer this Wednesday at 9.30am and after that no more until further notice.

Private Prayer

The church will remain open for private prayer between 1.30 and 3.30 on a Wednesday afternoon. It will also be open between 10am and 4pm on Christmas Eve. Again, please do not stay in the building to hold conversations.

Morning Prayer Readings for the next two weeks

Date	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
20.12.20	144	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7
21.12.20	121, 122, 123	Isaiah 52:13-53:end	2 Peter 1:1-15
22.12.20	124, 125, 126, 127	Isaiah Ch 54	2 Peter 1:16-2:3
23.12.20	128, 129, 130, 131	Isaiah Ch 55	2 Peter 2:4-end
24.12.20	45, 113	Isaiah 56:1-8	2 Peter Ch 3
25.12.20	110, 117	Isaiah 62:1-5	Matthew 1:18-end
26.12.20	13, 31:1-8, 150	Jeremiah 26:12-15	Acts Ch 6
27.12.20	21, 147:13-end	Exodus 33:12-end	1 John 2:1-11
28.12.20	36, 146	Genesis 37:13-20	Matthew 18:1-10
29.12.20	19, 20	Isaiah 57:15-end	John 1:1-18
30.12.20	111, 112, 113	Isaiah 59:1-15a	John 1:19-28
31.12.20	102	Isaiah 59:15b-end	John 1:29-34
01.01.21	103, 150	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 2:17-end
02.01.21	18:1-30	Isaiah 60:1-12	John 1:35-42

School Christingles

I thought I would include a couple of pictures from the two Christingles I held in school. The children really enjoyed the services. However, I think they may have enjoyed eating the sweets from the Christingles even more.



Bubble Two

Years 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

The children in the pictures are the Leading Lights from Year Six. These children help to lead worship. As you might notice it was 'Christmas Jumper Day'. The beautiful Advent Wreath on the altar was made by Tricia Townsend. Thank you Tricia.

Bubble One



Children from Reception and Year 1



Community Cupboard

Thank you all so much for your donations for the Community Cupboard. Don and I took two large cardboard boxes, one plastic crate and a bin bag of goodies to the cupboard last Tuesday. They were extremely grateful and ask me to pass on their thanks to you all.

The Grand Christmas Draw

A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

The draw was an amazing success.

We had 2,000 tickets printed and

after a few returns we left with just 7 books (70 tickets). That means that an amazing 1,930 tickets were sold. The draw was going to take place after the 3pm Carols by Candlelight service but as both the 3pm and 6pm services had to be cancelled it was drawn in an empty church after the morning service with both churchwardens present as witnesses. The picture below is of the three hampers.



The prize winners are as follows

1st Prize - £50 - Ann Munro

2nd Prize – 10 Bottles of Wine – Moya Arundel

3rd Prize – Christmas Hamper 1 – Rev Harriet

4th Prize – Chocolate Hamper – Rob Smith

5th Prize – Christmas Hamper 2 – Barbara Arundel

6th Prize - Bottle of Champagne – Carol Burke

7th Prize – Christmas Flowers
(kindly donated by Cards,

Flowers & Balloons) -Rosemary Gray

8th Prize – Southern Comfort – Liz Hart

9th Prize – Fat Face Gift Set – Louise Chagger

10th Prize – Tub of Chocolates – Eileen Graves

Rev Harriet

Christmas Eve is Rev Harriets birthday and last year she celebrated her 50th. As a church family we gave her Afternoon Tea for Two. She and Simon managed to fit this in just a couple of weeks ago and she sent me a message and some photos to say thank you.

'You and the folk at St Edmund's might like to know Simon and I finally enjoyed the Afternoon Tea at Danson House you all gave us for my birthday last year. We didn't use the voucher in January or February because we were waiting for nice spring weather - and then of



course lockdown happened! So we had it today as a pre-Christmas treat. I attach a couple of photos - before and after. It was delicious and as you can see we both enjoyed it very much! Please pass on my thanks to everyone.'

Sadly, the photos wouldn't copy. But there was one with a cake stand full and another with it entirely empty!

Rev Harriet has also asked me to pass on her Christmas wishes to you all. She will be celebrating the Eucharist on the 3rd January whilst I have a weeks holiday.

Joy Johnson

Would like me to pass on her thanks for the love and support she has received from you on the death of her husband Victor.

Birthdays

We say a very **Happy Birthday** to **Harriet Johnson** on the 24th and **Carol Roots** on the 27th. However you are able to celebrate in these very difficult times I hope you both have a lovey day.

Congratulations to Hazel & Michael Burbeck on the birth of their beautiful daughter Phoebe Alice born on the 8th December. It was fantastic to see you all in church yesterday.

Lastly may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas, albeit very different from what you may have hope for. I will be around until after worship on Sunday 27th December and will then be on leave until Wednesday 6th January 2021. In an emergency during this time please contact one of the churchwardens, Angela on 852513 or



Mike on 853653. Thank you.

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas.

This will be the last newsletter until 10th January. **Every Blessing Rev Sarah**

