

**FEBRUARY**

**2026**



## **Benefice Worship**

*The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind.*

Titus 2. 11

### **Sunday 1st February 2026**

8.30am Holy Communion, **Steep**

10am TenAM, **Steep**

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

### **Sunday 8th February 2026**

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

### **Sunday 15th February 2026**

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Steep**

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

10am Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes, **Steep**

### **Sunday 22nd February 2026**

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

11am Morning Prayer, (BCP), **Froxfield Green**

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

8.30am Holy Communion, **Steep**

10am TenAM, **Steep**

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

**Steep:** All Saints' GU32 2DD; **Stroud Church** GU32 1AT  
**High Cross, St Peter's,** GU32 1EQ; **Froxfield Green,** GU32 1DQ;  
**Privett:** Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE

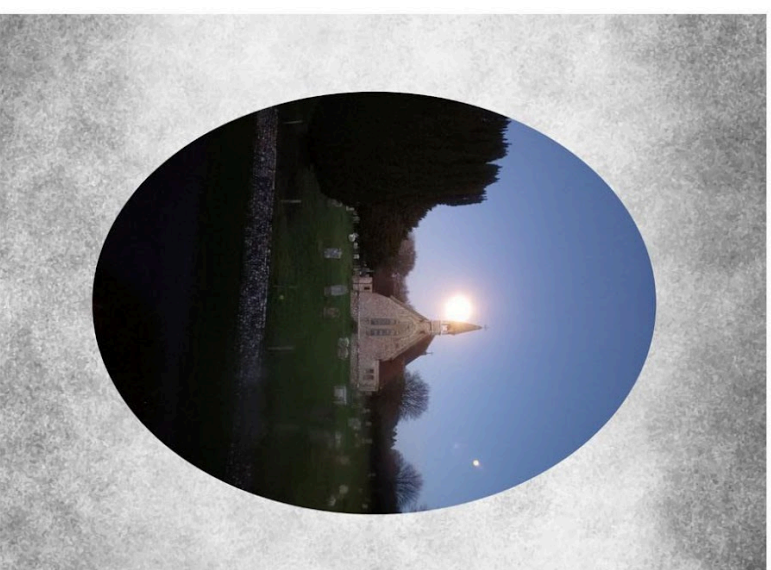
*Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.*

For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at

[steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com](mailto:steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com).

or visit our website [www.steepfroxfield.com](http://www.steepfroxfield.com)

## *Froxfield and Privett Parish Magazine*



*February 2026*

## Froxfield and Privett Parish Information

### Parish Magazine

All articles, news and for sale items: froxfield.parish@btinternet.com  
Phone: Evenings & weekends: 827476 Editors: Caroline & Steve Dillon

### Contact Details for Parish Clubs & Societies

Froxfield Village Hall: Contact: Angela Hiscock 01730 827 066 or  
enquiries@froxfielddvillagehall.co.uk

Privett Village Hall: Secretary: Alex Raphael 01730 828461

www.PrivettVillageHall.co.uk

Froxfield & Privett Garden Club: Elizabeth Houghton-Connell 01730 828889

Darts Teams: Angela Hiscock: 01730 827066

Cricknet Club: Kevin Hiscock: 01730 827066

Froxfield Choir: Sue Clegg 01730 827505

Ladies Friendship Group: Ursela Legg 01730 828324

Froxfield Ringers: Teresa Brown: 828003 or 07799 831426

Country & Western: Viv Barnett 01730 268306

Parish Clerk: Helen Marsh clerk.froxfield@parish.hants.gov.uk

Froxfield Stores & Post Office: Howard & Charlotte 01730 827778  
www.froxfield stores.com

Parish website: www.froxfielddandprivett.org.uk

Defibrillator access code: C0147X

### Bin Days Thursday Unless Otherwise Indicated

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
Refuse Bin	Recycling	Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass	Refuse Bin

## SOLUTION TO JANUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Across** - 1 Starvation, 6 Soar, 9 Kneecap, 10 Archaic, 12 Equestrianism, 14 Insecure, 15 Update, 17 Instep, 19 Rejoices, 21 Almond blossom, 24 Taverna, 25 Origami 26 Sak, 27 Persistent.

**Down** - 1 Sake, 2 Ageless, 3 Vacuum Cleaner, 4 Tapestry, 5 On air, 7 Ocarina, 8 Recompense, 11 Championships, 13 Vigilantes, 16 Venomous, 18 Samovar, 20 Compare, 22 Brave, 23 Lift.

## Quiz Night at Privett - Saturday 21 February



The popular **Quiz Night** at Privett Village Hall returns on **Saturday 21 February, 6.30pm** for a prompt start of the Quiz at 7.00pm. Come along as a team (6 in a team), or join others to make up a team on the night. Competition on the night will be fierce as teams battle it out with extraordinary and erudite displays of general knowledge and other trivia. A truce will be called at half-time for a fish and chip supper. A pay bar will ensure that successes are celebrated and disappointments mollified.

Tickets (to include supper) are £12.50. You can reserve your place and pay for your tickets in advance in one of the following ways:

**By going to the (new) PVH website at: [privettvillagehall.co.uk](http://privettvillagehall.co.uk) and click on Events, where you can buy your tickets;**  
**By contacting Gill Chung (tel. 07825 392171; email: [gillianchung@btinternet.com](mailto:gillianchung@btinternet.com)) or Alex Raphael (tel. 828461; email: [araphael.enamels@googlemail.com](mailto:araphael.enamels@googlemail.com)).**

If you would prefer a sausage or a veggie burger with your chips instead of fish, let Gill know by 17 February latest.

**Please note that if you reserve a place, but don't show up on the night, we will have to ask you to pay, as the suppers have to be ordered and paid for in advance of the Quiz Night.**



**Wednesday 11th February**

**Froxfield Village Hall**

**7.30pm**

**A talk by Steve Oakes**

**‘BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN’**

**Non-members are very welcome £3**

**[www.fpgarden.club](http://www.fpgarden.club)**



**The Curtis Museum, Alton**

**Curtis Museum Opening Times: Tuesday to Saturday**

**10am – 4.30pm 01420 82802**

**[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum)**

**Upcoming events for February.**

Step into the past and bring history to life through your own creativity! Join us for a **week-long celebration of traditional crafts**, where each day explores a different historical era and its unique artistic techniques. From ancient patterns to medieval motifs and beyond, you'll create your own piece of patterned fabric as the week progresses, building a personal collection to take home as a lasting memento.

Discover, design, and immerse yourself in the artistry of ages gone by. Perfect for craft enthusiasts, history lovers, and anyone curious about the stories behind the stitches. Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st February, 10am - 4.30pm.

We'll also be running **Craft Club** on the Thursday of half term (19th), 11am - 3pm, £2 per craft with your 5<sup>th</sup> craft free.

**Stepping Stones** Young People's Programme, Saturday 14 February - Saturday 21 March, 10.30 - 12.30. Regular free Saturday workshop supporting wellbeing for young people aged 11 - 14. Spaces need to be booked in advance. Please visit the website for details - <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum>

**Sewing workshop** for adults (age 16+) with local artist and maker Sachiko Mason, Saturday 21 February, 11am - 1pm. Stitch a beautiful toile de jouy style fabric bag, inspired by the Allen Gallery Collection. Book online at <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum>

The Curtis Museum continued

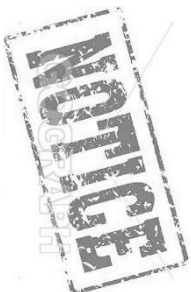
**Museum by Torchlight**

Our ever-popular exploration of the Curtis Museum by the glow of your torch returns during half-term. Tuesday February 17th, 5.30 to 7.30pm. Follow the trail and win a prize. £3.75 per (accompanied) child, adults free.

**Talks - Change of Venue**

The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery have a full programme of talks during 2026. Friends talks will be held in **Room 7 of the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN**. Alton Community Centre is located on one side of the car park in Amery Street (sat nav GU34 1HN). <https://www.altoncomcen.org.uk>, telephone number 01420 85057.

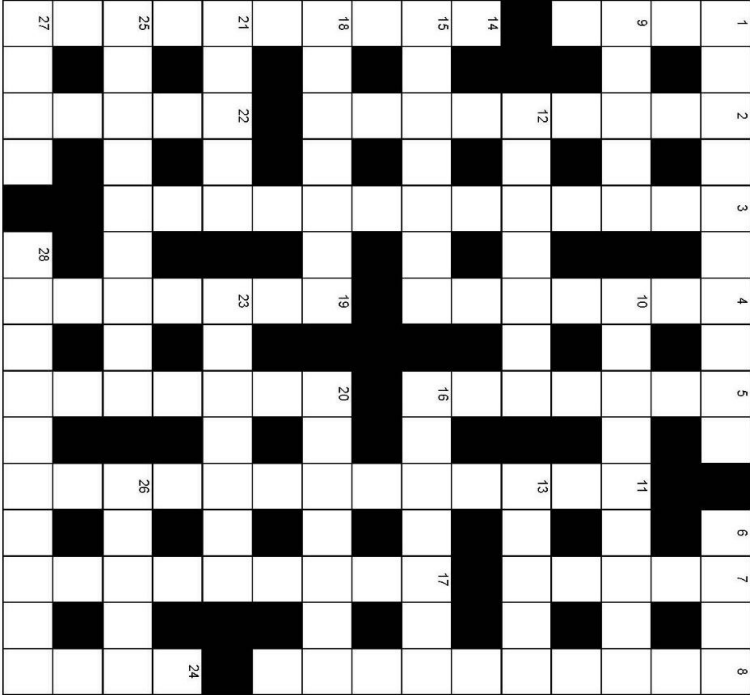
The first talk takes place on Thursday 12th February, when **Tony Cross** will speak about **Aspects of Alton's History**. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start. **FREE**. Donations welcome from Guests.



**Path closed until further notice.**

The old railway line between Hemplands Lane and the bridge adjoining Sages Lane was filled in and planted with trees many years ago and is now regularly used for walking. This is a private path and access is permitted by us which we highlight annually in the parish magazine, unfortunately we have been advised to close this path until further notice due to the condition of the trees.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**Across**

- 1 Of a feeling, especially love, not returned
- 6 Gesticulate, beckon
- 9 A state in North Africa
- 10 Soaked
- 12 A siren of Germanic legend, whose singing lured Rhine boatmen to destruction on a reef
- 13 Basic monetary unit of Macedonia
- 15 German car
- 16 Inflammatory, controversial
- 18 Catches fire
- 20 A bird of prey
- 21 A table in the Christian church used for consecrating the bread and wine
- 23 A savoury pastry dish (4,3)
- 25 Additional, subsidiary
- 26 Dodge
- 27 Performs
- 28 One who arranges text of books, magazines, etc

**Down**

- 1 Hideous
- 2 Uprising
- 3 A four-sided figure
- 4 Narrow-minded, blinkered
- 5 Interweave
- 7 Pen name of Anne Brontë ----- Bell
- 8 The yield of a tree or shrub bearing tiny black or red fruit, used in jam and wine making
- 11 Go reap hard sif, ' (anag).
- 14 Capital of Ethiopia (5,5)
- 17 Wanderer, traveller
- 19 Highest singing voice
- 20 Urge someone to hasten (5,2)
- 22 Implied without being stated, understood
- 24 A ruminant





The recent spell of mixed weather conditions has put at the back of our minds the cold spell earlier in the month. It was well forecasted, but it still takes us by surprise. When the gritting lorries don't make it to the village it is worth remembering that there are plenty of well-placed salt bins on the roads which are for everyone to use. If you are fit and have a shovel, please spread some grit on any icy or shady patches and on the slopes to help yourselves and your neighbours. The bins will be replenished by the highways team but any that are getting low will need to be reported on-lin. Type 'Hampshire Highways report a problem' into Google or your search engine.

These planning applications were discussed at the last meeting SDNP/25/04292/LIS & SDNP/25/04291/HOUS Wyke Green Farm, Soalwood Lane, Froxfield, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1D Proposed timber porch canopy and window replacement. It was resolved to SUPPORT the application

SDNP/25/04252/HOUS & SDNP/25/04253/LIS The Old Granary, Alexanders Lane, Privett, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3PW Solar PV array added to existing dwelling and garage. New 16KW Air source heat pump x2 It was resolved to OBJECT to the application.

SDNP/25/04168/HOUS Stoner Hill House, Stoner Hill Road, Froxfield, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1DX Replacement of Double Garage with a Double Garage and Workshop. The application was approved on 6th January 2026 by East Hampshire District Council on behalf of South Downs National Park Authority.

### Cover

Jeremy de Halpert kindly sent this picture in, I know it was at the end of last year, but I thought it was a lovely picture so decided to use it anyway. I had already done last month's cover when he sent it to me, but I think you'll agree it is impressive. His description is: A supermoon rises behind Froxfield Green church – the last full moon of 2025, closer to earth than usual so looks bigger.

Please send in any seasonal flora and fauna pictures you have.



I am excited to announce that 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of Froxfield church of England school. Thanks to the history notes compiled by the late Pam Goodall – a past teacher at the school - I can tell you a little of the history of this wonderful school in its lovely rural setting here in the heart of the South Downs.

'The 1870 Education Act stated that elementary schools should be established in areas where school provision from other sources was insufficient. There were three schools in the parish of Froxfield at that time. Robert Love's Charity School, which opened in 1734 and a School for Girls & Infants, which opened 1837/8 were both at Froxfield Green and there was an infant school in High Cross Lane, between More Lane and Rings Green, which was possibly a Dame School. The Trustees of Robert Love's Charity school decided to provide a new school at High Cross where children of the parish, of all ages, could be educated in the same building. Thus 'it was resolved to accept the tender by Messrs Gammon, builders of Petersfield, to build a Schoolroom and House in the Parish of Froxfield for £1,90 and that Arthur Blomfield Esq, Architect, be authorised to design the buildings.'

(It is interesting to note that among many other prestigious buildings Sir Arthur Blomfield, as he later became, also designed the Royal College of Music and Southwark Cathedral!)

The Trustees agreed that the new school should open on 3rd July 1876 under the charge of Mr H E Close, and Mrs Thomas Jarman who was engaged as the sewing mistress and infant teacher.

## **Froxfield School continued**

What an accolade to all the subsequent teachers and the children who have taught and been taught that the school has not only survived but has thrived over the past 150 years? The current headteacher Mrs Farrow and her team, the governors and the parents all agree that this anniversary is deserving of great celebration, and we are planning a number of events celebratory culminating in concert at Privett Church on Saturday 4th July - please save the date.

As Froxfield Church of England School approaches its 150th anniversary on 3rd July we have decided that as well as holding celebrations this is the perfect opportunity to create a lasting legacy for future generations and to mark this special milestone the school is raising funds to build a new Performing Arts Studio.

Froxfield School values all aspects of the arts - research shows that early access to the arts builds confidence, creativity and lifelong engagement. The school already offers music lessons in violin, guitar, keyboard, clarinet, flute and oboe and these lessons have taken place in our much-loved yurt but recently it has sprung a leak and is beyond repair – and both the children and their instruments have been getting wet!

We will be inviting the parish and wider community to help us create a new studio that will provide far better facilities in a modern, well-equipped space for music, drama and the arts, benefiting every child through curriculum learning, clubs, performances and community events. It will also strengthen links with families, the parish and neighbouring schools.

The project will cost approximately £125,000 and will be part-funded by the school. We will be seeking donations, grants and support through fundraising events,

If you would like to support this project - through a donation, attending an event or offering help - further details will be shared soon. Together, we can help provide an inspiring creative space for children for generations to come.

**Gillian Hollis: Chair of Governors**

*St. Peter's Church, High Cross, Froxfield*

**Raising Funds for a toilet and servery area in the church**



# **AUCTION OF GOODS AND PROMISES.**



**FROXFIELD VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2026**

**Two Course Supper 7p.m. - Doors open at 6p.m.**

**Veggie Option available CASH BAR**

**Tickets £15**

**Viewing 2pm – 4:30pm Teas Coffees Cakes.**

Tickets: Suzanne Tong: 01730 260430 or tongventhams@gmail.com or Froxfield Stores



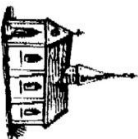
### **Drop-In: Froxfield Village Hall**

Everyone (including children and pets accompanied by a responsible adult) can be sure of a warm welcome and the company of friends and neighbours at the Drop-In! Come a long and enjoy a slice of cake and a cuppa in a warm space.

Suzanne Tong: 01730 260 430 or Tongventhams@gmail.com

Next Drop - In Dates: February 14th 2026 & March 14th 2026

### **Church News**



There's not a huge break in the church year before the arrival of Lent, this year starting on Wednesday 16th February. Information on the two Lent courses being run in the Benefice can be found elsewhere in this magazine. Regular services continue as we build up to Palm Sunday on the 29th March.

Undoubtedly the main church news is the installation of the new heating system in St Peter's, High Cross – work has finally begun on upgrading the power supply and we very much hope that we will be able to install heating chandeliers during March. In the meantime, the old system may not last until then! We are fortunate that we have St. Peter's on the Green to fall back on during the work.

We have been granted an amazing Boiler Replacement Hardship Grant from the Church of England Net Zero Programme to support the proposed low-carbon heating solution. Many thanks to those who's hard work on getting the grant application in and bringing the heating system project to fruition.



**THE TROOPER INN**  
HOTEL & BAR

Steve and I went to the Trooper recently for a meal. We were a bit taken aback how empty it was. We would say that it is really a case of 'use it, or lose it'. It is a lovely space and would be a good community hub, alongside the village hall. So many rural pubs have closed because of lack of footfall. Don't let ours be one.

**Caroline**

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### **Work at St Peter's, High Cross**

We are very excited to say that the project to improve facilities at the Church is moving ahead. Reverends. Susie and Sue, the PCC and community members have been working extraordinarily hard over the last few months on church Christmas services, fundraising and organising contractors for the replacement of the heating system at St Peter's High Cross.

If you've been in the vicinity of the church, you may have noticed that some electrical work has been taking place in preparation for the installation of the new electric heating system in March. During the installation the organ will be covered to prevent dust entering the pipes/keys and causing damage. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to a warm church in at Easter!

Our focus for 2026 is the installation of a toilet and small servery area at the back of the church. Thank you to everyone for your support of our fundraising events. We look forward very much to seeing you at our next event on 21st March which is to be an auction and dinner in the village hall. If you came to our Harvest Supper, you would know to expect some good food and company – now add a splash of auction fun! SEE YOU THERE!



**Auction of Goods and Promises**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**21st March 2026**  
**Froxfield Village Hall**

### **WALKING WEDNESDAYS**

9:30 am the First Wednesday of each month

High Cross Church to The Old Dairy Tearoom Privett

Wednesday: 4th February, 4th March & 1st April

Contact Suzanne Tong on TongVenthams@gmail.com or 01730 260430 for more information and travel arrangements.

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## Froxfield Choir Jazzing up this Year's Petersfield Musical Festival!



Buy your tickets now to avoid missing one of the highlights of this year's Festival, Froxfield Choir's reprise of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert at the Festival Hall, on Saturday 14 March at 7.30pm. Our concert in June 2024 was greeted with rapturous applause from the audience in a packed Privett church who had never heard music quite like it at our summer concert - or indeed witnessed such dextrous tap dancing! As before, we will be singing alongside the brilliant Brass Breakout Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Jan Zawada and with solo vocalist Gloria Miller. In addition to the Sacred Mass BBJO will play music drawn from the repertoire of jazz greats such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Ted Heath, Buddy Rich and Kenny Baker.

Tickets via the Festival website are on sale from Monday 2 February. £18, £22, £5 (under-19s) [www.thefestivalhall.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.thefestivalhall.co.uk/whats-on)  
We continue to encourage singers to join our amateur choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings at Froxfield Village Hall between 7.45-9.30pm and newcomers are welcome to come along any week for a taster session. Please contact Lesley Howe at [lkhowe58@gmail.com](mailto:lkhowe58@gmail.com) for more details. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X, formerly known as Twitter, @Froxfield Choir and on our website [www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk](http://www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk)  
Reflections on Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man by David Dobson

One of the most appealing things to me about Froxfield Choir is the variety it has shown over the years, and one never knows quite what's coming next. Two years ago, we sang Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert and last year in the summer we tackled the mountain of Brahms' German Requiem, a really tough sing – never any time to sit down – but I think we sang it well, with at the end that familiar feeling of pleased exhaustion. Then in the autumn came Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man, something very different. Essentially it is an anti-war piece, composed in 1999 in reflection of 'the most war-torn and destructive century in human history' and as a message of hope that the world of the future would have more peace and fewer wars.

Now, I am writing this in January 2026, a month when we all hope for better things, but in spite of our pious wishes the world continues to rage – in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Venezuela and Iran – and that's just for starters; and as I look back on The Armed Man last November, I can't help feeling that Karl Jenkins' subliminal message was 'when will we ever learn?' But to the music. I could sum it up and say it is a mixture of the sublime and the savage, with moments that shock in their bleakness, and moments where one feels pure joy. We started off singing and stamping our feet to a 15th century French marching song, with the piccolos egging us on. That set the scene for war, but here came the first surprise: a muezzin, with powerful voice and snowy white vestments, sang the Muslim call to prayer, and that was tremendously moving. Next came another twist, with the familiar words of the Kyrie Eleison, and that was followed by belligerent music which we knew presaged war.

I've said the music was a mixture of sublime and savage, but it was the words that really got to me. They came from a variety of sources, and most poignant was when we got to the immediate aftermath of war in the section called Angry Flames. This is brutal stuff, much the more so when one realises that what we were singing was a direct quotation from a Japanese man, Sankichi Tobi, as he describes what he found at Hiroshima (he survived the bombing but died of leukaemia later).

It was a relief when we moved on to see the resumption of peace – tremendously moving Agnus Dei and Benedictus, before the last rousing anthem "Better is Peace" with its quiet contemplative resolution at the end.

We stood stock still in silence for it seemed an age before Michael, our conductor, slowly lowered his hands to break the spell.

Nobody I feel could sing this work and be untouched, nor feel its relevance. No wonder it is the most sung choral work in the world today

**Editors Note:** Due to the enforced Windows 11 upgrade, I have had to buy a new version of Photoshop to create the covers. It is VERY different from the ancient version I used, so please make allowances for my experiments! Any comments gratefully received. Caroline