



ST. EDMUND KING & MARTYR

WEST KINGSDOWN, KENT



'St. Edmund's Church seeks to encourage all people to know Jesus Christ by growing in a personal relationship with him, with one another and with the community.'

St. Edmund King & Martyr Church
Fawkham Road, West Kingsdown, Kent, TN15 6AY
www.st-edmunds.co.uk



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ST. EDMUND KING & MARTYR

WEST KINGSDOWN

St. Edmund's is a Grade 1 listed, 11th Century Church situated in the semi rural village of West Kingsdown, in the district of Sevenoaks, Kent. The peaceful and picturesque countryside setting adds to the spiritual significance of the church, which has a rich history that continues to be appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

THE CHURCH IN THE WOODS

St. Edmund's Church provides a warm and inclusive atmosphere for everyone, fostering a space for worship as well as community engagement. Through its diverse services, outreach initiatives, and community gatherings, St Edmund's serves an essential role in the life of West Kingsdown.

A CORNERSTONE OF COMMUNITY AND WORSHIP



WORSHIP

COMMUNION

St. Edmund's Church offers two Holy Communion Services every Sunday morning at 8am and 10:30am, both with vestments and ritual, the 10:30am Sung Eucharist is supported by a choir.

Acts of worship also take place involving local schools and our Toddler Church. The church remains open for silent prayer, reflection and visiting allowing for personal moments of peace in the tranquil surroundings.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

St. Edmund's commemorates significant seasons in the Christian liturgical calendar, such as Lent, Advent, Easter and Christmas. During these times, special services are held, such as Christingle, Mothering Sunday and Midnight Mass.

Other significant services held include an All Souls Memorial Service, and services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

COMMUNITY

Parishioners also gather for the Remembrance Day Parade, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and a Palm Sunday Procession.

Festivals celebrated throughout the year include the Harvest Festival, Flower Festival & Christmas Tree Festival



PARISH LIFE

The Rector is supported by a full PCC with all officer roles filled and a committed team of volunteers who help with a variety of roles, including intercessions, reading lessons, serving as sidespersons, vergers, a server, a sacristan, and a PSO. We recently had two members undergo a short course on Leading Worship, to be able to lead the Service of the Word.

VOLUNTEERS

Our committed volunteers form teams that deliver pastoral care, organise charity initiatives, and lead fundraising efforts. They also assist with flower arranging, cleaning, and the upkeep of the church building and grounds. Members of the congregation manage our website and Facebook page, making sure that information about events and services is readily available.

AWAY GIVING

The Away Giving team organises at least three charity events each year, backing international, national, and local causes. This demonstrates St. Edmund's steadfast commitment to helping those in need, both within our community and beyond.

FRIENDS OF ST. EDMUNDS

Friends of St. Edmund's (FOSE) is a committed charity focused on maintaining the church building and funding quinquennial repairs. Their support keeps the church a beautiful and functional environment for worship and community engagement.



ST. EDMUND'S CENTRE

Leased from West Kingsdown Parish Council, the St. Edmund's Centre lies at the heart of our church's life and mission within the local community. It is a welcoming space where people of all ages can gather to share faith, build friendships and support one another.

The Centre hosts a range of church-led activities during the week, including Toddler Church, the Soup and Friendship Lunch, and regular crafting and outreach events, offering opportunities for connection, care and fellowship.

It also serves as a valuable resource for the wider community and is available for hire by local groups, with income supporting the Centre's ministry. The building is well equipped for meetings and social events, and its day-to-day running is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Above all, the St. Edmund's Centre reflects the church's calling to hospitality and service, offering open doors and a warm welcome to all.



OUTREACH

COMMUNITY POP-IN

The Pop-in welcomes members of the public twice a week for tea and teacakes in a friendly atmosphere. Dogs are also welcome!

The Church also runs monthly services with hymns and reading at two local care homes as well as hosting Summer and Winter fairs to unite local organisations and families, raising funds for the church in a fun and enjoyable way.

CORONA QUILT

During the Covid pandemic, the community created squares reflecting their experiences, which were sewn into a patchwork quilt displayed in Rochester Cathedral.

SCHOOL LINKS

St. Edmund's C of E Primary School is the village school and together with the local independent school, are involved with the Church, led by the Rector and our Foundation Governor in various activities, both in Church and in school. The church also has strong ties with the local preschool adjacent to the St. Edmund's Centre.

SEKAM

The parish magazine, SEKAM, is distributed monthly to all households, providing information on church and village events.





ST. EDMUND KING & MARTYR

PARISH PROFILE

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This profile highlights the church's active role in both spiritual life and community engagement, balancing traditional worship with modern outreach initiatives. St. Edmund's Church continues to offer a welcoming and supportive environment for all, creating a space for both worship and community connections. Through its various services, outreach programmes, and community events, St. Edmund's plays a vital role in the life of West Kingsdown.

THE CHURCH



St. Edmund King and Martyr Church is a Grade 1 listed building, affectionately known as 'the church in the woods,' nestled in the heart of ancient woodland. This peaceful and beautiful setting adds to the spiritual significance of the church, which has a rich history that continues to be appreciated by locals and visitors alike. The modern Millennium Room, with kitchen and toilet facilities, offers space for refreshments and meetings for community activities.

THE VILLAGE

West Kingsdown is a semi-rural village with all the usual amenities and shops, located in the Sevenoaks district of Kent, on the A20 southeast of Swanley. With a population of around 5,400, the village is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Brands Hatch race circuit, which supports the church, is adjacent to the village; pictured to the right on Bonfire Night.



JOB OPPORTUNITY



RECTOR

We require a Rector at St. Edmund's Church, West Kingsdown, on a part time basis of Sunday plus three flexible days per week.

Are you a compassionate and dynamic spiritual leader with a passion for community outreach and nurturing both young and adult congregants?

St. Edmund's Church in West Kingsdown is looking for a new Rector to lead our vibrant parish, inspire our congregation, and continue to build upon our rich history and deep connections with the local community.

ABOUT US

St. Edmund's Church is a historic gem, dating back to around 1030 AD, with a dedicated congregation averaging around 44 adults and 4 children per week and a variety of engaging community initiatives. In 2025 we undertook 14 Baptisms, 2 Weddings and 26 Funeral Services as well as 6 Confirmands. Looking ahead to 2026, we already have 4 Weddings and 1 Baptism booked. Our church is part of the Shoreham Deanery in the Diocese of Rochester. We are committed to offering spiritual care, supporting local schools, fostering community connections, and providing a welcoming space for all.

WHAT WE OFFER

A Historic and Beautiful Setting: Our church, with its ancient Saxon roots, offers a peaceful and inspiring environment for worship and service.

Community Engagement: Lead a church that is deeply involved with local schools, including St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School, and has a strong relationship with Birtley House Independent School.

Active Outreach Programmes: From our weekly Toddler Church and popular Soup Lunches, Tea at Two, Crafting and Board games at the St. Edmund's Centre to our thriving Pop-In Café and Pastoral Group, you will have ample opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Strong Volunteer Support: Our dedicated team of volunteers plays an essential role in supporting the community, from assisting with transportation to medical appointments to crafting thoughtful gifts for Easter and Christmas.

A Committed Congregation: With regular Sunday services and a well-attended program of seasonal and special services throughout the year, you will find a warm and active community ready to grow with you. There is an electoral roll of 71 and an average attendance of around 48 parishioners each week.

Work-Life Balance: The Rectory, located just a short walk from the church, offers comfortable living in a quiet, scenic location, with the benefits of village life and access to nearby transport links to London. Swanley rail station is 4.5 miles away.

THE ROLE

As a part time Rector, you will provide spiritual leadership and pastoral care, guiding our congregation through key moments in their faith journey—from baptisms, weddings, and funerals to weekly worship services.

You will work closely with our PCC, volunteers, and local schools, contributing to both our spiritual life and social outreach. Your leadership will help continue our tradition of offering support and hope to those who need it most, while also fostering an inclusive and accessible church environment for people of all ages, race and gender.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead regular worship services, including Eucharists, seasonal services, and special events like Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
- Oversee and grow our community outreach programs, including those at the St. Edmund's Centre and Pop-In Café.
- Work closely with local schools to provide spiritual leadership, including leading Acts of Worship and supporting educational programs.
- Provide pastoral care and support to parishioners, helping to build a strong, caring community.
- Engage with the wider Deanery and Diocese, representing St. Edmund's at meetings and fostering relationships within the wider church, including the village Catholic and Baptist churches.
- Encourage and nurture a thriving volunteer base to help run various church and community activities.

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Ordained Anglican priest with experience in leading a parish or community-based church.
- Strong pastoral care skills, with the ability to offer spiritual guidance to people at all stages of life.
- Passion for community outreach and working with local schools, families, and organisations.
- Ability to inspire and lead a team of volunteers, fostering a spirit of service and care.
- A creative and innovative approach to engaging with the community and developing initiatives.
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds.





WHY JOIN US?

If you are passionate about building strong community relationships, offering spiritual leadership and making a lasting impact, we would love to hear from you.

At St. Edmund's, you'll be stepping into a role that is at the heart of a dynamic, supportive, and close-knit community. You will have the opportunity to inspire, nurture, and guide people in their faith, while making a tangible difference in the lives of those who live and work in West Kingsdown.

We are seeking a leader who will help us to grow and continue to be a beacon of hope and support within our local community. We hope our new Rector will bring fresh ideas and energy to develop our shared vision, particularly in encouraging greater engagement from those in the 30-50 age group and helping them to find a place within the life of the Church.

APPLY NOW

Apply Now to become part of our journey at St. Edmund's Church, where history, community, and faith come together.

For more information, please visit our website at
www.st-edmunds.co.uk





THE RECTORY

The Rectory is a contemporary four-bedroom detached house situated in the heart of the village, just a 10-minute stroll from the church.

Set within a well-maintained garden, this home offers comfortable living space for the Rector and their family.

Additionally, there is parking available for approximately six cars.

A large office is included, providing a separate area for work away from home.



PROPERTY FEATURES

- Garage and Utility Room
- Spacious Kitchen
- Beautiful views of surrounding fields
- Large Driveway and Garden
- Two WCs

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

St. Edmund's Church has a healthy balance of over £30,000, with no major repairs required. Like many churches, finances fell during COVID but we have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels. Gift Aid, was accumulated and submitted in a single year to provide a financial boost of £13,000 to help support the church during the interregnum. There is an additional £28,500 held by the diocese in a separate reserve account.

The Friends of St. Edmund's continue to support the Quinquennial Fund covering any maintenance and repairs, ensuring the church remains in excellent condition. All 2024 Quinquennial recommendations have been implemented.

The PCC also used funds from a 2017 legacy for key improvements: the church boiler was replaced, new overhead ceramic heaters installed, a new organ purchased, and pew cushions added. Externally, a patio and play area for toddlers was created, with a removable fence allowing additional outside overflow space for the church. Finally, a ride-on mower was purchased to assist our volunteers in keeping the churchyard looking beautiful.

Fundraising events throughout the year helped strengthen reserves and maintain the church's presence in the village. The recently acquired St. Edmund's Centre is rapidly becoming a hub for weekly church-run activities, is well supported by the local community, and is fast approaching self-sufficiency.

St. Edmund's PCC supports its clergy financially by covering council tax, water rates, travel expenses, and all telephone and internet costs. Until September 2024, a full-time curate was also supported. While the Parish Share is not yet paid in full, the PCC is committed to meeting this obligation, and is currently paying £35,000. Detailed financial information is available on request.