

Church Magazine

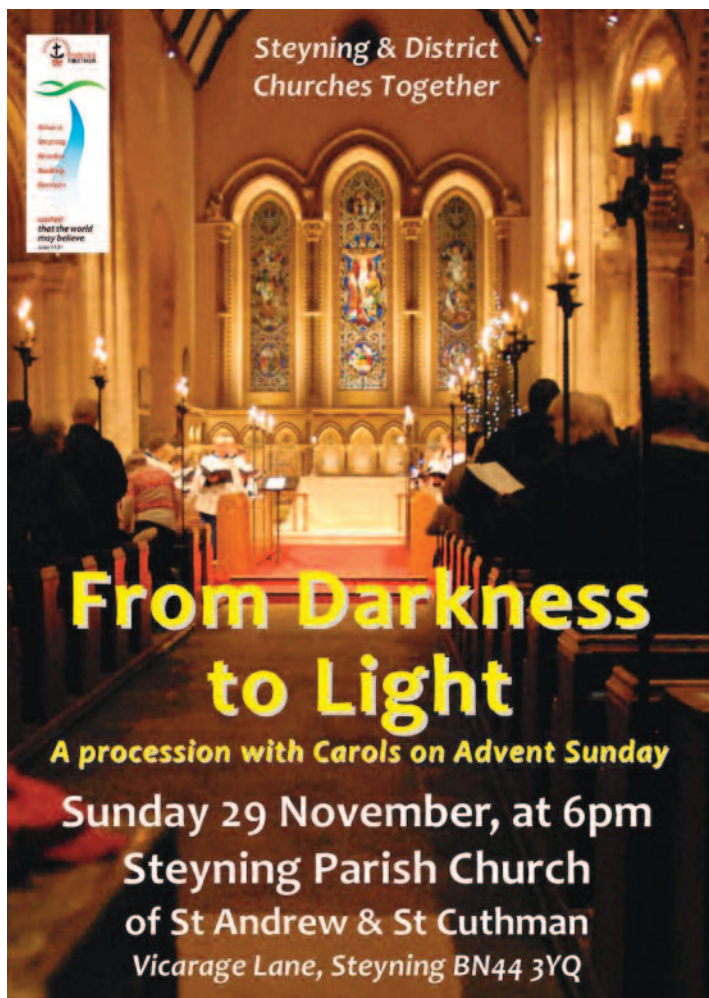
for Steyning and Ashurst

***Remembrance and
Thanksgiving***

November 2026

ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913

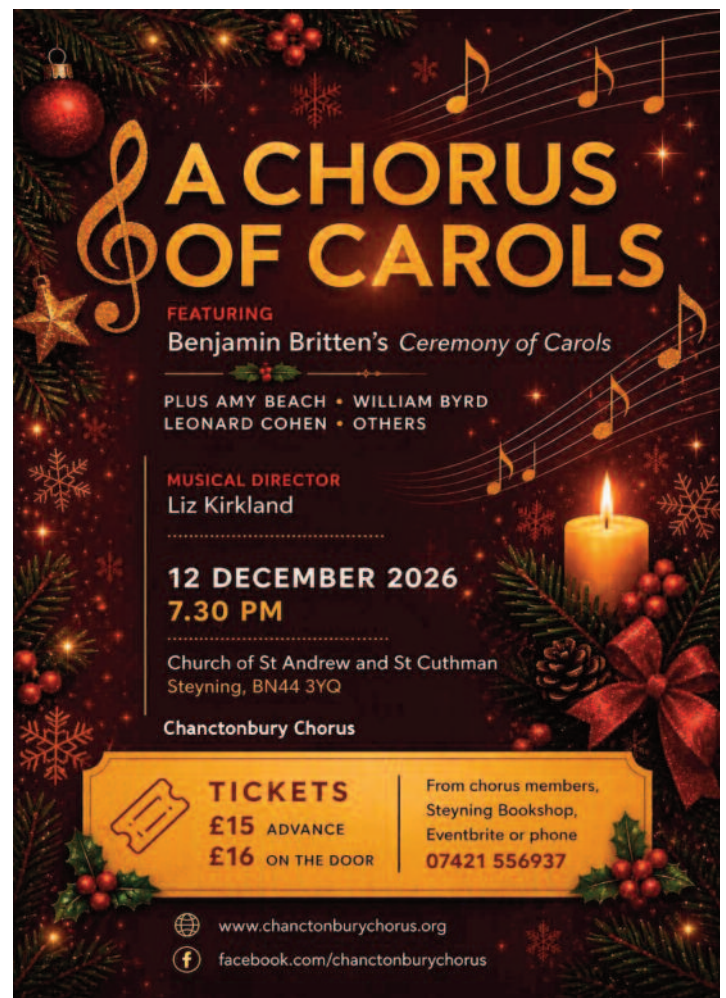


Steyping & District
Churches Together

**From Darkness
to Light**

A procession with Carols on Advent Sunday

Sunday 29 November, at 6pm
Steyping Parish Church
of St Andrew & St Cuthman
Vicarage Lane, Steyping BN44 3YQ



A CHORUS OF CAROLS

FEATURING
Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*

PLUS AMY BEACH • WILLIAM BYRD
LEONARD COHEN • OTHERS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Liz Kirkland

**12 DECEMBER 2026
7.30 PM**

Church of St Andrew and St Cuthman
Steyping, BN44 3YQ

Chanctonbury Chorus

TICKETS		From chorus members, Steyping Bookshop, Eventbrite or phone 07421 556937
	£15 ADVANCE £16 ON THE DOOR	

www.chanctonburychorus.org
facebook.com/chanctonburychorus



In loving memory All Souls-tide 2026

Annual Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving
The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyping
Sunday, 1 November at 4 p.m.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. *Matthew 5:4*

Please send names to: allsouls@steypingparishchurch.org

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*Cover image: Poppies for Remembrance Sunday
(Church of England / Unsplash)*

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

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Prayer Diary for November

1 November, All Saints' Day

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you.

8 November, Remembrance Sunday / Third Sunday before Advent



or

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that the earth may know the peace of heaven.

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule.

15 November, Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom.

22 November, Sunday next before Advent (Christ the King)

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet.

29 November, First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal.

30 November, Andrew the Apostle

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom.

A Short Prayer for November

Dear Lord, let November be a month of restoration, revival, and awakening as the days grow cooler and the leaves turn, fill our hearts with gratitude for your endless faithfulness. Guide our steps, protect our families, and give us peace in every moment. Help us to share your love and kindness with everyone we meet.

Pastoral Letter

Each year the John Smith Centre in Glasgow (founded in honour of the late politician) publishes a nuanced survey of young people (age 16 to 29) about their social attitudes.

This year's result hit some of the headlines because it revealed that, while 38 per cent of respondents stated that they would, in some circumstances, be willing to fight to defend their country, a bare majority (around 51 per cent) said they would not be willing to take up arms for Britain. The survey also revealed much about the day-to-day preoccupations of the young and their concerns for the future.



Whilst some of the leader writers and commentators in the press seemed to jump to conclusions about these statistics, I am less concerned. I wonder how many young people in Ukraine a decade ago would have known what they were capable of. Or indeed what anyone of fighting age in the UK might have said if they were asked these questions during the relatively peaceful years of the late nineteenth century. What matters more is how people respond in practice. If you listen to anyone who has actually taken up arms in a conflict, they will say that it's only once the battle begins that you discover what people are like, and what heroism means. History tells us that many of those who in 1914 rushed to sign-up had no idea what they were letting themselves in for.

When we pray for peace and when we give thanks to God for those who risked their lives to defend what we rightly call 'our freedoms', we must seek to do so with a realistic understanding of what war is like for those who have to face it. We can also be positive about the fact that our Remembrance services, here and up and down the country, happen to be some of our best attended acts of worship.

fr Mark

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.***



Please join us on 8 November for the Remembrance Sunday services. At Steyning the service will begin at 10:45 and at Ashurst 10:50 so that the Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence can be observed at 11am. Note that there is no 9:30 Sung Eucharist at Steyning on that day.

FROM THE EDITOR

Work is finally about to start on the major repairs to the tower roof at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's.

Up to now all efforts have been put into building the scaffolding around the tower, which has taken rather longer than anticipated, and there is further scaffolding to be erected inside.

As previously mentioned, the work is necessary to reinforce and replace the timber structure that supports the tower roof. It's not a cheap job; including all fees etc it will cost around £300,000. Although we have benefited from some relatively small grants, this is money that we would rather spend on mission than repairs.

Schemes that may have helped, like the ability to reclaim VAT, have ceased, putting a further financial burden on our congregations. So we are pleased to be supporting a motion put to the Deanery Synod by our friends at Chanctonbury Churches, which we hope will be discussed at higher levels, that: "...calls upon the General Synod to reconsider the grant-funding strategy of the Church Commissioners from targeted Strategic Development Fund projects towards primarily addressing and subsidising the maintenance and repair of the places of worship of the Church of England. Bishops, clergy, and lay-leaders should be released to lead the mission and ministry to the people of England, with the crushing building maintenance burden eased for PCCs through the release of substantial financial grants by the Church Commissioners that can be accessed by all parishes within the Church of England."

Bill

Sunday Notices

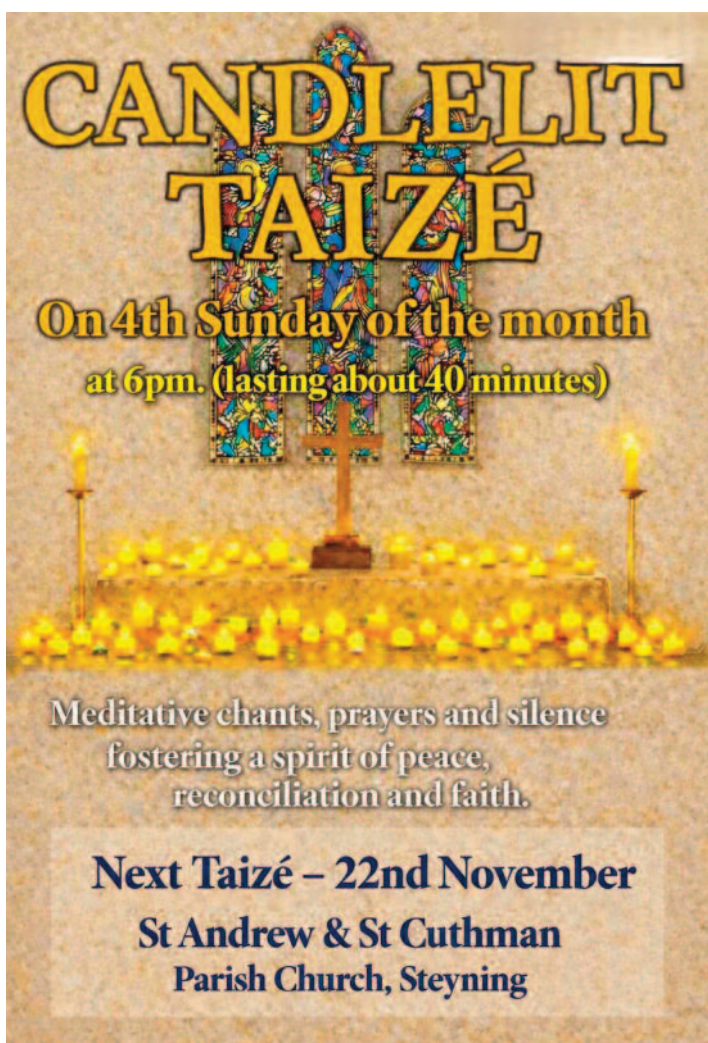
The weekly notice sheet, sent from the Parish Office, gives all the information about services, news and events. There is also the list of those needing our prayers. If you would like to receive this sheet please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests
contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276

Taizé Service



On the fourth Sunday of the month at 6pm there is a service of music, worship and meditation from the Taizé community.

Over the last few years there has been more interest in the three bells at St James's Ashurst. The bells are hung for chiming and have now regularly been sounded by ringers from the surrounding area, mainly Steyning.

On Sunday 13 September a bell-themed morning service was held with the idea that parishioners attending could 'have a go' after the service whilst coffee was served. Prior to the service David Kirkcaldy, Kathy Howard and Kye Leaver chimed the bells, and Fr Mark had found some bell themed hymns; these were not only sung with the organ but Graham accompanied us on his euphonium. In place of a sermon Fr Mark spoke about how the use of bells had been introduced into the church. After the service a fair number of those present had a go at chiming the three bells.

The three bells at Ashurst were all cast, or made, at different times. The largest bell is also the oldest and dates from 1606 having been cast by Roger Tapsell who had a foundry at West Tarring. Next in age is the smallest bell



Olivia chiming Ashurst bell

cast in 1719 by John Waylett. He was an itinerant founder who normally worked in the vicinity of the church where the bell was going to be hung. He later went on to cast a ring of six bells for Steyning in 1724. The middle bell is dated 1772 and was cast at Whitechapel in London by the firm of Pack and Chapman, again they also carried out some work on the bells at Steyning. This may have been an old bell that needed to be recast.

It is hoped to have some further chiming sessions at St James's Ashurst for anyone interested in having a go and perhaps becoming a member of a regular group who can sound the bells when needed in the future.

David Kirkcaldy



Fallen in War



Image: National Library of Scotland on Unsplash

November: the month where throughout the land services are held to commemorate the fallen in war.

The moving service at the Cenotaph where royalty and heads of state lay wreaths and where representatives from the three services and many other walks of life march through the streets of London accompanied by rousing bands. In Cathedrals, Parish Churches large and small, people everywhere still stand during the two minutes' silence on the stroke of eleven remembering those who died. There are war memorials throughout our land, and rightly so.

Recently we watched an episode of *The First World War in Colour*. Almost unbearable viewing. Here was film taken at the very moment the carnage was

happening. No re-enactment of a 'story' with actors and a 'theme'. Here was the real thing in colour. Thousands upon thousands of young men, many little more than boys, being mowed down like ninepins, and this was repeated over and over again in so many scenarios throughout this dreadful war. Moments earlier these same men had been deep in mud, covered in lice, in rat-ridden trenches, drenched and very cold. Then ... over the top and ... nothing. Annihilation. Horizontal bodies covering the ground. Mostly dead, but others in agony with unspeakable wounds. A generation wiped out, and still rightly remembered with gratitude.

These shocking scenes set me thinking in ways that had not occurred

to me before. Who collected those thousands of dead; and how, and when? They were in the middle of battle. Where were they all placed when gathered in? They had to be named from their tags but many tags would have been missing. Even temporary graves would have been impossible in these conditions. A team of people must have been under orders to organise, collate (names and addresses), check for accuracy – no computers then – then what? What an appalling job. And who were these people under orders? Fellow comrades? So hard to comprehend, impossible really – just the sheer numbers.

Back from the front, field hospitals were set up. Brave stretcher bearers struggled to reach them carrying desperately injured soldiers across an unforgiving landscape, often still under fire. Doctors and nurses with the minimum of medical supplies worked tirelessly tending wounds the like of which they wouldn't have encountered before. The bravery of all these must be remembered too.

Then ... the telegrams.

The very word 'telegram' at that time must have filled the waiting families with fear and dread knowing the news it would inevitably bring. Just a piece of paper... picture the scene; a family

desperate for news from the front. A telegraph boy rests his bike outside their home. They hear his footsteps, then the knock on the door. The yellow envelope is delivered. They open it, hands shaking, and there it is – the news they have all been dreading. Just three words: 'Killed in Action'. And this scene was repeated over and over again. The agony of these families was only just the beginning of their grief. Mums and Dads, wives, fiancés, and children, from tiny tots who will never see their father. The world they knew destroyed by three words on a piece of paper in a yellow envelope.

20 years on from the end of this 'war to end all wars' it was to happen all over again. Different scenarios this time but again dreadful suffering. Despite the horrors of Nazism, it's not difficult to understand the hope in this country of appeasement during the 1930s by those who had experienced WW1.

The phrase 'lest we forget' has a very solemn undertone, and long may it be spoken. We do need to remember what might have been for us as we think of the generation who gave their all that we may be free, and take our gratitude very seriously. But let us remember too those who survived having witnessed such horror. The men retrieving the dead from the battlefields, the doctors and nurses, stretcher bearers, the thousands physically and mentally scarred for life. And lastly the little lads on their bikes whose job it was to deliver tragic news to the grief stricken. What would they have been thinking? They must be remembered too.

Maureen Jones



Chris Sansbury on Unsplash

The Holiest Thing in Our Church

A Red Plastic Bucket?

Your immediate response may just be: ‘No’ (or like John McEnroe with the tennis umpire – “You cannot be serious!”).

But I do mean it seriously – for me the red plastic bucket in our church is perhaps the thing which gives me most hope. Not because of what it is. It would not look out of place in someone’s kitchen, or garage, or garden shed. Or even on whichever council tip you use. So it is not special because of what it is, but because of what it represents and what it prompts us to do. It is a highly effective piece of spiritual ‘equipment’.

In a recent gospel reading, Jesus tells one of his short stories about a shepherd who has one hundred sheep and loses one. If that happens, Jesus says, won’t the shepherd leave the 99 and go out after the other one? Well, no actually. Of course not. He’ll think “I’ve still got the 99, that’s not bad, I’ll hang onto them”. Of course, Jesus is making a startling point. God is not like that – God is most concerned for the one in danger now, which has no other chance of rescue.

That is what the red bucket symbolises for me. Like the emergency cord on a train – it is a last resort. It is the symbol which pushes us beyond our safety zone – of looking after ourselves and making sure our needs are met and our place of worship is beautiful. It says

that the people who are here in church, and not even in our country, are equally important – look after them as well.

More about the symbolism. Red is for danger (a red heart is for red hot love – maybe also appropriate). The Red Bucket Appeal is reserved for people with no other means of help. Red is for

stop – be alert – pay special

attention. The red bucket

should be a traffic light when we are on the way out of church, when we have mentally left church already – on our way home or looking for someone to talk to. It says – ‘there’s just one more really important thing ...’

Following in the footsteps of Jesus we should not be surprised by confrontation with symbolism, metaphors, images, parallels, stories and parables. Jesus does it all the time with histories ... the Kingdom is like this, a grain of mustard, the widow’s coin, the Good Samaritan (who probably did not want to stop either.) Why shouldn’t a red plastic bucket remind us that there is no limit to God’s caring?

Our red bucket during 2026 has focused on the Venezuelan earthquake and twice featured the Middle East region. We have supported the Christian Aid Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and Fr Fadi’s appeal for work with those suffering from trauma in the Holy Land. Fr Fadi and other Palestinians do not talk



of post-traumatic stress disorder. There is no 'post' – the trauma is ongoing. The trauma work initiated by Fr Fadi is absolutely necessary – how do you put psychologically and physically shattered lives back together? Gaza is still rubble and tents. Recent estimates suggest 30 tonnes of rubble for each of the two million inhabitants. The medical infrastructure is still bombed to pieces. On 10 August, Christian Aid posted the story of Fatima, a mother of six, in Gaza. She said: "I wondered whether the cancer or a missile would kill me first". As someone who came through life-threatening cancer through a long stay in St Richard's Hospital Chichester (cared for by an international team) in the past few years, this really hit home to me.

Unfortunately for many reasons public opinion has shifted in favour of aid cuts. If we do not want support for the poorest in our world to depend on our red bucket we have an education job to do. Our MP Andrew Griffith has a good strap line. It says: "working for you in Westminster". At this point, I become a fundamentalist and want to take him at his word. As we have experienced during this scorched earth summer when the climate crisis hit home, our priorities must change. I intend to go on telling him (now as Shadow Chancellor - a central member of the official opposition) and also informing government ministers, that I do not want victims of war or earthquakes, or climate refugees who can no longer grow food under the blazing sun, to depend on the crumbs from our still rich table – or on the red-bucket appeals of

the churches, or to rely on the proceeds from selling used clothes in the Oxfam shop. I remember a Somali woman speaking at a conference I chaired who said: "How come when you talk about women's development, you start talking about microfinance?" She wanted real money for her development projects – macrofinance.

As a beginning, our nation should return aid to the 2021 level of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) – a standard measure of our country's wealth. Boris Johnson slashed it then (and the Labour Party subsequently kept cutting). At the time, Johnson promised that the cut was 'temporary' because of the costs of Covid – until finances permitted its restoration. Politicians also have a duty as educators of the electorate - not as slavish followers of the priorities and distorting headlines of the tabloid press. Politicians often say that the British are



a generous and welcoming people. It is time to back that assertion with generosity in development aid and climate finance. Our politicians have a duty to lead, not mislead the public.

We used to give 0.7% of GNI to development aid. Now that is being run down to 0.3% by 2030. That will be the lowest level since Mrs Thatcher was in power 40 years before. Imagine going out for a restaurant meal for four costing £100. When the bill comes round, you make your contribution – 30p. For every £100 of UK national income we keep £99.70 for ourselves and give 30p to all the poorest countries in the world put together. There was a cartoon some years ago, with a Christian Aid collector going door to door and a man answers the door and says: “Is this for the same billion people as last year?” Yes ... it is.

The composition may change a bit round the edges, but it is still for the people of crises such as that in Sudan,

the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, according to Oxfam. Economist Paul Collier wrote a book about *The Poorest Billion*, those who live in failed states affected by war and civil war, the displaced and the victims of climate change. But there are also many extremely poor people living in slightly richer countries with severely skewed and unjust income distribution – that is to say places with very big margins between the rich and poor.

The second century bishop and theologian Irenaeus said: “the glory of God is the human person, alive” (*gloria dei homo vivens*). Just before he was murdered, Archbishop Romero of El Salvador made this even clearer: “*gloria dei pauper vivens*” (the glory of God is the poor person, fully alive) – that is to say, anyone our red bucket has to and can rescue. We need prayers and policy change. On its own, the red bucket is wholly inadequate, but it is still holy.

Roger Williamson

Steyping History Society

We look forward to seeing you at our next evening meeting of the Steyping History Society, held on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. The presentation is by Nick Kelly and the subject is *Canals and Navigation In the South of England*.

As usual, our meetings are held at the Steyping 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 with no refreshment break. Visitors are also welcome at any meeting at a cost of £5 per person (cash only). Annual membership is also available at £15 per person.



St Andrew's & St Cuthman's Tower Roof Progress



Most of the work so far has been the erection of the scaffolding surrounding the tower to enable safe access to the roof.

Pictures by John Edwards



November Recipe – Honey and Mustard Chicken

Ingredients

For the chicken

4 chicken legs, skin on
750g/1lb 10oz new potatoes,
scrubbed and halved or cut into
three if big
2 tbsp olive oil
salt and freshly ground black
pepper

For the honey and mustard glaze

2 tbsp wholegrain mustard
3 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 garlic clove, finely grated
1 tbsp runny honey



Method

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Line a large shallow roasting tin with baking paper.

Mix all of the glaze ingredients together in a small bowl.

Score the chicken legs, using a sharp knife, with three slashes across the skin, cutting into the meat a little bit.

Sit the legs, skin-side up, on one side of the roasting tin.

Spread the glaze over the chicken and season with salt and pepper.

Place the new potatoes and olive oil in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper and toss to coat the potatoes in the oil.

Tip into the tin next to the chicken, so they do not overlap.

Roast for about 35–40 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through. The chicken is cooked through when the juices run clear with no trace of pink when the thickest part of the leg, between

the drumstick and the thigh, is pierced with a skewer.

Place the chicken on a plate and cover with foil to rest.

Gently turn the potatoes in the tin to coat in any leftover glaze and spread out in a single layer. Slide back into the oven for a further 8–10 minutes, until the potatoes are crispy and golden brown.

Becky

Families and Children

Hello everyone, Christmas is fast approaching which means our Advent Stir-up will be here in no time at all. This year it is on Saturday 28 November from 9:30 to 11:30am in St Andrew's & St Cuthman's.



This group has been fully booked each month. When we started the Dungeons and Dragons group in October, 12 young people came to join our amazing story tellers on a campaign to vanquish the monsters from the map and save everyone. Great fun was had by all and we look forward to our next session on 14 November.

Calling all knitters

Last year's Angel Drop at Christmas went down so well we would love to do it again this year. So, if you're a knitter or crocheter and can make angels for me 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.



Our new monthly **Send Café** launched in October. We had a good number of people attend the first session. We look forward to our next session together on Tuesday 3 November from 9:15am to 11:15am in the Penfold Hall

Join us at the Send Café to meet with other parents and carers of Autistic and SEND children. We chat, share, and connect with people who understand and are on a similar journey to you.

No diagnosis required, no pressure, just a free cuppa and a chat.

Although we understand childcare can be difficult, this group is designed as a child-free space to allow those attending to engage and share with each other freely.

Board Game Cafés

The afternoon Board game café, run in partnership with the Community Wardens, is OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY AGE.

The board game café runs once a month on the second Tuesday from . 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The next session is scheduled for 10 November.

The board game café evening edition will be starting again after its summer break and will be on Monday 23 November from 6pm to 9pm. All are welcome to either (or both) cafés, in the Penfold Hall.



The **Fire Pit Services** have a different feel from our other services. This is a short service of about half an hour with a couple of songs, a reading, a reflection and prayers. The service ends with time together toasting marshmallows and getting to know each other.

While the tower work is going on the services are held outside the South porch at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's (inside the porch if wet). Our next service is at 6pm on Sunday 8 November. Do come and join us as we would love to see you.



Little Stars went over to the church for Harvest to look at the flowers. We took some gifts and sang some songs. Fr Mark came to lead a prayer and give a blessing.

We are in the process of recruiting another volunteer to come and support Little Stars. This will help this group grow further; it is the largest outreach, we have in our families work and it is building strong relationships



RBF Steyning (Religious But Fun) is a new after-school youth group from 3.15 to 4.15pm weekly which we hoped to launch after the October half term. Unfortunately had to postpone that start date as we are still looking for volunteers. Could you spare just over an hour a week on a Wednesday to help Gary with this new group? All prep and planning will be done, so all that is needed is someone to be with Gary to support him by being his second adult and getting involved as far as you may be able.

We are looking for three people; that would work out at once per half term for each person, but if someone was keen to do this more regularly then that would be great as well.



Rhyme Time started in the Primary School library last month with 18 (children and adults) attending. The group meets once a month on the first Wednesday of each month, from 10am to 10:30am. The next session is on Wednesday 4 November.

Blessings
Gary



Palestine Update



Image by Bayan Tayeh on Unsplash

As I write, it is exactly three months since Fr Fadi Diab visited Steyning. We heard him describing the ever-worsening situation for Palestinians in his two parishes, St Andrew's Ramallah and St Peter's Birzeit, and across the West Bank.

Many people, both in our church and in the community, were very moved by his words and his passion, and by his invitation to us to walk alongside the suffering people of Palestine. So, what have we been doing in response?

Firstly, Christine Aubrey and I have set up the Palestine Support Group to include representatives from the Steyning churches and community, working in tandem with Steyning for Peace. The purpose of our group is to support peace, justice, human dignity and hope for all people affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine, with a particular focus on the West Bank and our links there, and to ensure that their

people's voices, experiences and perspectives are heard and understood.

It is important to be very open about our firm commitment to opposing anti-Semitism in all its forms. We distinguish clearly between Jewish people and Judaism on the one hand, and the policies and actions of the State of Israel or its government on the other. Like Fr Fadi, we reject hostility, prejudice, discrimination or hatred towards Jewish people and Judaism.

Father Fadi suggested we consider six areas for action; here is our plan:

1. Solidarity and Advocacy:

We want to show practical and public solidarity with Palestinian people, with particular reference to communities in the West Bank. We will work with Steyning for Peace to support peaceful vigils, demonstrations and gatherings, and to lobby government and share information about sanctions and boycotts.

2. Healing and Wellbeing

We are in the process of organising events to promote reconciliation, peace-building and healing, especially healing from ongoing trauma. Many of us were particularly moved by Fr Fadi's reference to widespread psychological suffering, and wished to learn more about the proposed Psychotrauma Healing Centre in Ramallah. We are planning to welcome a speaker from Friends of the Holy Land early next year – watch this space! We have also begun to provide Fr Fadi with professional contacts in the field of trauma therapy to link with the team on the ground in Ramallah.

3. Keeping in Touch

Some of us already have friends in Palestine, and we are discussing with them ways of setting up links between our communities. Some of you have expressed interest in a group visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, in response to Fr Fadi's invitation to "come and see". We hope to make it happen, and any practical support or experience would be welcome. We also want to offer hospitality to visitors from the West Bank here in Steyning.

4. Education and Information

We will encourage informed understanding of the history, culture

and current situation of Palestine and Israel through organising events and discussions. Again, we are currently arranging a talk by an eminent speaker with connections to our congregation, which we will be announcing shortly.

5. Financial Support

We will continue to raise funds to support humanitarian relief and practical assistance for those affected by the conflict.

6. Prayer and Spiritual Support

If you attend St Andrew's and St Cuthman's, you will have heard prayers for Israel and Palestine in our intercessions. We are taking steps now to work alongside other local churches. Our own Prayer Group regularly offers prayers for individuals in Fr Fadi's parishes which have been requested by our contacts in Ramallah, and which they deeply appreciate. As Fr Fadi wrote recently: "knowing that people here are being prayed for by your community is itself a profound act of solidarity and love".

Finally, if any of this has touched you and you have suggestions or are willing to help in any way, please contact me or Christine Aubrey and we will convey this to the group.

Catherine Berry

Church Stewardship

As noted in the last magazine, if all regular donors were able to give just another £3 to £5 per month, it would make an enormous difference, enabling us to keep our families and children's mission alive and continue to pay our full parish share to the Diocese, among other essential things. The best way to give is via the Parish Giving Scheme, but regular standing orders and donations at services, either in cash or via the card machine, are equally welcome. And if all you can afford is your time and your prayers, that's fine too. For more information on regular giving, please speak to Len Warner (see p26 for phone number).

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 13 November from 2pm until 4pm. Please feel free to join us if

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



you are in need of support following a loss of any kind.

Tea and coffee and biscuits are served in safe surroundings.

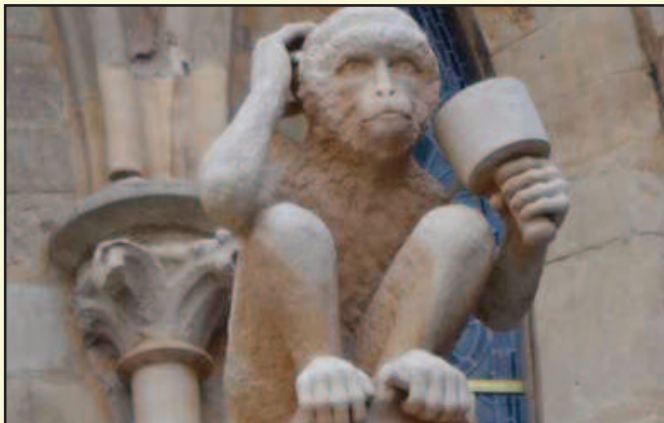
We look forward to seeing you.

Judie Thomson ALM,
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

The Arts Society, Steyning

There will be two lectures given by guest speaker and art historian Imogen Corrigan on 9 November, at the Steyning Centre. The morning talk, this time entitled *Stone on Stone, The Men who Built Cathedrals*, looks at the life of the Master Masons. Then in the afternoon, Imogen will give a talk on the Bayeux Tapestry, preceded by a short presentation from textile conservator Martha Strachan. With the British Museum exhibition attracting enormous interest, this is a rare opportunity to deepen understanding of one of history's greatest masterpieces.

The first talk begins at 10:30, with refreshments from 9:45, while the afternoon session begins at 1:50pm.



A Chorus of Carols – Chanctonbury Chorus

Saturday 12 December, 7:30 pm

The centrepiece of our December concert is Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. My final parish in Suffolk was in Aldeburgh, which was once a small fishing village but was transformed into a centre for the arts when Britten and his partner, Peter Pears, once a pupil at Lancing College, founded what he described as 'a small festival for friends' in 1948. The first ever concert took place in the parish church where I later became vicar and the church still plays host to one of the first concerts on the opening weekend of what has now become the world-famous Aldeburgh Festival. The Vicar in 1948 was on the organising committee and keen to encourage the use of the church for the arts and the community and it has never looked back.

Britten and Pears had spent three years in America before they made the decision to return to England in 1942. The voyage on which they embarked was fraught with danger. U-boats regularly attacked shipping on the route they would take and the winds they

encountered were ferocious. Nevertheless, they boarded the *MS Axel Johnson*, a Swedish cargo vessel, to make the journey home. The ship stopped briefly at Halifax in Nova Scotia and there Britten came across an anthology of mediaeval poetry in a secondhand-bookshop. It was called, *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*. He spent long hours in his cabin on the journey home and began work on setting some of the poems for voices and harp. He thought originally of setting them as a series of unrelated songs but instead the piece became an extended and stimulating choral composition for Christmas. *A Ceremony of Carols* is now a much-loved winter piece and Sally Pryce, the harpist, says: "Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a performance of it".

And so, we oblige! Here is an opportunity to hear a remarkable work. It is relatively short but in our programme it will be accompanied by many other pieces, both ancient and modern, and – in a first for the Chorus – there will be an invitation to the audience to sing some beloved carols with us as a taster to the season.

Tickets are £15 in advance but £16 on the door. Chanctonbury Chorus loves performing in our very special church and tickets for the concert will be on sale from me after most 9:30 services. And, in a first for me, you will be able to buy them not just with cash but with cards.



Benjamin Britten at work on 'Ceremony of Carols'
(AI assisted)

Nigel Hartley

Saint of the Month

ST CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ROME (c25-100AD)

Nothing is known of Clement's early life. Tertullian says that he was ordained by St Peter and Eusebius describes him as the "co-labourer of St Paul" in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. Thus he probably had an active ministry from 50AD. Again it is Eusebius who states that Clement had a personal acquaintance with the Apostle Paul.

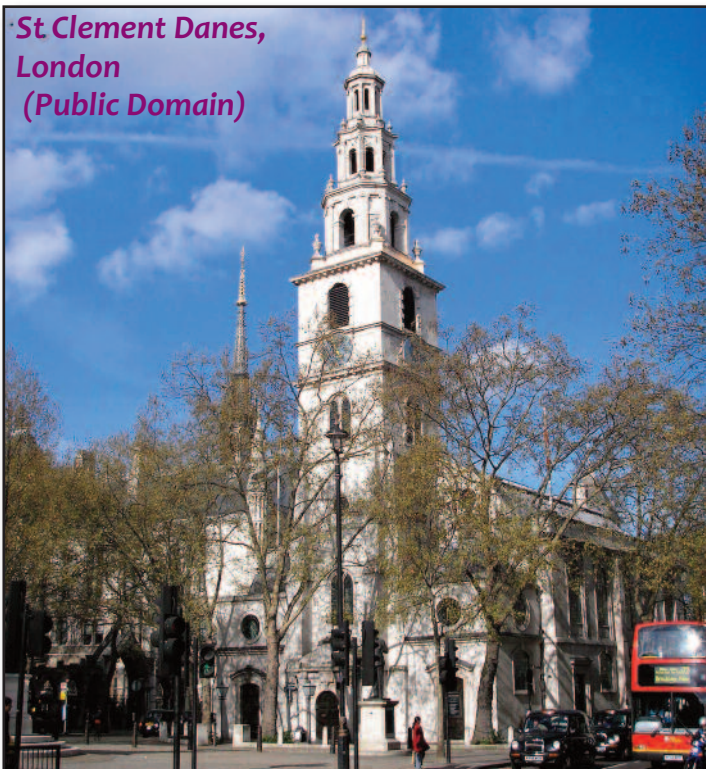
Clement became, it is thought, the third Bishop of Rome in 92AD and is known mainly for his Epistle to the Corinthian Church written in 96AD. The letter is seen as significant as being the first time a Bishop of Rome had intervened in the affairs of another Church. Certain presbyters of Corinth had been deposed by that Church but, because they had been ordained by the Apostles, Clement insisted that they be reinstated. The Epistle also provides evidence of the residence and martyrdom of Peter and Paul at Rome.



Two years later Clement was banished from Rome by the Emperor Trajan and was forced to work in a stone quarry. He was very effective in converting his fellow prisoners to Christianity and, as a result, in 100 AD he was condemned to death. He was thrown into the sea with an anchor round his neck. The legend grew up that the angels had made him a tomb on the sea-bed.

Clement's martyrdom is commemorated on 23 November and his emblem is an anchor, the means by which he was martyred. In London, the church of St Clement Danes has the anchor as its parish emblem. Also, the Guild of the Undivided Trinity (i.e. Trinity House in London) which is the authority responsible for lighthouses and lightships has St Clement as its patron.

St Clement Danes,
London
(Public Domain)



Family Support Work at Christmas



You can help needy families in Sussex at Christmas by donating food and/or gifts - see the wish lists above. Please leave items by the war memorial at the back of church. Final date for the donations is Sunday 13 December to allow time for sorting and distribution. Please ensure all food is within sell-by dates.



The Sussex Charity for Children
Since 1890



THANK YOU
Everyone @
St Andrew & St Cuthman's
for kindly supporting FSW throughout the
year, and your recent fabulous gift of
£650.82

The most recent donation from St Andrew's & St Cuthman's to Family Support Work totalled £650.82. This comes from recent fundraising events and individual donations, and includes gift aid.

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.



**COME IN PLEASE, FOR A
COFFEE OR TEA AND A CHAT.
10-12 NOON IN THE PENFOLD
HALL WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

Another Award for Our Church Magazine

Two years ago, our then editor, Chris Fitton, received an award from the Association of Church Editors, in the form of a certificate for Appeal to Intended Readership. This year the success was repeated, with a 'Highly Commended' certificate of excellence. The awards were presented at the Association's AGM held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on 26 September.

We understand we just missed out on one of the major awards – it will be interesting to receive the judges' reports to see how we might be able to go one better next time our magazine is eligible.

Our Diocese seems to regularly do well in these awards and this year was no exception, with Silver won by our neighbours in Henfield and a certificate for cover design, headlines and graphics

going to Graffham and Woolavington. The picture shows our editor receiving the award from ACE chair Sally Churchus.



Parish Registers

Baptisms

13 September	Henry Oliver Stokes
20 September	Freddie George Ronnie Constable
11 October	Macey Anne Power

Wedding Blessing

26 September	Don Mohamed Ala Eddine Bouraoui and Poppy Taylor
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Funerals and Memorial Services

19 October	Patricia ('Pat') Honor Tod (d 30/09/26)
21 October	Peter Malcolm Firth (d 22/09/26)
29 October	Anita Evans (d 22/09/26)

Interment of Ashes

19 September	Joyce Margaret Honer
13 October	Rosemary Judith Cole



Church Flowers



A big thank you to everyone who generously gave so much of their time to decorate the church for Harvest Festival. It was an amazing display of the bountiful gifts of the year, despite the lack of rain, and so much appreciated.

The picture on the left shows the amazing Harvest arrangement around the font at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's.

November flowers:

November 7:

Elisabeth Harden

November 14, 21 and 28:

Chrissie Leader

As is customary, there will be no flowers in church during Advent. Thanks to all who have helped throughout 2026.

Carol McKechnie



*Images from Harvest Festival at
St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, 2 October,
by Jim Lang*

Grassland Gems



Parrot Waxcap © Neil Fletcher

You may associate fungi with the mossy deadwood and light-dappled leaf litter of a forest floor, but some species prefer more out-in-the-open vibes. Slimy-capped and sporting a rainbow range of hues, waxcap fungi are a group of grassland fungi.

There are around 40 species of waxcap in the UK, and much like their woodland-dwelling cousins, are best encountered during late summer and autumn. Also akin to the fungi norm, their names are fantastic; from parrots to ballerinas.

Some fungi are decomposers, or 'saprotrophic', meaning they rely upon decaying matter to feed. This was once thought of waxcaps, but now they are understood to instead be 'biotrophic', meaning this brightly coloured bunch get their nutrients from a relationship with living plants.

Despite ongoing research into waxcap ways, symbiotic relationships in nature are nothing new. Most fungi have underground systems called mycelium; masses of tiny threads which connect the fruiting mushrooms we see above ground with trees and other plants, and with one another. These vast networks enable sharing of nutrients, water, and even information.

Waxcaps thrive with minimal agricultural involvement, in grasslands known as 'unimproved'; those free of pesticides, artificial fertilisers, and which haven't been drained or re-seeded. Much like the bedded-in bonds of ancient tree roots, mycelia take decades to form and connect, and when soil is cultivated, these life-giving chains are broken. With this in mind, the hands-off approach of rewilding is beneficial for these fungi. Due to intensification of

agricultural practices, this habitat is declining, and with it, its grassland gemstones.

In Sussex, the chalk grassland of the Downs is an ideal habitat for waxcaps, and here, fungi join an ancient, well-oiled ecosystem. In warmer months, the nutrient-poor soils support buzzing biodiverse meadows of wildflowers, providing food and breeding grounds for butterflies, bees, and ground nesting birds like Skylarks. Come early autumn, just as the splattered wildflower mosaic fades, the waxcaps pop up to complete the seasonal tapestry.

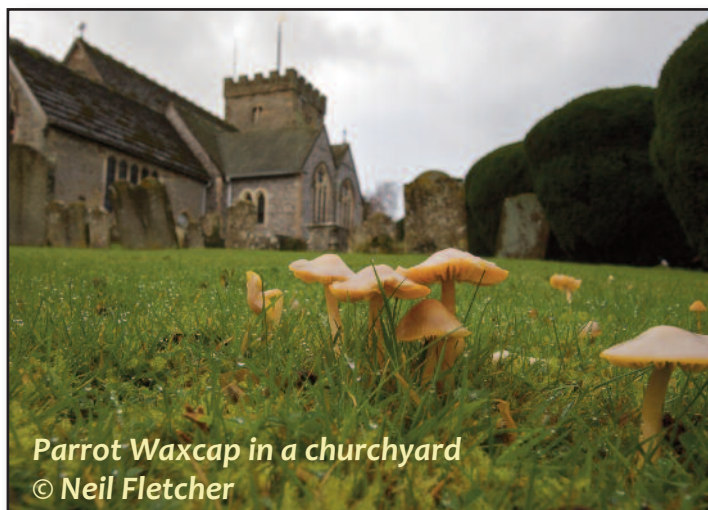
Where waxcaps be, other grassland fungi likely follow, and as such waxcaps are considered an ‘indicator species’ for corals, earthtongues and pinkgills. So often is this the case, that the term ‘waxcap grassland fungi’ encompasses these other groups.

It’s not all sweeping meadow majesty; waxcaps can be found in gardens, parks, and have a particular penchant for the peace of cemeteries. Keep your eyes peeled on urban ambles for shiny jewels catching autumn sun.

*Kerry Williams – Communications Officer,
Sussex Wildlife Trust*



Scarlet Waxcap
© Graeme Lyons



Parrot Waxcap in a churchyard
© Neil Fletcher

The Steyning Society

The next meeting is on Friday, 20 November
at the Steyning Centre,
7pm for 7:30pm

Speaker: Rod Scott

Plans for Steyning Grammar School.

The school, at the heart of the community for over 400 years, has faced pandemic, Brexit, academisation and changes in leadership. Being based on several sites has added to these challenges. The DoE starts building a new single-site school this year at Shooting Field. Rod Scott will talk about his journey as a governor and discuss how the single site will affect teachers, students, and the town. Admission free for members, £5 for visitors. All are welcome.



STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for November

Every Sunday

- 8am Holy Communion Service (traditional language)
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday with choir, except on Sunday 15 November, with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages. (No 9:30 on 8 November)
- 10:45am 8 November: Remembrance service
- 4pm On Sunday 1 November: Candlelit service for All Souls (No Reflections service this month)
- 6pm Evening service
- Second Sunday (8 November) Firepit service (outside by the porch, in the porch if wet)
- Second Sunday (8 November) Sunday: said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service
- Third Sunday (15 November) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, celebrating St Andrew the Apostle (joint patron)
Visiting preacher Rt Revd Nicholas Reade
- Fourth Sunday (22 November) Taizé service
- 29 November From Darkness to Light (Churches Together Carols)

Every Wednesday

- 11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 25 November (Last Wednesday) with prayers for healing

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for November

Sundays

- 11am First Sunday (1 November) Zoom Matins
- 10:50am Second Sunday (8 November) Remembrance Service
- 10:30am Fourth Sunday (22 November) Holy Communion

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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