

# Steyning and Ashurst



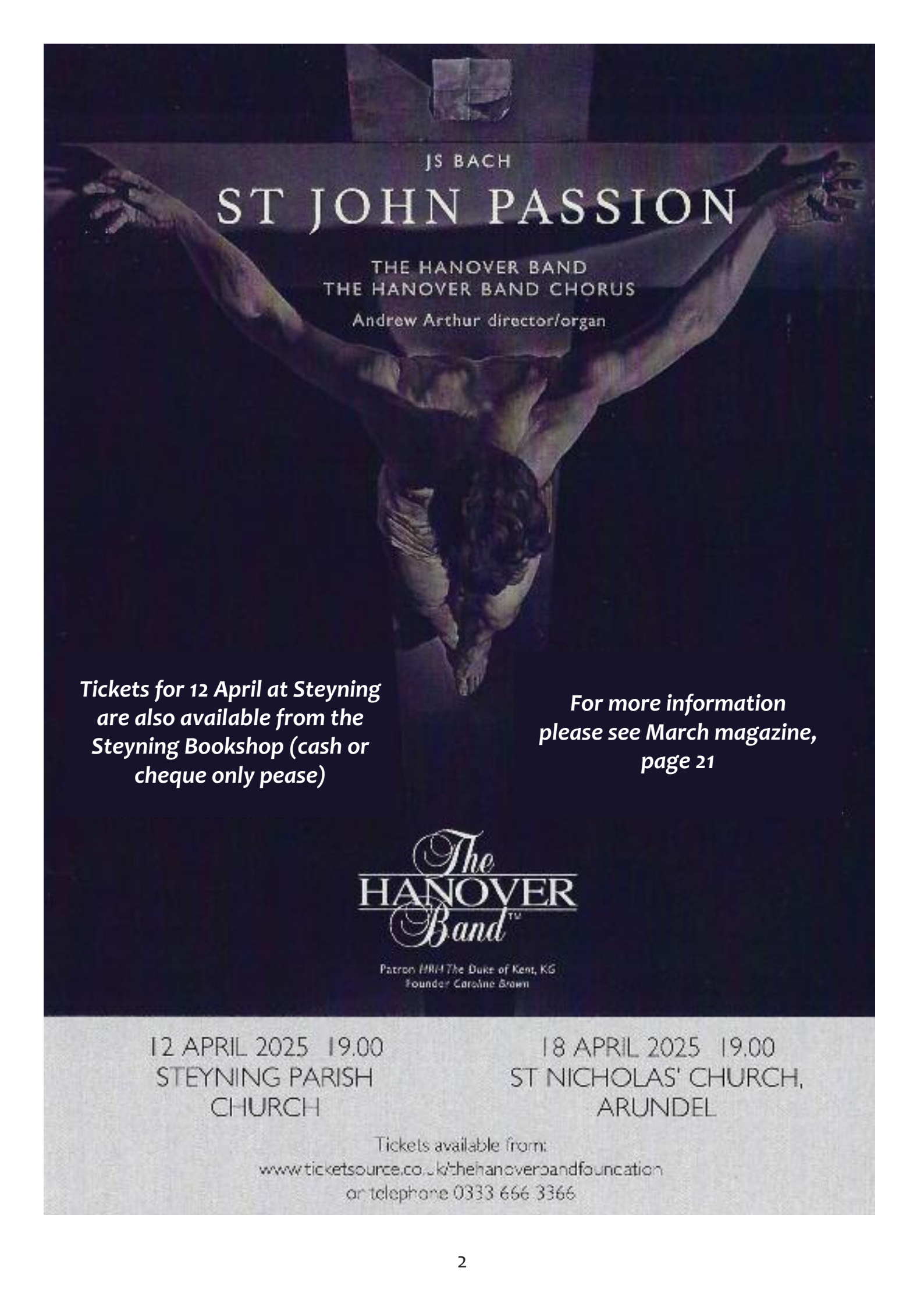
**April 2025**

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# Church Magazine

Registered Charity No 1132913



JS BACH

# ST JOHN PASSION

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page 21*

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18 APRIL 2025 19.00  
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH,  
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**STEYNING ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

**Note that the Parochial meeting and APCM will be held in church on Sunday 18 May, following the 9:30am service.**

## Magazine Donations

If you enjoy this Church Magazine and would like to make a donation towards the costs, we would be very grateful. BACS transfers with reference 'Magazine Donation' can be made to: Sort Code 30-99-93, Account 03220862. If you are a UK tax payer and fill in the Gift Aid slip, we can recover an extra 25p for every £1. Alternatively, scan the QR code to donate. Thank you.



I wish to Gift Aid my donation to 'Steyning Parochial Church Council' to help meet the expenses of the Church Magazine. We suggest an annual donation of at least £12

Title	Surname	Forenames
House No/name	Postcode	Date

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify Steyning Parish Church if you / cancel this declaration / change your name or home address / no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Registered Charity No: 1132913

# Holy Week and Easter

## PALM SUNDAY, 13 APRIL

**9:30am:** Palm Procession and Sung Eucharist\* at Steyning St Andrew & St Cuthman

*Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!*

*The crowds welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.*

## MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 14 APRIL

**11:30am:** Holy Communion with Meditation

*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 15 APRIL

**11:30am:** Holy Communion with Meditation

*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 16 APRIL

**11:30am** Holy Communion with Meditation

*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY, 17 APRIL

**7pm:** Liturgy of the Day at Steyning

*Jesus shares the last supper with his disciples.*

*We keep watch in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

## GOOD FRIDAY, 18 APRIL

**Midday:** Liturgy of the Cross at Steyning

**2pm:** Stations of the Cross at Ashurst

**7:30pm:** Sacred Concert at Steyning:  
*Stainer's Crucifixion (see p16)*

*We worship at the foot of the cross.*

## EASTER EVE, SATURDAY 19 APRIL

**8pm:** Easter Vigil & Blessing the Easter Garden at Steyning

*Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!*

*We light the Easter Candle & greet our risen Saviour.*

## EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 20 APRIL

**9:30am:** Choral Eucharist of Easter Morning, Steyning\*

**NB 11am:** Parish Communion of Easter Morning, Ashurst

*Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!*

*We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.*

*With an Easter Egg Hunt for the children (at both churches)*

\* There will be the usual 8am service at Steyning on 13 & 20 April.

There is no service at Ashurst on Palm Sunday.

## Parish Registers

<b>Funerals</b>	4 February	Joyce Richardson (d 8 Jan)
	6 March	Roger John Millman (d 11 Feb)
<b>Baptism</b>	19 January	Ivy Maralyn Rose Garton



## Pastoral Letter

Perhaps because Easter is late this year, creme eggs were on sale even before Lent began. I saw them in the shops during January. If we move too quickly to Easter it's all too easy for Passiontide to pass us by – we are tempted to grab at happiness without noticing the pain and the suffering. For many people Good Friday is little more than a public holiday, and even many Anglicans, including some who attend church regularly on Sundays, may not attend the special services of Holy Week. These are listed opposite (page 4) and I would like to encourage everyone to consider joining us for something you may not have been to before.



We hold a service on every day of Holy Week – starting with a simple, pared-back Eucharist on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The following very sacred days were anciently known as the *Triduum* ('three days'). On Maundy Thursday we gather with Jesus for his last supper in the upper room where he gives his disciples a 'new commandment' (John 13:34), symbolising the washing of their feet. This is followed immediately by an optional vigil in the Cuthman Chapel which becomes the Garden of Gethsemane, as we remember our Lord's question, *Could you not watch with me one brief hour?* (Mark 14:37). On Good Friday, our solemn liturgy takes us to the foot of our Saviour's cross on the most solemn day of the year.



**The Easter Garden at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's**

Holy Week then comes to a joyful end with a lighting of the Easter candle outside the church before, the new Easter (or 'Paschal') candle, 'the light of Christ', is carried into church. This short service ends with the blessing of the Easter garden in the church porch as the small congregation fills the church, now filled with flowers, with light and Alleluias.

Have a very happy Easter – when it comes! Meanwhile, I wish you a blessed and holy  
Passiontide.

*Fr Mark*

## FROM THE EDITOR

We currently live in an uncertain world. We see the valuable concept of peace negotiations being undertaken along the lines of property deals, of penalties and taxation being imposed, withdrawn, reimposed and varied at a stroke. As always it is the people in places like Gaza and Ukraine who suffer during the power games. Fortunately our politicians, alongside our European colleagues, have been able to bring some statesmanship to the situation. We pray that they will be guided to continue the search for a lasting and peaceful outcome.

This is the second magazine under fresh 'management' so to speak. Chris Fitton, who took over a simpler, black and white, magazine, did a wonderful job in building it up to the present larger, colourful publication. One which was, deservedly, officially recognised for its appeal to the readership. Although this is primarily a church magazine, we intend it to appeal to a wider community than just the congregations of the two churches. So we welcome any contributions with a local interest.

Poor health, and a need to concentrate on David's needs, mean that Chris has decided to take a step back. During their time with St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Chris and David have both made a massive contribution to the church family. We offer her our sincere thanks and good wishes. Chris and David will remain very much in our prayers.

Bill

## Sunday Notices

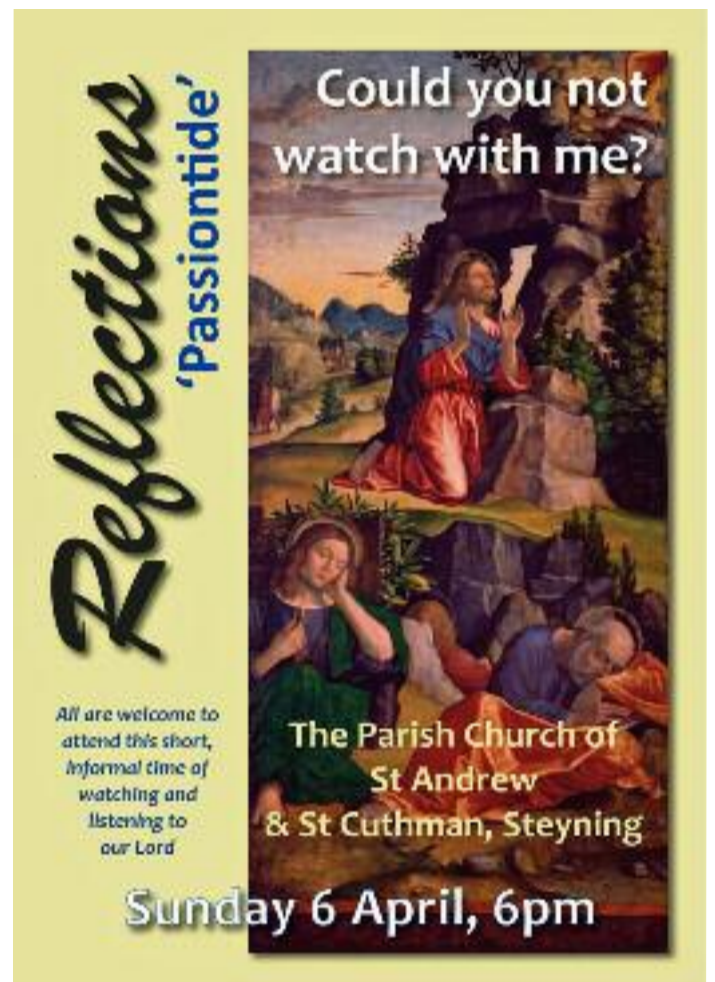
The weekly Sunday notice sheet, sent from the Parish Office, gives all the information about services, news and events. There is also the list of those needing our prayers. If you would like to receive this sheet please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org  
or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests  
contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org  
or ring 01903 813276

## Reflections Service



**Reflections**  
'Passiontide'

Could you not watch with me?

All are welcome to attend this short, informal time of watching and listening to our Lord

The Parish Church of  
St Andrew  
& St Cuthman, Steyning

Sunday 6 April, 6pm

'Reflections' is a quiet contemplative time of about 40 minutes, with readings, prayer and music, built around a 12-15 minute period of silence.

# Prayer Diary for April 2025

## 6 April 5th Sunday in Lent (*Passiontide begins*)

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory.

## 13 April Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection.

## 18 April Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit.

## 19 April Easter Eve

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us.

## 20 April Easter Day

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory.

## 27 April Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth.

## 28 April St George, patron saint of England (*transferred from 23 April*)

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George; that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection.

## 29 April St Mark the Evangelist

(*transferred this year from 15 April*)

Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed.

## Good Grief Café

The next Good Grief Café will be in the Penfold Hall (Small hall) on Friday 11 April, 2pm to 4pm

Second Friday of each month, 2pm-4pm  
In the Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning

# GOOD GRIEF

## Café

- Are you feeling alone?
  - Have you been affected by any kind of loss?
  - Would you like to be with people who understand and can help?
- If so, we offer a safe space where you can talk, or just listen
- Never mind how recent or how long ago - we can all be affected by loss
  - Everybody welcome, regardless of faith, any or none

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits provided  
Donations welcome

Contact us at [care@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:care@steyningparishchurch.org)  
Or phone 01903 813276

The Parish Church of St Andrew  
& St Cuthman, Steyning

# Passiflora: a Very Religious Passion

Passion Week is the time between Palm Sunday (13 April this year) and Easter Day (20 April). A time for reflections about the last time Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey with the crowds waving palm branches, through his last supper with his disciples when he gave us so much of our Eucharist service, and his most difficult journey to his crucifixion, bearing all our sins on that cross, and then the glorious resurrection on Easter Day.



Way back in the 16th century, Spanish missionaries used the flower as a teaching aid to explore the story of the resurrection to their new converts.

The petals and sepals represent the ten faithful apostles. Why ten I hear you say? They excluded Judas most obviously, but also Peter who denied Christ three times. Quite harsh.

- The corona is the crown of thorns.
- The tendrils are the scourges.
- The stigma are the nails used on the cross
- The anthers are the wounds inflicted on Christ's body.

Passiflora looks very exotic, and some Steyning residents are fortunate enough to be able to grow them. I have never succeeded.

Chris Fitton

*Left: Passiflora - Colin Davis (Unsplash)*

## Community Coffee: Penfold Hall



Join us every Wednesday morning any time between 10am and 11:30am. We meet in the small hall while the building works continue in the Penfold Hall.

Several of our visitors go to church for the Wednesday morning 11:30am service,

but you can stay on chatting, too.

*Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team*

**COME IN ...  
PLEASE, FOR A  
COFFEE OR TEA  
AND A CHAT .**

**10-11:30**

**IN THE  
PENFOLD HALL  
WEDNESDAY  
MORNING**



# ‘Splash’

Most of us grew up in a world where the experience of a daily assembly in school was regarded as totally normal. You probably recall the register being taken, then everybody lined up, marched along to the school hall, sat on the floor, and the headteacher, or a notable visitor, launched into a story of some kind. You might even have sung a hymn, or listened as someone on the stage prayed. Whatever else happened, ‘Morning Assembly’ was a long established tradition. Notices were given out, warnings issued, sports results mulled over, and general chit-chat was strictly forbidden. Teachers glowered whilst dark secrets were whispered behind half-cupped hands, and just occasionally, paper pellets were flicked at the girls by attention-seeking boys. It was all part of the expected start of the school day.

Then the school Inspectors got interested in what happened; and expectations grew about the significance and value of assemblies and questions were asked about the Christian (or religious) content of the assemblies.

So it was that some head teachers began inviting more visitors to lead the assemblies. Vicars were invited, as were other local clergy. Eventually, a new breed of assembly-takers emerged. Some local churches built up teams of visitors who could take an assembly. At St Andrew’s & St Cuthman’s in Steyning a small group emerged that is invited



into the local primary schools on a regular basis to lead assemblies that are both interesting and of educational value. They would certainly value your prayers as they devote time and energy to helping young people understand more about Christian faith.

Quite a number of schools had no access to such a group of people, and there emerged in this part of Sussex a small group – a charity called ‘Splash for Schools and Communities’ – committed to visit schools and provide assemblies that had a definite Christian background and message.

This group, Splash, still continues, visiting over 30 different primary schools in Sussex twice each term. It is not affiliated to any particular church or denomination, and is supported by gifts from interested individuals who see it as a valuable opportunity to explain something about the meaning and practice of Christian faith in a way that can be understood by most children. As around 95% of young people have no contact at all with church, or faith-based activities, it is the group’s prayer that they will be able to sow seeds that will bear fruit at a later point in life. In

the Summer holidays, the team also helps various churches plan and run holiday clubs for younger children, and train and motivate teenagers to help with the club activities. At the moment, Splash has an office and storage space at Findon Valley Free Church. Our own daughter, Lois, has been a member of the team for some 11 years, and thoroughly enjoys the challenge of preparing and presenting stimulating

assemblies. Other team members are equally committed and they all fully share in the work.

If you would like more details of Splash and its activities, then you can contact them online as follows: <https://splasheschools.org.uk/>. Or search for Splash for schools and communities. Or search on Facebook - Splash for Schools and Communities.

*John Rowland*

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## Communications

Did you know that Steyning Parish Church has a Communications Group, which may have a low profile itself, but is responsible for raising the profile of the church and its many activities?

Its aim is to keep not only our own church family informed but the wider community too. The group comprises the Vicar, Churchwardens, Magazine Editor, Families and Children's Worker (Gary Pickett), plus Katherine Heather, and Judie Thomson.

Our prime means of communication is our monthly magazine, produced entirely in-house with help from a small team, printed in the church office, and distributed free of charge to the congregations and communities in Steyning and Ashurst. As you may know, the magazine recently won an award for its appeal to the intended readership. The magazine is supplemented by a weekly email newsletter, sent to those who have signed up to the list, as well as a separate newsletter for Ashurst.

Additionally, we want to make full use of the benefits of technology, so not only do we have a comprehensive (and much admired) website at <https://steyningparishchurch.org> but an active presence on social media. Our Facebook page is particularly popular, maintained by Gary and Judie, while Gary has recently branched out into Instagram, to increase our appeal to the young. Gary reported nearly 16,000 engagements with our Facebook account over Advent and Christmas. The pages for the Crib Services and Little Stars got plenty of visits, so this promises well for the future. We have a YouTube channel too (search for 'Steyning Parish Church') where you can watch recordings of our Sunday sermons plus various other videos.

Another important job is producing, distributing and displaying various posters and flyers to remind Steyning at large that we have an active, welcoming, varied and inclusive Christian community. You will notice too that we are adding simple things

like A-boards and banners to reinforce the message.

One important job that we have been working on is building up and maintaining ChurchSuite, a dedicated system providing address databases so we can keep in touch, and calendars (you can see the ChurchSuite calendar on our website).

ChurchSuite's address book facility will soon be rolled out to the congregation – it will provide a secure way of sharing as much or as little

*You can contact us at: [communications@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:communications@steyningparishchurch.org)*

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contact information as you choose, enabling you to communicate with others and keep your own details up to date, as well as letting us keep in touch with you.

Of course, we can only communicate things that we know about, so we rely on others to let us know what is happening. Our email address is below, so please keep us informed and do let us have your comments and suggestions as we know there are things we can always do better.

## **Taizé Services**

A relatively new introduction to our regular service schedule is a Taizé service, usually held in the chancel of St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, at 6pm on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The Taizé Community in Burgundy, France, is an ecumenical community of around 80 brothers from different church backgrounds – Catholic, Anglican, Protestant – and from nearly 30 countries. By its very existence, it is a 'parable of community': a tangible sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples. Older people are welcome, but the Community welcomes thousands of young adults up to age 35 every year to spend a week living in the rhythm of three periods of daily worship and prayer, bible study and communal living.

At Taizé, singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Taizé chants are short songs, repeated again and again, giving them a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of praying and listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting for God.

If anybody is interested in joining the Taizé group to help put together these peaceful services, please contact David Littlejohns or Adrian Bamforth.



# Chanctonbury Chorus - Saturday 7 June

The Chorus returns for its next concert in June. To whet your appetite, David O'Dell, who sings tenor and writes the programme notes, gives a flavour of what will be sung.

## A Choral Celebration of Nature

On 7 June, Chanctonbury Chorus, together with professional soloists and musicians, will be celebrating nature in all its forms with a concert of music ranging from 16th century madrigals to 21st century jazz, written, or inspired, by writers and poets from Aesop to Michael Flanders (of Flanders and Swann) by way of Mary Coleridge and Emily Dickinson.

Some of the pieces may be familiar, for example, *The Silver Swan*, Orlando Gibbons' requiem for the madrigal - "more geese than swans now live, more fools than wise" - but others possibly less so - "Hope' is the thing with



A previous Chanctonbury Chorus concert in St Andrew's & St Cuthman's church, Steyning



Canon Nigel introduces the Chorus at a performance of Handel's 'Messiah'

*feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all."*

And even if the words, or stories, are well-known, the settings, like that of *Aesop's Fables* by Bob Chilcott, may not be. As for *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*, all one can say is that, while the story matches that to be found in Genesis, Michael Flanders' libretto takes a decidedly more modern

approach: "It looks like rain, now won't that just be jolly! A short sharp shower will do the flowers good!"

Tickets will go on sale at The Steyning Bookshop in May, but you will also be able to buy them from members of the choir and online at Eventbrite. Canon Nigel Hartley will have tickets after most 9:30 services as soon they are available.

David O'Dell

# Saint of the Month

## ISABELLA GILMORE, DEACONESS (1842-1923)

Isabella, born in 1842, was the sister of William Morris and was part of a wealthy family living in Epping Forest. In 1860 she married Arthur Gilmore, a naval officer. He died in 1882 leaving Isabella childless.

Without a clear purpose in life, she decided to train as a nurse at Guy's Hospital in London. Two years later when her widowed brother, Rendall, died, she adopted his eight children and brought them up as her own. In 1886 the Bishop of Rochester persuaded her to revive the female diaconate in his diocese. At first she was reluctant because of her commitments to her brother's children and because of her lack of theological training. However, she came to the conclusion that she had a vocation and later wrote: "It was just as if God's voice had called me and the intense rest and joy were beyond words".

In 1887 Isabella was ordained a deaconess and served in the poorest parishes in South London until her retirement in 1906. At the same time,

together with the bishop, they established a Diocesan Deaconess Institute and she served as Head of the Rochester Deaconesses earning a reputation as a strict disciplinarian and a tireless worker. William Morris said of his sister: "I preach socialism, you practice it".



*Deaconess Isabella Gilmore*

Isabella re-established the female diaconate in the Anglican Church and the Sisters, as they were known, are to be found in all Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

At her memorial service, Randall Davidson, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said that: "one day we will be able to trace much of the origin and root of the revival of the Deaconess Order to the work and example of Isabella Gilmore".

At Gilmore House, Clapham Common Northside, where she lived and trained deaconesses from 1891 until her retirement in 1906, a blue plaque has been erected.

In the Church's calendar she is remembered on 16 April.

# Families and Children

Hello Everyone. Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake extravaganza was a big success, with 119 people from the church, school and community joining us. We met a lot of new people and also had some great conversations - thanks to children who had mentioned my visits to school. Now they can put a face to the name.

I want to say a massive 'Thank you' to everyone who came and helped with this event. Well over 200 pancakes were made in such a short space of time, plates were washed and rewashed and the amazing team enabled us to share a joyous time with our community.



The first of our monthly Fire Pit Services has taken place. We had a good number of people in attendance at the service and half of those who attended were people whom I had not met before. It was a great little service; it is so good to start something new and we hope that it will grow in time.

Our partnership with the Steyning Community Wardens in running a board game cafe on the second Tuesday of each month is very exciting. This is open to everyone and we hope that it will develop as an

intergenerational group. Do, please, think of joining us on 8 April in the Penfold Hall; there is a wide selection of games and a chance for a warm drink and chat with new people.

On 7 April we are holding an Easter Messy Church session (see below) which, although in a different format from previously, will contain all you might expect of Messy Church.

Please keep an eye on our social media and website for more information regarding forthcoming events.

**Easter Messy Church:** We are re-starting Messy Church at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's with the first session on Monday 7 April, 10am to 12 noon. We are still looking for a number of volunteers to help at this popular event - please contact Gary.





*Our first firepit service was held on 9 March*

I have now been part of Steyning Parish Church Community for six months and it has been great to explore new activities and services with you. I thought I would recap and share some numbers with you all so that you can see the impact your generosity has had with my work here in Steyning.

I have either participated in, led or supported established teams in all of the following activities: School Partnership; weekly reading in school; Hallowe'en Pit Stop; Advent Stir Up; Pancake event; Children's Church; Fire Pit, Christmas and 4pm special services;



Steyning Grammar School services; Open the Book; Friends' events; Cake ministry to Steyning Primary School; Little Stars.

In my first three months in post, we had 4721 engagements with children and adults through the above events. In the following three months we had a further 5678 engagements with the community. This is all thanks to the church's generosity in creating and funding my role, but also the generosity seen in the time, help and new ideas from all of you.

I just want to thank everyone who has supported in any way, as we look forward in faith to exciting and engaging future events.

Blessings,  
Gary ([families@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:families@steyningparishchurch.org))

# Good Friday Sacred Concert

The Good Friday Sacred Concert this year on 18 April at 7:30pm will be *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer. The church choir will be joined by guest singers from the Chanctonbury Chorus and the soloists are Mark Kendall, tenor, Simon Madge, bass and Neil Aiton, organ.

Mark Kendall studied politics at university and later trained at the Royal Northern College of Music. During his short time as a professional singer he sang with opera companies, including Opera North and English Touring Opera, and in oratorios with choral societies, large and small. While running his own artists' management agency he did very little singing, instead travelling around Europe to market the

agency's singers. Over the last few years Mark has regained his love for singing.

Simon Madge is coached by the singer and conductor John Hanford and has appeared as a soloist with many local choirs including the Brighton Consort, East Sussex Bach Choir and The Baroque Collective. He has also been a guest soloist in choral workshops directed by Peter Allwood. He appeared in the Brighton Fringe Festival in 2024 and will be singing Schumann's *Dichterliebe* later this year in the Arundel Literary Festival.

Neil Aiton was a chorister at Chichester Cathedral where he first developed an interest in learning the organ, but had to wait until he had passed Grade 7 piano before he could start lessons! After starting lessons at the age of 12, he was allowed to practise on the organ in St Peter's Church, then across the road from the cathedral. This was facilitated by Peter Burch, the vicar of St Peter's, who subsequently became the vicar of Steyning Parish Church. When he left the Chichester Cathedral school Neil gained a music scholarship at St John's School, Leatherhead, where he passed Grade 8 Organ with distinction. After much consideration he decided to study medicine rather than music. Neil is very active in the music at St Andrew's and St. Cuthman's Church where he directs the Music Group, sings in the choir and accompanies the choir in choral evensong and concerts.





## Sir John Stainer and 'The Crucifixion'

Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) is one of the outstanding figures in the history of 19th century English church music. He held many important posts during his lifetime, including organist of St. Paul's Cathedral and academic posts at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the Royal Academy of Music in London. He was knighted in 1888 for his services to music.

The *Crucifixion* is in fact a 'Meditation' on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer. It was first performed in St Marylebone Church in London on 24 February 1887 and is scored for tenor and bass soloists, SATB choir and organ. The unfolding drama is interspersed with hymns for the congregation to sing, which, no doubt, adds to its popularity. Equally

popular is the chorus *Fling wide the gates* and the thrilling tenor solo *King ever glorious*.

The text to the *Crucifixion* was selected and written by the Reverend J Sparrow-Simpson and contrasts Christ's coming victory over death with the dreadful humiliation of crucifixion. Sadly this text has often been criticised as having too much Victorian piety, but this has not prevented the *Crucifixion* from enjoying great popularity and a permanent place in the English sacred choral repertoire.

There has always been a great tradition of support from the congregation and local community for the Good Friday Sacred Concert, and I am sure that it will continue this year.

Brian Sawyer  
Organist and Director of Music

## SAMS (St Andrew's Men's Society)



is a meeting of a group of male members of Steyning Parish Church and guests. We meet in the Penfold Hall, beginning with a glass or two of wine and nibbles. Then we enjoy a talk.

Do join us on Tuesday 29 April when Donald Flatt will continue to entertain us with 'The Second Forty Years'.

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start.

Any enquiries please to: Leonard Warner (01903 812752)

## Anagram for April

This month we ask how many words can you find from the letters of **RESURRECTION**. All words to have three or more letters, but only use each letter once. No capitalised words or plurals allowed. There are lots of words, so don't get *neurotic* about it, nobody will *censure* you. If you can find 50 or more you are doing really well.

# Eco Church - Managing the Churchyard

As most people who read this will know, St Andrew's and St Cuthman's church participates in the Eco Church scheme. As at December 2024, there were over 8,000 other participating churches in England and Wales.

The scheme is run by A Rocha UK which is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches to care for the environment. The Eco Church scheme aims to help churches to undertake this calling by providing a framework to support a church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth by using the Eco Church survey.

The survey covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings and energy
- Land and nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle



On achieving the relevant standard, a church can apply for the Eco Church award at bronze, silver or gold level. We can congratulate our church on achieving the silver award, with particular thanks to Christine Aubrey for her efforts in getting us there.

One of the five areas to survey is land and nature. We are fortunate in having a lovely churchyard and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, led by Simon Knowles, who work in the churchyard on a regular basis.

So, what does the land and nature survey look for in a churchyard?

A church needs to have a plan that recognises the 'significant contribution churches can make to the UK's target of 30% of land protected for nature by 2030'.



Another Christian charity, *Caring for God's Acre*, points out that a churchyard can be the most ancient enclosed land in a parish, sometimes dating back even to pre-Christian times. Apart from the grave digging, the grassland will be relatively undisturbed, perhaps with the wildflowers re-seeding over centuries or even longer. Old undisturbed land and unimproved grassland is now becoming rare in the UK and the diversity of grasses and flowers found in a churchyard can be important habitats for insects and other animals.

Although in Steyning we are lucky to be surrounded by beautiful countryside, we have to remember that generally speaking large areas of our country are being built on, concreted over and artificial grass is becoming increasingly popular, so any areas managed for nature have an important role to play.

One of the main themes in the land and nature survey is encouraging biodiversity. This means having as many mini-habitats as possible. So having grass of different lengths, leaving some

areas 'untidy', building log piles and having small areas of things like nettles and brambles which are important for a range of insects and birds, all help. Installing bird boxes, bat boxes and other means to encourage wildlife into the churchyard are encouraged as are monitoring the wildlife through regular surveys. All of this in the context of respecting the graves, access to the churchyard and the overall aesthetics.

Other things to consider when seeding or planting flowers or shrubs would be using native plants which are generally better for insects. We should also use peat-free products, not using synthetic herbicides or pesticides to promote and maintain soil health.

Eco Church is strongly supported by the Church of England; however, it is important to recognise that people will have different ideas on how a churchyard should look and be managed. What is beautiful to one person might look like an untidy mess to someone else. So we do our best to please everyone whilst keeping to Eco Church principles.

*David Littlejohns*



# **The Steyning Society**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, STEYNING BOWL AWARDS AND TALK**

This year's Steyning Bowl Awards will be presented after a short AGM.

*Please Note: the change of date from our normal Friday to Wednesday 16th April, due to Easter.*



The awards will focus on people and organisations which have made significant contributions to Steyning through voluntary work with the older generation.

After the presentation, Catherine Mant and Nick Bennett will share some of their memories in a light-hearted way about growing up in Steyning in the 1950s and 1960s.

The doors are open at 19.00 and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. There will also be a Bring and Buy table with Books and Puzzles.

The AGM will start at 19.30.  
Free to members and free to guests on this occasion.

All very welcome to attend.  
[www.steyningsociety.org.uk](http://www.steyningsociety.org.uk)

# **The Arts Society, Steyning**

## **APRIL LECTURE**

Monday 14 April 2025, 10am–12 noon  
*The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft,  
Steyning BN44 3XZ*

### **SIGNS, SYMBOLS AND ICONOGRAPHY: THE HIDDEN STORIES IN ART**

*with Leslie Primo*

To unravel the hidden iconography of paintings from the Italian Renaissance and appreciate how audiences of the day saw art, rather than how we view it today, we need to understand the meaning of religious and mythological signs. This lecture reveals the hidden stories in Renaissance paintings and equips viewers with an antique language and a new way of looking at paintings through signs, symbols and iconography.



*Image credit: commons.wikimedia.org*

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors  
[steyning@theartsociety.org](mailto:steyning@theartsociety.org)  
[www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk)

# Joyce Winifred Richardson (1930-2025)

Joyce's funeral was held in church on 4 February. At the service Fr Mark remarked on how central church had been to Joyce's life, first in her home village of Danehill and then here at St Andrew's and St Cuthman's. Latterly Joyce was a regular home communicant.

Joyce was well-known locally, not least for her 35 years serving school dinners at our primary school. She was also a champion knitter.

Fr Mark's sermon drew a comparison between Joyce's knitting, her nature, and the nature of God, who is creative, generous and warm.

Joyce was born on 9 June 1930 at the family home in Danehill, 'Rose Hill', a bungalow built by her father on one third of an acre. Her sister Annie Margaret was born seven years later. Joyce attended the local school (at the end of the lane) but missed six months when she contracted diphtheria at the age of seven. She started work at 14 on the deli counter at Sainsbury's in Haywards Heath. It was when cycling to work she met Frank – both of them cycled daily to the town. Frank's family lived on the estate at Sheffield Park where Frank's father was the Senior Gamekeeper.

The friendship blossomed as Joyce's mother, Emily organised the dances at Danehill Village Hall and inevitably

Frank was invited. Joyce and Frank were married at Danehill on 28 March 1953. Frank undertook his National Service in the 1950s where he learned his trade as a driver. On finishing his service, Frank looked for another job, which he found in Steyning, with Mr Woods. Joyce and Frank moved to a flat on the corner of Jarvis Lane and the High Street. This is now the vets, but then it was a showroom for Mr Woods' business, for which Frank worked driving taxis and coaches and valeting cars.

Their first daughter Dena was born in 1958 and the second, Marion in 1960.

Joyce, having been a regular churchgoer,

became as involved in life at St Andrew's (as it was then) as she and her family had been at All Saints' at Danehill. At that time the Vicar was Mr Egerton Williams and Joyce made friends through the various social events including Young Wives and continuing with Girl Guiding – and later the Trefoil Guild. Later she would help with the Ecumenical Lunch Club (which still meets at the Methodists) and as a member of the Committee for Churches Together in Steyning and District.

For 35 years from 1965 to 1990 Joyce enjoyed her work as a cook at Steyning Primary School, which proved handy when the children were growing up. By



the time she stepped down in 1990, Joyce had risen to head cook.

Frank and Joyce applied for a house on Shooting Field for their growing family, where Frank spent the rest of his life. By 1965, Frank, seeking better pay, had joined Brighton Corporation as a bus driver.

Frank died early, in 1983, their 30th year of marriage. The life insurance payout enabled Joyce to purchase their home under the Right-to-buy scheme. Joyce stayed there until 2002, until keeping the house and garden becoming too much of a challenge for her hips. She then moved, not far away, to a bungalow at Dingemans.

Their second daughter, Marion, had spent her entire career at Chailey Heritage where she ended up running the charity and all its activities. Shockingly Marion was diagnosed with a brain tumour, which turned out to be secondary cancer, and she died in July 2006.

Joyce was a very keen knitter, becoming famous for 'the best jumpers in Steyning' as proved in competitions organised by proprietors Betty and John Searle of the Wool Shop. Joyce knitted to order when customers wanted any pattern knitted. She carried on knitting until 2022, when she was prevented by osteoarthritis.

## Steyning History Society

Our meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2025 will be held, as usual, at the Steyning Centre, Coombe Court, 7.30 p.m. for a 7.45 p.m. start.

The talk is entitled *Charles II and his escape*, by Helen Poole.

Visitors are welcome at £5 per person.



## Shop at Co-op to Support FSW

Did you know simply by shopping at the Co-op you can raise vital funds for FSW? All you need to do is become a Co-op member if you aren't already (it only costs £1), then select FSW as your chosen charity and every time you make a

purchase, Co-op will make a donation. FSW are being supported by the scheme until the end of October this year, so there is lots of time to make a real difference. If you're already a member and haven't chosen a charity, you can do so easily by visiting this unique link - <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/87159> - which will take you straight to FSW's page. You can become a Co-op member either online or in store.



The Sussex Charity for Children  
Since 1890

# Recipe for April

## HOT CROSS BUN BROWNIES

### Ingredients

- 175g salted butter
- 80g golden syrup
- 280g golden caster sugar
- 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp freshly grated nutmeg (1/4 tsp ground nutmeg)
- 320g dark chocolate (70% cocoa), chopped into small pieces
- 4 medium free-range eggs, beaten
- 70g plain flour
- 2-3 hot cross buns, split, toasted and cooled

### Method

1. Melt the butter and syrup in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the sugar and spices, then simmer for 3-4 minutes until dissolved. Take off the heat, add the chocolate and mix with a wooden spoon. Add the beaten egg and mix in until smooth. Finally, add the flour and beat until incorporated.
2. Line a 20cm square tin with baking paper. Tear the toasted hot cross buns into rough 2cm square pieces and scatter them into the tin.



3. Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas
4. Spoon the brownie mix into the tin and allow to stand for 15 minutes so the mix settles over and into the buns.
4. Bake for 35-40 minutes until gently set and wobbly in the middle. Don't be tempted to leave the brownies in the oven longer than the cooking time as they'll become dry.
5. Allow to cool, then chill. Turn out, remove the baking paper and trim the edges (for nibbling!). Turn the right way up and cut into squares to serve. A knife dipped in hot water will make this much easier.

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## 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 found at the back of church. There is a suggested donation of at least £10, to include the cost of calligraphy.



# Bluebell Hues



Like many people, Bluebells are a blast of nostalgia for me. I remember woodland days out as a kid; clambering up trees and scrawling thrilling finds like ‘Woodpigeon’ in biro in soggy exercise books. Bluebell season always required a visit. There’s not much like the all-encompassing violet thwack of Bluebells in ancient woodland. Sickly-sweet scent in your nostrils, the hues of the rich indigo carpet somehow also hanging in the air, and the understory buzzing with busy pollinators, who, just like you, are making the most of this abundant explosion.

We love a limited edition, a special experience that we must make the most of. Like one-off characters in your cereal box, like happy hour, like Nightingales. And Bluebell fever is no different. Every April and May, Sussex woodlands erupt with millions of these vivid beauties, announcing that spring truly, finally, fabulously, has sprung. This early flowering provides a welcome bounty for struggling wildlife and allows Bluebells to make the most

of the sunlight before the woodland canopy becomes too dense.

Like many of our native wildflowers, the British Bluebell is up against it. At risk from habitat loss of precious ancient woodland, and threatened by a changing climate, the plant is also in competition with an interloper; the Spanish Bluebell. A non-native species, the Spanish Bluebell, tends to outcompete its native counterpart for resources such as light and space. It can also hybridise with our native species, diluting the native Bluebell’s characteristics. So how can you tell these two species apart?

The native Bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, has narrow leaves and tubular-bell shaped flowers of deep-violet blue which curl back at the edges. The flowers are generally down one side of the stem, which has a distinctive droop to it. The Spanish species, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, has broader leaves and a paler blue, conical shaped flower. The stem is upright and covered with flowers on all sides. A big difference between the two is the Spanish has no scent, whilst the native Bluebell smells sweet.







*Spanish Bluebell* © Neil Fletcher

The idea of plants ‘escaping’ your garden invokes notions of under-the-cover-of-darkness creeping, but it’s easier than you think for non-native species to go astray. Uncovered cuttings and garden waste can easily blow into communal areas or can be carried by animals, to proliferate in new, wild areas. If choosing to plant Bluebells in your garden, it’s best to choose the UK species for this reason. In a small way you could be supporting our native species to recolonise our wild woodlands, and to keep them smelling sweet.

*Kerry Williams*

*Communications Officer – Conservation*



## **Pastoral Care Team**

Would you, or anyone you know, like a member of our team to:

- Offer a listening ear, or chat for a few minutes if you are lonely
- Give a phone call to help ease a heavy burden
- Be there just to listen to your concerns or worries?

Please don’t hesitate to be in touch and feel free to email [care@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:care@steyningparishchurch.org) or speak to me 01903 810392.

Someone from the team is ready to be there at your side either by phone or in person.

*Judie Thomson,  
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*

## **Steyning Good Neighbours**

We are a volunteer organisation providing community based support in transporting people to attend medical appointments, or other activities which are beneficial for their wellbeing.

We rely on a team of volunteers to help us deliver this much needed and appreciated service and are always looking for new people to join us. New drivers are always welcome, and becoming a volunteer driver is easy.

If you are interested in finding out more, please give us a call on 01903 816181 or look at our website [www.steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk](http://www.steyninggoodneighbours.co.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Clare Vickers*

# Steyning Parish Church

## **Services for April (see p4 for Holy Week and Easter)**

### **Every Sunday**

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday with full choir. Usually, on third Sunday (NB not on Easter Day). with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages.

6:00pm Evening service:

First Sunday (6 April): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'Passiontide'

Second Sunday (13 April) said BCP / 1622 Evening Prayer and Outside Fire Pit Family service

Third Sunday (usually) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1622, with full choir and organ (NB: no evening service on Easter Day)

Fourth Sunday (27 April) Taizé service

### **Every Wednesday**

11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
(Fourth Wednesday, 23 April, with prayers for healing)

## **St James's, Ashurst**

## **Services for April (see p4 for Good Friday and Easter)**

### **Sundays**

10:30am Fourth Sunday (27 April) Holy Communion  
(No Second Sunday Family Service on Palm Sunday, 13 April)

### **VICAR OF STEYNING ST ANDREW'S & ST CUTHMAN'S AND RECTOR OF ST JAMES' ASHURST**

The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA , Tel: 879877

Parish Office Address: Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276; office@steyningparishchurch.org; www.steyningparishchurch.org

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan

Parish Office open: Tuesday to Friday 10am to midday