

# ***Church Magazine***

***for Steyning and Ashurst***

***Caring for  
God's Acre***

***April 2026***

***ISSUED FREE***

Registered Charity No 1132913

# Holy Week 2026

## **PALM SUNDAY, 29 MARCH \***

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, 30 MARCH**

11:30am Holy Communion with Meditation  
*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## **TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 31 MARCH**

11:30am Holy Communion with Meditation  
*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 1 APRIL**

11:30am Holy Communion with Meditation  
*A simple contemplative service at Steyning*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2 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, 3 APRIL**

Midday Liturgy of the Cross at Steyning  
2pm Stations of the Cross at Ashurst  
7:30pm Sacred Concert at Steyning:  
Fauré's Requiem  
*We worship at the foot of the cross.*

## **EASTER EVE, SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

8pm Easter Vigil & Blessing the Easter Garden at Steyning  
*Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!  
We light the Easter Candle and greet our risen Saviour.*

## **EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 5 APRIL \***

9:30am Choral Eucharist of Easter Morning, Steyning  
6pm Reflections for Easter (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).*

*\* See back page for our usual service times at both churches*

*Photo: Vinicius Barbosa on Unsplash*

# Contents

2	Holy Week	14	Families and Children
3	Magazine Donations	16	Pastoral Care
4	Prayer Diary		Christian Aid Coffee Morning
5	Pastoral Letter	17	Deanery Confirmation
	Parish Registers		SAMS
	Good Friday		Wednesday Coffee
6	Sunday Notices	18	Good Friday Sacred Concert
	Reflections		Steyping History Society
	From the Editor	19	Easter Hope
	Annual Parochial Church Meeting		Steyping History Society
7	Steyping Church Tower	20	My Cloud of Witnesses
8	Come and See, Go and Tell	23	Recipe
10	Saint of the Month		Steyping Society
11	Cuthman Icon	24	Goshawk - Phantom of the Forest
	Deanery Study Day	25	Church Flowers
	Taizé Service	26	Services in April
12	To Maintain and Regenerate		
13	Methodist Church Flower Festival		Cover Picture: Yew tree in Steyping churchyard (Simon Knowles)
	Create a Buzz		

## 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 you donate. Thank you.



I wish to Gift Aid my donation to 'Steyping 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 Steyping 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

# Prayer Diary for April

## Friday 3 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.

## Saturday 4 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, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Sunday 5 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; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

## Sunday 12 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.

## Sunday 19 April, Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth.

## Thursday 23 April, George, Martyr, Patron of England

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.

## Saturday 25 April, Mark the Evangelist

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.

## Sunday 26 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above.

## A Prayer for the Easter Season

Dear God, you meet us where we are and lead us into new beginnings. Breathe your hope into our hearts, your peace into our communities, and your welcome into every place we gather. Help us to walk in the



light of your resurrection, honouring each person as your beloved child. Make us people of openness, courage, and compassion, that all may find a home in your love.

# Pastoral Letter

**E**arly on Easter morning, while it is still dark, Mary Magdalene makes her way to the tomb. According to John's Gospel, she travels alone and has that memorable encounter with the man she first mistakes for a gardener. When she realises that he is Jesus, she moves to hug him. The words that Jesus said in reply are hard to translate, roughly "Do not cling to me!" (John 20:17).

Jesus explains that he has not yet ascended to the Father. His own journey was not over.

In this moment, Jesus invites us to move beyond our very human desire to 'cling' to what we once knew. This isn't a rejection of human intimacy – after all, Jesus warmly defended Mary of Bethany when she anointed his feet with her hair (John 12:1-8). Rather, it is a reminder that following him always involves a 'moving on.' He calls us out of our comfortable, secure places and leads us toward the expansive new life of his Kingdom.

In other words, life with Jesus is more like a road than a destination. It is a journey of constant discovery.

May you have a happy and blessed Easter season, as you follow Jesus in his risen life, as he leads you to places you may not expect to go.

*fr Mark*



## **Baptism**

26 April – Roman William Freddie Acton and Oakley Brandon Acton

## **Renewal of Vows**

28 February - Christopher and Denise Langley

## **Memorial Service**

31 March - Oliver Hayward

Steyning Parish Church  
of St Andrew and St Cuthman

# REQUIEM

by **Gabriel Fauré**  
with music by Mozart, Brahms and J.S. Bach  
on **Good Friday, 3 April 2026**  
at 7:30pm

The choir of Steyning Parish Church  
Helena van der Werff - Soprano  
Kit Holliday - Bass  
Neil Aiton - Organ  
Conducted by Brian Sawyer

Entry to the concert is free.  
There will be a retiring collection

## FROM THE EDITOR

**E**aster is arguably the most important time of the Christian calendar, when we celebrate Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection three days later.

It's a time for enjoying eggs, chocolate, chicks and rabbits, certainly, but is a time too for prayer and contemplation. The world needs our prayers now more than at any time with so many dreadful acts of aggression. What makes things worse is that faith is frequently invoked as justification for the fighting. True Christian values tell us a different story, and Islam's true message is one of peace and harmony.

We see some activists calling for Muslim prayer meetings to be banned, on the grounds that they are divisive and 'not Christian'. These people conveniently forget that Jesus, a Jew, regarded Gentiles as equal, and embraced all other faiths in his teaching. Easter blessings.

Bill

## STEYNING ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Note that the Annual Parish Meeting, when churchwardens are elected, and the APCM, when we elect members of the PCC and Deanery Synod as well as receive the annual reports and accounts, will be held in church on Sunday 19 April, following the 9:30am service. See weekly bulletins and Church notice boards for more information

## Sunday Notices

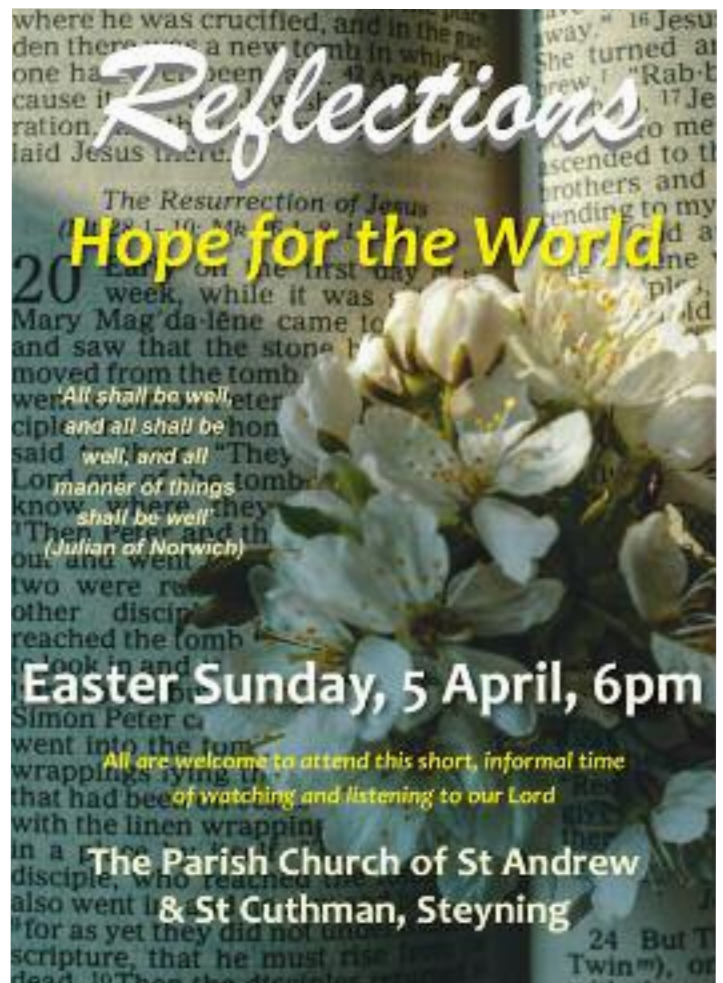
The weekly Sunday notice sheet, sent from the Parish Office, gives all the information about services, news and events. There is also the list of those needing our prayers. If you would like to receive this sheet please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org  
or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org  
or ring 01903 813276

## Reflections Service



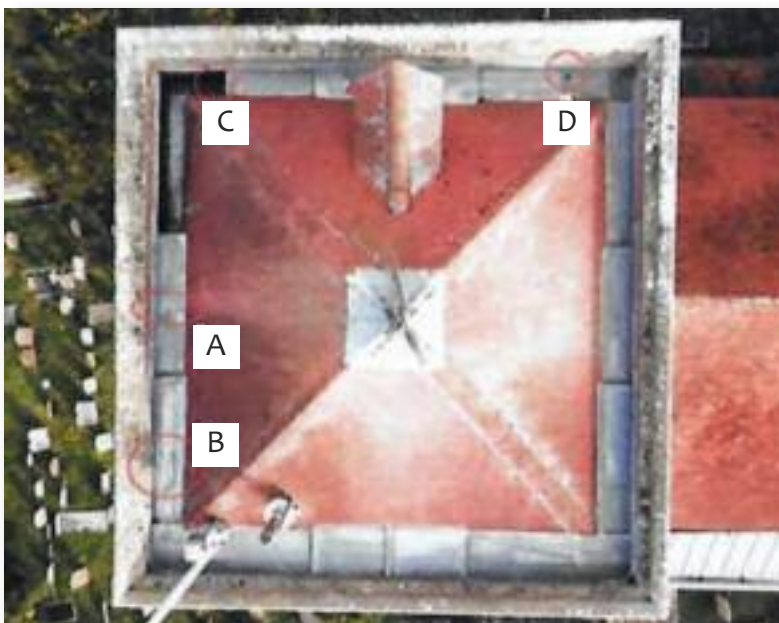
'Reflections' is a quiet contemplative time of about 40 minutes, with readings, prayer and music built around a 10-15 minute period of silence.

# Steyping Church Tower

**O**ur architect's survey has identified serious weaknesses in the drainage system at the top of the tower which have caused structural damage.

This has been made worse by exceptionally wet winters. Repairs and improvements to the tower roof are now a top priority. There are many other improvements and enhancements to the building required to bring it up to present day standards of accessibility and comfort, but first we need to attend to the tower.

A report by timber specialists showed that the water ingress, mainly from the four areas of defective rainwater channels shown in the overhead drone image below, has led to significant decay to the rafter ends and the wall plates (the timbers which support the rafters). Major rebuilding work is needed, which has provisionally been costed at more than £240,000. After a long delay we have received the necessary faculty permission from the Diocese and tenders are out with a view to starting work this summer.



Although we hope to receive some more grant aid (we are grateful to Sussex Historic Churches Trust and the Benefact Trust for their generous contributions), we need to cover most of the cost from our own reserves.

This is particularly challenging as we must retain money in our accounts in order to receive match funding for our future improvement plans. Urgent improvements include relocating the boiler to remove a safety hazard and free up space under the tower, while other essential works include a new servery, provision of an accessible entrance, with lobby and accessible WC, and additional toilet facilities – these will all help to make the space more welcoming and inclusive.

# Come and See, Go and Tell

## WITNESSES FROM THE HOLY LAND

‘Come and see, go and tell’ was the biblical invitation to the congregation of my previous church (St Philip and St James in Cheltenham) from Father Fadi Diab, rector of St Andrew’s Church Ramallah in the Palestinian West Bank. The partnership between the two churches was established in 2014, with the aim that, through reciprocal visits and personal friendships, we could better understand the everyday challenges of our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine and support them in the face of their sense of abandonment by the worldwide Church.

Our ensuing stay in the Holy Land, after excellent preparatory talks on its history, the biblical claim to the land and the current political situation, was life-changing for me. Apart from being accompanied by our new friends to holy sites, attending their church and hearing their witness, we have since maintained contact through return visits and WhatsApp groups. The most lasting memory of that first trip was the Palestinian Christians’ enduring resilience despite daily provocations, and their deep, abiding faith in the God who would make all things new. I can

still place myself in the Bible landscape, and re-imagine the face of Jesus through people I met.

At the end of January this year, Fr Fadi, with three young people from Ramallah, visited Cheltenham again, and I went back to hear him. As well as taking questions at an open event in the church, he celebrated the Eucharist at Candlemas with Bishop Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, who had herself just returned from the West Bank.

“Come and see...go and tell”: thus I feel bound to spread the news of the impact of this encounter in Cheltenham. Fr Fadi set the scene. He described how the occupied West Bank now resembles an open prison. The perimeter of the West Bank represents the prison walls. Its 700 towns and villages are the cells within. The jailers are soldiers of the Israeli Defence Forces, who control checkpoints now separating each of these towns and villages, and the illegal settlers, who cut down olive trees, kill farmers’ animals and force villagers to leave their land.

We heard from Ramzi, a young teacher, about his daily attempts to reach his school in a neighbouring



village: of setting out each morning often to find that the checkpoint had been arbitrarily closed; being redirected to another village and another checkpoint, sometimes also closed; forced to return home to teach his primary class online. It was unbearable to hear the stress and anxiety in his voice.

Christians in Palestine are beginning to struggle with their faith and their resilience, due to the increasing culture of restrictions and threats, and anxiety about the safety and future of their children. In the last five years, hundreds of them have left Palestine. Yet Fr Fadi is a man of peace, who has always spoken of his Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters in the region, and of the desire of many to live in harmony together on the land. This is made increasingly difficult by the aggression of the right wing Israeli government, the soldiers of the Israeli Defence Forces and the illegal Israeli settlers encroaching further and further into the villages of the West Bank. We need to be aware that walking alongside the people of Palestine, describing their plight, using the word 'Palestine' to denote Gaza, East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank cannot be construed as hatred of Jews, or anti-semitism.

Fr Fadi's message to the Christian church in our country is urgent: *"Nothing can change if the world wide church remains neutral. Who will save the people of Gaza and my community? As we walk the journey, we need companions:*



*Fr Fadi Diab  
(Catherine Berry)*

*brothers and sisters around the world, to pray for us, to advocate, to walk in the footsteps of Christ with us. Do not pray for us unless you are willing to take action for us" (even if that action is merely talking to others).*

To the gathered friends at St Philip and St James in Cheltenham, he said: *"Please know that your presence and*

*your advocacy and your ministry have become a hopeful sign... that you understand, that part of your Christian faith is a commitment to peace and justice in the world. Please know that what you do is a force of hope for us; it encourages us to stay in the land and to keep witnessing to God's love in Jesus".*

Is it possible for us to do the same?

*Catherine Berry*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**War and the  
Middle East Crisis**

**'Red Bucket'  
Easter Emergency Appeal  
and Meeting on  
'Christians and the Holy Land'**

**Penfold Church Hall  
Saturday, 18 April 10.30-12.00**

**All Welcome – Free Entry  
Collection for Appeal**

**Further details: see church notices  
or contact: Roger Williamson  
rjlmwilliamson@gmail.com  
01903 892989**

# Saint of the Month for April

## ANSELM, MONK & ARCHBISHOP (1033-1109)

**A**nselm was a Norman monk who was born at Aosta in the north of Italy in 1033. He suffered at the hands of his father and left home at the age of 23 to travel which led him to the monastery at Bec in Normandy.

The Prior of the monastery was Lanfranc, recognised as one of the foremost Christian thinkers of the time. Anselm was an able student which led to him contributing many original theological works, especially in the areas of philosophy and spirituality.

At a later date, the Church acknowledged him as the most important Christian writer of the medieval period and he was named as a Doctor of the Church in 1720.

In 1078 Herluin, the founder of the Bec monastery, died and Anselm was elected Abbot. He was a firm leader but was much respected by the monks. As Abbot, he again had contact with his former mentor, Lanfranc; now Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1089 Lanfranc died and the English clergy nominated Anselm to succeed him.

However William Rufus who had become King on the death of his father William the Conqueror refused to accept the nomination

and kept the Archbishopric vacant for four years pocketing the revenues of the See.

In 1093 the King thought he was terminally ill and offered the See to Anselm who agreed with reluctance, not only because he was content with his position at Bec but also because he distrusted the King. He clashed with Rufus on a number of occasions; notably over papal authority and regal jurisdiction. This led to his exile to Italy in 1097 until the King's death in 1100.

Anselm was again banished in 1103 under King Henry I and this was only ended by the intervention of the Pope. The compromise was selection of bishops by the Crown with the Church responsible for their investiture with the symbols of authority.

Anselm died on 21 April 1109 having served with distinction as Archbishop of Canterbury for 16 years. He was buried in the Cathedral in the chapel which bears his name. Thomas Becket petitioned for his canonisation in 1163 and, by 1165, the Canterbury Calendar included the date of his death as his commemoration.

As mentioned earlier, he was later named as a Doctor of the Church.



*A 19th-century stained-glass window depicting Anselm as archbishop*

## The Cuthman Icon

We were recently (on St Cuthman's Day, 8 February) very kindly gifted a copy of an icon depicting St Cuthman, the original of which is in the St Cuthman room in the parish centre attached to St Mary's RC Church, Preston Park, Brighton.

The icon was created by Rosie Bradley in memory of the mother of Paul Gurowich, husband of Celia Heneage who is part of a local group in Preston Park with a connection to Cuthman. Celia's friend Diana Beale lives in Cobnor, from where Cuthman is reputed to have originated.

All four of these people came to Steyning on St Cuthman's Day to honour our joint patron saint in the company of Fr Mark. We were very pleased to have received the copy of the icon, and hope to maintain the links with Cobnor and St Mary's in the future.



Cobnor is in Chichester Harbour, near Chidham. There is a field at Cobnor named after Cuthman, with a stone on which the shepherd boy Cuthman is said to have sat when tending his flock.

### **Storrington Deanery Study Day**

#### **INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL OF ST MATTHEW**

Led by Canon Dr Peter Sills  
(former Vice-Dean of Ely)

A day of exploring who Matthew was and why he wrote the Gospel, his sources and the major themes, and Matthew's picture of Jesus.

**Saturday 25 April, 10am to 3pm**

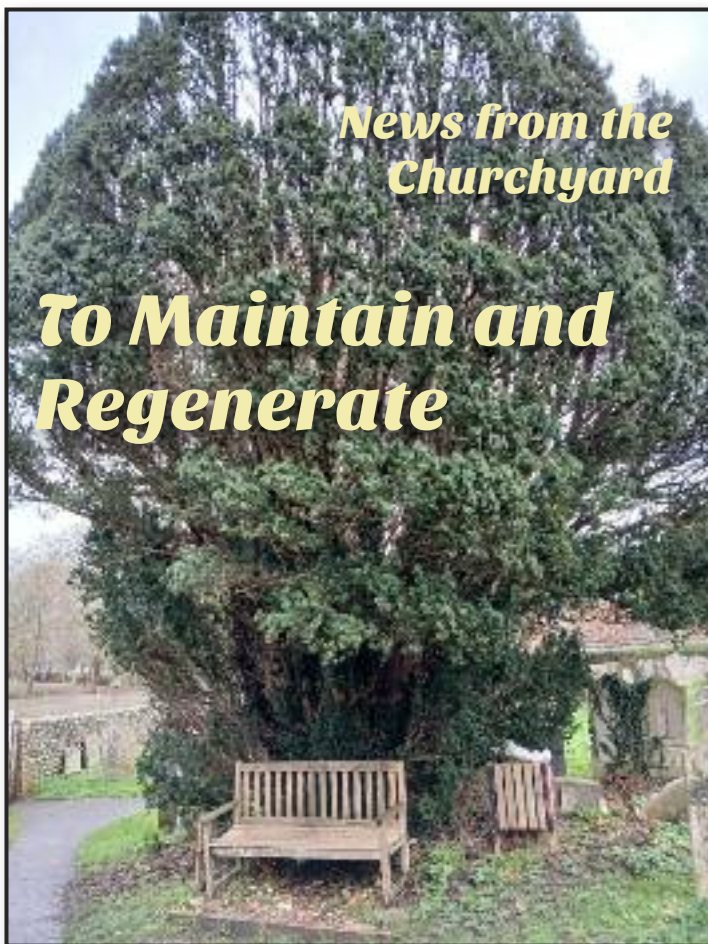
**at St Mary's Church,  
West Chiltington**

### **CANDLELIT TAIZÉ**

**On 4th Sunday of the month  
at 6pm. (lasting about 40 minutes)**

**Meditative chants, prayers and  
silence fostering a spirit of  
peace, reconciliation and faith.**

**Next Taizé – 26th April  
St Andrew & St Cuthman  
Parish Church, Steyning**



*News from the Churchyard*

*To Maintain and Regenerate*

**E**ver since the planning was approved to reduce certain trees or collections of trees, time ticks by so quickly, as we cannot do any work between the first week in March to the beginning of September due to the bird nesting season. Yet, this maintenance is essential to the growth of the trees, otherwise they grow spindly with little or no new growth to the lower trunk due to lack of light.

Over the past few weeks we have worked hard to introduce more light into certain areas, plus free trees up from overcrowding from adjacent overhanging branches. But interestingly, in our planning was the reduction of our 'Ivy Tree' on the North side of the Church. Horsham DC believed that this tree had enveloped another over at

*Above: A peaceful corner of the churchyard; Right and opposite: two sides of the recently-discovered memorial (Simon Knowles)*

least 100 years. As we started to cut back the ivy, we didn't find a tree, but a four sided memorial stone for three members of the 'Pinker' family, one of whom died in Rhodesia. No one would have known it was there unless we had carried out this work. Now we can see who it's for and the inscription "praising God" on one side.

Another essential piece of work was undertaken in 'Love Your Yew Week', run by the Diocese as part of the 'God's Acre' scheme. We trimmed back the Irish Yew to the North side, to encourage growth in the centre, after it had been ravaged by ivy. Already new shoots are appearing in the centre, where the ivy did most damage. This goes to show that essential work must take place to ensure longevity.



By the time this article appears, work will have taken place on the group of trees just as you enter through the lychgate. In the planning approval this area was designated to be reduced to around 1 metre. Robert and I have looked at this hard and will reduce it to just over 2 metres. Many will question “why”, which is understandable, but there is no new growth to the lower trunk and the trees are jammed in making them arch out to reach light. We will have to carry out this work so that maintenance in the future is easier.

We thank you for your continued support and our team is wholly committed to maintaining our churchyard’s beauty throughout 2026 and onwards.

*Simon Knowles*




Steyning  
Methodist  
Church

## Flower Festival

Floral displays and patchwork  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
 10am-4pm  
 Light lunches, refreshments, cake stall

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
 Open for refreshments at 12.30  
**Songs of Praise**  
 at 3pm followed by tea



Sow a Sunflower Seed...  
 Befriend a Bee...  
**CREATE a BUZZ!**

**Big Seed Give Away!**  
 The Farmers' Market - 4<sup>th</sup> April  
 Repair Cafe - 11<sup>th</sup> April

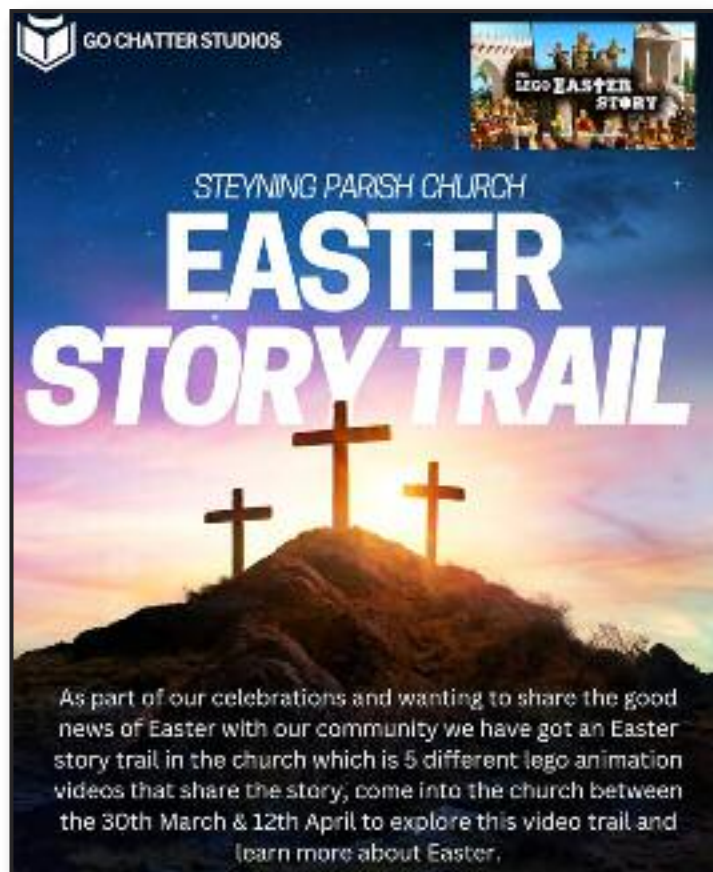
For info: [www.greeningsteyning.org](http://www.greeningsteyning.org) **GREENING**  
SEWING. SURE. SECURE.

# Families and Children

**H**ello Everyone, wow, Easter is here, a chocoholic's dream season with Easter egg hunts, giving and receiving of Easter eggs, hot cross buns that now have chocolate in them.

It's a non-stop chocolate time but perhaps we all get carried away in the commercial and chocolate hype of Easter and forget the real meaning of Easter – a time for us to reflect and then to celebrate what Jesus did for us. Let us take the time this Easter to not eat lots of chocolate, but to reflect instead. I know it may be hard to resist the chocolate, but I think we can do it.

From Palm Sunday (29 March) to 12 April we will be having our Easter video story trail in the church, so pop in with your phone and scan the QR codes. You can then watch different parts of the Easter story, from the points of view of different characters.



## ACTIVITY WALK

Our new activity – a Messy Church Activity Walk run in partnership with the Steyning Downlands Scheme – is on Tuesday 7 April, starting at 10:30am. It's not too late to book tickets; just go to the families and childrens page on our website.

## FAMILY CAMP

In June the Chichester Diocese family camp is happening again. Our music group and Gary will be joining Bishop Will and the rest of the family camp team to run an amazing God-filled time for families from across the Diocese. We would love any families from our own church family to come and join us.

19-21 June will be a fun filled weekend packed full of activities, games, crafts, camp fires and worship.



DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

## family camp 2026

**Friday 19 June to Sunday 21 June 2026**

A weekend family camp with **fun, worship and family time** held in the beautiful South Downs National Park

**WHAT IS FAMILY CAMP**

Come together with other families from across the diocese to enjoy a weekend of fun activities and adventure, combined with worship and family time. Designed primarily (but not exclusively) for families with primary school aged children

**EARLY BIRD OFFER**

**£25 per person\*** (under 5's free) includes two evening meals and use of all the Stedham Campsite facilities  
\*After Easter tickets will be £30 per person

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS**

For more information and to book your tickets please use the QR code or visit [www.trybooking.com/uk/FYCD](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYCD)  
Follow our Facebook page for all the latest news & updates

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact your Church Leader



The cost is very small, at £30 per person. Under fives are free. The cost includes the site fees, all activities as well as your two evening meals and Sunday breakfast.

The Music group and I would love you to join us. For a booking link please check out our website, or the leaflets that are in the church and the Penfold Hall. If you have any questions please speak to Gary.

### **BOARD GAME CAFÉS**

The board game café evening edition is once a month at the Penfold Hall on the fourth Monday from 6pm to 9pm. It will be great to see this group grow further – we are looking forward to our next one, on 27 April.

The afternoon Board game café is run Steying in partnership with the

Community Wardens, and is OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY AGE. The afternoon board game café runs once a month, again at the Penfold Hall, on the second Tuesday 3:15pm - 5:15pm. The next session is 14 April.

### **FIRE PIT SERVICES**

The Fire Pit Services are a different style from our normal services. They are held outside when weather permits, either outside the South door to St Andrew's & St Cuthman's or beside the tower (in the porch if too wet). This is a short service with time together at the end toasting marshmallows and getting to know each other. Our next service is Sunday 12 April. Do come and join us as we would love to see you.



### **LITTLE STARS**

The Monday group for parents and carers, babies and toddlers continues to go from strength to strength. We are still looking for three more people to join the team on a Thursday. Could you help out? It's once in every six weeks. This could be making drinks in the kitchen, or out in the hall chatting with adults or playing with the children. It is up to you how you get involved. This is a massive outreach for the church and it is such a lovely group of adults and children.

LITTLE STARS meets Mondays 1pm to 2:45pm, and Thursdays 9:30am to 11:30am.

*Blessings, Gary*



# Pastoral Care Team

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

- Offer a listening ear, or chat 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 call 01903 813276.

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



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

A photograph of a single purple rose bud on a green stem with several green leaves. The rose is positioned vertically on the right side of the flyer.

Our next grief café is in the Penfold Hall on Friday 10 April from 2pm until 4pm. Please feel free to join us if you are in need of support following a loss of any kind. Tea and coffee and biscuits are served in safe surroundings.

Due to increased attendance, and following discussion with our guests, we have decided to move to the larger of our two halls. This will mean there is more space to talk to each other, but it will also make it easier to move around safely and chat with different people if wanted or needed.

The small hall will be available for one-to-one conversations.

The same warm welcome with refreshments will be here for anyone in need of support in their loss of any kind.

*Judie Thomson,*  
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

## CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 16 May 2026 from 10am until Midday

We will be hosting a coffee morning at the Penfold Hall, Church Street.

An entrance fee of £5 entitles you to a cup of coffee, or other soft and hot drinks will be on offer, and a piece of cake.

We hope that we will have lots of plants for sale to enhance your garden.

This is the only fundraiser for Christian Aid in our Steyning and District Churches Together area so please save the date and bring plenty of cash with you.

*Any questions please ask Elizabeth Brown*

# Deanery Confirmation Service



**O**n Wednesday 22 April at 7:30pm, St Andrew's & St Cuthman's church will host the Storrington Deanery confirmation service. Candidates from across the deanery, including from our own parish, will be confirmed by the Bishop of Horsham, the Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager.

All are welcome to attend this joyful occasion, when we welcome those who publicly renew their baptismal vows, and declare their commitment to following Jesus Christ, sharing the bread and wine with us.

## SAMS

**F**irst, thanks to Larry Culliford for reading and explaining passages from his publication *Happy as Larry* (see March magazine) at our February meeting, accompanied by verse from David Scott.

We will next meet on Tuesday 28 April when John Edwards will talk on his 'Life of Projects'

Many thanks to the members of SAMS; £200 from the money in hand has been sent to Steyning Parochial Church Council for repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the church building.

SAMS (St Andrew's Mens Society) normally meets every two months, on the fourth Tuesday afternoon at 3:45pm in the Penfold Hall. Contact Len Warner for more information.



## Wednesday Coffee: Penfold Hall



Do join us in the Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, every Wednesday morning, We meet in the main 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.  
10am to 11:30am IN THE PENFOLD HALL  
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

# Good Friday Sacred Concert – 3 April

The choir, together with our guest singers, are now well under way in their preparation for the Good Friday Sacred Concert which is on 3 April at 7:30 pm.

As well as Gabriel Fauré's beautiful *Requiem* the concert will include music by Mozart, Brahms and J.S. Bach and a reading. The soloists are Helena van der Werff, soprano, Kit Holliday, bass and Neil Aiton, organ. Entry to the concert is free and there will be a retiring collection.

Image: Francesco Alberti (Unsplash)



The *Requiem* is the most well-known of Fauré's large scale works and certainly one of the most popular in the choral music repertoire. Fauré started composing the *Requiem* in 1887 and spent a great deal of time revising and adding to the original version which was first performed in 1888 in the Church of

the Madeline in Paris. Fauré's reasons for composing the *Requiem* are uncertain, but one possible explanation may have been the death of his father in 1885. Fauré himself said: "My *Requiem* wasn't composed for anything – for pleasure, if I may call it that!"

His final version with a score for full orchestra was first performed at the Trocadero in Paris in 1900. In 1924 the *Requiem*, in its full orchestral version, was performed at Fauré's own funeral. It was not performed in England until 1936. Of his gentle masterpiece Fauré wrote: "Everything I have managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put in my *Requiem*, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

Brian Sawyer

## Steyning History Society

The next meeting of the Steyning History Society is on **Wednesday 8 April**.

This is a talk entitled *The Royal Pavilion Military Hospital in the First World War* by Louise Peskett.

As usual, our meetings are held at the Steyning Centre, on the second Wednesday of each month from September through to May. You are welcome to arrive at the hall from 7:30pm, and our presentations commence at 7:45pm and run through until 9pm.

Annual subscriptions: £15 per person. Visitors welcome: £5 per person.



Dome Military Hospital  
(Public Domain)

# Easter Hope

In January I wrote in this magazine about darkness, sadness and grief. In February came joy, and now it's Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us all living, eternal hope.

This hope is not a passive one, but a living one, that I have found will provide us with the reassurance that we can survive all pressures life throws at us, and give us endurance to overcome all difficulties. Easter assures us that death is not the end – Jesus shows us this because he is the resurrection, giving confidence about the new life to come.

Having said all that I am asking myself and you: “What does hope look like for all of us in these hard times, or others enduring even harder times?”

I think that for many people in war-torn countries their daily reality must be a form of Good Friday agony, and yet the stories I read tell me that in the face of loss and brokenness, people find a deep and enduring hope rooted in community, faith and a real sense of belonging. Love for others is what shines through in every story from Africa, Middle East Ukraine, etc.

To love requires sacrifice and hope comes through actions of love... so love, hope and sacrifice are all bound up together. I think hope comes when I do not wish to be defined by my circumstances but more about any small acts of kindness or service I may be able to give, or any joy I can bring to and others and myself.



Have you ever lost hope? Perhaps we all have at some time looked at something and the solution is invisible, and there seems no hope. I think Jesus' followers had all lost hope after his crucifixion:

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him.”* John 20:1-2 (NIV)

At that moment all that Jesus had said and taught the disciples had flown out of the window and hope seemed lost.

As the Easter season continues through all of April we can hear, or read, the stories of how Jesus had to work really hard to help his friends regain their understanding of hope. He did this by walking beside them as they went to

Jerusalem, or making breakfast for them by the sea shore. Jesus was showing them hope, showing them a new way of living and the promise of a new life.

God wants us so much to be his friend, walking and cooking with us along our life, and he hopes and

longs for us all to simply turn towards him, talk to him and accept his unconditional love and hopes for us. This is Easter hope, this is Easter love.

Christ is risen... He is risen indeed.  
Happy Easter

Chris Fitton

# My Cloud of Witnesses

## DEFENDERS OF “LIFE IN ALL ITS FULNESS” (JOHN 10:10)

### PART 5 - TRUE TO THIS EARTH

In this article, I would like us to approach the big picture. We live in a world in crisis. Experts cannot agree on the best current description. Is it a mega-crisis (huge), a poly-crisis (many crises) or an omni-crisis (everything)? Or are we being alarmist to think in this way? Believers in ‘business as usual’ and techno-optimists seem to think that there is nothing going on that a good dose of economic growth won’t cure. They think there will be a technical solution for everything we need, even though we may not have invented or discovered it yet.

Elon Musk, the richest man in the world (except for one day in September when he surrendered the title briefly), is hedging his bets and thinks that we must have a ‘back up planet’ so that human life can continue on Mars. You may have seen pictures of him in his ‘Occupy Mars’ T-shirt, his riposte to the ‘Occupy Wall Street’ movement which campaigned for the richest 1% to pay to make living conditions of the poorest here on earth bearable. Musk does not seem to set much store by the value of the life of the poorest on this planet. He was instrumental in President Trump scrapping USAID, the official development agency which has played such an important part in financing HIV/AIDS programmes in Africa, and much else besides. His fellow tech-billionaire Bill Gates (the Microsoft pioneer turned philanthropist) has accused him of “killing the world’s

poorest children”. In case that sounds brutal, melodramatic and exaggerated, the reputable medical journal *The Lancet* has calculated that the aid cuts could lead to 14 million additional deaths in poor countries by 2030, 4.5 million of whom will be children under five.

Thirty years ago, Revd Alan Race (the interfaith specialist) and I edited a book entitled *True to this Earth* at the time of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations (1995). The book was in two parts. In the first part, mostly secular authors looked at the main challenges to human survival. In the second part, authors responded to each of these challenges with a chapter headed ‘faith in’ creation, politics, justice, peace etc. We need to base policy on the best expertise available, and to present faith perspectives which could contribute to discussion of building a good and sustainable society. I still think that this is a sound approach, although 30 years on it would need to be completely updated as the challenges, particularly the climate emergency, have become more acute and compacted.



Revd Canon Alan Race (Reading Minster Church)

The Interlocking nature of the crises has also become more apparent. Unlike Elon Musk, we did not look outside our planet for a place to continue human life. We deliberately called the book *True to this Earth: Global Challenges and Transforming Faith*.

At a meeting of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP, 1989) in Australia, participants were welcomed onto her people's historic land by Professor Eve Fesl. She was the first professor of aboriginal studies at an Australian university. Explaining the spirituality of the Native Australians, she said: "The earth is our Mother, and if we destroy the earth, we will destroy ourselves - whether that is part of your spirituality or not." Too often our spirituality is not rooted enough to admit that.

As early as 1975, fellow Australian, Charles Birch, an academic biologist and Christian thinker, had sought to raise the alarm about the environmental threat to human survival at the Nairobi Assembly of the World Council of Churches. He likened humanity's direction of travel to the *Titanic* on a collision course with reality. We were all, literally, 'in the same boat'. Whether we had a first class cabin or a third class cabin would ultimately make no difference, he warned. The only solution was quickly and decisively to change direction. We have largely lost 50 years through our inadequate response to the challenge.

An increasing number of books are now being published with titles such as: *There is no planet B* - that is by Mike Berners-Lee, the brother of the inventor of the World Wide Web; the former



*Dr Eve Fesl in 1989. (credit: Monash University Archives / Richard Crompton)*

Pope, Francis, published an Encyclical on the preservation of creation, entitled *Laudato si*; the Buddhist Dalai Lama and co-author Albrecht Alt have written *Our Only Home*. The scientist Carl Sagan pointed out that to make an apple pie, you have first to create a universe. Perhaps that is the true message of the creation stories in Genesis – look how much of the story had to happen before Adam ('the earthling') could appear and humans were told to look after and tend the garden.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, was quoted as saying that Christianity is the "most materialist of all religions." If one includes the Hebrew scriptures - our Old Testament - this is certainly true. The scholar R. Norman Whybray reviewed the books of the Old Testament to discover their teaching about what constitutes a good society. In his posthumously published book *The Good Life in the Old Testament*, he identified twelve recurrent features:

- 1) Security;
- 2) a land to live in;
- 3) power;
- 4) food and sustenance;
- 5) a long life;
- 6) wealth;
- 7) family;
- 8) justice;
- 9) laws;
- 10) wisdom;
- 11) pleasure;
- 12) trust in God.



*Prof Charles Birch  
(World Council of Churches)*

In many ways, this reads like a modern and down-to-earth checklist for a good society. But many Christians would still argue that the New Testament changes this completely. For them, faith in Christ is about saving individual souls for an afterlife with him.

However, in his letter to the Romans, St Paul speaks of the Christian hope that “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay” and argues that “the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now”. (Romans 8:21-22) On the whole, until recently, and with the exception of the Orthodox Churches of the East, Christian theologians have been weak in their understanding of the web of creation, and how everything fits together.

At an interfaith meeting, I had an experience of the dynamic and process-related philosophy which Buddhism embraces. A Buddhist monk stood up after a session on the environment and said the following: “The cloud is in my pullover”. He seemed to speak perfectly good English, but I’m sure I was not alone in wondering where this intervention was going! He continued:

“Yes, the rain falls from the cloud, the grass grows, the sheep eat the grass, the wool is taken from the sheep and knitted to make my pullover”.

We are part of the creation and cannot exist without it.

Some of the early Christian theologians, particularly those who are still revered by the Orthodox churches, had a much stronger sense than we do of how everything fits together and the human place in the overall pattern and our dependence on natural processes for our bodily survival.

The 2nd century theologian Irenaeus coined the phrase “gloria Dei, homo vivens” (The glory of God is the living human being). In a lecture at the Catholic University of Leuven in February 1980, a few weeks before his martyrdom, Archbishop Romero of El Salvador made this statement even more radical: “Gloria Dei, pauper vivens” (The glory of God is the poor person fully alive).

All the big ‘eco’ words are derived from the Greek *oikos* meaning house or home. ‘Ecology’ and ‘Economy’ are the rules and norms to take care of our global home, the *Oikumene*, or whole inhabited earth. The environmental crisis should make us much more conscious of our small place in the universe. The efforts at St Andrew’s & St Cuthman’s, and at St James’s, taken to make our community an eco-church and to tend our churchyards should serve as a reminder of this – and provide the impetus to regard these steps as contributions to the preservation of life on our planet.

*Roger Williamson*

# Recipe for April

## CHOCOLATE ORANGE HOT CROSS BUN TRIFLE

### Ingredients

6 chocolate and salted caramel hot cross buns  
170g three-fruit marmalade  
2 x 500g packs fresh custard  
300ml pot whipping cream  
4 large oranges, zested and segmented  
3 tbsp caster sugar  
½ tsp ground cinnamon  
4 tbsp chocolate flavour sauce

### Method

1. Split the hot cross buns in half. Tear the bottom halves and two of the top halves into chunks and keep the remaining tops whole; set aside.  
2. Heat the marmalade in the microwave for 30-60 secs to loosen, then leave to cool until just warm to touch. Stir into the custard.  
3. Whip the cream to soft peaks with most of the orange zest.

4. Put the caster sugar and cinnamon in a small saucepan with 3 tbsp water. Heat gently for 4-6 mins until syrupy, swirling the pan occasionally (don't stir).

5. Line a 3-4ltr trifle dish with the torn hot cross buns, then spoon over half the marmalade custard.



Add a layer of orange segments (reserving a quarter to serve), then top with two-thirds of the cream and spoon over 3 tbsp chocolate sauce.

6. Top with the remaining custard and cream; drizzle with the remaining chocolate sauce.

7. Brush the bun tops with the cinnamon syrup, then place on top of the trifle with the remaining orange segments. Scatter over the remaining orange zest to serve.

Becky

## The Steyning Society

**Friday 17 April at 7pm for 7:30**  
**The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning.**

### AGM and Steyning Bowl Awards

We are holding the AGM and presentation of the Steyning Bowl Awards at the Steyning Centre at 7:30 on Friday 17th April 2026.

This will be followed by a short talk by Drs Maddie Blackburn and Paul Dennison entitled *Moving to Steyning* when they will tell us about their experiences of moving to the Town.

This year the Bowl awards will focus on those who have made significant contributions to music in Steyning and the surrounding area. They will be presented by Neil Jenkins, who is an internationally acclaimed tenor and lives locally.

The doors are open at 7pm and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival.

All very welcome to attend.

[www.steyningsociety.org.uk](http://www.steyningsociety.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 269859



# Goshawk: Phantom of the Forest



Goshawk juvenile © Pete Richman

**F**or many of us, film and literature may be the closest we get to experiencing the sharp detail of certain charismatic wildlife goliaths; the breath of a Bengal Tiger, the splashing breach of a Humpback Whale or the down-the-barrel fire-eyed stare of a Goshawk. If you've watched this year's film adaptation of Helen Macdonald's bestseller, *H is for Hawk*, you'll have been treated to some beautiful close-ups of these impeccable birds. Cherish these shots – they're not common.

Nicknamed 'Phantom of the Forest', Goshawks are extremely secretive, flying under the radar and shrouded in mysterious woodland wonder. It's said their name was bestowed upon them by medieval falconers; Goose-hawk, for their apparent ability to take down geese. Anyone who's ever had a run in

with a lairy farmyard goose will know they're quite a contender, and the name immediately conjures images of the Goshawk's mighty strength and hunting prowess.

Goshawks share a similar barred chest, yellow legs, and bright eyes with their cousin, the Sparrowhawk. But the similarity ends with size, and with a



Goshawk © Paul Marten

wingspan of up to five feet, a female Goshawk can easily weigh four times as much as a female Sparrowhawk.

Despite their impressive bulk, Goshawks are tricky to spot, and surprisingly agile. Preferring to nest and hunt in deep forest, they whip through thicket and glade at speeds of up to 38 miles per hour to silently dispatch unsuspecting birds and small mammals with spearing golden talons.

Like many awesome predators, these magnificent birds get a rough reputation. Historically persecuted, by the late 19th century Goshawks were all but extinct in the UK. Due to accidental escapees, and perhaps some deliberate releases, these birds have bounced back. Although, their trauma is not as much in the past as you would like to assume, with vilification and very real crimes against the species still happening. Along with added threats of habitat loss and climate change, this serial oppression has slowed their steely return.



*Goshawk on nest © Paul Marten*

But return they do. Although populations are patchy across the UK, those that do persist are strong in number, including here in Sussex, with around 65 breeding pairs now thought to be resident. If you see one, you're ever so lucky. But if you miss out, don't despair. Lean into the mystery, the stuff of film, and tales of the forest. You might not have seen them. But they've probably seen you.

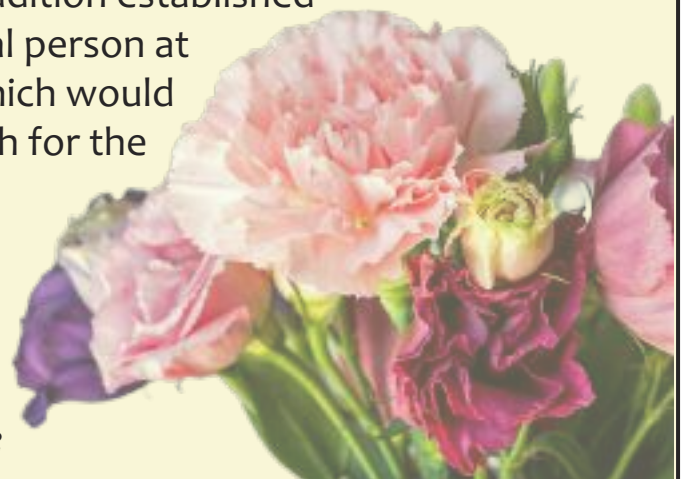
*Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust*

## ***Church Flowers in April***

4 and 11 April - *Easter decorating, all volunteers welcome*  
18 and 25 April - *Sandra Humphries*

As always there are no altar flowers during Lent. However looking ahead to Easter I would like to remind people of a tradition established some years ago in remembrance of a special person at this time. A lily or lilies could be donated which would then be used in the decorating of the church for the Easter celebrations. This might also be of interest to any newcomers to Steyning. Any donations would be gratefully received which could be left at the Parish office. Thank you.

*Carol McKechnie*



# STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for April

## Every Sunday

- 8am 1662 Holy Communion Service
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday with full choir, except on Sunday 19 April, with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages.
- 6pm Evening service:  
First Sunday (5 April): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful Easter-themed evening service (see p6).  
Second Sunday (12 April) Firepit service (outside by the tower, in the porch if wet)  
Second Sunday (12 April) : said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service  
Third Sunday (19 April) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, with full choir and organ  
Fourth Sunday (26 April) Taizé service

## Every Wednesday

- 11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
Last Wednesday (29 April); with prayers for healing

# ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for April

## Sundays

- 11am First Sunday (5 April) Easter Parish Communion
- 10:30am Fourth Sunday (26 April) Holy Communion  
*There will be no family service in April. This is because Easter Day occurs only a week before.*

## See Page 2 for Holy Week and Easter Services

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

The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA , Tel: 01903 879877

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Office Manager: vacant

Parish Office open: Monday to Thursday 10am to midday