

 <p>St Edmund's & St Mark's Wootton Bridge</p>	<p>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.</p>
 <p>18th January 2026</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>

Lent 2026

The Church of England's theme for Lent is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

During Lent, reflections are centred around 'a summary of the Christian Way' from *Common Worship*, which identifies six activities essential to our calling as disciples. Each week a different contributor explores an aspect of Christian discipleship – **worshipping** together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service**, and **sharing the good news** with others. A parallel 40-day challenge for families and children will also be available.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too." Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Join in a webinar on **Wednesday 21st January** at 12.30 to explore the Lent and Easter resources for churches. To book and to find out more go to www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent

Prayer

Lord Jesus, grant that as through your saving grace we have become rich in many ways, so may we have joy in sharing our riches, within your church, for the sake of your kingdom. *Amen*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

Wednesday, 21st January 9.30am at St Edmund's

1 Samuel 17.32-33,37,40-51

Sunday, 25th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23



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: Crookhorn

...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 in Our Year's Mind:*** 23rd Jacqueline Davison

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.



Isle of Wight Foodbank

Collection boxes are available in both Churches for food etc.

Financial donations are also much appreciated.

Volunteers Needed!

St Mildred's Church would like to invite anyone who may be interested in volunteering in the Coffee Shop and Church during the visitors season March to October 2026. For further information please email Careymorton@sky.com

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will be meeting in the Coffee Lounge at St Mark's 10.30am on **Thursday 22nd and 29th January**.
Do come along!

Prayer Breakfast

There is to be a Prayer Breakfast at 9am on **Saturday 17th January** at Clarence Road Evangelical Church. This is an East Cowes Churches Together event, an organisation we are now part of, and all are very welcome to attend.

Coffee Morning

All are welcome to a Coffee Morning taking place at St James' Church Hall from 10am on **Tuesday 20th January**.

The Bridge

You are invited to the next session of Bridge-folding which will be held in the Coffee Lounge at 2pm on **Friday 30th January**. Please come along and join us—many hands make light work!

More help would be appreciated with delivering *The Bridge*, so if you know someone who might be prepared to help us, do please let David Bennison know by email to David.Bennison@gmail.com

Alternatively would you be interested in writing an article for the magazine? If so, Warwick would love to hear from you! Please contact him at thebridge@cofeparishwoottonbridge.org.uk

We are extremely grateful for the help of all our volunteers, without whom there would be no parish magazine.

Café Communion

Our next Cafe Communion service at St Mark's will take place at 11.15am on **Wednesday 4th February**. Please book if you would like lunch by email to stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com. The PCC pays for the lunch which follows the service and all donations received are split equally between Wootton Primary School's hardship fund and our parish.

Dates for your Diary

This week

Sun 18th	9.30am Morning Worship (St Mark's) 9.30am Holy Communion (St James') 11.15am Holy Communion (St Mildred's)
Tue 20th	10am Coffee Morning (St James' Church Hall)
Wed 21st	9.30am Holy Communion (St Edmund's)
Thu 22nd	10.30am Discussion Group (St Mark's) 6pm Choir Practice (St Mark's)

Later

Sun 25th	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mark's) followed by PCC Meeting 9.30am Holy Communion (St James') 11.15am Holy Communion (St Mildred's) 5pm Evensong (St Edmund's)
Wed 28th	9.30am Holy Communion (St Edmund's)
Thu 29th	10.30am Discussion Group (St Mark's) 6pm Choir Practice (St Mark's)
Fri 30th	2pm Bridge Folding (St Mark's)
Sun 1st Feb	8am Holy Communion (St Edmund's) 9.30am Brunch Service (St Mark's) 9.30am Holy Communion (St James')

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

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

Parish Priest: Rev'd Sandra Matthews - contactable by email at 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

Weekly Sheet co-ordinator: Helen Davison may be contacted on 882330 or by email at helendavison1@hotmail.co.uk