FEBRUARY 2023

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THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Singular or Plural?



This picture of snowdrops in the churchyard at St Edmund's reminds us that, whatever we may feel, Winter is not all gloom and hibernation. Through most or all of Winter (depending on whether you think it begins on 1st December or at the solstice), each day has two minutes more daylight than the day before. By Spring, days are more than two hours longer than they were at Christmas. All the time, Mother Nature, mostly quietly and invisibly, is busy taking advantage of this process. Much of Spring actually happens in Winter.

You can actually say something similar about the Church. There is a perception that we more or less shut down after Christmas, and don't really reopen until it is nearly Easter. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Christmas Season continues until Candlemas on 2nd February. This year, Lent (the time of preparation for Easter) begins well before the end of Winter, So, throughout the season, it's business as usual at St Edmund's, St Mark's and Wootton Bridge Methodist Church. Come to any of our services, and you will find a warm church and a warm welcome.

At St Edmund's and St Mark's, we have a particular reason to believe that the rest of the winter. and indeed the whole of 2023, will keep us busy. Since 2015, the (church) Parish of Wootton has been part of a "plurality" (not a word you should try to pronounce if you have loose false teeth) with the Parishes of Binstead and Havenstreet. The term plurality means that the parishes remain separate, but only one clergy person is appointed to look after them all. The parishes have to work together to coordinate the arrangements for and timing of church services and other parish activities. This isn't always easy, but our plurality worked, on the whole, pretty well.

However, a new plurality of Ryde was formed at the beginning of 2023. Binstead and Havenstreet are part of this new plurality, but, for the obvious geographical reasons, Wootton is not. So we are back on our own. Where services have to be led by clergy (as is the case with Holy Communion, for example), we have been generously supported by clergy from other parishes and retired ministers, to all of whom we are most grateful.

For the longer term, we need to work with other neighbouring parishes to form a new plurality to which a full time minister can be appointed. To this end, we are already in discussion with the Parishes of East Cowes and Whippingham, but have not yet reached the point at which firm decisions can be made. So our parish life is certainly singular, but we cannot yet say whether it will go back to being plural. Expect further news in due course.

David Bennison 10

ACOUNTON COMMUNITY

Back to School

Every Friday I have the privilege of celebrating the many achievements the children at Wootton Primary children have been successful in, both within school and outside activities. We ensure that we celebrate the holistic child, capturing progress not just in academic areas but also children's behaviour, progress and resilience. Each week a child is cho-



Mrs Jane Wilford Headteacher

sen from every class to be the 'Star Pupil' for their class. During our special Friday celebration assembly each teacher will share the reasons as to why they have selected that child and parents are invited in to hear this and also have the chance

to see their work. I have to say that this is one of the highlights of my week and I am always so proud of what the children achieve.

Several weeks ago, our Year 6 teacher shared an extract from a story the children had been working on over a few sessions. Eli's work was shared and quite frankly blew us away! His use of language to draw the reader in was incredible, leaving us wanting to read more!

Every half-term each class has a book which is used to base their English work on. Often links with other subjects are made to entice learning and in particular generating a passion to write. Our Year 6 children used a book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell which tells the story of four children stranded in the Amazon jungle. Links were made to Geography, Science and Art. The children were asked to write their own story, similar to the theme of The Explorer, using all the grammatical features that they had been studying that term. I am sure you will agree that Eli's work is outstanding. I hope you enjoy reading his work as much as we did.



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Anna Chaplaincy in the Parish of Wootton

Bishop Jonathan outlined a vision to see an Anna Chaplain in every parish in the diocese. The following explains the role; Anna Chaplaincy is named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel; both are good role models of faithful older people. It is a person-centred ministry of spiritual care for older people of all faiths, cultures, spiritualities and contexts, and for their families and carers.

The Anna Chaplain also offers advocacy for older people within church and community, they work with people living independently and within residential and nursing homes. The work of the Chaplain is defined by the wants and needs of their individual parish and is adapted accordingly.

Hilary Baldwin

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

(For more information on the Parish website, please scan the QR code).



tb

tb

Handy Hints From Past Magazine Issues

May 1946

Greasy collars

Rub with a cloth which has been dipped in a solution of cold water and grated raw potato.

September 1950

A cold cure

To help relieve a heavy cold, boil vinegar and inhale the fumes.

July 1951

Repairs-When the collar of a shirt is worn thin I unpick it, and turn it back to front. The patch is then underneath and the collar is like new again!

Church Services in Wootton during February

(Please be aware that all services of Holy Communion are subject to a priest being available to take the service.)

The relaxation of COVID regulations means that it is no longer necessary to book for services but you will be asked to sanitize your hands. Please wear a mask if you would feel more comfortable with it.

We are now able to offer the Brunch service to everyone!

	ST EDMUND'S		ST MARK'S
		Wed 1st	1115 Cafe Communion
Sun 5th 0800 H	Holy Communion		'Messy Church' at Methodist Church (opp Steam
			Railway)
Wed 8th 0930 H	Holy Communion	Sun 5th	0930 Brunch
		Wed 8th	1000 Little Lions Toddler Group
Sun 12th 1830 E	Evensong	Thurs 9th	1100 Discussion Group
			1400 Elephant Club
Wed 15th	0930 Holy Communion	Sun 12th	0930 Holy Communion plus Explorers
		Tue 14th	1000 Marks Brothers (bacon butty group)
Wed 22nd	0930 Holy Communion	Wed 15th	No Little Lions (half-term)
		Thurs 16th	1100 Discussion Group
Sun 26th	1830 Evensong	Sun 19th	0930 Morning Worship plus Big Mac talk
		Wed 22nd	1000 Little Lions Toddler Grou
		Thurs 23rd	1100 Discussion Group
		Sun 26th	0930 Holy Communion plus Explorers
		Tue 28th	1000 Coffee morning

A COLD WINTER - by Vivienne Loveless

If you think this winter has been cold how about the winter of 1962. Viv Loveless remembers.

Do you remember the snow of 1962/3?

It was Boxing Day and my family and I had gone to have tea with my Auntie Maisie and Uncle Bert, who lived in East Cowes. It was a tradition in our house that they would come to us for Christmas Day and we would go there on Boxing Day.

I remember that John, my cousin, said that it was snowing, but we did not think anything of it at the time. When we left to go home, it was snowing very hard, but my dad thought we could get home. We got as far as the blacksmiths on the corner of Alverstone Road and realised that the road was blocked, so he then turned round and thought he would go back home the long way round via Cowes and Newport. We only managed to get as far as Partlands Crescent, Cowes, where Nan lived and thats as far as we could get. This was the last time that the car was used for over a week.

We did not get home that day, it was not until a few days later that the trains were running from Cowes to Newport, and then onto Wootton, so we caught the train home. My dad picked up the car about a week later, and he said that the snow was way above the car when he was driving back, and there was still snow on the Downs in June.

As children thought it was wonderful to have so much snow, we could go tobogganing. We did not have a toboggan, so we went down to the Wootton Holiday Chalets, known to the locals as the Camp, and borrowed the tin trays that were behind the bar of the camp, and used them as toboggans; we had great time going up and down the hill. We did not seem to feel the cold, until we got home, and then the hands and feet would start to warm up, and the tingling sensation would start.

We did not realise the problems that the adults were having; pipes freezing in the house, no running water. They would have to go and collect water from the tanker that was at the end of Church Road, or from leaking pipes once they had thawed out.

Postie Ron Cheverton used to deliver the post by walking on top of the snow drifts, some of which were higher than the hedge, to get the mail to all the villagers.

Those were the days.....

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Large cards 75p ea, smaller ones 60p ea.

Facsimile copy of the Story of St Wootton Church by Revd Genower at £7.50p.

The cards based on John Castle's painting have sold well with all profits going to the St Edmund's Church Building Trust. Thanks to those who bought them and to John for the painting.

The Wootton Calendar

For Your Diary ... What's On ...

KEEP ACTIVE MOVE MORE CLASSES.

Whippingham Village Hall on Wednesdays at 9.45am, 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 4pm. and Fridays at 10.30am at Arreton Village Hall. Go at your own pace exercise program to help improve strength, stamina and balance.

CONTACT: ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189

KEEP ACTIVE RELAX MORE (K.A.R.M.) CLASSES. Whippingham Village Hall on Wednesdays at 2.45 – 3.45pm and Fridays 11.45am – 12.45pm at Arreton Village Hall. A gentle movement program to calm and relax the body that is easy to learn and based on Tai Chi principles and can be done seated or standing. CONTACT: **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

BREATHE EASY ISLE OF WIGHT SUPPORT group for Islanders living with chronic lung conditions. Meetings held at Arreton Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm.

For further info go to https://breatheeasyiow.org or CONTACT: ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189

PARKINSONS UK ISLE OF WIGHT have a regular weekly exercise class at Arreton Village Hall on Fridays: 2pm to 3pm specifically suited for anyone living with Parkinsons. For further info CONTACT: ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189

Little Lions Toddler Group

This group meets at St Mark's Church 10 to 11.30am, every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at St Mark's Church. Being a new parent can be very lonely and it is always helpful to meet people who are walking the same path. So if you are a new parent, or a parent with lively toddlers on your hands, come and join us. Your children will learn to play with other children and you can talk to people who are on the same difficult journey as you. £2 per session - coffee and sympathy provided!

On the first Wednesday of the month, Wootton Methodist Church runs a Messy Church session.

Elephant Club

If someone you care for has memory problems, the ELEPHANT CLUB will be meeting at St Mark's Church between 2-4pm every 2nd Thursday of the month. We spend the time visiting old memories, eating cake and laughing. Anyone who would like to wonder down memory lane is **very** welcome.

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODISTS

Every Monday Morning 10.am till 12 noon. Come and enjoy coffee and chat at Wootton Methodist Church from 10am-12 noon every Monday until further notice. Everyone welcome.

Whitgar Morris, meet in the coffee lounge at St Mark's on Tuesdays 7:30pm - 9:30pm. New members, dancers or musicians welcome. For further details ring 880118.

Marks Brothers Bacon Butty Group

This group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am in St Mark's coffee lounge. The opportunity for the men of the village to meet up, drink tea or coffee and also to indulge in a bacon butty! For more information and to ensure adequate supplies, please let Harry Kirby know if you will be attending. A small, voluntary, contribution towards costs always appreciated. 07814809083 or harryskirby@btinternet.com"

DO YOU RUN A REGULAR EVENT which would be of interest to others?

Then have it Isted here.

Please email thebridge@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk with your event details.

Coffee Morning at St. Mark's

10am 4th Tuesday of the month.

CREEKSIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI) - Everyone welcome at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Wootton Bridge, IW. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact: Carole Barfoot 882466.

Feb 8th

Members' Meeting.

Alan Jenkins is the speaker, World War Radar is the subject. Meeting starts at 7.15pm at Wootton Methodist Church hall and visitors are always very welcome.

Feb 22nd

Kurling with members of Wootton Methodist Church. Creekside Activity Groups for members: Ambles - 3rd Wednesdays in the month. Bookclub - dates decided at the meetings.

Craft group - see Newsletter

Zoom games - Mondays at 7.30pm

Out to Dinner - alternate months

Photography group - see the Newsletter

Ten Pin Bowling - 1st Wednesday in the month.

Theatre Club - see Newsletter

Knit and Natter - 4th Wednesday on the month except when the

Kurlers are having fun.

Film night - see the Newsletter

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We can help you put together, and layout, your articles; even if you "can't write", we can help.

If contributing to The Bridge is something that interests you, contact: **David Bennison on 882783**

Interested in joining our loyal group of volunteer deliverers?

More details from David Bennison on 882783



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(family and friends of alcoholics) meet in Wootton so if alcohol is, in any way, affecting your life, this is the safe place to talk. Your anonymity is key to our success. Further details Harry or Sally on (01983) 638198).

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ple living independently and within residential and nursing homes. The work of the Chaplain is defined by the wants and needs of their individual parish and is adapted accordingly.

For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

Website:http://www.cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk/anna-chaplain/

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Is there a piece of local history you would like to share?

Do you want to publish information about local activities?

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TO OUR VALUED **ADVERTISERS**

Thank you for your renewals, which have enabled us to continue producing The Bridge in 2023.

WOOTTON YOUTH CLUB (WYC)

WYC is a place where young people can meet with friends and join in a range of activities such as ball sports, cookery, table tennis, badminton, pool, table football, film nights, art projects, community help projects and visits to PGL Little Canada to participate in the available on-site activities. We have a café, offering various tuck items and refreshments. The young people jointly help in programming the weekly sessions and activities. Our team of trained, professional staff (including special needs support) are here to ensure the young people have fun and help them understand the world around them.

As youth workers we have time to talk through any questions and concerns.

We are located at the Old School on New Road in Wootton and session times are:

6.30-8.30pm Thursdays Night 8-16 years

WYC welcomes young people from surrounding areas and friends from other parts of the Island also. Please contact us for more information and do check out our WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE Facebook page. Contact email: woottonbridgeyc@gmail.com or message us on FB: wootton bridge youth club

Tom Pellet, Senior Youth Worker

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WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday Morning Service 10am

Evening Services as announced. Junior Church meets 10am

Minister's Message

John 3v16 reads

"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".

Like many other people, I found it strange to have seen Christmas, Valentines and Easter products on the shelf at the same time. In many shops, Easter eggs appeared on the shelves even before Christmas Day. I have been trying to find a positive thought to somehow support the actions of the shops. This is where the above verse comes into play.

Christmas is the time when Jesus came from God into "the world". God was not distant and far away or just a spirit, Jesus came from God and was born in human form.

Valentines Day is usually depicted by a picture of a heart to represent love. It is a time when cards are sent and gifts exchanged to show your special affection for each other. Although there are many other ways to show your love, for some they will soon know how important it is if they have ever forget the day. John 3v16 starts with the word

"For God so loved the world.....".

Love of God is central to Jesus coming into our

world.

Easter is the time when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. "He gave his one and only Son....." So that we may not perish but have eternal life. The Easter egg is a symbol of a New Life which God offers to each one of us when we put our trust in Him. This New Life leading to eternal life in the future.

> Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Blessings

Rev David Plumb

Preachers for February

5th	February	Plumb
12th	February	Whittingstall
19th	February	Fowler
26th	February	White



New Year Invitation Join us at

Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Afternoon Guild

Their next meeting will be held On Friday February 17th 2023 2pm to 4pm

meet like-minded people

have fun, laughter, walks, lunches, outings

Methodist Church Station Road **Wootton Bridge** 01983 864104 or 01983 759350

December 2022

The Roving Nativity was really successful this year, cold but fine, unlike last time when it was rained off. Thank you to everyone who took part and to those who attended in support. We had a very good turn out.

Many thanks also go to to Ann Capps for organising and to Stephen for setting-up everything.



Archbishop's prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,

that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

PARISH COUNCIL information

Meetings:

Meetings: usually third Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7pm in The Old School, New Road - details at HIC, on village noticeboards and on website.

Parish Councillors:

Barry Abraham John Ward Trish Evans Dave Burley Barrie Hailstone Daryll Pitcher - Chair Linda Pitcher Lee Lemon **Christopher Cory** Liz Kingston, Clerk

All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

PARISH COUNCIL Mon. Closed: Tues. 9.00am-2.00pm; Wed. 9.00am-2.00pm; Thurs. Closed; Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm

BEAT OFFICER

First Tuesday in month 10am-12 noon or messages can be left for the Police.

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

5 Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, IW **PO33 4NX**

tel: 884555 email: clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk website: www.woottonbridge.org.uk

Full details of all facilities available at the HIC can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or on the website.



Report from Liz Kingston, Clerk - Wootton Bridge Parish Council. Telephone: 884555. Email clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk Local IW Councillor for Wootton Bridge: Daryll Pitcher - Telephone 883840. Email daryllpitcher@woottonbridge.org.uk

Wootton Bridge Parish Council has a Facebook page - please "like" - which displays all the latest information and you are welcome to comment on any topic.

Christmas

The Roving Nativity and Christmas Craft Fair at the Community Centre in December was a very merry and festive event - thank you to everyone who came and supported it.

Parish Council Vacancy

The Parish Council would like to thank Barbara Port, who has resigned as a Parish Councillor, for her hard work over the years. We now have a vacancy and if anyone is interested please contact the clerk by email at clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

Spring Tidy Up

We are looking at this taking place on Saturday 29th April 2023. All are welcome - you can either tidy round your own street or come to the office where we will be coordinating the Clean-up and give you an area to clean. Equipment is provided.

Party in the Park

We are really looking forward to organising Party in the Park after not being able to hold the event for the last few years. Next year's Party in the Park will take place on Saturday 8th July 2023. If you would like a stall, then please contact the Clerk on 01983 884555 or via the Wootton Bridge Parish Council Facebook page. To make the event a success we are still in need of volunteers so if you can help in any way, please let us know.

Doctor's Surgery

Optio have had an increase in requests and therefore there is an urgent need for more volunteer drivers or else they will have to start restricting numbers - please contact Tina on 01983 522226 if you can help.

Post Office at Brannon Way

The Post Office in "Brannons", Brannon Way (near the car park), is open on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Parish Council Meetings

These are now back to face-to-face meetings at The Old School in New Road. Details of the meeting can be found on the notice board in Brannon Way, the Parish Council's website, and Facebook page. All are welcome to attend.

Brannon Way Car Park

Just a reminder that fly-tipping around the recycling bins is illegal. It is monitored so please be aware!

If you have any areas of concern, or want to report any incidents, please either visit the Parish Office in Brannon Way, or contact us by phone (01983 884555) or email clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

Unwanted tools lurking in your garage?

Tools With A Mission is a Christian charity that collects unwanted, usable tools. They refurbish them, sort them into trade tool kits and send them to the developing world to help people create livelihoods for themselves.

Until recently, the Mission haven't been operating on the island because of the cost of bringing a van across on the ferry but my husband and I regularly travel to the mainland and are able to deliver a car full of tools each time we go across the Solent. They have verv useful website



https://www.twam.uk which explains more and gives a very clear list of tools they can use and those which they can't, but to give you a flavour, they particularly need sewing machines, hand or electric, haberdashery items and tools used by carpenters, mechanics, electricians, welders and

T.W.A.M can use gardening tools but not those which are more for decorative gardening like lawn rakes and long-handled shears or lawn mowers. They have a workshop in Ipswich where they refurbish tools, but can't take broken items. They can sharpen and remove surface rust, but can't repair or take tools with woodworm.

What we particularly liked was the way in which they train people, for example, to be tailors, and at the end of the course provide them with a sewing machine and haberdashery supplies so that they are ready to set up their own business. Last year they sent 14 containers, full of 9,989 tool kits, out to 4 different African countries and are aiming to increase this number next year!

We live in Carisbrooke so are happy for anyone who has tools to deliver them to us, or we can collect them. Please contact me on my T.W.A.M. email which is annh@twam.uk Many thanks in anticipation!

Ann and Andrew Hawker 115

My Little Desk

by Carole Barfoot

In the early fifties I had put my bid in to Father Christmas for a beautiful Triang desk which had an attached chair. This was constructed of a very light wood and joined with red metal tubular bars joining up the whole thing. At the time we lived in Southsea in a house which had been converted into three flats, ours was upstairs and from the kitchen window we looked down on the front door of the flat below. One day looking out of the window I was thrilled to see the Triang desk and attached chair being delivered to the flat below. This must be mine and it was being hidden in the flat below before the big day. Walking on air until Christmas day, I couldn't wait to get started with my pencils, papers, rubber printing set and all the things I was going to use in my office. When the moment arrived it wasn't the Triang desk at all, this was different, this was dark brown and it had marks all over the lid — what had gone wrong? The answer



was, the desk I had seen was for the little girl who lived below, who was much younger than me, and my mum and dad had bought me a desk from an auction house. I don't know if I managed to conceal my bitter disappointment. Times were hard the country was broke and my Dad could only work part time after the war as he was in and out of hospital until he eventually recovered. I still have that little desk which isn't a desk at all. It looks to me like a marriage between a writing slope and perhaps a bit of ecclesiastical wood maybe from an old pew which somebody had knocked up for some other child. I wonder if the little girl's Triang desk has survived, somehow I doubt it. My little desk is a reminder that one can't always have what one wants. tb

'The Bridge' is delivered free to over 1,750 homes and businesses in Wootton

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers' the February 2023 issue will be available to pick up from the Churches on SATURDAY 28th JANUARY 2023 Share your stories or local knowledge by writing an article suitable for The Bridge magazine.

Please contact David Bennison on 882783 or email: thebridge@cofengrishofwoot-

thebridge@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk If you have any particular areas of concern, or want to report any incidents, please either visit the Parish Office in Brannon Way, or contact us by phone or email

Telephone: 01983 884555

Email: clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any.

A prayer for difficult economic times

Merciful God,

We ask that you give our leaders the wisdom to guide our nation and the world out of the current economic crisis. Help us to protect the poor and all those who are struggling during this difficult time. Provide for their needs and give them hope. Open new opportunities for them and furnish the resources they need to live with dignity. Encourage those who have enough to share essential resources with those who lack the necessities of life, and to do so with humble, grateful and loving hearts.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

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ST EDMUND'S and ST MARK'S CHURCH

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For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact us at:
stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com or leave a message on 01983 301880
(we will respond as soon as we can)

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David Bennison on
882783 or the
Churchwardens.

E-mail Addresses

Send your advertisements for inclusion in 'The Bridge' to: bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

Send your articles, news, diary dates and comments about 'The Bridge' to: thebridge@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk