

# STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 640

APRIL 2026





**Cover Picture: Easter in All Saints' Church**  
**Above: Call My Wine Bluff . See Page 9**  
**Below: Edward Thomas Birthday walkers. See page 10**



# An Easter Message from the Vicar.

*Canon Susie Collingridge*

Ah, springtime in the country - when a young (well, young-at-heart) vicar's fancy turns to thoughts of...well, Easter, of course! Though I must admit, as I notice the budding trees and greening carpet of wild garlic in the Hangers, my mind does occasionally wander to visions of a new pair of walking socks or the holy grail of truly waterproof rain jacket. But I digress.

This is, after all, the most sacred and significant time of the year for Christians. And like any vicar worth their salt, I feel it's my duty to make sure we're all getting into the proper Easter spirit. So put on your Sunday best (or your farm boots, if that's more your style), because we have a little serious thinking to do.

Just imagine the emotional journey the disciples must have experienced - the sheer elation of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the crushing devastation of his crucifixion, and then the utter, world-changing joy of his resurrection. It's enough to make your head spin!

And yet, through it all, the central message shines through: that death has been defeated, that sin has been forgiven, and that we have been offered the incredible gift of eternal life. It's a truth that is simultaneously mind-boggling and life-transforming.

So as we prepare to celebrate this most holy of holidays, I'd like to invite you all to join me in really sitting with that truth. To let it sink in, to ponder its implications, and to allow it to fill

our hearts with a profound sense of hope.

Because let's be honest - these past few years have been tough. Between the pandemic, economic stress, wars around the world, and a seemingly never-ending barrage of bad news, it's easy to feel disheartened, disillusioned, even despairing at times. But Easter reminds us that the darkness and death *never* have the final word. No matter how bleak things may appear, the light of Christ always shines through.

So this Easter, I encourage you to come to the empty tomb, to encounter the risen Lord, and to be filled anew with the promise of redemption and restoration. We have plenty of opportunities to do just that over the coming weeks, with something for everyone across our parishes (take a look at the list of services elsewhere in the magazine to find out more).

Whether you join us for a service, reach out to bring some kindness to a neighbour, or simply take a moment of quiet reflection on your own, my prayer is that you will travel this season with a heart overflowing with hope.

After all, as it's been said, "Laughter through tears is my favourite emotion." And what better time to embrace that sentiment than during the most joyous celebration of the Christian calendar?

Happy Easter, my friends. The Lord is risen indeed!

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# DIARY DATES

## STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meetings:

**Mon 13th April 7.30pm**

**Tues 5th May**

**Monday 11th May AGM AND APM**

**Steep Village Hall.** All welcome.

Contact: Sam Marchant

([clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk))

<https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/>

## STEEP FILM SOCIETY

**Steep Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.**

**10th April THE CHORAL**

**24th April WHIPLASH**

<https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/>

## BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

**Sun 26th Apr** Youth Dance Platform

**Wed 29th Apr** Spring Concert

**Wed 6th May** Music Scholars' Concert

Concert

**Mon 11th & Tue 12th May** 6.1 Theatre Studies A Level Devised

**Thu 14th & Fri 15th May** Prep Rock Show

Show

To book tickets please visit

<https://www.bedaes.org.uk/whats-on>

## STEEP WELCOME CLUB

**Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm**

**Thurs 9th April.** Anna Hocking and Liz

Mullenger share experiences and

artefacts from their recent trip to

Uzbekistan.

**Thurs 23rd April** "Phishing, Fraud and

Scams". Phil from the Blue Lamp

Trust tells us how to keep safe online.

*Heather Maybury: 07554 747361;*

*01730 266855; [hjmaybury@gmail.com](mailto:hjmaybury@gmail.com)*

*[judy.thompson@me.com](mailto:judy.thompson@me.com)*

## STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meetings:

**28th April 7.30pm ANNUAL PARISH**

**ASSEMBLY**

**Tues 19th May**

**Stroud Village Hall.** All welcome.

**Saturday 11th April.** PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER PICK

Contact: Sam Marchant

([clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk))

<https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/>

## STROUD EVENING W.I.

All meetings take place at **Stroud**

**Village Hall**, on a Tuesday, starting at

**7.30pm.**

**14th Apr** "Growing Old Disgracefully"

with ex-vicar Jill Bentall

[https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-](https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening)

[wi/stroud-evening](https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening). X @WiStroud

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**Sun 26th April ANNUAL PAROCHIAL**

**CHURCH MEETING**

**PLANT SALE** for Steep Flower Show

**Sat 16th May, 2 - 4pm**

50 Church Road, Steep.

[https://steep-flower-show-](https://steep-flower-show-sumupstore.com)

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## HELP NEEDED

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the Steep and Stroud Newsletter to

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# STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

## STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

*Alison Driver,  
Chair, Steep Parish Council*

The Parish Council met on 2 March at the Village Hall. Here's a quick round-up of what's been happening:

We discussed how we can keep residents more informed and are looking at introducing a simple e-mail 'bulletin' to share updates more quickly. This would be an electronic copy of Council articles like this that are printed in the village newsletter.

From the District Council, we heard that council tax is likely to increase slightly this year and that new grant funding will be available from April, so if there are local projects you would like to see happen then now is a good time to start thinking about them and letting us know. Ongoing concerns about potholes, speeding, and planning issues in Steep Marsh are still being followed up.

Work is continuing on pulling together a 'centre' for Church Road. Cllr Hollington has offered to discuss this with a local resident to pull together existing designs and see if there is anything we can afford to do. Any ideas will be presented to the parish by way of a public consultation so residents can have their say. In the meantime, we welcome all and every idea about taking on the public open space at the new development and how best to (potentially) incorporate this with

the existing village hall green space.

We are also progressing plans to restore the War Memorial, including looking into grants and necessary permissions. Meanwhile, some smaller practical issues like the overgrown hedge are being tackled.

On roads, the Parish Council still supports a 20mph limit on Church Road. Unfortunately, we are now being told that the estimated cost to implement this would be £20k-£30k. We are keen to achieve this on this dangerous stretch of road and are currently looking at funding options.

At Steep Common, rather than paying for minor maintenance work, volunteers will be stepping in to carry out repairs and upkeep, which is a great example of community support in action.

The 2026/27 budget has now been approved, and overall finances remain in a stable position.

Looking ahead, we'll be discussing topics such as the Green Space Consultation, as well as learning more about a potential Neighbourhood Plan.

The next meeting is on Monday 13 April at 7:30pm and, as always, residents are very welcome to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Assembly meeting take place on Monday 11th May. Further details will be given in next month's newsletter.

## STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

*Tom North  
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council*

It was great to have some engaged residents joining the Parish Council for our mid-March meeting. It really adds to the richness of the conversation to have in person questions and testimony. Alongside conversation about how to proactively prevent further illegal development of the field adjacent to the pub, we covered the finalising of plans for the new larger, safer bus shelter; and an agreement to purchase a 3<sup>rd</sup> digital speed sign. The council were also pleased to see that the request for additional 30 mph repeater signs has been actioned by Highways.

There are two great events coming up that we would love to see large attendance at. Village Litter Pick – see page 8.

Annual Parish Assembly – 7:30pm on Tues 28<sup>th</sup> April – Hear reports on recent activities and presentations, including a fascinating talk on the introduction of beavers to the Meon Valley.



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## STROUD VILLAGE HALL

*Katy Lace  
Hall Manager*

Spring is here, and we're looking forward to another busy year at the hall.

Last month we celebrated Village Hall's Week 2026 with a Free Community Coffee Morning. It was wonderful to see people enjoying the space together – thank you to everyone who baked, helped out, and made it such a lovely morning.

This month, we're delighted to host the annual Parish Council Litter Pick again, which this year takes place on Saturday 11th April. A great family-friendly activity, with coffee and cake served afterwards at the hall. Looking further ahead, the Stroud Revels will take place on Saturday 25th July, and plans are already underway. More details to follow in the May newsletter.

A reminder that the hall is available for parties, meetings, and community activities. We currently have availability for regular classes on Tuesdays and Fridays, Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and a Thursday evening slot. If you'd like to start a class, run a group, or hire the hall for a celebration, do get in touch.

Bookings & enquiries:

Katy Lace

[manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk)

or book online at [stroudvillagehall.org](http://stroudvillagehall.org)

## STROUD COMMUNITY GARDEN

*Katy Lace  
On behalf of Stroud Garden Group*

Spring has sprung in the garden! The first spring bulbs are emerging, and the blossom on the trees and hedges is out and looking beautiful.

Last month, we cleared the raised flowerbeds and planted two new fruit trees, which we look forward to seeing grow over the coming years. Much of this month has been spent updating risk assessments and training, ensuring the garden stays safe and enjoyable for all volunteers and visitors. A big thank you to Ron Allen who attended the Community Coffee morning to share his findings on the plants and wildlife in the garden too - our gardening team really appreciated his time and support.

We're also planning the year ahead, and hope to share more updates after our next garden meeting.

If you'd like to get involved – whether helping with planting, maintenance, or sharing your ideas for the space – please do get in touch. We are a small friendly team of volunteers who aim to meet once every three months and we welcome all ideas and levels of experience.

Contact:

Katy Lace, Stroud Village Hall

Manager

[manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk)

**The Stroud Annual Litter Pick** will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10:30am from the Village Hall. Please do come along to help out. Many hands make light work. Tea & Cake for all volunteers.

## CALL MY WINE BLUFF

### – A WONDERFULLY SPIRITED EVENING IN STEEP

*Andrew Howard, Chair of Trustees  
Steep Village Hall War Memorial Club*

More than 50 villagers gathered at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th March for the inaugural 'Call My Wine Bluff' evening - the second community event organised by the trustees, following the success of 'Steep Remembers' last November.

The aim of the evening was to bring people together and revive the strong sense of community that makes the parish of Steep such a special place to live. Judging by the laughter, lively debate and enthusiastic participation, the event certainly succeeded!

The format combined fun with a little "edutainment" - six wines were presented during the evening, with teams challenged to identify their true provenance. For each wine, three alternative explanations were offered by our panel of expert "bluffers" who are all well-known members of our community.

The panel consisted of Nick Drew (District Councillor, who also generously supported the event), Sheryl Pape (local artist) and Mike Robinson (the highly respected leader of Steep Speedwatch). Each gave wonderfully convincing - and occasionally mischievous - accounts of where the wines supposedly came from, leaving many

guests wondering who on earth to believe. Teams voted after each wine was served and on more than one occasion a brave table found themselves alone in their judgement - only to be delighted when their guess proved correct.

At half-time guests enjoyed a generous platter of cheeses and charcuterie, providing welcome sustenance for the serious business of further wine analysis. With the scores close going into the second half it remained anyone's game, but in the end "The Whine Society" edged to victory. They proudly carried off the 'Steep Wine Stars' trophy to hold for the coming year, along with a magnum of champagne to celebrate their success.

If laughter and smiling faces are the best measure of a successful evening, then this one was undoubtedly a vintage performance. Well done to everyone involved and our thanks to all who helped with the logistics both before and on the night. Special mention to Alison and Amanda who ran the kitchen like clockwork and the 6 outstanding Bedales students who volunteered to be waiters for the evening (Lucy, Elodie, Ed, Benji, Toby and Robin) - and watch this space for the next Steep community event.

## THE EDWARD THOMAS BIRTHDAY WALK 2026

Mike Cope (Walk Leader)

The Edward Thomas Birthday Walk took place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, on a day of light rain and cloud. Around twenty people gathered in the car park of Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, at 10:15 am for a safety briefing from the walk leader. The theme for the day was Eleanor Farjeon and Edward Thomas.

We set off past Steep Church towards the Ashford Stream, where the first readings were given. The walk continued to Steep Marsh, and our second stop was the chalk pit at the foot of Ashford Hangers. Here we read Edward Thomas's poem *The Chalk Pit*, followed by a passage from Eleanor Farjeon's memoir *The Last Four Years*.

Our planned route involved contouring around the hanger, but the path had been closed due to a recent tree fall - a common occurrence in 'Hanger Country'. Instead, we followed the main track past Cobbett's View and then descended the steep slope to the Shoulder of Mutton Hill and the memorial stone, erected in 1937 to mark the twentieth anniversary of Thomas's death. We paused at the stone for further readings. Our final offering was not spoken but sung: *Morning Has Broken* - the children's hymn Eleanor Farjeon wrote in 1932 to a Scottish folk tune. Decades later in 1978, Cat Stevens discovered it in a London bookshop and carried it into the world anew, where it found its way

into the top ten on both sides of the Atlantic!

With the readings at the memorial stone complete, we gathered for a group photograph.

After lunch in the Bedales Reading Room, we began the afternoon walk from Bedales car park. Our first stop was Berryfield Cottage, the Thomas's first home in Steep, where another set of readings brought their early years vividly to mind.

Finally, we made our way back to Steep Church for the Birthday Tea, the AGM, and poetry readings from the winner and runners-up of the Edward Thomas Poetry Competition - a fitting close to a day shaped by words, weather, and the quiet companionship of the landscape.

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## A STROUD WALK

*Jeremy Mitchell*

There's a lovely old booklet of *Walks around Stroud* that was put together back in the day for the Parish Council by Chris and Judith Wright and Paul and Audrey Woodburn.

There are six walks in the book ranging from 2.5 miles to 5.75 miles.

This is Walk No 1, taking you 2.5 miles along Mustercombe Copse and North Stroud Lane – and it is a while since I last walked it so some descriptions may differ slightly.

From the Seven Stars walk down Ramsdean Road. Take the footpath opposite Langrish School. Cross three small fields to North Stroud Lane. Turn left and immediately right and go over the wooden footbridge crossing the stream. Signpost (SP) directing you over two narrow and one larger field, passing close left of a large Oak to the stile entering Mustercombe Copse. Follow the track up through the copse to emerge in a field. Keeping the copse and then the hedge on your right continue to the next SP. Here turn left across the field, which may be planted so please keep to the footpath, to the stile set in the next hedge. Over the stile, keeping an old moto-cross track on your left and make for the next SP and obvious junction opposite.

Here go left down the track for 100 yards using two stiles to round the steel gate and into the field at the end of the track. Aim slightly left of the centre of this field to a stile set in the fence. Continue to bear left to another stile adjacent to Stancoombe Copse on the left. The walk now goes

downhill bearing slightly left, to some wooden planks leading to a small steel gate. Over the footbridge and across the field bearing slightly right to a high stile to re-join North Stroud Lane.

Turn left and continue back along the lane to where you crossed the first footbridge, but this time turn right through the kissing gate. Follow the track across three small fields and through kissing gates to reach Ramsdean Road. Turn left, passing the School now on your right and return to the Seven Stars Car Park.

## FUNDRAISING FOR STEEP MEADOW

*Fran Box*

From last month's newsletter you may be aware of the attempt by locals to purchase Steep meadow and its access track.

Sadly, our proposed purchase has not been able to go ahead.

This was due to legal issues which arose. We have thus been advised against proceeding. There are no problems with those who were fundraising for the purchase, or with the proposed business plan for the land.

However, we certainly did not wish to jeopardise the money which many Steep people had generously pledged. The scheme promised to be a wonderful communal effort on behalf of our village. It is a great pity that it will now no longer come about.

It remains to thank all for caring about Steep and for generously offering to support the venture. There are some wonderful people in Steep. Thank you so much!

## APRIL'S CHARMS

*William Henry Davies*

When April scatters charms of prim-  
rose gold  
Among the copper leaves in thickets  
old,  
And singing skylarks from the mead-  
ows rise,  
To twinkle like black stars in sunny  
skies;

When I can hear the small woodpeck-  
er ring  
Time on a tree for all the birds that  
sing;  
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud  
and long –  
The simple bird that thinks two notes  
a song;

When I can hear the woodland brook,  
that could  
Not drown a babe, with all his threat-  
ening mood;  
Upon these banks the violets make  
their home,  
And let a few small strawberry blos-  
soms come:

When I go forth on such a pleasant  
day,  
One breath outdoors takes all my  
cares away;  
It goes like heavy smoke, when  
flames take hold  
Of wood that's green and fill a grate  
with gold.

## STEEP FILM SOCIETY



Steep Film Society is a charity which shows films every fortnight at Steep Village Hall.

Members pay £6 per showing, guests are welcome but pay a bit more. For free membership go to <https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/> or contact Robin Hollington at [robin.hollington@steepfilmsociety.org.uk](mailto:robin.hollington@steepfilmsociety.org.uk).

Book preferably online or by email or phone to Robin or (01730 774869). Please check online that your membership is in date.

### **10th April - *The Choral***

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decided to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

### **24th April – *Whiplash***

Andrew Neyman is an ambitious young jazz drummer, single-minded in his pursuit to rise to the top of his elite east coast music conservatory. Terence Fletcher, an instructor known

equally for his teaching talents and his terrifying methods, discovers Andrew and transfers him into his band. Andrew's passion to achieve perfection soon spirals into obsession, as his ruthless teacher continues to push him to the brink of both his ability and his sanity.

## FROXFIELD CHOIR

Performances of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert are rare, but Froxfield Choir has had the great pleasure of singing it not once, but twice, most recently in the opening weekend of the Petersfield Musical Festival to a sold-out audience in the Festival Hall.

Accompanied by the talented Brass Breakout Jazz Orchestra, Peter Rhodes wrote in his review that the "singers took on the persona of a gospel choir convincingly, with some even swaying and rocking in time to the swing idioms offered up by the band. This was music of real variety, sometimes with the full band providing the accompaniment, sometimes only the rhythm section underpinning the chorus. Soprano Gloria Miller... came up with the most magical, wordless sounds... The engaging and celebrated performer [and tap dancer], Michael Lin, produced a breathtaking display, accompanied by the choir and the band... if you get the opportunity to hear Ellington's Sacred Concert yourself, you should jump at the chance. Saturday's audience left the Festival Hall with beaming smiles on their faces." As did every member of the choir, and our conductor Michael Servant. To read the review in full go to: [petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk/2026/03/15/review-duke-ellington-sacred-concert](http://petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk/2026/03/15/review-duke-ellington-sacred-concert)

Our next concert will be our annual visit to Holy Trinity, Privett, where we'll be singing Bach's Magnificat in D on Saturday 20th June. Very different to Duke Ellington, but no less magnificent! Please save the date. We'd love to see you there.

## HOT CROSS BUNS MADE AT HOME

*Elizabeth Housden*

### Ingredients:

1lb plain flour  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 oz margarine  
4 oz sugar  
1 tsp mixed spice or cinnamon  
½ oz yeast  
1-2 eggs  
1 ½ - 2 gills milk  
2 oz currants  
Short crust pastry (make your own or buy ready made)

### Method:

1. Mix salt with warmed flour.
2. Rub in fat.
3. Add sugar, spice, creamed yeast and eggs with the warmed milk.
4. Mix to a soft, light dough, beat well and put aside to rise.
5. When well risen knead the dough lightly, working in the fruit and divide into 20-24 pieces.
6. Firm into round shapes, flatten slightly and put to prove for 15 minutes.
7. Cut narrow strips of pastry 1.5 - 2 in long, brush tops of buns with egg wash or milk, place pastry crossed on top and bake in a hot oven (425 °F, 220 °C, 200 °C fan oven, gas 7).

# RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

## January and February moth challenges and spring is on its way.

One of the least known citizen scientist projects must be the January Moth Challenge.

Moth enthusiasts are encouraged to switch on their moth traps through January and again in February, months when most 'moth-ers' have long put their traps to bed. The challenge is to record moths during these traditionally under-recorded months, with the objective in January to record at least 10 species of macro-moth and/or 5 species of micro-moth from a single site. 64 recorders took up the challenge operating at 71 sites across the UK recording overall some 1229 moths of 54 species.

Here in Stroud, I failed the challenge managing just a total of 31 moths over 15 recording nights including just six species of macro-moth and only one species of micro-moth. This put me about half way down the chart. Many moth-ers clearly did much better and many did worse, putting me just over a third of the way down the list (25<sup>th</sup> out of 71).

The commonest moth in the garden was a tiny brown micro-moth with the long name of *Agonopterix heracliana-ciliella* otherwise known as the Common Brindled Brown with 17 records. The next commonest was the Chestnut moth and other species included the more colourful Pale Brin-

dled Beauty, Mottled Umber and Spring Usher together with a Dark Chestnut and a December moth.

The February Challenge was difficult and the task harder, and I failed again. Heavy rain over many days meant few trapping nights and then the trap control unit got flooded in the rising garden water levels meaning a long period of drying out. However, nine drier and warmer nights at the end of the month produced 83 moths of 12 species. The national results have today been collated and I find that I am halfway down the list (31<sup>st</sup> out of 63). The commonest moth was again the tiny Common Brindled Brown (26 records). Common, Twin-spot and Brindled Quakers were the next most common. Good to find the colourful butterfly-like Oak Beauty and the speciality was the unusual Small Brindled Beauty.

All the data will be entered into the national moth database and add to our knowledge of night-flying moths.

I am writing this on 11<sup>th</sup> March and we have had some sunny if rather cold days. Buff-tailed and red-tailed bumble bees are about foraging for nest sites and we had a brimstone butterfly fly across the garden and a comma butterfly on the village green. I now await the first bee-fly on our primrose patch.

We had our first slow-worm (a species of legless lizard) recently under one of our wildlife refugia 'tins' along

with several bank voles. Palmate newts are active in the pond. Robins, blackbirds, greenfinches, goldfinches and dunnocks are singing loudly in the garden and buzzards and red kites are circling high in the sky. The first blackthorn flowers are already going over and hawthorns and elder-bushes are coming into leaf. Spring is now not far away with the Vernal Equinox on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and I look forward to many more local wildlife observations soon.



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# CHURCH NEWS

*Amanda Greenlee*

## **Lent**

The season of Lent started with a Communion service on Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Two Lent courses have been offered, one held by Caroline Hilton on Wednesday afternoons and one by Pippa and Graham Madgwick on Wednesday evenings. Pippa and Graham led the Parish Communion service on 22<sup>nd</sup> February when we looked at the Temptation of Christ and the following week Graham preached at the TenAM, with Susie leading the service. Graham encouraged the children to recreate the journey of Abram from Ur to the land of Canaan. The children held wooden animals to represent Abram, his family and his flocks as he marched beside rivers and through deserts having no fear as God was with them. Our Parish Communion service on 8<sup>th</sup> March was a joyous one when Susie baptized Chloe Louise Grey with many Mileham and Grey family members present.

## **Mothering Sunday**

This was celebrated in style with an All Age Benefice Communion with Sue Jones taking the service and Susie giving a talk as we covered a human outline with flower post it notes showing why we treasured our mothers and other caregivers. Children then distributed pots of flowers from overflowing baskets to mothers and others. Newly baptized Chloe was present as her brother and grand

mother performed sidesman duties together.

## **Edward Thomas tea**

On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Edward Thomas Fellowship held their annual meeting, having enjoyed a tea provided by the Social Committee. Several poems were read by their author and others as the Edward Thomas weekend drew to a close.

## **World Day of Prayer**

St Lawrence church in Petersfield hosted the service this year for the World Day of Prayer on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Suzanne Tong from Froxfield was a reader and Amanda Greenlee read the account of a Nigerian mother fearing for her teenage daughter's safety in Northern Nigeria. People from the churches that make up PACT came together in a service highlighting Christian women in Nigeria and heard how their faith supports them.

## **Annual Parish Church Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> April**

This will take place after the service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. All are welcome but only people who are on the Electoral Roll can vote. Those who attend will hear how our Steep 900 celebration year concluded and voting will take place for church officers.

## **FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS**

**Baptism:** 8th March Chloe Louise Gray  
**Funeral:** 31st March Pamela Thomas

### Church Electoral Roll Reminder

The Church Electoral Roll is being updated. All on it are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which will be held on Sunday 26th April 2026.

There are forms available from me or in All Saints' Church for those who would like their names to be added or details updated.

Completed forms should be returned to me or to the post box in the church porch by Friday 10th April. The Electoral Roll (names only) will be displayed in the porch at All Saints' from 11th to 25th April.

For any queries please contact me - Tel: 07554 747361 or [himay-bury@gmail.com](mailto:himay-bury@gmail.com) Heather Maybury Electoral Roll Officer

### SAVE THE DATE - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE PARISH !

June is a busy month at All Saints' Steep so please try and keep these dates free.

**Wednesday 3rd June:** Evening Installation by Bishop Jonathan of Sue our current curate, as Assistant Priest.

**Sunday 7th June:** Our very popular Pet's Service at TenAM, All Saints'.

**Sunday 14th June:** 'What is paradise but a garden?' 'Coldhayes' in Steep Marsh is opening its glorious garden with various activities for all ages. We plan to have a plant stall - please sow some extra seeds for us!

**Sunday 21st June:** The Steep Lecture. This year our guest is Carole Souter CBE. She is the current interim Chair of Historic Royal Palaces and former Master of St. Cross College, Oxford.

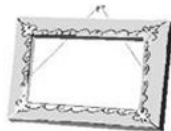
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## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**STEEP, STROUD, FROXFIELD & PRIVETT**

**SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH PALM SUNDAY**

**10AM BENEFICE COMMUNION**

**HIGH CROSS**



**THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**6PM HOLY COMMUNION (SAID)**

**FROXFIELD GREEN**



**FRIDAY APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> GOOD FRIDAY**

**10AM**

A MEDITATIVE SERVICE OF  
READINGS, PRAYERS & MUSIC

**HIGH CROSS**

**2PM**

LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS,  
**STEEP**



**SATURDAY 4TH APRIL HOLY SATURDAY**

**6PM EASTER COMMUNION , STROUD**

**8PM EASTER FIRE SERVICE , PRIVETT**

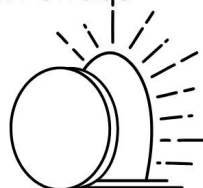
**SUNDAY APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> - EASTER DAY**

**6AM DAWN COMMUNION, FROXFIELD GREEN**

**10AM ALL AGE COMMUNION, STEEP**

**10AM ALL AGE COMMUNION , HIGH CROSS**

**HE IS RISEN**



**APRIL**



**2026**

## **Benefice Worship**

*The Lord has risen. Alleluia!*

*Luke 24.34*

### **SUNDAY 5TH APRIL - EASTER DAY**

**6am** Dawn Communion, **Froxfield Green**

**10am** All Age Communion, **Steep**

**10am** All Age Communion, **High Cross**

### **Sunday 12th April 2026**

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

**10am** Parish Communion, **Steep**

### **Sunday 19th April 2026**

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

**10am** Parish Communion, **High Cross**

### **Sunday 26th April 2026**

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

**10am** Shortened Parish Communion, & APCM **Steep**

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

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

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

**10am** TenAM, **Steep**

**10am** Shortened Parish Communion, & APCM **High Cross**

*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)**

**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**

**Parish Communion Services** are in modern language (Common Worship)  
**Early Sunday Services (8.30am)** are said, in traditional language, from the Book of Common Prayer

**Silent Prayer, All Saints', Steep:** 6.30-7pm every Thursday

**The TenAM (all age less formal worship):** 10am on the first Sunday of the month

**Choir Practice:** 6pm on Fridays before 10am Parish Communion

**Sunday School:** Second Sunday of the month during 10am Parish Communion excluding school holidays

**Vicar, Steep and Froxfield with Privett and Area Dean of Petersfield:** The Revd Canon Susie Collingridge—624245, [Susie.collingridge@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.collingridge@gmail.com)

**Assistant Curate:** The Revd Sue Jones 07884 141019, [susan.jones1410@gmail.com](mailto:susan.jones1410@gmail.com)

**LLM Graham Madgwick** - 07946 197038, [g.madgwick@btinternet.com](mailto:g.madgwick@btinternet.com)

**PtO Clergy:** The Revd Dr Pippa Madgwick 07923 933649, [Pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com](mailto:Pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com)

**PtO LLM:** Caroline Hilton - 263460

**Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Lindsay Clegg - 827505, [lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com)

**Churchwardens: Steep:** Judy Thompson - 07769 182181, [judy.thompson@me.com](mailto:judy.thompson@me.com)

**Froxfield with Privett:** Lindsay Clegg – 827505, [lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com](mailto:lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com)

**Benefice administrator:** Helen Muir-Davies - [Steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com](mailto:Steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com)

**Gift aid(GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) officers:**

**Steep/Stroud:** Stephen Rae - 260571 and Caroline Robinson

([Caroline@rokehouse.co.uk](mailto:Caroline@rokehouse.co.uk)) **Froxfield/ Privett:** Ian Hughes – 828344

[n.ianhughes@btinternet.com](mailto:n.ianhughes@btinternet.com); Christine Stephens - [Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk](http://Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk)



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## USEFUL CONTACTS (telephone code 01730)

**Newsletter Editor:** Caroline Robinson, [caroline@rokehouse.co.uk](mailto:caroline@rokehouse.co.uk)

**Police Support Officer:** John Payne [john.payne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.payne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Steep Village website:** [www.steepvillage.com](http://www.steepvillage.com)

**Steep Parish Clerk:** Sam Marchant, [clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk)

<https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/>

**Stroud Parish Clerk:** Sam Marchant, [clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk)

<https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/>

**Stroud Village Hall:** Katy Lace, [manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk)

**Steep Village Hall:** Louise Knight, [manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk); 774936

## Bus services to and from Petersfield

### STEEP:

Daily service starts at **Bedales at 10.08am**, thence **The Cricketers**, to **Petersfield hospital**, the **station** and the **Square**, ending at **Tesco at 10.24am**. Returns (same route) from **Tesco at 12.27pm**, arriving at **Bedales at 12.42pm**

### STROUD:

Details from 0345 241 8000 and

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/south/67/petersfield-winchester/XPBO067.I>

## COPY FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER

not later than midday on

**Monday 13th April**

**FOR STEEP** to Caroline Robinson at Roke House, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ; [caroline@rokehouse.co.uk](mailto:caroline@rokehouse.co.uk).

**FOR STROUD** to Jeremy Mitchell at Fairlands, Finchmead Lane, Stroud GU32 3PF; [mitchjd@btinternet.com](mailto:mitchjd@btinternet.com); 01730 267214.

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