



21st December 2025

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.*

## 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*

## Christingle Service



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

We shall be preparing the Christingles prior to the service at 3pm in the coffee lounge.

## Bishop's Christmas message

Bishop Jonathan has recorded his Christmas message for 2025 which you can find here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9glAeYInPk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9glAeYInPk)



*Wishing you a God-filled and peaceful Christmas*



## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS** Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.1.-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end

Wednesday, 24th December Midnight at St Edmund's

Isaiah 9.1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, 25th December 10am at St Mark's

Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2. 1-20

Sunday, 28th December First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63.7.-9; Hebrews 2.10-end; Matthew 2.13-end



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

...The Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop Jonathan,  
Asst.Bishop Rob, Area Dean Chris, Associate Area Deans  
James and Vicky



...Sandra Matthews, God's mission and our ministry in Wootton, and those who staff our children's ministry

...from the Diocesan cycle of prayers: Ryde All Saints, Swanmore, St Michael and all Angels, and St John, Oakfield

...our Christian brothers and sisters in North Korea and the Middle East

...the children of our church and parish

...the Island School, Street, and Prayer Pastors

***... those who are sick or in any kind of need:*** Len, Rosemary McC, Robert, Rev'd Bob, Lorna, Neil, Barbara Edwards, and all on our Luke 11 Line

***... those who have recently died:*** Jack Maloney

***... those who are in Our Year's Mind:*** 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.*

## **Advent Prayer for Love**

God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world.

Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. ***Amen***

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### St Mildred's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Last opportunity to visit the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mildred's from 1pm-3pm today, **Sunday 21st December!**



### Carol Services



The final Carol Service in our plurality takes place today, **Sunday 21st December**, from 4pm at St Mildred's church.

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

#### Christmas Eve Services:

4pm at St Mark's Church: Christingle

7pm at St James' Church: Christmas Communion

11.30pm at St Edmund's Church: Midnight Mass



#### Christmas Day Services

10am at St Mildred's Church: Family Communion

10am at St Mark's Church: Family Communion

### Café Communion

Our next Café Communion service at St Mark's will take place at 11.15am on **Wednesday 7th January**. Please book if you would like lunch either by email to [stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com](mailto:stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com).

### Elephant Club

This social group for those living with memory loss, their carers and friends takes place on **Thursday 8th January**, 2-4pm at St Mark's.

### Living Faith: Spirituality and Prayer

This starts on **Friday 9th January** 7.30pm, online. Studying different traditions of spirituality can help us see that how we are drawn to relate to God may be determined by our personality type, or by the traditions of our church. Register at [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/events/2026/01/09/living-faith-spirituality-and-prayer](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/events/2026/01/09/living-faith-spirituality-and-prayer)

### Sandra's Leaving Service

On **Sunday 11th January** at 9.30am we shall be hosting a plurality Holy Communion service at St Mark's as it will be Sandra's last service.

## Dates for your Diary

### This week

Sun 21st	9.30am Morning Worship (St Mark's) 9.30am Holy Communion (St James') 11.15am Holy Communion (St Mildred's) 4pm Carol Service (St Mildred's)
Wed 24th	<b>No</b> 9.30am Holy Communion (St Edmund's) 4pm Christingle (St Mark's) 7pm Holy Communion (St James') 11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Edmund's)
Thu 25th	10am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion (St Mark's) 10am Christmas Day Family Holy Communion (St Mildred's) <b>No</b> Discussion Group (St Mark's) <b>No</b> Choir Practice (St Mark's)

### Later

Sun 28th	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mark's) 9.30am Holy Communion (St James') 11.15am Holy Communion (St Mildred's) <b>No</b> Evensong (St Edmund's)
Wed 31st	<b>No</b> 9.30am Holy Communion (St Edmund'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 [stedmundsandmarks@gmail.com](mailto:stedmundsandmarks@gmail.com) or by leaving a message on 301880. (Emails and messages are checked regularly, but not daily).

**Churchwardens:** Harry Kirby and Steve Beynon

**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)