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

CREEKSIDE WI

7.15-9.30pm on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month at the
Methodist Church, Station Road.

Programme 2016

November 9—AGM in Wootton
Bridge Methodist Church, 7.15pm.
Competition: Best bloom.

December 14—Christmas Party.
Competitions: Best bloom and
Christmas Card.

Secretary:

Ann Parker (884263).

ISLE OF WIGHT PHAB CLUB (Physically
Disabled & Able Bodied) meets Weds. 7.15-
10pm at Wootton Youth Centre.

ISLAND FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the
month at Wootton Community Centre. Doors
open 1.30pm for 2pm. Visitors and new members
very welcome.

Programme 2016

November 11—Martina Coleman—Inspirations.
December 14—A Twiggy Christmas—Irene
Hickson.

Secretary: Kate Newcombe (564369).

GUITH CARNIVAL MORRIS. We dance in the West & South Midlands style of
Morris and meet each Wednesday evening at St Mark's Church from 7.30pm
until 9.30pm. New members, both musicians and dancers, of all ages welcome.

WATERCOLOUR PAINT GROUP. The beginners group meets at St. Marks on the
second and fourth Friday in the month, from 10am until 12 noon. The cost is £5,
payable at each session. Please contact John Castle on 883039 or Margaret Frost on
240772 for more details.

SCOUT HUT HIRE — We have a large hall, fully equipped kitchen and an
enclosed garden available for hire. Phone Peter Flynn on 883385 or
e-mail: peteflow@uwclub.net for more details.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF RYDE

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ryde: Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6pm;
Sundays 7.45am, 11am. Quarr Abbey: Weekdays 9am; Sundays and Holy days 10am.

WHITGAR MORRIS. We dance in the Cotswold/Welsh Border style of Morris
Dancing and are now recruiting new members of all ages. If you would be inter-
ested in learning the dance or playing for Morris please come along and meet us.
We meet at St. Mark's Church on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm until 9.30pm.

WOOTTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meet each Sunday for family worship at the Community Hall, Church Close, commenc-
ing at 10.30am. For more details contact Mrs Newman on 883228. All are welcome.

KEEP ACTIVE EXERCISE CLASSES. An enjoyable way to improve stamina and
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sessions. Classes led by Andy Savage - Level 4 Chronic Respiratory, Medical Referral
and Cancer Rehabilitation Exercise Specialist. Call 810932 for further information.

PILATES - Wootton Methodist Church - 7-8am (Morning Mat Class); 9.30-10.30am
Intermediate/Advanced; 11am-12 noon all levels. £7, discounts available. Further info
07726 215526.

IW AGE UK - Volunteer Drivers needed. Please call 525282 if interested or e-mail:
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. . . For Your Diary . . . What's On

KNIT & NATTER every Thurs. at Brannons Tea Room, 2.30-4.30pm.

Havenstreet Community Centre is the venue for Supper with a Speaker on the
evening of Saturday 15th October. Further details please call 884532 or 882836.

SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER - 2.30pm - musical concert by pupils of Sarah
O'Connell at Wootton Methodist Church.

On **SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER**, Holy Cross Church Binstead, is holding
its annual Autumn Fayre at the Community Centre, Binstead from 10.30am.
Admission is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling crafts,
jewellery, toiletries, Christmas gifts, etc. Refreshments will be available all
morning.

Come and join in an evening of Storytelling and Village Memories at St. Peter's
Church, Havenstreet on **Monday 21st November** at the Church. An informal
evening to include refreshments starting at 7pm.

Havenstreet Monthly Market is being held at the Community Centre in the
village on **Saturday 26th November** from 10am to 12.30pm. Stalls to include
dairy, bakery, fresh produce, crafts, etc. and refreshments are on sale all
morning.

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER - Christmas Special with coffee/Christmas
lunch/stalls - 10.30am till 2 pm. Please book for lunch. Parking opposite in
Railway Car Park opposite.

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER - Solent Grange Nursing Home, Wootton -
Xmas bazaar between 2-4pm, Stalls, raffles and refreshments. All welcome.

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER - Parkinson's UK (Isle of Wight [branch])
Christmas Fayre at Wootton Community Hall - 10am-1pm. Free Entry. Many
craft stalls, raffle, children's corner, Wootton Methodist Ukulele Band will
entertain. And much more. Please support your local Branch.

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVENT - St. Mark's Church,
Station Road - 10am-1pm. Table top, Christmas music, light lunches, many gift
ideas, Christmas cards, wrap, etc. Tables available at £3. Please phone Joan on
883565 to book.

U3A Wootton Creative Writing Group - We meet on the first and third
Wednesday of the month, running from 10 am till 12 pm. We usually meet at the
Woodmans Arms. If you are interested please come along and try us out. For
more information contact Nicola on 718767.

ST MARK'S CHURCH, Station Road,
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Admission 20p

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

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

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Church service and Junior Church every Sunday at 10am followed by coffee and fellowship. Village Coffee Morning every Monday at 10am.

Open House every Wednesday from 10.30am. Coffee, chat and light lunches from 12 noon.

1st Wednesday, 10am till 12 noon for families with babies and toddlers (1-5 years); 3.15-4.15pm After School Ukulele Group.

2nd Wednesday, Morning coffee, chat, light lunches, activities.

3rd Wednesday, Morning coffee and light lunches from 12 noon. 10am-2.30pm 'Wight Maid' Craft Fair. All items crafted on the Isle of Wight. Enquiries to Kate on 883967.

4th Wednesday, Creative and Contemplative Worship. 10.30am-3pm. Hot lunch at 12 noon (book with Pat on 882539).

5th Wednesday, Morning coffee, chat, light lunches, activities.

Natwest has launched a new mobile bank and it will be visiting the Brannon Way Car park every Wednesday between 11.15am and 12 Noon.

TABLE TENNIS SESSIONS—Wootton Bridge Community Centre,
Brannon Way on Friday mornings at 10am - 11.30am.

Some Samples of IOW Dialect

DOUGHNUTS — Round cakes about the size of a cricket ball, made generally of the same ingredients as a cake, but boiled in lard instead of being baked (according to information found in an old guide book, doughnuts were invented on the Isle of Wight).

EMMET — An ant.

FAIR DOOS — Fair dealing, equal or fair treatment.

FALL — The Autumn, the time of the leaves falling (that is the term in America).

FIGGY PUDDEN — A plum pudding (as in the carol, "We all like Figgy pudden, so bring some out here").

FOREST HOUSE PUDDENS — Puddings made of flour and suet, which were supplied to the inmates of the 'House' for dinner on Saturdays, and containing neither raisins, currants, nor sugar, were not held in much estimation.

At a tumultuous meeting in favour of Reform held in the Corn Market, Newport, in 1831, some farmers from Gatcombe who were vehemently opposed to the popular cause were saluted with derisive cries, "Dree cheers vor the Forest House puddens". One of them in surprise asked, "Why be we Forest House puddens?" "Because ye ha'nt got no raisins (reasons) in ye" was the answer.

FOREST HOUSE — The House of Industry, or Workhouse for the Island, established 1770-75; so called from being built on land forming part of Parkhurst Forest. A labourer quarrelling with another said to him, "I'll tell'ee what 'tes, ye light-avire rogue, I sholl zee thee gwyne up Hunnyhill to Forest House one o'these days, wi'thee shoes down at heel."

HARD PUDDEN — A pudding made with flour only, and boiled and eaten with meat.

HOOAM HARVEST — A farm supper and merrymaking at the end of harvest.

LITTERS — Small pancakes, fritters; also, tatters or rags.

DON'T FORGET . . .

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The Bridge

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

During the First World War (1914-1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. Bright red Flanders poppies, however, grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt.-Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called *In Flanders Fields*.



McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time. This was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The money raised by the sale of the poppies still goes to help ex-service men. While Remembrance Sunday and similar events, far from glorifying war help us to remember the terrible cost of war and our inability to live at peace with each other.

DMG

To make you smile . . .

Pupil: I think Santa is stupid.

Teacher: Why do you say that?

Pupil: Because we've got two doors and eight windows in our house and he still comes down the chimney.

Why are bibles like squirrels?

There are millions of them but very few are red.

What do you call a man with a pole through his leg?

Rodney.

Son: Why did you give Mum a wooden leg for Christmas?

Dad: I thought it would be a good stocking filler.

First man: It's a nice house, but you haven't got a clock anywhere.

Second man: No, I just use my trumpet.

First man: How do you tell the time with your trumpet?

Second man: Well, I play it in the middle of the night and my neighbour opens his window and shouts, "What do you mean playing that thing at two o'clock in the morning!"

Teacher: Can you all hear the fire alarm?

Pupil: It is a drill, sir?

Teacher: No, you idiot, it's a bell.

Man: Every time the doorbell rings, our dog runs into a corner.

Vet: Well, of course he does, he's a boxer.

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Let's get festively frugal!

by Nicola Broadsmith



Pinterest is brilliant! Have you not come across it yet? It truly is an incredible source of inspiration if you like crafts, cookery, travelling, photography, gardening, DIY projects and cars. Imagine it as an online version of a huge, glossy "coffee table"-type magazine ... an eclectic Internet scrapbook filled with a vast array of pictorial ideas. You can discover boards full of everything from Autumn ideas in the garden to road trips around the world, car cleaning hacks, Welsh farmhouse design and authentic Italian zabaglione recipes! You can even create your own boards and "pin" ideas you glean from various websites.

Browsing through the smorgasbord that is Pinterest can also be an enormous drain on your time. Blink, and two hours have disappeared! Of course, when you use the Internet, do bear in mind the warnings in September's *Bridge* and stay safe online.

Warning: I'm going to say the C word . . . look away now if November is too early for you! If 'make-your-own' is really not your thing, do look out for the Wikaniko Christmas brochure making its way around the village in the next few weeks. It contains everything from vegan chocolate to scrumptious organic toiletries, botanic beard balm and gardening gadgets to super-soft bamboo socks, so you'll find it especially useful if you have someone 'difficult' to buy for!! If you haven't already seen the brochure by the time you read this article, do call Nicola on (01983) 882108 and clearly leave a message with your name and phone number and I will get back to you.

Anyway, in the interests of research for the people of Wootton and beyond,

★ I have rounded up a selection of seven MONEY-SAVING/FRUGAL, RUBBISH-REDUCING and ECO-FRIENDLY ideas on Pinterest for the festive season and beyond. **Type them directly into the bar across the top of your browser (where you normally see the website 'address'), NOT into the box in the middle of the Google page!**

- **JOY** If you want to get organised and like making lists (and not just at this time of year):
<https://uk.pinterest.com/mumsmakelists/organized/>
- **LOVE** <https://uk.pinterest.com/isabellascookie/eco-friendly-christmas/> has a list of great ideas for seasonal gifts, food and decorations.
- **BELIEVE** <https://uk.pinterest.com/augustagarden/eco-christmas/> is perfect if you like rustic decorations ... and a great way to use up pine cones and other items collected on winter walks with the children/grandchildren!
- **CHRISTMAS** <https://uk.pinterest.com/onetwogreen/vegan-christmasspecialoccasion-gift-ideas/> has a selection of vegan gift ideas.

- **HOPE** Google "Christmas paper craft Pinterest" and you will get over 1,000,000 results!! This board has a more manageable 100+ ideas for paper craft, gifts and re-usable home-made Christmas trees: <https://uk.pinterest.com/usuextensionsus/sustainable-christmas/>
- For all-year-round recipes on a budget, have a look at this Pinterest board: <https://uk.pinterest.com/AleaMilham/premeditated-leftovers/>
- And for some great ideas on general waste reduction in the home: <https://uk.pinterest.com/motivatedhooker/waste-reduction/>

Of course, Christmas isn't about the presents or food, lovely though they are. Christmas is about LOVE first and foremost, so I wish you all the love, peace and joy of the coming season and every blessing for the New Year!

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WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH (Station Road)

Minister: Revd David P. Plumb BA. Tel: 884205

Sunday Morning Service 10 am

Evening Services as announced. Junior Church meets 10 am

Minister's Message

This week I had to put my old campervan in for its MOT. I don't know why but the older my van gets the more concerned I am about whether it will pass and if it did not pass how much the repair would cost. I even wonder whether the van will even see another year on the road. In my mind I questioned things like emissions, rust, brakes, steering joints, etc. The problem is with any vehicle we just do not have a certainty that it would pass an MOT. As it was I put it in on Monday and it failed on a leaking CV boot (for those who may know). I asked them to replace the part and the next day the van was back on the road.

In life there appears to be many uncertainties. Often it is good that we do not always know what may be round the corner in life, but there is an assurance which comes from Our Lord that is a certainty that we can have in our life today. We can have the assurance of eternal life when we put our trust in the Lord. This was all made possible through the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. So in a world full of uncertainty we can feel comforted by the assurance the Lord gives to each one of us.

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with You:

Refrain:

And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with You.

Blessings — Rev David Plumb

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Wootton Bridge Parish Council wishes everyone in the village a Very Happy & Peaceful Christmas

Christmas Festival



The Parish Council and Village Partnership are in the process of arranging this year's Christmas Festival which will be on Friday the 16th December 2016. This will be our eighth Christmas Festival, with this now becoming an established part of the village calendar.

We have again decided to hold the event in the Community Centre in Brannon Way. The roving Nativity Play will start from The Cedars and make its way to Brannon Way. There will be refreshments available at the Tea Room and the community centre.

In the Community Centre/Tea Room the usual warming mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies and biscuits, as well as drinks for the children. There will also be craft and charity stalls for those last minute gifts and hopefully Father Christmas will find time to be in attendance and meet the children.

Friday 16th December - 6 pm to 9 p.m.

6 p.m. — Roving Nativity Play commencing from The Cedars, Wootton Bridge.

6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Carol Singing, Refreshments, Charity and Craft Stalls and a visit from Santa (We have started this at 6.30 p.m. for those not mobile enough to join in with the roving Nativity Play).

NEW COUNCILLOR

The community has voted and our new councillor is Barbara Port.

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council is looking to buy a defibrillator for the community, which will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If anyone would like to donate to this, please contact the Parish clerk.

GARDEN WASTE

With autumn well and truly here those leaves are falling. The Parish Council office sells garden waste sacks which can be filled and left out with the black sacks on alternate weeks, and they cost £1.30 each.



News from Wootton Community Primary School

At Wootton Community Primary School we pride ourselves on our children's behaviour. We work throughout the year to promote positive behaviour across all aspects of the school life and it is wonderful when outside visitors recognise that too.

During our recent Ofsted inspection, inspectors were impressed with how articulate, honest and eloquent our children were. Over the two days, inspectors spoke to many children across the school and the children shared how proud they were to be part of the school community.

Inspectors also noted how polite, respectful and caring our children were towards each other and that they became very excited and motivated about activities beyond the normal curriculum that were offered to them.

As a school we are on a journey and due to changes that happen as our school evolves I do not know if we will ever reach a final destination. However, what I do know is that the children, who are passengers that travel with us, make our journey worthwhile.

Parents, wider family and our community should be proud of the children of Wootton. They are a real credit to us all.



Peta Mather
(Headteacher)

WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE

Wootton Youth Centre (WYC) is a place where young people can meet with friends, make new ones and join in activities such as football, cookery (with the Four Seasons Cookery Academy), water volleyball (in the summer!), table tennis, quizzes, table football, art projects, film nights. We have a café, offering tuck, ice lollies, toast and the most amazing hot chocolates! The young people that attend WYC help in programming session activities, parties, trips and fundraising events. We have amazing support from PGL staff, including monthly activity trips for the cost of weekly subs (£1).

Our team of trained, professional staff (experienced in supporting special needs) are here to support the young people to have fun and help them understand the world around them. As youth workers we have time to talk and are able to advise, signpost and educate young people about an array of concerns and questions.

Our great facilities are located at the Old School on New Road in Wootton and session times are:

Mondays	Junior Night	8-11 years	6.30-8.30pm
Tuesdays	Senior Night	11yrs-Year 8	6.30-9pm
Thursdays	Drop in Café Night	Year 9-Year 11	7.00-9pm

WYC welcomes young people from surrounding areas and friends from other parts of the Island also.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can give you any further information and please check out our WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE Facebook page.

Tesni Challis, Lead Youth Worker. Mobile: 07947 664443

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 Web: www.grange-farm-holidays.co.uk

MORE ON THE OPEN WEEKEND

Our readers who saw the article in the last issue about this year's Open Weekend will have noticed how much work goes into such events. We are very grateful for the help and support that makes such things possible and of course contributes towards the funds needed to keep our lovely church in running order. This is part of our 'stitch in time' policy (i.e. keep up a regular programme of works) which, among other things, keeps the overall costs down.

The next project will be roof repairs as part of the recommendations made in the recent Quinquennial report. This is due to begin in the near future, in fact by the time you read this we hope it will have already begun. Meanwhile we will continue raising funds.

Plans are already being worked out for next year's Open Weekend. Look for announcements. And don't forget there are many ways you can help, not just financially. See the article in our last issue for details. And if you have any ideas, need information, wish to help or are prepared to give/loan, materials, stories, etc. please get in touch. THANK YOU. Please call 01983 883124.

DMG

OUR HISTORY RE-PUBLISHED

Visitors to the Open Weekend will have had an opportunity to purchase the Story of Wootton Church by our former Rector Rev Genower. This book was originally published in 1958 and reprinted this year, courtesy of Mr Tim Genower, who has donated all the proceeds to the Friends of St Edmunds. As well as the basic history of St Edmund's the book contains all kinds of related stories. Some of the past Rectors were unusual to say the least. The following is related about a Rector who seems to have been known as the Fighting Priest.

On July 22nd, 1386, Thomas Tredyngton, Chaplain, Parson was appointed for an indefinite period, 'during the King's pleasure,' to stay and serve the King in his new tower of Southampton, both to celebrate Divine Worship for his good estate, and to keep the armour, victuals, artillery and guns therein for its defence, to do aught else for its safe custody that may be necessary, and to the control of the King's works within the Castle. He was to be paid £10 a year (possibly around £6,400 in present terms) for his salary, the money to come from the collector of customs on wool in the port of Southampton. He was retained expressly for this service because he was an expert in guns and the management of artillery, but the appointment was not to be made a precedent for burdening the King with the duty of finding a chaplain who was not so skilful in artillery. Tredyngton was termed the 'Artiller.'

To purchase a copy of this book please contact the Secretary on 01983 883126. The cost is £7.50 plus postage and packing if required.

Plus: don't forget the book Vackie Heroes will soon be on sale at Waterstone's and on line.

PARISH OF WOOTTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Veronica Brown, The Rectory,
 32 Church Road, Wootton Bridge. Tel: 07921 514906

Service times

1st Sunday 8 am - Holy Communion (St Edmund's) 10am - Brunch (St Mark's)	2nd Sunday 10am - Sung Eucharist (St. Edmund's) 6pm - Evensong (St. Edmund's)
3rd Sunday 8am - Holy Communion (St. Edmund's) 10am - Sung Eucharist & Explorers (St. Mark's)	4th & 5th Sundays 10am - Sung Eucharist (St. Edmund's) 6pm - Evensong (St. Edmund's)

Wednesdays at 9.30am — Service at St. Edmund's with Holy Communion

PARTY IN THE PARK

This year's *Party in the Park* raised almost £1,600 which has been equally split between The Bus Shelter and My Time IOW.



OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

The Old School building does require maintenance and we would like to try and gather several volunteers who could help the council with general maintenance work, such as painting, repairing walls, etc. If you would like to volunteer please contact the Parish Office on 884555.

Liz Kingston - Clerk



Chairman's Message

You are also welcome to come along to our monthly meetings, usually held on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7pm in the Old School, New Road. Our meetings are very upbeat and fast moving and residents are given the opportunity to speak during our meetings or raise any matters of concern or interest with your councillors. Of course you can also contact us at the Help Centre on 884555 or email wbpc@onwight.net
 I would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year. My thought to leave you with is:-
"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."

Ken Morris - Chairman

POLICE DROP-IN SESSIONS are held at Wootton Bridge Help Centre, Brannon Way from 10am to 12 noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Please call in if there are any matters you wish to discuss with our local police officers.

DIAL 999 WHEN THERE IS IMMEDIATE DANGER OR YOU WITNESS A CRIME: DIAL 101 WHEN IT'S LESS URGENT

Dial 101, a 24-hour confidential number to report noisy neighbours, abandoned vehicles, dumping and fly-tipping, drunken and rowdy groups, broken street lighting, etc.

You will talk to one of a team of highly trained people who will report the problem and keep you posted on progress.

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
 Edward Giles
 Barrie Hailstone
 Ken Morris - *Chairman*
 Peter Mundell
 Daryll Pitcher
 Linda Pitcher
 Steve Porter - *Vice Chairman*
 Carole Wolton
 Liz Kingston, *Clerk*

All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

PARISH COUNCIL
 Mon. 10am-1pm; Tues. 10am-1.30pm; Wed. - closed all day;
 Thurs. 10am-1.30pm;
 Fri: 10am-5.30pm
 TREE WARDEN
 First Friday in month.
 10am-12 noon.
 BEAT OFFICER
 First Tuesday in month
 10am-12 noon or messages can be left for PC Lesley Metcalfe

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Telephone and Fax 884555
 email: wbpc@onwight.net

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.



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CORFU CYPRUS GRAND CAYMAN ISLE OF WIGHT KOS MALTA RHODES
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 I I I A A E C N I P B R I R T M
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'THE BRIDGE'

Copy deadline date:
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 DEC. 2016/JAN. 2017 issue

Sudoku

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Churchwardens: Margaret Frost (240772); Mary Peters (882595)
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Published by St Edmund's and St Mark's Church and produced by members of
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NOVEMBER 2016

DELIVERED FREE

The Church Parish Magazine of Wootton

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Lest We Forget

November is the remembering month. Another year is running, more quickly than most of us would like, to its close. Balmey autumn days and Summer Time are already things past, and the commercial parody of Christmas is becoming ever more insistent. At this point comes Remembrance Sunday,



preceded for us church people by the festivals of All Saints and All Souls. This year we had a foretaste of this remembering time when, at one of our Sunday services in October, a colour party and other members of the British Legion joined us at St Edmund's to lay up the Standard of the Wootton Branch of the Legion. It was a moving occasion, with much of the ceremonial of Remembrance Sunday, including the Silence and the Last Post, beautifully played by the bugler. Sad though it is that the Standard no longer has a Branch to belong to, in its new place by the altar at St Edmund's it will now help us recall the service and sacrifice of those in the armed forces who find themselves in harm's way in all the wars and conflicts in which our nation becomes embroiled. Only a couple of weeks before the laying-up ceremony, we were told that the Wootton War Memorial in the Upper Churchyard at St Edmund's had been given official protection as a Grade II listed structure. This listing, with which few people would

disagree, places an extra responsibility on the Parochial Church Council, and by extension the whole community, to keep the Memorial in good repair. But we did not need the listing to take on the responsibility. Following a combined effort by the British Legion, the Parish Council and the church, the Memorial was restored and rededicated only a couple of years ago. Remembering is important to us; it is, after all, a lot of what we are. For all that, some memories are painful and hard to live with. As the weather turns cold and the days grow short, it can sometimes seem that Nature insists on reminding us of those parts of our lives that we would much rather bury under happier thoughts. But if we can manage to shake the dust out of this difficult stuff once in a while, then fold it up and put it back in its place, things seem to make a bit more sense. Churches, by and large (and certainly the churches here in Wootton), are not made up of people who are specially holy or specially wise. Church people are as aware of their limitations and failings as anyone, but they find it worthwhile to do the necessary job of making sense of life in the company of others. That process gives a context and a structure to all those memories, good and bad, in a way that nothing else can. And anyone, including you and me, can be a part of it. **Come and join us in St. Edmund's or St. Mark's one Sunday to see how that works.**

David Bennison