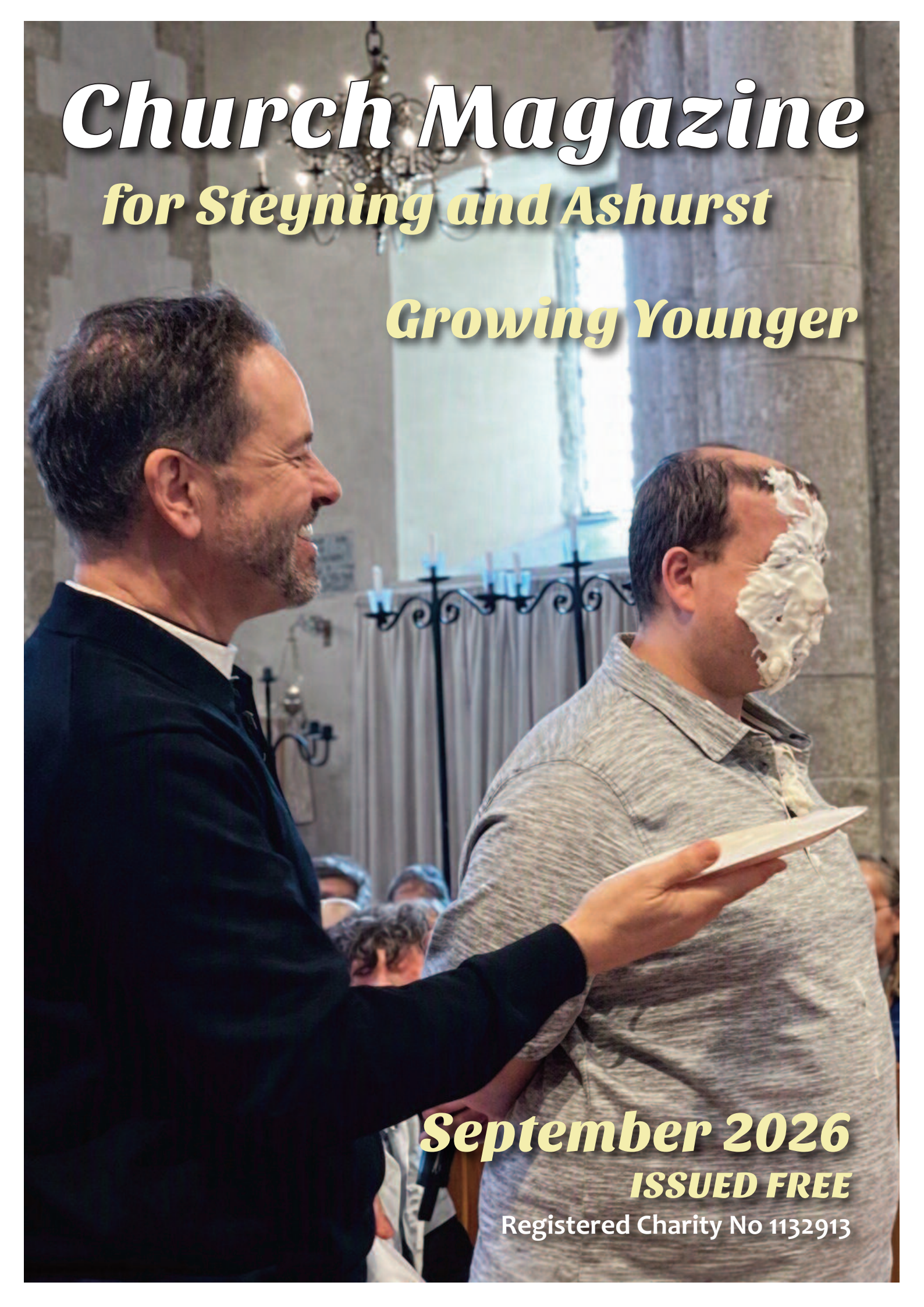




Church Magazine

for Steyning and Ashurst

Growing Younger

September 2026

ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913

Classical Recitals

Saturday 5th September 2026 - 1pm

John Twitchen - Tenor
Helen Ridout - Piano
Florentine String Quartet



A programme of English music featuring the song cycle 'On Wenlock Edge' by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

John is a Sussex based tenor making a name for himself in Oratorio, Opera and as a Recitalist. He'll be performing alongside well-established musicians who between them have a wealth of experience on the concert platform. johnwtwitchentenor.co.uk

Tickets £15 available on the door or in advance from the Steyning Bookshop or online

St. Andrew's & St. Cuthman's Parish Church, Vicarage Rd Steyning BN44 3YQ



baxtersstudio.co.uk

PROPER PREPARATION FOR DEATH DROP IN EVENT

Wednesday 23rd September

10am - 12 noon
Penfold Hall

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COFFEE AND AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ASK PRACTICAL
QUESTIONS TO US AND OUR LOCAL FUNERAL
DIRECTORS, SOLICITORS AND A
ST BARNABAS HOSPICE
REPRESENTATIVE

LET'S TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF
PREPARING FOR DEATH

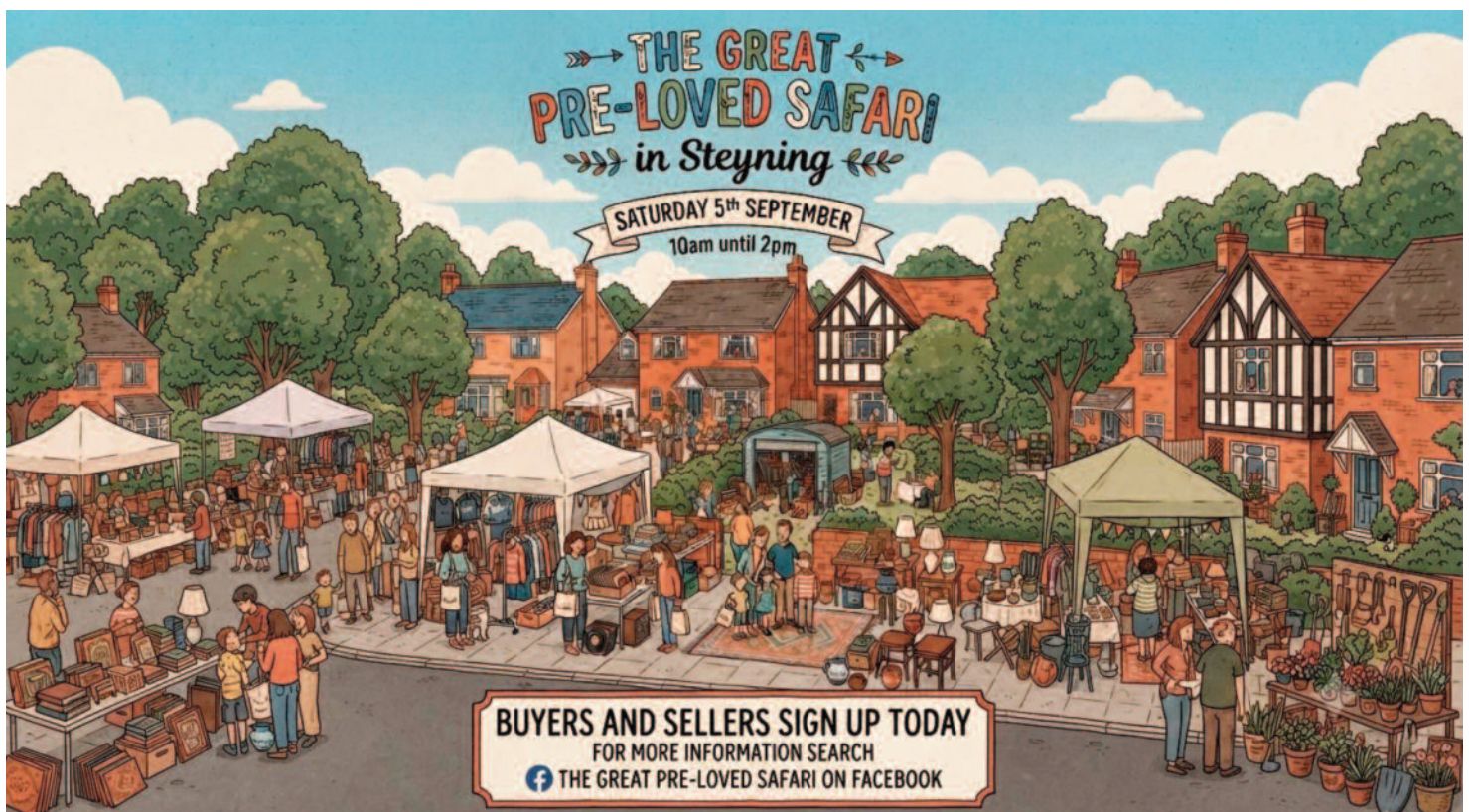
 Steyning Parish Church
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THE GREAT PRE-LOVED SAFARI in Steyning

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
10am until 2pm



BUYERS AND SELLERS SIGN UP TODAY
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEARCH
 THE GREAT PRE-LOVED SAFARI ON FACEBOOK

Discover the ultimate community bargain hunt at the Great Preloved Safari in Steyning on 5 September from 10am until 2pm. Whether you are clearing out clutter or hunting for hidden gems, anyone is welcome to join the fun! Sell your pre-loved items right from the comfort of your own front garden—a brilliant, effortless way to sell without ever leaving home. Buyers can get an official trail map featuring sellers' addresses on the Facebook page.

Contents

2	Community Announcements	14	Families and Children
3	Magazine Donations	16	Prayer Group
4	Prayer Diary		Ride and Stride
5	Pastoral Letter	17	Churchyard Path Lighting
	SAMS	18	Two Years of Family Outreach
6	Weekly Notices	19	Parish Registers
	Reflections	20	Sussex Wildlife Trust
	From the Editor	21	Church Flowers
7	Caring for Creation		Steyping History Society
	FSW Musical Extravaganza	22	Services in August
8	Abundant Mercy and Grace		
10	Saint of the Month		
11	Pastoral Care		
	Wednesday Coffee		
12	Churchyard Group		
13	The Steyping Society		

Cover picture: One of the highlights of Gary's ministry came in his talk to the Steyping Primary School 2025 Easter service when he received a pie in the face from the Vicar, as a demonstration of taking responsibility for others' transgressions, as Jesus had done on Good Friday.

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 September

6 September, Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth.

13 September, Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service.

14 September, Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake.



20 September, Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them.

21 September, Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ.

27 September, Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face.

29 September, Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth.

Collect for the Environment

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory.

(Creationtide is 1 September to 4 October)

Pastoral Letter

It's often good to try something new. Gary, the Families and Children's Worker at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's has been with us now for two years and he is very good at new ideas.

If you are a regular reader of this magazine you will have seen Gary's pages and therefore had a glimpse of new ways he has helped our church connect with families and children since he began work in September 2024. We will take the opportunity to celebrate these connections at Gary's anniversary service on the first Sunday in September. (If you are unable to be with us at the Sung Eucharist that morning, watch out for the video of the interview with Gary on the sermon's page of our website.)



Not surprisingly a special focus of Gary's energy has been our church school, Steyning Primary, where Gary is well known to the whole school community and has also been instrumental in getting other members of the congregation involved, from baking cakes for the staff to reading one-to-one with some of the children.

In another new innovation, we will be keeping the third Sunday of September as 'Education Sunday' by holding our Music Group Eucharist in the school hall rather than at church – at 10am instead 9:30am to allow people to make the journey.

As far as I know, this will be the first time we have celebrated 'Education Sunday' in Steyning, a remarkable fact given that 'Education Sunday' is a long-established initiative first established in 1848, and that our local schools in Steyning – and indeed Ashurst – have such a long history. This service on 20 September will be led by our Music Group as usual and we will involve children and school staff in the service.

Please join us for this special service if you can.

Fr Mark

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



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29 September, at 3:45pm in the Penfold Hall. Programme change: instead of Peter Firth's talk, John Edwards will lead a discussion on 'The Future of the Church of England in 2050'.

FROM THE EDITOR

Two years have now passed since we welcomed Gary as our families and children's worker, as you will read on p18.

We may not yet have a church full of young families; that would be great, but it was never really the intention. I think we knew from the outset that family life at present involves parents supporting their children in all sorts of activities throughout the weekend. My own grandchildren are fully occupied with cricket, football, rugby, Irish dancing - and all done seriously and to a high standard, so there's little time for what we regarded as 'normal' family life, let alone worship.

We do intend to do more to encourage younger people into church at other times beside Sundays, but at present Gary's focus is on showing our families that church people can be fun, that we do far more than pray. We go into the primary school and run a variety of things in the Penfold Hall that appeal to the young people.

It's all a sort of light evangelism. Many Christians might disagree as you can't, in their view, have evangelism that's not focused primarily on Scripture. Literally, evangelism is all about spreading the good news of Jesus, and in my view this can be done just as well by being welcoming, friendly, inclusive, accessible and above all, non-judgemental. So everybody, of any age, can feel part of a real Christian community. That's why we offer a variety of worship styles in our churches, different, but all focused on Jesus' teaching.

Blessings, Bill

Sunday Notices

The weekly 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 10-12 minute period of silence.

Caring for Creation

An important decision from the recent C of E General Synod was to finally approve a new annual Festival of Creation in Christ, to be celebrated in Church of England churches on the first Sunday in September.

This helps mark the start of the church's Season of Creation, which lasts from 1 September to 4 October (Saint Francis' day).

Celebrating God's creation by looking after the environment is something we can do all year - not just during September. As a church, we do this through the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, in which St Andrew's & St Cuthman's has gained a Silver Award, and we are working towards Gold. We would like our own dedicated person to oversee environmental topics – could this be you?

We can all contribute, by each household signing up to Creation Care, run, like Eco Church, by environmental organisation A Rocha – sign up at creationcare.org.uk. It covers seven

areas of household life, and all you have to do is answer a simple questionnaire on each topic. Points scored result in a grading – Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Achieving Gold isn't difficult. You don't need to have costly things like heat pumps, solar panels or an electric car, but any of these will help of course. It's more about your attitude to stewardship of the planet.

Let's all have a go. We might be surprised at what we can achieve; and it can all count towards a Gold Eco church plaque.

Bill Thomson



Image: Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Musical Extravaganza for FSW

Please join us for the return of our *Musical Extravaganza* featuring St. Andrew's & St Cuthman's Parish Church Choir and Music Group – as you have never heard them before!

Together with special guests Steyning Primary School Choir.

When: Saturday 3 October
Time: 4pm to 5:30pm
Place: - Steyning Parish Church
Entrance Fee: £8 including refreshments (children free)

Tickets available in advance from Penny Warner, or on the door. There will be a raffle.

All proceeds in aid of Family Support Work



THE SUSSEX CHARITY FOR CHILDREN
SINCE 1890

Abundant Mercy and Grace



DO
justly
love
mercy
walk
humbly
Micah 6:8

Picture by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

September is a time of balance, a time when harvests are being gathered in, though this year much has ripened early; a time for setting the balance between endings and beginnings; a time of change all around us. For some it is a time of letting go, a time of inward focus and renewal, but for all of us, I hope it is a time of thankfulness for abundance.

As we watch summer shift to autumn we are reminded that change is natural and to embrace and delight in the cycles of life; it reminds us about the blessings we receive in abundance. As the nights draw in let this shift now slow us down so we can find time for personal reflections and prayer.

Recently I was reading the Old Testament story of King David found in 2 Samuel, describing how he ordered a census of Israel and Judah, but God was not pleased, because at that time a man only had the right to count what

belonged to him, and Israel didn't belong to David. It belonged to God. So God gave David three rather poor options as a punishment: they involved

- 1 A seven-day famine, or
- 2 Fighting their enemies, or
- 3 A three-day plague.

If he chose the seven-day famine Israel would be at the mercy of their neighbours, and he didn't want that, or if he chose fighting they would definitely be killed in large numbers, and that was definitely not to be considered. So he chose the plague option in the hope that only some Israelites – both rich and poor – would die, but mainly he chose this because he knew God was more merciful and gracious than his fellow man.

David said to God: "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

2 Samuel 24:14

What is mercy? I wonder when you have experienced God's mercy? I know the dictionary tells me that mercy is being compassionate, forgiving, gracious, and loving. The mercies of God are abundant. If collected together every September, like our harvests, they would be in abundantly high mounds. I think the mercy of God is an act of supreme love that embraces more understanding and compassion than I can imagine, because it triumphs when justice might say otherwise.

Ephesians 2:4-5 says: 'But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.'

In fact, his mercy is so plenteous, it fills the whole earth and goes beyond the heavens in height.

Psalms 119:64: 'The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.'

I find God's mercy - his love and his goodness to me – is incredible, and the greatest joy is that it will never, ever end. The Bible assures us of this.

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'

Lamentations 3:22, 23

He forgives my many sins, he protects me, he gives me refuge and comfort, and he is my shield.

Do I, do you, manage to forgive others, show mercy to others? As humans we need to scatter and sow mercy as we walk the path of life. How can we become more patient with our children, our partner, our friends or

those we work with or care for? How can we help those in need, or hurting or simply unable? Is the hardest area for all of us found when we need to give someone a second chance, or show mercy to someone rather than give them what we think they deserve? Life can throw some really hard balls at us especially when we go against the trend of those around us.

In a parable in the New Testament, the youngest son goes off and squanders his inheritance and returns home with his tail between his legs, but his Dad rejoices at his homecoming and opens his arms to him. We are shown a picture of both abundant mercy and grace from Dad. However, the greatest gift of mercy shown by God towards us all, was his Son, Jesus, paying all our debts when he was crucified on the cross.

Chris Fitton

*There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.*

*There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Saviour;
there is healing in his blood.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at His word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.*

Frederick W Faber

Saint of the Month

ST WENCESLAS, DUKE OF BOHEMIA, MARTYR (907-935)

Wenceslas was the son of the Duke of Bohemia whose parents had converted to Christianity. Wenceslas' grandmother, Ludmilla, took it upon herself to see that he was taught the Old Church Slavonic liturgy and was sent to the college at Budec for his education.

In 921 Wenceslas' father died and he inherited the dukedom with his grandmother assuming the role of regent as he was only thirteen years old. His mother, Drahomira, was jealous of the influence Ludmilla was having over her son and arranged to have her killed. She then declared herself regent and began persecuting Christians. When Wenceslas became eighteen, Christian nobles in Bohemia successfully rebelled against Drahomira and she was sent into exile.

Wenceslas was able to take control of the governing of the country with the help of the nobles who had supported him. Taking advice from the Church, he worked for the religious and educational improvement of his people. This determined conversion of the people of Bohemia to Christianity was resented by those who still worshipped the gods of the old religion.

Among these was his younger brother, Boleslav, and a group of nobles who plotted to kill him. Boleslav invited Wenceslas to a celebration of the Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian where three of his brother's friends stabbed him to death with Boleslav then running him through with his lance.

He was considered a martyr immediately following his death and he was venerated throughout Bohemia. Although he was only a duke, the Holy Roman Emperor posthumously awarded him a royal dignity and title which is why he is referred to as 'a king' in legend and song. His feast day is 28 September and, since 2000, it has been celebrated as a public holiday in the Czech Republic. The feast day was not kept in England but J M Neale's famous carol *Good King Wenceslas* made him a household name in Victorian times promoting the values of social benevolence and charitable giving.



Icon of St Wenceslas

Pastoral Care

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

or call 01903 813276.

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

Our next Grief Café is in the Penfold Hall on Friday 11 September 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.

This month we will be holding another 'Proper Preparation for Death' drop in



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

The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyning

Contact us at care@steyningparishchurch.org Or phone 01903 813276

event at the Penfold Hall on Wednesday, 23 September from 10am until 12 noon.

Please join us for an opportunity to ask questions to us, our local funeral directors, solicitors and also a representative from Saint Barnabas hospice. This free event is open to the Steyning community as well as our congregation.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Judie Thomson ALM,
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*

Wednesday Coffee

Do join us in the Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, every Wednesday morning, any time between 10am and 12 noon.



We meet in the main hall

for coffee, tea, biscuits, friendly chat and big smiles. Several of our visitors go over the road to church for the Wednesday morning 11:30am service, but you can stay on chatting, too. No charge, but donations are always welcome.

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

No Man's Land

Over the years, I have come to learn much more about our beautiful churchyard and the areas bordering it. One area that has become very interesting, but a bit of an eyesore, is the bank outside our church wall. Suddenly, a while ago a very large wooden barrier was erected in front of a section of wall, that was in peril of falling apart. Then we had the bough falling from a tree, across the footpath, which had to be cut up, with part of it still perching on a headstone and the laurel.

I've always looked at the bank and thought that it would be lovely to see it full of bulbs flowering and wild flowers. Well, maybe that wish will come true. Behind the scenes our Vicar and Fabric Committee have been in contact with

Horsham DC about repairing the wall. Now, action is starting to happen. After a chance meeting on site with Enviro GM, the company Horsham is using to help them, I found out that all the ivy is to be removed, in order to find out the level of damage and work needed. They also asked us, the churchyard gardeners, to help them out by clearing as much as we could from in front of the wall. So our jolly group set to and cleared as



much as we could, around the front corner section up to the wooden barrier.

What's in the plan for the future? Once the ivy, debris etc has been cleared, we hope to plant large amounts of daffodils, narcissi and wildflower seed all through the bank. These will be added to the bulbs we have already and should make the view to our church quite spectacular.

If you would like to assist us in this initiative then perhaps you would be willing to buy us a bag of bulbs? If so, we would like not only all types of yellow, but white as well.



Let's all hope that the work to repair our wall goes well and that in the future our grassy bank will be full of colour.

Text and pictures by Simon Knowles

The Steyning Society

Friday 18th September at 7pm for 7:30

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning

**Sussex Pond, Ifield Hog's and Rotherfield Sweet Tooth:
Sussex Cooking and the English Food Revival**

by Catherine Mant.

Catherine's interest in traditional Sussex food began in her grandmother's Steyning farmhouse kitchen. Sussex has a long tradition of cooking, but by the 20th century this heritage was in danger of being lost. Happily the inter-war nostalgia for all things English pastoral led to a revival of enthusiasm for regional English recipes. The talk will focus on Sussex food, with anecdotes, recipes and samples.



Sussex Pond Pudding

Doors open at 7pm and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. There will also be a bring and buy table with books.

The talk will begin at 7:30

All are very welcome to attend; free to members and £5 guests.

www.steyningsociety.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 269859

Families and Children

Hello Everyone, this month marks the two-year anniversary of my starting with you. What a two years it has been, with lots of new things starting in the parish as either regular events or one-off activities. We have had lots of you amazing people getting involved in all that has happened.

This term we will hopefully be launching four new regular events on top of everything else we do. Some of these will be in partnership with other local groups and also the primary school, so I will definitely be keeping myself busy over this next year. If you are interested in getting involved in the work we are doing in and around our community, then please do get in touch with me.

Family Fun Holiday Activities

During the summer holidays we held



four sessions during the morning on different themes. We had a painting party, a dinosaur theme, a pirate theme and a mythical creature theme. All the

sessions went well and it was great to meet some new families that we have never met before who were able to come along and join us.



The sessions were filled with crafts, games and treasure hunts. One of the treasure hunts even stumped the parents so it will be best to make them less difficult for next year.

Board Game Cafés

Our afternoon board game café is run in partnership with the Community Wardens. It is OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY AGE. This board game café runs once a month on the second Tuesday of the month from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The next session is on 8 September.

The board game café evening edition will be starting again after its Summer break. First session of the new season

Can you knit or crochet?

Last year's angel drop at Christmas went down so well that we would love to do it again this year. So if you're a knitter or crocheter and can make angels for me (patterns supplied) we would love your help. The children, parents and staff at Steyning Primary School loved seeing and receiving the angels. So if you can help I would truly appreciate your support.





will be on Monday 28 September, from 6pm to 9pm. All will be welcome.

Both board game cafés are held in the Penfold Hall.

Fire Pit Services

The Fire Pit Services are a different style from our normal services. They are held outside by the church tower (weather permitting – otherwise in the porch). They are short, no more than about 30 minutes long, with music and prayers, plus time together at the end toasting marshmallows and getting to know each other. Our next service is Sunday 13



September at 6pm. Do come and join us as we would love to see you.

Little Stars



Little Stars had a nice summer break which gave our volunteers a chance to have a rest (even though most of them lent a hand with the family fun activities). We will be welcoming a new member to the team in this next term which is great news, but we are always on the look out for more people to join our amazing team.

Steyning Primary School

With a new school year starting, we welcome new friends, while the existing children move up a year – exciting times.

On 20 September there's something particularly exciting when our Music Group Eucharist is being held at Steyning Primary School instead of in church.

We look forward to restarting our collective worship, *Open the Book*, and loads of other new, fun, things. Good luck and good wishes to students, staff and parents.



Blessings
Gary

Prayer Group

The prayer group was started many years ago, and at first met in the home of Joy Duke, one of the founder members. There is a short, simple service and prayer format, led in turn by some of the members. This is a way of bringing together the prayer requests, and a reminder of the names for our daily prayers.



We try and meet together monthly, but if the weather dictates otherwise, we circulate the prayer requests and join in prayer in the privacy of our own homes. We encompass all the

prayer requests from the weekly notices, the prayer tree and personal requests. Because the latter are often asked in confidence, we have always met in a private home.

After Joy Duke died, Jenny Smeed offered her home as a venue. Jenny has now decided, after nearly 20 years, to retire from hosting the group and also from the shared leadership.

Thank you, Jenny, for your loyal and generous welcome over the years, and for your always-thoughtful leadership and prayers. We are much encouraged that you will still be an active member of the group, joining with us in the quietness of your own home.

Mary Travers

Ride and Stride

Ride + Stride is an annual event that raises more than £1.5 million for churches right across the country. For the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, it is by far the biggest fundraiser of the year and plays a vital role in enabling SHCT to help churches throughout East and West Sussex (including our own). Funds raised are shared equally between the Trust and the place of worship nominated by each participant.



The 2026 Ride + Stride fundraiser is taking place on Saturday, September 12

Get your friends and family to sponsor you and then visit as many different churches as you can throughout the day. You can choose any route you want and any mode of transport – walk, run, cycle, ride, or even drive – between the different churches on the route you have chosen. You can be sponsored either based on the number of churches you manage to visit or by a flat donation. Speak to John Downe in church on Sundays for more information and sponsor forms.

Churchyard Path Lighting



Over a few days in August we had to apply for a notice to close the public footpath in Steyning churchyard between Vicarage Lane and Shooting Field in order to lay cables for the additional lighting along that section of pathway.



Our contractors Vincent and Dominic Camilleri worked very efficiently from 17 to 21 August to lay the necessary cable, install the additional lamppost by the crossing path and to connect the power supply to the new lamp over the arch at the Shooting Field end. This was kindly provided by Guy and Laura Sanderson, our neighbours at Gatewick House.

The excavation work on the Monday and Tuesday was overseen by our appointed archaeologist, George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology. This work has been largely funded by generous grants from the Steyning Society, from the Wilson Memorial Trust and from Steyning Town Council, as well as from Guy and Laura who have offered to provide improved handrails on the steep step into the churchyard through the Shooting Field entrance.

Together with the previous lighting improvements, our churchyard will now be a much safer place in the darker hours. The plan is to sow grass and wild flowers in the bare earth beside the path. We apologise for any temporary inconvenience, but we think the result is well worth it.



Two Years of Family Outreach

On 31 August Gary had been with us for exactly two years. And what a difference he has made in the parish in that short time.

- A quote from a group of staff at Steyning Primary School is the cakes that come weekly from the church are so appreciated and the school knows that the church community value us all.
- Rachel from Little Stars says walking into Little Stars feels like a warm hug full of friendly faces, a cosy environment and lots of happy people, big and small.
- Charlie from Little Stars says Little Stars welcomed me and my one-year-old girl with open arms and filled our weeks with friendly faces and support. And Gary and his team went above and beyond – telling us all the local places to explore, plus running different activities in the school holidays for my four-year-old too. It's made such a difference. Feeling settled and feeling lucky to have found our people here.
- Some numbers: 126 sessions of Little Stars with 1882 children and 900 volunteer hours; 482 knitted angels; 250 marshmallows consumed, over 300 cakes for school and Little Stars made and eaten.

Gary's work has been recognised widely, so much so that he was nominated to go to afternoon tea with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace. Gary was nominated by the Diocese for the work he does with children and families along with two



Gary and his Diocesan colleagues meeting Archbishop Sarah at Lambeth Palace

other children's and families workers in the Diocese.

Those of you who were here when we started fundraising to achieve our ambition of recruiting a families and children's worker will remember that campaign. We had to raise at least £30,000 and then the Diocese matched our fundraising with a grant of a further £30,000, to last us for three years. Some of you gave lump sums, and some added to your regular giving. So you might be wondering how it is going from a financial point of view.

The treasurer's ambition is to reach the point where we as a congregation pay for Gary as part of our ordinary giving, where we don't need campaigns, grants or separate funds to pay for this vital and ongoing work. Through your generosity – thank you – we almost managed that in 2025. We would have

been just over £3,000 short. And we still have enough left from the original fundraising to take us well into 2030.

So can you help us close the gap by the time our fundraising money is spent? We have about 100 planned givers; if each of you increased your regular giving by £30/year or say £3/month we could completely fund Gary's work next year.

Of course, that level of giving may be impossible for some people – so if you are one of those who can offer an increase, perhaps you could go up by £6/month to cover someone who can't afford to? A bold request I know, especially as we all need to review our giving regularly to ensure it doesn't fall behind inflation (because our other costs certainly increase with inflation all the time). Or if you prefer to give in a lump sum, we could add that donation to the previously raised funds to ensure we keep affording our families and children's work.

The PCC has already decided to allocate all our rental income (from the football field and the Cadet Hut – £11,600 a year) to families and children's work, which is how we are so close to our target.

'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God' (Hebrews 13:16).

How to change your giving

If you give through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), you can instruct them by ringing them on 0333 002 1260, emailing them on info@parishgiving.org.uk or changing your giving on their website.

If you give directly to the parish bank account by standing order, you would need to change your standing order by instructing your bank.

If you have other questions about giving, please ring our treasurer Tina on 07762 240226 or email her at treasurer@steyningparishchurch.org.

Parish Registers

Baptisms –

12 July	Tanaka Amara Aoife Evans-Clarke (at Ashurst)
26 July	Innis Gue (at Steyning)
26 July	Avari Loretta Louise Norman (at Ashurst)
16 August	Dorothy Debaerdemaecker (at Ashurst)
	Wallace Debaerdemaecker (at Ashurst)

Weddings –

11 July	Fraser Jack MacLennan Sheath and Emilia Rose Elizabeth ('Millie') Aiton (at Steyning)
25 July	Stephen James Balfour and Olivia Louise Middleton (at Steyning)
25 July	Matthew Llewellyn Griffiths and Alexandra Louise Durrant (at Ashurst)
22 August	Benjamin Robert Denis Langan and Anna Elisabeth Sara George (at Steyning)
	Isabella Cuthbert-Brown and Jack Dalrymple Hamilton (at Ashurst)

Funerals –

6 July	John Ernest Brown (d 31/05/26) at Steyning
9 July	Jill Maureen McDonald (d 05/06/26) at Woodvale
7 August	Peter Gregory Stedman (d 13/07/26) at Worthing

Interment of Ashes -

10 August	Janice Elizabeth Ann Beale (d 25/07/26) at SPC
23 August	Brenda Mary Wadman (d 29/06/26) at APC



Subterranean Heatstroke Blues



Mole © Steve Bottom



This summer has been a tad warm. We've been seeking shade, suddenly all too aware of the importance of the cover of trees and a faint leaf-fanned breeze. Whilst we sweat in our gardens, another struggle is taking place, under loungers and paddling pools, in baked earth. The heat is a challenge for our wildlife, and our subterranean friends are no different.



Earthworm © Derek Middleton

Moles have large spade-shaped digging paws to enable them to move through thick soil and are additionally equipped for underground life by velvety fur that sits in either direction to allow for easy reversing. Their tunnels, sometimes used for generations, are habitual to the mostly solitary-living moles, who whizz around them like little fuzzy subway trains.

But it's a different story when the ground is too dry; it becomes impenetrable. Additionally, the mole's prey of earthworms and other soft-bodied invertebrates like beetle larvae are in short supply or will move deeper underground in search of moisture and cooler soil. Moles can prep for drought somewhat; a toxin in their saliva can paralyse earthworms, which they store in larders in deeper chambers, but these are finite.

With moles needing to eat 50% of their body weight every day, and living an almost exclusively underground life, the situation is making them hungry, dehydrated, and desperate. Many are being found above ground in the daytime, where they can quickly fall foul of heat exhaustion or predation from birds of prey or pet cats.

It can seem rather hopeless – but you can help. Providing water in gardens and outdoor spaces aids wildlife all year round, but especially during times of water stress and drought. Creating shade is also hugely beneficial and could be the difference between a mole's home being manageable, or impossible.

Moles are a gardener's friend, taking care of plant-munching slugs, and aerating soils with their digging, which supports garden drainage. The excess soil moles excavate can be used elsewhere in the garden, a far easier way of coping with molehills than trying



Mole © Neil Fletcher

to interfere. If disturbed, moles are likely to start excavating in another spot, so a hands-off approach means fewer molehills for you, and less energy expended by the moles.

When it finally rains, rejoice. Those expert diggers can put their paws to use, feed up on plump juicy meals, and once again manoeuvre below our feet with ease, keeping the soil, which we so depend on, healthy and resilient.

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

Church Flower Rota

5 and 12 September June Green
19 and 26 September Margaret Tully
Volunteers please on 3 October for
Harvest Festival
decorating.



Carol McKechnie

Steyning History Society

We look forward to seeing you after our summer break, on Wednesday, 9 September. Annual subscriptions are also now due (£15 per person) payable online or by cheque - no cash please. Visitors are also welcome at any meeting at a cost of £5 per person (cash only).

Our first talk this Society year is by Dr. Janet Pennington, entitled *Sussex Inn Signs and their History*.

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 7:45pm and run through until 9pm with no refreshment break.

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for September

Every Sunday

- 8am Holy Communion Service (traditional language)
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday with choir, except on **Sunday 20 September, for Education Sunday, 10am at Steyning Primary School**, with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages.
- 6pm Evening service:
First Sunday (6 September): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'Come, Holy Spirit, Come'
Second Sunday (13 September) Firepit service (outside by the tower, in the porch if wet)
Second Sunday (13 September): said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service
Third Sunday (20 September) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, with augmented choir and organ
Fourth Sunday (27 September) Taizé service

Every Wednesday

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

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for September

Sundays

- 11am First Sunday (6 September) Zoom Matins
- 10:30am Second Sunday (13 September) Ashurst Belfry Family Service (with a chance for everyone to ring the bells afterwards)
Fourth Sunday (27 September) Holy Communion

Harvest Festival dates 2026 - advance notice

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's Steyning; 4 October; St James's Ashurst: 11 October

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

Parish Office Address: Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, BN44 3YB
01903 813276; office@steyningparishchurch.org; www.steyningparishchurch.org

Office Manager: Beth O'Connor

Parish Office open: Monday to Friday 10am to midday