

DECEMBER 2022

FREE



**Church
Magazine**

Steyning and Ashurst

**Steyning Parish Church,
1 Vicarage Lane, Steyning BN44 3YL**

Vicar: The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

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CHURCH SERVICES

All Advent and Christmas Services are listed on page 5.

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service (except 25 December)

9:30am Sung Eucharist (18 December Music Group Eucharist.)

6:00pm Evening Service

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion on Christmas Day

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist (except 28 December)

*Fr Mark and churchwardens wish all our
readers a relaxing and happy Christmas.*

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Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

'So here it is merry Christmas, everybody's having fun ...'

Even if you are not a devotee of the 70s glam rock group, Slade, you are probably familiar with these words and the music that goes with them. The 'Slade' approach to Christmas works when we feel optimistic and light hearted, as we can when we look back to childhood Christmas-times with a fond nostalgia, but it doesn't help us with the search for meaning, a search that becomes more elusive of course when our spirits are low or if we feel lonely or depressed. I've never been able to find a button I can press that makes me happy.

True joy can be elusive but, when we find it, it comes from something much deeper, although it can be found there amongst the pop music, tinsel and wrapping paper. It's called 'love', of course, but in our human weakness our experience of love can let us down, or leave us feeling sad or angry.

It's for this reason that the Advent season leading up to the birthday of Jesus is given as a time to reflect on our human weakness, a weakness that often leads us to reject love, or in other words to reject God.

'He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.' (John 1.11)

But Christians mustn't be possessive about Christmas, since anyone who knows their need of love has the potential to enter into that deeper joy that comes from knowing that love is more about giving than receiving, and that true love has the potential to make us into new people.

With best wishes for a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas for you and yours.

Fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR:

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Ukraine and all its people and leaders, and especially families who have found refuge within Steyning and Ashurst including all those who worship with us.

For many December is a family time, but please remember all those who are separated from family and friends. There are lots of wonderful concerts advertised in this month's magazine, also all the Christmas services at both Steyning and Ashurst. See Page 5 opposite.

Please continue to send your contributions, each one is much appreciated:

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

Thank you .

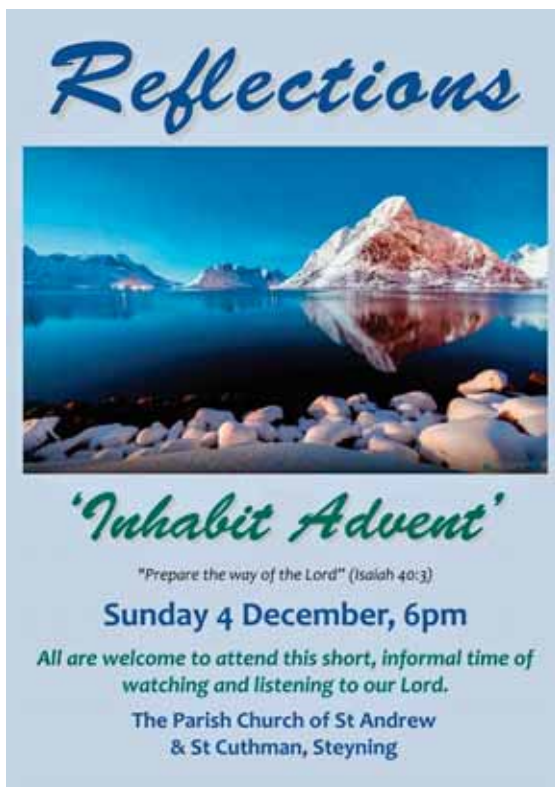
PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

29 October Simon William Brooks &
Hayley Louise Zierold

MEMORIAL SERVICE

12 November Eileen Dorothy Buckley
(died 7 September 2022)



SUNDAY BULLETIN

The weekly Sunday bulletin sent from the Parish Office gives all the information about services, news and events.

There is also the list of those needing our prayers.

If you would like to receive the bulletin please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests please contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

AT STEYNING AND ASHURST

Sunday 27 November

6pm 'Darkness to Light'. Our popular ecumenical Advent Carol service at Steyning Parish Church, with a procession in a darkened and candle-lit church. See page 14 for more details.

Sunday, 4 December

4pm 'Inhabit Advent' Reflections service. A short and informal time of quiet reflection before God on the theme 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord' (at Steyning Parish Church).

Sunday, 11 December

4pm Christingle Service at Steyning Parish Church, aimed at families with primary school aged children, preceded by an Advent Trail organised by Churches Together, beginning at the Methodist Church from 2:30pm. See page 18 for more details and how to book a place.

Sunday, 18 December

4pm Village Carol Service at St James' Parish Church in Ashurst. A friendly service of traditional lessons and carols for all the family.

6pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Steyning Parish Church. A beautiful candle-lit service telling the story of creation through to the birth of Jesus in words and music.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24 December

3pm and 4:30pm. Our popular Crib Service. See page 22 for details (at Steyning).

11pm Midnight Mass at Steyning Parish Church. The traditional start to Christmas. Festal Choral Eucharist with carols led by our church choir.

Christmas Day Saturday, 25 December

9:30am Sung Eucharist for Christmas morning at Steyning Parish Church.

10.30am Parish Communion and Carols at Ashurst St James.

PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 4 December The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 11 December The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 18 December The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday 24 December Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge.

Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Monday 26 December Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr, Stephen, grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate.

Tuesday 27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist, Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord.

Wednesday 28 December Holy Innocents

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



PAUSE AND PRAY FOR PEACE

Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and your will be done.

We pray that people still in Ukraine will be protected from the violence; that there will be provision of essential food, power and clean water; for vulnerable people who cannot flee.

That refugees will find safe places to stay. For healing for people who are wounded or have experienced trauma; and comfort for those who are grieving. We pray that international leaders will know wisdom and understanding, strength, courage and compassion.

Ukrainian citizens ask that we pray:

- That God would intervene in the situation and stop the violence
- For God's wisdom for the presidents and authorities of both countries
- That God will care for those who are in danger, especially for Ukrainian people who have lost their loved ones, for His comfort and protection over them and the church

Please also pray for Russia:

- That God will comfort Russian families who have lost their beloved ones

We pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding on to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated



from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men and women were created.

Anon

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

There is the long month of December before we get to Christmas! This time of year is called Advent, which means coming. We are waiting for the coming of the time when we can remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus - God's Son - here on earth. We could turn that thought around and say that Advent is a time when God waits for us to listen to



Him - to be as a shepherd who wakes up to hear God's angels moving him into action and so maybe we could give birth to new inspirations and new use of the fruits of the spirit.

The story starts with an angel visiting Mary, and then Joseph, and both putting themselves at great risk from the Law and from their friends and family, by saying Yes. Joseph was a brave man protecting the girl he loved. I think both were strong, feisty and courageous people who loved God and were completely open to listen to God and his calling. What picture do you have of Mary and Joseph in your head? The Bible does not tell us much about them directly, but we do know that there was not very much that was pretty about the first Christmas. They were a homeless couple in Bethlehem, then Jesus was born, and shortly afterwards this new family had to flee to Egypt becoming refugees. Nothing was safe, everything was at the edge and rather messy. Christ came into the world as a totally vulnerable baby, and continues to be in each one of us, in all types of humanity here on earth. Love came down at Christmas. This carol was written by Christina Rossetti:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Christ continues to come down through the Holy Spirit, drawing people to God. The song Amazing Grace speaks of "once I was lost, but now am found" just through that amazing love and grace. Love is all around us, but it is hard to know this if you are caught up in pain and grief and are truly hurting. Love comes through prayers we do not know are happening; love goes beyond race, gender, beliefs, family structures or political views; love is always present during times of joy and times of pain.

*Love is reckless; not reason.
Reason seeks a profit.
Love comes on strong, consuming herself, unabashed.*

*Yet, in the midst of suffering,
Love proceeds like a millstone,
hard surfaced and straightforward.*

*Having died to self-interest,
she risks everything and asks for nothing.
Love gambles away every gift God bestows.*

The words above were written by the great Sufi mystic [Jalal al-Din] Rumi.

This December I want to ponder on two aspects of Christmas love. The love of Mary, saying Yes and becoming a new mother and the love of Jesus for us all wanting us to love one another and to say Yes to something small, but new.

Chris Fitton

MEMORIAL BOOK

To arrange for someone's name to be added to the memorial book in the north aisle of Steyning Parish Church please complete a form at the back of church. There is a suggested donation of at least £10, to include the cost of all the calligraphy.



BIRTHING

It was only a few weeks ago that we saw our Great Grandson for the first time. He was then seven weeks old, and of course, totally gorgeous! His name is Otis, and I fell completely in love with him, but I was also very taken with his super parents and how they both had changed. I thought a lot about birthing and how wonderful it is that today the partner can be there too, so both will change as they go through that process together.

My thoughts also turned to Mary the mother of Jesus and perhaps how little we think of her, but how crucial she was for the 33 years Jesus had on earth. She experienced all and more that mothers experience, she who gave birth to God, a virgin who was whole just as herself. She bore a tremendous weight of grief and loss, and did not run away from it; she showed infinite compassion and care; she showed such love.

When Mary said Yes to God's angels she had no idea that this meant being his companion to torture and death. And so it is for us. Giving birth to a new baby, or to something creative and new within this world means we have said Yes without knowing the mysteries that will unfold.

This poem is the result of my musings after saying Hello to baby Otis, and being so impressed by these two new parents. It talks about the role of Mother because it is the woman who actually gives birth. May we pray for all new parents and carers.

*Birthing changes us.
In an instant we are turned from being
pregnant to giving birth.
In that instant of birth we are changed for
life into being a mother.
The knot that joined is broken, and the
mother becomes the untier of knots.
She becomes the one who will show the
way.
Sometimes even letting go of the hand,
sometimes letting go.
She helps to navigate the choppy and the
still waters.
Now she is woken, but it is she who will
waken the world,*

*Who will use her creativity to form.
It is she who instinctively knows and will
instinctively shape the future for him.
It is she who will enable discernment, and
create boundaries.
She will call you gently to listen, to model
quietness, to sing and dance the dance of
life.
She will infuse your every breath, to be
beside when grief is real.
She lifts you up
She is tender.
She loves, adores,
Forevermore.*

Chris Fitton

PRAYER POINTS FOR DECEMBER

- For areas where children and young people need a safe place to go during the Christmas period.
- For vulnerable people and the homeless.
- For those who simply cannot turn up the heating as winter takes hold.
- For the Salvation Army and all providing Christmas Lunches and facilities for health care.
- For all who are carers in Steyning and those they care for, naming any you may know.
- For all the churches in Steyning and area, known as Churches Together, and their Christmas services.
- For the Steyning Christmas High Street late night shopping.



CHRISTINGLE



God of all
Thank you for Christingle
And all that it means:
A light in the darkness
And future hope for our world

Come and join the
Christingle Service in
Steyning Parish Church
on:

Sunday 11 December
at 4pm

All are welcome

Please reserve your place on
Eventbrite:
[www.steyningparishchurch.org/
christingle](http://www.steyningparishchurch.org/christingle)

Orange – the earth

Ribbon – God's love surrounding the earth

Sweets – the fruits of the earth

Flame – Light of Jesus shining into dark places

SAINT OF THE MONTH



JOHN WYCLIF, REFORMER (c1330-1384)

John Wyclif was born at Hipswell in Yorkshire in about 1330 and was educated at Oxford. He was ordained priest and held livings in Leicestershire although for most of the time he was in Oxford teaching philosophy and theology. He quickly rose in the academic hierarchy to become Master of Balliol.

Wyclif came to prominence in 1374 when he took the side of the King in a dispute with the Pope. As a result, he was backed by two powerful patrons - John of Gaunt and the Black Prince. When he began to develop unconventional views, his patrons were able to protect him from the persecution which would normally have followed from his criticism of the doctrine and practices of the Church.

Although living a century before the English Reformation, when that upheaval came, Wyclif was recognised by the reformers as “the Morning Star of the Reformation” because of his writings. He believed in the idea of a national Church over and against an international use (or abuse) of papal authority. He reacted against medieval teaching by seeking inspiration and authority in the Scriptures and the Early Fathers of the Church. Wyclif also initiated a translation of the Latin Vulgate Bible into English.

Crucially, his repudiation of the doctrine of transubstantiation as philosophically unsound and liable to cause superstition brought condemnation in 1381 and he was forced to leave Oxford and retire to Lutterworth in Leicestershire where he died three years later.

Wyclif’s followers became known as “Lollards” and they remained as small illicit groups of Christian worshippers in Southern England until the sixteenth century Reformation. In 1415 the Council of Constance examined Wyclif’s writings, condemned them as heresy and ordered his body to be disinterred and burned.

CAROLS, CARDS AND CHRISTMAS CHEER

CHEER ... I think of Alice, living on her own in a complex of bed-sitters, and two things she said:

"I hate Christmas; they all go away to their sons or their daughters, there's no postman, no milkman, no paper-girl, no neighbours. I might as well be dead for four days."

I used to visit her regularly once a month. Each time she said how grateful she was because "the only people who come are you and Molly." In the end I took her funeral; there were eight of us there and I discovered that to each of us regular visitors she had said she depended on "you" and one of the others. None of us knew about the other six! We admired her efficiency, and felt sad that she should have been so frightened of loneliness and gone to such lengths to avoid it.

I would hope that Christmas cheer means looking out for the lonely Alices, and remembering that loneliness, like the puppy, is not just for Christmas but for life. Do I know someone like that?

CAROLS ... I think I've met at least three attitudes to Carols.

There's the really top flight musical treat concert; King's at Cambridge would be the league leaders in this group, but almost anywhere you can find good singing to rejoice in – like relaxing in a hot bath ... wonderful!



And then there's what I think of as the Accountant approach. Serious street carols in carefully selected areas reckoning on £50 for charity every 90 minutes or every half mile. This needs a really skilled organisation and is not to be widely recommended for the amateur enthusiast!

And then the "get together" of any or every Group, club, school society or college. I have to admit I don't enthuse about these events personally ever since my church dealt with 18 different carol occasions in the run up to Christmas. I felt "over-carolled", much as the Mayor will feel "over-dinnered" in the same period. *But surely this is a wonderful opportunity for "invite a friend or neighbour to church" without being too pushy?*

CARDS ... some people play "Call my Bluff"; try to send a card to some-one who wouldn't expect one and time it to arrive too late for them to return fire, or play "guess who"; sign it James and Molly (this won't work if you have an unusual name!)

But more seriously, please can we use cards to make or restore or reinforce contact with those we don't see often. Before we post a card may I suggest each of us pauses to ask *"will they be sure to know who I am without my surname, will they have lost my address, and have we done anything that would be of interest since we were last in touch?"* Puzzle cards are an irritant, not good-will!

Most bishops fade away into history; but a few become legends. Amongst these was one who received quantities of Christmas cards. When the season was over he would collect them in a pile on the floor of his stall in his private chapel; each day at morning prayer he picked up a few and prayed for the senders by name. Real good will!

Senex

DARKNESS TO LIGHT SERVICE

The service of Darkness to Light

Sunday 27 November 2022

This marks the beginning of Advent and helps us to prepare for, and expect, the coming of Christ. The word Advent means coming or arrival and is derived from the Latin word "advenio". The festival itself goes back to around the seventh century and through time the service has evolved into the form that is familiar to us today.

The service begins in total darkness and silence, broken by a single voice singing the opening words of the Matin Responsary *'I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming'*. A choir introit *'Come thou Redeemer of the Earth'* follows. Gradually the spectacle builds as the choir procession makes its way around the church singing, and the candles are lit as they go, until the whole building is fully illuminated from end-to-end by candles plus the special lighting effects that our recently installed lighting system can achieve. The music in the service includes the Great Advent Antiphons, Advent carols and anthems sung by the choir, including *'E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come'*, by Paul Manz and *'O Thou the Central Orb'* by Charles Wood, together with readings and some of the most well-loved Advent hymns for the congregation to sing.

Please join us for this extraordinary and beautiful service as we journey through darkness into light and embrace the hope of Advent.

Brian Sawyer & Carol Mitchell





To mark the 500th anniversary of the church's splendid 47 panelled Tudor oak screen, the Friends of Steyning Parish Church organised several themed events in October. The screen was seemingly created to commemorate the marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.

A CONCERT FOR CATALINA BY HARP ENSEMBLE, GLISSANDO

Extraordinary, mesmerising, captivating, beautiful, amazing: just some of the words used to describe the concert given by harp quartet, Glissando.



Playing to an enthralled audience of some 100 people the ensemble gave a Spanish themed concert, in honour of Catherine of Aragon, which was interspersed with readings evoking Tudor times, given by Wendy Francis and John Tolputt.

Additionally, the Revd Canon Margaret Dean gave her memories of the screen which resided in the vicarage for 300 years until 1984, and in which her parents lived. The afternoon was introduced by Jeremy Tomlinson who set the scene by outlining the screen's tumultuous history.

A highlight of the two-hour programme was the premiere of '*Catalina Suite*', composed especially for the day by Alex Rider, who had been inspired by the screen's intricate beauty and history. The acoustics of the church meant the audience heard every note, and were enthralled by the delicate fluidity of the four harpists' playing.



The event also featured Spanish music of the 16th century (de Cabezón) besides *Recuerdos de Alhambra* (Tárrega), the *Spanish Dance* from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, plus *Chanson dans la Nuit* (Salzedo), *Sevilla* from *Suite Española* (Albéniz), and *La Ragazza* (Andrés).

Friends cont'd

Readings included extracts from Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*, and 16th century text from the *First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians*.

Glissando's players were **Alex Rider**, **Helen Arnold**, **Kate Ham**, **Fiona Hosford**.



FUN WITH THE TUDORS, CHILDREN'S HALF TERM EVENT

Tudor-themed dancing, games, and craft activities – and many happy faces - filled the church as more than 40 younger members of our community had 'Fun with the Tudors'. King Henry VIII (aka John

Tolputt, in full costume) provided a regal tone.

Crafts included making a scented bag from herbs and dried flowers (known as tussie mussies in the 16th century), creating finger puppets of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, and making Tudor style neck ruffs from pleated or curled paper, as well as colouring copies of panels from the screen. Additionally, children made copies of the screen's panels by creating their own template of their favourite design and printing from it.



Dressing up in costumes depicting some of the colourful historic characters from

Fulham Palace (the original home of the screen) was popular with many, and there was much dancing to Tudor music. The well-known game of Consequences took a Tudor twist, featuring Anne of Cleves, Anne Boleyn and other famous Tudor royals.

The event was created with the generous support of Fulham Palace and the Steyning Museum.



OTHER EVENTS: A talk about the origins of the screen by Alexis Haslam of Fulham Palace after the Friends' AGM, and a very successful expedition to the Palace.

Big thanks to the many people who made these events such a success.


Can you find the gifts in the mistakes that we humans make?

Can we be grateful for the lessons in life even when there are losses?

If we can embrace all that is life then we will be lighting a candle in the darkness.

Blessings of light and hope to you and yours.

CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVENT TRAIL IN STEYNING

If you have children or if your grandchildren could visit, or maybe some friends, **on Sunday 11 December**, then get your  on and join the Churches Together Advent Trail.

Details will be put on the posters around Steyning nearer the date. There must be at least one adult with each group that takes part.

The trail will start at **Steyning Methodist Church at 2.30pm**. Each family group will be given a map and a paper carrier bag to collect their treasure sheets. The trail is simple and quite compact. It can be completed within an easy walk around Steyning. Fairy lights and decorations will welcome you at each "station". The "station" could be based in a



or a



or



Christingle Service
Sunday 11 December
4pm All welcome



Please reserve your place on
Eventbrite:
www.steyningparishchurch.org/christingle

At each station the children will pick up an activity sheet. There will be a table with some craft resources to make one of the activities suggested on the sheet to be put in their bag.

The last station will be in



where hot chocolate and perhaps a mince pie or Christmas cupcake will be served before you join in the Christingle service at 4pm. Please see page 11

for how to reserve your place on Eventbrite.

Elizabeth Brown

THE VOICE OF CHRISTMAS !

A Spectacular evening of beautiful and magical Christmas music performed by four professional singers.....

Wednesday 21 DECEMBER 2022 @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm

For the tenth year running, you are warmly invited to St Andrew's Church in Steyning for this sell out event to "kick start" your Christmas with a concert of traditional and modern vocal music that is both joyous and thought provoking. This year again we are offering two separate performances. So, please do come along to sit, relax and take in the wonder of this spectacular church whilst listening to a wealth of beautiful music throughout the ages that has been specifically written for unaccompanied voices.

This concert is performed by professional vocal quartet

THE AGNES COLLECTIVE

and they are also excited be joined yet again, by local actor **John Tolputt**.

This special event is the perfect family way to enjoy the true Spirit of Christmas.

Tickets: £15 Adult £8 Child (4"s and under free) . Seating unreserved. Seasonal refreshments will be available.

Please buy your tickets from The Steyning Book Shop or Alexandra Gibson
alexandra.gibson@me.com
on 07973469113



FOR THE TENTH YEAR RUNNING, The Agnes Collective are delighted to be able to share some beautiful and magical Christmas Music with you all.

The Voice of Christmas

Your concert is brought to you by
The Agnes Collective
with John Tolputt

Wednesday 21st December 2022
@ 5.30pm & 7.30pm (each concert approx 1hr)

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's Church, Steyning
Adult £15 - Child £8 (4's and under free)

Tickets available from THE STEYNING BOOKSHOP or Alexandra Gibson Tel: 07973469113
alexandra.gibson@me.com

Candles of light in the darkness,
Candles of grace in the suffering,
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps
watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever
present,

Candles of peace for tumultuous days,
Candles of forgiveness for all the
difficulties,
Candles of love to embrace all Life,
Candles that will burn all the year long.
Linda Graham,
Inspired by Howard Thurman

TWO PICTURES OF THE NATIVITY



Two beautiful photographs showing Mary and baby Jesus, and Joseph with baby Jesus. What love ... and what meeting of eyes to express love.

Concerts Overview....

Dec 3 Chanctonbury Chorus
Dec 10 Southdowns Concert Band
Fund raiser for Ashurst Primary
School
Dec 15 Hanover Band
Dec 21 Voice of Christmas



ORGAN REPORT

I am delighted to report that the update of the Hauptwerk section of the church organ has now been completed by Nigel Stark of Hauptwerk Systems UK. Hauptwerk III was originally installed as part of our instrument by David Houlgate more than ten years ago and it transformed the Walker pipe organ, giving it a much greater tonal and dynamic variety. It also meant that a much wider range of styles and periods of organ music could be performed effectively.

The Hauptwerk III System adds 'sampled' electronic sounds to our pipe organ and has given excellent service over this period, but like all technology needs to be maintained and updated periodically. A few problems began to appear last year which affected the full functioning of the organ, so an appeal to the congregation was launched to raise funds for a new Hauptwerk system. I was amazed and very heartened by the speed and also the generosity with which the appeal raised the considerable sum required to carry out this project.

For those interested in the technical details, Nigel Stark has installed and added the following: a new PCI5 16GB RAM; a Gigaport EX Audio interface; MIDI interface; Hauptwerk VII software perpetual License; iLk licensing system; updated existing sample set for Hauptwerk VII; re-made Choir Swell Pedal and configure to existing 'Artisan' hardware.

The new instrument is a Hill, beautifully sampled, but sounding rather different, perhaps gentler, than the previous Skinner organ, which is American. I am pleased that it is possible to retain the latter instrument in the new system. However, I am informed that the sound quality of the Hill organ would be greatly enhanced by improving the quality of the present loud speakers and also, by the addition of a bass woofer. Unfortunately, not enough money was raised last year to include the replacement of the speakers. Future organ concerts will raise funds towards this, and if any music lovers would like to support this initiative they are welcome to contact me.

Church music, in all of its forms, has always held a significant place in the worship at St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church, largely due to the continued support of the clergy, choristers, church wardens and congregation. That the funding for this most recent work to the organ was raised so quickly is yet another manifestation of this generous support for which I am really grateful and thank you all.

Brian Sawyer
Organist and Director of Music.

COMMUNITY

COFFEE

Please come and join the Wednesday Coffee team for friendly conversation and a mug of fresh coffee or tea and a biscuit. Many of our visitors leave us before 11:30am to attend the Midweek Eucharist. However, there is always someone to chat to until you have finished your coffee and are ready to leave us.

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team



THE PENFOLD HALL.

The doors are open from **10am until 11:30am**
every **Wednesday morning.**

COMMUNITY COFFEE



THE CRIB SERVICE

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH
3pm AND 4:30pm

THE CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

I am so pleased that we will be performing The Crib Services live this year, at 3pm and 4:30pm on Christmas Eve. We have a new script telling the story of the Nativity with Angels, Kings, Shepherds, Sheep, Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

We have been making the usual preparations and would be grateful if anyone would like to join our team. We also welcome any children who would like to take part.

This is such a lovely event where the Church and community join together in celebrating the birth of Jesus.





CHURCH LIGHTING PROJECT

We have now completed the last stage of the church lighting with the installation of the Churchyard path lights. The Victorian style lampposts were chosen to give visual continuity with the lanterns over the porch door and the south-east corner of the church. All the exterior lighting, including the floodlights, will operate via the light sensor and timer, and



are programmed to switch on at dusk and turn off at around midnight. The lamps will also be lit on darker mornings.

This has been a six-year project replacing all the interior and exterior lighting. It's been quite eventful with lockdown, fundraising and planning issues, but the result is we have a quality, sophisticated system that gives the church multi pre-set lighting designs and ambiances that meet all our aspirations at a touch of a button.



This is our final report, the team thank you for all your feedback and support.

Jim Lang, Project Coordinator

We all thank the team, and especially Jim Lang, for all they have done to ensure the new lighting is of the very best standard available. It does enhance this beautiful parish church and we appreciate the many hours you have given so freely and with love.

We hope you now have a well earned rest ... for a while.



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his
 sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked
 down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.
 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down
 from the sky

And stay by my side until morning is
 nigh.
 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to
 stay
 Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender
 care,
 And lead us to heaven, to live with Thee
 there.



TIP OF THE MONTH

TOP TIPS ON SIMPLE ENERGY SAVING STEPS

Following up from last month's article on 'Surviving the Energy Price Crunch', here are eight of Greening Steyning's top tips on low or zero-cost measures that can make a surprising difference to energy bills:

Turn the thermostat down and put on an extra sweater – an obvious place to start, particularly if your thermostat is set to above 21C. *(Saving: up to £150/year for each degree C)*

Change to LED bulbs – Lighting makes up around 11% of a typical power bill. LEDs use 70-80% less electricity compared to halogen or old-style tungsten filament bulbs. So check around your house and root out those remaining energy guzzlers. *(Saving: up to £80/year)*

Take shorter showers – the average Brit spends 7-8 minutes in the shower, wasting loads of water and energy in the process. Turning the shower off while you soap yourself will save on both. *(Saving: up to £70/year if you cut showers to 4 mins)*

Reduce your boiler flow temperature – it may be set unnecessarily high, so get your plumber to check this next time you have it serviced. *(Saving: up to £70/year if you reduce it from 60C to 55C)*

Block up draughts – sealing up gaps around doors and windows is a cheap and easy step and will make you home much cosier. Cosy curtains on windows and doors will also help. *(Saving: up to £45/year)*

Don't overfill the kettle – why boil water you don't need? *(Saving: up to £36/year)*

Insulate your hot water cylinder – to reduce heat loss and keep your hot water hotter for longer. *(Saving: up to £35/year)*

Get smart about your heating controls – using your boiler controls, timers and radiator thermostats intelligently means you can avoid heating rooms when you are not using them. Speak to your plumber about how to optimise your system around your lifestyle. *(Saving: varies widely depending on circumstances)*

Need some help?

If you need some practical help on where to start in saving energy at home, come along to our free **Home Energy Helpdesk**. It's on the second Saturday of the month, from 2-4pm at Beeding Village Hall, starting from January.

Take a look at our website to find out more on all the options, and book a Helpdesk slot. Go to: www.greeningsteyning.org/energy Or you can call us on 07510 314397.

Geoff Barnard

STEYNING CHURCHYARD WILDFLOWERS

A small but enthusiastic team of volunteers has been working in the Churchyard throughout this year. We have kept pathways clear, cut paths to tended graves and begun to make the Churchyard more eco-friendly (a small scale wilding project).

Grass in parts of the less-visited area is now cut twice a year, whilst the remaining area continues to be cut once a month. This means that in the wilder areas, wildflowers are allowed to grow and set seed, and wildlife such as butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles and small mammals have a chance to complete their lifecycles relatively undisturbed.

Those with a family grave in the long grass area are invited to contact the Churchwardens who will arrange for an access path to be cut to maintain access to the grave.

We started surveying the wildflowers in our Churchyard in 2021, and continued that throughout 2022. We have now recorded 73 different species of wildflower.



Wall Rue.

November 2022.

We have recently been made aware of surveys carried out in the Churchyard in 2016 by the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. They found 87 wildflower species over six visits during the year. Whilst it may look as though we have 'lost' some species in the last six years, it is more likely that the SBRC are more expert botanists than us! But we now know what they found, so will keep a close look out for these next year.

We have found two species of particular interest:

Asplenium ruta-muraria. (Wall Rue)

An insignificant little plant growing on the north side of the Church walls. It is a fern that grows on steep bare faces of limestone rocks, but also on old mortared walls, such as on our Church. A very lovely little fern that is easily overlooked.



Myrtus communis. (Common Myrtle).

An evergreen shrub growing on the path from the Lych Gate towards the Church. It is covered in fragrant white blossom in Spring, and developing berries in late Autumn.

It has special relevance this year, as our late Queen's funeral wreath that lay on her coffin, included Myrtle that was grown from sprigs of Myrtle taken from her wedding bouquet.

Common Myrtle.

November 2022

Roger Brown
07795 084546

**A splash
of Autumn
colour**



ANAGRAM FOR DECEMBER

The anagram for December is:

MISTLETOE

REMEMBER: All words to have three or more letters, but only use each letter once. NO capitalised words and NO plurals.

I rather liked this anagram - just not too hard, so perfect for Christmastime!

Christingle service
 Sunday 11th Dec 4pm
All welcome

Please reserve your place on Eventbrite:
www.steyningparishchurch.org/christingle

The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyning

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

The Steyning Society jointly with
The Steyning Museum

Christmas Supper

Friday 16th December 7:00pm for 7:45pm at
the Steyning Centre.



Tickets are available from Steyning Bookshop for £25 per person to include a two-course supper with wine, coffee and musical entertainment by the 'Cheer Up Mollys'. **Please** tell the Bookshop your choice of main course when you buy your tickets: options are chicken, salmon, vegetarian or vegan.

VULNERABLE AND HOMELESS

As your thoughts turn to Christmas, remember those who are caught up in the cycle of homelessness, as well as those who are vulnerable. Remember all those who have landed on our shores on the south coast having travelled miles and miles to come here, and all those who have come from war torn areas. In December the days become shorter and colder and the nights longer and freezing, not everyone can simply turn the heating up, or throw on a warm jumper, or even access a kettle to make a hot drink.

Many go without the comfort and joy we sing about and hope everyone will experience.

Reflect on God's love for the world and that he sent Jesus for everyone, everywhere.

We wish you all a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**, and want to try to write it in Russian as this year we have been blessed with the arrival of our Ukrainian friends.

Счастливого Рождества

"THE MESSIAH"

The Hanover Band
with The Hanover
Band Chorus and
Soloists

Steyning Parish Church

Thursday 15 December, 7.00pm

We are thrilled and privileged to be able to welcome The Hanover Band, one of Britain's finest period instrument orchestras, along with the Hanover Band Chorus and soloists, to perform **The Messiah** in our beautiful church on Thursday 15 December at 7.00pm. This will be the first of three such performances of this seasonal masterpiece, the others being in Arundel and London – but you don't have to travel to either – you can see them here in Steyning!

What better way to begin your Christmas celebrations?

Tickets are available from www.thehanoverband.com

£35.00, £20.00 and £15.00. Under 25s are free

"Strings are gleaming and engaged, their woodwind sublime, their brass bright and flexible, their percussion alert...."

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

JUST FOR FAMILIES



Divide out the windows in your family and on the day it is your turn write the name of someone you love and then tell the others one thing you love about them. Each of you do the same thing until you reach Christmas Day, and the end of Advent.



Snowman Word Search

COAL

SNOW

CARROT

STICKS

SCARF

TOP HAT

E	O	Y	C	Q	V	B
T	O	R	R	A	C	T
S	K	C	I	T	S	O
M	D	D	C	Q	G	P
C	S	N	O	W	R	H
K	F	R	A	C	S	A
F	C	M	L	V	W	T



COLOURING IN NATIVITY



RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

CARBONARA FOR ONE

- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese , plus more for topping
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 piece thick bacon (or use 2 thin slices of bacon or left over ham or gammon)
- 2 ounces dry spaghetti
- 1 clove garlic , sliced
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley



METHOD

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg, 1 tablespoon of grated Parmesan cheese, salt, and black pepper and set it aside to use later.
2. Next, cook the bacon in a medium sized frying pan over medium heat or fry off your ham/gammon. Remove the bacon and drain on a paper towel-lined plate and set it aside.
3. Bring a medium-sized pot of water to a boil. Add the spaghetti to the boiling water. Let the pasta cook for 8 - 10 minutes, or until the pasta is al dente - tender, yet firm. Drain the pasta, reserving 1/2 cup of the pasta water to use in the sauce.
4. Return the frying pan to the stove and heat for 30 seconds on medium heat, you should still have a little of the bacon drippings in the pan. Add the sliced garlic to the pan and cook for 1 minute. Add the hot pasta and bacon or gammon to the pan and toss for 30 seconds. Remove pan from the heat.
5. Add a little of the pasta water to the pan, stirring constantly to cool the pan off. When the pan stops sizzling, slowly add the egg and cheese mixture into the pasta a little at a time, whisking quickly until the egg thickens, but do not scramble.



Christmas is almost here folks and it'll soon be time for that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around. Yep, your neighbourhood Fox is on the prowl and shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents out of his sack, your local Fox will be busy trying to pull half a turkey out of your bin bag. Foxes have lived among us for centuries and, just like Christmas, they're celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl it is always the same – the Fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful - and it's these traits that have helped the Fox to survive in the modern world. It was the modern world that transformed the Fox's wild woods into endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development Britain's wildlife has silently been displaced and died. But where others fled destruction the Fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overfloweth and where the streets are paved with cast away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.

And for me this is the chapter in the Fox's story that does indeed seem mythical: that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living among us. I can look out my bedroom window and see a relative of the Wolf, Dingo, Jackal and Coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in suburban Sussex. Studies undertaken by the University of Brighton have estimated that there are 20 Foxes per square kilometre in the city. Of course, tradition dictates that some people do not like Foxes. As a child I always viewed the Boxing Day hunt as the antithesis to Christmas; a reminder that amidst this season of goodwill there are still people who are proud to dress up in costumes in a public celebration of their cruelty.

It's in the bleak midwinter that Foxes are at their most vocal. The blood-curdling, human-like scream of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film. This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog Foxes. Her cubs will be born about fifty-two days after mating and emerge from their earths in April.



So this Christmas if you've had it with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments take a short walk away from it all and out into the darkness. Listen for the sound of wild dogs

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS: LUKE 2

So Joseph also went to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

