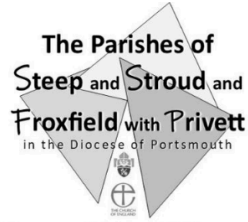


APRIL



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 3rd May 2026

- 8.30am** Holy Communion (BCP Said), **Steep**
- 10am** TenAM, **Steep**
- 10am** Shortened Parish Communion, & APCM **High Cross**

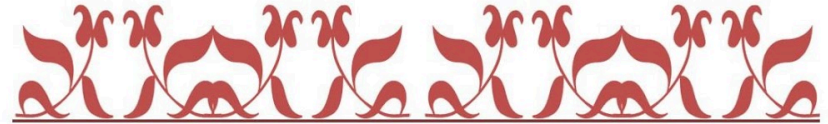
Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.

For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at

steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com.

or visit our website **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



Froxfield and Privett Parish
Magazine



April 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@froxfeldvillagehall.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

Cricket 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.froxfieldandprivett.org.uk

Defibrillator access code: C0147X

Bin Days Thursday Unless Otherwise Indicated

2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Recycling & Glass	Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass	Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN SEVEN DAYS

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

STEEP, STROUD, FROXFIELD & PRIVETT

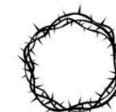
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH PALM SUNDAY

10AM BENEFICE COMMUNION
HIGH CROSS



THURSDAY 2ND APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY

6PM HOLY COMMUNION (SAID)
FROXFIELD GREEN



FRIDAY APRIL 3RD GOOD FRIDAY

10AM A MEDITATIVE SERVICE OF
READINGS, PRAYERS & MUSIC
HIGH CROSS
2PM LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS,
STEEP

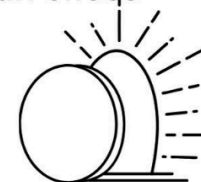


SATURDAY 4TH APRIL HOLY SATURDAY

6PM EASTER COMMUNION , **STROUD**
8PM EASTER FIRE SERVICE , **PRIVETT**

SUNDAY APRIL 5TH - EASTER DAY

6AM DAWN COMMUNION, **FROXFIELD GREEN**
10AM ALL AGE COMMUNION, **STEEP**
10AM ALL AGE COMMUNION , **HIGH CROSS**



HE IS RISEN

Froxfield Village Hall Update continued

Fed up with the Potholes?? Help us fix them!

The session will run from **9am to 1pm**, and you are welcome to join for as much time as you can spare - anything from 1 to 4 hours would be greatly appreciated. Whether you're happy to take on heavier tasks or prefer lighter duties, all help is very welcome.

Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

For more information, please contact:

Ted Stephens at ted.stephens@froxfieldvillagehall.co.uk or 01730 266529

Village Fete & Dog Show – Sunday 28th June

We are looking forward to another wonderful village fete and would greatly appreciate your support. We are currently seeking:

- Volunteers to help on the day
- Loan of gazebos
- Unwanted jewellery (for a new jewellery stall this year)
- Donations of cakes, books, bottles, and other fete favourites

Further details, including drop-off points, will be shared next month. If you are able to help in any way, please contact:

teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

April	
Thurs 2	PC Meeting from 7.30pm, all welcome.
Mon 13	Froxfield Village Hall - AGM
Fri 17	Country Music Club 8pm. Tickets are £10 on the door, Under-14"s free. Licensed bar, tea & coffee available. Filled rolls & hotdogs also available for 80p
Sat 25	Sponsored Walk and Picnic Day. Please see the Village Hall website for more info.



By the time you read this article, our Spring Show will have been and gone, but I will report on it in the next magazine, and we may even be able to publish a photo or two.

It is always such a colourful event, with all the lovely Spring flowers on display! Our March meeting was a little later this year, due to the availability of Rosie Hardy,

our speaker, who is such a busy lady! She is an exceptionally knowledgeable plantswoman, very famous for her 24 Gold Medal award winning exhibits at Chelsea Flower Show over the years. Rosie has a passion for herbaceous perennials

and her talk to us was entitled 'Using herbaceous perennials in mixed borders'. As you would expect from such an expert plantswoman, she was full of tips to help you design your planting to its best and had brought along some lovely plants to buy from her award winning nursery, which sold very quickly when her talk was over. It was really good to have her to speak to us again and to impart some of her extensive knowledge about perennials.

Our April talk will be held at Privett Village Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Gillian Taylor and the subject of her talk will be 'More colour - less work', which sounds a theme most gardeners would like to hear! Please note that we have had to change the date of our April meeting from Tuesday 14th to Wednesday 15th April as we had a clash with another event in Privett. We look forward to seeing you there. Guests are also very welcome at £3.

Sue Kinlochan



East Meon Flower Festival returns to All Saints' Church, 22-25 May 2026

Following the success of previous years, All Saints' Church, East Meon, is delighted to announce the return of its much-loved Flower Festival, taking place from Friday 22 May to Monday 25 May 2026.

For four days, the beautiful Grade I listed church will be dressed to the nines with stunning floral displays, transforming this historic 11th-century building into a celebration of creativity, nature and community. The festival aims to attract visitors from near and far while raising vital funds for the ongoing care and preservation of this much-loved landmark.

The 2026 festival will feature more than 20 floral-themed displays, each created by and representing the many groups and societies that make up village life in East Meon. From local farming communities and the cricket team to cold-water swimmers, allotment holders, beekeepers and the local history society, the displays promise to reflect the rich character and diversity of the community.

A central theme of this year's festival is the countryside and sustainability. Wherever possible, arrangements will use locally sourced, environmentally friendly materials. Held in May, the festival takes full advantage of the season's abundant greenery—hedgerows, woods and grasses at their freshest—bringing the natural beauty of the Meon Valley into the church in an organic and sympathetic way.

While celebrating creativity and community, the festival also highlights a serious purpose. All Saints' requires constant care and renovations – and the proceeds from the Flower Festival will directly support some vital projects.

Alongside the floral displays, visitors can enjoy delicious teas, a local artists' exhibition in the church hall, live jazz performed by Kati Whitaker on Friday afternoon, daily history tours with James Rothwell, and get to listen to our amazing bells which will be pealing over the weekend.



Froxfield Village Hall Update

Please note these events for 2026 in your diaries, we'd love to see you there!

	MONDAY 13 April 8.00pm – AGM Hear what we've been up to over the past year, see what's coming up and share your views.
	SATURDAY 25 APRIL – SPONSORED WALK DAY A day of sponsored walks for all ages followed by a picnic lunch.
	SUNDAY 28 JUNE - VILLAGE FETE and DOG SHOW An afternoon of summer celebration for all ages! BBQ, Dog Show, Children's Games, Stalls and so much more.
	SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER – QUIZ AND PUB NIGHT Come and test your grey matter with our pub and quiz night. It is a great opportunity to spend time with your neighbors and friends.
	SUNDAY 1 NOV 6pm - BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS After the incredible success of last year, the Bonfire and Fireworks will be back again in 2026. Save the date!
	DEC (date tbc) – MERRY & BRIGHT - A VILLAGE CHRISTMAS A festive gathering for all – food, music, carols, Christmas and festive cheer!

Fed up with the Potholes?? Help us fix them!

Working Party Group - Sunday 12th April 2026

Tired of the potholes in the village hall car park? Come along and help us put them right as part of our spring working party. We'll be tackling several jobs including vital car park repairs (including filling the two large potholes), decorating repairs, door maintenance, window cleaning and removing a fence.



On Saturday 2nd May we will be celebrating our 2nd Anniversary of taking on the lease of the Trooper and to celebrate we have got the incredible Trevor John Band performing from 9pm until 11pm and to keep the party going we will have a late licence that evening until 1am. If you follow Trevor, you will know he is an absolute musical legend around Petersfield and beyond and has built up a very impressive band and repertoire of music that he performs and has a cult like following. Unfortunately however, Trevor has just recently announced his retirement from performing and we are happy that we will be one of his last gigs before he finishes at the end of May. Please come along to enjoy Trevor's music and help us celebrate our Anniversary. All our Live music nights are FREE to come to, and we never cancel at the 11th hour!!!!

We do have some event dates in the diary for April and Early May.

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) – Easter Open Darts Tournament

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday Roast Dinner – Book your table to avoid disappointment.

Wednesday 8th April – Sunset Dubs Car meet from 6pm for all things VW

Thursday 9th April – Trooper Classics Car meet from 6.30pm – All things Classic and Prestige to 100 years old to modern super cars, no matter if it is 2 wheels or 4

Wednesday 22nd April – ADC Vault Darts 7.15pm – Full details on the Facebook page

Wednesday 29th March – ADC Vault Darts 7.15pm start

Thursday 30th April – Monthly Charity Quiz night £2 per person to enter max of 6 to a team – All entry money goes to charity and the winning team gets a free round of drinks to celebrate.

East Meon Flower Festival continued

There will also be a floral-themed choral performance by the Octavus Choir on Saturday 23rd evening – tickets for this event will be sold separately and also include a free glass of wine!

Throughout the weekend, All Saints' will truly be abuzz with activity, visitors are warmly invited to join this special celebration of flowers, heritage and community.

For all up-to-date news and timings please follow us on @eastmeonflowerfest Instagram page and look out for our posters!

Tickets are available via *ticketsource*:

FESTIVAL TICKETS:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eastmeonflowerfestival2026>

OCTAVUS CHOIR TICKETS:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/petersfield/all-saints-church/octavus-choir-concert-to-celebrate-the-2026-east-meon-flower-festival/e-logoyo>

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:

April 11th 2026

May 9th 2026

June 13th 2026

Cover

This month's cover is the track at Trooper Bottom taken by me (Caroline).



Wednesday 15th April

Privett Village Hall

7.30pm

A talk by Gillian Taylor

'More Colour Less Work'

Non-members are very welcome £ 3

www.fpgarden.club



THE TROOPER INN
HOTEL & BAR

Well as I write this, the weather has finally turned and we are really happy to see the sunshine again here at The Trooper and we are making preparations in our garden for the months ahead, so hedge cutting and lawnmowing, weeding and planting is taking place over the next few weeks so that everyone can enjoy our garden in the sunshine, and it is a real suntrap during the afternoons so please do come and try it out.

We have had a good March, and things are starting to pick up and get busier again after a very quiet start to the year. The pub is getting busier and hotel bookings are now starting to come in thick and fast for the summer months ahead. April is looking busy for the hotel as we have Goodwood Members meeting on the 2nd weekend in April and we are always full for this event with many of our guests returning to us year after year.

In other news we have now started to serve full English breakfasts every Friday/Saturday and Sunday Mornings from 7am until 10.30am. Full details on the menu can be found on our website and social media pages as well as our google business page listing. There is the option to have takeaway rolls too if you just want to grab a bacon roll and coffee on your way to work. We will also be offering coffee and cake in the mornings so if you have dropped the kids off at school why not come and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and home made cake with us instead of having stand in the village hall car park (sometimes in the rain) having a chat with the other parents.



Froxfield Sponsored Walk

A chance to see the flora & fauna, in particular bluebells and garlic around the village

while fundraising for

- a)Froxfield Village Hall,
- b)Froxfield Church Project,
- c)Froxfield School 150

Saturday 25th April

Choice of walks....

Walk 1. - 10k - meet at Froxfield Village Hall 9.30am

Walk 2. - 5k - meet at Froxfield Village Hall 10.30am

Walk 3. Laps of the playing field - FVH - 11.45am

- Returning to the hall for a packed lunch
- Non walkers welcome to join for lunch around noon (*please book as below*)
- Dogs Welcome on leads

Please register on line at www.froxfieldvillagehall.co.uk

- Registration fee £10 for Adult walkers includes lunch Children Free for the walk/laps (please book your Child's lunch as below)

- Lunch only - Adults £7.00 - Children £5 (5-16years) - under 5s free

Minimum Sponsorship of £5 per person or per family

Please specify on your form which Project you are supporting.

Please bring your Sponsorship money on the day if possible

**Prize for the most sponsorship - Adult & Child

Further details from teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com

Froxfield Choir

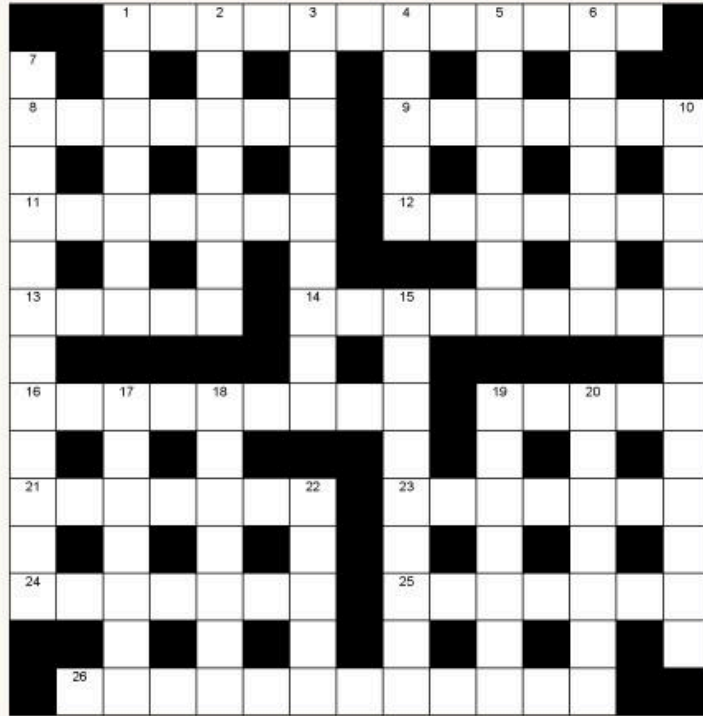


Performances of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert are rare, but Froxfield Choir has had the great pleasure of singing it not once, but twice, most recently in the opening weekend of the Petersfield Musical Festival to a sold-out audience in the Festival Hall.

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 idoms 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

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 1 'Pity shirt sac.' (anag).
- 8 Non-professional
- 9 A region of Central Italy, with Florence as its capital
- 11 To move something by rolling it
- 12 Circular identifying symbol painted on military aircraft
- 13 Made less painful; alleviated
- 14 Nocturnal mammal of Central and South America
- 16 Opposite of southerly
- 19 Reluctant, unwilling
- 21 Of a similar nature or character; ones family
- 23 Space for ones lower limbs when seated
- 24 Brief and usually light falls of rain or snow
- 25 The power rating of an electrical appliance
- 26 Scientific study and recording of vibrations caused by earthquakes

Down

- 1 Edible seeds that grow in pods, often roasted and salted, as snacks
- 2 Ceded
- 3 From the mane or tail of a horse, used as padding for furniture
- 4 The table in a Christian church where bread and wine are consecrated for Communion
- 5 Saved
- 6 Outrage
- 7 Venomous reptiles from the US and Mexico that produce a noise by shaking their tails
- 10 A bird, widespread in the UK till the 1960s
- 15 The ship in which the Pilgrim Fathers travelled from England to America in 1620
- 17 Arthur ----- (1894-1967), children's author
- 18 Toughens
- 19 Become illuminated, ignite a cigarette (5-2)
- 20 Something that deviates from normal or expected
- 22 A party at which people dance to pop music

CURTIS MUSEUM

Detective Bunny's Easter Egg Hunt.



Join Detective Bunny on a code breaking adventure and win a chocolate prize!

28th March - 12th April, 10am - 4pm, £2 per Trail.

Can you find the hidden eggs? Find the eggs scattered around the Museum, discover some Easter facts and crack the code to receive a special Easter prize!

CURTIS MUSEUM



OPENING TIMES
Tuesday to Saturday
10am – 4.30pm
01420 82802

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

April events.

Object of the Month: While the Allen Gallery is closed for refurbishment, the Curtis Museum will showcase each month a highlight from the ceramics collection in the Hampshire Cultural Trust stores.

This month's object - Remember the **Natwest Piggies?** Drop in to see our set of all five ceramic Natwest piggy-banks, along with some of the advertising from the day. While you're here, have a go at drawing and designing your own piggy-bank.

Stepping Stones -Young People's pottery sessions, (ages 10 -16).

Saturdays 11 April, 25 April, 02 May, 16 May, 23 May.

The Curtis Museum will be hosting free clay workshops for young people. Delivered thanks to support from the Museums Association Wellbeing Fund, these sessions aim to support young people's wellbeing with creative and engaging art and heritage projects led by an experienced tutor. More details and pre-booking (essential) via the Museum website as above.

Thursday Craft Club (drop-in) and **Tuesday clay workshops** (please pre-book via the website). Look out for family films and other fun activities throughout the school holidays!

April Talk - Mike Dawes on The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Thursday 9th April.

This talk, courtesy of the Friends of the Museum, will be held in Room 7 of the Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30. FREE, donations welcomed.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH...

(01730 is the telephone exchange unless otherwise stated)

Area Dean (Petersfield), Vicar of Steep and Froxfield :

The Canon Dr Susie Collingridge (624245); susie.collingridge@gmail.com

Assistant Curate: The Revd Sue Jones
(624245); susan.jones1410@gmail.com

Reader (PtO): Mrs Caroline Hilton (263460)

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg (827505)

Churchwarden:

Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg (07766 017336)

Additional ministry team members

Retired/ PtO Clergy: The Reverend Dr Pippa Madgwick Tel: 07923 933649
E: pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com

LLM Graham Madgwick Tel: 07946 197038,
E: g.madgwick@btinternet.com

Benefice Administrator:

Helen Muir-Davies
www.steepfroxford.com / steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com

Gift Aid (GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) Officers: Ian Hughes (n.ianhughes@btinternet.com/828344) **(GA)**; and Christine Stephens (Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk) **(PGS)**

Social media:

Website: <https://steepfroxford.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/s>



**Privett Village Hall –
AGM and Curry and Pudding Night –
Saturday 18 April**

A reminder - Saturday 18 April is the date of the Privett Village Hall Trust Annual General Meeting – followed by a Curry and Pudding Night.

The (pay) bar opens at 6.30pm. The AGM begins at 7.00pm and curry will be served as soon as the business of the AGM is concluded.

Entry to the AGM is free. Those who stay for the Curry and Pudding Night are asked to buy or reserve tickets in advance to ensure numbers are catered for .

Tickets are £15 (with special terms for families and discounts for those who supply a curry or a pudding – ask Gill Chung).

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 and click on Events, where you can buy your tickets;

***By contacting Gill Chung (tel. 07825 392171;
email: gillianchung@btinternet.com) or Alex Raphael
(tel. 01730 828461; email: araphael.enamels@googlemail.com).***

Don't miss this popular evening.

Clergy Corner: continued

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!

Canon Susie Collingridge



WALKING WEDNESDAYS

9:30 am the First Wednesdays of each month
High Cross Church to The Old Dairy Tearoom Privett
Wednesday 1st April Wednesday 6th May

Clergy Corner: An Easter Message from the Vicar.



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.

Church News



By the time you read this, and assuming no hitches, the new heating system will have been installed at St Peter's, High Cross and, on Sunday 29 March, we will have experienced the huge difference it is going to make to our services in the future! Thank you for your understanding whilst the work has been ongoing.

What a wonderful Easter it is going to be - good, warm weather now guaranteed! There will be two services at High Cross – Stations of the Cross at High Cross on Good Friday and Family Communion at 10.00 am on Easter Sunday. There will also be two services at St Peter's, Froxfield Green – 6.00 pm spoken Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and 6.00 am the dawn Communion service on Easter Day. In addition, there will be the First Fire of Easter on Holy Saturday 8.00 pm at Holy Trinity, Privett.

In addition there is the chance to indulge in Easter treats! Hot Cross buns and coffee on Good Friday and on Easter Day Jan (Cole) very kindly invites the early risers for a delicious breakfast. Easter eggs feature at the 10.00 am serviced.

The APPC (Annual Parochial Council Meeting) will take place after a shortened 10.00am communion service on Sunday 3 May. Everyone living in Froxfield or Privett is invited to attend and will be warmly welcomed.

On behalf of the PCC and parishioners I would like to extend a huge thankyou to Charlie Holroyd who has masterminded the installation of the heating – he's put in hours of work both at home and in the church and we are all very grateful to him.

SOLUTION TO MARCH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across - 1 Psychiatrist, 8 Amateur, 9 Tuscany, 11 Trundle, 12 Roundel, 13 Eased, 14 Armadillo, 16 Northerly, 19 Loath, 21 Kindred, 23 Legroom, 24 Showers, 25 Wattage, 26 Seismography.

Down - 1 Peanuts, 2 Yielded, 3 Horsehair, 4 Altar, 5 Rescued, 6 Scandal, 7 Rattlesnakes, 10 Yellowhammer, 15 Mayflower, 17 Ransome, 18 Hardens, 19 Light-up, 20 Anomaly, 22 Disco.



As can be seen from the splendid logo above - specially created for the school by local artist Philip Chung - this year is very special for Froxfield C of E Primary and Preschool, as it celebrates a remarkable milestone: 150 years of nurturing young lives in this wonderful community. 150 years since our foundation as a church school for the children of the village and beyond. How those foresighted Victorians would be astonished and delighted to see the School flourishing and as successful as it is today!

To mark the occasion, the school is launching an exciting fundraising appeal to replace its much-loved but decidedly leaky temporary building (the 'yurt') with a bright, warm, purpose-built space for the performing arts — a place where children and community alike can sing, dance, and create together.

As well as our exciting fundraising project to build the new studio as a lasting legacy for the children of Froxfield now and the future, we will also be celebrating this important anniversary in a number of ways, and we will be launching our celebrations on Tuesday 28 April at 2pm in St Peter's High Cross where we will be holding a special service of celebration and thanksgiving for both the entire school community and the village. We hope that as many parents and friends as possible will be able to come to share in this service.

It is, of course, a unique – and we hope, memorable – event. The Bishop of Portsmouth will be taking part – he is well-known for his keen interest in education and young people – and the children will play a central part in the service.

If all goes to plan there will be processions, the bells will ring out, the organ will thunder, and there will be hearty singing!

So do please make a note of the date, and do come, not only to support the children and the School, but to take part in celebrating our School's history and looking forward to the years ahead and all that the School has achieved and will, I am confident, achieve in the future.

Though we governors have been planning for the future the school has of course been continuing its work with the children of today.

Alongside the regular curriculum the children enjoy a range of visitors to the school to bring their experience and expertise to the children's classroom. Class 1 welcomed a police woman from the Hampshire Constabulary who came to talk to the children as part of their RHE learning about Safety. The children had been talking about the three emergency services, how they would recognise these safe adults and what job they do to help us. The children had a talk with the police officer and also got to sit in the police car to understand about all the different features, including pressing the button for the flashing lights!

Everyone had a wonderful day celebrating World Book Day. There were some fantastic costumes inspired by characters from the children's and staff's favourite books. Among the many activities, we were lucky enough to welcome author Emily Nicholson (a past parent at Froxfield), who recently published her book 'The Mystery Bat'. As well as reading her wonderful story, she spoke to the children about the process of writing a book and shared how the idea for her story first began.

In the afternoon, there was a poetry recital from all four classes, as well as performances from members of staff. The day also included a wonderful procession of costumes around the school at lunchtime, giving everyone the chance to admire the creativity and effort that had gone into the outfits.

It was a fantastic celebration of reading, storytelling, and imagination for the whole school.

Gillian Hollis; Chair of Governors