

Edenshead Parish Church

Newsletter - February 2021

Some thoughts from Kay and Rod

Hello

Having been in the 'new' lockdown since Boxing Day we can't help but compare now to the first lockdown in March 2020.

One of the immediate thoughts then was the need to keep in touch with family, friends, neighbours and of course our church family – to ask, 'How are you?' This has not changed, however there are differences in the ways of communicating.

In our household the traditional means of letters, cards and telephone were our choices. The most modern form of communication we used was email.

A family decision was made to get together via What's App but this was soon abandoned by all.

Why, you may ask? Phone cameras at odd angles - all we saw of Rod's mum was the top of her head and her repeatedly saying, "I can't hear any of you, just phone as normal"!

Some people had already embraced the wonders of Zoom, Facebook, etc, which, to us was alien, scarey technology. What a marvellous age we live in to have all these options available!

To return to the present, our church now has a website, a Facebook page and a video camera - a whole new era for church reaching out and offering services in these strange times.

However, as a church family we find separation hard. One aspect of not gathering in church or anywhere else is that everyone misses the fellowship.

Jesus is God's ultimate means of communication with mankind.

He too enjoys fellowship with every one of us. He wants to tell us about himself and his love for us. John Ch3 verse 16 says, "For God so loved

the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

When we read about Jesus and get to know him personally, we see a true picture of God. - Colossians CH1 verses 15-20.

In the Christian church Ash Wednesday is traditionally the first day of Lent and this year it is 17th February. Lent is seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

Perhaps during this Lent when separation is so apparent and the need for communication is uppermost in our thinking, we can use it to help us understand that we are never truly separated from God's love. Even when times are confusing, when everything seems dark and lonely, or we can't actually feel his presence, as St. Paul puts it in Romans Ch 8 verse 39, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

Take care until we can be together again enjoying the fellowship we so miss.

Kay & Rod

“Worship” can be found on the website and will be led every second week by either Elspeth Smith or Kay and Rod McCall.

If you can, visit the website www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk where you can join in with the short service on video and sing along to the YouTube music.

Each week there is also a link to the Moderator's weekly worship.

You can revisit all the other weekly worship which have been supplied by Rev Susan Thorburn our Mission Development Worker.

Session Clerk: Rod McCall. Tel 01337 827001

Interim Moderator: Rev Margaret Rose. Tel 01333 312838

Hall Repairs



We have Good News!!

We can finally start work to eradicate the dry rot...

Three of the six funding applications have offered grants and now that this is all “done and dusted” we are able to go ahead with the work.

Of course, this still means that we must use a substantial amount from our own fabric account. The total cost, which includes architect, main contractor and the redecorating of the hall, comes to £66,000.

We have grants of £23,600 and local fundraising is going great guns with £1,600 in the hall account.

It is hoped to be able to reclaim the VAT which could be around £9,000 but will not be applicable until all the invoices are paid at the end of the job.

(See below for news of more fundraising events being planned.)

We hope to see work starting very soon.

The contractor estimates four to six weeks to complete the task.

Quite early on, scaffolding will be erected on Croft as the affected roof timbers must be cut back and new timber fitted. Then the roofers will replace slates and gutters. The three windows will also come out (very carefully!) to be taken away to a specialist workshop to have areas of affected timber replaced. It's a big job when you break it down into all the component parts and hardly surprising it costs what it does.

What a pity we didn't know what was going on behind the stonework all these years..... However, we are on the way to seeing it all put back as it should be, and the bonus will be that the whole hall will have a fresh new coat of paint.

Let's hope we can welcome back our regular hall users before too long – Covid-19 allowing. It's been such a long time!

In the meantime, if you can help in any way with the hall fund, it will be much appreciated. You can join in the events which are being planned. Donations can be made through the church website <https://www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk/donations> or contact Rod on 827001 or Brian on 828386 to discuss.



Zoom Quiz

Time to get your thinking caps on and join the Edenshead Parish Church quiz on **Friday 26th February 2021 at 7pm**

You can enter a team of up to 4 people, suggested donation of £3 pp or £12 per team with all proceeds going toward the repair of the Church hall. <https://www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk/donations>

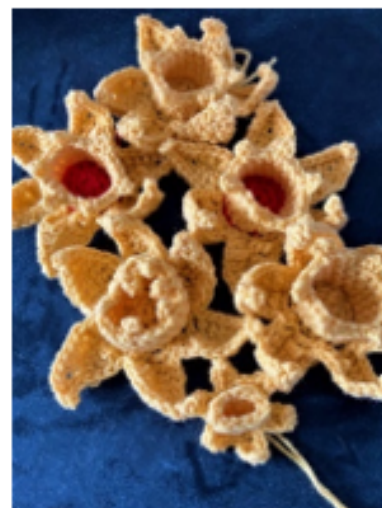
This event will be held by Zoom but you can also join by phone. There are Prizes to be won!

1st - Bottle of Wine, 2nd - Box of Chocolates (for each team member)

For more information or to enter a team please contact **Jenni Whittle at: jwhittle300@gmail.com**

Daffodils for Easter by Jenni Whittle

A Group of us are busy knitting and crocheting daffodils to go into the church for Easter Sunday. We don't know if we will be back in the church by Easter Sunday, but we thought that it would be lovely to use the daffodils to decorate either inside or out, depending on if there is a service, or if we have a recorded one. We also thought, that since we cannot have our coffee mornings, we could ask for sponsorship.



If you would like to donate, that would spur us on. You can donate on the church web page at: <https://www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk/donations> Or if you would like to make some daffodils, then please let Jenni Whittle, Maureen Benson or Anne Hutton know.

I do have a GoFundMe page, but a direct donation avoids paying any fees. [gofundme.com/f/daffodils-to-help-repair-muchty-church-hall](https://www.gofundme.com/f/daffodils-to-help-repair-muchty-church-hall)

Many thanks if you can support us, and of course there will be photos on the church website and Facebook page, as well as my own page. **Jenni**