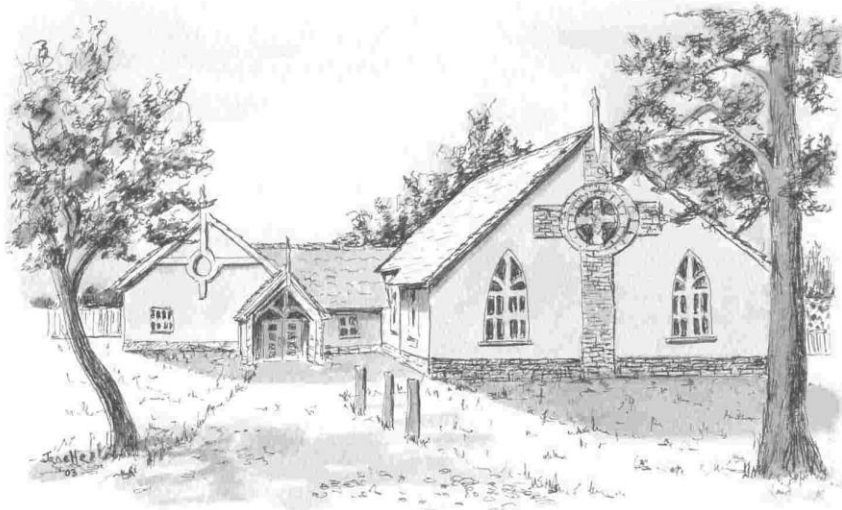


# Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities  
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

December 2008

## 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 guesthouse 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 bypassing 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

<b>Clergy: Vicar</b>	Rev Jamie Taylor The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning, RG4 6UR (day off Thursday)	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil, RG10 9QX	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims (Emeritus) Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XE	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning, RG4 6XG	969 3589
<b>Churchwardens:</b>		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH Email: bob.hine@btopenworld.com	969 8653
	Mrs Jan Hammond, 28 Hilltop Road, Earley, RG6 1DA .Email: jan@jdhammond.com	926 2365
	Prof J. M. Stansfield (Emeritus), 3 Strathmore Drive, Charvil, RG10 9QT	934 1762
Deputies:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY Charvil: TBA	940 1431
<b>Parochial Church Council:</b>		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY	940 1431
Treasurer:	Mr James Wilson, 3 Imperial Court, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NP	07721 690 524
Gift Aid:	Mr John Scoble, 8 Whitegates Lane, Earley, Reading, RG6 1EE	926 5138
<b>Parish Magazine:</b>		
Editor:	Mr Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Advertising:	Mrs Nicky Clark	947 1312
Circulation:	Mrs Pat Livesey	961 8017
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr David Duvall, 39 Hudson Rd, Woodley, RG5 4EN. Email: davidduvallx@aol.com	07855 947 104
<b>Bookings</b>	<b>St Sarik Room:</b> Mr D. G. Sims	969 3151
	<b>St Patrick's Church Hall:</b> Mrs N. Potter	934 4961
<b>Parish Admin</b>	Sonia Boyles: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com	969 2428
<b>Internet</b>	<a href="http://www.sonningparish.org.uk">http://www.sonningparish.org.uk</a>	
<b>Addresses:</b>	Editor: gordonbarnett@btinternet.com Advertising: nickypryce@btinternet.com Vicar: revjaft@yahoo.co.uk	

## Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
5 Dec	Sonning Club race night	
12 Dec	Sonning Club carol Evening	
21 Dec	St Patrick's: Nativity Activity	19
21 Dec	St Patrick's: Family Carol Service	18
21 Dec	St Andrew's: Candlelit Nine Carols & Nine Lessons	
24Dec	St Andrew's: Crib Service	
24 Dec	St Andrew's & St Patrick's: Midnight Mass	
25 Dec	St Andrew's and St Patrick's: Family Communion	
25 Dec	Christmas Eve at The Sonning Club	
31 Dec	Sonning Club disco/karaoke	
17 Jan	Sonning Conservatives Winter drinks	
7 Feb	Church Barn Dance & Supper	

Dec 13 Pearson Hall Social Committee Christmas Supper R

**Deadline, January Magazine: 4.00 pm Wed, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Notes:** R = Reminder from previous issue.

D = Diary entry.



The Magazine staff wish you all a very  
Happy Christmas  
and a prosperous New Year

## Contents

Forthcoming Events.....	14
Contents.....	15
Regular Services.....	16
The Parish Church.....	16
St Patrick's Charvil.....	7
The Vicar's Letter.....	16
From the Registers.....	17
Baptisms.....	17
Weddings.....	17
St Patrick's Christmas Viewpoint .....	18
Nativity Activity.....	19
Christmas in Sonning & Charvil.....	20
Twyford, Wargrave & District Volunteer Centre.....	21
Sonning CE School PTA .....	21
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society.....	22
Sonning Art Group.....	23
RNLI Sonning Branch.....	23
The Sonning Club .....	24
Sonning Conservatives .....	24
Keep on Collecting .....	24
Sonning Floral Arrangement Society.....	25
Village Voices.....	26
A few thoughts and a smile for Christmas.....	27

### Date for your diary

The church social committee will be organising a Barn Dance at Charvil Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, with a fish and chip supper. Tickets will be available from the beginning of January.



## 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
---------	---------	---

*If you would like to arrange a Church Service in St. Andrew's Church you are asked to contact Sonia Boyles, the Parish Administrator. For Baptisms or Weddings she can be contacted by leaving a telephone message on 0118 969 3298. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: [standrews.sonning@btinternet.com](mailto:standrews.sonning@btinternet.com) If you are enquiring about a Funeral Service or a burial in the Churchyard she can be telephoned at home on 0118 969 2428.*

*Sonning and Charvil pastoral visitors: If you would like a visit from a member of the parish pastoral visitor team, or you know of someone who would, please call the parish pastoral coordinator, Jean Tinson on: 0118 969 0782.*

## The Vicars Letter

**Dear friends,**

Advent is upon us, and along with purple vestments, calendars, candles and the expectation of the Saviour's birth, these days it is usually accompanied by reports in the media that you couldn't really make up. Recent treats have been the banning of the term 'Christmas' lights by Lambeth council, the use of the term 'Winterville' in Birmingham and the council funded charity 'Oxford Inspires' adopting a 'winter lights festival' in place of Christmas. The wise men (sorry, persons) from Lambeth council feel that the usual display of bright festive lights that, in the minds of us reactionary, simple folk are to celebrate Christmas, are it is felt, offensive to certain sections of society, and therefore the decree has gone forth that they are now to be called 'Winter lights.' I even read yesterday of a council banning the phrase "singing from the same hymn sheet", for fear of offending atheists. One can just imagine reports in regional papers of Nativity plays being cancelled in schools because of racial or religious sensitivities, and

replaced by pantomimes, and insipid drivel about snow men and elves, which, whilst entertaining for proud parents, are hardly an adequate replacement. Of course, Snow White and her seven ‘little helpers’ as we should now refer to them, would no doubt be grateful for the extra work. Maybe we should even consider re naming the panto star Snow Grey, for fear of being racially exclusive, but then that might be offensive to an aging population. I jest of course, but am I that far from reality?

I have to admit to finding all this amusing, but then I suppose I should also be slightly alarmed that such nonsense is actually peddled, and more importantly, acted upon. Followers of other religions are proud of their festivals, and rightly so. Some of them are marked in schools, and much care is given to respecting sensitivities. All of which is the mark of a mature and decent society and we should welcome that. Those who are offended by the Christmas story have something in common with one of its characters. King Herod seemed to be rather offended by the message of Christmas, although I’m not sure that even the most ardent secularist would want to be associated with his unique contribution.

There is much that is ridiculous about what Xmas (to use the favoured abbreviation) has become. As we prepare through Advent to celebrate the life changing and hope restoring arrival of the Saviour of the world at Christmas, let us be bold and unashamed to do as the hymn writer tells us. “Tell of his birth at Bethlehem, not in a royal house or hall, but in a stable dark and dim, the word made flesh, a light for all”. May His light shine brightly within us all this Christmastide.

Caroline and Alice join me in wishing you all (when it comes) a very happy, meaningful and politically incorrect Christmas!

**Warmest good wishes.**  
**Jamie**

### **Pastoral Visitor Team**

I understand that some time ago, a number of people volunteered to become pastoral visitors in the parish. They met together once, but then things were understandably put on hold because of the interregnum. I am pleased to say that we are now up and running again, and, having met together in November, the team will be commissioned during the parish Eucharist on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The pastoral coordinator for the parish will be Jean Tinson, and she will work with Michael and myself in ensuring that we are providing the best pastoral care possible. To be properly effective in a parish this size, pastoral ministry has to be shared. Gone are the days when the Vicar with a team of curates could undertake all the visiting, and so now, as in many other parishes, we rightly share the responsibility with lay people. In future, if you know of someone who would



like a visit, you can call Jean and she will be able to match up the right visitor to the person in need. The visitors are not there to provide practical help such as shopping or giving lifts however. This is a pastoral/spiritual initiative. Also, a number of the visitor team will be authorized to bring communion to those who are sick and house bound, and this will greatly extend our ability to provide proper care.

Please do remember this important new development in your prayers.

**Jamie**

### **From the Registers**

#### **Baptisms**

26 Nov 2008: Jessica Rosie Sellars  
Oliver Victor Newbury  
Joshua Longmate  
16 Nov 2008: Fabienne Olivia Molly Fisher  
Jake Royston Maddams  
Mya Abby Brenda Cowdery  
Emily Ann-Marie Cowdery

#### **Weddings**

22 Nov 2008 Gary Benjamin Waite and Sally Powell  
Colin Peter Giles and Ruth Sarah Whatley

#### **Funerals**

26 Nov 2008: Evelyn Pitts

### **St Patrick's Christmas Viewpoint**

Oxford City Council have decreed that Christmas will be re-designated "The Winter Light Festival". They would have been better employed concentrating their attention on preventing cards, decorations, Christmas trees, tinsel and Santa Claus effigies in shops and public places being displayed before the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Commercialising Christmas as early as possible in the year waters down the magic and meaning of Christmas for children. More than anything else we, the Christian Church, celebrate Christmas as the birthday of a baby born both as a unique event in his identity and in common with the way in which we all come into this world. It was logically the best and most credible way our Father God could show that He believed in the creation of his making and the means of providing for the ultimate salvation of all those who chose to be his followers.

A recent survey, according the Faithface, has shown that the global economic materialist crisis, terrorist atrocities and natural disasters are arousing in more and more people the need for faith to replace fear. Apart from the sentimentality of Christmas, it is a time to celebrate and affirm with our families and children that the Christmas festival is one time in the year in which we strengthen our hope, faith and love for God and each other. It was not for nothing that St John in his gospel wrote “God loved the world so much that he gave his only son that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life”.

At Christmas our celebrations should result in generosity in giving to charities that support the poor and needy families throughout the world. That is how, in the “Nativity Activity” for children and crib display at 2.00 pm, the Nine Lessons & carols at 4.00 pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December; the Midnight Mass at 11.30 on Christmas eve and Family Communion at 9.30am on Christmas Day we will celebrate Christmas at St Patrick’s; not before the time! Come and join us.

We wish everyone in Charvil and elsewhere a very joy filled and happy Christmas.

**Love and Prayers,  
Michael & family**

### **Nativity Activity**

I got all excited when the head-hitter sent me my reminder for the parish tabloid contribution. It’s the Christmas issue, whoopee, that means a dead exciting month ahead. We’ve got the Music/Gift/Footprints service on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, lots of work for me and the rest of the band and the Sunday Club.

Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec, in the afternoon, we’ve got a “Nativity Activity”. Don’t ask me for details, the deputy bosses boss & Liz are sorting that out, but if you want to see the biggest collection of nativity sets in Berkshire put the date in your diary. There’ll be lots of other things going on as well and it culminates at 4.00 when we hold our annual “Nine lessons & carols” service. The Sunday Club do all the readings, and me and the band get to play lots of carols.

Then it’s Christmas. We’ve got the Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve, and the family Communion at 9.30 am on Christmas Day. After that it’ll be a peaceful break, I’m asking the boss to leave me some Christmas pud and a tot of brandy on me keyboard. However on second thoughts, better miss out on the brandy. He might set light to it!

**Joanna (the St Patrick’s Pianner)**

# CHRISTMAS IN SONNING AND CHARVIL

21st Dec **St Patrick's Charvil**  
**A NATIVITY ACTIVITY – 2.30PM**  
**FAMILY CAROL SERVICE – 4.00PM**

21st Dec **St Andrew's Sonning**  
**CANDLELIT NINE LESSONS**  
**AND CAROLS – 6.30PM**

24th Dec **St Andrew's Sonning**  
**CRIB SERVICE – 4.00PM**

24th Dec **St Andrew's & St Patrick's**  
**MIDNIGHT MASS – 11.30PM**

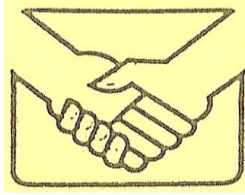
25th Dec **St Patrick's Charvil**  
**FAMILY COMMUNION – 9.30AM**  
**St Andrew's Sonning**  
**FAMILY COMMUNION – 10.30AM**

**For Further Information**  
**Contact: 0118 969 3298**  
**0118 934 1989**

[www.sonningparish.org.uk](http://www.sonningparish.org.uk)



# TWYFORD WARGRAVE AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE



## HELP OUR OLDER COMMUNITY – A SHORT JOURNEY & JUST A LITTLE TIME MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

At the Wargrave & Twyford and District Volunteer Centre, we are looking for drivers who would be able to take some of our senior citizens to appointments at various local hospitals, clinics and day centers

We are all going to be old some day and it would be good to think that there are local people out there who might be able to lend a supporting hand when frailties impose themselves.

Our volunteer drivers are only asked to help as and when they are able and are paid 40p per mile.

Ideally, we would like to develop an extensive list of potential drivers so that we can share the responsibility and call on individual volunteers as little as possible. Your commitment can be really minimal: some of our drivers can only do school terms, others only certain days of the week and others again, only mornings or afternoons.....and they are all comfortable with saying 'no' if they are unable to do the trip at it's scheduled time – nobody minds.

We desperately need additional drivers. Our elderly often have no one else to turn to and taxis would be prohibitively expensive for them.

We are hoping that you can give up a little of your time not only to take elderly people to attend their very necessary appointments, but also to bring a new friendly face into their day...not often, just every now and again.

We really hope that you can help.

**To find out more about volunteer driving please contact:**

**Rosemary Digby**      0118 969 3277 or [twadvc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twadvc@yahoo.co.uk)

**Pat Popham**         07810 810 814 or [twadvc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twadvc@yahoo.co.uk)

### Sonning CE Primary School PTA

We have a new committee; I would like to say a massive thank you to Penny Adams, Vicki Emmett and Wendy Watts, who dedicated 2 years raising funds for our School. I have now taken on the rewarding but challenging role of chairperson for this year. We have lots of exciting events planned for next year; these will be advertised as 2009 progresses.

I am pleased to announce, we finally opened our refurbished Ball Games Area on 18<sup>th</sup> November. It has taken an incredible amount of time, effort and funds to achieve our dream, however the children are delighted and that's what makes the continuous fundraising all worthwhile. I'm confident the children will have many happy years of enjoyment. If you wish, you are welcome to pop in and see our shiny new Ball Games Area or you can see at next year's Sonning Show.

As we are a small school, we rely heavily on our lovely parents and the friends and villagers in our parish; I would like to express my gratitude to you for your continued support and help throughout this year.

**Heather Hollingsworth**

### **Sonning & Sonning Eye Society**

The Pearson Hall was packed for the Society's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 15 November. A short business meeting and an excellent supper were rounded off by Sally Hughes, Managing Director of The Mill, explaining how her parents Tim & Eileen Richards came, purely by chance, to be involved in The Mill.

In many ways The Mill might be seen to be symbolic of the Society's aims and objectives. Historically important to the life of the both Sonning and Sonning Eye, The Mill is recorded in the Domesday Book (1085). It milled flour for some 900 years, until mass production further down the river and Canadian imports spelled its end (1969). In 2008 as a shining example of enlightened conservation, The Mill celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its successful conversion to an unsubsidised dinner theatre venue (1982), attracting acclaimed directors and actors to work there. Since 2005, The Mill has been environmentally sound and very green through the fulfilment of Tim's dream of generating electricity by harnessing the river's power. It contributes to the National Grid during the day, while drawing half its needs from the grid when the 'the curtain goes up'.

There are a few changes at the top on the Executive Committee for 2008/09. Bob Hine and Brian O'Callaghan were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Annabella Marks now represents Sonning Eye, while Pam Byrne, a Sonning Parish Councillor, has been elected to formally represent the Council. Those present at the AGM were delighted to approve the nomination of Canon Chris Clarke as Honorary Vice-President, while John Edmonds, after fulfilling the role of interim Chairman, now resumes his presidential role 'full-time'.

The Society maintains a constant membership in excess of 200. It always welcomes new members, and particularly those who would like to contribute actively to its four panels (Planning & Environment, Traffic &

Transport, Education and the Social Committee). Members who joined before September 2008 are gently reminded that annual subscriptions fall due on 1 January - renewal forms will be circulated with the next issue of *Bridge*.

Diana Coulter

### Sonning Art Group

The Group was preparing for Christmas quite early this year by holding a 'Christmas Card Design' competition as the subject for the quarterly Chairman's Cup Award. The winning design is to be used for the Group's Christmas card. Brenda Nicolaou won the competition with an impressive seasonal floral design and the card is currently in production.

Sadly we have had to come to terms with the sudden death of one of our most talented and competent members, George Lamb. George really enjoyed his art and the companionship of the group and was an active member, despite severe health problems, right to the end. He won the British Legion Cup for the best exhibit at the recent Sonning Show (for his painting of the 'Battle of Trafalgar') and the Art Group have decided to preserve his memory by naming a trophy in his honour and will award it for the 'Best Picture', selected by visitors, at the Group's annual exhibition.

The final meeting of the year will feature our usual Christmas Luncheon and be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. The 2009 season will start on the 9<sup>th</sup> January and include an AGM and judging of the Chairman's Cup Award competition.

We take this opportunity to wish all our friends and colleagues a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

George Webster

### RNLI Sonning Branch

#### Sounds of Sonning

We are holding another of our very popular Music Evenings in February. Some familiar faces have already signed up to perform but we are always looking for new talent. If you are over 18 years old, can play ANY musical instrument, would like to take part and are available on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009, please contact David Bates on 0118 969 7753.

The format of the evening, to be held in the Pearson Hall, will be similar to previous years and will consist of two sessions of assorted musical acts with supper in between.



Tickets costing £10 per head to include a meal can be obtained from David Bates in January (see January Parish Magazine for further details).

Ali Russell

### The Sonning Club

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008 is our RACE NIGHT; we will be under starters orders from 8pm. We have 8 races and on each race you can win a cash prize.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas Carol evening with mulled wine and mince pies and the beautiful voices of our church choir.

Christmas Eve we will have our annual visit from Father Christmas, which will be at 7.30pm. Please bring a present to the value of £8.00 for your little one's.

New Years Eve we will be having a disco/karaoke. Families are most welcome and we usually all bring along a plate of food that is then shared with everyone.

Hope to see you all over the Xmas Period and thank you to all that have supported us over the past year.

Tracy Barret

### Conservative Association, Sonning & Warren Branch

#### Winter Drinks

The Winter Drinks will be held on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, from 12.00 noon at Rowanbury, 99 Western Avenue, Woodley by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Colin Pierce. Tickets are £9.00 and can be obtained from Rosemary Digby On 0118 969 3277, or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison Russell

### Keep on Collecting

On Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008, again, like last year I visited the HQ of *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People*, based at Saunderton to deliver a total of 11kgs of used postage stamps. The 11kgs was made up of 8kgs of low value definitives, 1.6kgs of low value commemoratives 0.85kgs of foreign and 0.55kgs of high value definitives. These represent 15 months collecting and sorting, the extra 3 months were to allow me to fill the 8kg box.

I was also able to give to *Hearing Dogs for the Deaf* a £5.00 donation from the sale of a single stamp, plus what it was attached to. It was a late Victorian 1p mauve on a receipt from *E. Jackson*, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1892; 116 years old and in good condition. One day it occurred to me that it might be the *Jackson* of *Jackson's Corner* in Reading. Next time in Reading I went in to ask and sure enough, it was and the manager gave me £5.00 for it, for their archives and memorabilia department. A very special "Thank you" from HD for DP to the person who didn't tear the stamp off its backing.

Talking of which, as neither I nor HD for DP remove the stamps from the paper they are attached to, please leave plenty of paper around the stamp if you can. This allows me to trim and leave a 1cm margin on as many sides of the stamp as possible. The unwelcome notice on top of the stamp box in the church porch was prompted by the large number of torn and excessively trimmed stamps in a large box of stamps. Since receiving a similar box I now know that they do not originate from Sonning. As there were a lot of good stamps as well, I must be grateful for that and leave it, but a damaged stamp is only paper for recycling.

Thank you, and please keep the stamps coming in so that we receive an even bigger "Thank you" next year. We did better than last year, so here's to next year, but I can't do it without your help.

Paul Tyrell

### Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

At the November meeting we welcomed the ever-popular Jane Haas as our demonstrator. She did some lovely sparkly arrangements using a plethora of gorgeous flowers and leaves, accompanied by recorded Christmas music which, with a bit more practice (as she said) she will be able to match more accurately with the relevant arrangements.

Still, it was all very entertaining and more by luck than judgement we found ourselves singing along to *Auld Lang Syne* for the stunning finale, which represented New Year's Eve and fireworks.

The Christmas lunch is on 11<sup>th</sup> December, followed by the A.G.M. and election of the new committee. It is to be noted that Catherine Penny, Barbara McGregor and Sue Doyle are standing down; we are all very grateful for the work they have done this past year.

There will be a table plan for the Christmas lunch and the competition is *A decorated Christmas Cracker*.

Jane Gascoine



## Sonning and Sonning Eye Society - Village Voices

As many people are already aware, I and an incredibly hard working small team of volunteers have been working on the Society's project to record the memories of Sonning and Sonning Eye residents. We are fortunate in having a wealth of information about our village available to us now which could be irretrievably lost as memories fade.

We are very grateful to those who have let us record their memories and we have now made and professionally archived nearly sixty interviews. Our next stage now is to put on an exhibition of those memories. The exhibition will be held from 11 to 13 September 2009 in the Pearson Hall, Sonning and we have been fortunate that the Museum of English Rural Life will then take it for a further three months from January to March 2010. Our archived material will also be available to schools (in particular our two local schools which we have consulted to ensure our proposed format best meets their requirements) and to the general public as a research source. We hope we will then be able to take our project a stage further and produce a book from our research.

The exhibition will focus on ten themes such as homes, schooling, local shops and recreation facilities, Sonning during the War, the Mill and the river, as remembered by the people who have lived here. Each theme will have an explanatory display banner and recordings of memories with supporting photographs, documents and artefacts. We also plan to make a DVD of the village. To do this properly and professionally, we need to raise money to cover the cost of all the display materials - our ten banners, for example, will cost around £100 each and we estimate the total cost of the exhibitions will be in the region of £3,400. We are therefore asking local residents and organisations to help us, either by buying a piece of equipment which you would loan us for the exhibitions (eg a laptop, touch screen or screen and mouse, or a free standing banner which you can redesign and use afterwards) or by a direct donation (cheques payable please to the Society) or by offers of practical skills. If you are able to help us in some way, we will be extremely grateful and very happy to add your name to our list of donors and give you advertising space in our guide.

Our project will provide a lasting and valuable record of life in Sonning and Sonning Eye and we would be very grateful for your help in achieving this.

**Mary Chapman**

## A few Thoughts and a smile at Christmas

### Henry Cooper OBE KSG

Boxer and entertainer.

During the war years, when food and everything else was short and in great demand, our Mum always made sure that brothers and I did not go without and ensured that we had a marvellous Christmas. I remember one year in particular when Mum managed to get some pressed dates and we all tucked into them until we were sick! Despite all that was happening around us, Mum made sure that Christmas was a memorable occasion for us all.

### Antonio Carluccio

Chef

There was once a fly who was attracted to a cup of milk and was trying to get at it. Inadvertently, the fly slipped over the edge of the cup and fell into the milk. The poor little fly thought that this was the end of her. She began to flap her wings frantically to try and escape from the white liquid. After doing so for a while she noticed that the milk was slowly solidifying. Encouraged by this, she flapped her wings even harder and faster until all of a sudden the milk turned into butter and she was able to escape.

The moral of this story: never give up in life, someone will hear your call.

### Wendy Cope

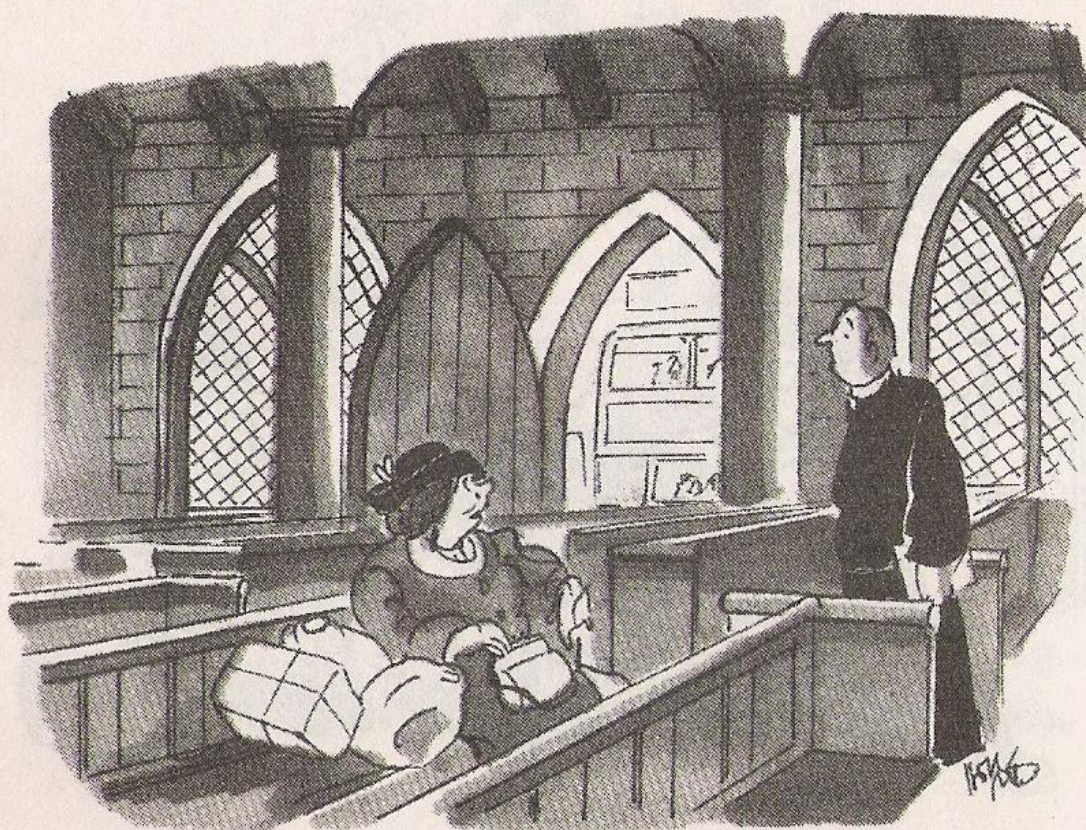
Poet

At Christmas, at Christmas  
All over the world at Christmas,  
People tell the story  
Of a star that shone out bright.  
And as we think of it,  
Once again there's light.  
And as we think of it, once again there's light.

At Christmas, at Christmas  
All over the world at Christmas,  
People tell the story  
Of Mary's baby boy.  
And as we think of him,  
Once again there's joy,  
And as we think of him,  
Once again there's joy.

At Christmas, at Christmas  
All over the world at Christmas,  
People tell the story  
Of our saviour in the hay.  
And as we think of him,  
Love is born today.  
And as we think of him,  
Love is born today.

**Tony Holland**  
Cartoonist



“You don’t mind, do you, Vicar? It’s the only place where  
you can escape from Christmas for a few minutes.”

## Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Sunday Club	Heather Hexter	946 1316
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Sally Wilson	979 3328
St Patrick's: Sunday Club	Julie Easton	934 2590
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mrs Joyce Wray	969 8098
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	Tawny Owl: Claire Howells	934 5372
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Bridget Mundy	934 4253
Charvil Girls Choir	S Newman	934 0589
Charvil Guides	Ruth Hulley	969 9431
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Nadine Doble	934 0418
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Voices	Eileen Fulbrook	969 1738
Charvil Women's Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
Sonning & District Chernobyl	Maria Gee	962 7721
Children's Lifeline Link Group	maria.gee@ntlworld.com	
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 C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning CE School PTA	Heather Hollingsworth	0779 934 5129
Sonning & Warren Conservatives	Sec: Alison Russell	972 1495
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Sec: Ms S. Robinson	969 0748
Sonning Girlguiding (age 5 -14)	Diane Reeves	969 2987
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership: Ali Campbell	969 1101
Sonning Liberal Democrats	Coling Lawley	961 8536
Sonning Neighbourhood Watch	Sec: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753
Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753
1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363

1st Sonning Scouts Group	ASG Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1 <sup>st</sup> Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Colin Giles	969 5849
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scouts: Alison King	962 1675
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beavers: Judy Ricketts	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Emma James	969 5538
Sonning Village Players	Sec: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Sec: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Sec: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Club	Sec: Mrs Penney Mackenzie	07730 871959
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Sec: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Sec: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589

### Useful web sites:

Ali's Pond	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com">ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net/alispond.html">www.sonning.net/alispond.html</a>
Sonning & Charvil services	<a href="http://www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm">www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm</a>
Sonning Parish Council	<a href="http://www.sonning-pc.gov.uk">www.sonning-pc.gov.uk</a>
Sonning Working Men's Club	<a href="http://www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html">www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html</a>
Sonning-on-Thames	<a href="http://archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning">archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning</a> <a href="http://www.sonning.net">www.sonning.net</a>
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	<a href="http://www.sonning.org.uk">www.sonning.org.uk</a>
Sonning Art Group	<a href="http://www.sonningartgroup.org.uk">www.sonningartgroup.org.uk</a>
Sonning School	<a href="http://www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk">www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk</a>