

Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

September 2009

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

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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
11 - 13 Sep	S&SES 'Village Voices' Exhibition	
11 - 13 Sep	S&SES Village Walks	
19 Sep	Parish Walk	
19 Sep	Village Produce Show	R
26 sep	Village Clean-up	
26 - 27 Sep	Rotary Art Exhibition and sale	
16 Oct	Sonning & Warren Conservatives annual dinner	
17 Oct	Fish 'n Chips Jazz Supper	
Notes:	Deadline, October Magazine: 4.00 pm Fri, 25th September 2009 R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry.	

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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, Third Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays. Sunday School 9.30 am except third 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. Sonia can also be contacted by email at: standrews.sonning@btinternet.com. For Weddings and funerals, contact the vicar on 0118 969 3298.

The Vicars Letter

Dear friends,

I am looking forward to attending the opening of the "Village Voices" exhibition later this month. I have been struck these past twelve months by the vibrancy of Sonning village and by the many characters that make up our common life. A Vicar with any sense spends time in a new parish listening and learning, therefore building up a clear picture of the new community. I have heard about all manner of people who have made a mark on the village and wider parish over the years and who are now at rest in our beautiful churchyard. Indeed the quality of any community, whether a village or church or whatever, depends upon those who work to build it up, and the inheritance from them that we enjoy today is something we need to remember to be grateful for.

I must confess to feeling rather daunted in taking over responsibility for our churchyard, but quickly found it to be a place of great peace and tranquillity. I often have a walk through it, checking that all is well, and, more and more, I am seeing names of people who I have already heard of. In the relatively recent past, some very dedicated servants of Sonning and

Charvil who have been laid to rest there, and just last month, we commended our sister Mary Peters into God's heavenly presence, with her mortal remains safely cared for in our sacred plot. Mary was a presence in the village for a good number of years, and both she and her husband, our Lay reader, Bob, have been loved members of our parish. Mary served the village most recently as a helper with the Monday club, and I know they will miss her greatly. Before that she was very active with the Sonning play group. Mary's contribution to the village is just part of the ongoing story; of people doing what they can to serve the greater good of the community.



Although not buried in our churchyard, I recently had the privilege of visiting the grave of another former villager, Joseph Snowball. You may remember that he died during the D Day landings, and I was able, with a little help from Alice, to lay a wreath on behalf of the village at his grave in Bayeux war cemetery. The contribution that he made to our village was to pay the ultimate sacrifice to defend us. Sadly, we don't have a record of his village voice, but we have heard from two of his brothers in arms who were with him as he died.

I am struck as I get older of how time seems to be speeding up. Indeed, more and more it would seem to be the 'ever rolling stream' that we sing about. In the ongoing history of our ancient parish, the time that we are residents here is very short indeed. Soon enough our voices will fade and perhaps we will also be at rest in the churchyard. I mention this, not because I want to depress you, but because it is helpful to be reminded that the time we have is finite, and we need to use it wisely and well. What will village voices say of us after we have gone? What will our legacy be? It is a sobering question, but it should also encourage us to assess the quality of our contribution to the community here and now. There are many and varied ways in which we can serve one another, and in doing so we enhance our common life together.

For a Christian, service of neighbour is not just an ideal; it is an instruction from Jesus Christ. As Vicar it is my earnest hope that St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's are making a difference in Sonning and Charvil. If villagers feel there are new ways that we can contribute, do please speak up. We as a PCC are presently putting in place some exciting plans for the future, and if they come to fruition, I have no doubt that they will be of lasting value in

the parish. I hope in the not too distant future to be able to tell you more about this.

For now, may I urge you to go along to 'Village Voices', to be grateful for all those who have made this place so special, and to think how you might be able to add to their legacy.

With warm regards,

Jamie

Notices

Harvest Festival: This will be held on Sunday October 4th at both churches. This year, we have decided to collect money for the Karuneipuri Orphanage in India rather than food produce. Special envelopes will be available in the run up weeks in church and at the School, and they can be brought up to the altar in place of the usual tins etc.

Swine Flu: After advice from the Archbishop of Canterbury, we have introduced measures to help prevent the spread of swine flu. Communion will now be administered differently, with the priest dipping the wafer in the wine and placing it directly onto the hands. The hand shake at the peace has been suspended, and also we ask that people use the antibacterial gel upon entering our churches.

Confirmation: The young people's group begins on Tuesday 1st September at 6:00pm and the adult group starts on September 7th at the St. Sarik room. If you would like to be confirmed please speak to the Vicar before these dates. The Confirmation service will be at St Andrew's on October 13th in the evening.

Parish BBQ: Come and join us on September 6th at 12:30pm for the parish BBQ at the Vicarage. Tickets are available from Jan Hammond or after morning service.

Matins: There will be no Matins in November because of the Parish Eucharist being replaced the week before by the Remembrance Sunday service.

RBCS and Rotary: The Vicar has been appointed a governor of the Reading Blue Coat School. Also he has been invited to become an honorary member of Loddon Vale Rotary Club, and has accepted.

Charvil Perspective

When does the next year begin for you? The academic year begins for our children and young people this month. The fiscal year doesn't begin until April 2010 when our tax year ends. The calendar year begins on the first of January. The Chinese New Year depends on the lunar calendar. The Christian Church's New Year begins on Advent Sunday (November 29th). How confusing!

For our children and young people their New Year means either they will be in a new class or a new school and take advantage of the change to make new friends, in particular when they move from a primary school culture to a secondary school culture. It can be for them quite dramatic. The older you are the less you like change from the familiar to the unfamiliar. However change is endemic in this life and unavoidable. Compared with the past it becomes increasingly faster and requires us to adapt our life style accordingly as ever new technology bears down on us - a mixed blessing. It leaves us little time to reflect, to stand and stare except during the holiday time just past. The more dependent we become on new technology it would seem the more impoverished our relationships can become infected by misuse.

For His part God does not change, for as St Paul puts it “He is the same, yesterday, today and forever”. His nature and His love for each and every one of us never changes. By acknowledging our dependency increasingly on Him for everything He reveals Himself to us which, as we cultivate and become more aware of His presence, can change our life style and our relationships with one another for the better. In the coming year whenever it begins for you why not tune in to Him and take advantage of His free offer and find out more through talking to Him in prayer and to His disciples at St Andrew’s and St Patrick’s.

Love and prayers,

Michael and family

From the Registers

Baptisms

5 th July:	Henry Turner	16 th August:	Danielle Cherry
16 th August:	Emma Pluse		

Weddings

27 th June:	Andrew Jones and Patricia Lawton
4 th July:	Neale Martin Chapman and Louise Ann Monger
18 th July:	Ian Prince and Rebecca Elizabeth Whiskin
25 th July:	Ian Nicholas Robins and Jane Helen Kick
8 th August:	Simon David Webb and Amanda Jane Dawes
8 th August:	Michael Noel Denoon-Slater and Caroline Hocking

Funerals

30 th June:	Bryan Ilsley
1 st July:	Ronald Wooding
17 th July:	Mary Green
19 th August:	Mary Patricia Peters

Eye & Dunsden Newsletter



Henley Golf Club had their green-keepers storage barn broken into and a considerable amount of equipment stolen. Shortly after, *Mapledurham Golf Club* and *Burnham Golf Club* had similar thefts. The offenders used a vehicle to ram the doors of the barns and take hand operated garden equipment.

The value of the items stolen at each of these thefts amounted to several thousand pounds. All had suspicious activity in their car parks prior to the raids. Recently there have been thefts from sheds at allotments in Henley and Sonning Common. Although the sheds were secured with padlocks, thieves were equipped to force entry and knew which sheds to target for maximum profit. Remember to mark your equipment permanently, thereby making it worthless to anyone but the owner.

With the arrival of the summer break, Police Community Support Officer's will be on foot patrols in parks and riverside areas to combat anti-social behaviour and underage drinking. Alcohol will be seized from anyone under eighteen and their details will be taken. Parents or Guardians will receive a letter from the Thames Valley Police Anti-Social Behaviour Team informing them of their children's whereabouts and behaviour.

If you have any information regarding the sale of alcohol to underage drinkers, the Golf Club or allotment shed thefts, please contact Thames Valley Police on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

On July 1st Thames Valley Police launched a campaign to reduce car crime and the number of car crime victims, by encouraging them to remove valuables from their cars/vans and leave nothing on show. Police Officers and PCSO's, on their normal patrols will identify vulnerable cars/vans displaying property in the vehicles and the owners will receive a letter giving crime reduction advice.

In July I handed over responsibility for the Dunsden & Eye area to PcsO Nick Townsend, also part of the Henley Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team. Posters for the Monthly PCSO Surgery outside the village hall will be distributed shortly, or consult the Thames Valley Police neighbourhood website I look forward to meeting members of the community and discussing any concerns they may have.

PcsO Janice Smith

You can contact the Police on 0845 8 505 505 or
Crimestoppers on 0800 555 11.1

You can find out more about neighbourhood policing on our website:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Sonning CE Primary School

The end of the Summer Term at school was full of many activities and events. We had a very successful science week, a small group of pupils visited Ligugé to find out more about our twinned community and Year 6 performed magnificently in their production of Twelfth Night. It was lovely to welcome the Monday Club to the matinée performance of this. A choir group also performed at the Hexagon along with 400 other Wokingham children, there was sports day as well as an end of term music concert.

Sadly very heavy rain prevented us from being at church for our Leavers' service. Nonetheless it was a lovely occasion as we said goodbye to our largest ever Year 6 group.

As part of this service Rev'd Jamie presented each leaver with a Bible on behalf of the PCC and Governors and we are very grateful for this special gift to our children. Our best wishes go with all of them as they move on to their various secondary schools and take those next important steps in their education. At the end of term we also said goodbye to Pam Corbishley, our Special Needs Co-ordinator, who has been part of the staff team for 20 years; we wish her well in her pre-retirement time ahead.

The end of a school year is always an opportunity to reflect and celebrate. We are very much looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the forthcoming year and especially look forward to welcoming our newest families to the school in September. If your child is due to start school in the 2010/11 academic year you should receive information about the admissions procedures from Wokingham in November. However during the autumn term we shall be holding Open Mornings which will be an opportunity for you to visit and to see the school in operation. Please contact the school office if you are interested in attending one of these.

Lesley Green

Royal British Legion, Sonning Branch

Should you require a poppy wreath for a funeral, or to place on a grave or for Remembrance Day, contact Malcolm Geater Tel No 0118 947 1677, or email geater@talktalk.net before September 30th if required for Remembrance Sunday. Wooden crosses are also available with a variety of insignia, i.e. Armed Services, Ships, Regiments, Squadrons, Schools or Associations. In addition to this Muslin Crescents & Star of David are available. In all cases manufacturing prices only are given and so it is expected that a donation is added to the advertised cost, for the benefit of the Poppy Appeal.

Malcolm Geater

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Village Voices: An oral history experience

The weekend of the 11th - 13th September will see the culmination of three years of hard work when the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society will present '*Village Voices: an oral history experience*' in the Pearson Hall. This fascinating exhibition will form part of the Society's fifth anniversary celebrations as well as contributing to the 2009 Heritage Open Days Weekend.

At the Society's first Annual General Meeting on 27 November 2004, it was suggested, "That the Society speak to the life-long residents of Sonning and Sonning Eye to record their memories and preserve them". Five years later a dedicated team of volunteers has recorded over 100 hours of memories of local people and collected a wealth of invaluable information about the history of Sonning and Sonning Eye. With such a treasure trove of material it was important to select key themes that could form the focus for the exhibition. These themes include schooling, shops, farming, recreation, memorable events, Sonning in the Second World War, home life, the Fire Brigade, The Mill and the river. This exciting interactive exhibition will be a fascinating opportunity to experience what village life was like through the reminiscences of others.

Following the formal opening by Theresa May MP, the exhibition will be open to the public in the Pearson Hall during the following times:

- Friday 11th September: 12 Noon – 5.00 pm
- Saturday 12th September: 12 Noon – 5.00 pm
- Sunday 13th September: 12 Noon – 5.00 pm

Village Walks

The Society's team of experienced Village Guides are offering six walks. They all start in the Churchyard near the entrance from The Bull and are free, but booking is essential as group sizes are limited. Please contact Diana Coulter or Brian O'Callaghan on 0118 969 2132. There will be two tours each day:

- Friday 11th September: 1:30 & 2:30pm
- Sat 12th September: 1:30 & 2:30pm
- Sunday 13th September: 1:30 & 2:30pm

This year the tours, which last about 1.5 – 2 hours, will end at the Pearson Hall so that visitors may enjoy the Village Voices exhibition and a cup of tea. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mark Green

Parish Walk

Sept 19th, Cookham NT Car Park, GR895855 at 10.15am. Walk over the golf course, return via river; 4½ miles. For more information contact me on 0118 926 8035 or 079820 48387.

Jean Milbourn

Sonning Floral arrangement Society

The chairman opened the July meeting with the following notices:

- The meeting on 10th September will be held in Charvil Village hall as the Pearson Hall is not available. Lucinda Saunderson will be demonstrating *A journey through France* and the competition is *Pot et Fleur*.
- At the Sonning Produce Show on 19th September the club is arranging for an “Imposed class” for 10 members only. If you are one of the lucky volunteers taking part you will only need to bring a pair of scissors, a big black plastic bag and (if you like) pins, tapes and wires. Everything else is provided.
- And just to whet your appetite, on 8th October there is a fun afternoon after the style of *Ready Steady Cook*, but with flowers instead of food.

The business over, we proceeded with the meeting and had a very entertaining demonstration by Charmaine Grace-Woodham entitled *Hollywood Dreaming*. Various landmarks such as The San Fernando Mission, The Staples Theatre, and the Getty Museum inspired her to create some lovely arrangements, all of which were raffled afterwards whilst we enjoyed a cup of tea.

There is always something interesting at the Society and new members are always welcome.

Jane Gascoine

Sonning Parish Council

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL: Work Party Saturday, 26th September

We will be holding a working party on the recreation ground 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturday 26 September to carry out general maintenance, repairs and planting - volunteers requested, the more the merrier. Control point will be the pavilion. Please contact Tim Pascall on 0118 969 6935 if you can help so that the tasks can be prioritised.

Lesley Bates

Fish 'n Chips Jazz Supper
With the Denise Lawrence Band

Saturday, 17th October 2009
The Pearson Hall, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

Tickets £13.00.

Raffle.

Pay bar.

All profits in aid of
Help for Heroes

Tickets on sale from Monday, 7th September.
Ring Jane Gascoine on 0118 969 3326
followed by a s.a.e. to Winona Cottage, Sonning Eye, RG4 6TN

More than 70 Berkshire walks to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking - it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke.
- Lower blood pressure.
- Reduce high cholesterol.
- Reduce body fat.
- Enhance mental well being.

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the

County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for - he had better create it! So www.walkinginberks.co.uk came into being. The site gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County: Details of more than 70 walks to download and print free, details of all the Berkshire walking groups, maps and walk books - plus loads more information. Check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

Sonning Art Group

Members are currently finalising their entries for the Sonning Art Group exhibition and sale of work held annually as part of the Sonning Village and will also be selecting pictures they will submit for the various categories in the Show's general art competition.

Slightly less than a year ago we reported the sad loss of George Lamb, a very talented artist and keen member of the Sonning Art Group as well as a member of a number of other art groups in the area. To honour his memory we have inaugurated the 'George Lamb Trophy' which will be presented annually to the winner of the 'Best Picture' competition voted for by visitors to the exhibition. Many people may remember George's lovely painting of the 'Battle of Trafalgar' which won him the award of the 'British Legion Cup' at last years' Village Show and through the kindness of Elizabeth Lamb we will display the painting again at the Show as part of the group's tribute to George.

George Webster

Conservative Association, Sonning & Warren Branch

ANNUAL DINNER

To be held on Friday, 16th October at 7.30 pm
at the Pearson Hall,
in the presence of The Rt Honourable Theresa May, our MP.

Our Guest Speaker will be Mark Simmonds,
Shadow Minister for Health.

Tickets cost £25.00 each and can be obtained from
Rosemary Digby (01189 69 3277) or any member of the committee.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sonning Glebe WI

July was a busy month for us as we held our annual Safari Supper on the 18th and this was followed by our Garden Party on the 20th. We were blessed with fine weather and our grateful thanks go to Jose & Rodney Huggins who gave us the use of their garden for both events. Our monthly walk took place at Dinton Pastures and this was followed by supper at the Wheelwright Arms. Some of our members spent the day at the market town of Marlborough. Unfortunately the weather was not so kind to us but we had a very interesting time and decided when you live in this country you have to make the most of a rainy day, which we certainly did.

Our speaker at the August meeting was David Laney who gave a very interesting and informative talk on his career as a Concorde Pilot.

At our September meeting on Monday 21st September our guest speaker will be talking on "Who Do You think You Are" which is about starting your family tree. This meeting is part of our WI recruitment week and we invite anyone who is interested in joining us to come along. This meeting is held at the Pearson Hall and starts at 7.30 p.m.

As autumn approaches we will be commencing our *Knit & Natter* and *Scrabble* evenings together with our monthly lunches and walks. Future events include a trip to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on the 8th of September, Harvest Supper October 3rd and Skittles evening 13th November.

If anyone would like more information please contact me on: 0118 969 4897.

Molly Oakley



Rotary Club of Reading Maiden Erlegh

Presents

The 2nd Annual Reading Art Exhibition

Saturday 26th September and Sunday 27th September

at

Reading University (Whiteknights)

10.00am to 4.00pm each day.

Over 350 originals by local artists with prices from £25.00 each

All proceeds go to local charities

Free parking.

Admission, including programme; £3.00

More information from: David Cotton, tel: 0118 988 6993,

Or visit www.rotaArt.com

Lost Property

I have discovered some garden chairs in my shed which do not belong to me. I suspect that they were left here in August 2008 after an event in my garden. They are low, small collapsible metal and canvas type - one dark green; the other two are pale blue/red/green multi-striped.

If they belong to you, please call me on 0118 969 3326 and I will drop them in to you.

Jane Gascoine

**So, 'A' Level results are out;
what about some answers to those science questions.....**

Q: Explain a process by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Filtration makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What are steroids?

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with smoking cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarian Section.'

A: The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome.

Q: What does the word 'benign' mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen)

A: The body is consisted into three parts: The brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels A, E, I, O, and U.

Really?