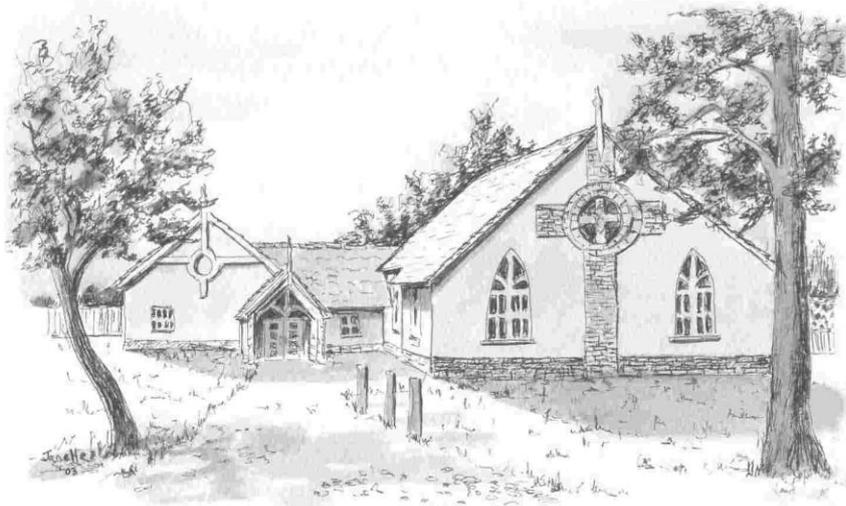


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

April 2010

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
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Churchwardens:		
	Mr Mark Jordan. Email: mark.jordan@talktalk.net	940 1431
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	Ruth Warms.	934 9218
	Charvil: TBA	
Parochial Church Council:		
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	Vicar: revjaft@yahoo.co.uk	

Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
5 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt	18
16 Apr	S&SES Talk "Bells"	25
17 Apr	Parish walk	23
22 Apr	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	18
24 Apr	'Active Listening Skills' workshop	R
25 Apr	St George's Day Festal Eucharist	19
25 Apr	S&SES Bluebell walk	25
26 Apr	'Into the Woods'; Floral Arrangement Society	22
8 May	Christian Aid Concert	R
12 May	Annual Parish meeting	23
29 May	Sonning Regatta	27
29/31 May	Sonning Festival & Scarecrow Trail	24
20 Jun	S&SES Summer Luncheon	25
Notes:	Deadline, May magazine: 4.00 pm Friday, 23rd April 2010 R = Reminder from previous issue. D = Diary entry.	

Contents

Forthcoming Events	.....	14
Regular Services	.....	15
The Parish Church	.....	15
St Patrick's Charvil	.....	15
The Vicar's Letter	.....	15
Notices	.....	17
St George's Day Festal Eucharist	.....	19
"Footprints"	.....	20
Charvil Celebrations	.....	21
Aftermath	.....	21
From the Registers	.....	22
Floral Arrangement Society	.....	22
Sonning Parish Council	.....	23
Parish Walk	.....	23
Sonning Charities	.....	24
Scarecrows 2010	.....	24
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	.....	25
Sonning Art Group	.....	26
Sonning Glebe WI	.....	26
Sonning Regatta	.....	27
Sonning CE Primary School	.....	27
Sonning Twinning Association	.....	28
Local Organisations	.....	29
Useful Web Sites	.....	30

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 Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

I guarantee that one of the 10 commandments is broken by the vast majority of the population every Sunday. "Keep the Sabbath holy". That is to say, in our Christian tradition, honour God on Sundays, and how are we to honour Him? We worship Him of course, and the best place to do that is in His house.

I am sorry to see what Sundays have become in our society. If truth be told, they are now much like Saturdays. Johnny has sports on a Sunday morning, and Mum and Dad feel the pressure and relent for a quiet life. Someone came up to me in my last parish, with no hint of embarrassment or shame and told me that their child would no longer come to Junior Church, and they to morning worship, because he was going to start Junior Golf lessons. What does that say about priorities?

The shops are all open, and pity the poor staff. Everybody rushes around with no thought to having a rest, a special day with their families, and for that matter, with God. I was always opposed to Sunday trading, and try very

hard not to use shops on Sundays. The complete change in the character of Sundays is an indication of where we, as a society, place God in our lives.

I think that we often regard God as various cups and glasses. Firstly, many people treat God like the best china tea cup. It is put away for months on end, but if we want to impress and look the part with a special visitor, we get it out. How true of so many who treat God as something to do at Christmas or the occasional wedding.

God is sometimes treated as the emergency plastic tumbler we keep at the back of the cupboard, maybe put to use if we get a lot of visitors all at once. The key to that is the word emergency. We only have thought for God if we, or someone we care about, is in trouble. We give Him nothing (our time, worship, prayer, money) at any other time, but expect Him to jump to when we demand it.

God actually should be seen as the everyday coffee mug. The coffee mug is there in our lives everyday, and we rely on it, not just for best, or in an emergency. God wants to have a relationship with us, and we can't have much of a friendship with anyone, if we only make the effort with the other person when we want something. We only get to know someone if we spend time with them. If we live our short, temporary lives, with no regard to God and His teachings, and make no effort to get to know Him, then, at the very least, we will have missed out on the most precious free gift of all. We will have spent our lives missing the point, grasping around in the darkness, looking for happiness and fulfilment, whilst all the time the opportunity was there all along.

Easter is upon us. People often like to think of Easter as all fluffy and warm; a bunch of daffodils, and chocolate eggs, bunny rabbits and the like. In some ways it has become an almost pagan celebration of springtime. Well, I'm having none of it. Without Easter, the church would not exist. Without Easter, Jesus Christ would have been no more than an ill educated peasant, who had delusions of grandeur. Without Easter, we could have no relationship with God. We would know very little about his love for us. Easter is at the heart of everything we do; not the eggs and daffs, but the real message of Easter, and there is nothing cosy and fluffy about its real message.

The cross is all around us. Millions wear it as a piece of jewellery (unless they work for British Airways) often with no thought as to what it symbolizes. But the cross was simply a means of executing people. However, we can't have the life restoring joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday without the realisation that God loves us so much that His Son had to die. The cross is a scandal; an innocent man, a sinless man, dying in our place so that the way to heaven could be opened for us. That is what Easter is about.

It is an uncomfortable message, and we like to sweep it under the carpet. Talk of bunnies, spring time and hot cross buns is so much easier. But don't be fooled. Without an acknowledgement of Jesus, without realising what He did for us, and without responding to His love with our obedience and our worship, our lives will have been wasted; empty and hollow, and a pale reflection of what God intends us to be.

It is never too late to start, and the benefits of walking the journey of life, hand in hand with Jesus are almost too many to mention. So don't be afraid of the cross. Whilst Calvary's hill is a place of great sadness, it is also a place where God made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Never forget that, and never forget that, three days later, the stone had been rolled away. Jesus was alive, and because of that, we also have the chance to live; to live fulfilling and meaningful lives here on earth, and ultimately to live with him forever. I don't know about you, but I would take that over Easter bunnies any day.

Jesus Christ is risen, and death will never have the last word. Happy Easter.

With love from all at the Vicarage.

Jamie

Notices

Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY 28th March

- 8:00am St. Andrew's Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am St. Patrick's Holy Communion (CW)
- 10:30am St. Andrew's Procession in churchyard followed by Parish Eucharist
- 6:30pm St. Andrew's Choral Evensong

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday

- 8:30am Morning Prayer (St. Andrew's)
- 10:00am Holy Communion (St Sarik)

Maundy Thursday

- 7:30pm Holy Communion with stripping of the altars (St. Andrew's)

Good Friday

- 2:00pm The final Hour and Proclamation of the Cross
- 2:00pm St Sarik) Children's making of Easter garden)
- 7:00pm 'The Crucifixion' (Stainer) sung by St. Andrew's choir

Easter Saturday

- 4:00pm Walk to St. Patrick's along the river (from the Vicarage)
- 5:00pm BBQ at St. Patrick's
- 7:00pm Easter Vigil at St. Patrick's

Easter Sunday

- 8:00am St. Andrew's Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9:30am St. Patrick's Holy Communion (CW)
- 10:30am St. Andrew's Parish Eucharist (with Easter Eggs for children)
- 6:30pm St. Andrew's Choral Evensong

Easter Monday

2:00pm Easter Egg Hunt and tea Party at the Vicarage (bring a plate of something!)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 22nd April at 8:00pm: All those who are involved in the life of our parish are invited to attend this important annual meeting. There will be elections for the positions of churchwarden and their deputies, as well as for the Church Council. Also, there will be reports from key officers in our churches. Drinks will be served after the meeting.

VE Day

There will be a community celebration of the 65th anniversary of VE Day on May 9th at 6:30pm. Civic guests will join veterans and many others to give thanks for the ending of the war in Europe. The Dean of Windsor will be the guest preacher, and our choir will be augmented by the choir of St Andrew's, Broadstairs. Following the service, there will be a reception in the Vicarage garden if the weather is fine, or in church if it is not.

Easter Egg Hunt

Miss Alice Taylor warmly invites 0-11 year olds to an Easter egg hunt and tea party in the Vicarage garden on Monday 5th April. It starts at 2:00pm and finishes by 4:00pm. If you would like to come (with parents), please RSVP the Vicar's email address (revjaft@yahoo.co.uk). It would be appreciated if you could bring a plate of something for the tea.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

FESTAL EUCHARIST FOR ENGLAND'S

PATRON SAINT



SUNDAY 25TH APRIL AT 10:30AM

GUEST PREACHER

THE ARCHDEACON OF BERKSHIRE

THE VENERABLE NORMAN RUSSELL

A CELEBRATION OF ENGLAND

IN WORD AND MUSIC

Footprints



**For all those
dealing with the
loss of a loved one,
redundancy, divorce,
or separation**

**Come and join us at an informal coffee
morning on the second Tuesday of the month
at 11.00am in the St Sarik Room of
St. Andrew's Sonning
(April 13th 2010)**

**An opportunity to meet with others facing the
many pressures of bereavement and loss**

Charvil Celebrations

The principal event in March was the St Patrick's festival, which was a great success, thanks to the tireless efforts of all concerned. The participating organisations drew an excellent response from both their members and non members. The highlights of the week were Tara's drama group presentation of Cinderella meets the X Factor, the young peoples Saturday messy fun morning, the Irish Stew and Guinness feast in the evening, several craft & interest evenings by the users, the Mothering Sunday breakfast service and the Songs of praise, Bill Cranes well supported "walk around Charvil" and the final patronal festival service on St Patrick's day, presided over by Bishop Stephen, who gave an excellent address. The working party that planned and executed the implementation did a fantastic job, and our warmest thanks are due to them.

By the time you read this the greatest Christian festival in the Church's year will be upon us in which we remember the painful steps that Jesus took on our behalf; to His crucifixion and then gloriously to His resurrection from the tomb. No one human being before or since has done so much to show God's love for us and His identification with all our joys and sorrows. In doing so He has made it possible for us to return from whence we came - from God our creator. The one condition is, in this earthly life, our acceptance and trust in God our father through Jesus, His son.

May the glorious celebration of Easter bring you and your families joy, peace and lasting happiness.

**Love from our family to yours
Michael & Family**

Aftermath

"Hey Boss, was it something I said, did I play too many bum notes, or didn't he go along with the bacchanalian festivities on the Saturday night?" "What do you mean Jo, I thought we got through the festival relatively unscathed." "No boss, I mean it's taken the bosses boss about 4 years to persuade him to visit us, he comes with an army of people in frocks and the next thing I hear he's quit and charging off to Chelmsford." "Ah, I see what you're getting at, you mean Bishop Stephen's elevation to the next rung on the ecclesiastical ladder?" "Nothing to do with ladders boss, aren't they the things the winder cleaner uses or that A shaped aluminium contraption you use to change the light bulbs and do your Tarzan act in the rafters? He didn't look like a winder cleaner to me" "Let me explain, next rung of the ladder means he's been promoted to the next level in the Church hierarchy, he's off to do great things for the populace of Essex because he's done a good job in Reading." "Ah, is that something that can happen any of us?" "Yes Jo, it's called a meritocracy, if you're good at something your masters

recognise it and keep moving you on until they put you into a position where you're not quite up to the task in hand, then there you'll stay. It's called your level of incompetence and is defined in The Peter Principle. The trick is to recognise the penultimate rung and stay there." "Ah, is that why I'll never turn into a concert grand and you'll never appear in white tie and tails with a candelabra?" "Exactly, Jo."

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner

From the Registers

Baptisms

7th March: Joshua Robert Bartlett
14th March: Rory George Mckenzie Elms
21st March: Jessica Rose Elliott

Funerals

12th March: Dorothy Kathleen Walford

Sonning Floral arrangement Society

The chairman, Brenda Jackson opened the meeting by welcoming new members and with the following notices:

Holyport Flower Arrangers Festival: Dorney Court on 10th April, 10.00am to 4.00pm, £6.00, free parking. Entitled '*Through the Ages*'. Call 07796 873025.

Benson with Lois Gill on 25th June, £25.00, 10.00am to 3.30pm Call 01932 873540.

A national Demonstrator travels far, anywhere in the world where flowers are judged on a grand scale, such as Chelsea or Japan. Barbara Collier is one such person and her demonstration entitled '*Come with me*' took us to some exotic places such as Nairobi (using Birds of Paradise) and to the New York skyline (clever use of water tubes). Closer to home, a beautiful arrangement of peach coloured carnation roses and gerberas depicted a Victorian front door. A spring arrangement with camellias, white roses, lilies, polyanthus, catkins and driftwood took us to Wisley church.

The next meeting is on 8th April '*Any Dream will do*' is with Sally Hardy. The competition '*Multicoloured Dream Coat*' gives plenty of scope for even those lacking in confidence to have a go.

Jane Gascoine

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

is pleased to present

“Into The Woods”

A stunning example of flower arranging by

Mig Kimpton

To be held at The Mill at Sonning
At 7.30 p.m. on Monday 26th April 2010
(doors and bar open 6.30 p.m.)
(There is plenty of free parking provided at the theatre)

All Tickets £10.00
Available by calling Sharon on 0118 969 0748

40 % of the profits for Thrive
40% of the profits to support people with Alzheimer’s at Woodley Day Centre
20% of the profits to Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

With sponsorship from World Flowers Ltd., North Warborough, Hook

**Sonning Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting**

The annual parish meeting will be held in the Pearson Hall on Wednesday 12 May at 7.30pm.

Following the reports by councillors, there will be a presentation and discussion led by Bob Hulley on reducing traffic in the centre of our village. For some months, Ken Peters has been leading brainstorming sessions by councillors, residents and Society members on how to return the centre of the village to the community, in effect; reduce traffic flow, improve pedestrian access and increase resident parking.

Last year the attendance for the hottest Sonning topic, a 3rd Thames crossing, was disappointing. If you want to have your say book this date now.

Lesley Bates

Parish Walk

Apr 17th. Meet 10.15am Hurley Car Park [opp. the church] GR825840. Walk along the river to Marlow and back, 5 miles. For more information call me on 0118 926 8035 or mobile 07982 0483.

Jean Milbourn

Merger of the Sonning Charities

Since the 1800's there have been two charities serving the ancient Parish of Sonning which includes Sonning Common, Eye & Dunsden, Earley, Woodley, Charvil and Sonning. The two charities were The Sonning & District Welfare Trust and The Sonning Educational Foundation.

During recent years the work they do has overlapped to such an extent that the Trustees of both charities felt that it would be advantageous to work together. Consequently, with approval from the Charity Commission, they will now operate as one body, known as the *Sonning and District Welfare & Educational Trust*. Future requests based on welfare or education will be considered by the Trustees and awarded grants if judged to be suitable.

For more information please contact me, the Clerk to the Trustees on tel: 0118 969 6693 or email: carole.barnett@talktalk.net

Carole Barnett

Scarecrows 2010

Sunday/Monday 30th/31st May



Thank you so much to those who are opening their gardens and to all of you who have registered your Scarecrows - what a great variety. However, there is still plenty of time so get on the phone or e-mail -NOW! There are still several village organisations not yet represented. To register your entry or find out more - please e mail Barbara.carr71@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0118 9345886.

If you have a place on the route for a Scarecrow do let me know as we need display areas! You can also phone or e-mail if you can offer help on that day - making cakes, serving refreshments, manning a garden - all offers of help gratefully received.

I do hope that I'll hear from you in the near future with a great idea for a scarecrow or two or three or..... a whole crowd - anything goes!

Worzel

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

Spring must be in the air, as we have a number of exciting events to whet the appetite in April. Coming up first is a double act by Rob Needham, Vice-Captain of Sonning's bell-ringers, and John Harrison, who is captain of the team at All Saints, Wokingham. Rob and John aim to enthuse you about English-style ringing and the satisfaction that can be gained from the experience of it. Their talk will take place on Friday 16 April in The Buttery, School House at the Blue Coat School, at 7:45 for 8:00 pm. Tickets costs £4.00 to Members and £6.00 to non-members, and include refreshments. They are available from Diana Coulter on 0118 969 2132 or diana.coulter@mac.com. Rob plans to treat us to a mini exhibition, as well as a demonstration of hand-bell ringing too, so we hope to see many of you there to hear the fun.

On the subject of bells, we have a bluebell walk proposed for Sunday 25 April in the Warburg Reserve at Bix, near Henley. It will be led by Giles Strother, Acquisitions and Project Development Officer of the Berks, Bucks, & Oxon Wildlife Trust, who is kindly stepping in because Ali Driver will unfortunately be *hors de combat*. The idea is to assemble just before 2pm in the car park. The walk will take about 2 hours. The site has steep paths mostly covered in loose flint, while 'on the flat' they are grassy; the valley bottom can be muddy after rain. There are gates and stiles to negotiate. So sensible footwear is advised, and perhaps a walking stick. If the weather is kind to us, bring something to drink and we can wrap up the event with an informal chat in the picnic area. The event is free but the Reserve would welcome a minimum donation of £2.00 per person. Although there are no tickets, it will help to have an idea of numbers and whether you could offer a lift to others, so please let me know on 0118 969 2132 or diana.coulter@mac.com.

Finally, you still have one month in which to re-visit *Village Voices* at the Museum of English Rural Life in Redlands Road, Reading. The exhibition will close on Sunday 25 April. The Museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 10.00am-4.30pm, and Saturday/Sunday 2.00pm-4.30pm. Admission is free. Remember - this is your last chance to see this stunning show.

Diana Coulter

PS

Our summer lunch, for members, will be held in the gardens of *Sonningdene*, *Pearson Road*, *Sonning*, by kind permission of Tom and Anne Mills, on Sunday, 20th June starting at 12 noon. Tickets £10.00 from Penny Feathers, Tel: 0118 934 3193.

Penny Feathers

Sonning Art Group

One of the highlights within the Sonning Art group is the annual judging of the Sonning Church of England art-work submissions for the Sonning Art Group awards. This year, we had 114 entries from ages 5 to 10 on the theme of my pet or favourite animal. The result will be announced next month.

Interestingly, a few of the Group had recently been invited to a local Rotarians dinner where David Shepherd, the famous wild life artist, gave a fascinating talk on his passion not only for painting but also his charity, aimed at preventing the extinction of a number of vulnerable animal species. Now 80 years old, but with 2 years of commission work still constantly ahead of him, it was interesting to note that his interest in painting was spawned by a school competition when he was very young. Hopefully, we could be blessed in future years by an inspired Sonning School artist or even better, by young people who perhaps might equally care about all God's creatures and their environment.

On the theme of 80 and equally inspiring, the Group held a celebration tea in March to honour the 80th birthday of the Group's erstwhile Chairman and now President, George Webster. George has been the mainstay and significant contributor to the Group's development over the last ten years, his care and his humour endearing him to all members. He also wishes he had two years of art commissions ahead of him as well, so make a note in your diary to see some of his work on display at the Sonning Scarecrow weekend at the end of May!!

Rob Farquhar

Sonning Glebe WI

At the beginning of March six of our members went to Denman College to take part in a DIY course run by B & Q. This will be a surprise to many of you but it reaffirms that we are not just about 'Jam and Jerusalem' but we cover a wide variety of interests. The DIY course was excellent and we were able to participate in plumbing, joinery, tiling and home decorating. It was very successful and B & Q are hoping to run more of these courses in their stores.

64 people attended our annual quiz evening on 5th March and the raffle raised £100 for our charity Age Concern. So a big thank you to all those who supported this event. Our annual meeting on 15th March incorporated a late Christmas party which was enjoyed by all the members. Some of our members went to see Sister Act at the London Paladium on the 23rd of March which was a great show and certainly left us with a feel good factor.

Future events include a walk at Stonor Park, lunch at the Herb Garden at Sonning Common and our usual evening of knit and natter. A visit to Hampton Court is in the pipeline and of course we are preparing for the

scarecrow weekend in May where we will be serving coffee, tea, homemade cakes etc. as we have done in previous years.

If you are interested in seeing our next year's programme please contact me on 969 4897 or Email normanoakley@waitrose.com. You are very welcome to come, in the first instance as a visitor, to one of our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Monday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Pearson Hall.

Molly Oakley

**Sonning Regatta
29th May 2010**

The Regatta should now be in your diary for Saturday, May 29th!

Register at Pearson Hall on April 24th, 10.00am to 12 noon

Practice at Henley Sailing Club on May 22nd, 25th and 27th

Racing starts approx 12 noon on the 29th

Adult and Children dongola

+

Tub pair (rowing)

+

Canoe, dinghy or kayak races

Something for everyone!!

Food and drink on-site

Inflatable obstacle course, face painting and more

Sonning Eye shore, opposite Blue Coat School Boathouse.

Parking available or ferry from Blue Coat School Boat House

For more information, contact:
Paul Horsburgh on 07775 712861
or Tim Robinson on 07801 808853

Sonning CE Primary School

The Spring Term has just ended and what a busy finale we have had. Our Year 6 group had their usual residential visit to the Kingswood Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight but sadly had to come home a day early since half the group came down with a norovirus bug. I must applaud our magnificent staff team who coped so brilliantly right through one night dealing with this difficult situation. The children not afflicted also acted so

responsibly and helpfully and I am pleased to say that everyone is now recovered.

A number of other classes have also had visits recently to support their curriculum; these included our Reception class to Windsor Castle, Year 3 to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Year 1 to the Museum of English Rural Life and Year 4 to the River and Rowing Museum in Henley.

We have just had a lovely arts week which has focused on the theme that God made everyone unique and special. We were delighted to be joined by a visiting artist, Rosie Smith, for 2 days and it was lovely to see the children working together on a number of 3 dimensional projects including shells, butterflies and collages of the creation story. In the last few days of term we held our Easter Craft Day and also held our Easter Service at St Andrew's Church.

Our building work is progressing really well. Our 8th classroom is rapidly rising from the ground and the shell of the extension to the Thomas Feak room is almost complete with a knock through into the old room scheduled to take place over the Easter holidays. Before we know it the holidays will be over and school will start again for the busy Summer Term.

Those of you who have applied for places for next academic year in the reception class should be hearing from Wokingham Borough Council, who offer places on behalf of our Governing Body, on April 16th. I look forward to meeting some of you at our induction meeting for new parents which we will hold sometime towards the end of the Summer Term.

Lesley Green

Sonning Twinning Association

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM and games evening recently.

In May, we look forward to welcoming our friends from Ligugé over the regatta and scarecrow weekend at the end of May. If you are able to help host some of our guests please contact one of the committee. Ligugé's own regatta takes place the following weekend (June 5th/6th) and it is always good to have a Sonning team taking part. Please contact David Bates on 0118 969 7753 if you are interested taking part in this.

Lesley Green

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	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Charvil Guides	Ruth Hulley	969 9431
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Emma James	969 5538
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Julie Bennett	934 5059
Charvil Voices	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Charvil Village Society	Margaret Gregory	934 5419
Charvil Women's Club	Shirley Newman	934 0589
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones	934 1185
	<i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Beech Lodge	Bookings: Tim Pascall	969 6935
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 Charvil & Hurst N.A.G.	Contact: Bob Hulley	969 9431
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 Football Club	Tony Farmer	956 6536
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 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 & 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	Ms Sharon Robinson	969 0748
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Sec: Richard Ward	966 9348
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Thames Valley(Wokingham) Link	Chris Liebert Chris.liebert@hotmail.com	978 4487

Useful web sites:

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