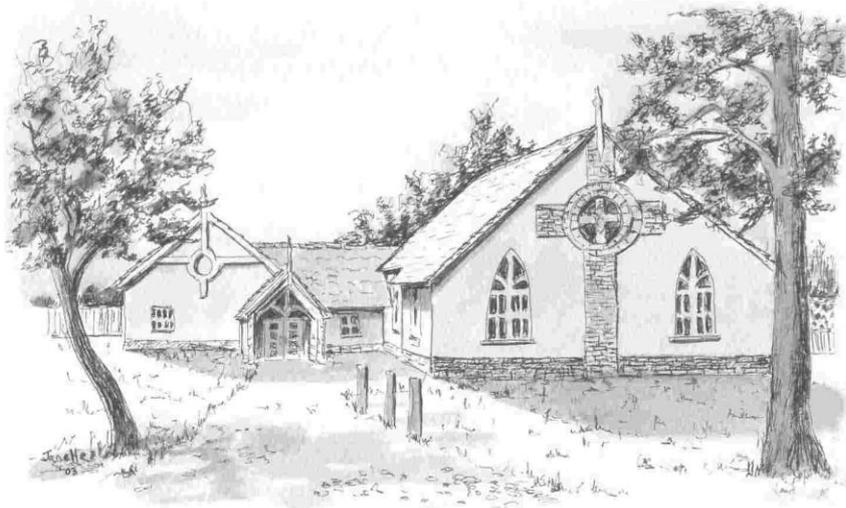


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

November 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

Clergy: Vicar	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
Churchwardens:		
	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
Parochial Church Council:		
Secretary:	Mr Mark Jordan, 12 Manor Wood gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PY	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
Parish Magazine:		
Editor:	Mr Gordon Barnett	969 6693
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Bookings	St Sarik Room: Mr D. G. Sims	969 3151
	St Patrick's Church Hall: Mrs N. Potter	934 4961
Parish Admin	Sonia Boyles: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com	969 2428
Internet	http://www.sonningparish.org.uk	
Addresses:	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>
Nov 4	Rehearsal for Remembrance at St Andrew's Church	
Nov 9	Remembrance Sunday	
Nov 22	Twinning Association; Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner	
Nov 27	Sonning RBL AGM 2008	
Nov 30	St Andrew's Day Festival Evensong 6:30pm-a celebration of our patron saint, followed by drinks in the Bull	
Dec 13	Pearson Hall Social Committee Christmas Supper	
Notes:	Deadline, December Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 28th November R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry.	

Important Notice

The editor is back home again and everything for the December issue should be sent as usual to Gordon Barnett. His email address is at the bottom of page 13

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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 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: standrew's.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.

The Vicars Letter

Dear friends,

November might seem a rather dull, grey month, with not much to commend it, other than providing an opportunity to grumble that Christmas seems to begin earlier every year. However, in the church's calendar, and in our national life, it is a month rich in both celebration and commemoration. The month begins with the festival of All Saints, and we rightly give thanks for the richness, variety and example of God's saints who have witnessed to His truth through the centuries. The lives of the saints act as signposts to each of us as we struggle on our own Christian journeys. From this celebration of the church's forefathers, we come to All Souls, when we remember the lives of all those whom we love, yet see no longer. This is a time to reflect on what they meant to us, and more importantly to pray for them, just as they will be praying for us.

On November Sunday 9th and then on the 11th, we will join with right thinking people throughout the world in honouring all those who have sacrificed their lives in the defence of freedom and in the service of our nation. This year's ceremonies have added poignancy in that they mark the 90th anniversary since that first Armistice day in 1918. Indeed, we shall also honour those who are continuing to sacrifice their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. The freedoms that we all so easily take for granted came at a heavy price, and we rightly honour those who secured them for us; heroes from the past and present.

I have heard many good things about the ceremony in Sonning, and I am looking forward to joining the parade and leading the commemorations.

The month finishes as it began, focusing on Saints, this time on just one, St. Andrew. This simple fisherman gave up so much in order to follow Christ. Our fishermen saint teaches us with his powerful example about how our lives should be rooted in obedience to God, and we will be celebrating him on November 30th with a special evensong at 6:30pm. This will be followed by a drink in the Bull where I shall give a toast to St Andrew. So, a varied month is in prospect, but all these events provide us with an opportunity to learn from the extraordinary examples of those whom we remember.

**With warmest good wishes,
Jamie**

From the Registers

Baptisms

28 September : Leah Bass

Funerals

1 October - Peg Atkins

15 October - Anne Beaken

Charvil Viewpoint

It is said that once you stop learning you stop living and that our lives from cradle to the grave are one big learning process. When everything economically and materially goes well then it is all too easy to forget the lessons that have been learned from past experiences. They can easily be forgotten especially if one hasn't lived through that experience. The current global financial crisis has compelled our government gurus to re-visit the lessons of the past to see if there are any parallels to that the world is going through now. What were the mistakes made then? What were the successful solutions then, short and long term, which might work now?

Remembrance Sunday is an important reminder of the past and the lives that were sacrificed in two world wars and since. The price they paid was for the benefit and wellbeing of subsequent generations - the benefit of peace and harmony for our families and loved ones today. If we forget them we will pay the price. The times we live in call for all nations to unselfishly work together for the benefit of "all people that on earth do dwell".

Our inspiration should be the love of our father God that showed in the life and death and resurrection of his son Jesus. He is the only one who can give us all the necessary faith required to strengthen our hope and enable us to show the love that all creation needs at this time. Let us not forget him or those who have died in the defence freedom, peace and ultimately the salvation of our souls.

**Love and Prayers,
Michael & family**

Pearson Hall Social Committee -Christmas Supper

The Pearson Hall Social Committee will be hosting their Christmas Supper on Saturday 13th December at the Pearson Hall, 7.30pm. Join us for a welcome drink, four-course dinner and entertainment including carols, pay bar and a raffle.

Tickets priced at £14.00 per person will be available from Meryem Parker, Acre Cottage, Thames Street, Sonning, RG4 6UR (tel. 0118 944 0000) and the Box Office opens on Monday 3rd November. Please forward a cheque payable to PHSC together with a stamped, self addressed envelope for return of tickets. Please note this is a very popular event and tickets are on a first come-first-served basis

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Andrew Barker

Footprints

Last week boss revealed the cunning plan to get the pulses racing up the Christmas. Yes, I know it's all a bit commercial and it sounds like we're hopping on the tinsel card & glitter bandwagon with indecent haste, but these things do need organising. Anyway, I have it on good authority that the boss, the deputy bosses boss and Liz have set up the December family service on the 7th December to be a whizz bang effort. It's the annual gift service, but they've combined it with the music service so there'll be lots of kids, lots of gifts and lots of hymns. And there's a theme too, it's all about footprints. Curious? Want to find out more? If so put the date in your diary, 9:30 am, Sunday 7th Dec at St Patrick's, it's gonna be different.

Sonning Glebe WI

Although the speaker for our October Birthday Meeting had to cancel at very short notice, we had an enjoyable evening playing 'Beetle' and chatting to our friends. We had a tasty supper of quiche and salad accompanied by a glass of wine and birthday cake. Our recent Harvest Supper was a great success, with delicious food as usual and a magician to entertain us.

At our next meeting on 17th November, our speaker will talk to us about 'Being a Santa'. Visitors are most welcome.

Heather Hine

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

The "hands on" do it yourself afternoon at the last meeting of the Flower Club was very popular and a great success. Different people with different ideas but all using flowers, foliage, fruit and candles of their own choice produced some spectacular arrangements, and some of our newer members did particularly well. Autumn produces marvellous material to work with: dark red hydrangeas, seed heads, dahlias, apples and all the changing leaves. One arrangement was set in a hollowed out pumpkin which is a marvellous idea for Hallowe'en while pomegranates, oranges and lemons all cut in half and skewered on sticks can look so festive at harvest time.

Other Business

Members are reminded that 9th November is Remembrance Sunday and volunteers are required to help make the posies for the Church. To do this, please be at the St. Sarik room from 8.30am- 10am on Saturday 8th November, and if you can, please bring some Myrtle, Bay or Rosemary with you.

Sadly our Chairman Catherine Penny (who soldiered on despite adversity) is now retiring from the Committee along with Barbara McGregor and Sue Doyle. Nominations (which should be in by the November meeting) are required to replace them.

Finally, the Christmas Lunch is on 11th December so hurry and get your tickets if you haven't already done so.

Next year we have some really good events lined up and if you are not yet a member of the Flower Club now is the time to join. Come along to the next meeting on Thursday 13th November at 2pm in the Pearson Hall to see Mrs. Jane Haas demonstrating "Magic and Sparkle," and there is also a competition "A Christmas Lantern" for those who wish to take part.

Charvil Pre-School

If you're unfamiliar with Charvil Pre-School, let me tell you a bit about it. The pre-school is based in St Patrick's Church Hall, Park View Drive North in Charvil and provides a safe, friendly and stimulating environment for children approaching 3 up to school age. The focus of the pre-school, which is OFSTED registered, is to give children the opportunity to learn through play by offering a variety of activities, ranging from painting and sticking to structured group work. My daughter has been going for nearly a year and a half and loves her time there. There is no day where I don't come home with an array of paintings and sticking she's done and stories about what she's been up to during her time there.

The staff, who are all CRB checked, provide a fantastic learning environment for the children, encouraging them to develop their social skills, whilst having lots of fun. It truly is a lovely place for your child to start their journey through education.

This term the children have been investigating lots of things associated with autumn time and the term will finish off with our Nativity Play which is a wonder for any parent to see!

If you'd like to know more about the pre-school, please visit our website www.charvilpreschool.co.uk or contact Nadine Doble on 0118 934 0418.

Bridget Mundy

Sonning Village Show 2009

Date for your next year's diaries - 2009 Village Show will be on Saturday 19th September.

Heather Hine

The Caterpillar Club (Mother & Toddler Group)

We have been really pleased to welcome some new faces over the last term and we hope that we will welcome more in the run up to Christmas.

The Caterpillar Club is an informal and relaxed Mother & Toddler Group that takes place every Wednesday morning during term-time in Charvil Village Hall. The session starts around 10am and runs until 11.30am. We offer a range of toys to play with and there is always a craft activity and playdough to keep your little ones occupied. We also have a dedicated baby area for our youngest members. The group is open to any carers with little ones, whether you're a grandparent, nanny, aunty etc, so please do come and

give us a go! It'll give your little one the chance to burn off some of that energy that they have some much of at this age!

If you'd like to find out more about this group, please do not hesitate to contact Bridget Mundy on 0118 934 4253 or just come along any term-time Wednesday morning - we'll be glad to welcome you.

**** We are looking for any volunteers in the area who would be prepared to help us by serving the drinks and biscuits at coffee time and do the washing up. It would probably require a little over an hour a week of your time and if enough interest was shown, I'd like to have a rota going. If you could help, please call Bridget Mundy on 0118 934 4253.****

Bridget Mundy

PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS

By the **READING CENTRAL SALVATION ARMY BAND**
(by kind permission of The Commanding Officer)

A CONCERT OF MUSIC AND CAROLS

will be held on
Wednesday, 26 November 2008 at 7.45 p.m.

The Flavell Suite, Sindlesham Court (Berkshire Masonic Centre)
Mole Road, Sindlesham

Proceeds to the Macmillan Day Care Centre, Wokingham and local Rotary Charities

Tickets : £5.50 to include coffee and mince pies

RAFFLE

Tickets available from Sonia and Martin Boyles,
28 Rothwell Gardens, Woodley, Reading RG5 4TJ Tel: (0118) 9692428

Sonning Twinning Association
Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner

A reminder that the box office is now open (until 15th November) for our next event - the Beaujolais Nouveau Dinner on Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm in the Pearson Hall. This will be a 3 course meal (including a drink of Beaujolais on arrival); a pay bar will also be available.

Applications for tickets ((including a cheque payable to Sonning Twinning Association and self addressed stamped envelope) should be sent to David Bates, The Gatehouse, Sonning Lane, Sonning, RG4 6ST. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements with your ticket order. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TICKETS WITH YOU ON THE NIGHT!** (£10 members / £12.50 non members).

A number of friends from Liguge (including the new mayor M. Bernard Mauze) have confirmed that they will be joining us.

During the evening there will be the opportunity to hear from the Sonning bursary winners who will share their experiences of their visits to Liguge. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lesley Green

Sonning Cricket Club - champions yet again !

Sonning 1st XI took the Thames Valley League by storm in their first season after moving up from the Berkshire League, winning all their league matches except one, where the opposition clung on for a draw. Consequently they won their division by the proverbial “country mile” and now move up into Division 3. As ever, the grinning assassin Mark “Jethro” Richards did the damage with the bat, scoring 610 runs at an average of 55. With the ball there is no doubt that our 85 mph Australian Under 19 sensation Cameron Gannon was the star of the entire Thames Valley Leagues taking an unprecedented 70 wickets at a measly average of 7 runs a piece.

The 2nd XI were ultimately disappointed to finish third in Divn 6 of the TVL, but another talented overseas youngster, Retief van der Walt, who will have served you with a smile at The Bull if you been sheltering from rain there this summer, smashed an impressive 654 runs at an average of 47. The third XI held their own in Division 3 of the Berkshire League and the Sunday XI had their best season for several years, winning half their games. Yet again the weather had a major say in proceedings with a total of 16 matches cancelled !

The greatest success of all this year has to be the establishment of junior cricket at Sonning in the shape of the Sonning and Charvil Junior Cricket squad ! This has really taken off, thanks to the great efforts of Neil Methold and Nick Ray and colleagues and they have had up to 30 young lads out there honing their skills on Sunday mornings and even taking part in competitive matches as the season progressed. I am delighted to report that Neil’s son Sam has now been selected to take part in the Berkshire Under 10s squad winter training, so we might have another “Jethro” in the making !

Finally, our Annual Dinner-Dance extravaganza takes place at Sonning Golf Club on Sat 15th Nov and at the time of writing there are just a few tickets left, so please contact me on 9692698 if you are interested in coming along. To find out more about our friendly and successful cricket club, log on to www.sonningcc.co.uk

Ali Driver

Notices:

Margaret ('Peg') Atkins

I would like to thank all those who sent condolences and attended Peg's funeral.

It is heartening to know that we have so many friends in the village.

Ron ('Rusty') Atkins

Sonning Lock Tea Garden

Thanks to all our customers of 2008. We hope they all enjoyed the Tea Garden as much as we did and will be back with us next Summer. We open again on April 6th 2009, lets hope for some glorious weather.

From Jo, Keith, Wendy, Pat, Jenny, Sarah, Vicky and Jemma and the Mannequin !

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 & 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
Sonning School PTA	Penny Adams	932 1208
1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	ASG Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1 st 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