



A very warm welcome to any visitors worshipping with us today! When you attend one of our services please use the time before the service starts for quiet prayer.



*At our Communion services those who are confirmed and those who normally receive Communion in their own church are invited to receive Communion. All are welcome to receive a blessing.*

15th December 2024

## **Christmas carols with Mountbatten IoW**

You are invited to join Mountbatten IoW for a Christmas carol concert at All Saints church, Ryde from 6-9pm on **Wednesday 18th December**. This special annual event will feature performances from the Mountbatten Choir and Christ the King College's Worship Band. There will be readings, seasonal carols and the chance to enjoy a glass of mulled wine accompanied by a mince pie. Please note, there will be no on-site parking. Instead, there are plenty of nearby car parks.

This lovely service is free to attend, but we would ask that you book a space in advance here:

[www.mountbatten.org.uk/event/book-christmas-carols-with-mountbatten-isle-of-wight](http://www.mountbatten.org.uk/event/book-christmas-carols-with-mountbatten-isle-of-wight)

## **Island School Closures**

Bishop Jonathan has promised to continue the fight against the closure of three Church of England schools, after council officers confirmed they were recommending closure. He is warning that the poorest families will be the ones to suffer if Oakfield, Brading and Arreton St George's CofE Primary schools are closed. If councillors do vote for closure, the diocese is likely to refer the decision to an independent adjudicator, who will take the final decision.

## **Advent Prayer for Joy**

Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing your love. May we rejoice in the good news of salvation and share that joy with others during this season of Advent. *Amen*

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS** Third Sunday of Advent  
Zephaniah 3.14-end; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18  
Wednesday, 18th December 9.30am at St Edmund's  
Jeremiah 23.5-8



Sunday, 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1:39-55

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**



...Bishop Jonathan, Asst.Bishop Rob, Archdeacon Steve,  
Area Dean Chris, Associate Area Deans James, Tom and Vicky  
...Sandra and Roy Matthews, God's mission and our ministry in  
Wootton, and those who staff our children's ministry  
...from the Diocesan cycle of prayers - IoW Deanery Officers  
...our Christian brothers and sisters in North Korea and the Middle East  
...the children of our church and parish, and the Island School and  
Street Pastors  
... *those who are sick or in any kind of need:* Arthur Edwards, Hilary,  
Katrina, Julie and Graham, Lisa, Tracey, Cynara, Eileen Emmerson,  
Suzie Willcox, and all on our Luke 11 Line.  
... *those in Our Year's Mind:* 17<sup>th</sup> Vera Barber, 18<sup>th</sup> India Drake,  
19<sup>th</sup> Gordon Price, Mary Mennis and James Godsell, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sue Scovell

*If you would like a name to be added to the prayer list (with the consent of the person named) please let Helen Davison know. Names will remain on the list for an initial period of 4 weeks. Please inform Helen if you wish a name to be included after this time, or when prayers have been answered or are no longer needed. Names in our 'Year's Mind' will be published for three years and then removed unless otherwise requested. Thank you.*

## **The Big Mac Talks (A meaty Bible study)**

David McCulloch is training and will sadly not be able to give his usual talk after Morning Worship on **Sunday 15th December**.

## **Our diocese's rejuvenate strategy**

A brochure which helps to explain our dioceses's vision and strategy for the next five years can be found at: [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/documents/diocese-portsmouth-strategy-brochure/](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/documents/diocese-portsmouth-strategy-brochure/)

## GENERAL INFORMATION:



### St Mildred's Christmas Tree Festival

St Mildred's Christmas Tree Festival is now on and it is your last chance to attend on **Sunday 15th December** from 1pm - 3pm. There will then be a Carol service at 4pm.

Entry is free and all donations plus proceeds from the raffle will go to the East Cowes Food Pantry and the Salvation Army Christmas lunch for the homeless. The café will be open for drinks and refreshments, and there is plenty of parking!

### Christmas Carol Service

We shall be holding a Carol Service this year at St Edmund's church on **Sunday 22nd December** at 5pm. Please do come and join in!



### Christingle Service

This annual service will be taking place at St Mark's on **Tuesday 24th December**, at 4pm. All are very welcome.

We shall be preparing the Christingles on Sunday 22nd after the 9.30am service in the coffee lounge if you wish to come and help!

### Christmas Day Holy Communion

Our Christmas Day Service will take place at St Mark's on **Wednesday 25th December**, starting at **10am**.



### Christmas Carol Songs of Praise

On **Sunday 29th December** our 9.30am service at St Mark's will be a Christmas Carol Songs of Praise. Come along for a good sing!

### January Service Information

Please be aware that the first two Wednesday services in January have been swapped. They will be as follows:

**Wed 1st January** 9.30am Holy Communion at St Edmund's

**Wed 8th January** 11.15am Café Communion at St Mark's

## Dates for your Diary

### This week

Sun 15th	9.30am Morning Worship <b>no</b> Big Mac talk (St Mark's) 9.30am Holy Communion (St James') 11.15am Holy Communion (St Mildred's)
Wed 18th	9.30am Holy Communion (St Edmund's)
Thu 19th	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mildred's) 11am Bible Study Group (St Mark's) 6pm Choir Practice (St Mark's)
Fri 20th	9.30am Holy Communion (St. James')

### Later

Sun 22nd	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mark's) followed by Christingle preparations 9.30am Morning Worship (St James') 11.15am Morning Worship (St Mildred's) 5pm Christmas Carol Service (St Edmund's)
Tue 24th	4pm Christingle (St Mark's) 7pm Holy Communion (St. James')
Wed 25th	10am Christmas Day Holy Communion (St Mark's) 10am Christmas Day Holy Communion, Carols for Christmas with Christmas jumpers (St Mildred's)
Thu 26th	<b>No</b> 9.30am Holy Communion (St Mildred's)

*We look forward to seeing you! We ask that you do not attend church if you either have symptoms of covid, or test positive for it. Thank you.*

## **Private Prayer**

St Edmund's Church is open for private prayer each day  
from 9am-5pm (or dusk if earlier)

**Visit our website: [www.cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk](http://www.cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk)**



**Parish of St Edmund's and St Mark's Wootton Bridge**

**Parish Priest:** Rev'd Sandra Matthews - contactable by email at [stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com](mailto:stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com) or by leaving a message on 301880.  
(Emails and messages are checked regularly, but not daily).

**Churchwarden:** Harry Kirby

**Safeguarding:** If you have concerns about a child or an adult who may be vulnerable or at risk, contact Parish Safeguarding Officer Steve Beynon on 0789 435 3584 or at [safeguarding@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk)

**Weekly Sheet co-ordinator:** Helen Davison may be contacted on 882330 or by email at [helendavison1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helendavison1@hotmail.co.uk)