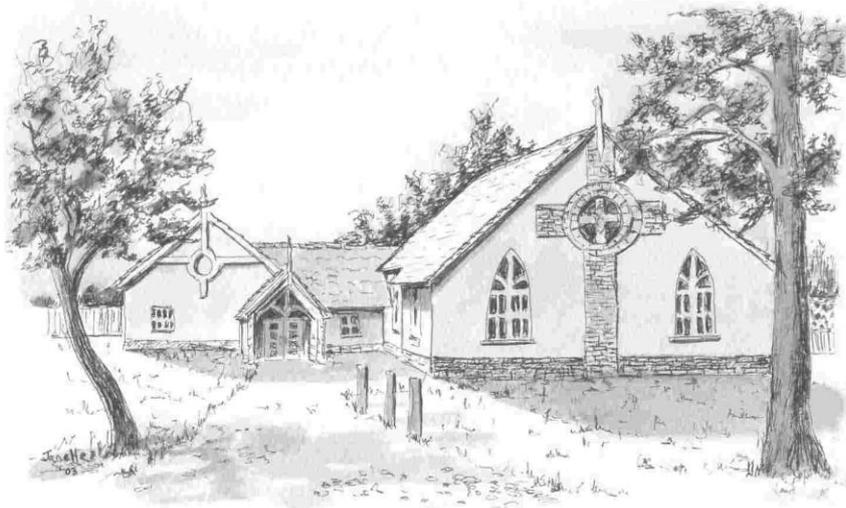


Sonning Parish Magazine



Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil



25p

September 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 Lutyan'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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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 Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning, RG4 6XG	969 3151 969 3589
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
5 Sep	BBQ for Rev'd Michael Forrer	17
11 Sep	Village Produce Show	25
12 Sep	S&SES Heritage Walk	R
14 Sep	'Footprints' coffee morning	18
18 Sep	Parish walk	25
1 Oct	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal supper and entertainment	24
3 Oct	Harvest Supper, Pearson Hall	16
14 Oct	Reading Cigarette Club talk by War Graves Commission	23
15 Oct	Sonning Conservatives annual dinner	30
16 Oct	Fish 'n Chip Jazz Supper	27
6 Nov	'Help for Heroes' Christmas Fayre	21
Notes:	Deadline, October issue: 4.00 pm Friday, 24th September 2010	

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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 Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

Since its opening in 2004 I have managed to avoid the memorial fountain to Diana, Princess of Wales in Hyde Park; that is until last week. We had taken Alice and Annabelle for their first visit to London, and, whilst strolling through the park, came upon it. It was an underwhelming experience, and I was left with the nagging question, why? Whatever one's thoughts about the late Princess, if a memorial was deemed necessary, why a grey granite circular trough of gurgling water?

Of course, not far from there is another memorial of sorts, to a departed member of the Royal family, the Albert Hall. It has stood the test of time, and quite apart from being a fine piece of architecture, continues to be of valuable service to the city, and nation. The Victorians were prolific memorial builders, and, as we see in Sonning, were very keen on erecting buildings and structures to commemorate people of note. The Pearson Hall is a good example, and serves as a fitting monument to one of my esteemed predecessors. The fine lychgate at the top of the church yard was paid for

by public subscription to celebrate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria, and there are of course other examples.

I suspect the Diana fountain, along with some other contemporary memorials and celebratory commissions won't be as successful in standing the test of time. However, that shouldn't detract from the importance of commemorating significant events and people, in a way that speaks to future generations.

In 2012 this nation and the Commonwealth will be celebrating the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. This will be only the third time in our history that such a celebration has occurred, and it is to be hoped that everyone will come together to mark it. I have been giving thought as to what we might do in Sonning, and have convened a group to think about how we might celebrate during the national weekend, and also about the possibility of a permanent monument/building or whatever. The churchwardens and I are very keen that St. Andrew's should play its part in this, and I would welcome suggestions and comments. If we were able to provide something for the village that could be of service to everyone, for generations to come, I would be well pleased.

Finally, on the cliff top between Dover and Folkestone stands the national memorial to those who fought in the Battle of Britain. In my opinion it has an evocative design that will last, and it makes for a moving, if rather windy visit. This month marks the 70th anniversary of the air battle that arguably saved Britain from invasion in 1940, and we shall be marking this at St. Andrew's on Battle of Britain Sunday on September 19th at 10:30am. A wreath will be laid, and the service will be dedicated to 'the few', to whom we owe so much. I warmly invite you to join us.

Wishing you every blessing.

Jamie

Notices

Harvest: We are collecting money to support Christian Aid's 'Wind of Change' appeal. This is to pay for a wind powered well to provide water for 2000 animals in the middle of the Afghan desert. Gift Aid envelopes are available for collection in our churches and will be presented at the Harvest services on October 3rd.

Harvest Supper: Sunday October 3rd at 7:30pm. The Pearson Hall will be the venue for our parish Harvest celebration. There will be a hot supper with desserts, a bar and a 'West Country Comedian' will be doing a turn. Tickets at £10 are on sale in our churches now. If you would like to book a table (of up to 8) please call Jane Hunt (9440515).

The Revd Michael Forrer-50 Years of ministry: Tickets are still available for the parish BBQ on September 5th at 2.00pm in the Vicarage garden in honour of Michael's golden anniversary. They cost £8.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. This is followed by a Eucharist at 5:30pm in St. Andrew's which will be a thanksgiving for his many years of service.

Book of remembrance: If you want a loved one to be remembered on the anniversary of their death in our news sheet, they need to be entered in the book of remembrance which is placed in the side chapel. To do this, please call Carole Barnett (0118 969 6693)

Julie Wearing: Sunday 19th September will be Julie's last Sunday in the parish before she goes to train for the priesthood in Durham. There will be an opportunity to wish her well and send her off with our prayers at the 6:30pm communion service that day.

Stewardship: Following the stewardship campaign in June, we now have 130 people in the planned giving scheme. Thank you to all those who have responded. In order for the PCC to properly plan and build for the future, it is vital that we know what our regular income is going to be, year on year. If you give regularly to the parish, or would like to, and are not in the planned giving scheme, please collect the necessary forms from the stewardship display at the back of St. Andrew's.

Jamie

The Friends of St. Andrew's Church, Sonning

*Are proud to Present
An evening with*

"The Barberettes"

Saturday, 23rd October 2010

7.30pm
(Doors open at 7.00pm)



**Ticket price £10.00
(including a glass of wine)
Call Martin Boyles on 0118 969 2428**

Kindly sponsored by Hicks Holdings
All proceeds to the Friends of St Andrew's

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
(September 14th 2010)**

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

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



70TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
AT 10:30AM

A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE OF CHORAL MATINS

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

A Charvil View of Taizé

Three times a year we have at St Andrew's an evening reflective and meditative service based on the worship tradition of Taizé. From time to time people ask me about the origins and spirituality of Taizé. I personally have always had the highest regard for all that the Taizeé community has achieved over the years but I have never yet had the good fortune to make my own pilgrimage there. I have however been influenced by the spiritual ripples emanating from there which have spread far and wide through the many young people of all nationalities and cultures inspired by the Taizé experience of prayer, worship and activity.

The Taizé community was founded by Roger Schultz who in August 2005, during an evening service, was shot by a deranged member of the congregation and died. This year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Taizé community in the dark days of 1940 as a centre dedicated to building peace and reconciliation in a world torn apart by hate and destruction. Roger Schultz and the small band of brothers at the time and ever since witnessed to alternative visions of life based on prayerful communion with God in Christ. His vision is as relevant now in our world as it was then. His witness takes us back to the very roots of God's purpose for creation and humanity that as Jesus prayed that all his disciples might be united just as He and His father God are one.

Having just returned from a week's holiday in the rural centre of France we couldn't but help feeling that the pace of life, and the spaciousness of the countryside speak of humankind with the created order which our Father God intends for everyone. It was a spiritual renewing experience with which one could not help best identify. It is the spirit of simplicity and wholeness, impregnated with the love of God, that the Taizé community captures the hearts of the young people who invoke the pilgrimage and which should not only influence the young but all people of whatever generation who look for the meaning of life.

Love and prayers,

Michael & Family

Village Voices

What am I bid? We have some lengths of plain cream sheeting (sufficient to make double duvet covers) left over from our *Village Voices* exhibition. If they are of any use to you, I shall be glad to hear from you! Call me on 0118 969 7398

Mary Chapman



IN SUPPORT OF **HELP** *for* **HEROES**

Help for Heroes Christmas Fayre

The Pearson Hall, Sonning

Saturday, 6th November 2010

Time: 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Come along to a Charity Christmas Fayre being run in aid of *Help for Heroes*. The event will host a number of stalls selling a wide range of products from jewellery, gift wrap, Christmas Cards, Nirvana Spa products, Christmas crafts, books, chocolate, as well as a number of handmade craft stalls, and fun events for both adults and children.

There will be teas, coffees, cakes, mince pies in addition to some mulled wine. To keep everyone in the festive mood there will be some carol singing around the *Christmas Tree of Giving* with all the proceeds being donated to *Help for Heroes*.

Make sure you join in the fun and make a start on your Christmas shopping.

For further information contact:

Sally Wilson, Help for Heroes Christmas Fayre,
41 Woodrow Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1RX

Email: wilsons18@sky.com and
www.bmycharity.com/V2/sallyclimbskilli2011

Tel: 0118 9793328 or Mob: 07979 954635



Sonning Twinning Association

The Sonning Twinning Association was delighted to welcome Veronique, Florence, Jerome and John, four intrepid travellers from Ligugé, our twinned village near Poitiers in France, who had come specially to be with us for our regatta and scarecrow trail weekend. They were joined on Saturday by Sophie who had driven over (with her parents Annie and Francois) to take up a work experience placement and act as an au pair here for three months. John (who is actually an English person living in Ligugé) was invited by St Andrew's Church bell ringers to join them before both the morning and evening services to mark the visit by ringing a quarter peal.

Everyone told us how much they had enjoyed their visit (as we do when we go to Ligugé - why not join us next time?) and asked us to pass their thanks to the Twinning Association members who had looked after them so well.

Mary Chapman

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 9.45am and runs until 11.30am. We have lots of toys for the children to play with; ride-ons for them to scoot around on 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 Mum, Dad, grandparent, nanny, and aunt etcetera and even if you're not Charvil based, you are very welcome to come and give us a go! It will 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 will be glad to welcome you.

Bridget Mundy

Charvil Pre-School Submission: September 2010

It has been a very busy year for us with high numbers of children attending the pre-school and plenty of activities going on. Thank you to all those who came to support us at this year's Charvil Fete - we had our best year yet in

terms of monies raised. We also had a team of Mums from the pre-school who ran the Woodley 10K run and raised over £1,300 for us - a fantastic result! All these monies will go towards enhancing the learning environment for the children.

We are now looking forward to the new term and welcoming some new children to the pre-school. We will continue with the development of our outside area and encourage lots of outside play before the autumnal and winter weather arrives. We are also planning on looking at the changing seasons as we move into autumn, setting up different role play areas to stimulate the children's play and learning and of course getting ready for Christmas and our wonderful nativity play at the end of term.

If you are new to the area or just at the stage where you're thinking about pre-school and you don't know about us, let me tell you a bit about it. The pre-school 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. The staff, all of whom have experience of working with children and are CRB checked, provide a fantastic learning environment for the children, encouraging them to develop their social skills, whilst having lots of fun. The pre-school is located in St Patrick's Church Hall on Park View Drive North in Charvil.

We are holding an Open Day on Thursday 7th October from 1.00pm - 2.30pm where you can come and talk to staff and get a glimpse into pre-school life. We will have application forms available for you to take away and complete. We are recommending parents to return forms as soon as possible as we are filling up quickly now for the foreseeable future.

If you'd like to find out more about the pre-school, please do not hesitate to contact Sally Richards on 0118 932 1273 or you can email her at admin.charvil@weyfs.org.uk. Our website also gives you some information (www.charvilpreschool.co.uk) should you wish to visit that in the meantime.

Bridget Mundy

Reading Cigarette Card and Postcard Club

Ian Small from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission with its worldwide headquarters based at Maidenhead, is going to show a video on the work of the Commission and give a talk and hold a 'question and answer' session at the end. This will take place at Charvil Village Hall on Thursday evening, October 14th, at 8.00pm, and we would like to welcome any members of the public who would like to come along. It is expected that the Presentation will last until 9.00 - 9.15pm, and will be followed by light

refreshments for those who would like to stay. There is no admission charge, it is a FREE evening, if anyone would like to join us, or needs further information please ring me on 0118 969 5155, so that I can get an idea of numbers.

Roy Sheppard

**Royal British Legion, Sonning Branch
A Poppy Appeal Supper**

The Pearson Hall, Saturday 1st October
7.00 - 11.00pm, doors open 6.30pm
Cash Bingo from 7.00pm to 7.30pm



Bangers & Mash
with onion gravy and Baked Beans
followed by
Apple Pie or Crumble and Custard
Tea and coffee

Bring your own drinks
(There will not be a bar)

Afterwards,
an entertainment by our local 'ABBA'
and a raffle (offer of prizes please)

Tickets £12.00 each from
Ken Trimmings (0118 969 1072) or Olive Horne (0118 969 0689)

Scarecrows 2010

Well here we are in September and that action packed weekend in May seems to be a life time away! We hope those who came to the "Thank You" evening in Pearson Hall in July managed to chat to some of the others who had been involved in creating such a marvellous weekend and raising such a large amount of money!

The involvement of village people was amazing - with 74 scarecrows we know that at least 74 people were took part, not to mention the army of flower arrangers in the church, the tea ladies and those who made and donated cakes, as well as all those who kindly manned the gardens and supervised the car parks - it is impossible to guess how many were involved but it was - LOTS!

After expenses about £20,000 is able to be spent on village amenities and many interesting suggestions have been put forward including a chocolate fountain! Hopefully in the near future decisions will have been made regarding its allocation. Once again thank you for making this such a memorable village event - and don't forget to start thinking about 2012!

Worzel

Sonning Village Show - Saturday 11th September

After the Show, come to The Sonning Club and Village Show's evening entertainment with

"Sidewinders"

(As recommended by "The Trends")

50's 60's 70's Music,
Rock 'n' Roll,
Country and Ballads

8.00pm Start (Pearson Hall, entrance via the Club)

On Saturday, 11th September

Tickets £10 per person
to include a Fish 'n Chip supper.

Available *now* from

Tracy on 07970 475993 or
Heather on 0118 969 8653

We hope you will be able to come to this year's Village Show and join in the fun be entering a few of the Produce Show classes and attending the afternoon fete at the Village School.

To round the day off, we are teaming up with Sonning Club and reinstating the evening entertainment. Please see the advert for further details. We look forward to seeing you.

Heather Hine

Parish Walk

September 18th meet at 10.15am at The Seven Stars, Knowl Hill. Walk via Ashley Hill and Cayton Park; 4.5 miles. Queries to me on 0118 934 5649.

David Bentley

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

It is always a bit of a worry when it is an outdoor event, but again we were lucky in as much as the weather stayed fine for our summer lunch in Pam Byrne's garden. And what a beautiful garden it is too! And what a superb meal we had: A raffle as well. As flower clubs go, we do pretty well and all thanks must go to Pam Byrne and the committee for such a wonderful event and all the hard work that went into it.

The next thing on the agenda is the meeting on 9th September and members should note the change to the programme. Instead of a workshop, Kerri

Harvey will be giving a presentation based on classes in the forthcoming Village Produce Show on 11th September. This could be a great help to those who are entering and it is hoped that many members will partake in some of the items listed on pages 11 and 14 of the Village Show booklet which, if you have not already got a copy, will be available at the meeting on 9th September. The more entries the better the Show; good luck everyone.

Jane Gascoine

Sonning Glebe WI

In July we held our safari summer supper and this as usual was well attended. The weather was fine and everybody enjoyed the evening. Also this is the month when we hold our annual garden party BBQ. Again we were blessed with fine weather and we all enjoyed having a good old natter as well as enjoying the food which was expertly cooked by Rodney Huggins and Norman Mouldsley. Both of these events were held in Rodney and Jose Huggins garden and our heartfelt thanks go to them.

Our visit to Hampton Court Palace also took place in July. 34 members and friends went by coach and had a great day out. We toured the Palace and some of us visited the chapel. We were delighted to find out that the ceiling of the chapel was carved in Sonning. Despite various enquiries we cannot find out anything further but, hopefully, someone reading this will be able to tell us more. A cream tea had been booked and this made a very good ending to an enjoyable day.

Our knit and natter and scrabble evenings will re-commence in October after a break for the summer. In the pipe line we are planning to visit more places of interest, a theatre trip and a craft day making Christmas decorations.

The membership of our WI continues to grow. During the last few months we have welcomed seven new members and we hope they will enjoy being part of Sonning Glebe WI. If anyone would like to visit or know more about WI please get in touch with me on 9694897. I can also arrange for you to have a copy of our programme for 2010/2011.

Molly Oakley

Charvil Senior Residents Group

Our autumn sessions begin on Tuesday 14th September from 2 until 4pm in St Patrick's Church Hall, Charvil, and continue thereafter fortnightly at the same time and day until the 7th December. Please join us sometime whether as a member or a visitor. Hopefully you will enjoy the afternoon's tea & cakes as well as meeting other people. The group is very low key, run for its members & guests and open to any suggestions concerning activities,

etcetera. We had a stall at the Charvil Village fete & one of our helpers, or rather her dog, attracted the attention of a Reading Chronicle photographer! We were pleased to have exceeded last year's profit for the group funds.

July's horse-drawn barge trip was very successful. The attentive staff helped the less able negotiate the couple of steep steps on & off the barge including one member who due to weakness after an illness hadn't been able to attend many meetings this year. The weather was beautifully warm, near perfect, and it was pleasing to see everyone enjoying themselves at a very slow, peaceful pace. We use a minibus company that can accommodate wheelchairs if required, we took 2 that day & it all goes very smoothly. If you should require help getting to the hall and/or don't like walking alone into a room of strangers please do phone me on 0118 934 5059.

Offers and suggestions from those of you who would like to give (for a small fee) a short talk/demonstration/recital at one of our meetings will be very gratefully received. Please call me on the number above.

Julie Bennett

Sonning & District Welfare & Educational Trust

This charity helps those in need who live within the old parish of Sonning, that is: Sonning, Sonning Common, Woodley, Earley, Charvil and Eye and Dunsden.

Financially, times are difficult at the moment, so if you really need some help with a welfare or educational matter, for yourself or your family, contact us and we may be able to help make life a little easier. Call me on 0118 969 6693.

Carole Barnett (Clerk to the Trustees)

<p style="text-align: center;">Fish 'n Chip Jazz Supper with The Denise Lawrence Band</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Pearson Hall, Sonning Saturday, 16th October 2010 7.15 for 8.00pm</p> <p>Tickets £13.50 Raffle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call Jane Gascoine on 0118 969 3326</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All profits in aid of <i>'Help for Heroes'</i></p>
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New term, any musicians out there?

You know folks I've had an interesting few months since April. The boss went AWOL for a bit and I've had a succession of nice people here on a Sunday to tinkle the ivories, and what a treat it's been. Thank you to Jane, Jamie, Linda, Michael, Sue and Julie for keeping the music department running. Boss tells me he's now fit enough to return to harness, so standards can now drop back to their former level, so help is still needed.

Are there any musicians out there who fancy joining me for the Sunday morning services? Requirements are a love of hymns, the ability to sight read, transpose if you've got a transposing instrument and able to cope with the boss and his dyslexic fingers. If so give him (Chris) a ring on **0118 934 0795**, he'd be delighted to hear from you.

It's September, start of a new school year and a time when St Patrick's seems to awake from midweek slumbers and we get the daily clamour of the preschool and the various organisations. We'll also have lots of exciting things happening church wise, so watch this space, we'll keep you well informed.

Joanna (the St Patrick's Pianner)

From the Registers

Baptisms

27th June: Alice Zoe Ellen Anderson
4th July: Isabella Ruby McDonagh
4th July: Charlie Thomas Bundy
25th July: Alana Catherine Loughnane
25th July: Corey William Jacobs
25th July: Jack Finley Judd

Weddings

10th July: Guy Stephen Dickson and Michelle Amy Kernohan
24th July: Nicholas Lewis Collins and Emma Fiona Elizabeth Porter
24th July: James Russell Tomlin and Verity Jayne Moss
7th August: Julian David Waite and Claire Louise Hutchins
14th August: Edward James Arden Adderley and Sarah Jane Wilkinson
20th August: William Risdon Yates and Alison Marie Bell
21st August: Ross Jamieson John Barnes and Rachel Louise Willis

Charvil Art Group

Our autumn sessions begin on Wednesday, 1st September at 7:30 to 9:30pm in St. Patrick's Church Hall, Park View Drive North, Charvil, and continue thereafter weekly at the same time and evening until the 8th December (our Christmas party). Dates for your calendar could be: 13th October tutorial by Henry Rimmer, 10th November tutorial by Jane Wheaton & 24th November Jake Winkle watercolour demonstration. Most of our meetings have a theme giving those who don't know where to start a reference point. Do consider joining us no matter what you think your talents are (we are a very mixed group), you will always be very welcome and at the very least you will meet new friends.

We had five scheduled outdoor painting/drawing sessions during June, July and August, meticulously well organised by Margaret. All were blessed with extremely good weather, even the last full day at Finchampstead Church was warm despite very low cloud and extra interest was provided by the local archivist's tour of the church & information about the history of the area.

Please note that this year, for the first time, our annual exhibition will be held in Charvil Village Hall, The Hawthorns, Charvil, so please be aware of this change and the date Saturday, 30th October 2010 and come along to support our new venue and view our efforts, some no doubt produced during the summer outdoor sessions. If you haven't already seen them our two montages, one a Beryl Cook, offer extra interest and talking points.

For more information phone me on 01189 345059 or Janice on 01189 722342 or just turn up, you will be well looked after!

Julie Bennett

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

On Sunday, 12th September the Society will once again be taking part in the Heritage Open Days Weekend. This year there will be a new Heritage Trail, *Sonning Exposed*, for those who may wish to explore the village, the river and Sonning Eye in their own time answering a set of questions as they go. The starting point for the trail will be the St Sarik Room adjacent to the church where maps and a set of questions will be available from 1.30pm. No booking is necessary, just turn up and enjoy the walk! The trail will take about one hour to complete and upon your return to the St Sarik Room you can have your questions marked and a cream tea which will be available at a cost of £4.00 each.

If you would prefer to have someone telling you about Sonning I will be giving a guided tour on the Sunday, 12th September starting at 2.00pm also

from the St Sarik Room. Booking for this walk, which is free of charge, is essential so please contact Diana Coulter on 0118 969 2132 to reserve a place.

If you are away for the Heritage Open Days Weekend there is an opportunity to join Brian O'Callaghan and Diana Coulter when they conduct the *Sonning: an architectural and historical walk* on Saturday 9th October. The walk will end with tea and biscuits in The Bull. There will be a small charge of £3.00 for this walk. Again booking is essential so please contact Diana Coulter to reserve your place.

Just a reminder, the Society's AGM and Supper will be held on Saturday 20th November in the Pearson Hall. More information on this in next month's parish magazine; tickets will be available at the Village Show on September 11th, or from Penny Feathers on 0118 934 3193.

Mark Green

**Conservative Association
Sonning & Warren Branch**

ANNUAL DINNER

To be held on Friday, 15th October at 7.30pm

The Pearson Hall, Pearson Road, Sonning

**Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon Mrs Theresa May MP,
The Home Secretary.**

Tickets cost £27.50 each and
can be obtained from
Rosemary Digby (0118 969 3277)
or any member of the committee.

We look forward to seeing you there.

DEADLINE Date for tickets: October 5th.