

## PARISH ARCHIVE 2021

I have been responsible for the parish archive now since 1995, and since then I have been able to draw on the archives for a variety of uses over the years.

Over the last 2 years I have produced and sold a history of Wootton Common about which very little had previously been known. My grateful thanks goes to John Castle for producing an artist's impression of the tin church present at that time, based on a full contemporary news report.

There seems to be a renewed interest in family and local history, probably because of lockdown. Many of the queries now come to me via the Parish website or Facebook.

Apart from drawing on the archive for the Annual Open Weekend, enquiries have included family history, including requests to help locate a family member, locations of burials, house history, and tracing postcards/images of specific places in Wootton. I was also asked to review a recently written book. I am also frequently requested to give a "guided tour" of St Edmund's.

I have also recently been able to assist the PCC by researching the background to a grave in the churchyard. Having located more records in the last few months, I am hoping to update the index to the burials registers.

This form of outreach I believe increases interest in our local history and creates good will, and I hope others will be willing to "take up the baton" in the future.

Doreen Gazey