

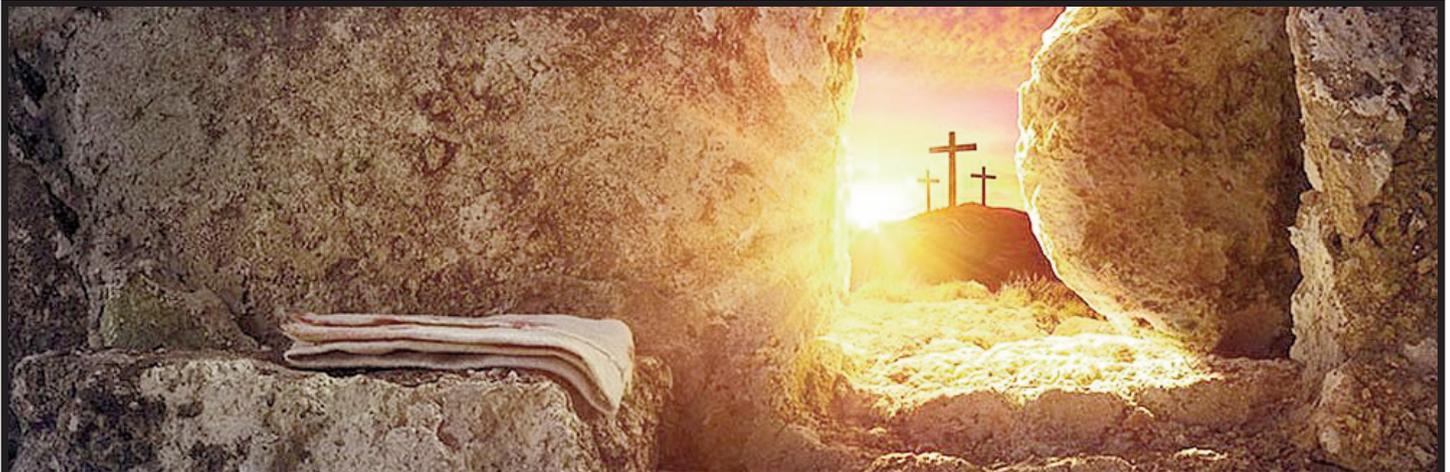
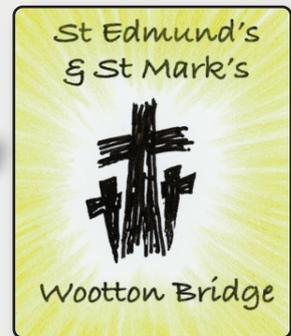
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THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Why does Easter matter anyway?

As this magazine comes to you from your local parish church, it's hardly a surprise that Easter, the most important Christian festival, should feature in our April edition. But why should we think that Easter matters to you?

Statistically speaking, it is not very likely that you will be attending any of the Easter services in the three churches in Wootton, though a warm welcome awaits you there if you care to prove me wrong. And while we all welcome a holiday weekend in early Spring, wouldn't it be easier to have it on a fixed date, like Christmas, and leave the Christians to do their Easter thing on whatever date suits them? Yes, it would be easier. But Easter is different.

Stories (whether they be historical, religious or simply folk tales) tell us who we are. They connect us to others who know them as well as we do and to our forebears who knew them in times gone by. Whatever our personal beliefs may be, the Easter story does that for all of us. In a few short pages it tells us just how good and how bad humanity can be. The events of Good Friday, sad and horrific as they are, tell us that good can triumph over evil in even the darkest of times. Easter Day offers us a new way of being and new hope.

Of course it is easy to dismiss the "miraculous" elements of the story as a fantasy or even as some kind of con trick. But the story presents the Resurrection in particular not as a piece of divine showmanship, but in plain, almost matter-of-fact, language. Much more is written about the different reactions of Jesus' followers to the fact that he has come back to life. This is a new and scary reality, and the Gospel writers make no bones about the fact that the disciples do not easily come to terms with what has happened. When the truth finally dawns on them, it changes (Christians would say redeems) them for ever.

With all the evil and stupidity we see in our world, it is easy for us to overlook the good that is staring us in the face, and to which we should be paying more attention. The Easter story connects us with that simple truth. That is an important part of why Easter matters, and not just to people who think of themselves as Christians.

David Bennison 

For April services, please see Page 3



The Power of a Sticker!

Over the last few weeks the children at Wootton have been enthused to try and eat both new foods as well as

eating more fruit, salad and vegetables.

As a school we have joined the National 'Eat them to defeat them' programme which encourages children to eat more veg by making it fun. This is the first year that the Isle of Wight has been able to join the programme and we are so pleased to be a part of this.

We have held assemblies to discuss the importance of eating vegetables but the most exciting part has been at lunchtime! Each time a child tries something new or eats their whole portion of veg they receive a sticker which they take home and add to their chart. We are so pleased with the results and hope that this continues to encourage children to make healthy choices and eat a balanced diet.

Following the programme last year 1.8 million children took part with 82% of parents stating their children ate more vegetables and 60% reporting that this change has been long lasting. We are hopeful that we will have a higher success rate with our children!

The programme encourages children to be an official veg hunter, looking for those hidden veggies in meals and giving everything a try. In the children's packs, each veg has an article about them so that the children get to know their little tricks and discover their strengths, weaknesses and more, such as learning that carrots have the skill of growing out of sight deep underground with a crunch factor of 10/10. Ideas are given on how to eat them and what shapes to cut them but the best part that the children enjoy on the website is the many jokes such as, 'Which martial art are vegetables good at?...carrotte!' or 'Why do peas dislike noisy eaters?..Because they want peas and quiet!'

So I wonder if you can join us and become veg hunters too? Even a little lick or a sneaky sniff counts towards the veg battle we are on – I hope you agree that these smiles say it all!



Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher



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

(see more events on Page 5)

Fun, local, physiotherapist-led, Pilates based movement and balance classes. Wednesdays 4.30-5.25 or 5.30-6.25, St Marks Church Coffee Lounge. Flexible terms: no need to pay ahead - you only pay for the classes you attend. For more information and spaces contact Anna on aqphysio@outlook.com

What's On at The Old School Centre (T) 01983 882820 (E) hello@theoldschoolcentre.org

MoJo Yoga with Jo Mondays 6pm-7:15pm contact Jo at 07435955506. **Sarah's Crafty Café** Tuesdays 10am-12pm £3 inc. materials. **The Power Of Self-Esteem 6-week course** Mondays starting 13th April and again in June 10am-1pm £10 deposit + £20 materials cost, contact Steph at www.tinyurl.com/osc-iow-courses or 07976009087. **Paracise with Helen** Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:15pm £5 for 1st class, £9 PAYG or £28 for month. **Afternoon Activities** Tuesdays 1:15pm free. **Move & Stretch with Suki** Thursdays 11am-12pm free/donations. **Knit & Knatter with Kate** Thursdays 1pm-3pm instructor available 2nd / 3rd Thu of month free/donations, donations of wool/knitting needles will be gratefully welcomed. **Adult Beginners Ballet with Suki** Thursdays 3:30pm-4:30pm £8.50. **Adult Beginners Tap with Suki** Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm £8.50 special offer for both ballet & tap classes £15. **Wootton Crafters** 2nd & 4th Sat of month 10am-4pm £7 per session. Are you a community group or activity looking to hire a venue? – complete our booking request form via www.theoldschoolcentre.org to enquire.

Ali's Fitness Fusion - Thursdays at Wootton Bridge Community Centre - 5.30pm is Rockbox Fitness (A stress busting, therapy session. Punch, kick, and smash sticks to classic and modern rock tunes, 6.30pm is Fitsteps (Strictly Inspired Dance Fitness Class). Classes also at Binstead Community Centre on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Contact ali_ontheisland@yahoo.co.uk or www.alisfitnessfusioniow.com

Short Mat Bowls - Every Tuesday in the Wootton Community Centre at 10am. It is £5 per session to include tea & biscuits and finishes about 12.30. Please contact Colin on 882588.

"Sounds Lively" - Hello all of you singers. We are a mixed singing group, and always open for new members. Our choir leader is a talented musician and we sing in a range of musical styles: Traditional, folk, and international songs, and always focus on harmony. There are no auditions or a need to read music. Although we do take our music seriously we have fun too. We are: A friendly bunch and stop mid-session for tea/coffee. Where: Newport Scout Hall, Woodbine Close, Newport. When: Wednesdays 10:30am – 12:30pm. Cost: £5 per session (term time only). Contact: Alison 07731 933 286.

EASTER Verses

Luke 23:44 – 47

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Matthew 28:5-8

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Church Services in Wootton during April 2026

Wed 1st	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's	Plus:	Holy Week Services
Thu 2nd	7pm Maundy Thursday Plurality Holy Communion at St James'		
Fri 3rd	10am Good Friday Interactive Family Service reflecting on the events of Holy Week and Good Friday at St Mark's.	Thu 2nd April	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> 7pm Plurality Holy Communion at St James'
Sun 5th	10am Easter Sunday Holy Communion at St Mark's	Fri 3rd April	<u>Good Friday</u> 10am Interactive Family Service reflecting on the events of Holy Week and Good Friday at St Mark's
Wed 8th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's		11am Walk of Witness starting opposite Albert Cottage, walking to Waitrose Square for a short Service.
Sun 12th	9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's 6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's		2pm Reflective Service at St Mildred's
Wed 15th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's	Sun 5th April	<u>Easter Sunday</u> 10am Holy Communion at St Mark's
Sun 19th	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's		9.30am Holy Communion at St James'
Wed 22nd	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's		11.15am Holy Communion at St Mildred's
Sun 26th	9.30am Family Patronal Festival Holy Communion at St Mark's. 6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's		
Wed 29th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's		

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

What is an Eco Church?

On Monday 10th November 2025, both St. Edmund's Church and St. Mark's Church were registered as Eco Churches. The A Rocha UK Eco Church programme is committed to equipping Christians and Churches in the UK to care for their environments. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and to care for creation. Wootton Parish is now in the early stages of following the Eco Church programme which will look at how we put our faith into action in the following areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings and energy
- Land and nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Other local Churches are also Eco Churches. St Helen's was the first Church on the Isle of Wight to be registered as an Eco-Church and now has a Gold Award. Cowes Baptist Church and Newport Methodist Church are also Eco Churches. Whippingham, and Portsmouth Cathedral each have a Silver Award.

To find out more, visit: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

One of the aims of Eco Church is to involve the wider community in the care of Churchyards and encouraging wildlife to flourish within Church grounds. We are so fortunate to have some beautiful areas in our care.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) were contacted to ask their advice about possible ways to improve the two Churchyards as natural habitats. We received a very enthusiastic and helpful reply from Tina Whitmore who came on a site visit. Tina is 'The Wilder Communities Officer' for the Isle of Wight and her role is "Supporting and encouraging communities to give nature a helping hand and make spaces more wildlife friendly."

On 5th March, Tina walked all around both the Churchyards at St. Edmund's and looked at the Copse opposite the Church. Tina was delighted to see the lovely grounds that we have in our care. She noted many signs that show wildlife is already thriving there. It was also most encouraging to have ideas and offers of help from all the people who came on the site visit. I was very pleased that we were joined by several members of the 'Friends of St. Edmund's' including Linda Pitcher, who was also attending in her capacity as The Chair of The Parish Council. Tina discussed the mowing of the grass at St. Edmund's and St. Mark's and the best ways to encourage wildlife to flourish there and will provide more detailed advice about this.

Following this visit, Tina has offered to create a bespoke 'Making Space for Nature' report to help with our future planning. She suggested looking at The Local Nature Recovery Strategy on The IOW Council website. See below to find out more about this initiative and visit:

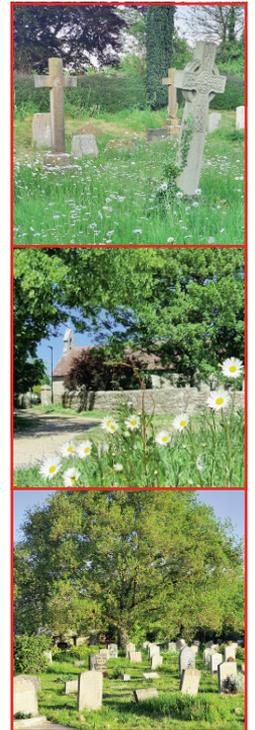
<https://www.iow.gov.uk/article/1573/Local-Nature-Recovery-Strategy>

In early March, The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew asked the Wootton Church Council (PCC) for permission to collect the seeds of narrow-leaved lungwort (*Pulmonaria longifolia*) this summer for The Millennium Seed Bank, based at Wakehurst in Sussex. The collectors will be careful to keep the sampling limit to less than 20% of the available seed on the day of collection, so that they do not affect the reproductive potential of the population of the plants.

On 2nd March Ruth Valerio, an environmentalist and theologian spoke at an evening meeting arranged by 'Creation Matters' at Carisbrooke Priory (<https://ruthvalerio.net/>).

Ruth is one of the founders of Eco Church. Her main message was 'Every little bit we can do for the environment really does help, because all these small actions together do make an impact.'

Watch this space for further updates and opportunities for you to get involved!



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

(see more events on Page 3)

KEEP ACTIVE MOVE MORE CLASSES. BINSTEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAYS AT 11.20am AND WHIPPINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9.45am, 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 4pm. AND FRIDAYS AT 10.10am 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. SANDOWN BROADWAY CENTRE ON MONDAYS AT 4.15pm AND WHIPPINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2.45pm. 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](https://breatheeasyiow.org) OR CONTACT: **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

PARKINSONS UK ISLE OF WIGHT HAVE REGULAR WEEKLY EXERCISE CLASSES AT ARRETON VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAYS AT 11.15am, 12.25pm and 2pm SPECIFICALLY SUITED FOR ANYONE LIVING WITH PARKINSONS. FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

Elephant Club - A social group for people living with memory loss, their carers and friends, just wanting an afternoon of good company.....and cake. If someone you care for has memory problems, the ELEPHANT CLUB will be meeting at St Mark's Church between 2-4pm on the second Thursday of each month. If you would like good company and laughter, and to exercise "the little grey cells" whilst eating cake, do come and join us. We would love to see you. Each month's programme is different so we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Next session: Thursday April 9th.

C.A.M.E.O. Wootton Together - The Living Well & Early Help Service has now launched its Wootton Together sessions under the new name of C.A.M.E.O WOOTTON TOGETHER held at the CHURCH CLOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHURCH CLOSE, WOOTTON PO33 4QD. Weekly sessions every Monday from 2pm - 4pm. Please come along for a cuppa and chat with your neighbours and access information and guidance from a range of visiting organisations and support from the LWEH team. For more information please see the Living Well & Early Help Service Facebook page, look out for the flyer being posted to local addresses or check the noticeboard at the community centre. **Free to attend**, we really look forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend if you can. Michelle 01983 240732.

WOOTTON BRIDGE COFFEE MORNING - This is held every Monday between 10.00 - 12.00 at Wootton Methodist Church Hall. Come for coffee and a chat, we even have a corner shop. Parking is available in the Steam Railway car park. Everyone welcome.

Pilates and Yoga with Jo (Wootton Bridge Community Centre) - Various classes on Monday morning and Wednesday morning/evening. More details from Jo at joannemunt@yahoo.co.uk, also on 07726215526

Mark's Brothers Breakfast/Brunch Gathering - This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.30am - 12 noon in St Mark's coffee lounge. The opportunity for the men of the village who would like to sort the world to rights over just a coffee (if you're not a fan of bacon) or include the bacon butty too. Please let Harry Kirby know if you will be attending. A small, voluntary, contribution towards costs always appreciated. 07814809083 or harryskirby@btinternet.com The group is very friendly and welcoming. Next meeting Wednesday 8th April.

The "Crafty Ladies" - We meet on Wednesday afternoons at the Church Close Community Hall, Wootton, from 1.30pm 'till 4pm. We would like to welcome new members to our friendly group, who get together to enjoy a variety of different crafts, no experience necessary. Come in and join us for a natter and a coffee/tea as well. Age is no barrier! It's now £3 a session, with the first one free. Please call Jan on 882381 for more details

Wootton Table Tennis Club - Friday mornings at Brannon Way Community Centre, from 9.30-12.00. Cost: £3.00 per session (first week is free). Equipment provided. Friendly group catering for all abilities. 07894169706. Just come and try it.

CREEKSIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI) - A warm welcome awaits you on the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Wootton. We meet at 7.15pm. Come and see what we get up to & make new friends. Visitors & new members are always welcome. Plenty of free parking in the Steam Railway Car Park opposite. Come along & have some fun. Contact: Marlene 01983 685266.

Creekside WI Activities for April

April 1st	Ten Pin Bowling
April 8th	Our Main meeting - Box making with Sylvia
April 10th	A delicious Easter Tea
April 15th	Amble
April 17th	Coffee morning
April 22nd	Kurling
April 29th	Games evening (board and darts)

Another month of fun packed events. Ladies why not come along and meet new friends whilst having fun. Visitors are always very welcome to join us

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you.

Lots to look forward to.

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For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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Beavers 6 – 8yrs Monday 6.15 - 7.30pm
Cubs 8 - 10½yrs Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm
Scouts 10½ - 14yrs Tuesday 6.30 - 8.30pm
Explorers 14 – 18yrs Thursday 7- 9pm

All sections open to boys and girls.
Adults welcome to train as Leaders.

Contact Rachael on 07593 700985 for further details

Solent Property Care
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Don't replace them – repair them!
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Free Estimates - Fully Insured
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Mobile: 07967531576




IWUFT Wootton Bridge History Group

We meet on the first Friday of the month in the Scout Hall within Wootton Park/doorstep green. Doors open at 2pm. The speaker/ presentation is from 2:30pm until 3:30pm, followed by refreshments. Charge for 2026 will be £3 per person for I.W.U.F.T members, to cover hall hire, speaker fees and refreshments. £4 per person for non members, friends and guests.

Fri, 3rd April ~ "Ancient Egypt" ~ Edward Nash. Ed, from 'Time Jump Histories' will be presenting this, and will as usual be fully costumed and with many fascinating artefacts, each with a story.

Fri, 1st May ~ "Two Island Lighthouses" ~ Francis Quinn. This engaging speaker will share with us his presentation on the little known history of lighthouses on our island.

All welcome

WOOTTON SCOUT HALL FOR HIRE.

Hall including modern kitchen, central heating, rear garden etc. Reasonable rates.

Contact Peter on 883385 or peteflow@uwclub.net for bookings.

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH (Station Road)

Minister: Rev Gina Hoff
Sunday Morning Service 10am
Evening Services as announced
Minister's Message

Pause. Breathe. Make space for God.

This time last year we had had some really bright and sunny weather that really helped to cheer us up. This year has been a real mix, sunny warm days at the end of February woke the tortoise up early, since then we've had heavy rain and very foggy days, the air so thick with cooling mist, driving over the downs has been quite dodgy.

It's funny how the environment can affect the way we feel, thinking of Morcombe and Wise singing 'Bring me Sunshine' shows what hope there is in bright warm rays.

Some of us during lent have been looking at the lives of the Desert Fathers and Mothers who came after a time of extreme persecution for the Church, and were endeavouring to navigate an era in which Christianity was increasingly politicised by Rome, the superpower of their day. They craved silence, solitude and spirituality in a busy, noisy world, dropping 'off-grid' to look for a simpler, truer life. They were hungry for holiness, troubled by the compromised state of the Church, which was looking less and less like Jesus the more power and prestige it gained. The response of the Desert Fathers and Mothers to the challenges of their age was to enter the wilderness, embracing self-denial, silence and solitude in order to pursue their relationship with God. Their model in this was, of course, Jesus, who entered the wilderness after his baptism and spent forty days there fasting, praying and engaging in spiritual warfare (<https://lectio365.com>)

This Lent and the travel through to Easter is for many an unknown territory, time off is for recovery from work and school and is needed to manage everyday life. Easter offers us all a chance to reevaluate, to sit in the sunshine of life and count it a blessing to live, even when times are tough. The Desert Fathers and Mothers were searching for an experience that helped them to find the peace that God offers in our daily lives. Through their practise we can imitate their 'stepping out', taking time to reflect, pray and rest in the offer of God's help. This may offer us a warm sunshine ray of hope this Easter, to be not only affected by the sunshine but the warmth we can feel within us that all can be well.

Have a blessed Easter, 'He is Risen'

Reverend Gina



Wootton Bridge Methodist Church

Preachers for April

- 5th April Andrew Hardiman
- 12th April Rev Gina Hoff Short & snappy
- 19th April Local arrangement
- 26th April Combined service at Binstead Church
- 3rd May James Pellow
- 10th May Local arrangement
- 17th May Rev Gina Hoff - Communion
- 24th May Lorraine Webb
- 31st May Local arrangement



**FOR FUN, FRIENDSHIP
AND FOOD.**
COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

WOOTTON BRIDGE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

**WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS ON THE 3RD
FRIDAY OF THE MONTH (not Aug).**
**START 2PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH,
STATION ROAD.**
**FREE PARKING IN THE STEAM RAILWAY
CAR PARK**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET TOGETHER WITH
 A GROUP TO TRY NEW THINGS, FOR FRIENDSHIP AND
 HAVE FUN, COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT LESLEY

lesley@kitehillfarm.co.uk



THE OLD SCHOOL CENTRE

NEW RD | WOOTTON BRIDGE | IOW | PO33 4HX

Supporting community wellbeing & inclusion

A diverse timetable to join groups, activities & events
Visit our website at www.theoldschoolcentre.org

See 'For Your Diary' in *The Bridge* or our website for details

Buzzy-Bean Café
 Tues & Thurs 11am-3pm



KEEP IN TOUCH

Sign up - free membership & receive updates



Scan the QR code for our short membership form or visit our website

hello@theoldschoolcentre.org | 01983 882820

*please visit our social media or website for updates or changes

Check our website
What's on page for the latest activities, prices & timetable info...



together



Looking for a venue?

Scan the QR code for our booking request form or visit our website

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:

Linda Pitcher, *Chair*
Sarah Redrup, *V.Chair*
John Roberts
Jane Allen
Ian Yeo
Kim Massey
Lee Lemon
Jon Smith
Sophus Magill
Don Willsmer
Liz Kingston, *Clerk*
Lorna Morey, *Assistant Clerk*

All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

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

BEAT OFFICER

Please see Facebook when the Beat Officer is in the office or messages can be left/passed on by staff in the office.

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

tel: 884555

email: clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk

website:

www.woottonbridge-pc.gov.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-pc.gov.uk
IOW Councillor for Wootton Bridge, Sarah Redrup
Email: sarah.redrup@iow.gov.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.

Spring Tidy Up

Join us on Saturday 25th April for our Big Tidy Up. Meet at the Parish Council Office at 10am where we will provide the litter pickers, hoops and bags (although feel free to bring your own if you have them). If you can't make the day then just tidying up on your street would make a huge difference.

Briddlesford Farm have once again very kindly supported the event by offering cake and a drink straight after the Big Tidy Up or a breakfast bap and drink the day after at Bluebells Cafe! We also have equipment in the office if you wish to borrow it at another time. We really appreciate the kind residents that give up their time to help keep our village looking its very best.

Home Start Isle of Wight

Home Start Isle of Wight is seeking new volunteers to support local families with young children who may be feeling isolated, overwhelmed, or worried about school readiness expectations. Some parents report that long checklists of skills can leave them feeling as though they've “failed” if their child can't manage every item, from buttons to cutlery and social confidence. Just a small amount of time from a caring volunteer can make a real difference, especially in rural areas where support is harder to reach. If you'd like to help a local family or if you're a parent or carer who could use some support, please visit www.homestartisleofwight.org.uk or email admin@homestartiw.org

Village Survey

We are currently looking into grant funding to improve the play park at Wootton Recreation ground. In order to have the best chance to achieve this, we need support from the residents so please email us at clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk or pop into the office to let us know your ideas and thoughts.

Annual Parish Meeting

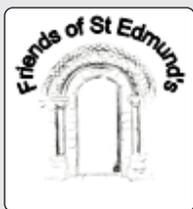
Wootton Bridge's Annual Parish meeting is being held at the Old School, New Road on 21st April at 6.30pm. Come along to hear reports from the Chair, Clerk, PCSO and the Environmental Officer. The usual monthly Parish Council meeting will be held afterwards at 7pm.

Cllr Sarah Redrup - Your Isle of Wight Councillor

I was pleased that the works on Elenor's Grove by Southern Water opened around a month ahead of schedule; however, I remain concerned about the impact that ongoing and future roadworks are having on local businesses in Wootton. I have been supporting businesses in raising their concerns with the Isle of Wight Council, Island Roads and the utility companies responsible for the works. Alongside other councillors, I have also written to request that both the Chief Executive of Southern Water and representatives from SGN visit the island to attend meetings, so that residents and businesses can raise issues directly and ensure their voices are heard. With more works scheduled by both SGN and Island Roads on Binstead Road between now and 2027, ensuring that lessons learned are taken on board, is vital.

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-pc.gov.uk

Liz Kingston – Clerk



“The Friends of St Edmund’s” **The First Thirty Years**

“Friends of St. Edmund’s”
St Edmund Church Building Trust



Back in 1996 we were preparing for the first annual Open Weekend along with the launch of the St Edmund’s Church Building Trust. This year (2026) we celebrate our 30th anniversary. During those 30 years we have aimed to beautify and restore our lovely church. Judging by the favourable comments, we have succeeded. “The Friends” are the fund raising arm of the Building Trust. Anyone over 18 is welcome to join for a basic annual subscription of £5.

Thanks to the generous support of members of “The Friends” and local people, the Trust has been able to fund a variety of projects to maintain this lovely church for the benefit of our successors. One of the earliest, the replastering and painting of the interior, resulted in a series of concerned phone calls reporting vandals. Fortunately the ‘vandals’ in question were workmen breaking up the plaster.

When planning projects we have often been able to employ Island companies so that we have benefited local firms as well as the Trust itself, while other members of the workforce were volunteers.

When the decision was made to undertake repairs to the bell, and bell turret, a mainland firm was employed. The hanging straps had stretched and the bell was knocking against the side of the turret when rung. This would have led, not only to damage to the structure, but could have been dangerous as well. Finally having been declared unsafe, it ceased to be rung.

The firm of Nicholson Engineering, Bridport, Dorset, took the bell down and removed it for repair. Work proceeded quickly and the bell was returned a fortnight later. Having previously been described as sounding like a bucket it now gave a full, clear and harmonious ring.

This of course has simply been part of a 30 year programme, including repairs to masonry, woodwork, two of the lancet windows in the chancel and rebuilding the buttresses at the East end. It has always been interesting to witness the work of experts.

May the coming years be equally as worthwhile.

Doreen Gazey - Hon Secretary, Friends of St Edmund’s



ST JAMES’ CHURCH EAST COWES

Calling all Jigsaw Puzzle Fans!

Could you be part of our Team
making up Jigsaws for our Jigsaw Puzzle
Festival in August?

We will supply the jigsaws and boards.
We will deliver and collect.

For more information
please call us on 07779 018693

'The Bridge'
 is delivered free
 to over 1,750 homes and
 businesses in Wootton
 Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
 the May '26 issue will be available to
 pick up from the Churches on FRIDAY
 24th April 2026

Solution - March Sudoku

2	7	6	5	4	9	3	1	8
4	5	8	3	6	1	2	7	9
3	1	9	2	8	7	5	4	6
5	2	1	6	3	4	8	9	7
8	9	3	1	7	2	6	5	4
6	4	7	8	9	5	1	2	3
7	8	2	4	1	3	9	6	5
9	3	5	7	2	6	4	8	1
1	6	4	9	5	8	7	3	2

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

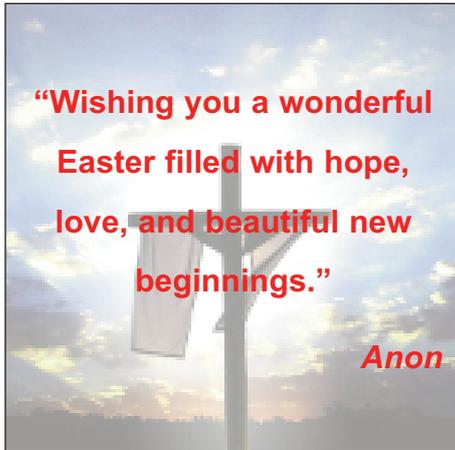
Email:
clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk

	3	6		1	2	9		5
2		5	8		9			3
9				3	5			
3		9	5	2				1
	6	2						8
		1	3				5	6
6		4	2		1		3	
		8			3	1		4
	5			7		8	2	9

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.

Happy Easter



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 stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com or leave a message on 01983 301880
 (we will respond as soon as we can)
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 bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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