

Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

February 2006

The Parish of Sonning

The ancient parish of Sonning, originally extending from Sonning Common to Sandhurst was one of the great blocks of land handed over to the Church in the 7th century. In 909 A.D. Sonning with Ramsbury, became a separate bishopric, the Bishop of Ramsbury/ Sonning maintaining a riverside Hall in the village. In 1075 the see was transferred to Old Sarum, ultimately Salisbury, whose bishops had their own Palace on the same site as the Saxon Hall until 1574, when the manor was transferred to the Crown.

St Andrew's Church in the heart of the village was founded in Saxon times - probably by Birinus, first bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. It was largely rebuilt in 1852, during the incumbency of Canon Hugh Pearson; it was he who founded the Sonning Parish Magazine in 1869.

The White Hart Hotel, now known as The Great House, and partly 17th century, stands on the site of older buildings including the home of 'Elias the Ferryman' mentioned in a deed of 1100. The French Horn Hotel, in Sonning Eye, was built in the 1880s in front of the original old inn - now Bridge House - and its farm buildings. The Bull Inn, belonging to the Church, was originally known as Church House, a guest house for pilgrims to medieval St Sarik's Chapel in St Andrew's. Also adjoining the church is Deanery Garden one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's best-known country houses built at the turn of the century, just above the site of the ancient residence of the Deans of Salisbury who regularly visited Sonning, the parish being a 'Dean's Peculiar'.

Sonning Mill produced a regular supply of flour from Saxon time until 1969, after which it was converted into a 'Dinner Theatre', the first of its kind in Britain. The Pearson Hall is the principal venue for village functions

Within the village boundaries lie the Reading Blue Coat School at Holme Park (once the home of the Lord of the Manor) Sonning Church of England Primary School, King George's Field and other sports grounds, and Reading University Farm - all of which help to preserve the rural atmosphere of Sonning, the centre of which is now a conservation area.

The civil parish of Charvil is of relatively recent origin but the land on which it lies has long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. In the 18th and 19th centuries it consisted of Charville Farm and a few cottages, which lay between the villages of Sonning and Twyford and adjacent to the London to Bath highway.

The development of Charvil began between the two World Wars, particularly after the new A4 road was constructed in the 1920s by-passing Twyford, and was accelerated after 1945. To meet the needs of this increasingly large community, St Patrick's dual-purpose Church and Hall was consecrated and opened in 1952; it remains within the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. It was considerably extended and refurbished in 2001.

St Andrew's Sonning Contacts

Clergy: Vicar	Canon C. G. Clarke, The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims, Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning	969 3589
Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond	926 2365
	Mr J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil	934 1762
Deputies:	Mr Mark Jordan	940 1431
	Charvil: Mr C M Easton, 8 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 0795
Parochial Church Council:		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY	940 1431
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Feb 3	SWMC Live music	R
Feb 11	Mission quiet day, Wargrave	16
Feb 11	RNLI Sonning musical evening	24
Feb 24	Flower Club supper & talk, Pearson Hall	26
Mar 4	St Patrick's Fish (or chicken) chips and quiz	21
Mar 18	STA A.G.M. & film evening, Pearson Hall	22
Mar 24	Jazz, Fish & Chips, Pearson Hall	20
Apr 6	Annual Church Meeting, 8.00 p.m.	17
Apr 15	St Patrick's Easter walk & BBQ	21
Apr 22	Festival Supper, Pearson Hall	22
May 4	Mission Commissioning Service, St Andrew's	15
May 7	BBQ lunch, St Andrew's Vicarage garden	16
May 27	Sonning Regatta	R
May 28/29	Scarecrow trail	R
Jun 11	STA Regatta, Ligugé, France	R
Jul 15	STA Bastille Day celebration, Sonning	R

Deadline, March 2006 Magazine is 4.00 p.m. Friday, 24th February.

**You could be advertising your business
or organisation in this magazine!**

Contact Bob Peters

0118 969 3579

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Regular Services

The Parish Church

Sundays	8 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	10.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays Matins, third Sunday
	6.30 pm	Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it.
Wednesdays	10 am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's

St Patrick's Charvil

Sundays	9.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays Sunday School 9.30 am except first Sunday of the month
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If you would like to arrange a Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Baptism (please give at least one month's notice of your intention), a Marriage or a Funeral, please contact the Vicar. Please note that the Vicar hopes to take Monday as a day off, although urgent matters will of course be dealt with.

The Vicar's Letter February 2006

Just a few pews?

Those who were at the Parish Eucharist on 22nd January heard me speak about the possibility of re-ordering the front of the nave in St. Andrew's Church. Before anyone starts getting too excited let me try to explain what we might do and why.

When the pews were put in St. Andrew's during the Victorian restoration they were designed for the worship, which took place at that time. The main Sunday Service would have been Matins and there would also have been Evensong. Both these services would have been conducted from the Vicar's Stall with the pulpit used for the sermon.

Holy Communion was probably early in the morning and would have been led by the priest standing at the altar, which was against the east wall, with his back to the people.

We do still have Matins one Sunday a month and Evensong most weeks but for the Communion Service the priest now stands behind the altar facing the congregation. This small change is a symbol of the very large changes that have taken place in our understanding of liturgy and the role of the priest. Some will be able to remember the days when "The Vicar" knew best and consulted no one!

What we are considering is removing the two pews under the pulpit between the central aisle and the pillar and the front three pews on the lectern side from the aisle to the pillar. If we did this we could extend the chancel floor into the nave. We would cover this area with carpet to match the one that runs down the centre aisle and employ a good carpenter to adapt the front pews.

I think this would bring great advantages to our worship at the main morning service and on other occasions and would not affect what now happens at 8.00am or Evensong. When less than 100 people attended the 10.30 Service the present design of the Church was fine because everyone could sit in the middle and see what was happening but with growing congregations many people now have to sit down one of the side aisles where they can see very little of the service once I go to the altar.

Briefly the advantages of making this small change are as follows:

1. On Sundays, when the main morning service is Holy Communion, we could put the small altar which is used at Christmas and Easter on the extended floor area at the front of the nave. Everyone would be closer and able to see what was happening. We would continue to use the main altar and the communion rails to administer Communion as happens at Christmas and Easter.
2. For Family Services on the first Sunday there would be an area for children to assemble and space to do things during the sermon.
3. It would create a "safe" area on which to stand a coffin at funerals and give space for turning it at the end of the service. At present the coffin stands in front of the Vicar's stall where there is very little room to turn it.
4. At weddings there would be more room for the bride, groom and bridesmaids to stand and chairs could be placed on it for them to use during the readings and sermon - ever tried sitting in a pew in a brides dress with a long flowing train?
5. When there are concerts the choir/orchestra could use it and be seen and heard much better rather than sitting near the communion rail as happens now.

If we proceed with this idea I believe it will make St. Andrew's much more user friendly and the pews more appropriate for the worship that takes place within it.

What we will do now is ask advice from the Diocese and have further discussions to see if this idea is worth taking forward. The Annual Church Meeting takes place on Thursday 6th April at 8.00pm and this suggestion will be one of the items on the agenda. By then we will have found out what the advisers from the diocese think and have a little more idea about costs.

I promise you that no final decisions will be made until you have had the opportunity to express your view.

Love & prayers

Chris

From the Diary

Baptisms

15th January Madeleine Grace Harvey

Funerals

16th January Adam Noel Tinson (St. Andrew's Church & Churchyard)

Christingle

Our annual Christingle Service will be held at the Family Services on Sunday 5th February. Children attending are asked to make and bring with them a Christingle. Candles to do this are at the back of the churches. If you need help please speak to Chris or Michael. Everyone is invited to place money in the Children's Society envelopes, which are at the back of both churches.

Ash Wednesday

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday (1st March) at 8.00pm in St. Andrew's Church. We will be running our own Lent Course in the parish and details of this will be published in the weekly notice sheets later this month.

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Meeting takes place on 6th April and more details will be given nearer the time. Reports for this meeting are written and printed for circulation before the event. If you wish to put something into these reports

please let Mark Jordan, the PCC Secretary, have it by 1st March. Mark's details are on page 12 and it would make his task easier if you would submit the reports electronically (if this is possible). His email address is Mark.Jordan2@tesco.net

Chris

The View from St Patrick's

With the first sign of spring beginning to show itself with the young shoots of crocus, daffodil and primrose pushing their way through the earth, our thoughts are very much focussed on nature and the animal world. It won't be long before the hedgehogs come out of hibernation. So it is high on our agenda of hope that the foundling bottle-nosed whale would survive its ordeal in the freshwater of the Thames. That was not to be in spite of the enthusiasm and real support from the riverbank of hundreds of spectators and millions around the world.

Sentiment for the animal kingdom is very much part of our culture and an essential part of our lives. It is also very much part of our Christian faith in our belief in God as creator of the world. The Old Testament stories of the creation, Jonah and the whale and Balaam's ass. Animals were present at Jesus' birth. Our feeling for animals, especially our pets, extends to giving them a name.

Initially the young whale inherited the name Willy. The parish would not be the same without Murphy, the vicar's welsh collie. A name reflects the individual identity of our pet dog, cat, rabbit or guinea pig. Our pets are important God given companions which give us, young and old, alike, much joy, pleasure and comfort in our attachment to them and they to us, and in some instances, plenty of exercise, and let's not forget the invaluable contribution of guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf and dogs for the disabled.

At St Patrick's we are in pursuit of a donkey for our Palm Sunday procession in the parish. Do any of our readers know of a local friendly (!) donkey? We would love to hear from you if you do. Sometime this year we are hoping to hold a pet service to thank God for them.

The forthcoming events at St Patrick's are:

- Sun 5th Feb 9.30 am - Christingle family service
- Sun 19th Mar 6.30 pm - St Patrick's Day Songs of Praise
- Sun 26th Mar 9.30 am - Mothering Sunday service
- Sun 9th Apr 9.30 - Palm Sunday, format is going to depend on the donkey!
- Sat 15th Apr 4.00 pm on - Parish walk, BBQ and Vigil service
- Thu 4th May - start of the "Finding your way" mission.
- Sat 13th May -7.00 pm - Christian Aid concert

Love and prayers,

Michael and Family

Christian Aid Concert 2006.

Well folks we've got some volunteers. The usual suspects didn't go and hide quickly enough; the boss hunted 'em down. And we've also got some newcomers, and the anticipation of dance to add spice to the event. We've still got room for more, so if you fancy having a go give the boss a ring (0118 934 0795).

So make sure you put the date, 13th May, in your diaries and come along and support us.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

Update on Loddon Vale Practice

Appointment System

Since the beginning of the year we have been using a new appointment system, which we developed in response to patient feedback. We are now aiming to see all patients on the day they telephone for an appointment or the day after regardless of medical urgency. We also are aiming to provide you with an appointment for the doctor you wish to see. We have had a very good response to this system and initial feedback from patients has been good. We are currently discouraging patients from booking ahead so it will keep appointments free to book on the day or day after the telephone call.

Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire

Thank you to those who completed the patient satisfaction questionnaire when you visited the surgery recently. We hope to have the results by the end of February so that we can discuss them with all staff and look at ways of improving the service we provide to all patients.

Flu Vaccinations

We still have some flu vaccinations available. The doctors strongly recommend that patients who are aged 65 years and over or suffer with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease, chronic lung disease or chronic renal disease have a flu vaccination. Please ring reception to book your appointment.

Website

Do surf our site for health advice and information on how to make best use of the practice www.loddonvale.com

Compliments - Comments - Complaints

If you have any compliments, comments or complaints please see our leaflet.

Jazz with Fish 'n Chip Supper

Pearson Hall
Friday, 24th March 2006
7.15 for 8.00 p.m. start

Come & enjoy and enjoy the ever-popular *Denise Lawrence* band. There will be a bar and we hope, some dancing. This should be a fun evening to suit everybody's taste. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets at £10.00 each on sale now from Jane Gascoine, 0118 969 3326, then send payment and an s.a.e. to Winona Cottage, Sonning Eye, Reading, Oxon RG4 6TN.

Any profit will be donated to the Sonning Branch of the R.N.L.I.

St Patrick's Social Events

Quiz and Fish (or Chicken) and Chips Evening on Saturday 4th March

Do come along to St Patrick's Church Charvil at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 4th March for an evening of fun. Please bring..... your own drink..... glasses.....knives and forks (or fingers will do.).....and don't forget your brains!

Tickets will be on Sale in Feb.

Easter Walk and Barbeque

Easter Saturday 15th April, more details later.

Janette

Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre

Help! The Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre have been active for over 20 years offering help to the local community by driving people to hospital, the doctor, Day Centres etcetera.

We are in *urgent* need of helpers who can offer an hour or so once in a while. No matter how little you can do your help might be just the help that enables us to continue the service.

If you are not prepared to drive you might consider helping in the office for a morning every two weeks.

Driving is occasional and you can always say "No" if you have another commitment. Petrol costs are reimbursed and insurance is usually not affected. Please, if you think that you might be able to offer just a little help ring either:

Liz Jenkins on 0118 934 5985
or Rosemary Digby on 0118 969 3277

Rosemary Digby

Do you know.....?

Do you have any information about Annie Alice GREEN (née Arnold) and her husband Arthur Edward GREEN? They married on Feb 2nd 1935 at St Andrew's Sonning and are thought to have lived in Twyford with their 2 children, Kenneth G. GREEN (born Mar 1937 in Wokingham) and Bernice A

GREEN (born Mar 1938 in Wokingham). If you can help, please contact Graham Jansen, Burley House, 20 Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7QZ, tel No 01474 707640.

Sonning Twinning Association

Youth Award

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we are delighted to announce a bursary, which will enable a young person to visit Ligugé later this year. Applications for this bursary are open to all young people under the age of 18 living in Sonning or who are actively involved in a Sonning School, club or other Sonning organisation. The value of the bursary will cover travel costs (including those of an accompanying parent, guardian or friend) and also some pocket money, enabling you both to enjoy a week or so staying with a family in Ligugé. The host family will help you explore the area as well as appreciating and understanding the French way of life.

All applications for this award should be personally completed, detailing in no more than one hundred words what you would like to achieve through the award of this bursary. Please attach a supporting statement with your application from your teacher or club leader.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 17th March and the donor and the committee of the Sonning Twinning Association will decide the winner of the award. The name of the winner will be announced on Tuesday, 18th April 2006. For further details please contact the Association Chairman David Bates (0118 969 7753) or Mary Chapman (0118 969 7398).

A.G.M. Sat 18th March 2006

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Sonning Twinning Association will be held at 7.30 pm on Saturday March 18th in the Pearson Hall. Immediately following the AGM we will be showing the film *Chocolat* and chocolate themed refreshments will be available. Advance tickets sales for this event at £3 for members and £4 for non-members are available from Trefor Fisher (0118 969 3279) or John Simmonds (0118 969 9388).

A Chocaholics Evening: Sat 18th March

Pearson Hall is the venue for what promises to be a chocaholics dream come true! At about 8 pm on Saturday March 18th (immediately following the Twinning Association AGM) we will be showing the film *Chocolat* and providing mouth watering, chocolate themed refreshments.

All are welcome to this event and tickets should be purchased in advance from either Trefor Fisher (0118 969 3279) or John Simmonds (0118 969 9388) at £3 for members and £4 for non-members. As wine will not be on sale at this event, you may bring your own.

John Simmonds

Sonning Village Children In Need Night

Another highly enjoyable evening was held on 18th November at the Pearson Hall in aid of the BBC Children in Need Appeal. Many many thanks to all those who helped in the organisation and came to join us with their cash! We have not paid all the money in yet as it is still tricking in, but it will end up at over £3,300, a wonderful sum. Once again, this is in part due to the generosity of our "captive audience" in the bridge traffic queue.

Mandi Brown, as usual, pulled out all the stops and obtained the many prizes for the auction, raffle and tombola, as well as booking Uncle Charley to entertain us at the start of the evening.

I do however also want to mention one "extra special" donor whose extremely generous donation contributed so greatly to our total this year. Thank you very much indeed!

Trefor Fisher

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

New Executive Committee Members add new dimension to the Society

At our well-attended AGM in November, the Society's keys Officers were re-elected. They are Chris Clarke, John Edmonds, Penny Feathers and Dennis Mason. Each of the two major panels has new chairmen. Pat Doyle has taken over co-ordinating the work of the Planning & Environment Panel. Ken Henderson now chairs the Traffic & Transport Panel, which has extended its remit to cover wider issues than just the matter of a third crossing. Co-ordination of the Education Panel remains unchanged, while Penny Feathers masterminds purely social events for the Society.

There is plenty going on in both Sonning and Sonning Eye to keep the two main panels on their toes. Contrary to a rumour that the villages believe that they should stay the same as they were in the 17th century, the Society is committed to preserving and enhancing the character, appearance and environment of the villages of Sonning and Sonning Eye. It achieves this by:

- Promoting high standards of planning and architecture;

- Inspiring public interest in geography, history, natural history and architecture; and
- Encouraging the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic, environmental and public interest.

Society Members who happen to read this are reminded that annual subscriptions were due on 1 January, so do return your renewal forms if you haven't already. If you are new to the parish or are generally curious about what we do as published in *Bridge*, our quarterly newsletter, and on the website, www.sonning.org.uk, as well as via Executive Committee meetings, please contact our Membership Secretary on 969 6693.

The next date to note for your diaries is a talk by John Allen on "Colour and romance in Sonning and Sonning Eye" on Friday 3rd March in the Pearson Hall at 7.45 for 8.00 p.m. Tickets are £2.00 for members, £4.00 for non-members from Diana Coulter, 0118 969 6693. Price includes a glass of wine.

Diana Coulter

Sonning Art Group

The New Year has got off to a good start with a well-attended AGM and equally well attended weekly Friday afternoon painting sessions. Several members have been active over the past month having submitted watercolour paintings for possible selection for the 2007 'Riding for the Disabled' charity calendar as well as producing a number of paintings and drawings to be considered by a local author for illustrating the series of children's books she is writing.

The first award of the *Chairman's Challenge Cup* has been made and Bob Farquhar was presented with it at the AGM for his colourful pastel drawing of Basildon Park.

The next competition for the cup is for pen and ink drawings (any subject) with the award being made on 7th April. Members wishing to take on this challenge will be able to take advantage of a tutor session on pen and ink techniques conducted by Jenny Parkes on Friday the 17th February. Jenny is a firm favourite of the Group having involved members in a well-received session on pastel portraiture last year.

The subscription for Friday afternoon meetings covers the hire of the hall, refreshments, insurance and other administrative costs. Having held the subscription level for the past nine years the committee has decided it must pass on the latest increases and is raising the charge to £2.50 per session. Members have supported this increase and consider that the Group continues to offer good value for money!

George Webster

Sonning Book Club

Up and running! The book club got off to a good start with its first monthly meeting to discuss Robert Goddard's book "Sight Unseen" a mystery story which starts at Avebury Circle and travels via Prague and Jersey to reach a satisfactory fact based climax and a train destination to Reading!

The next book considered is a very contrasting novel "A Very Human Heart" by award winning author William Boyd and will be discussed by the club at it's meeting on 22nd February.

The Book Club meets every 4th Wednesday in the month at the Sonning Working Men's Club at 10.15 am finishing with coffee and biscuits at 11.00 a.m. New members are welcome. For more information please give me a call on 0118 944 0699

Anne Webster (Co-ordinator)

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

This month Little Fishes will meet on Tuesday 7th February.

Little Fishes is a group for pre-school aged children and their parents/carers. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 10am to 11.30am in the St Sarik Room next to St Andrew's Church. If you have recently moved to the Parish or have just had a baby please join us. There are toys, craft activities, songs and stories for the children and time to meet and chat for the adults.

Sarah Turner

CHARVIL PRE-SCHOOL

Residents of Sonning, and perhaps some of those in Charvil, may not be aware of the existence of Charvil Pre-School, a long-established pre-school running out of St Patrick's Church Hall, Charvil, primarily serving the communities of Charvil and Sonning.

We are a small, friendly pre-school with a well qualified and experienced staff, catering for a maximum of 24 children between three and five years of age. We are OFSTED registered and follow the government Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and in accordance with the guidance we have a strong ethos of learning through play. Children of these ages are at their most imaginative and naturally think 'outside of the box'. We believe children should be allowed to develop their imaginations and we provide a

wide variety of stimulating toys, activities and creative materials for children to play with whilst interacting with adults and other children alike. The children develop self-confidence through their achievements. Good behaviour is always promoted and children are encouraged to be considerate to and respectful of others.

The main pre-school accommodation is in two spacious adjoining rooms plus a purpose built, secure outside play area. We have both maths and reading corners, where toys games and books are provided to particularly develop these skills. Equipment and toys are rotated daily, though paint, art and craft materials are always available. For wet days we have an indoor climbing frame and other indoor physical play equipment. As well as free play, the children have group work. This might take the form of a singing session or a themed 'show and tell'. Children are also read to daily. One afternoon a week we have a session solely for children of four years and over. In these sessions there is a more structure and the nature of activities and games are particularly suited to this age group to prepare children for starting school.

Charvil Pre-School is one of the main feeder pre-schools for Sonning Primary School and whilst the majority of children attend for five sessions per week, when spaces are available we are able to accept children for fewer sessions thus allowing children who normally attend nursery to make friends with future classmates.

If you would like to know more about Charvil Pre-School, please contact Nadine Doble on 0118 934 0418.

Geraldine Hearn

Sonning Flower Club

The hall was crowded for our first meeting of the year, which confirms our popularity! For the benefit of those who might like to try flower arranging, we have an excellent sales table where you can buy all you need, such as Oasis, wire, containers etcetera at very good prices.

We also have a monthly competition for those confident enough to 'have a go'. Occasionally during the year we hold a workshop day and it is surprising how quickly one learns.

Social events are very popular and we have occasional outings to flower shows. There will be a supper in the Pearson Hall on 24th February when David Penny and G. Talbot will give a talk on growing flowers for cutting. Tickets are £10.50 (Catherine Penny on 969 3018) and include supper and a welcome drink. Bring your own wine.

Jane Haas was our first demonstrator of the year and her theme was "Inspired by.....". A Japanese fan from a Lloyd Webber artwork was depicted in her first arrangement; showing how tulips can be used to best

effect her second and then an all white arrangement inspired by a wedding. Sweets (the confectionary sort) gave rise to "A Turkish Delight" and her last one, "Bazaar" had a definite Eastern richness.

Afterwards, all the lovely flowers she had used were raffled and tea and biscuits brought the afternoon to a close.

Next months demonstrator, on 9th Feb, will be Keri Harvey and the subject for the competition, for those wishing to take part, will be "My Valentine".

Sadly, Betty Lawler is now unable to attend club meetings, but she would welcome visitors, but please telephone her first. We send her our love.

Jane Gascoine

With the approaching holiday season: A Prayer for Tourists

Heavenly Father, look down on us your humble, obedient tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

Give us this day, divine guidance in the selection of our hotels that we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up and hot water running from the taps.

We pray that the telephones work and the operators speak our language. Lead us, dear Lord, to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is super, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand and forgive us for under tipping out of ignorance and over tipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces and castles listed as "musts" in the guidebooks.

And if perchance we skip a historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

FOR HUSBANDS ONLY

Dear God, keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from "bargains" they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do!

FOR WIVES ONLY

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in Cafés and Night Clubs. Above all do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Creche	Alice Wilkinson	932 0264
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Sunday School	Jan Hammond	926 2365
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Wendy Williams	969 6609
St Patrick's: Sunday School	Catherine Balchin	934 2840
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mr W.G. Crane	934 5791
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	White Owl: Rozanne White	901 7818
Charvil Guides	Naomi Simpson	934 1392
Charvil Gym Club	Sally Jones	966 5480
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sarah Thompson	901 7608
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Secretary: Helen Myers	934 2144
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Women's Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Charvil Youth Club	Rachel Sale	932 0853
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
Sonning & District Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Link Group	Maria Gee maria.gee@ntlworld.com	962 7721
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Mr G.B. Webster	944 0699
Sonning Book Club	Mrs Anne Webster	944 0699
Sonning Branch, British Legion	Chairman: Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Sonning Brownies	Leader: Miss D. Reeves	969 2987
Sonning C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning Conservatives	Secretary: Mary Jones	944 2877
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Secretary: Mrs A. Thomas	986 7550
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Guides	Leader: Sue Jones	969 6628
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership info: Ali Campbell	969 2646
Sonning Liberal Democrats	John Edmonds	969 0017
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753
Sonning Rainbow Guides	Leader: Mrs Debbie Knox	969 4470
Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753
Sonning School Parent-Teachers	Chairman: Mrs Carolynn	934 4784

Association	Hughes	
1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scout Leader:	
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beaver Scout Ldr: Trefor Fisher	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	Ken Henderson	969 3027
Sonning Toddler Group	Elizabeth Tonge	969 2080
Sonning Village Players	Secretary: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Secretary: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Secretary: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Working Men's Club	Secretary: Bob Hulley	969 9431
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Masquerade Drama & Dance Group for Young People	Clare Hatfield	07973 918225
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Secretary: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Fitness Training	Chris Banks	934 0832
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club, Loddon Vale	Secretary: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Serinettes Ladies Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Tuesday Club	Mrs Marjorie Bennet	934 5059
Vivace Girls Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589

Ali's Pond	E-mail: ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com
Sonning & Charvil services	www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm
Sonning Working Men's Club	www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html
Sonning-on-Thames	archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning
Sonning Art Group	www.sonningartgroup.org.uk
Sonning School	www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk