

Parish Church of
St. Edmund King & Martyr
West Kingsdown



Rector:

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Dear All

As I sit at my desk in the warmth of my study, I watch the snowflakes fall and as they fall, I think of the intricacy of each flake. Although they just look like small blobs of white, under a microscope, they are far from a blob but form a wonderful pattern. Tiny they maybe but there is complicated science happening within each and every tiny flake. Each flake is a distinctive six-sided honeycomb structure and as it falls from the



sky its shape continues to change. The blob we see with our naked eye on the left has a truly exquisite distinctive pattern of its own when



viewed through a microscope. Each flake is so beautifully and individually formed. Snow often brings one of two extreme reactions, either great excitement or dread. Wherever you stand on this line, even if it is somewhere in the middle of those extremes, the next time you see snow just take time to reflect on the One who created and the intricacy of that creation. Creation is wonderfully and beautifully crafted. During these difficult times find time in your day to reflect on this, especially on those dull, grey, dreary days when everything can look and feel so bleak. Underneath that blanket of grey there is the wonder of the world that God created. I know that Jon Battershill has recently been sharing with some of you that beauty, through the photographs he has been taking in and around our churchyard and woods.

Worship

Sadly, after consulting with the churchwardens and PCC, the decision was taken that the church should once again be closed for both public worship and private prayer. The number of people contracting the virus is rapidly escalating and the guidance from government is that we should stay at home. In light of this and the size of our church building and the need to keep to the 2 metre social distancing rules there was no other action to take. Because the government have not closed churches during this round of lockdown we had to apply to the bishop for dispensation to do this for a temporary period. All churches in Shoreham deanery are now closed.

Each week I will endeavour to record a short service of the word which will be on our website ready to be viewed from approximately 6am on the Sunday morning. It will

remain on the site for a week. The Order of Service to go with it will also be on the website. I am also thinking about **setting up a short live ZOOM act of worship** on a Sunday Morning. **If you would be interested in joining in** that act of worship, please let me know.

There are two services on BBC television each Sunday one in the morning, I believe around 10am, and Songs of Praise at 1.15pm. You can also join in with a recorded service on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org

Each Tuesday I am leading worship for our church school over ZOOM. Last week our theme was baptism and belonging. It's very different from being able to meet in person but such a wonderful way of keeping connected with the children.

Morning Prayer Readings

Date	Psalms	Old Testament	New Testament
17.01.21	145:1-12	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 6:11-end
18.01.21	146	Amos ch 6	1 Corinthians 6:1-11
19.01.21	132, 147:1-12	Amos ch 7	1 Corinthians 6:12-end
20.01.21	81, 147:13-end	Amos ch 8	1 Corinthians 7:1-24
21.01.21	76, 148	Amos ch 9	1 Corinthians 7:25-end
22.01.21	27, 149	Hosea1:1-21	1 Corinthians ch 8
23.01.21	122, 128, 150	Hosea 2:2-17	1 Corinthians 9:1-14

Our Community

On Friday when I went down to church to record this weeks service I met Bob, who lives in the cottage next door to the church. Bob was, entirely by himself, clearing the church carpark, the track in front of the lytch gate and church from mud. It was in a terrible state and he had noticed how difficult it was for people as they arrived at Angies funeral on Thursday. I want to say **a huge thank you to him** for all his work, it is very much appreciated.

People are showing so much kindness in so many different ways. Thank you to Jon Battershill who is delivering this letter and other mailing out to those of you in the village who have no internet access.

I have heard from Margaret Grizzell this week that Jean Hawes is at present in respite care in a nursing home in Sevenoaks. Please hold her in your prayers.

Birthdays

This week we wish **a very Happy Birthday** to **Karen Gibbs**. Hope you have a lovely day Karen whatever you are able to do in these very limited times.



Please remember I am here for you all. Don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email. I'm sorry if I've not made individual contact with you. I can assure you it's not for the want of trying. I

hold you all in my prayers.

Every Blessing Rev Sarah