



Gilly Hollis supplied this photograph of her and Edward Sadler (founding school governor) with the 4<sup>th</sup> food bank load



*Froxfield and Privett Parish  
Magazine*



*January 2024*



# Benefice Worship

God's love for us was revealed when  
God sent his only Son into the world, so that  
we could have life through him.

1 John 4.9

## Sunday 7: The First Sunday of Epiphany (Gold)

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Steep  
10am The TenAM (less formal worship for all ages), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

## Sunday 14: The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Stroud  
10am Parish Communion, Steep

## Sunday 21: The Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

## Sunday 28: The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Stroud  
10am Parish Communion, Steep  
11am Morning Prayer (BCP), Froxfield Green

## Sunday 4 February: The Second Sunday before Lent (Green)

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Steep  
10am The TenAM (less formal worship for all ages), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

*Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice*

For further information, request our  
weekly emailed news sheet at  
[steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com](mailto:steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com),  
or visit our website [www.steepfroxfield.com](http://www.steepfroxfield.com)

(White) January 2024

Steep: All Saints, GU32 2DD | Stroud Church: GU32 1AT  
High Cross: St Peter's, GU32 1EQ  
Froxfield Green: St Peter-on-the Green, GU32 1DQ  
Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE

Priest-in-Charge/Area Dean Revd Dr Susie Collingridge tel. 07734 879224  
Revd Sue Jones tel 07884 141019  
Retired Clergy: Revd Joanna Farrell (PtO) tel. 01730 828450  
Reader: Mrs Caroline Hilton tel. 01730 263460  
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg tel. 01730 827505  
Churchwardens Mrs Sara Greenaway tel. 01730 827541  
Rob Hollis 07368 515108 tel. 01730 828476

## Froxfield and Privett Parish Information

Parish Magazine

All articles, news and for sale items: [froxfield.parish@btinternet.com](mailto:froxfield.parish@btinternet.com)  
Phone: Evenings & weekends: 827476 Editors: Caroline & Steve Dillon

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Privett Village Hall: Secretary:  
Alex Raphael 01730 828461

[www.PrivettVillageHall.co.uk](http://www.PrivettVillageHall.co.uk)

Froxfield & Privett Garden Club:  
Elizabeth Houghton-Connell 01730 828889

Darts Teams: Angela Hiscock: 01730 827066

Cricket Club: Kevin Hiscock: 01730 827066

Froxfield Choir: NICO JACKSON [nicola.jackson2@btopenworld.com](mailto:nicola.jackson2@btopenworld.com)

Ladies Friendship Group:  
Ursela Legg 01730 828324

Froxfield Ringers: Teresa Brown: 828003 or 07799 831426

Country & Western: Viv Barnett 01730 268306

Parish Clerk: 07396722442. [clerk@froxfieldandprivett.org.uk](mailto:clerk@froxfieldandprivett.org.uk)

Froxfield Stores & Post Office: Howard & Charlotte 01730 827778  
[www.froxfieldstores.com](http://www.froxfieldstores.com)

Parish website: [www.froxfieldandprivett.org.uk](http://www.froxfieldandprivett.org.uk)

Defibrillator access code: C0147X



**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR NEW 2024 CALENDAR**

- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am - 12 noon – Drop-In  
 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 6pm public meeting about the future of the hall  
 7pm Live Music, with food and bar  
 (tickets available from the website in January)
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am - 12 noon – Drop-In

**Solution to December Crossword Puzzle**

**Across** - 1 Safest, 5 Decrease, 9 Arrivals, 10 Gifted, 11 Fair Isle, 12 Differ, 13 Trotters, 15 Ashe, 17 Adds, 19 Slipways, 20 Tugged, 21 Outgoing, 22 Uphill, 23 Football, 24 Eggshell, 25 Secede.

**Down** - 2 Airwaves, 3 Emigrate, 4 Toadstool, 5 Dessertspoonful, 6 Raisins, 7 Act of God, 8 Endorses, 14 Reactions, 15 Abstruse, 16 Hedgehog, 17 Ascorbic, 18 Dwindled, 19 Stealth.

Bin Days Thursday Unless Otherwise Indicated

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Refuse Bin</b>	<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Refuse Bin</b>	<b>Recycling &amp; Glass Collection</b>	<b>Refuse Bin</b>

**Regarding December’s cover picture, by Caroline Hilton**

The artist is John Piper a modern English artist born in Epsom in 1903. He painted many churches and he also designed the huge tapestry in Chichester Cathedral. I think it portrays in abstract and in colour ‘ the power of the Holy Spirit’. He wanted to modernise churches with his artwork as a spiritual inspiration. Maybe he thought to make churches more contemporary it made them more relevant. Why he painted St Peter’s High Cross and why the painting only recently came to the Church I don’t know. Martin Luke knew something about it but he died this year.

**Who’s who in the Church**

(01730 is the telephone exchange unless otherwise stated)  
**Priest-in-Charge & Area Dean (Petersfield):** The Revd Dr Susie Collingridge (624245); [susie.collingridge@gmail.com](mailto:susie.collingridge@gmail.com)

**Assistant Curate:** The Revd Sue Jones (624245); [susan.jones1410@gmail.com](mailto:susan.jones1410@gmail.com)  
**Retired Clergy (PtO):** The Revd Joanna Farrell (828450)  
**Reader (PtO):** Mrs Caroline Hilton (263460)  
**Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Lindsay Clegg (827505)

**Churchwardens:**  
 Sara Greenaway (827541) and Rob Hollis (07368 515108)

**Benefice Administrator:**  
 AnneGrove [www.steepfroxfield.com](http://www.steepfroxfield.com) / [steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com](mailto:steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com)

**Gift Aid (GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) Officers:** Ian Hughes ([n.ianhughes@btinternet.com](mailto:n.ianhughes@btinternet.com)/828344) (GA); and Christine Stephens ([Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk](mailto:Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk)) (PGS)

**Social media:**  
 Website: <https://steepfroxfield.com>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/steepfroxfieldandprivettchurches>



This is a copy of the eulogy from Pam Goodall's funeral on the 19<sup>th</sup> December at High Cross. It was written by her grandsons. I decided to leave it as it was. Pam played a big part in village life and will doubtless be missed by many. She kindly wrote the History Notes for the magazine for many years, the most popular item in the magazine, speaking to many people.

Tim:

Our wonderful grandmother, Pamela, lived a long and full life and as a family we have enjoyed recalling our many memories of her. She used to tell of her early life, that she was born in the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital in London which is within the sound of the Bow Bells. She was fond of saying that this made her a Cockney! She reminisced about Lady Margaret Primary School in Southall with its kind and clever teachers and Greenford Grammar School, which she could see out of her bedroom window as a child and was determined to attend. She told us that her English teacher was the father of Michael Rosen, who became a well-known children's author. I still remember Granny reading his 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' to me as a child. As she grew up, she developed a love of learning and a wide range of interests, something that continued throughout her life. This included being a Brownie and a Guide, eventually becoming a Queen's Guide, the highest attainable Girl Guiding award.

Granny recalled camping on the pavement in London the night before the late Queen's Coronation and she saw the young Queen Elizabeth II pass by in the Golden Coronation Coach. Granny's love of learning led to her attending Scarisbrick Hall, (pronounced Scaresbrick) a Church of England Teacher Training College near Liverpool, and then to her becoming an Infant teacher at Lady Bankes School in Ruislip, where she taught for 8 years.

She told us that on returning to Middlesex to take up this teaching post a friend suggested joining the Action Group, for young adults, at Holy Trinity Church in Southall, which she did. This was where Grandpa and Granny first met in 1958. and this led to their marriage 4 years later. They had three children, Jo, our mother, Jeremy and Simon, who remember the happy times when the Action Group friends met up together with their children. Those friendships continued for many years.

## Clergy Corner continued

This is an opportunity, too, for lay people to grow more fully involved in some areas of our churches' ministry. Together we are the Body of Christ on earth, and our active involvement is a way that we express that reality with very positive potential.

For the past 18 months I have been Area Dean of Petersfield, and continue to hold that responsibility (in reality that's on my own time). It's a role that is traditionally carried alongside a parish position. The deanery (which reaches between Buriton in the south and Bramshott in the north) works very well together, bringing the strengths and opportunities from across our diverse parishes to support one another.

As you may know many of the incumbents in the area hold deanery-wide responsibilities (such as ministry with young people/families/schools, mission and outreach, discipleship and spirituality and lay ministry development). My role includes helping encourage my fellow clergy and coordinate some joint activities across the area.

The biggest change for me personally in becoming the parish/benefice priest here is moving into Steep Vicarage. While Associate Vicar I was based up in Liphook. It is so much better to be in the heart of our communities, with the greater opportunities to spend time in our schools, bump into people through the day and to start to get to know everyone better. I am always happy to be invited to events and activities in the parishes and to take 5 minutes or so for a cup of coffee with you and yours if I can.

I am so much looking forward to enjoying a very happy and fruitful time living and working alongside you all in the coming months and years, and seeing God at work among us all.

With every blessing for a peaceful year in 2024.

**Revd Dr Susie Collingridge**

## Clergy Corner

Since my licensing in early October, life has been a whirlwind of activity! I wanted to take the time now to share a little more of an introduction to my new role. I hope to be able to share more about myself in the future.

For now, it might be helpful to let you know about some changes to my role compared to my esteemed predecessor, Canon John Owen. Some make no real difference, while others may need a little explanation.

Something that has not changed is that I have oversight of the same parishes, of Steep (including Stroud) and Froxfield with Privett. Under John Owen's guidance this has become a fruitful and positive relationship with good relationships developing and continuing. We have two PCC's and two sets of Church Wardens etc, but our ministry team is shared. We have benefitted from some Joint PCC meetings already, to help grow our mutual understanding and fellowship. People enjoy worshipping in each other's churches too, especially for Benefice Communion. There are other specific options to share, such as regular Book of Common Prayer services and special Pet Services and Services of Remembrance and Thanksgiving (to remember those who have died).

One obvious difference from before is that I'm currently known as 'Priest in Charge' rather than 'Vicar'. That is a technical (and probably temporary) difference, because of the bishop needing flexibility while appointing clergy to different parishes all at once. In practice there is no real impact on our day-to-day life, and I'm happy if people want to refer to me as 'The Vicar'!

A more important change is that, unlike John, I have a 0.5 role rather than full-time, so I work in parish ministry on Sundays plus 3 days each week. This does mean that there may be extra responsibilities and activities that John could take on within his working week that I sadly wouldn't have the capacity to accept. I aim to have rest days on Mondays and Fridays where I can, which allows me the space to support my elderly mother and other family members as needed.

## Pam Goodall Eulogy continued

Granny and Grandpa began their married life in West London but they both loved the countryside. Granny recounted how, during the Second World War, her mother took her to live in Branscombe in Devon, whilst her father was serving with the Military Special Investigation Branch in North Africa and Italy. Her time in Devon and later in Sussex, where she lived with her grandparents and aunt for a short while, led to her long-lasting love of the countryside and the sea.

A career opportunity for Grandpa arose in Liss in 1965 and that began the family's happy association with Hampshire. In 1976 they moved from Liss to Hawkley and then, in 1981, here to Froxfield.

After a "career break" to have her children, Granny resumed teaching after Jeremy had had a succession of Infant teachers at Greatham School. Granny stepped in and returned to full-time teaching to offer stability at the school. Simon was still at Nursery School. He recalls spending mornings at Nursery School and afternoons in the Infant class with Granny.

After 10 years of teaching at Greatham, Granny did supply teaching for 2 years whilst Grandpa was working abroad, and Jeremy and Simon were studying for their A levels and O levels, respectively. At the end of those 2 years, she did a term's supply teaching at Froxfield Infant School and so began her happy association with the school. She retired after 8 years so that she could travel with Grandpa, spend time with her grandchildren and develop her many interests.

Before I hand over to Rick to cover more on her life, I would like to express my immense gratitude to a woman who was such a positive influence on my life, who provided many of my fondest childhood memories, and unconditional love that I will carry with me for life. Thank you, Granny, for everything, I love you so dearly.

Rick:

Some of you here today will have met Granny through the many groups she attended, in person and on-line, which reflected her wide-ranging interests. These included the Poetry group, Quilting, the U3a, Tai Chi, Handbells, the Friendship group that she established in April 1992 when she was on the PCC, the Garden Club which reflected her love of gardening and Love's Charity of which she was a Trustee.



## Pam Goodall Eulogy continued

The local history group enabled her to share her love of history, as did the Parish magazine for which she wrote many History Notes. She spent many happy hours in the Records Office in Winchester researching the history of the area.

Granny and Grandpa enjoyed many happy holidays over the years, including several visits to America to see some of her cousins and friends. More recently, Granny enjoyed visits from friends, neighbours, her Goddaughter and her other cousins. She said there was much laughter and she enjoyed reliving some of her happy memories with them. She really appreciated the help at home, these last years, from everyone who enabled her to live independently, which was her wish. The family's thanks go out to them too.

Granny also liked chance meetings with friends and neighbours when she was out shopping in Petersfield with Jo, Jeremy or Simon. She told several of them very happily about her 86<sup>th</sup> family birthday party which she celebrated recently.

My mum and uncles have many happy memories of spending time with Granny. Childhood memories include family holidays in Dorset, staying with Granny's parents and brother, who had retired to Langton Matravers on the Isle of Purbeck. Walks across the clifftops and trips to Studland Beach. This was where Granny and Grandpa's love of sailing began. Simon has happy memories of sailing holidays around the Greek Islands with them and Jeremy remembers them bringing their boat down to Dorset on one of the many occasions when they came to stay with him.

Jo remembers Granny's creativity. Granny used to make her own clothes when she was a young woman and made her children's clothes when they were younger. She wrote poems when each of her 3 grandchildren, Tim, Zak, and I, were born and she made each of us an amazing and colourful quilt when we were younger.

We three grandchildren also have additional happy shared memories. We recall being collected from school and taken to swimming lessons. We remember going for walks along the country lanes and enjoying picnics in the garden.



We were treated to some stunning photography by Carol Watson and taken on a visual worldwide journey looking at Wildflower Hotspots at our Christmas meeting on the 12 December at Privett Village Hall.

We commenced our 'trip' looking at wild Orchids in Canada, moved onto the Wildflower Festival in North America, crossing the meadows of Colorado. Amongst many others Carol shared her beautiful photographs of Columbines and wild Larkspur growing high up in the hills, Californian Poppies covering hillsides and turning the landscape yellow before we moved down to South America visiting Chile and Ecuador where apparently there are over 6,000 types of Orchids, the Monkey Orchid living up to its name in appearance. Then on to South Africa and Australia looking at Donkey Orchids and Flying Duck Orchids both of which were aptly named. Carol moved through China with its glorious Azaleas, Himalayan blue poppies and Primulas growing wild, where Carol had been sworn to secrecy on the whereabouts of the rare black Primula and how she had been surprised to see Edelweiss growing wild in China. We returned to Europe via the mountains of Crete with wild tulips, gladioli and fields of orchids, then Corfu and Sicily followed by mainland Europe crossing through the Alps in France, Italy, and Switzerland with its Anemones. Carol ended her talk reminding us that, of course, we are treated to some spectacular wildflower areas in our locality. The meeting was buzzing, and everyone present felt that they had actually shared a visual holiday on a dark winter evening.

After Carol's talk we all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies, which has been a long-standing tradition in the Garden Club at the Christmas meeting.

Our next meeting is a Zoom meeting and takes place on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7.30pm. Adam Pascoe will be speaking about 'Golden Rules for Gardening'. A Zoom invitation will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

The Froxfield & Privett Garden Club would like to wish you all a happy New Year and we hope that everyone continues to enjoy all the benefits that gardening brings and has a successful gardening year in 2024.

**Elizabeth Houghton-Connell**

## The Dates for the Parish Council Meetings for 2024

All Meetings start at 7.30pm

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Froxfield Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Froxfield Village Hall - Annual Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Privett Village Hall
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	Froxfield Village Hall
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Privett Village Hall

We wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a safe, happy & prosperous New Year. Steve & Caroline



## Pam Goodall Eulogy continued

Tim remembers trips to Marwell Zoo, the Alresford County Show, and outings on the boat among his many priceless memories.

Zak remembers texting Granny many times about the Liverpool Football Club's scores! He also has fond memories of going to a local archaeological dig with Granny and Grandpa.

I will continue to be deeply inspired by her incredible positivity, determination, and genuine interest in everything going on in our lives. She is a true inspiration who brought so much happiness to us all.

The whole family have so many happy memories and photographs of time spent with Granny; the innumerable birthday and wedding anniversary celebrations we were so lucky to share, including her recent 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. She will continue to live on in our memories as I am sure she will do in yours too.

Thank you, Granny! Sleep tight. We love you so dearly.



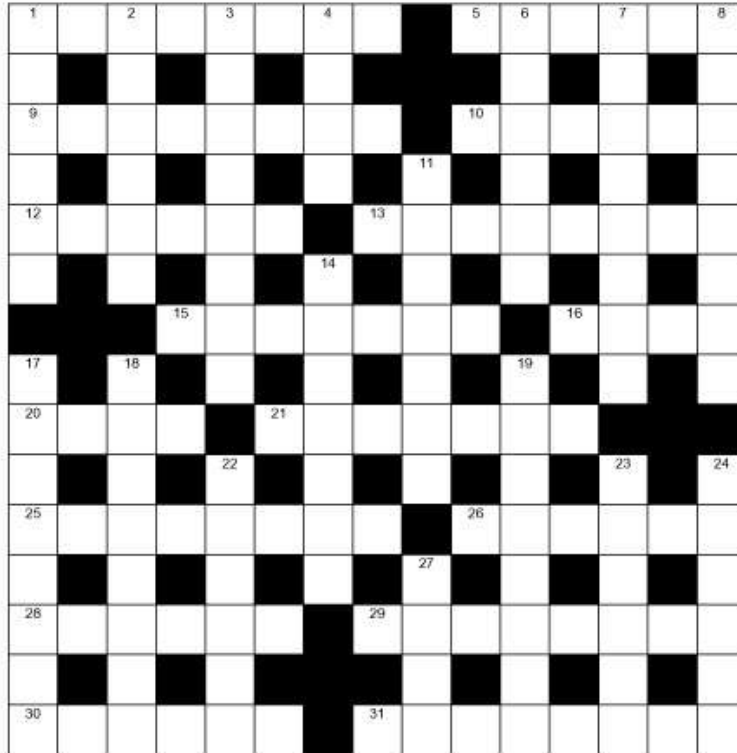
Simon, Pam Goodall's son has been in touch to find out if anyone would like to take on her Parish local history archive, about a filing cabinet's-worth of material. If anyone is interested, get in touch via 01730 827476 and we'll pass your details onto him. If no-one claims it, he is going to give it to Petersfield Museum. It would be a shame to see it leave the Parish, so it would be good for someone to take it on. Pam put a lot of effort into collating it, and it would be nice for it to stay here. Testament to her.

## Cover

This picture is of Steve's and my Miniature Shetland pony, Bobby, who sadly died in 2021, but I thought it was a great photograph of him playing in the snow in 2010, where we had 3 feet in places.

**Caroline Dillon**

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**Across**

- 1 Morally corrupt
- 5 A painful foot complaint
- 9 The general public
- 10 Aft; away to the rear
- 12 Chronicle or disc
- 13 Happy-go-lucky
- 15 Cuddle up
- 16 Girl
- 20 Dutch cheese
- 21 Assaults
- 25 Disaster
- 26 E.g. Daisy or daffodil
- 28 Slacken
- 29 'Hades car.' (anag).
- 30 Season
- 31 One who is captured or confined

**Down**

- 1 Leave
- 2 Tenure of office of a pope
- 3 Parts of aircraft wings
- 4 Engrave metal, glass or stone
- 6 Northern Irish province
- 7 Dessert
- 8 Balderdash!
- 11 A group of motionless figures representing a scene
- 14 Perturb
- 17 Mythical Greek hero, renowned for his strength
- 18 Dance hall
- 19 Songbirds
- 22 Unit of electric current
- 23 Scandinavian country
- 24 Rubber
- 27 Norse god of thunder

HCC welcomes new Government plans on Smoking and Vaping. The Local Authority's Trading Standards Officers regularly visit businesses to check measures are in place to prevent the sales of cigarettes and vapes to underage children.

SDNP has created a brokerage service named ReNature Credits which will connect landowners and developers to create areas of land for nature recovery.

Highways is suffering from problems with utility companies, consequently they are endeavouring to find ways of charging them properly and to prevent Highways own works being disrupted. Where the road surface reconstruction has been poor, they are looking to force the Utility Companies to return and finish the work properly. Russell's full report is available on the Parish Council website.

The Councillors reviewed the 2024/25 Budget and set the precept. 2 items of playground equipment have been closed on the Froxfield Playground due to a safety concern but these will either be repaired or more likely replaced in the near future.

We hope everyone is enjoying the Christmas Trees in Privett and Froxfield. We wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.





### Planning Applications

A resolution was made on the following applications at the November Planning Committee Meeting

**SDNP/23/04551/HOUS North Lodge Broadhanger King Lane** Ground floor extension to rear and side, relocation of front entrance door and open porch, replacement timber frame casement windows, re-tile existing roof and hanging wall tiles including thermal upgrade with external wall insulation and painted brickwork, solar pv installation to roof and replacement garage and shed following demolition of existing garage and shed. Installation of air source heat pump on garage. It was resolved to SUPPORT the application.

**SDNP/23/03121/FUL Broadway Cottage King Lane Froxfield** New, 4 bedroom detached dwelling with detached garage following demolition of the existing dwelling (revised plans received 8th November 2023). It was resolved to OBJECT to the revised proposals on the basis that the application remains at odds with Polices SD4, 5 and SD30 of the SDNP Local Plan.

Members of the parish council and the planning committee will have discussed the following application at a meeting on 14th December 2023

**SDNP/23/04908/HOUS Alexanders Farmhouse** Alexanders Lane GU34 3PW Proposed two storey front and side extension, single storey extension to the rear following the demolition of the existing conservatory, single storey porch to the front and side, external plant room. PV array to roof, air source heat pump to replace oil boiler and tank. Full renovation internally and upgraded glazing and insulation standards throughout.

Russell Oppenheimer started the November meeting with a shortened version of his monthly report.

The Government is still releasing details of how funding from the cancellation of the Northern leg of HS2. Highways are hoping to receive somewhere between £7-12m extra each year for the next three years, starting in April 2024.

### Parish Poppy Appeal – 2023



Thank you so very much to everyone in the parish for your generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, leading up to the Remembrance Service at Froxfield Green. As you will know we were trying a new system this year, rather than continuing with door-to-door collections. A special well done to all those involved. Considering the change we had a very good year – especially Howard at Froxfield Store, and our totals were:

Poppy Collection – Froxfield £700      Poppy Collection - Privett £119  
Remembrance Service Collection £348      Total: £1167

The Petersfield Area total was £29,000

Jeremy de Halpert and Michael Farrell

### Digital Parish Magazines



The Parish Council, Froxfield Village Hall and Privett Village Hall have agreed to put the magazine on their websites too, as well as the church.

They are as follows:

Privett Village Hall: <http://www.privettvillagehall.co.uk>  
Froxfield Village Hall: <https://www.froxfieldvillagehall.co.uk/>  
Parish Council: <https://froxfieldandprivett.org.uk/>

Steve has kindly offered to fund 10 copies of the magazine in the Village shop if anyone would like to buy a copy. In case people have not got around to requesting their own printed version. They will be priced at £1.10 a copy to cover costs. If there appears to be a need for it, he may well continue.

**Caroline**



Today I was lucky enough to be able to spend the day with the whole school at the Wintershall Estate in Surrey both watching the wonderfully moving nativity performance and assisting the children in participating in the excellent follow up workshops their education team ran. Despite the damp and chilly weather, it has been a wonderful experience, both seeing the splendid production of the age old story told with such conviction, and seeing the children's engagement and indeed awe, as the story unfolded in front of them. Real sheep and lambs, a sweet, real donkey in a real stable, huge horses bearing the three kings, and of course a very real (beautifully behaved) baby Jesus! I was amongst class 1 and it was a privilege to observe the very youngest children as they absorbed the power of the message of the angels.

Instead of going to Wintershall, the Preschool had their own special Christmas trip to Hogmoor Inclosure where they enjoyed a ranger-led session. The children were each able to make a wooden reindeer, using wood sourced from the forest. These reindeer are now adorning the children's front gardens - what a great treat for them and their families - a special keepsake for years to come.

The Nativity story has been at the fore throughout December at Froxfield CE Primary and Preschool. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and grandparents to the Nativity Services on December 6th with the children in Key Stage 1 performing 'Clip Clop to Bethlehem'. I was delighted to see that the children from the Preschool were included in the cast - they appeared dressed as animals in the stable - they portrayed a very wide range of little beasts, including a very sweet elephant! They sang the 'Wriggly Nativity' song and clearly loved their chance to shine - what a great achievement for such small folk, the youngest of whom is only two.

## Froxfield School continued

The children from the main school all performed beautifully, with great confidence - even for adults, it can be quite daunting to stand up in front of so many people, but the children did an amazing job, speaking and acting with such clarity and enthusiasm. The singing by the older children in Key Stage 2 was, as usual, outstanding with every child fully taking part and clearly enjoying themselves.

As you may know the children participate in daily Collective Worship - and three days a week this takes place in St Peter's High Cross with the whole school gathered together. This half-term the theme has been *compassion*. Led weekly by the clergy - Sue Jones and Susie Collingridge, as well as on the other days by Vickie Farrow, the children have talked about what it means to show compassion, they have linked this to the compassion shown by the innkeeper in the Nativity story. They have also talked about showing compassion through donating to the Reverse Advent Calendar which is a very practical way the school can demonstrate concern for those in the community who are struggling especially at this time of year.

My husband and I have had the very gratifying task of delivering the extremely generous gifts the children and their families have donated this year and the Food Bank organisers are most fulsome in their thanks to everyone for their generosity to those much less fortunate.

Although they will have broken up, Froxfield School children will be taking part in the High Cross carol service on December 17th - a fitting way to for the school and the community to come together to celebrate the coming of Christmas.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone associated with Froxfield CE Primary and Preschool - Mrs Farrow and her staff, my fellow governors and most especially the children and their families, a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Gilly Hollis**  
**Chair of Governors**