

STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 639

MARCH 2026



FAVOURITE WALKS

Do you have a favourite walk around Steep, Steep Marsh or Stroud?



We would love to feature some of them in future issues. Short descriptions, longer observations, reminiscences and photographs are all welcome. Please send to the editor: caroline@rokehouse.co.uk



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WALKING

Sybil Venning

When we first arrived in Steep from London some 35 years ago it was an effort just to walk up the Hangers but we acquired a dog and our stamina improved. We soon discovered some of the many paths: eastward through Bedales to the Harrow; the drovers' road along the top; up Shoulder of Mutton, I could go on but we all have our favourite local walks

We became bolder. One day my husband and a daughter announced that they were going to walk to Bosham on the coast. They went up over the Downs at Butser and I collected them, tired but happy, at their destination several hours later. We went further afield and the walks got longer. On another occasion we set out from Lyme Regis and arrived several days later at Lymington feeling rather smug. We tottered into a pub for the night and a fellow drinker became rather thoughtful as he listened to our prattling. 'I did a long walk once,' he mused. 'During the war I was stranded in Iran with no hope of transport so I set out on foot.' It took him 6 months or a year - I can't quite remember now - but it left us feeling pretty inadequate.

Since my schooldays Hadrian's Wall had been on my bucket list and then in 2000 we learned that the overgrown sections of it had been cleared and linked up to make a continuous walk. Four days later we were

in Newcastle setting out on the 80-odd miles westwards to Bowness. There was no bag carrying service in those days so we leap-frogged by parking the car at our destination B & B and taking a taxi back to our starting point each day. Our spaniel covered 5 miles for every one of ours and for once in her life she was properly tired each evening.

On another trip in South Devon we walked westwards along the coast path, taking in Hope Cove before discovering a magical beach facing Burgh Island where a dilapidated amusement arcade was a blemish on the view. Six months later *The Times* was advertising a new development on the site and we put down a deposit on an unbuilt flat facing the island. It was a mad idea which we couldn't afford but it worked (eventually) and the family have it still.

By some standards our walks were not particularly long. My cousin, for example, walked twice to Rome which was more of an achievement, but we always returned home afterwards feeling happy with what we'd done. If you're a walker yourself you'll understand, but it's partly the business of looking at a landscape, measuring yourself against a point in the far distance and setting out to reach it. If the idea of extended walks appeals to you, Steep is a really good place to break in your boots!

Cover Picture: View of the Hangers from Mill Lane
Inside Cover: Signpost and view of the Hangers

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DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Mon 2nd Mar 7.30pm

Steep Village Hall. All welcome.

Contact: Sam Marchant

(clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk)

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

STEEP VILLAGE HALL

Sat 7th Mar at 7.30pm 'CALL MY WINE BLUFF' See page 8 for details

Contact: Louise Knight

manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk or

01730 774936

STEEP FILM SOCIETY

Steep Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.

13th Mar – LEE

27th Mar– THE CHORAL

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

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

Mon 2nd & Tue 3rd Mar

BAC THEATRE STUDIES SCRIPTED

Wed 11th Mar BEDALES DANCE PERFORMS

Mon 16th Mar MUSIC EXHIBITION-ERS' CONCERT

Wed 18th & Thu 19th Mar 6.2 A LEVEL THEATRE STUDIES DEVISED

Sat 21th Mar ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE! CRAFTY FOOLS (CHILDREN'S SHOW)

Mon 23th Mar GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES LECTURE

Wed 25th Mar JAZZ CAFE

To book tickets please visit

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

FROXFIELD CHOIR

Sat 14th Mar at 7.30pm at the **Festival Hall, DUKE ELLINGTON'S SACRED CONCERT**

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Tues 17th Mar 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.**

10th Mar "WOMEN OF THE SOE" with author Louise Moorish

[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

STEEP WELCOME CLUB

Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm

12th Mar "HELPING PEOPLE TO MOVE FORWARD: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HAMPSHIRE"

26th Mar GLEN WELLSTEAD on setting up Stroud Village Hall and sharing some of her art and craft work
Heather Maybury: 07554 747361; 01730 266855; hjmaybury@gmail.com
judy.thompson@me.com

Sun 29th Mar to Thurs 2nd April PYT EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
At **Bedales**, Steep. See Page 15

Sat 4th Apr GIANT EASTER MARKET at **Petersfield Festival Hall** See Page 15

Fri 27th Feb to Sun 1st Mar EDWARD THOMAS LITERARY FESTIVAL
<https://edward-thomas-fellowship.org.uk/>

WARM SPACE at Steep Village Hall
2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Every Tuesday until the end of March

STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

*Shannon Askew,
Councillor, Steep Parish Council*

Planning

The Planning Committee would like to thank the Steep Marsh residents and councillors who came to the meeting on the 2nd February. The discussion was extremely helpful in providing a way forward for the ongoing and increasingly important issues that Steep Marsh is facing. Whilst Steep Marsh was once a thriving agricultural hamlet, farming has sadly declined and, as such, there are now many unused agricultural buildings seeking transformation to meet modern needs.

The Planning Committee unanimously voted to object the change of use of the agricultural barn to padel courts, but we would welcome proactive discussions on this or with any landowners prior to this type of planning application being submitted.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council is now full, thanks to the arrival of Paul Nayton last month. We are a mix of ages, with a wide variety of skills and backgrounds. We are supported by our kind and helpful clerk, Sam Marchant. The meetings are on the first Monday of every month (except in August) which you are all welcome to attend.

In order of arrival, starting with the newest councillor - Paul Nayton, Barry Harwood, Andy Inkly, Andrew Howard, Robin Hollington, Shannon Askew,

Alison Driver, Charlotte Duthie and Terry Cook.

The next meeting is on Monday 2nd March at 7.30

Public Comment

One resident shared the progress of an exciting community project which they are calling 'Steep Meadow'. Some of you will be aware of the imminent sale of the land behind Church Road, Mill Lane and Hays Cottages which is being advertised with the potential to build 38 houses. A proactive group of almost 20 residents have organised themselves in the most remarkable way to gather most of the funds to purchase the land. If successful, it would become a community owned space supporting biodiversity and for the benefit of residents permanently. If you can help them reach the final figure, please contact franboxsteep@yahoo.co.uk

The Parish Council thoroughly support this endeavour and are looking at ways that they could help this cause.

New Development Postal Address

Thank you to all the people who sent in their ideas for the name of the new development postal address.

Some of the suggestions so far are: Allotment Field, Field Gardens, The Old Gardens, Memorial View, The Old Allotments, Amy Badley Green, Lomas Lane, Snelgar Green. These will go to the Post Office for them to decide the final name.

War Memorial

The War Memorial needs some TLC

so Cllr Duthie has obtained a quote to lift and relay the paving so that the water runs off and so that Steve Cook doesn't have to use his trip hazard sign any longer! The work would also include a light clean and repair to the war memorial stones and to repaint all the names to make them visible again. This painting is the expensive part at nearly £3000!

We will be contacting EHDC Heritage Team to obtain guidelines as it is a Grade II listed building.

STEEP MARSH

Water Testing

Concerns have been raised about pollution run off into the stream near the Brickyards. Some residents wanted the council to fund an independent water testing service.

The Parish Council is chasing the Environment Agency for their help in this matter and is suggesting sources of grants to fund the resident's investigations.

Traffic monitoring proposal

It was agreed in principle to commission an independent, on-site traffic and road safety assessment in Steep Marsh. However more detail needs to be provided on the costings and exactly what is to be carried out and how the data will be used effectively.

Section 106

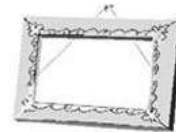
Cllr Harwood is currently looking into the pros and cons (both legally and financially) of taking on the public open space at the new development on Church Road. This is a matter that may impact the parish in the long-term one way or another so we need to understand all options thoroughly.

If you have any comments on this meeting or want to bring something to our attention then please feel free to contact Sam: clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

HELP NEEDED

We need a delivery person to deliver the Steep and Stroud Newsletter to 18 households at the eastern end of Ashford Lane, 10 magazines a year. All within an easy walking area. Please apply to the editor of the magazine caroline@rokehouse.co.uk

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CALL MY WINE BLUFF

An evening of fun and entertainment based on a wine tasting theme...
where a knowledge of wine is neither expected nor required!



When?

Saturday, 7th March
Fizz at 7pm
Quiz is 7.30 - 10.30

Where?

Steep Village Hall
Church Road, Steep

What?

A fun wine tasting evening of 3 white wines and 3 red wines, with bread, cheese and charcuterie platters.

For each wine served, 3 accounts of its provenance will be presented by a panel of 3 'bluffers'. One will be telling the truth, the other two will be bluffing and your team will attempt to guess who is telling the truth!

To buy tickets please contact **Louise Knight**:
manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk or 01730 774936

Tickets: £25 per person (inc. fizz on arrival) • Raffle: £5 • Cash or card

Hosted by Trustees of the Steep War Memorial Village Club

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Tom North
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Parish Priority Statement Consultation. The draft will be written up and presented back to the village at the Annual Meeting on April 28th.

The council acknowledge that speeding remains a key issue affecting the village. We plan to purchase a third speed display and three solar panels to remove the need for home battery charging. This investment will help keep the signs on consistently.

We have a vacancy on our Council. If you would like to learn more about what being on the council involves please contact Sam on Clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk or drop a current councillor a message.

The annual litter pick will take place on 11th April starting at 10:30am from the Village Hall. Please do come along to help out. Many hands make light work.



Our good name means everything to us

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
PLEASE CONTACT SIMON BROWN ON
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STROUD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Katy Lacey
On behalf of Stroud Garden Group

January and February have been very wet and miserable so far, but this hasn't deterred our dedicated gardening volunteers! The vegetable beds have been cleared and fresh soil added in preparation for planting in the spring. The grass seed laid in Autumn is establishing on the main lawn and the milder weather has confused some of the spring bulbs which are making an early appearance! In exciting news we now have two new additions to the garden - a greengage and apple tree.

A small request from the team - if anyone is splitting perennials and has some spare cuttings, we would be happy to give them a good home. Please get in touch with Katy at manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk or text 07915 092660.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers Kat, Dave, Glen, Charlie and Oliver for braving the cold and wet to keep the community garden looking beautiful!



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STROUD VILLAGE HALL

*Katy Lace
Hall Manager*

It's Village Halls Week from 16–22 March, focusing this year on how community buildings support our health and well-being. Action Hampshire recently highlighted how spaces like ours help deliver the NHS's Five Steps to Mental Wellbeing:

Connection An inclusive place to meet others – at community events or through the many clubs and classes held at the hall.

Keep learning Groups such as the Stroud Evening WI and the monthly Craft Club offer chances to learn new skills and try something different.

Be active Whether you want to improve fitness, build strength or reduce stress, there's a class at the hall for you – from yoga and Pilates to weights and general fitness, all led by committed local instructors.

Take notice Our Community Garden is a peaceful space to enjoy nature and the changing seasons.

Give back Volunteering improves our wellbeing by boosting mood, building meaningful connections and providing a sense of purpose. There are many ways to get involved at the hall – from becoming a Trustee to volunteering in the garden or helping to organise events.

Without local support, community buildings like our Village Hall risk disappearing – a huge loss for those who rely on the activities, services and sense of belonging they provide. Even if you don't use the hall yourself, community spaces offer something vital in an increas-

ingly disconnected world: a place to meet people you might otherwise never get to know, feel rooted in your area and experience real community.

Keep an eye on our website for details of events taking place at the hall over Village Halls week. If you'd like to help organise an event or volunteer at a coffee morning, please email Katy at manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk

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STEEP FLOWER SHOW: PLANT SALE

Lucy McIlwraith & Maïke Heining



Saturday 16th May, 2-4pm, 50 Church Road, Steep.

As you may be sowing and potting on this year's seedlings and looking forward to a wonderful summer of fruit, veg and flowers, please think of us for absorbing your spares: The Steep Flower Show committee run a plant sale in May for the village and we rely on donations of seedlings, small plants, divided rootstocks and anything else that you can find.

The plant sale is a wonderful village event at which to find interesting plants as well as perennial favourites, so do add it to your calendar: Saturday 16th May 2pm-4pm at 50 Church road, Steep. The Head of Bedales very kindly lends us his courtyard patio for the sale and we also sell tea and cake, so if plants aren't your speciality but cake is, please donate a cake instead. We have a local young jazz band – so you could come along for just the cake and entertainment even if you don't grow anything.

The summer show is on Saturday

22nd August 2-4pm at the marquee on the Bedales campus in Steep. As your plants grow you might like to think ahead to what you might enter in the show competitions and daydream about winning a trophy! The schedule for the show is available on our website now, although you won't be able to enter any classes until August. A paper copy of the schedule will also be included in April's newsletter. Further copies are available at the plant sale and at various venues around Steep like the church and local pubs.

There are lots of categories in the show that don't involve plants: if you've made something beautiful or your chutney is particularly good this year, show the village! If your kids want to make something over the summer holidays, why not enter their masterpiece in one of the kids' categories? Unlike adults, kids get 'magic envelopes' as prizes containing cold, hard cash!

As the plant sale and the show are run by volunteers on a shoe-string, we always rely on donations of not only plants for the sale but also raffle prizes, cakes and bottles for the summer show, so please bear us in mind.

As ever, we always welcome volunteers to help out with the plant sale or the show or to join the committee and become a more permanent part of the show. We're particularly interested in hearing from people who are willing to run games stalls at the August show so please do get in touch.

If you're able to give a bit of time for these fabulous village events or you can donate a cake for the plant sale or summer show, please email us: steepflowershow@gmail.com
Website: <https://steep-flower-show-sumupstore.com>

CHURCH ROAD - HOUSING UPDATE

James Rush.
Chair, Steep In Need.
Stephen Rae.
Chair, Eames Almshouses
Stuart Wilson,
Wilson Designer Homes

If you've been down Church Road recently, you'll have noticed the building site is now a hive of activity. There has been a lot of curiosity about the site and the new homes being built – so we wanted to share a quick update on where we're at and what's ahead.

Build contracts between Steep In Need trustees, Wilson Designer Homes and Eames Almshouses are in place. The Section 106 agreement – which is the legal document that sets out what the development must deliver for the community – has been agreed and signed. And Eames have now purchased the land and will take ownership of the three new Almshouses when complete.

This has been a collaborative effort between the three parties, as well as EHDC and South Downs National Park Authority – and it's pleasing to see a shared vision becoming a shared reality. The three new Almshouses will provide affordable housing for people with a connection to Steep, in perpetuity.

Wilson Designer Homes are still confident that this is an 18 – 20 month project and it is anticipated that all building work will be completed by Spring 2027.

Soon, Church Road will need to close for a short time while water and power is connected to the site. Wilson

Designer Homes are coordinating these works to limit disruption as much as possible, and we apologise for the inconvenience but it is unavoidable. Dates will be shared as soon as possible, so you can plan.

We know that living alongside a building site isn't always easy – the noise, the vehicles, the general disruption. The Site Manager's (Doug Logan) details are on the site signage if you ever have a concern.

It won't be long before those artist's impressions become real front doors, real windows, and real homes for real people. That's worth the temporary inconvenience.

For more information or to get in touch, visit the Steep In Need website at www.steepinneed.org.uk

If you are interested in residency in the new Almshouses please enquire at eames.clerk@gmail.com

The Petersfield Seed Swap

Saturday March 14th, 10am-12:30pm

Winton House Centre, 18 High Street



swap seeds * gain advice from experts *
meet local garden & nature organisations *
find inspiration for the growing year ahead *
seed sowing corner * cake!

Free Workshops

10:15-10:45 Growing veg, with Ben Pope

11:00-11:30 Foraging in Spring, with Helen McAra

11:45-12:15 Flowers to sow in March & April, with Helier Bowling

For more information: www.shineradio.uk/events



FUNDRAISING FOR STEEP MEADOW

Towards the end of last year, a sign appeared on Mill Lane in Steep, not far from the Millennium seat and signboard. It advertised the sale of a field and strip of land behind the houses on the north side of Church Road. Adjacent to the pony paddocks, the land forms part of an important green space that lies beneath the Hangers and features a key view toward the Shoulder of Mutton.

A group of residents has formed an initiative to purchase this land to preserve its rural nature and protect it from future development. The vision for the site includes supporting biodiversity while maintaining its use as grazing land during the winter months. A central part of the proposal is the introduction of a permissive path. This would link the east and west sides of the village, connecting to the existing footpath from Hays Cottages to provide safer school routes and circular walks away from traffic.

The landowner has agreed to the sale. The community has been raising funds to both buy and protect the future of the land. Some twenty-five residents have already pledged their support, but they urgently need additional help to secure the site's future.

Once purchased, the land will be held by a company designed to protect it in perpetuity for the benefit of the entire village. Leaflets with further details have been distributed, and the organizers are seeking broad commu-

nity involvement.

If you are able to donate, you would be preserving a little piece of the Steep which we all know and love, for the benefit of current and future generations. For more information or to make a donation, please contact the organizers Dan Sutherland dan.sutherland@gmail.com and Fran Box tel. 01730266284 email franboxsteep@yahoo.co.uk

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ORANGE MARMALADE CAKE

Elizabeth Housden

Try something delicious and different for this time of year!

Ingredients:

200g butter at room temperature
150g golden caster sugar
3 eggs
4 tbsp milk
200g ground almonds
100g polenta
1.5 tsp baking powder
2 oranges zested
3 tbsp orange marmalade (fine shreds only)
To serve: crème fraiche
Marmalade glaze: 5 tbsp orange marmalade
1 tbsp orange juice

Method:

1. Butter a 23cm spring form cake tin.
2. Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4
3. Beat the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy.
4. Beat in the eggs and milk, then the almonds, polenta and baking powder until you have a smooth batter.
5. Finally beat in the zest and marmalade.
6. Scrape the mixture into the tin and bake for 35 minutes, or until a skewer comes out mostly clean.
7. Leave for 25 minutes, remove tin and put on a plate.
8. To make glaze, put the marmalade and shreds into a pan with orange juice. Heat gently till dissolved, spoon over the cake.

Serve warm with crème fraiche.

LION AND UNICORN PLAYERS



Lion and Unicorn Players return to Stroud Village Hall on Friday, March 20 at 7.30pm with their latest production, Marital Mayhem, directed by Rob Sheppard. This group of short scenes is on the theme of marriage and relationships; some funny, some poignant. Tickets priced £10 will go on sale soon. See www.lionandunicorn.org

PETERSFIELD MUSICAL FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS: 1901-2026

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Michael Servant, Conductor
Jan Zawada, Musical Director BBJO

THE FESTIVAL HALL
PETERSFIELD

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Tickets: £18, £22; U19 £5
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or from One Tree Books, Petersfield. 01730 261199

www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk Registered Charity no. 900489

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.

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

13th March—Lee

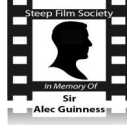
War correspondent Lee Miller travels to the front lines of World War II to embark on a mission to uncover the hidden truths of the Third Reich. But in the wake of betrayal, a reckoning will come over the truths of her own past.

27th March — 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, decides 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.

THE GIANT INDOOR EASTER CHARITY MARKET is at Petersfield Festival Hall on Easter Saturday, April 4th, raising money for various local charities.

The market is open 9.30am to 3pm.



PETERSFIELD YOUTH THEATRE – EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

We are delighted that our much-loved Easter Holiday Activity is back this year!

We are offering children and young people the opportunity to take part in a fun and creative experience this Easter. Participants will spend 4 days working with a team of Directors and Musical Directors, staging songs alongside professional Musical Theatre performers. On the fifth and final day, two performances will take place with a live band for friends and family to enjoy.

It's the perfect opportunity to meet new friends, gain confidence and perform in a fun and creative atmosphere.

Age 5 to School year 9

Sunday 29 March to Thursday 2 April at Bedales, Steep.

All details and booking information on our website – www.pyt.org.uk

Giant Easter Charity Market

In Aid Of Portsmouth Hospitals Charity



Easter Gifts
Vintage Jewellery
Collectables

Saturday 4th April 9.30am - 3pm
Petersfield Festival Hall GU31 4EA
Free Entry

Traders and Local Charities Welcome:
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RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

How do you do your RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch?

Every January, thousands of us use one hour of our time to record the birds we see in our gardens allowing a detailed national study of changing bird populations.

The instructions seem clear. Spend an hour recording the maximum number of each species you see at any one time. You envisage a cosy family with their cups of hot chocolate all looking out of the window and noting what they see in their chosen hour. In reality, you may do it on your own.

How many birds you see depends on your type of garden, what types of food and how much you put out for them and for how long in advance and is the local cat prowling and what time of day (early morning is best).

But what if you do not see anything? 'Nothing' is as statistically valid as fifty birds, but you know you have seen many birds at other times, just not in your hour. Do you send in a zero result or do you hang on for another hour and wait for the first bird, or even the first interesting bird before you start again? Try again the next day, or even do lots of 'hours' and choose the most interesting?

I have tried all of these and get an interesting insight into our garden birds.

This January, I managed a reason-

able count first off with 31 birds of 12 species. The most interesting birds were a Great Spotted Woodpecker at the feeder and a Redwing feeding on ivy berries. The commonest were six Wood Pigeon in the tree and five Goldfinch at the multiport sunflower feeder.

Interestingly, where were the birds not seen in the chosen hour that we have seen in other years. Where was the Chaffinch, the Wren, the Long-tailed Tits, the House Sparrow or even the Nuthatch and Tree Creeper on our oak tree. Perhaps next year.

St. Peter's Church, High Cross, Froxfield
Raising Funds for a toilet and servery area in the church



**AUCTION OF
GOODS AND
PROMISES**



**FROXFIELD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026**

Two Course Supper 7p.m. • Doors open at 6p.m.
Veggie Option available CASH BAR

Tickets £15

Viewing 2pm - 4:30pm Teas Coffees Cakes.

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

CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Church services

Sue Jones was the preacher at the Parish Communion service on 25th January as we heard again of the conversion of Paul and how early disciples were not afraid of the persecutor of Christians as they knew they had Christ always with them. Trusting in God was the main message in the TenAM service on 1st February. Graham Madgwick led us as we recalled the story of Elijah fed by the widow in Sidon through a famine. All the children cooperated on the tallest Lego tower they could build together until we heard the satisfying crash as it tumbled onto the stone floor. The talk encouraged us to show God's love to strangers as well as neighbours and the hymns were accompanied by Ellie on keyboard and Graham on guitar. At our Parish Communion on 8th February Susie baptized George Whitcombe. We all affirmed our faith and welcomed George into the church but he did not utter a sound as his family gathered at the font and he received the sign of the cross. Adrian Harbidge gave the sermon and as always we learnt something new. The word candidate comes from the Latin candidus meaning shining white, as in the Early Church adults being baptized wore white.

Edward Thomas Tea

On Sunday 1st March the Social Committee and friends will be serving tea from 3.45pm in the vestry extension for those participating in the walk to remember Edward Thomas. This

will be followed by the Edward Thomas Fellowship AGM in the church.

World Day of Prayer

Many churches come together to mark the World Day of Prayer on the first Friday of March (formerly the Womens' World Day of Prayer). This year's service has been written by Christian women of Nigeria. The service in Petersfield is being held at 2pm at St Lawrence. Everyone is welcome and if there are any volunteers who are willing to help set up, serve refreshment, take part in the service or help to tidy up on the day please Contact Helen Mason, Parish Secretary, St Lawrence Church 07901 148621 or email: stlaurence@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

There will be a Spring work-day to tidy up the churchyard on Saturday 28th March in the morning. Please contact Simon Mason simonmason8@gmail.com if you need further information

Wanted Friends of Steep Church Secretary.

After 10 years devoted service Deirdre Mitchell has decided to retire. The requirement is not onerous - four meetings a year requiring sending out a calling notice and taking minutes of the meeting. Aspiring applicants please contact the Chairman, John Trewby, on jatrewby@gmail.com or 07799661763

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism: 8th February George Christopher Philip Whitcombe

MARCH		2026
Benefice Worship		
<i>Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Daniel 9.9</i>		
Sunday 1st March 2026		
8.30am Holy Communion, Steep		
10am TenAM, Steep		
10am Parish Communion, FROXFIELD GREEN		
Sunday 8th March 2026		
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud		
10am Parish Communion, Steep		
Mothering Sunday 15th March 2026		
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep		
10am All Age Communion, Steep		
Sunday 22nd March 2026		
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud		
10am Parish Communion, Steep		
11am Morning Prayer,(BCP), Froxfield Green		
Palm Sunday 29th March 2026		
10am Benefice Communion, High Cross		
<i>Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.</i>		
For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at steepfroxfeldprivett@gmail.com.		
or visit our website www.steepfroxfeld.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
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 - Steepfroxfordprivett@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://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/south/67/petersfield-winchester/XPB0067.I>

COPY FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

not later than midday on

Monday 16th March

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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