

# *Celebrating*

the Life of



GILLIAN MARY DOWNHAM

18 MAY 1939 - 30 AUGUST 2025

Gillian Mary Downham, of Steyning, passed away on  
Saturday 30 August 2025, at the age of 86.

Predeceased by her loving husband Marshall Downham,  
survived by her partner David Lawrence. Loving Mother  
of Nicola Findlay and her husband Bill, Kate Caddick and  
her husband Pete, and Robert Downham and his wife  
Sarah. Cherished Granny to Matthew, Thomas, Joshua,  
David, Abigail and Sophie, and Great Granny to Emorie,  
and soon to be Baby Trafford and Baby Caddick.

Beyond her family she found great meaning in  
community. Gillian belonged to the Friends of St Mary's  
for many years, where she volunteered as head gardener,  
she also helped with the church flowers at St Andrew's.  
Gillian was very passionate about her lovely garden at  
85 High Street where she lived for many years. Gillian  
was also a member of the Arthritis and Rheumatism  
Council, where she helped organise many events  
including ploughman lunches and strawberry teas in  
Steyning to raise money for this charity.

Gillian was a proud member of the Royal Fleet Auxillary  
Association, where she built lifelong friendships and  
gave generously of her time.

Gillian always put her family and loved ones first, her  
warmth and gentle spirit touched everyone who had the  
privilege of knowing her.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved her.

# Order of Service

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 2:00pm

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's Church, Steyning

Service conducted by Fr Mark Heather




## ENTRANCE MUSIC

Organ voluntary: Sir Edward Elgar, Nimrod from  
'Enigma Variations'

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

## HYMN



O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die – I scarce can take it in:  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

Stuart K Hine (1899-1989)  
based on a Swedish text by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859-1940)



## **EULOGY**

David and Nigel

## **POEM**

The Ship by Henry Scott Holland  
read by Matthew

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **PSALM 121**

read by Robert



**SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 14:1-7**

read by Greg

**ADDRESS**

Fr Mark

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**



## HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like,  
no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome,  
your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord,  
at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
at the end of the day.

Joyce Anstruther ('Jan Struther') 1901-1953





**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & HOPE**

read by Pete

**POEM**

‘I Have Not Gone’ Author Unknown

read by Nicola

**POEM**

‘Let me Go’ by Christina Rossetti

read by Kate

**PRAYER OF COMMENDATION**

Fr Rupert TBC



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

### HYMN

*Kindly honour Gillian's wishes and  
sing with heartfelt gusto!*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.



Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

## **EXIT MUSIC**

'Jerusalem'  
Hubert Parry





Gillian's family would like to thank everyone for coming today and for their kind words of support. You are warmly invited to join them after the service for refreshments at:

**Penfold Church Hall  
35 Church St, Steyning BN44 3YB**

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Gillian, the chosen charities are:



**Alzheimer's  
Society**

**VERSUS  
ARTHRITIS**

Donations can be made via [gilliandownham.muchloved.com](http://gilliandownham.muchloved.com)  
or cheques and cash donations can be made via  
Chalcraft Funeral Directors,  
55 High Street, Steyning, BN44 3RE