

NEWS FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (8)

I should like to start this week with a number of thanks. Thanks firstly to Fiona Higgs for bringing groups of year 6 pupils at West Borough School over to St Andrew's on 15th July. Thank you also to everyone who came to help Fiona on that morning. Some samples of their work have been left on display in the Church so we can all see them.

Secondly thanks to Liz Deane for organising the outing on the Kingfisher along the River Medway last Thursday afternoon. This was greatly enjoyed by all who came along most of whose health prevents them from going out regularly. Thanks too for those who lifted the group to and from Wateringbury.

Thirdly many thanks for all who have donated food for the Vine Church Food Bank. They would also appreciate gifts of other domestic and personal items so please help to keep this going.

We are at present looking carefully about the arrangements we can make to open up our Church and Hall more fully following the easing of restrictions on 19th July. One thing we can definitely do is to start singing hymns again. We have reverted the Church to its normal layout but we suggest keeping distances between rows for the present. We are proposing to continue bookings for services for now so please e mail jeansweetman@blueyonder.co.uk or ring her if you would like to book in. We would also suggest that masks are worn when entering the Church until you reach the place where you are sitting. More guidance will follow next week.

Despite many approaches to retired priests I have not so far located a retired priest to conduct our service on Sunday 1st August. I will continue to try but if not successful I propose that we have a Morning Worship service instead. Either way we shall be able to sing hymns.

Many thanks to all who donated for a leaving gift for Rev. Chris and Sarah Lavender. We have now purchased an Amazon voucher and this will be presented to Rev. Chris when he comes to St Andrew's next Sunday to conduct a Baptism service.

With every blessing, John.