STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 637 DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026





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A Christmas Message

Canon Susie Collingridge
Vicar of Steep and Froxfield with Privett.

This might not be a very Christmassy question, but how do you know if someone loves you? And if they are good?

I sometimes think that love is like fog. Not because love is damp and cold (which it isn't), but because love is so hard to grab hold of.

Love doesn't easily obey our whims, not like a perfectly trained dog that leaps to heel and sits smartly. You can't always predict how love will look, how it will feel, how it will work out.

Love can feel just out of reach, and hard to pin down. Difficult to understand.

We hear that 'God is Love', so that can be a problem too.

Perhaps we'd prefer God to be less like Love, and more like us.

We'd understand God better if that was true, and we could see eye to eye with God.

God would share our concerns about things.

God would be quick to agree with our opinions and our views.

Wouldn't it be great if we could see what God is really like, though?

What if 'God is Love' had a face we could see, or a voice we could hear! What if we could see what God's Love does, and what God would say?

And this is where we get to the Christmassy bit, because that's exactly what we believe was going on at Christmas.

There was a baby born, and this child is the face of God, the face of Love.

It's worth watching out for this baby – what does he do? What happens to him as he grows up? As a grown-up, Jesus explained it himself, "anyone who has seen me has seen the Father".

He is ordinary and like us in many ways – he has the same kind of body as ours, he has a human face, a human voice, actions that we can read about and understand. This is what the God of Love looks like in human form. Yet Jesus is distinctive too.

This Love doesn't choose to be born in a smart private hospital or a rich palace, full of swagger, but in a simple animal stall.

Continued overleaf



Cover Picture: Steep Fireworks light up the sky
Inside Cover and above: Steep Church at Christmas

Continued from previous page

Yet so many people (and the animals) arrived to welcome him. Even a band of angels appear and sing their hearts out to worship him. Almost as if they knew him from before, from home.

And that, of course, is why Christmas is worth all the celebrations. It's why Christmas has Love at its centre. It's why we sing and feast and share. It's why we give and receive our time, our heartfelt greetings and our love.

There are plenty of ways in our villages to celebrate the New-Born King, the God of Love.

There are Carol services and a Crib service, Midnight Communions and All-Age services. In Steep, and Froxfield and of course Privett Carols. There's something for everyone. Do join us!

With every blessing for this special season,

Susie

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DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:
Monday 1st December 7.30pm
Monday 12th January 7.30pm
Steep Village Hall. All welcome.
Contact: Sam Marchant
(clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk)
https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/

STEEP FILM SOCIETY

Steep Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.
12th December TRADING PLACES + mince pies, mulled wine and Xmas jumpers
16th January THE MATERIALIST (TBC)
30th January SUNSHINE ON LEITH Burns Night tribute (free Malt Whisky) (TBC)
https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

12th January at **7.30pm** in the **Olivier Theatre** TALK - For the Love of Dogs - Mikey Cantan and Guest Speaker James Middleton. (£10/£7)
21st January 7– 8.30pm in the **Lupton Hall** MUSIC - Music Scholars' Concert - (Free)
For more information on all Bedales Spring/Summer 2026 events, and to book tickets please visit
https://www.bedales.org.uk/whats-on

6th December GIANT CHRISTMAS MARKET See Page 21 for details

FROXFIELD CHOIR

18th December CAROLS around the firepit at **The Pub with No Name**
20th December PRIVETT CAROL SERVICE see page 21 for details

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:
Tuesday 27th January 7.30pm
Stroud Village Hall. All welcome.
Contact: Sam Marchant
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.**
9th December Christmas Afternoon Tea at **Gallery30** at **4-6pm**
13th January 2026 Resolutions Discussions + "How to dress your curves" with Kerrie Ellis
https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening. X @WiStroud

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 30th November ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
www.stroudvillagehall.org

STEEP WELCOME CLUB

Thursday 11th December at **Steep Village Hall** at **12 noon** Christmas Lunch
Thursday 8th January at **Steep Village Hall** at **2.30pm** "Christmas - behind the scenes at Hinton Ampner" described by Jenny Hance
Thursday 22nd January at **Steep Village Hall** at **2.30pm.**
Esther Jones shares her thoughts on "Aches, Pains and Self Care"
Heather Maybury: 07554 747361; 01730 266855; hjmaybury@gmail.com
judy.thompson@me.com

STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Sam Marchant
Clerk, Stroud Parish Council

We held our latest Parish Council meeting on November 18th, and we'd like to share some key updates with you.

During the meeting, we discussed the HCC 67 Bus Service and encourage residents to participate in the ongoing consultation. Your input is important, and you can find the consultation on the Hampshire County Council website

In financial matters, Councillors agreed not to increase the precept this year, which means no additional costs for residents. A grant was also approved for the Village Hall to support its continued operation as an integral community resource.

Additionally, progress is being made on an update to the Parish Plan, with work being led by SVHARA. Dates for upcoming community events and consultation will be available soon.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the resignation of Rachel Butlin from the council. We thank her for her hard work and dedication during her time with us.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026. We hope to see you there.

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Katy Lace
Hall Manager

STROUD CHRISTMAS FAIR

See right for details

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

End of January 2026 (date to be confirmed, please see Village Hall website in due course)7pm

Festive quiz with hot supper and cash bar. Tickets cost £15 (including food) and are available to purchase at www.stroudvillagehall.org

All proceeds from both events go towards the running costs of the hall which are ever increasing and allow us to continue providing a space at the heart of the village for the benefit of the whole community.

On behalf of the Trustees I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year!

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STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Alison Driver
Chair, Steep Parish Council

At the November Parish Council meeting Barry Haywood was welcomed as a new member of the Council. Barry is a long-term resident of Steep Marsh and will be a fantastic addition to the Parish Council.

We have a great set of energetic Parish Councillors, each with areas of responsibility, and we encourage you to contact them if you are concerned about anything in the Parish:

Alison Driver - Planning
Charlotte Duthie - Roads and Traffic (including verges, hedges and signposting)
Andrew Inkley - Footpaths and Byways
Shannon Askew - The Common
Andrew Howard - Steep Marsh

All can be reached via our Clerk Sam: clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

For the Village Hall please contact Louise our Hall Manager: manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk

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Steep Parish Council

Vacancy For a Parish Councillor

There is a Councillor vacancy for Steep Council which will be filled by co-option.
Applications should be sent in writing to the Clerk at the address below or by e-mail.
Dated: Wednesday 19th November 2025
Sam Marchant, Parish Clerk
Address: Steep Parish Council
Steep Village Hall
28 Church Road, Steep. GU32 2DN
clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

'CHRISTMAS IN STEEP'



Written by David Anson, Lucy McIlwraith and Ellie Thackrey and superbly illustrated by Cosmo Spens, this poetry collection hand-bound in our beautiful village will guide you through the festive season with many of the poems featuring local village landmarks. **All money raised** will be given to the PACT Food Bank, a cause that needs more support than ever in the run up to Christmas.

Copies are £10 and are available to purchase in One Tree Books, and The Petersfield Bookshop and are just perfect for stocking fillers.

Alternatively (for cash only), please contact Ellie on elliethackrey@gmail.com

Steep Remembers

Trevor Hines

As the King & Queen led the nation at the National Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 8th November, 53 Steep residents held their own, smaller, but nonetheless equally poignant event in the village hall. Fran Box (Steep History Group) spoke about some of our civilian forebears who helped make the village we all love today. David Erskine-Hill (author of Steep's Roll of Honour 1914-18) referred movingly to some of our fallen and whether their sacrifice had been honoured. He quoted the words of an Air Vice-Marshal, who observed that our 'warriors' had in fact been betrayed by the whims of the modern world. We also remembered the maimed and disabled of modern warfare. Alan Smith, trustee of Stroud based Hounds for Heroes charity, gave us all a warm feeling as he described how support on four legs, a wagging tail and wet loving lick helps disabled servicemen of today.

By public demand, the talks concluded with photos and a video of the Hands Around the Church ceremony to remember the 900 years of service All Saints has given to the community. It was a delightful reminder of that very special summer's day, when the event, superbly organised by FOSC (Friends of Steep Church), brought over 200 of the Steep community together to do something which many said impossible. FOSC trustees presented framed photos of the event to Cllrs Nick Drew (East Hampshire District Council) and Alison Driver (Steep Parish Council), sponsors of the event, for public display. Proceeds from the event will go to Friends of Steep Church and Hounds for Heroes

This evening was the first in a series of events by Steep Parish Council intended to "better communicate with residents". By any measure, the council fulfilled its objective. They have set themselves a high bar for the future.

A Note from Alison Driver, Chair of Steep Parish Council:

All this was followed by a feast of cottage pie and Magnum ice creams and a lot of laughter and conversation. Special thanks to Lynette Clarke for her beautiful table decorations and Amanda and Alison for their heroic efforts in the kitchen! It was a very special and enjoyable occasion and the first of many to come.



REMEMBRANCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Terry Cook

Eleventh of the eleventh at our beautifully maintained War Memorial (thanks to Steve Cook) the wonderful attendance including class 6 from Steep school, the Last Post played by Lily McIlwraith and the service once again kindly led by Susie Collingridge, who that evening was installed as Vicar of Steep and Froxfield with Privett (many congratulations Susie). It must also be mentioned that amongst the people attending the service was a family who had travelled up specially from Southampton to pay their respects to their great uncle whose name is on the memorial. They left their own cross at the base. Also welcomed were the contractors from Wilson Designer Homes who stopped work to join in.

Two final mentions are to Nick Drew our District Councillor who laid a wreath on behalf of EHDC and to June Guerney who provided coffee and a delicious cake to those who retired to the village hall afterwards.



THE CRICKETERS CONKER COMPETITION

Simon Hawkins

The arrival of autumn always brings out the schoolboy in me. The sight of glowing, auburn horse chestnuts emerging pristine from their prickly carapaces very quickly takes me back to playground escapades and barked knuckles. The Cricketers Conker Competition was born of this childish enthusiasm.

Days of scouring local hedgerows and foraging in the Village Hall car park for prime, competition size, specimens were followed by a couple of afternoons of drilling, stringing and knotting. Everyone I'd mentioned the competition to had talked of baking, soaking in vinegar, filling with epoxy resin and all manner of other shenanigans and gamesmanship. Not that this could possibly happen in Steep, but I wanted to ensure that there was an element of fairness across the board, so all conkers were to be supplied by the pub.

I was not sure quite how many people would come, but on the bright but breezy afternoon of Saturday 4th October around 40 people showed up, donated £2 each to Steep School and randomly drew their first conker.

It was a great afternoon, total chaos of course!

Despite careful planning, lists and team sheets, both the Senior and Junior competitions quickly descended into a wonderfully good-natured chaos. Peals of laughter, screams of delight and the occasional sound of conker on conker rang out in the rear garden of the pub as broken, defeated horse chestnuts soon started littering the floor.

Eventually winners emerged and were wreathed with conker garlands and, in the seniors' case, Jim Cooke from Steep Marsh was crowned "The Conkeror".

It's seriously thirsty work, playing conkers, and everyone repaired to the bar, gathered around the log fires, refreshed themselves and discussed the battles just completed.

I'm still finding the odd bit of string and broken conker as I walk around the garden and car park, evidence of a delightful afternoon to be repeated next year.

Thank you to the Steep Parish Council for their permission to continue to use the Common for this traditional annual village and fundraising event.

Special thanks must go to Paul Garstin, Terry Cook, Peter Cruttenden, Michael Robinson and his gate team, Brian Walters, Glen Rowden and Matt Geary for all their help. A special thanks to the FOSS Dads for their help in building the bonfire. See you all in 2026!

STEEP BONFIRE 2025.

James Rush
Chair, Steep Bonfire Committee.

The annual Steep Bonfire and Fireworks took place on Wednesday the 5th November at Steep Common. Despite the forecast of wind and rain, it turned out to be a beautiful evening under a magnificent full moon. The bonfire lit in record time. The fireworks were as splendid as ever. Thank you, David Stewart and his team, for another wonderful display.

Once again, we had a maximum 1000 people through the gate. This annual event has grown as large as it can. Due to the size of the Common, we cannot grow any more. We thank you all for coming and continuing to support us.

Sarah Rowden and her team of FOSS parents had a very successful night with the food and drink stalls. They raised around £1,750. The Steep Bonfire committee has managed to raise around £3,000 for local charities and good causes.



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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The annual MacMillan Coffee Morning took place at The Harrow in September. As usual it was very well supported by many from far and wide, raising a total of £3160.

Many thanks to Claire and Nisa for providing the venue and Selina and her team for the organizing.



Petersfield MUSEUM

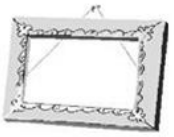
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WHAT AN AMAZING YEAR!

When looking back over the last 12 months we found almost 30 events, organised by voluntary groups in our small communities. Over the next pages we celebrate some of these events whilst thanking all those who give their time and efforts for us all. Please do send details, reports and photographs for events in 2026 to the editor, details on page 30.

STROUD CHRISTMAS GATHERING



STROUD QUIZ NIGHT







Langrish School - Infants' poppies

COMMUNITY EVENTS WERE HELD TO CELEBRATE VE 80 DAY



Steep Residents enjoying a street party



In Stroud, Marjorie (r) shares her experiences in the Land Army



Children in Stroud giving first aid to a wounded soldier

STEEP AND STROUD OPEN GARDENS



STEEP 900



THE COMMENCEMENT OF STEEP 900 CELEBRATIONS



Service with the Bishop of Portsmouth





FONT AND BAPTISM CELEBRATION (above)





WEDDINGS CELEBRATION (Above)

STEEP 900 CONCERT

ORGAN RECITAL

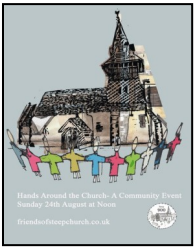







HANDS AROUND THE CHURCH




Hands Around the Church- A Community Event
Sunday 24th August at Noon
friendsofsteepchurch.co.uk





FLOWER FESTIVAL

COMMEMORATIVE WALK

from Steep to, All Saints' East Meon.





ANNUAL LECTURE - Guest

speaker for the Steep 900 year was the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Reverend Dr Jonathan Frost.

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS





STEEP FLOWER SHOW

STROUD HOEDOWN





STROUD REVELS







GIANT CHRISTMAS MARKET AT PETERSFIELD FESTIVAL HALL

THE GIANT Christmas Charity Market returns to Petersfield Festival Hall and the market on Saturday 6th of December with over 50 stalls in aid of several local and national charities including, Portsmouth Hospitals Charity for cancer services, the Rosemary Foundation hospice at home nurses, Petersfield Lions and Petersfield Musical Festival, the Royal Marsden Cancer Research Unit and the Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre.
Traders and craftspeople from across the area will be supporting this festive event with a wide range of gifts, local artwork and much more.

Refreshments including bacon butties will be served in the Rose Room by Stroud Evening WI. Admission to the market is free and is open 9.30am to 3pm.

FROXFIELD CHOIR

The choir will be singing carols around the firepit at The Pub with No Name at 8pm on Thursday 18th December and would love to see you there! Just two days later we'll be singing again at the annual Privett carol service –on Saturday 20th December at 6.30pm. Join us there for the perfect start to the Christmas celebrations

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BOXING DAY CURRY

Elizabeth Housden

Having cooked long and hard the day before this is a simple left overs dish you can prepare with the minimum of effort or time spent in the kitchen! You did that yesterday!

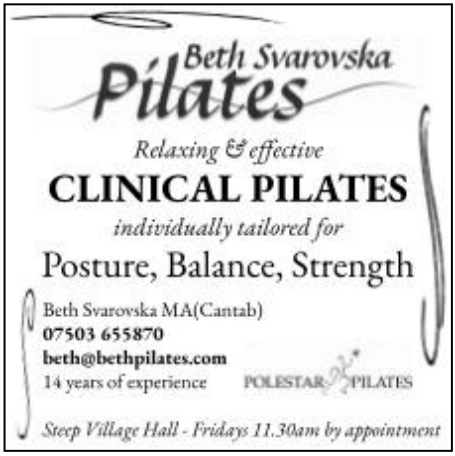
Ingredients

Left over turkey or goose sliced and chopped (or hard boiled eggs or fish for those who don't eat meat. See note further down the recipe) - as much as you have left over. If you make too much to eat at this sitting, freeze and serve it another day. It should keep very well and probably be even more delicious a second time.

2 onions sliced
1 red pepper (deseeded and chopped)
1 chilli (deseeded and chopped)
Garlic chopped
Stock (you can make your own out of left over gravy with water added to make it thinner if you haven't any stock already but not if you have vegetarian guests. That stock would have to be made separately or bought ready made in advance)
Frozen peas
Fresh coriander
A few sultanas, (soaked for half an hour first)
Spices, curry powder etc to taste. You will know how hot your guests or family will like their curry and adjust accordingly
Plain yoghurt to serve if liked.
(This should feed 4. Add more of any of the ingredients - meat, vegetables etc and extra stock, spices, if you have more guests.) NB. For a vegetarian version simply leave out the meat and replace that with hard boiled eggs, if permitted. You can buy vegetarian stock if you don't make your own. Fish can also be substituted for meat if preferred. Use something like cod or haddock not fish like mackerel, for example (too many bones!)

Method

Heat a large frying pan and add a good slug of oil. Add your chopped onions, garlic and chilli and spices and fry till soft. Add spices and the sliced, deseeded pepper. Stir in well and add your turkey/goose etc. Simmer for 5 minutes until pepper is softened and add frozen peas.
Add chopped fresh coriander and season to taste. Simmer a little longer till the frozen vegetables are softened and cooked.
While it is simmering cook your rice (or heat bought prepackaged rice. Microwaved packs of rice are very useful and work well and are quick and easy.) Pop the naan bread in the oven to warm.
Serve on warmed plates.
Yum! And very different from the day before!



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RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

Merveille du Jour and Clifton Nonpareil in Stroud and the wildflower patch.

The Merveille du Jour (Marvel of the Day) is a striking autumn flying moth that James Lowen* aptly describes as 'intoxicating' with 'peppermint wings scrawled with black and etched in white'. Google translates 'merville' as evoking a sense of awe, astonishment, beauty, and extraordinary qualities. So wonderful to have this moth in our area.

In contrast, the Clifton Nonpareil is a rare, almost mythical moth, a giant in the moth world. It is a naturalist's dream to find a Blue Underwing (its other name) and this autumn my very first appeared in our Stroud trap. It may have been after midnight but demanded a call to Mary to come down to see such an amazing moth. How many other wives would do so? James Lowen* explains that the massive 'perfect blue': 'sets the pulse racing', 'teases, torments and - for the lucky few - elates', a moth 'justly without equal'. Until the 1930s the moth was a rare, prized and sporadic immigrant. By 2018 it was starting to breed in southern England and, on 15th October 2025, here it was in Stroud.

*James Lowen 'Much ado about Mothing' Bloomsbury 2021 ISBN: 978-1-4729-6698-8

Wildflowers, bees, beetles and butterflies at Stroud village hall.

Sad to read in the last newsletter of the loss of one of the wildflower patches. However, the vegetation between the path and the stream and also the large patch of tall flowering wild plants just beyond the village hall are also wonderful biodiversity resources. I looked at these areas during National Insect Week in June 2025 when the flowers supported many pollinating and other insects.

Bees were Yellow-legged Mining Bees (which will be nesting in the ground nearby), Megachile Leaf Cutting Bees, a Resin Bee, three different Bumblebees, plus Honeybees. Also, the rather interesting Spiny Digger Wasp which provisions its nest burrows with flies. It is important to leave some bare ground for these various burrowing insects to use as a crucial part of their life cycle.

Other insects were the black and yellow striped Long Hoverfly, Dock Bug, Red Soldier Beetles and three species of ladybird. A few Small White Butterflies occurred, and a single Small Skipper Butterfly. A delight were the many House Martins swooping around and feeding on flying insects around the village hall.

During my 15-minute Big Butterfly Count on 1 August the village hall site produced four Large Whites, three Meadow Browns, a Gatekeeper, and a Red Admiral on the vegetable plants. I am sure a longer count would have produced many more.

More information and photographs of the plants and insects are on: https://stroudvillagehall.org/wildflower-patch-national-insect-week/

CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Season of Remembrance

On Saturday 26th October the Benefice held its Service of Remembrance at 4pm. Five members of the ministry team were there to help ordinary people remember their loved ones, some who had died recently and others years before. The service was full of uplifting readings, prayers and traditional hymns and afterwards people were able to share their memories over tea and cake.

Remembrance Sunday took place on the 9th November. Pippa and Graham took the service with Graham preaching not just on remembering our war dead but encouraging each of us to actively work towards peace in our dealings with others. Philip Mileham read the names from our war memorial and at the end we observed the two minutes silence. Philip ensures that through his work with the Royal British Legion we help support our service veterans.

Patronal Festival and the culmination of Steep 900

On All Souls Day the village were treated to hearing a peal being rung by our bells for two hours. Hugh and Mo Routh are responsible for leading the bell ringers so we can appreciate their sound again. The Feast of All Saint's was celebrated by Susie and Sue, with Katherine Percival, the Archdeacon of the Meon preaching. She used the recent FOSC event 'Hands around the Church' to show how worship over the centuries had framed the community. The church looked beautiful, thanks to Selena and her team of flower arrangers. A larger choir sang medieval chants and the anthem for Steep Church by Ellie Thackery and Jonathan Willcocks. Young people took part in the service and we all enjoyed refreshments afterwards organized by David and Carole Kidd. This marked the end of Steep 900, during which we celebrated the church and all the activities that have taken place inside its sacred space.

Installation of Rev Susan Collingridge

Bishop Jonathan has given permission for several priests within the Petersfield Deanery to move from being priest-in-charge to being installed as vicar. The Bishop came to Steep Church, together with Katherine, Archdeacon of the Meon, on Tuesday 11th November to conduct the installation of Susie as vicar of Steep and Froxfield with Privett. It was a moving service during which Susie made a promise and the congregation renewed their faith. Bishop Jonathan in his sermon made the practical suggestion that we aim to sit quietly for a short time each day, empty our minds by repeating a holy word and let God speak to us.

Repair of the Church roof

Scaffolding has been erected around the side of the church and after the school half term workmen began repairing the tiles on the valley of the roof. Getting the necessary bat

inspection and papers had held up the start of the work, but with this in place, and a new bat box put up in the churchyard, work could begin. The organ had to be protected from any dust or debris so is currently out of commission. However, Gerald showed us how his playing of the keyboard can lead us.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Funeral/ Thanksgiving Service:
15 November Kathrin Bowen-Simpkins

The Parishes of Steep and Stroud and Froxfield with Privett
in the Diocese of Portsmouth

December 2025

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas in our Benefice -
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.
Romans 13.11

Sunday 7th December
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said),**Steep**
10am TenAM, **Steep**
11am Parish Communion, High Cross

Tuesday 9th December
6.30pm Friends of Steep Church Community Carols, **Steep**

Sunday 14th December
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**
4pm Carol Service with Froxfield School, **High Cross**
6.30pm Carol Service, **Stroud**

Saturday 20th December
6.30pm Carol service, **Privett**
with Froxfield Choir & Quintessential Brass

Sunday 21st December
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Steep**
10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

Monday 22nd December
6.30pm Carols on the Green, **Froxfield Green**

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service**, High Cross**
6.30pm Christmas Communion Service **, Stroud**
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service, **Steep**
11.30pm MIdnight Communion service**, Froxfield Green**

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY
10am All Age Service**, Steep**
10am All Age Communion**, High Cross**

Sunday 28 December
10am Benefice communion service with carols and reflective readings, **Steep**

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

The Parishes of Steep and Stroud and Froxfield with Privett in the Diocese of Portsmouth

January 2026

Benefice Worship

God's *Love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him*

1 John 4.9

Sunday 4th January 2026

8.30am Holy Communion, Steep
10am TenAM, Steep
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

Sunday 11th January 2026

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

Sunday 18th January 2026

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Steep**
10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

Sunday 25th January 2026

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said),**Stroud**
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**
11am Morning Prayer,(BCP), **Froxfield Green**

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.**
or visit our website **www.steepfroxfield.com**

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

Priest -in-Charge & Area Vicar (Petersfield): The Revd Canon Susie Collingridge - 624245, Susie.collingridge@gmail.com
Assistant Curate: The Revd Sue Jones 07884 141019, susan.jones1410@gmail.com
LLM Graham Madgwick - 07946 197038, g.madgwick@btinternet.com
PtO Clergy: The Revd Dr Pippa Madgwick 07923 933649, Pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com
PtO LLM: Caroline Hilton - 263460
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg - 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Churchwardens: Steep: Judy Thompson - 07769 182181, judy.thompson@me.com
Froxfield with Privett: Lindsay Clegg – 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Benefice administrator: Helen Muir-Davies - Steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com
Gift aid(GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) officers:
Steep/Stroud: Stephen Rae - 260571 and Caroline Robinson (Caroline@rokehouse.co.uk) **Froxfield/ Privett**: Ian Hughes – 828344 n.ianhughes@btinternet.com; Christine Stephens - Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk

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USEFUL CONTACTS (telephone code 01730)

Newsletter Editor: Caroline Robinson, caroline@rokehouse.co.uk

Police Support Officer: John Payne john.payne@hampshire.pnn. police.uk

Steep Village website: www.steepvillage.com

Steep Parish Clerk: Sam Marchant, clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk
https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/

Stroud Parish Clerk: Sam Marchant, clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk
https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/

Stroud Village Hall: Katy Lace, manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk

Steep Village Hall: Louise Knight, 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:tis-kml-stagecoach.s3.amazonaws.com/PdfTimetables/XPB0067.pdf. There is also an X17 Xelabus service which runs on **Wednesdays** starting from **The Seven Stars at 10.54am** and returning from **Petersfield Square at 1.15pm.**

COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

not later than midday on

Monday 19th January

FOR STEEP to Caroline Robinson at Roke House, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ; caroline@rokehouse.co.uk.

FOR STROUD to Jeremy Mitchell at Fairlands, Finchmead Lane, Stroud GU32 3PF; mitchjd@btinternet.com; 01730 267214.

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