

The Benefice of Steep and Froxfield with Privett

N E W S S H E E T

Sunday 22nd March 2020

⊕ **Mothering Sunday /
The 4th Sunday of Lent**

Benefice cancellations at a glance...

Regrettably but unavoidably, the following (and this is not necessarily exhaustive) have been cancelled, with immediate effect, due to the current health situation:
All church services in Steep, Stroud, High Cross, Froxfield Green and Privett (See Simultaneous Home & Church Worship below)

The **Wednesday evenings Lent group** organised by Susie and Sue (see Lent 2020 below)

The **Mothering Sunday Brunch** at Froxfield Village Hall on 22nd March

Also:

Steep Film Society - all screenings

The Froxfield and Privett Garden Club Spring Show on Saturday 28th March

Froxfield Choir singing Evensong at Exton on 5th April

Simultaneous Home & Church Worship

Good News! While there is no **public** worship in the benefice churches, our clergy will hold a small private Communion service each Sunday (**The New TenAM**) and Wednesday (**The New FivePM**) in one of the churches, with up to five invited parishioners. **Everyone else is asked to set aside whatever time they can at those specific times, to worship in their own way at home.** If you would like to be invited to the church, to pray for the whole community, please do email me on steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com, or telephone the vicarage (264282).

**Lent
2020**

SUSIE AND SUE ENCOURAGE you to use the daily readings and weekly questions in the course book* for

private reflec. If you have any queries, please do contact Susie on susie.collingridge@gmail.com.

* £2.99 from <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/lent-and-easter-reading>.

Light a Candle this Mothering Sunday

The Archbishops are inviting us to place a lit candle in the windows of our homes at 7pm today, Mothering Sunday, as a focus of prayer for our community and parishes.



“**T**ogether we [the clergy] are called in this time of confusion and challenge to offer our Christian faith and our lives as disciples of Jesus for the healing of fears and hurts, for the sustaining of community and congregational life...”

+ *Christopher*

REVD CANON JOHN OWEN WRITES: Bishop Christopher's words above, from a letter received this week by all diocesan ministers, are fundamental to our ministry at all times, and especially now.

Our benefice ministry team - Associate Vicar Susie, Reader Caroline, Lay Pastoral Assistant Lindsay, our churchwardens and of course, myself - is committed to helping you, your families and friends, through both prayer and supporting community initiatives, while embracing the changes necessary to keep us safe and at the same time trying to maintain continuity in the church and community.

Wednesday's Church of England announcement that ALL PUBLIC WORSHIP IS SUSPENDED, slightly changes this weekly news sheet's purpose. While there are no physical church services being held across the benefice each week about which to inform you, the appropriate prayers and readings will still be published so that you are able to WORSHIP AT HOME. We will provide you with SPIRITUAL NURTURE, and we will give you updates on the LATEST CHURCH OF ENGLAND GUIDELINES regarding Coronavirus - these might necessitate an email between the regular weekend ones. There will, of course, be the usual notices of baptisms, marriage and other newsworthy happenings in the benefice.

If you know of anyone who might like to receive this up-to-date church news, and keep in contact with the church family, email steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com.

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'



THE SUSPENSION OF PHYSICAL church services will impact on the church finances through, amongst other changes, the absence of the collection plate. Please do remember that your much appreciated donations (gift aided where possible) can always be put into the box at each church; or if the time is now right for you to join the direct debit Parish Giving Scheme, please contact Geoffrey Dale (Steep) / 894570 or Christine Stephens (Froxfield) / christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk.

THE CHURCH FAMILY OF ST PETER'S, HIGH CROSS, and the benefice of Steep and Froxfield with Privett, welcome **FLORA ELLIS**, daughter of Tara and Ed Ellis of Froxfield, who was baptised at St Peter's, High Cross on 15th March.



Please pray for the late **MRS CHRISTINE BRIDGES**, whose funeral will be held at All Saints', Steep on Monday 23rd March at 1.30pm; and keep her family and friends in your prayers.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

COLLECT

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

POST-COMMUNION

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT AND POST-COMMUNION PRAYER



PRAYERS FROM THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL REMINDER: Please do make sure that you are registered - for two reasons: 1) so that you can have a say in the future of YOUR church by voting at the Annual Parish Church Meeting; and 2) to give the diocese an accurate view of the parishes which will help them plan accurately for our ministry needs.

FROXFIELD WITH PRIVETT - APCM: 19th April

Contact ERO: Pat Sadler (sadlerpatricia@hotmail.com 07866 506744.)

Find a form (now): at St Peter's, High Cross, or from Pat.

Return completed form by...29th March; to...St Peter's

STEEP AND STROUD - APCM: 26th April

Contact ERO: Judy Thompson

(judy.thompson@me.com / 267362)

Find a form (from 21/3): at the font at All Saints', Steep.

Return completed form by...4th April; to...Judy or c/o the Vicarage (77 Church Road, Steep)

Reaching out

WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR community are many resources to help you through this difficult time. Some are up and running, others are still in formation. We will keep you regularly updated:

Templates for a simple act of worship which can be used on any day, morning and evening, are laid out on the attached pdf ■ **This link**

(Ctrl + R click) <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> will enable you to join in a service of Daily Prayer. You can also download the Daily Prayer app here ■ Don't forget the inspiration to be found on **Radio 4 LW Daily Service**, and the **BBC Sounds** page on which you can listen to Songs of Praise and Beyond Belief by Ernie Rae ■ **Parish community**

volunteer networks to help the elderly, vulnerable and self-isolated in a practical way are being set up; contact details to follow.



LET US PRAY FOR...

the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, the Most Revd Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and Bishop

of Hong Kong Island;
the Honorary Assistant Bishops Timothy Bavin, Ian Brackley, Karen Gorham, John Hind and Tim Thornton; and the prison chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison, Isle of Wight, Judith Swaine. Please also pray for HM Prison Service, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, prison governors, officers and chaplains, visitors, prisoners and their

families, and all victims of crime.
the congregations and parishioners of St Peter's Church, Petersfield and their

CONTACTS

(Telephone numbers in this news sheet have the exchange **01730** unless otherwise noted)

Vicar: Revd Canon John Owen (264282) revjohnowen@gmail.com;

Associate Vicar: Revd Dr Susie Collingridge (01428 724378) susie.collingridge@gmail.com

Reader: Mrs Caroline Hilton (263460) **Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Lindsay Clegg (827505)

Churchwardens: Please see the *Froxfield and Privett Parish Magazine* and the *Steep and Stroud Newsletter*

Gift Aid Officers: Steep and Stroud - Stephen Rae (260571); Froxfield and Privett - Martin Luke (263419)

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Anne Grove steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com **Benefice website:** www.steepfroxfield.com

<https://www.facebook.com/steepfroxfieldandprivettchurches>

<https://twitter.com/steepchurchcomm>