

The
Wootton
P A R I S H N E W S

SPRING EDITION

MARCH 2020



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Keith Randell: 07872 647234

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Bedford Borough Councillor

John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - Naomi Ward: 07722 876 252

Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Jenny Lambert: 767 488

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Wootton Community Centre - email:

woottoncommunitycentre@gmail.com

Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings

Sue Playford: 07531 930 788

Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212

Beat Manager: 842 433

Non Emergency: 101

Anti-Social Behaviour: 276 037

Good Neighbour Scheme: 07717 770 247

Playgroups

Bizzy Bees - Paula Bannell: 767 185

St Mary's - Tracey Kerins: 767 158

Wootton Community Nursery -

Kayleigh: 07534 308 632

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Juliet Wright: 07590 449815

St Mary's Church

Canon Peter Ackroyd: 768 391

Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Kath Pawlett: 918 328

Baptist Church

Mr Rob Stanton: 766 293

Roman Catholic Church

Father Seamus Keenan: 352 569

Doctor's Surgeries

Wootton Vale: 762 500

Cranfield, High St: 750 234

Kempston, Cater St: 849 090

Kempston, King St: 852 222

Kempston, St John St: 851 323

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

Wootton Facilities

Pharmacy: 765 166

Post Office: 768 368

Library: 766 061

Village Club & Organisations

1st Wootton Rainbows - Naomi: 07722 876252

1st Wootton Boys Brigade - Allan: 319 269

1st Wootton Girls Brigade - Nicola: 319 269

Acorn Quilters - Dorothy: 409 566

Badminton Monday - Chris: 07740 939 109

Badminton Thursday - Freda: 270 638

Badminton Juniors - Colin: 270 283

Beavers - Louise: 07753 811 910

Bowls Monday - Viv: 855 383

Bowls Thursday - Rena: 768 012

Brennan School of Dance: 822 831

Brownies Tuesday - Denise: 314 030

Brownies Wednesday - Becky: 07876 766050

Cubs - Christopher: 304 588

Country Players - Wendy: 401 460

Explorers - Kit: 07792 372 570

Group Scout Leader - Kit: 07792 372 570

Guides - Gill: 856 566

'55' Club - Arthur: 768 405

Marston Vale Forest School: 07811 087 322

Royal British Legion Wootton Poppy Appeal

Organiser - Chris: 07865 051 453

Scouts - Dave: 07780 954 307

Stewartby Operatic Society - 01908 616213

Tang Soo Do - Pat: 07917 805 863

Wootton Golf Society - Pete: 07975 596 164

Women's Institute - Kath: 765 333

Wootton Rangers FC - Jeremy: 07446 770193

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662





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Editor in Chief - Sue Edgar Playford

Editor - Gareth Lloyd

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Editorial Notes:

Wootton News is overseen by an editorial sub group of the parish council. While every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is accurate, the parish council accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It should be noted that articles written by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of the council. Please send all articles to the Wootton News editor (gareth.t.lloyd@googlemail.com) by the copydate. Advertisements are usually half page (£30 for black and white, or colour). If you wish to advertise then please send your details to the editor. The advertisements are taken in good faith and we cannot accept any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

Next Issue: June 2020

Copy Date: May 2020

The Wootton News can be read online at:
<https://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

If you have any comments or opinions on how to improve the Wootton News, please send them to Sue Playford (Clerk to the Council):

WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
or call on **07531 930 788**

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



"At the time of writing this report...." We say that, because it takes a month to gather all the reports and adverts together, design the newsletter, print around 3000 copies and have them delivered to every house within the parish. If you know of anyone who does not receive a newsletter, please let the clerk know. Additional copies are also available at the Library and Doctors Surgery. You can also find a copy online via our website.

Which reminds me, our **website** is changing. With the change in legislation which requires making it as easy as possible for people to access online material (known as the digital accessibility regulation), we are in the process of changing our website, with the aim of having a basic website by April. Further development will take place during the rest of the year. We will bring you more news on this new website in June's Newsletter.

So, at the time of writing this report, I have the following information.

Plans for up to **81 dwellings** adjacent to the upper school were objected to by the parish council. Having experience of challenging the borough council's planning committee with contentious planning applications, the parish council employed a professional planning consultant to help identify all planning constraints that could help prevent

this application from being approved. These constraints were passed on to Borough Cllr Wheeler to raise during his speech at the Borough Planning meeting. The Borough's Planning Committee chose to object to the plans, however the developer has launched an appeal looking to overturn that refusal. The parish council has employed a highways consultant to fight this appeal and a submission was made to the Planning Inspectorate on 14th February 2020.

The Borough Council Local Plan for 2030 was approved in January 2020, and it includes no further development for Wootton. However, in the next two to three years Bedford Borough Council have to produce a further Local Plan (possibly Local Plan 2040 or 2045). This new plan could see Wootton facing further development, should landowners choose to put their sites forward. We are hoping that by completing our neighbourhood plan and having it approved by the residents of Wootton we can limit the amount and size of development the Borough Council will try and force upon us.

Average speed cameras. Back in December 2017, we were in talks with the Borough Council about installing these cameras within the village. In May 2019, the parish council placed an order for eight average speed cameras. We were expecting installation by March 2020 however, the Borough Council have not yet confirmed delivery and so we wait for further news.

Useful Numbers

Fly tipping	Police non-emergency number
01234 267422	101
Anti-Social behaviour	Noise complaints
01234 276037 & 101	01234 227266

Collection calendar

1

Please ensure that your bins are out for collection by 6am on your collection day. Missed collections must be reported within 48 hours of your scheduled collection. Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling to report a missed collection.



Remember!

Garden waste collections are suspended from 1st December to 1st March.

Key



Red Outline =
Date Change

Orange =
Recycling Only

Purple =
Recycling and Garden

Grey =
General Rubbish

December 2019

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31	See above		

January 2020

M	T	W	T	F
See above		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February 2020

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March 2020

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

April 2020

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May 2020

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June 2020

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

July 2020

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August 2020

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September 2020

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October 2020

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November 2020

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

Your black lidded rubbish bin will be emptied one week, and orange and green lidded bins in the following week.



WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
07531 930 788

Look out for a **new defibrillator** at the Memorial Hall. A big thank you to Chris Maher and Tony Ireland for helping Cllr O'Dell bring this forward. Other defibrillators are being planned and developer monies are being used to fund this.

With Easter approaching (hopefully with warmer weather too) – **what about an allotment?** If anyone is interested, please contact our allotments officer **Alison** on **07977 341861**. As always, **Street Watch** would welcome more volunteers and the parish council does all it can to promote this scheme. If you would like to learn more, please contact **Juliet Wright** at Bedfordshire Police - **Juliet.Wright@bedfordshirepolice.pnn.police.uk**. Juliet is also the point of contact for anyone wishing to join the Speed Watch scheme. Training is required for both schemes.

The Borough Council as local highways authority recently **widened the pavement at Fields Road** (north side). This is the only pavement within the village which operates as a shared facility for pedestrians and cyclists – we are waiting for signage to go up to make it clear to all users.



Are you a member of an organisation or do you know an organisation in Wootton who could make use of our **grants scheme**? The scheme can make a contribution (maximum £1,000) to organisations that meet policy criteria. If you would like to learn more please visit: **https://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10151029**. An application form can be downloaded from there also, or if you would prefer paper copies, please contact me.

Wootton Parish Council

Office Location:

The Hub,
Wootton Life Methodist Church,
Cause End Road, MK43 9DE

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday
morning 10am-12noon

(Hours may be subject to change and appointments can be pre-booked, feel free to telephone in advance to ensure the office will be open).

Dates for your Diary 2020

APRIL

8th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th	Full Council	7.30pm
15th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
29th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
29th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

MAY

13th	Annual Council Meeting	7.00pm
13th	Full Council	7.30pm
13th	Planning & Environment Committee	after FC
20th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
20th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
27th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

All meetings are now held at Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way.

Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for any cancellations or changes to timings and/or venue.

Our noticeboards can found at;

Bedford Road - opposite the Cock Inn PH
Bedford Road - outside Wootton Lower School
Bedford Road - outside Manor Road Flats
Bedford Road - outside the Memorial Hall
Hall End - adjacent to the post box

(<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/noticeboard>)



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook-search 'Cllr John Wheeler'

I hope you all had a nice Christmas, are settling into the new decade and have survived the recent storms. Over the last few months things have been slow on the **highways** front, however by the time you receive this report Fields Road should have been re-surfaced and the flooding issues by Wootton Vale House sorted. Works on Cause End Road should start around mid-March to replace sections of the drainage system, replace surface drains and clear the gullies. Once this has been done and the borough council are confident there are no remaining water issues, re-surfacing will take place. The 7.5 Tonnes weight limit for the whole village should be place by Easter and various yellow and white lining projects suggested by residents and Wootton Parish Council are being considered by the borough council. The much-needed crossing on Folkes Road by the lower school will be completed when the current road/pavement works have been finished, hopefully after Easter.

The new shops at Berryfields are nearing completion and one or two of them could be open by Easter. The rest should open soon after. The One Stop shop on Cause End Road has now been re-branded as a Tesco



SURGERY

first Saturday of each month
at the Library, 11am to 12 noon

and most Wednesdays at the Hub,
Cause End Road, 10am to 12 noon.

Express and is up and running. Wootton Parish Council has asked the borough council to look at ways to improve current parking conditions in that area.

I – Worx Wootton

The new I – Worx units were officially opened by the mayor and Peter Horrocks – Chair of SEMLEP (South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership) on 27th January. The I – Worx features an advanced technology and engineering workshop cluster offering twelve office and industrial units. To find about moving into the units please visit <http://www.bedfordi-lab.com>

East – West Rail

It has been announced that the East West rail link will be stopping at Bedford Midland Station connecting the town directly to Cambridge and Oxford. The preferred route option confirmed by the Secretary of State for Transport will link existing stations in Bedford and Cambridge and will run north of Sandy, south of St. Neots and on to Cambourne, then Cambridge. The route from Oxford will go via Bicester using the Bletchley line to Bedford with an upgraded station at Kempston Hardwick and a proposed link to the new station in Wixams.

I wish you all a happy Easter.



izzzy, wizzzy, let's get Bizzy making learning fun!

MEMORIAL HALL, BEDFORD ROAD, WOOTTON, BEDS, MK43 9JB

Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

Tel: 01234 767785

We have already had lots of fun learning about **Chinese New Year** and still have more exciting events to cover this term, to include 'People who help us, Pets, Valentines Day, Pancake Day, Mothers Day, Outer Space and World Book Day'.

Our very first **Christmas Fayre** was a great success and all the children at Bizzy Bees are already benefiting from the money raised, which was used to purchase light boxes, Interlox discs and lots of SEN resources.

All the new January starters are settling in nicely with a few more set to join us after Easter. Currently we have a waiting list for September 2020, so do get in touch if you'd like to come along and visit our setting and add your child to our September waiting list. Children can be put on our waiting list from the day they are born, it's never too early to secure their place, as we take children from 2 years old. Our child application forms and registration forms can be found on our website or simply give us a call and we can email you a copy.

In December we welcomed our newest member of staff '**Barbara**' who has immediately become a valued member of our team. Do take a look on our website where you will find photos of all the staff

and committee, as well as our diary dates, setting photos, policies and much more. Following last years success, next term we will be hosting our very exciting in-house sponsored **Easter Egg Hunt!** This proved to be lots of fun for all the children (and adults!) as well as raising lots of money - alongside a chocolate lovers dream raffle! We would greatly appreciate anyone or any local businesses wishing to sponsor our event or donate chocolate / Easter goodies for our raffle...you can never have too much chocolate!

Bizzy Bee's offer free-flow sessional day care including Breakfast and Lunch Clubs for young children from 2 years to school age.

Our days are term time only Monday to Friday 8:15am – 3:45pm. We accept 2-year-old funding and 3-4 year old 15 and 30 hour funding for all of our sessions. We also accept cross funding if your child attends/ would like to attend more than one Pre-School.

Please do contact us to have a look around, book a stay-and-play or enquire regarding a place for your little person:



Sessions are:

Breakfast Club: 8:15-9am

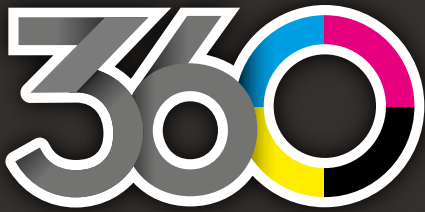
Breakfast provided

AM session: 9-12pm

Lunch Club: 12-12:45pm

Please bring a packed lunch

PM session: 12:45-3:45pm



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The local name you can trust

ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Established 1967

St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HB

Tel: 01234 767158 Email: stmarys5@hotmail.co.uk

The children at St Mary's Preschool have had another busy term experiencing lots of fun and new activities.

Our topic this term has been based on the book '**Dear Zoo**'. This is a wonderful story with a fun introduction to animals and their characteristics. The book allows children to engage with the story and encourages their participation both verbally and physically. The children took part in a variety of animal themed activities, such as printing, collage, drawing, looking at animal print and playing in the zoo role play area.

Mental Well-being Week - the children have been thinking about what they are grateful for? What they are good at? And what makes them smile? They wrote their thoughts on strips of paper and made a 'Gratitude Paper Chain'.



They also enjoyed taking part in yoga with Hayley. Yoga has so many benefits for the children, physical development, body awareness, concentration skills, spiritual beliefs and fun. To make the sessions enjoyable the children have been learning yoga poses, stretching cat, downward dog, hissing cobra, twisted eagle and a monkey squat pose. The children are becoming animal pose experts and the benefits to yoga are already clear to see.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!



The Year of the Rat - We have also been celebrating Chinese New Year. We have been learning about the origins of the traditional story. The children have been very creative, making lanterns, rat puppets, a large Chinese dragon and lucky Chinese fish. We have been listening to Chinese music, learning some Chinese words and songs; and looking at Chinese characters and numbers. We discussed traditional Chinese food and the children used chopsticks to pick up noodles. The children learned that tangerines are a symbol of prosperity; and they all took a tangerine wrapped in red tissue home for good luck and a fortune cookie. For snack the children tried Chinese vegetable spring rolls.



Before we broke up for half term the children celebrated St. Valentine's Day. Our Valentine curriculum explored theme colours and heart shapes. The children made valentine cards, valentine bubble pictures and heart shaped biscuits. Our reading focus book was 'Guess How Much I Love you'.

Next half term we will be celebrating the up and coming festivals such as St.

David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter.

General Information

St Mary's Preschool opened in 1967 and operates from the main room within the Church Hall. Children have access to a fully enclosed, grassed outdoor play area. St Mary's Preschool supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care.

If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place, or require any further information please phone Tracey on 01234 767158.

Children not eligible for funding – Fees are £4.00 per hour (£12.00 for a 3-hour session).

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00

Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00

Thurs 9.00 - 15.00

Girls @ the Fest

BY WOOTTON COUNTRY PLAYERS

A fun music-based play, set around a group of friends competing at a fake 80/90s festival in the hope of winning the prize money to save the local karaoke bar.

Fun, laughter and bad behaviour are ahead. Pop star impressions, secrets will be revealed, friendships tested, and sisters reunited. Songs to sing along to!

**Performance dates are 25th, 26th & 27th June 8pm
at Wootton Village Hall, Church Road.**

Tickets can be purchased from **Tina Kirkup 07788 857040**
or **tina.kirkup@hotmail.co.uk**

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BEDFORDSHIRE



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27th - 31st July

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**For more information please
contact a member of the Children's
Service Team on:**

01234 214871 or via email
enquiries@autismbeds.org

**For further information please visit our
website**

www.autismbedfordshire.net

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Cause End Road, Wootton MK43 9FE



At Wootton New Life we aim to have something for everyone

From the very young to the not so young. You'll find a really warm welcome any **Sunday morning from 10:00** when we have The Hub open for coffee before the service, which starts at 10:30. We have a relaxed style of worship that is open to all. We have S Club for children and young people and once a month we have Café Church where a free breakfast is available in The Hub from 9:45 followed by an informal all age service. **Check our website for dates.** If you haven't been to church before or for a while, or perhaps you're looking for something different, why not come and try us out?



Our **Knit & Natter group** meet in The Hub every Monday from 10:00 - 12:00 everyone is welcome, not just knitters!

prayer

We have **prayer group** and **Bible Study** from 9:30 on Tuesdays. For pre-school children come and try our **toddler group 'Pat-a-Cake'**, that meets alternate Thursdays during term time from 13:00 - 15:00, check dates on our website or join the Facebook group to get notifications.

We have a thriving **Boys' & Girls' Brigade** and **Marching Band**. The band meet on Tuesdays from 7:00, girls, from age 4, meet on Thursday evenings from 18:00 and boys, from age 5, at the same time on Fridays. Contact us via our website, just come along or email **BBGB1stWootton@gmail.com** to register your child.

Our facilities are available to **hire** for parties or one off occasions as well as regular weekly activities, email **bookings@woottonnewlife.org.uk** for more details and to check availability.

Find us on **Facebook** @woottonnewlife, see our **website** for details of our regular activities or call us on **01234 768 222** and keep up to date with what's going on, we hope that you'll join us when you can.

www.woottonnewlife.org.uk

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

TO KNOW GOD BETTER | TO LOVE OTHERS MORE | TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

EASTER 2020



Join us this Easter

*11:00 Good Friday ~
Quite Service*



*10:30 Easter Sunday ~
Family Communion Service
& Easter egg hunt 10.30am*



Pip's House

Guinea Pig Boarding

Are you going away on holiday and need somewhere safe for your piggies to stay, where you know they'll be well looked after, and cared for and be treated as part of the family?

Pip's House, based in Wootton, is a fully insulated, air-conditioned Lodge, where your piggies can come to be spoilt and pampered. You provide their dry food (so as not to spoil their little tummies) and any of their favourite toys, and I'll provide their greens, hay, natural snacks, as well as unlimited cuddles, daily playtime and even a mini pamper (for an extra small fee) using gorgeous guineas products (nail trims and after paw cream, shampoo, and little hair trim).

Bookings are now being taken for holiday stays from May through to October.

Please call Carol, at Pip's House on 07858 122678 to book your guinea pigs' holiday home.

www.pipshouse.co.uk

 Pip's House

We look forward to welcoming your piggies on their holiday.

Crystal Care Pet Grooming

by Louise Hughes

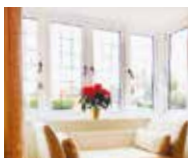


Tel: 01234 768303 lou@crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk
23 Fields Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JJ
www.crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk

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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

A need for Average Speed Cameras was identified during the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire process by residents. WPC (1.) is paying for these cameras using its Community Infrastructure Levy funding (2.) and s106 Developer Contributions

Community Centre

Berryfields

Ongoing

The community centre is now fully operational. Please address all booking/general enquiries to: woottoncommunitycentre@gmail.com or their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wootton-Community-Centre-373702299872573/>

Covanta Incinerator

Stewartby parish

Ongoing

Please visit the following links for fuller information: <https://bedsagainstincinerator.wordpress.com/> or BACI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks>

Local Plan 2030

Throughout the village

Ongoing

BBC's (2.) Local Plan 2030 has now been formally adopted and works are already underway for the next Local Plan.

Lorraine Road

Lorraine Road cemetery

Ongoing

Cemetery extension

WPC is ringfencing money annually and will approach the Crown Estate (adjoining landowners) to request it be permitted to purchase an area of land adjacent to the existing cemetery in order to extend it

Marston Vale Innovation Park

Towards the A421

Ongoing

Borough Councillor John Wheeler and members of WPC have met with representatives from Goodmans on several occasions. The larger unit is not yet occupied and the i-Worx units have been officially opened.

Memorial Hall Play Area

Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

2021

resurfacing

WPC wishes to resurface underneath the existing play equipment in order to make it safer and easier to use in bad weather and intends to use either s106 Developer Contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy funding

Neighbourhood Plan

The whole civil parish of Wootton

2021

Findings from the second consultation (entitled Issues & Options) were published on WPC's website and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues to make good progress towards delivering a Neighbourhood Plan that meets resident's wants and needs

Real Time Passenger Information (bus stops)

Four bus stop sites within the village

2021

Four electronic real time passenger information units are now in place. WPC is planning to add more, again using community infrastructure levy funding.

Roads and Pavements (including proposed crossings for Bedford Road)

Throughout the village

Ongoing

The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group continues to meet every other month to raise issues (including parking restrictions) for BBC to consider. Residents are welcome to attend those meetings. Minutes to view are available at: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10434511 (or request a hard copy from the clerk)

St. Mary's stone and railing cemetery wall

St. Mary's Church

Ongoing

Funds have been earmarked to repair or replace as necessary, as both are in a poor state of repair. A fallen ash tree (December 2016) necessitated some works already and WPC has taken forward a structural engineer report which highlighted the wall's instability in parts. Advice has been sought from Historic England and BBC and the parish council is looking to also seek advice from a suitably qualified brickwork specialist

Street lights

Throughout the village

Ongoing

WPC is in talks with BBC on a proposal for the ownership/maintenance of all street lights to be transferred to BBC. The project has been delayed as BBC have had numerous similar requests from other parish and town councils, so need to agree how best to proceed

Wootton Village sign(s)

Various locations

2021

The sign on Bedford/Wootton Road has been cleaned up and re-lettered. A flower bed has been added at the front and has now been planted.

Key:

1. Wootton Parish Council
2. For further information on what Community Infrastructure Levy funding and s106 Developer Contributions are please visit: <https://www.bedsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/community-infrastructure-levy/>
3. Bedford Borough Council

Please note this is a brief overview of ongoing/proposed projects and the list is not exhaustive as changes can occur before the next newsletter edition goes to print. For fuller information on these or other projects, please contact the Clerk to the Council.



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Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team has taken a well-earned break during these cold (and breezy) winter mornings. We feel that the team's efforts have been rewarding in slowing the traffic down during the crucial periods in the morning when all the schoolchildren are making their way to the various schools and our work has been appreciated, judging by the comments we receive from the general public. At the quarterly watch meetings at the Police Headquarters it is obvious how much we are appreciated by the police. It is also obvious how many more speeding problems are encountered elsewhere in Central Beds and we are quite fortunate in Wootton (believe it or not!) in comparison. Hundreds of letters are sent out to offending motorists each month, but very few from here. Obviously there are times of the day when cars or motorbikes decide to race through the village, but these are unsocial hours for the Speedwatch team!

If you want to join our merry band – Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward and myself – please get in touch with **Juliet Wright** on **07590 449815** or email at



Juliet.Wright@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk

With Fields Road soon to be re-surfaced, we shall be carrying out patrols along Cranfield Road, as people seem to want to accelerate as they leave the village.

Groups from Stewartby and Elstow continue to make use of our SID (Speed Indicator Device) – Tim Hill seems to catch a lot of speedsters in his village!

Malcolm Chalmers
Speedwatch Co-ordinator

New WW workshop open

Wootton Community Centre
Thursday 9.15am

Our new MyWW plan is a customised plan making weight loss easier.
Eat what you love, when you like. Eat Out and lose weight

Gail's story:

She joined as a member to lose weight, improve her health and well-being. She has seen wonderful success and now sees this as a lifestyle choice, not a diet.

She is excited to help and support others on their weight loss/wellness journeys and looks forward to meeting new members.



Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre PPG

"The doctor will see you now" I hazard a guess there many elder generations who can remember this being said to them by the doctor's receptionist, when surgeries were small, likely to be in the doctor's house and his wife often the receptionist. Some would like things to still be like that, when you could turn up and sit for ages waiting to see the doctor, before appointments had been invented. How things have changed. From the early days of making an appointment, we can now access so many more services online and for the busy working person this must be an absolute godsend.

Do you make full use of services available to you? You don't always need to phone the surgery as some queries can be answered on the **website**. There is a page where you can ask a doctor a question (these are for non-urgent queries as it can be up to three working days to get a reply) You can book, rearrange or cancel appointments, invaluable if you find you cannot attend. You can view test results and request repeat prescriptions, all at the touch of a button, in a matter of minutes. **System online** is the part where you can access all of these with the added bonus that you can do it any time of the day or night, without having to wait for the surgery to open. When you register with the surgery as a patient, make sure you register for online services that will also allow you to see your records and test results.

Of course, there will always be times when you do need to phone the surgery but do think about your needs before making that call. Early mornings and straight after lunch are the busiest times, you could be on hold for what seems forever, so, unless it's to ask for an urgent access appointment, consider phoning later in



the morning or middle of the afternoon and you might get through quicker. **Do you really need a doctor when a nurse maybe able to help.** If you need to talk about medication then the clinical pharmacist is the one to see. When you phone, you might be asked questions that you consider unnecessary or intrusive but the staff member is trained to triage and direct you to the staff best suited to your needs.

The staff at the surgery do understand not everybody wants to use, or have access to computers so they will help you in whatever way they can to fulfil your needs.

The practice is at present reviewing the way everything runs but be assured every member of staff you see has an important role to play and are there to serve the patients to the best of their ability, whether it is on the front line or behind the scenes.



you can now access so many more services online

Halls for Hire



Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

Hall available for parties and meetings. The hall has a kitchen with serving hatch, toilets and use of tables and chairs.

For more information please contact **Naomi** on **07722 876 252** or **NaomiGroves@hotmail.com**

Wootton Scout Hut

Children's Parties, Birthdays, Weddings, Meetings for individuals or groups. The hall is suitable for up to 80 people and has a kitchen with a serving hatch, toilets, plenty of parking, garden and use of table and chairs.

The fee to hire is £10 an hour and there are discounts available for people linked with the group or regular bookings. For more information or to book contact **Mark** on **07772 330 169**



Village Hall, Church Road

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room and open space out the back. A great hall to hire for parties. Also there is a small committee room to use for meetings. The hall is also used for Bowles, Fit Step, Yoga, Essential Dance, Friday Children Dance Class, Drama and Marshal Arts. For more information please contact **Jenny Lambert** on **01234 767 488**

Community Centre, Harris Way

This has a main hall, a kitchen, a large meeting room plus toilets and changing rooms.

For more information please email **WoottonCommunityCentre@gmail.com**





BPBA help tackle the older peoples' housing crisis

Bedford based social housing provider bpha is actively helping to provide much-needed new homes for older people in our region. Thanks to investment in new local Retirement Living accommodation, bpha has been able to provide 55 one and two-bedroom apartments at a new scheme, Wootton Vale in Bedfordshire.

Recent research looking at local housing demand identified that over half (55%) of the population growth between 2015-35 is projected to be aged 65 or over and almost a third is projected to be 75 years plus. This aging population puts pressure on all parts of the community and bpha have recognised and acted on the need for additional Extra Care housing locally.

Wootton Vale Retirement Community is the latest addition to bpha's Bedfordshire portfolio. The modern, comfortable scheme has been ideally positioned on the edge of the thriving county village of Wootton. Built over three floors, residents enjoy a range of facilities including a restaurant, gardens, hairdressers and beauty salon.

The scheme has been welcoming residents since February and feedback from those moving in has been extremely positive, with one new resident saying: "It's great here and

my apartment has very quickly become a happy home. Wootton Vale has a real community feel and it's great to spend time with neighbours who offer me wonderful company and have become firm friends." The site has just housed its final residents meaning that all 55 of the one and two-bedroom apartments are now occupied.

Nicola Randall, bpha Housing and Support Manager runs the scheme, and said: "Wootton Vale is a real credit to bpha and is a warm and welcoming home for our residents. We're delighted to have every apartment occupied and I am extremely proud of the community that is being created here."

In addition to Wootton Vale bpha, which operates in the Oxford - Cambridge Arc, recently also opened Retirement Living schemes in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Meaning that the organisation now owns and manages 23 Retirement Living communities providing accommodation to older people.

For more information about bpha's Retirement Living properties please visit www.bpha.org.uk/retirement-living/ or contact bpha by calling **0330 100 0272** or emailing info@bpha.org.uk.

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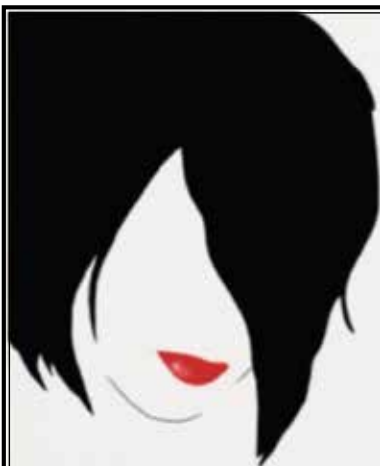
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Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN



Reflecting back on the final meetings of 2019 we had a great end to the year. In November we saw how mosaics were created and were able to make a coaster from materials provided. Many of us chose similar colour themes but each coaster is unique. On the back of this we are hoping to hold a workshop in the not too distant future so if you would like to have a go, please get in touch. Phone either **Sue** on **01234 767613** or **Kath** on **01234 765333**. The cost will be in the region of £40 for the day.



In December our committee provided a hot meal with three choices of meat, followed by delicious desserts. We had a Secret Santa gift swap, all accompanied by Christmas music and Christmas Carols.

January was a social meeting when we had a very good quiz, then in February a local writer, Ruth Roper, spoke of ghost stories around Bedfordshire and had copies of her four books on the subject, to sell.



Future Meetings are:

March 18th

The Life of Victoria Wood
by Steve Dimmer

April 15th

Annual Meeting

May 20th

Primrose Cars at Bedford Hospital
by Delphi Ellis

**All visitors welcome at a cost of £4pp
including tea or coffee and a biscuit.**

**Meetings start at 7-30pm in the
Memorial Hall.**



Look for us on Facebook under **Wootton Beds Women's Institute**.

Message us for any further information and somebody will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible.

Poem - Transformation

The elderly artist looked down at his picture
A frown on his face and a sigh of despair.
"Oh where is the skill which I thought my vocation
And where is the talent I once displayed there?"
"I am losing my touch" and he laid down his brushes
"My work is a failure. It's useless" he sighed.
"I'd hoped that by now to have reached such perfection
That something of worth would be here when I died."

Feeling despondent he covered his painting
Closed his studio door and retired for the night;
In the meantime, his son, who was also an artist
Went into the room --and perceiving the plight
Of the imperfect picture, he picked up some brushes
And carefully giving a touch here and there
With a dab and a stroke he transformed the whole painting
Which his father had worked on so long with such care.
Next day, when the man looked once more on his painting
His face filled with joy. He stood shaking his head
"Why it's not bad at all. In fact I've done better
Than ever I could have imagined" he said.

Thus, when we arrive at our Heavenly Mansion
The mistakes and the failures. The smudges and smears
The doubt and despair which we felt in our lifetime
The weakness of faith and the tremulous fears
Will have been painted out by the hand of the Master.
His Grace, not our efforts by then will have done
What we never could—so the picture is perfect
Completely transformed by the hand of the Son.

Rebecca Cook©

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Wootton Baptist Church



I am making everything new... That is what God says in the Bible, in Revelations 21 verse 5.

Certainly we are seeing nature being made new again after the Winter and soon the bird boxes will be full on young chicks. (If the adult birds decide to use your box!) That is amazing when we see many of the common birds in decline. I'm not sure that God meant that, however grateful we are to see new life,

It looks to me as if God was taking a broader view of the world and was speaking about our need to be made new and the world coming to an end. Then God talks about a new Jerusalem, and a Holy City. You may think its very mysterious, but it is there for anyone to read and understand.

For the Christian, now that we have forgotten Christmas, Easter is not far away. Easter is a time of new life and hope for everyone who will accept it. A time when DEATH was overcome and LIFE became possible for the Christian believer. God certainly made everything new when Jesus overcame death.

Most people love new things- the freshness of a new day, the beauty of a new flower, the wonder of a new baby. Even the pleasure a new car gives to its owner, although like everything, the newness soon wears off and a new model comes along. We soon get dissatisfied and want something better.

So what does God say about 'New Life'?

Several times in the Bible we are told that we are dead towards God because we are sinners. That is difficult to accept, but true.

We are also told we can have life through Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter. You have heard the saying 'dead men walking'. That is us without Jesus Christ in our lives.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 says, 'Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.' That is what is known as the 'Gospel' and which is free to everyone who will take it. It doesn't cost anything, the price has already been paid on the cross by Jesus.

We hope that everyone has a very blessed time at Easter, and you are welcome at our **church services** on **Good Friday at 6.30pm** and on **Easter Sunday at 10.30am and 6pm**.

Can I invite you to the **Coffee Morning**, which we hold in the Baptist Church Hall **every Tuesday from 10am to Midday**. Everyone is welcome and you will meet ordinary people who discuss everyday things.

There is a **Home Group** which meets on a **Wednesday** and **Adventurers groups** which meet every other **Monday from 3.45pm to 5pm for children aged 6 – 9 years**. We collect the children straight from the Lower School, next door to the church. **If you would like any other information**, please ring either **766293** or **300419**, or just call in and ask. There will always be a welcome.

Rob Stanton

For and on behalf of the fellowship at the Baptist Church.

Easter crafts

Saturday 4th April

11.00am-12.30pm

Easter Cards

Jigsaw/Lego/Colouring Club

Monday 6th April

2.00pm-4.30pm

Easter Colour In window Decorations

Lego/Colouring Club

Tuesday 7th April

10.00am-11.30am

Easter Scratch Art Magnets

Wednesday 8th April

2.00pm-4.30pm

Easter Bookmarks

Lego/Colouring Club

Thursday 9th April

10.00am- 11.30am

Decorate Honeycomb Flowers

Saturday 11th April

11.00am – 12.30pm

Lucky Dip Crafts

Jigsaw/Lego/Colouring Club

Tuesday 14th April

10.00am – 11.30am

Woolly Sheep Craft

Wednesday 15th April

2.00pm-4.30pm

Caterpillar Paper plate craft

Lego/Colouring Club

Thursday 16th April

10.00am-11.30am

Bunny Mask

Friday 17th April

2.00pm-4.30pm

Springtime Animal Decoration

Lego/Colouring Club

Saturday 18th April

11.00am -12.30pm

Lucky Dip Crafts

Jigsaw/Lego/Colouring Club

Monday 20th April

2.00pm-4.30pm

Decorate Paper Butterflies

Lego/Colouring Club

The Steam Train

Peter Thomas had been feeling rather peculiar all day. Several of his colleagues at the office had expressed concern, and had asked him if he felt all right.

"Just a bit off-colour, that's all", he had told them. "I haven't been sleeping very well lately. I don't know why. But at least it's Friday to-day, and I'm taking Monday and Tuesday off. I'm going to York for a long weekend break. I'm sure I'll feel better after that".

He had booked into a small B and B hotel near the old part of the city for four nights. He would forget all about work, have a full English cooked breakfast each morning, (no black pudding though!), and explore some of the lovely ancient buildings. He'd probably go on a couple of ghost walks too; he enjoyed the atmosphere of those.

For many years, his hobby had been researching the history behind old houses and churches, trying to find out what events had occurred within them in the past, events that had become part of the very fabric of their structures. He had become very sensitive to their ambiance when he learnt what had happened within their walls. He was at his happiest just being on his own, trying to discover who had inhabited the houses he visited, and trying to learn about the stories behind their lives.

He knew that he was a bit of a loner, and that his colleagues regarded him as rather strange, but that was okay. He never felt lonely, and since his Mum and Dad had passed away quite a few years ago, he had no family to whom he had to justify his desire for solitude.

So there he was, as soon as he had left the office, still not feeling one hundred percent, but heading towards Euston station, with a small suitcase just large enough to hold the few things he would need for his four night break. Since the line from London to York had been electrified recently, the journey took less than three hours, and he had notified the hotel that he would arrive just before nine.

He knew that on a Friday, he would have to share a compartment, but he found one occupied by just a middle-aged couple, who showed no wish to engage in conversation with him, so he was content with that. He placed his case in the overhead rack, and waited for the journey to start. He still had the same rather queasy feeling he had had at the office, but now in addition, he had a slightly uneasy sensation, like a premonition that something peculiar was going to occur. "Maybe I'm just hungry" he thought. "I'll grab a sandwich and a coffee from the drinks trolley when they bring it round".



After half an hour or so, he felt himself drifting off to sleep, so he set the alarm on his watch for ten minutes before the train was due to arrive at York.

When he did sleep, he had a disturbing dream, about making this same journey on a train some sixty years ago, in the 1950's, at a time before he was even born. In his dream, he could feel the lurching of the train, hear the "clickety-clack" as the wheels passed over the expansion joints in the rails, could even smell the sooty smell of the locomotive as it steamed its way to York at a good fifty miles an hour slower than his current high speed 125 locomotive.

He felt a vibration on his wrist, and immediately awoke.

But something was wrong! He was wide awake, but he could still hear the "clickety-clack" of the wheels, the train was still lurching from side to side, and he could still smell the sooty smell of a steam train. He looked up at the luggage rack above him, but instead of his Samsonite case, there was a rather battered-looking old leather suitcase.

He looked at his wrist to see the time, but instead of his trusty Casio digital watch, he was wearing an old Ingersoll analogue watch with a brown leather strap.

And his clothes! No longer was he wearing his favourite Next lightweight suit, but a rather hairy wool tweed sports jacket, and cavalry twill trousers. He shook his head in confusion. Was he still dreaming? He looked at his travelling companions, but they were wearing similarly dated clothes to himself.

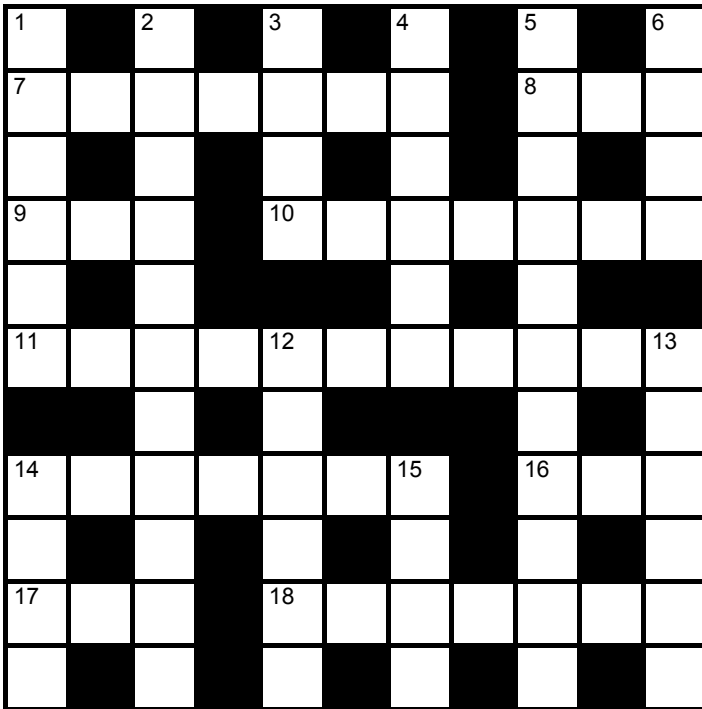
He looked at the newspaper the man was reading. The Times. Then he noticed the headline on the front page. The banner, in large type, read KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT SIGNED. WAR ENDS. And the paper was dated 27th July 1953.

Somehow, the steam train had taken him through a time warp, and back some fifty years. He was now approaching York some ten years before he was born! Or was it not the train, but his lifelong interest in the past, that had taken him back? Would he return to his own time on the return journey? Who knows....?

Colin Zardin



crossword



ACROSS

- 7** Letter (7)
- 8** Finish first (3)
- 9** Viper (3)
- 10** Adage (7)
- 11** Stylist (11)
- 14** Went in (7)
- 16** Curve (3)
- 17** Late in the day (poet.) (3)
- 18** Move down (7)

DOWN

- 1** Make over (6)
- 2** E.g. the Mona Lisa (3,8)
- 3** Pace (4)
- 4** Far distant (6)
- 5** Lottery (11)
- 6** Rebuff (4)
- 12** Mock (6)
- 13** Withdraw (6)
- 14** Peepers (4)
- 15** Prescribed amount (4)

answers on page 36

Poppy Appeal

The 2019 Poppy Appeal here in Wootton was again an excellent success.

The 'Pop Up' Gazebo in Fields Road which was initially trialed due to a 'No cold calling' policy at door to door areas has proven to be a great community spot, raising much needed revenue for this very worthy cause.



Thanks to all who continue to 'Poppy' along and support and those that sit behind the scenes in all weathers each year.

Wootton Upper School held a 'Mufti day' fundraising couple of days and kindly chose to split half of the proceeds with 'The Poppy Appeal' and another charity. £873.83 was the generous amount given to both parties. Therefore most grateful thanks and appreciation should be extended to the following, who, between them helped to raise the excellent total of **£8,306,16**.

Mesdames:

C.J.Ashpole, L.Burraway,
S.Chapillon, S.Gould, M.Groves,
F.Harris, A.Hudson, L.Hutchings,
J.Lambert, C.Mason, V.Minney,
G.Robinson, A.Stapleton,
D.Sullivan, E.Sullivan, R.Syson,
Messrs: M.R.Ashpole, H.Bajra.
P.Birkett, A.Hudson.

Many thanks again to all concerned for their voluntary time and effort.

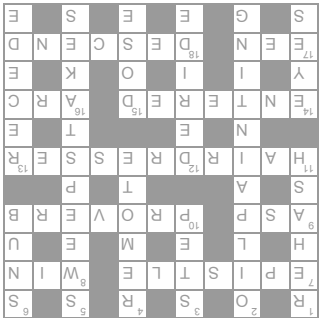
Chris Ashpole

The RBL Poppy Organiser
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Legstraps, Library,
Kimberley College,
One Stop Shop,
St Mary's Church,
Stewartby Church/Club/ &
Common Room,
The Open University,
Wootton Lower School (Bedford
Road & Harris Way)
and Wootton Upper School.



crossword
answers

crossword
on page 36



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Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE **01234 266 366** peacockauction.co.uk

**Knowing Jesus;
Making Jesus Known
to all** is the heartbeat of
St Mary's.

Sunday Services

9am Common Worship Service
10.30am Morning Service -
including young people's
groups.

Christianity Explored

Regular groups;
see our website.

Pathfinders (ages 9-13)

Weds 7pm term time
Church Hall.

J.A.M (ages 14-18)

Sundays 7.15pm term time
Church Hall.

Wrigglers Parent &
toddler group. Every
Monday in term time 10am
Wootton Baptist

Men Behaving Badly

Group for Dads and their
0-12 year olds. 4th Sat of
the month 9am.

Lunch Club Monthly on
Mondays, 1pm, Church Hall
10 Feb, 9 Mar, 11 May

Rev'd Peter Ackroyd:

768391

Rev'd Phillip Young 401462

Church Office: 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



Lunch Club

For the 50's and over.

2nd Mondays in the month 1pm at
St. Mary's Church Hall (MK43 9HB). Hot meal,
new friends and an after lunch speaker/activity.
On Mon **6 Apr 10am - 3pm** is 'Take-a-Break' -
a day for 50's and over with hot meal and activities

Summer Holiday Club



Tues 25 – Fri 28 August

Book the dates in your diary for our summer
holiday club for young people. More details soon
on our website and Facebook page.

Mothering Sunday Service

10.30am

Sunday 22 March

Easter Services

Palm Sunday	10.30am	Sunday 5 April
Good Friday	10.30am	Family Service
10 April	2pm	An Hour at the Cross
Easter Day	6am	Sunrise Service
12 April		(Hall End Rd)
	10.30am	Family Communion



We are a referring agent for the Bedford Foodbank.
If you know of anyone in crisis contact us in confidence.

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