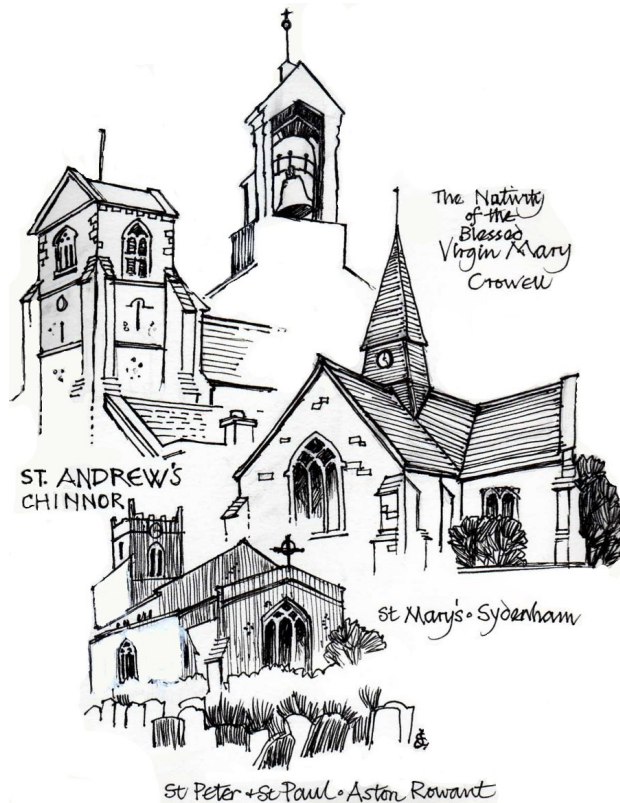




# THE UNITED PARISH MAGAZINE

## DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

The United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant & Crowell





## The United Parish Ministry Team

### Rector

Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr	07769 825305
rector@unitedparish.church	01844 352027

### Associate Priest

Rev'd Joan DeVal	01844 353404
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### Licenced Lay Minister (L.L.M)

Margaret Poole	01844 281042
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### Retired Priests

Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths	01844 355953
Rev'd Tony Whitaker	01844 761267

### Children's Minister

Fiona Ludlow  
childrenswork@unitedparish.church

### Useful United Parish Contacts

#### Parish Office

Tricia Prescott	01844 352472
office@unitedparish.church	

#### St Andrew's Church Hall

Val Welford  
vrwelford@gmail.com

#### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker	07890 346781
safeguarding@unitedparish.church	

The front cover image and inside cover was edited using AI

Drawing on the front cover - The 'United Parish' - Jean Stanley

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<b>December 2025</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>LED BY</b>
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 2</b>	8am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion (No hymns)	Jacky
	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Margaret
	1030am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	Taizé	Tony and Monica
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 3</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Christingle	Margaret
	4pm	Sydenham	7 lessons and Carols	Joan
	4pm	Crowell	Holy Communion	Jacky
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec Advent 4</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	No service
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	4pm	Aston Rowant	Nine lessons and carols	Tessa and Jo
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	No service
	6pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	Nine Lessons and Carols	Jacky
<b>Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	4pm	Aston Rowant	Crib services	Jo, Tessa + Shane
	4pm	Sydenham		Tony
	5pm	St Andrew's		Jacky + Margaret
<b>Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9pm	St Andrew's	Midnight mass	Jacky + Margaret
	10pm	Sydenham		Tony
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Tony
	1030am	St Andrew's		Jacky
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas 1</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	No service
	1030	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	No service
	1030	Crowell	United Parish Holy Communion	Ministry team

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<b>January 2026</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>LED BY</b>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany</b>	8am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Tony
	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Margaret
	1030 am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Holy Communion	Tony+ Brian
	6pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	Taizé	No service
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan Baptism of Christ</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Brian +Margaret
	1030 am	Methodist Church Station Road	Covenat service with Methodists	Methodists
	1030 am	Sydenham	BCP Holy Communion	Tony
	4pm	Crowell	Holy Communion	Jacky
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany 2</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Lay team
	1030 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	Jacky
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany 3</b>	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky + Brian
	1030 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Tony
	4pm	Crowell	BCP Evening Prayer	Jacky

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<b>Reading</b>	
<b>7 Dec 2025</b> Advent 2	Isa 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
<b>14 Dec 2025</b> Advent 3 (Gaudete)	Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Ps 126 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28
<b>21 Dec 2025</b> Advent 4	2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Ps 89:1-4,(19-26); Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
<b>28 Dec 2025</b> Christmas 1 / Holy Innocents	Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
<b>4 Jan 2026</b> Christmas 2	Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)10-18
<b>11 Jan 2026</b> Baptism of Christ	Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22
<b>18 Jan 2026</b> Epiphany 2	Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
<b>25 Jan 2026</b> Epiphany 3	Neh 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

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## PASTORAL LETTER

Greetings dear reader.

One of the difficulties I have in terms of celebrating Christmas is that the nativity story is so familiar. Thus, each year, I try to do something different that allows me to see the Nativity in a new light. This year I was inspired by a book entitled 'Gathering around the manger'. It consists of forty little commentaries, one for each day in Advent. Each page concentrates on one character who was part of the Nativity. You might ask how did the book get to forty characters since in the gospels we are only told about the main characters, like the shepherds, the wise men and the escape to Egypt. Well, if you include characters like the innkeeper, his wife and the other guests then you can get to forty quite easily. Indeed, there are children's books where words are put into the mouths of the ox and the ass.

Thus, this year I have been inspired by the innkeeper's story or rather what I imagined his story to be. There is nothing said about him in the gospels. All we are told in is that *Mary gave birth and wrapped the baby in cloths because there was no room for them in the inn* (Luke 2:7).

Thus, I assume the inn had an innkeeper and he was a man. I guess this man had a wife and children. I guess he was the one who said to Joseph, I'm sorry but there's no room in this inn but you can stay in the stable. I guess his wife helped Mary look after the baby – was she the one who supplied the swaddling cloths? However, the big question for me is what happened to the innkeeper thereafter?

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However, the big question for me is what happened to the innkeeper thereafter? How was he affected? Was he like the shepherds who were in awe as they saw the babe, or was it just 'another day at the office'? I like to think it was the former – that he followed Jesus and that seeing the birth changed him and his family forever.

I like the title of the book, 'Gathering around the manger', surely the innkeeper was one of those who gathered round and marvelled at this gift from God. It occurs to me that we too are part of the story for we are gather round the manger as we celebrate Christmas. We gather alongside the shepherds and wise men as well as the innkeeper as we gaze on the nativity. Why not take a moment now to ponder and effectively gather round the manger alongside the shepherds, the wise men and that innkeeper?

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord that you came to us as a babe and that we too can gather round and share in the excitement of your birth this Christmas season. Amen.

by Revd. Brian Griffiths

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## PRAYERS



***Prayer is God listening to the whispers of the World'.  
This quote came from a child at St Andrew's School***



Please pray for:	Baptisms	For those who mourn for:
Colin Bev Dorothy Claire, Karen Baby Mollie Rose Lara Pete Little girl Amelia, Maverick	7th December - Monty 11 <sup>th</sup> January - Alannah 18 <sup>th</sup> or 25 <sup>th</sup> January - Harry	John Folley

### *Parish Prayer Link*



If you would like prayers offered for yourself, someone you know or a situation you are aware of, please do let us know by contacting Tricia in the Parish Office by email at [office@unitedparish.church](mailto:office@unitedparish.church) or by phone on 01844 352472

Your request will be handled with utmost sensitivity and discretion.

And if you would like to become one of the prayer link members then please get in touch with Jacky.

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Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>

# CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

## @ St Andrews Church Chinnor

All those who care for children are **very welcome** to attend these free of charge sessions!

### *Chooseday Church*



A fun, activity filled afterschool church session.

Craft activities, Bible stories, action songs and more, refreshments served (especially toast!)

### *Starboddlers*



A fun and action packed session for babies, toddlers and their carers. We use actions to tell Bible stories, we sing songs (we are sure Mr Cow will be a firm favourite again), we say a prayer, we ring the church bell. It's a friendly welcoming space to meet other families.

<i>Chooseday Church</i> <i>Tuesday afterschool</i> <i>3.15--4 15pm</i>	<i>Starboddlers</i> <i>Thursday 11am</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> December
9 <sup>th</sup> December	11 <sup>th</sup> December
	18 <sup>th</sup> December
	8 <sup>th</sup> January
13 <sup>th</sup> January	15 <sup>th</sup> January
20 <sup>th</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> January
27 <sup>th</sup> January	29 <sup>th</sup> January
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	5 <sup>th</sup> February
10 <sup>th</sup> February	12 <sup>th</sup> February
24 <sup>th</sup> February	26 <sup>th</sup> February
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> March
10 <sup>th</sup> March	12 <sup>th</sup> March
17 <sup>th</sup> March	19 <sup>th</sup> March
24 <sup>th</sup> March	26 <sup>th</sup> March

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# THE EXTRAs

## HOLY COMMUNION



**Every Thursday, 10am, St Andrew's Chinnor**  
Streamlined service no hymns, short reflection,  
Followed by refreshments, always with the Good Biscuits!

## PARISH ZOOM MEETING



**First Monday of the Month, 5pm**

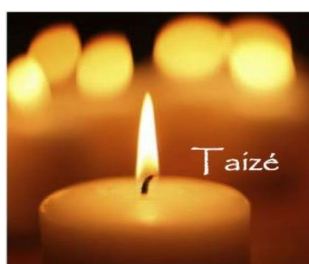
ONLINE: Prayer, Bible study, fellowship and chatting.

Zoom meeting ID= **879 0063 5431** Passcode= 427771

**Next meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar**

**No meeting in January**

## TAIZÉ



**First Sunday of the month, 6pm at St Andrew's Chinnor**

Taizé prayer service is a gentle soothing candlelit time of prayer, silence, readings and chanting.

**Next Services 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**No Taizé service 4<sup>th</sup> Jan and 5<sup>th</sup> April**

## MEN'S GROUP



A social group, meeting at The Crown pub in Chinnor on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

The Rector buys your first drink!

**Next meetings: 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

To make a donation, please see page 39

Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>

# Promoting a safer church

*The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church*

**House of Bishops  
Safeguarding Policy  
for children, young  
people & adults**

## IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

*that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.*

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker  
07890 346 781  
safeguarding@unitedparish.church

### Rector to the United Parish

Rev'd Jacky Barr  
07769 825 305  
rector@unitedparish.church

### Safeguarding Advisor (Oxford Diocese)

Erica Hegg  
07341 866 832  
safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org

### Local Authority Social Services

Oxfordshire County Council  
Social and Health Care Team  
PO Box 780  
Oxford OX1 9GX  
0345 050 7666 (option 2)  
*Opening times*  
Mon- Thurs 830am -5pm  
Fri 830am -4pm

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER  
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

## OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

## HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Respect Phoneline: 0808 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
[www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)

To make a donation, please see page 39

Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



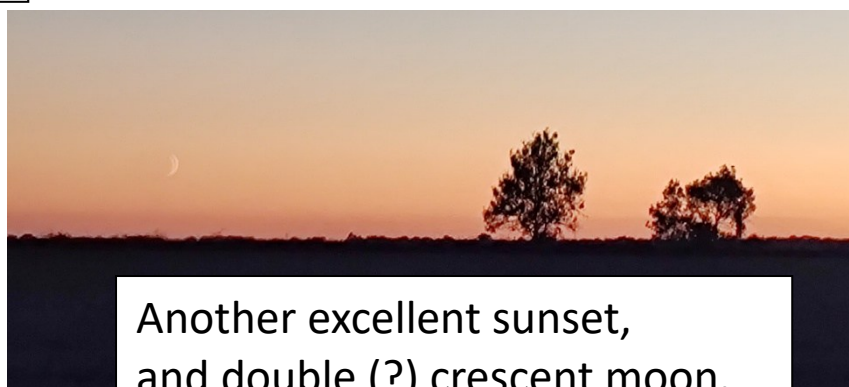
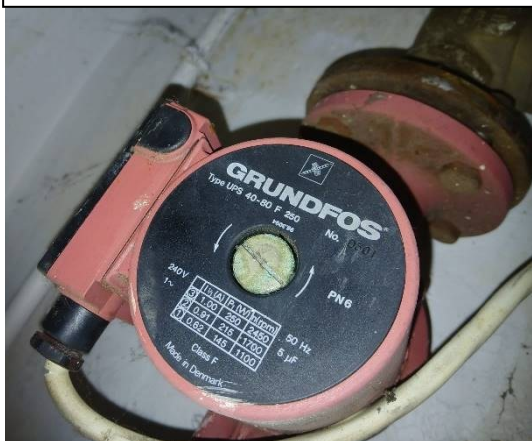
## RECTOR'S PHOTO DIARY

### October and November 2025

My view of the Remembrance Parade



If you know, you know.....



Another excellent sunset,  
and double (?) crescent moon.



Lavinia took the  
best seat in the  
house to watch  
her Mum and  
Dad, Tom and  
Beckie, get  
confirmed.



My Mum got confirmed!!

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## *CHRISTMAS 2025*

**Sat 6th Dec noon-2pm**

Sydenham Christmas Fayre

**Sat 6th Dec –Sun14th Dec 2pm-5pm**

St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival

**Sunday 15th Dec: Seven Lessons and Carol service:**

4 pm Sydenham church tbc

**Friday 19th Dec**

7pm Carols@Crowell (with readings)

**Sunday 21st Dec: Nine Lessons and Carol service:**

4pm Aston Rowant Church

6pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:Crib Services**

4pm, Aston Rowant

4pm, Sydenham

5pm, St Andrew's Chinnor

**Wednesday 24th December:**

**Midnight (in Bethlehem) Mass**

9pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

10pm St Mary's, Sydenham

**Christmas Day, Holy Communion**

1030am St. Andrew's Chinnor

9am Aston Rowant



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St Andrew's Church of  
England Primary School



## Introducing our new Children's Work Co-ordinator:

Hi! My name is Fiona Ludlow. I live in Chinnor (just a conker's throw from the church). Until recently, was teaching at St Andrew's CE Primary School but have been involved in and led children's work in churches for many years. I love music and I sing with the Watlington Community Choir as well as at Chinnor Community Church, where I worship. I also love art and creativity which often involves making a mess! Steve, my husband, and I enjoy exploring the coast around the UK in our campervan and walking in the beautiful Chilterns. You may have met us walking our enthusiastic cockapoo, Ziggy.

I am excited to be working with the schools and with all the volunteers involved with the children's activities in the United Parish. Some of these, I have known for many years and some are those I continue to worship and serve with at Chinnor Community Church where I am also involved in the Rainbow Tots and CCC Mums and Babies groups. Together, our goal is to help children and families understand how much God loves us all and how we can be his friends. I look forward to meeting you!



To make a donation, please see page 39

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# *Confirmation Congratulations!*

*30<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

To Hassan, Amber, Lilly, Giles, Tom, Beckie and Kathy:  
God has called you by name and made you his own.



## **The prayer of Confirmation:**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have given these your servants new birth  
in baptism by water and the Spirit,  
and have forgiven them all their sins.  
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. Amen

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## ASTON ROWANT REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Aston Rowant School held a short Service at the War Memorial in Aston Rowant Church on Tuesday 11 November. 55 children and teachers attended the Service.



To make a donation, please see page 39

Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



## CHINNOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

On Remembrance Sunday members of the community gathered together at the War Memorial in prayer, song and silence. Wreaths were laid by community groups from Chinnor. After a short service at the War Memorial, there was a longer service at St Andrew's Church. It is humbling to witness the ongoing commitment of the residents of Chinnor to this act of reflection, showing that the sacrifices made in the past, are still respected and remembered by every generation. Lest We Forget.



To make a donation, please see page 39

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Friends of St Andrew's Church,  
Chinnor

# CHRISTMAS TREE

## FESTIVAL Schedule

of

## Entertainment

### SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER :

2pm : ALLSORTS (Saxophone Quartet)

3pm : KEN BRAZIER BAND

### SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER :

2:30pm : RADNAGE COE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL CHOIR

3:30pm : MIKE & JULIE TODD (Guitar and  
Singing)

### TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER :

2:15pm-3:15pm : EDWARD THOMPSON  
(Organ)

### WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER :

2-3pm : NICK AUSTIN (Organ)

### FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER :

2:30pm : GRAHAM SMALLBONE (Organ)

### SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER :

2:30pm : BODGERS WOOD & FRIENDS

### SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

2pm : THE UKULELIANS

3pm : MILL LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY  
SCHOOL CHOIR



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Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



## CROWELL EVENTS



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September was the date for the Harvest Supper at Crowell. The church was decorated with an Autumn theme and the table groaned with hosting the cheese and biscuits inspired supper. (Many thanks Jacky). We interspersed hymns and drinks with sampling the goodies on the table. An enjoyable get together with the 18 people who attended.



On 9<sup>th</sup> November 10 people remembered the fallen from Crowell village with a service of hymns, prayers and poems. The Last Post was played, the 2minute silence observed and the Roll of Honour called. The church was decorated with poppies and candles.

Maggs Warman – Church Warden



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Victoria from St Andrew's Church joined us for our craft afternoon at Hempton Field Care Home.



### **CHINNOR CHRISTIAN AID**

A Big Thank You to everyone who braved the elements and came to support us at our Barn Dance. The total raised was **£593.50** which is wonderful total! The money will go towards relief work in those countries that are devastated by recent climate change events and the suffering caused by wars. It will also continue to support long term projects which enable people to sustainably produce their own food and relieve extreme poverty. We are looking forward to decorating our Christmas Tree to celebrate Christian Aid's celebration of 80 years, of the power of unstoppable hope, by campaigning for the end of poverty and injustice.

The Chinnor Christian Aid Team

To make a donation, please see page 39

Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>

## **World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria**

**“I will give you rest, come..”**

**Our service on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 has been prepared by our sisters in Nigeria reflecting on the theme “I will give you rest”.**

Planning was initiated in 2017 when World Day of Prayer Nigeria was selected to be the writing committee for 2026; time for research, reflection, and prayer, shaping the final draft before presenting the service we will be using.

The arrival of the service booklets and all the resources in the summer/early autumn is always exciting. But even before that some of us will have attended a small conference in London to find out more about the country involved. We meet the National committee and others from all around the UK who, like us, will be holding Preparation Days so that any World Day of Prayer committee can plan to hold the service within their own communities.

In October, working together with the Thame committee, we hosted a Preparation Day at St Joseph's in Thame with almost 30 delegates, many from villages and market towns in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We presented a slide show about Nigeria, its background, culture, and history, reviewed resources, practised the hymns and particularly the Nigerian song of welcome, discussed issues raised in the service and celebrated the service itself. Best of all we enjoyed the company of two Nigerian colleagues who brought personal memories of growing up and living in their homeland to our discussions.

Now, our Chinnor committee is starting to prepare for the service which will be held at St Andrew's church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am and again at 7.30pm. We offer our resources to schools and to church children's and youth groups. All three of our village churches have at least two members on the committee, if you run a children's or youth group and are interested in finding out more do ask to be put in touch through any of the church administrators/contacts.

For further information, resources and details of services nationwide please go to the website [www.wdp.org.uk](http://www.wdp.org.uk)

Anne Marie, Barbara, Diane, Joan, Monica, Ruth, Margaret, Sue, and Ann. Chinnor Branch World Day of Prayer

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Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



# CHINNOR SILVER BAND

*Presents*

## BRASS & A GLASS

- An evening of festive spirit & Christmas music

CONCERT STARTS AT

● **7.30pm**

doors open 6.45pm

SATURDAY

● **20th**

DECEMBER

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH,  
CHINNOR

Tickets £12 or £10 for concessions  
(over 60s & under 16s)

Includes a mince pie & glass of  
wine or soft drink



Tickets via this QR  
code. Manor Stores  
in Chinnor or at  
CSBbrassandaglass.  
eventbrite.co.uk

Visit [www.chinnorsilverband.co.uk](http://www.chinnorsilverband.co.uk) for more info

To make a donation, please see page 39

Website: <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



## FAIRTRADE & ETHICAL.



### **THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

TRADE WITH SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MIND

Your local contact is **ROD THORPE** —: **01844 351565**

Email: [chinnormethodisthire@mail.com](mailto:chinnormethodisthire@mail.com)

The range of gifts, clothes, cards and household consumables can be found at:

[www.ethicalsuperstore.com](http://www.ethicalsuperstore.com) (choose 'Ethics' in 'Shop by' dropdown & click Fairtrade)

[www.ethicalshop.org](http://www.ethicalshop.org) and [www.wearefairtrade.com](http://www.wearefairtrade.com)

### **Order directly for yourself or through Rod by providing:-**

- your contact details \*
- item no & description
- supplier
- quantity required)

ORDERS made through Rod will:

- be delivered to you free of any charge (within 10-mile radius)
- provide an opportunity for a % of sale price being donated to Christian Aid.**
- **normally be available within 7-14 days.**

NB. After 14<sup>th</sup> December only items in stock will be available.

Please contact Rod to enquire

- if a paper catalogue is available. (most companies now operate on line only!)
- when and where physical stalls will be held (most Saturdays in November)
- about the wide range of items in stock (foods, chocolate, cards, wraps and gifts)

Your custom will help individuals and communities trade themselves out of poverty.

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Information marked with a \* is subject to data protection

Personal information is maintained in keeping with the Methodist Church Data Protection Policy.

**Full policy detail is available** through the following link: <https://www.tmcpc.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice>

### **NB**

The info will be held securely and its use limited to Fairtrade transactions, occasional telephone calls and deliveries. Please contact Rod Thorpe if you wish to change or opt out of communications.

To make a donation, please see page 39

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## WILLOW STAR MAKING WORKSHOP : SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER : 2-4PM

A BIG THANK YOU to Anita Osborne on hosting a willow star making workshop on Saturday afternoon. A group of 20 enthusiastic ladies supported this workshop and went away with a willow star for Christmas – some found the work-



shop easy whereas others found it tricky. Thank you to Sue Greaves for providing the refreshments and to the Church Hall for allowing us to host the event. After Anita's expenses, a grand total of £160 was raised for the St Andrew's Church Fabric Restoration Fund.



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# PINT & A CHAT

FOR MEN OF ALL BACKGROUNDS,  
QUESTIONS, AND FAITH LEVELS

First Tuesday of the month  
7pm at The Crown, Chinnor

No pressure. No agenda  
Just a space to talk life, faith  
and everything in between

Hosted by St Andrew's Church.  
– but it's not a sermon.  
Just good conversation,  
honest questions, and real friendship

To make a donation, please see page 39

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## FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH : LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

A BIG THANK YOU to the amazing group ALLSORTS - a saxophone quartet who played at ST Andrew's Church at the first lunchtime concert on 17 October. They played a variety of music from Queen to the Pink Panther - so talented! Thank you to all those who came and attended - a grand total of £180 was raised through donations which was split between their chosen charity - Thames Valley Air Ambulance - and St Andrew's Church Fabric Restoration Fund.



THANK YOU to PAVLOVA WINDS who played at the second lunchtime concert on Friday 7 November. The band played a variety of pieces from British composers including pieces by the composer Jim Parker who creating scores for many television series, including *Midsomer Murders* and *House of Cards*, in addition to *Foyle's War*.

A programme of lunchtime concerts is being worked on for the first Friday of the month starting in February 2026 – watch this space!



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## Autumn Term with ChooseDay Church

It has been a great few sessions as we got back into the routine of coming straight from school to St Andrew's Church to enjoy Tea Toast craft and games.

With the Autumn term being so mild we enjoyed being out in the church yard for one of our sessions when we planted spring bulbs in the 2 long flower beds as you enter St Andrew's Church Yard. Many thanks to Chris Mcquire who prepared the beds and over-saw the operations, and our parents too, as we all helped the children in their first steps in becoming mini-Alan Titchmarsh's. And our thanks too, goes to Chinnor Open Gardens who gave us a grant to purchase the bulbs.

We have also welcomed Fiona as she finds her feet in her new role as Children's Work Co -Ordinator. She has fitted in well and is very open to all the mad ideas we come up with when we are planning the children's activities.

Margaret (On behalf of the Chooseday Church Team)



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# Winter Solstice Celebration

With Holy Communion

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

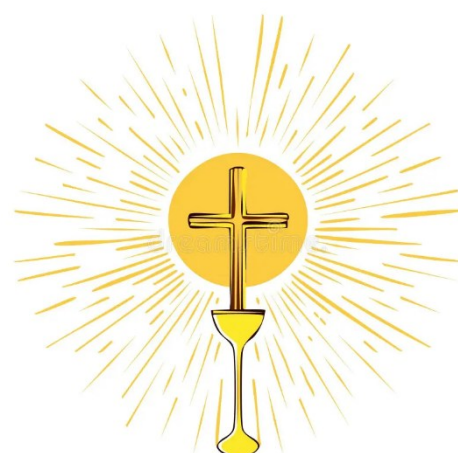
**3:45pm**



**Donkey Lane Community Orchard, Chinnor**

 [supposes.reform.pouch](http://supposes.reform.pouch)

**All are welcome to join us at this  
sacred time to welcome  
the Light of the World.**



**Please contact Rev'd Jacky  
for more information on 07769 825 305  
or by email [rector@unitedparish.church](mailto:rector@unitedparish.church)**

**IMPORTANT:** Please wear footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and terrain. Do bring a torch and a chair (if its easy to do so, some seating will be available).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Orchard is a traditional and rustic space.

Care is needed because the ground is uneven in places, there are nettles. There are no toilets, no running water, no electricity. It provides a great opportunity to enjoy the glory of nature and being outside. Please park carefully near the shops and walk up, taking extra care as you cross the railway line. There a couple of parking spaces close to the Orchard that can be booked in advance (please contact Jacky).

**To make a donation, please see page 39**

**Website:** <http://achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>



# *Don't throw it away!*

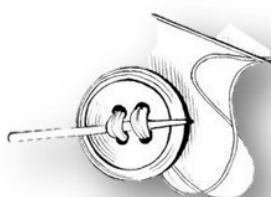


If you have small items that need mending,  
bring them along to our

## *Repair Cafe*



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Small electricals | ✓ Toys             |
| ✓ Clothing          | ✓ Mechanical items |
| ✓ Leather work      | ✓ Book repairs     |



Nothing to mend?  
Come along for  
coffee and a chat

**St Andrew's Church**  
Church Rd, Chinnor OX39 4PQ  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Last item accepted at 12:30 pm

**Repairs are free but please give a cash donation to cover costs.**

Any extra will go towards the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church. We can only accept cash.

For more information email: [greeningchinnor@gmail.com](mailto:greeningchinnor@gmail.com) or call 07973 78839

To make a donation, please see page 39

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## Sydenham News from Fi Kermack

### Choir news

St Mary's Choir visited St Andrew's Church in Chinnor recently for our annual 'choir practice on tour'. Our mission, over the 11 years we have been organising it, is to chorally experience a whole assortment of local churches and sing our hearts out followed by an evening at a local pub. Adwell, Benson, Dorchester Abbey, Crowell are just a few of our touring venues.

Lauretta kindly provided refreshments to the audience numbering c50 as the choir got the festive season off to a joyous start performing 'Sing Christmas' enthusiastically played by Hugh and led by Chris. A delicious meal then followed at The Crown in Sydenham.



**Thank you everyone for your support.**

**Remembrance** was well attended with over 70 counted . Our outside service format works well, helped by Lloyd's sound system and rainless skies. Led by Joan, timing was again impeccable as the church clock struck 11am to ....silence.

Sausage rolls were then enjoyed by all!

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We had a **joyous summer wedding** with Thomasina (Quesnell) tying the knot with Hugo what a joyous occasion it was .  
 Thomasina writes : "it was perfect in every way and for that we are so grateful. From the immaculate church grounds to Gilly's bell ringing, our guests had a truly magical time. We are very lucky to have such a beautiful church in our village "

## **The St Mary's Christmas Fayre**

THE ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE,  
 SATURDAY,  
 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025

Old School Room, Sydenham 12 – 2pm

Delicious homemade soups, crusty bread, mulled wine and mouthwatering puddings plus Christmas stalls, games, children's corner, fabulous raffle and auction prizes and more! Something for all the family. We look forward to seeing you.

On the 14th December at 4pm, you will be greeted by mince pies and sherry to enjoy during the **Carol Service** . Always a Sydenham favourite .

**Carols round the trees** on the Green will be on 17th September at 5pm

Make sure you arrive early to get a seat at the **Crib Service at 4pm on the 24th** - another great favourite. Think pantomime with a lovely religious flavour and you get the idea.

For a more peaceful and reflective service before the big day , we offer **Midnight Mass** at 10pm .

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## AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT **PARTNERS IN ACTION**

At a recent conservation event, Regina spotted what looked like tiny pink fungi growing on a dead log. It was a species neither she nor I had seen before.

Using our identification apps, we discovered that it wasn't a fungus at all but a single cell amoeba called *Wolfs milk*. In its fruiting state, it resembles a small fungus and is almost iridescent pink. However, within one day, it turns chestnut brown. A few days later, it will be on the move as a red jelly, in search of new food.



In its jelly form, it can search out and find new food by creating tubes through which it travels. It cuts off old tubes behind it, which, as they dry, create a trail, so that in future the amoeba knows where to go for a reliable food source.

Isn't it incredible that God has created such extraordinary intelligence in a singular cell organism? When it works together as a jelly made up of thousands of individual amoebae, they have the intellect to know how to hunt as well as remember where food is!

We live in an incredible world in which the intelligence of nature is often profoundly underrated, and it points the way to the author of intelligent design.

During this autumn season, it is worth getting out and spending time looking at the details. It is often in the intricacies of life and its complexity that we can truly see God at work.



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## SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you to all who helped with making, filling and packing our shoe boxes. We have taken 119 boxes to be sent on their long journey.




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## ‘ACHURCHNEARYOU.com’

If you want to look up details of services and events in our United Parish,  
Or read the latest United parish Magazine, Home Service Booklet,  
on your phone, tablet or laptop,  
then bookmark the following link:

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Chinnor-Sydenham-Aston-Rowant-Crowell-United-Parish>

Every Church of England church has a listing on AChurchNearYou.com, and this is the website for our four churches in the United Parish. Every time any of us goes onto this website or searches for it via a search engine, it helps take us up higher in the list of search results, and means more people may be aware of our website, and of our parish and its activities.

*Please contact Revd Tony Whitaker if you have any suggestions for,  
or comments about the website*

email: [office@unitedparish.church](mailto:office@unitedparish.church)

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# Eulogy for John Rutson

**Former Church warden  
and vergers of St Andrew's**

**The kindest and gentlest of men.**



John Charles Rutson was born in Hornsey on 29th April 1935 to his very proud parents Edith and Charles. He lived in Crouch End, North London, with his parents and younger sister Pat. After their home was bombed in the war they were evacuated to Sandy, Bedfordshire before settling in North Mymms.

John went to St Albans County Grammar school for boys, where he passed A levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry in 1953.

John started work in London as an actuary in the North British and Mercantile insurance company in Fenchurch Street, where he met Janet, when he dictated letters for her to type. After work, with friends, they would often go to the



London West End cinemas. Their first date was to see Lady and the Tramp.

Between 1957 and 1959 he did RAF National Service in Gutesloh, Germany where he was trained in Radar, giving him a new career in Electronics.

John then worked at Pye in Electronics.

John married Janet on 24th September 1960 in St Peters Church, Streatham, London.

They made their first home in a flat on Amersham Hill in High Wycombe. He enjoyed playing rugby for Old Verulamians

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in Hatfield. His kit was all white which was an interesting choice considering they didn't have a washing machine at that time, so there were many buckets of soapy water needed.

Christine was born at home in July 1962 and Sandra in February 1965.

By now John was working at Instron, as an Electronics Engineer making Tensile Test machines, where he stayed for nearly 30 years.

New houses were being built in Chinnor for the affordable price of £3000, so they found out where that was and swiftly decided that was the place for them.

John and Janet moved to Chinnor in 1965.

During this time John enjoyed playing competition level badminton as Instron had a very strong sports and social club which John thoroughly enjoyed being involved in. Spending many evenings with his friends of the sports and social team creating the elaborate decorations for the dinner dance, social club functions and the children's parties. Christine and Sandra fondly remember those exciting themed parties and even when they were older helping paint and create the decorations. The most



memorable being the massive T-Rex dinosaur which moved and roared when anyone entered the building. Father Christmas entered once on a zip wire after the children had to guess where and when he was going to arrive. This all reflected the clever electronics John and his friends were expert at.

John was an active member for many years with Christian Aid, and at one point becoming chairman. He enjoyed doing the test walks ahead of the charity events with his big black collie cross, Tim. Ensuring it was only he that had to wallow through the mud and not the walkers.

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He enjoyed having dogs in the family home over the years and taking long walks over the Chinnor hills, usually ending in a pub lunch. He also revelled in an allotment for about 4 years and helped Janet with involvement in Hearing Dogs for deaf people.

John had an active life in this church being confirmed in 1997 and then he became a church warden a position of which he was extremely proud, and got great enjoyment from.

John thoroughly enjoyed family holidays with his four grand children: Tom, Rosie, Alice and Andrew. And was very proud of them all. Alice has fond memories of center parcs holidays where Grandad taught her badminton and that he even once knitted a small blanket for her doll - a new skill for him. For Andrew, it was Grandad's physics ability that came in handy when he needed help with homework. Tom remembers Grandad getting more chatty after some wine at Christmas lunch and telling him how he was flown back to England from Germany in the bomb bay of an aircraft.

During journeys in the car with Rosie, the Beatles would often be playing of which Let it Be was a favourite.



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## **“Where 2 or 3 are gathered together”**

As a result of a suggestion from, a member of the congregation, Rev'd Jacky approached two of us after Church a few weeks ago to ask if we were interested in joining a Prayer Vigil for Peace. We both said Yes, so the next question was when? After referring to our diaries 12<sup>th</sup> November was a convenient date and, as Jacky commented, the day after Remembrance Day was probably very appropriate.

After a short planning meeting, some (but not much), advertising across the parish and to Chinnor Methodist and Community Church, I arrived at St Andrew's at 11.30 on 12<sup>th</sup> ready to prepare for a 12.00 noon start. Would anyone else come? What were we going to do for a whole 60 mins? People did arrive, some before 12.00, others arriving during the hour. I had prepared an opening Prayer and by 'God-incidence' (not coincidence!) the Collect for the Day was very relevant, so we started with that. We also used a couple of Prayers written by children from Chooseday Church, which I had selected from their beautiful Prayer Tree. We then sat in prayerful silence, broken occasionally by prayers spoken by members of the 'congregation', until 12.55. Anne-Marie from Chinnor Methodist had arrived with a closing prayer all ready to use, so she came to the front to bring our communal prayer to a close.

What next? Many of those present expressed an interest in gathering again in the future for prayer, maybe on a regular basis? 'Termly', monthly, as needed?? Watch this space! Perhaps we can develop an Ecumenical Prayer Group?

Jane Tucker

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## **Do you know what to do when you receive a Scam text/email/call?**

Age UK Oxfordshire offers a free support service for people to help keep them safe from the scams which seem to assail us on an almost daily basis. We were delighted to have been able to have two meetings in Chinnor with Mandy Massam from Age UK Oxfordshire, who is their specialist in Scam Awareness, one in September sponsored and hosted by the Chinnor Parish Council, and the other sponsored and hosted by Chinnor Methodist Church, many thanks to both of them.

Mandy explained what we should be doing when we are in receipt of scams. If you get a scam text message **DON'T CLICK ON ANY LINKS** you have not requested. We should forward ALL scam texts to 7726, then Block and Delete the message.

If you get a scam email – if it's an offer that is too good to be true, it's a Scam, **DON'T CLICK ON ANY LINKS**. Forward the email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk), and **NEVER** reply to them.

If you get an incoming call, either landline or mobile from a number you don't recognise, answer it but **DON'T SAY ANYTHING**, until the person the other end speaks. The incoming call is probably being made by an automated system, if you don't answer the system will assume it's not a valid phone number, if you answer but don't speak the system will assume the same; as soon as you speak the system knows your number has connected, and you get put through to a scammer.

If you have been scammed, call you Bank Fraud Dept immediately using the number on the back of your bank card or by dialling 159. 159 is a national central call number (like 999, 111 etc) and connects you to the real Fraud Depts of all the major High Street banks. Put the number for your bank as well as 159 into the Contacts List on your mobile phone.

If you want to know more call the Age UK Oxfordshire Advice Line on 0345 450 1276, they can help with so many things and are quite willing to do home visits, which are free of charge.

Jane Tucker

Parish Safeguarding Officer

[safeguarding@unitedparish.church](mailto:safeguarding@unitedparish.church)

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## The United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell



**To make an online donation, our bank details are**

CAF Bank (*who are a bank for charities*)

Account name: **United Parish of Chinnor**

Account number: **0001 9680**

Account sort code: **40 52 40**

If you would like to donate through our **Just Giving** page, here is our QR code



<https://www.justgiving.com/unitedparish-chinnor>

If you are able to gift aid your donation, please contact the Church Office.

**May God bless you and we thank you for your generosity.**



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"Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals already?!"

## PUZZLES

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	

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H	L	T	H	G	I	R	T	B	A	L	E
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O	N	L	E	E	E	D	O	O	D	B	U
G	O	R	H	U	R	A	S	E	L	U	T
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**Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come?** Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of OT prophecies:

**He would be born of a virgin.** 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

**He would be born in Bethlehem.** 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...' (Micah 5:2)

**His lineage would be of the line of David.** 'I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

**He would bring healing.** 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6)

**He would be crucified.** They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

**He would rise from the dead.** 'You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay...' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

<b>Born</b>	<b>Virgin</b>	<b>Immanuel</b>	<b>Bethlehem</b>	<b>Ruler</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>King</b>	<b>Just</b>	<b>Right</b>
<b>Healing</b>	<b>Blind</b>	<b>Deaf</b>	<b>Lame</b>	<b>Mute</b>
<b>Crucified</b>	<b>Pierce</b>	<b>Hands</b>		

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## Solutions

1	5	6	9	4	8	3	7	2
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## Parish Office

For all enquiries concerning baptism, confirmation and matrimony  
please contact the Parish Office.

**Rector:** Revd Dr Jacky Barr

**Parish Office:** Tricia Prescott

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor, OX39 4PG

01844 352472 - [office@unitedparish.church](mailto:office@unitedparish.church)

**Treasurer:** Vacancy

**Opening Hours:** subject to change, please call or email ahead if you are  
planning to visit

**Monday**                      **Closed**

**Tuesday**                    **1.30 – 3.30pm**

**Wednesday**               **1.30 – 3.30pm**

**Thursday**                  **1.30 – 3.30pm**

**Friday**                      **Closed**

The best way of contacting the parish office is by emailing: [office@unitedparish.church](mailto:office@unitedparish.church)

## Parish Magazine:

Editor: Nicholas Milligan

Submissions should be emailed to [magazine@unitedparish.church](mailto:magazine@unitedparish.church)

DEADLINE: February and March Magazine is 21st January

### The churchwarden's contact details

#### St Andrew's, Chinnor

Robert Pegg 01844 698109

Lauretta Milligan 01844 355290

#### St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant

Richard Boarder 07795 681263

Vacancy

#### St Mary's, Sydenham

Roy Harrison 01844 353887

Vacancy

#### Nativity of B.V.M. Crowell

Andy Warman 01844 351909

Maggs Warman 01844351909

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	What	Where
6th December	Noon-2pm	St Marys Christmas Fayre	Sydenham Church
6th-14th December	2-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival *	St Andrew's Church
14th December	4pm	Seven Lessons and Carols	Sydenham Church
19th December	7pm	Carols (with readings)	Crowell Church
20th December	7.30pm	Brass and A Glass (Chinnor Silver Band)	St Andrew's Church
21st December	4pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Aston Rowant Church
21st December	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Andrew's Church
24th December	4pm	Crib Service	Aston Rowant Church
24th December	4pm	Crib Service	Sydenham
24th December	5pm	Crib Service	St Andrew's Church
24th December	9pm	Midnight (in Bethlehem Mass) Mass	St Andrew's Church
24th December	10pm	Midnight (in Bethlehem Mass) Mass	Sydenham Church
25th December	9am	Holy Communion	Sydenham Church
25th December	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's Church
6th January	7pm	Pint & a Chat—Mens group	The Crown, Chinnor
24th January	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
1st February	6pm	Taize Service	St Andrew's Church
2nd February	5pm	Parish Zoom Meeting	Zoom (Online)
3rd February	7pm	Pint & a Chat—Mens group	The Crown, Chinnor
6th February	12.30am-1.15pm	Lunchtime concert— Luca Zucchi and Daniel	St Andrew's Church
15th February	2pm	Duck Races and Cream Teas	Aston Rowant
1st March	6pm	Taize Service	St Andrew's Church
2nd March	5pm	Parish Zoom Meeting	Zoom (Online)
3rd March	7pm	Pint & a Chat—Mens group	The Crown, Chinnor
13th March	12.30am-	Lunchtime Concert— Jam Jar	St Andrew's Church

\* Friends of St Andrews Event