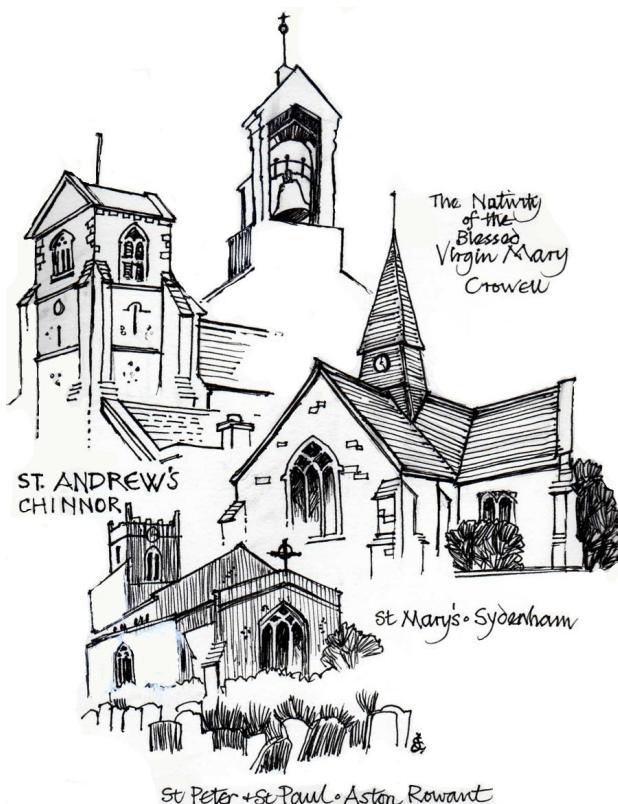




THE UNITED PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 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

Licenced Lay Minister (L.L.M)

Margaret Poole 01844 281042

Retired Priests

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

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

Feb 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 1 st Feb Candlemas Presentation of Christ	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
Sunday 8 th Feb 2 nd Sun before Lent	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	All Age Worship	Margaret and Shane
	1030am	Sydenham	BCP Holy Communion	Jacky
	4pm	Cowell	Evening Prayer	Andy and Maggs
Sunday 15 th Feb Sunday before Lent	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Tessa and Jo
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	Tony
Weds 18 th Ash Wednesday	7pm	St Andrew's	Ash Weds service Holy Communion	Jacky et al
Sunday 22 nd Feb Lent 1	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky
	1030	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Tony
	4pm	Cowell	Holy Communion	Jacky

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

March 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 1st March Lent 2	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
Sunday 8th March Lent 3	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	All Age Worship	Tessa and Jacky
	1030am	Sydenham	BCP Holy Communion	Tony
	4pm	Crowell	No service	
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday	8am	Crowell	Holy Communion (no hymns)	Jacky
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Mothering Sunday service (no Holy Communion)	Jacky
	10am	Sydenham	Songs of Praise	Sydenham team
Sunday 22nd March Lent 5	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Richard +Pam
	1030	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Crowell	Evening Prayer	Jacky
29th March Palm Sunday	5th Sunday United Parish Service With Holy Communion 1030 Aston Rowant			
	Clocks go forward Saturday night 28 th March			

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

Feb 2026		
1st Feb Candlemas Presentation of Christ	Malachi 3.1-5 Psalm 24.7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	
8th Feb 2nd Sun before Lent	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Psalm 136 Romans 8: 18-24 Matthew 6:25- 34	
15th Feb Sunday before Lent	Exodus 24.12-18 Psalm 2 2Peter1:16 -21 Matthew 17:1-9	
Weds 18th Feb Ash Wednesday	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-18 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10 John 8.1-11	
22nd Feb Lent 1	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11	
March 2026		
1st March Lent 2	Genesis 12.1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17	
8th March Lent 3	Exodus 17.1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-42	
15th March Mothering Sunday	1 Sam 1:20-28 Corinthians 1: 43-7 Luke 2:33-35	
22nd March Lent 5	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45	29th March Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21.1-11 Liturgy of the Passion: Matthew 26.14 - 27.66

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

PASTORAL LETTER

Joan writes, Pastoral letter – February 2026

In February our Church Year moves us from a celebration of Epiphany into the season of Lent. Epiphany is a season of invitation when the identity of Jesus is made manifest. It began with the visit of the Magi revealing the anointed of God to the whole world. In the weeks before Lent it continues with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan; Jesus's first sign in John's Gospel, changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana and concluding with the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus before the closest of his disciples, "This is my son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him". In these weeks we seek the revelation of God in Jesus so that we may know, love and follow him.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with the invitation to receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of public penance, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and follow Christ". We are reminded of the need for self denial and self discipline as we prepare to follow Jesus on the path of self sacrificing love. Lent is a time for self appraisal – not self abasement – nor self advertisement. We are not called to wallow in self loathing nor to seek escapism in spurious excuses as we look at the wilderness places in our own hearts and lives. Rather, it calls for a healthy realism about ourselves. We face up to and accept responsibility for our mistakes and shortcomings. We recognise our complicity in injustices from which we profit, our silence when at times we could have spoken out.

Lent is not a call to retreat from the realities of everyday life. The time Jesus spent in the wilderness was far from quiet and serene. It was a period of challenge and temptation. Rather it is a time to see the world with a new awareness, through the eyes of God. We begin to ask where the food we take for granted comes from, and to think of those who produced it, so we begin to see how our choices can make a difference to the lives of others.

Our lives can become so busy that we lose sight of the blessed refreshment which comes from simply sitting still. Lent affords plenty of opportunity to pause, take stock of our lives including our sins, to deal with some of the distractions that come to the life of prayer, to enter into Christ's sufferings so that we arrive at Easter better able to enter its joys.

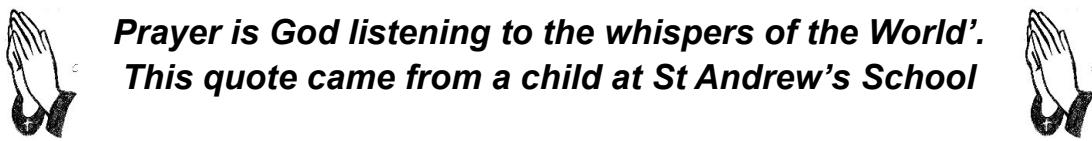
A Prayer from the IONA Worship Book.

Living God, we confess our faults and admit our frailty; we own our own brokenness and recognise the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. By your abundant grace forgive us, renew us in mind and in spirit, and enable us to grow in love. Move among us and give us life; with the spirit of freedom sustain us that our worship may be joyful and our witness faithful: in the name of Jesus Christ we pray,. Amen.

An Invocation for Lent. (Kate McIlhagga)

Into the dark world
a snowdrop comes,
a blessing of hope and peace
carrying within it a green heart:
symbol of God's renewing love.
Come to inhabit our darkness, Lord Christ,
for dark and light are alike to you.
May nature's white candles of hope
remind us of your birth
and lighten our journey
through Lent and beyond.

PRAYERS



please pray for:	Baptisms	For those who mourn for:
Gillian		Diane Wells
Bev		Olive Lincoln
Brian		Joyce Wilson
Dorothy		
Claire		
Karen		
Lara		
Pete		
Brian and Gill		
Amelia		
Hannah		
Emily		
Liam and Carol		

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 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.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

@ St Andrew's Church Chinnor

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

Choosday 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.

Choosday Church	Starboddlers
Tuesday afterschool 3.15- 4 15pm	Thursday 11am
3 rd February	5 th February
10 th February	12 th February
24 th February	26 th February
3rd March	5 th March
10 th March	12 th March
17 th March	19 th March
24 th March	26 th March

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: 2nd Feb, 2nd Mar

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 1st Feb, 1st March

No Taizé service 5th 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: 3rd Feb, 3rd March

To make a donation, please see page 31

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*

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.**

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

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



Chinnor Methodist Church, Chinnor Community Church and St Andrew's Church

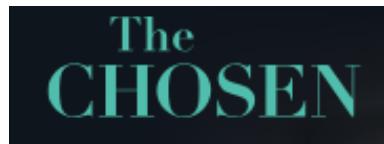


Invite you to join us for our joint
Lent Course

**Mondays at 730pm
starting 16th Feb**

**Chinnor Methodist Church
Station Road, Chinnor**

We shall focus our time and discussions together around watching episodes of The Chosen. This is a highly acclaimed multi- season TV show about the life of Jesus.



Please arrive at 730pm for refreshments and fellowship and we will begin formally at 745pm.

**Dates the course will run
16th, 23rd Feb, 2nd, 9th 16th 24th Mar**

For more details or if you have any questions, please contact
At the Methodist's, Pete and Jane Honeyball:
email chinnormethodisthire@mail.com or phone 07703174656
At St Andrew's, The Rev'd Jacky Barr:
email rector@unitedparish.church or phone 07769 825305
At CCC, email cccadmin@chinnor.org.uk

Easter Services 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY *Wednesday 18th February*
19:00 St Andrew's, Chinnor (with Holy Communion)



MOTHERING SUNDAY *Sunday 15th March*
0800 Crowell: Holy Communion
10:30 St Andrew's, Chinnor: Mothering Sunday Service
10:30 Sydenham: Songs of Praise



PALM SUNDAY *29th March 2026 (5th Sunday)*
10:30 Aston Rowant (with Holy Communion)



MAUNDY THURSDAY *Thursday 2nd April 2026*
19:00 St Andrew's Chinnor (with Holy Communion)



GOOD FRIDAY *Friday 3rd April 2026*
10:00 Sydenham
Noon-15:00 St Andrew's, Chinnor
(with reserve sacrament)



EASTER EVE *Saturday 4th April 2026*
Sunset 8pm St Andrew's Chinnor:
Vigil service (with Holy Communion)



EASTER SUNDAY *Sunday 5th April 2026*
09:00 Aston Rowant (with Holy Communion)
10:30 St Andrew's Chinnor, (with Holy Communion)
10:00 Sydenham: Easter Family Service



HUNGER LUNCH

Monday 2nd March, 2026
12.30 -2.00pm
at
Aston Rowant Church

Come and join us for a simple lunch of
delicious soup and bread.

Cash donations and gifts of dried and tinned food
would be gratefully received.

The Oxford Charity we are supporting is The Porch's Steppin' Stone Centre.

They help the homeless to re-integrate into the community.

The United Parish has supported this Charity for many years
and our donations are gratefully received.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

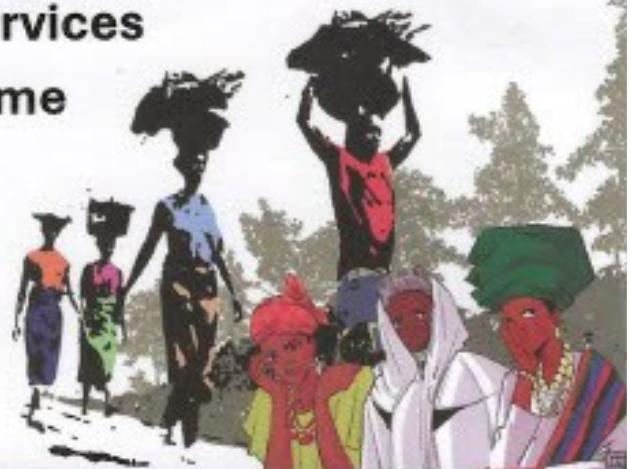
Nigeria 2026

St Andrew's Church
Chinnor

Morning Service at 10 30am

Evening Service 7. 30pm

**Refreshments served
after both services
All Welcome**



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

**Friends of St. Andrew's Church
Chinnor**

Lunchtime Concert
Featuring
Luca Zucchi (Baritone)



and

**Daniel Liu
(Piano)**

**Friday 6 February
12.30 to 1.15pm**

**Admission is FREE with a retiring
collection in aid of St. Andrew's Fabric
Restoration Fund and Isokon Ensemble**

Refreshments Available

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHINNOR : LUNCHTIME CONCERT : FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY : 12:30-1:15PM

Luca Zucchi (Baritone)

Luca Zucchi is a London-based baritone and composer, currently studying for a master's in composition at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studies with Adrian Thompson, Helen Grime and Philip Cashian. He has a strong interest in Lieder, performing works by Schubert, Schumann, Mahler and Wolf, alongside music by living composers. Recent highlights include a staged adaptation of Schubert's *Winterreise* with Beckett's *That Time* at the Pentameters Theatre, and an upcoming performance of Schumann's *Liederkreis* Op.24 paired with Robin Holloway's *Fantasy Pieces*. Luca read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he received the Royalton Kisch Prize and the Lester Brough Prize for performance. His recent compositions include *Fairer Westminster* for brass quintet and *Drop, Drop Slow Tears*, to be performed by Clare College Choir.

Daniel Liu (Piano)

Daniel Liu is a postgraduate pianist at the Royal Academy of Music, studying with Tessa Nicholson. He previously studied at the University of Cambridge, where he was active as a soloist and chamber musician, and at Chetham's School of Music, where he won the concerto prize with Britten's Piano Concerto. Also a composer, Daniel won the BBC Young Composer award in 2018, with his piece *Fanfares* premiered by the BBC Concert Orchestra the following year.

Lunchtime Concerts 2026

**Friends of St Andrew's Church,
Chinnor
Lunchtime Concerts
12.30 to 1.15 pm**

The Lunchtime Concerts will feature talented local musicians in short informal concerts. Free admission with the proceeds split between the church restoration fund, local charities and the musicians.



6 February - Luca and Daniel (Baritone and Piano)

13 March - Nikita Burzanitsa & Tymofii Burzanitsa (Piano)

1 May - Wendlebury Winds (Wind Ensemble)

3 July - Helena Lee (Piano)

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

Correen Gorton's farewell party at Aston Rowant

Correen has been part of The United Parish for over 24 years. Aston Rowant Church had a brunch to say farewell to Correen, as she goes back to South Africa to live near her family.



To make a donation, please see page 31

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**DONKEY LANE
COMMUNITY ORCHARD**



REPAIR CAFÉ : SATURDAY 24th JANUARY

Another successful Repair Café was held in St Andrew's Church. People came in with items such as toasters, clocks, lamps and several clothing pieces to be repaired.

The dates for the Repair Cafes in 2026 are as follows :

16th May
11th July
12th September

ALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS MUST BE PAT TESTED				
NAME OF ITEM	WEIGHT	OWNER	OUTCOME	ADVICE
Linda Lamp	0.5kg	Keith	OK	
Keith Jumper	0.5kg	Wendy	OK	
Christine Tape Player	3kg	Keith	OK	
Amanda Peck knife	0.2kg	Eleanor	OK	
Sue Toaster	0.5kg	Jeremy	OK	
Wendy Scissors	0.25kg	Eleanor	OK	
Margaret Lamp	0.5kg	Peter	OK	
Chris Book	0.2kg	Gaine	OK	Take away to be worked on
LESLEY Sewing Machine	2kg	David & Diane	OK	Advice
Margaret Clock	.5	Linda	OK	
Keith XMAS Train	.2kg	Keith	OK	
Michael Hoover	3kg	Jeremy	OK	
Graham Micro Slicer	1kg	Keith	OK	Advice
Wendy Scissors v2	0.25	Eleanor	OK	
Tudith Handbag	0.5kg	Gaine	OK	
Vicki Book	0.5kg	Elaine	OK	Chimney hole
Susan Trousers				
Steve Airbird radio		Wendy		
Liz Photo album		Keith		
Andrew Book		Elaine		
Elaine		Elaine		
Ed Split seam jeans		Wendy		
Brian Electric Razor		Alan & David		
Jennifer Button		Dorothy Linda		



To make a donation, please see page 31

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

THE LATE JOHN FOLLEY 'DAR'

26th October 1937 – 1st December 2025

May we please, through the courtesy of the United Church Magazine express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended John's Funeral Service in St Andrew's Church, on 14th January 2026.

We were all very moved to see so many friends and family there. We received over 100 cards and messages, and these are very much appreciated.

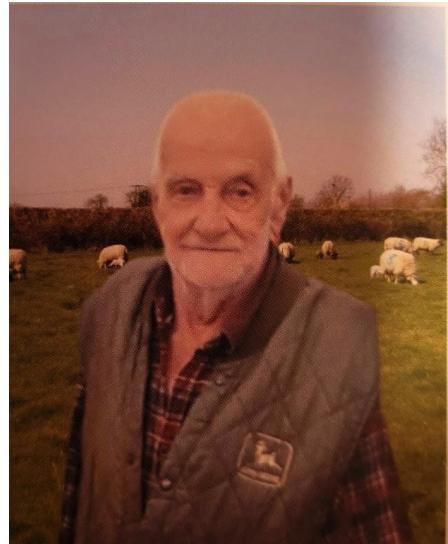
He was a true Village person being born at The Eagle, Henton (now The Peacock), many enjoyed sharing memories and light refreshments there after the service. Thanks also to everyone who signed the Condolence Book.



Many many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Daphne and Family.



St Andrew's Men's Group



Join us for a PINT and CHAT

For men of all backgrounds, with faith or none, come along for relaxed informal conversation

**The Crown in Chinnor
first Tuesday of each month, at 7pm.**

To make a donation, please see page 31

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



Sunday 15th February
2026

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Duck Races Snowdrop Walk Cream Teas

Duck Races on the
Holbrook stream

Cream Teas served in
Aston Rowant Church

Please wear boots/wellies!

Organised jointly by Aston Rowant Parish Council and the Church



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



18th February 2026

Ash Wednesday Service

**(With Holy Communion)
at St Andrew's, Chinnor**

7pm



*"Remember that you
are dust, and to dust
you shall return"*

**Everyone is welcome to join us for this ancient service,
which is both solemn and beautiful.
(said service, with no hymns)**

To make a donation, please see page 31

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



FAIRTRADE & ETHICAL

THIS EASTER

TRY TO BUY WITH SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MIND



**To view gifts, clothes, cards and household consumables go to:
www.ethicalsuperstore.com (choose 'Ethics' in 'Shop by' dropdown & click Fairtrade)**

www.ethicalshop.org , www.wearefairtrade.com or visit local outlets.

Your local contact is ROD THORPE -': 01844 351565

Email: chinnormethodisthire@mail.com



To order through Rod please provide:-

- your contact details ***
- item reference 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.

**Re Easter products -After 25th March only items in stock will be available.
-sponsorship of items for Food Banks can be arranged.**

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

Data Protection.

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.tmc.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.

Sydenham Singers

Might your New Year Resolution be to take on a new challenge , explore 'what's on' or make an effort to get to know fellow parishioners better?

We might have the solution for you!

St Mary's Choir aka Sydenham Singers is a friendly group that meet every Tuesday at 6.15pm for an hour in the Church. Come and sing with us and let that feel good factor take over! Amongst our ongoing church services and special days , we are planning a Summer concert to include music from Les Miserables in celebration of a milestone year. Could this be your chance to appear in the West End (of Sydenham?). Let us know if interested (07785 220621) or just come along.

We also hold a monthly coffee morning on the second Thursday between 10 and 12 noon with delicious cakes, freshly brewed coffee and lots of chat on offer. All are welcome . We look forward to seeing you in the Old School Room.



To make a donation, please see page 31

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



**DONKEY LANE
COMMUNITY ORCHARD**



What a wonderful turnout for our **Annual Wassail** at Donkey Lane Community Orchard on Sunday 18th January. We hope everyone who came had fun and enjoyed the mulled apple juice (and cider). With 60 people bracing the damp and making such a noise we're sure to have driven out any bad luck for the year, not only in the Orchard but for the whole village!

As always, our thanks to Claire Conway-Crapp from the Mid-Shires Orchard Group who was our wonderful Master of Ceremonies leading the Wassail and to Rev'd Jacky Barr for the special Wassail blessing. And of course, the Wassail would not have been complete without the Towersey Village Voices, it was lovely hearing their "voices" in the Orchard and the cries of 'huzzah' in reply to Claire's 'Wassail!'.



And who could forget our special guests – Stick Man, Stick Lady Love and their children three. The report back from them is that the family loved being at the Orchard and taking part in the Wassail. They especially loved all the children who had their photo taken with them.

*Linda Brawn
Chair - Greening Chinnor*



To make a donation, please see page 31

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



John Folley: Rest in Peace

26th October 1939 – 1st December 2025

On 14th January 2026, we held a moving service to say goodbye to John Folley, a much loved Chinnor and Henton man: beloved husband of Daphne (for 65 years), caring dad to Stephen, Katherine and Richard and loving “Dar” (Grandad/ Great-granddad) to

Thomas, Rupert, Ella, Hayley, Joanna, Maisie, Hallie, Nancy, Elsie, Delia, Albert and newly arrived Leonard. John was a man much admired and cherished by his extended family and many local people.

Four of John’s grandchildren (Rupert, Tom, Ben (by marriage) and Hayley) honoured Dar by carrying him into church, always a moving sight, made even more so by the presence of granddaughter, Hayley.

These are the family memories shared by John’s daughter Kathryn on behalf of the family:

Today we’re here to remember our Dad, John — or as he was known to all of us in the family, Dar — a man whose life was full of stories, kindness, and a very good sense of humour and of what really mattered.

As you know, Dad was born and grew up at the Eagle pub in Henton, which many of us now know as The Peacock. He liked to joke that he started drinking almost as soon as he could crawl, and he absolutely loved telling the story of regulars to the pub letting him have a little sip of their beer. It was one of those stories he told often — and somehow, it never got old.

The pub was always a huge part of who Dad was. He loved going to the Peacock and would often reminisce about his times there. In recent days, when the landlady would greet him with “Welcome home, John,” it meant the world to him. He talked about that a lot — and I think it says everything about how deeply connected he was to the pub and those memories.

Dad had a very simple, very wise outlook on life. He always used to say, “If you wake up in the morning, it’s a good start to the day.” And he lived by that. He never complained — not once. No matter what was going on, he just got on with things, quietly and without fuss.

One thing you could always count on with Dad was his gratitude. He would always say thank you — for everything you did, and especially for just popping in to see them. It didn’t matter how small the gesture was, it was always appreciated. He was also someone who could fix just about anything. If you needed help with electrics, plumbing, or any odd

job, Dad always knew what to do — and if he didn't, he'd find a way. He would help anyone, without hesitation, and never expected anything in return.

Music was another big part of Dad's life. He loved doing discos, and no matter what else had been played, he would always finish with Perry Como — "for the good times," as he'd say. It was his way of winding things down, and it suited him perfectly.

In more recent years, one of his greatest joys was his great-grandchildren. He loved saying rhymes with them, singing with them, and just being in their company. You could see how much happiness that brought him.

And of course, Christmas Day was always special. We would do the rounds by visiting Auntie Shirley and George's, Aunty Dolly and Ron's, Nan and Gramp at The Eagle, and lastly, Nanny and Nampy in Bledlow. And yes, he would always have one too many. But that was Dad enjoying himself, surrounded by family, making memories.

Our dad was kind, steady, grateful, and always there when you needed him. He lived a full life, rich in stories, laughter, music, and love.

We will miss him more than words can say. But we'll carry him with us — in the stories we tell, the songs we hear, the pubs we walk into, and the simple reminder that if you wake up in the morning, it's a good start to the day.

Thank you, Dad. Thank you, Dar. For everything.

Margaret Poole (known to Daphne and John since a baby) shared the following:

These passed few weeks since John'/Dar' passing must have been very strange for you all and especially with Christmas in the mix. I am sure it has been very challenging with the many mixed emotions that you will have all had: one remembering all the Christmas' of the past and then experiencing a very different Christmas this year with John no longer sharing it with you all. Even if he was not in your own individual homes, he would have been sat in his chair at home by the window, and you will have all called in at some point to share presents, and more importantly to share love.

If there is one thing to hold onto from your loss of John/Dar, that is the strong bond of love that has seen you through those difficult times of John'/Dar' decline, and how you have all pulled together in supporting each other over these past few weeks.

Over the past few years, I have had the privilege to get to know John when I have dropped by for a cuppa and cake (mince pie), I have enjoyed conversations about what has been going on in the world, and what was in the newspaper. Or what was being done in the garden, weather permitting! John didn't like the cold, and he didn't like it too hot either!

Had the plug plants been ordered for the tubs and hanging baskets, or the sunflower seeds been planted, all being done, while perhaps having some refreshments by way of a can from the garage? We also enjoyed sharing time talking about the family and what they were all doing. Katherine told us of how John/Dar loved nothing better than seeing his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Watching them play with the huge box of toys and receiving their pictures and gifts that they would come in with, especially for him.

Then of course there were the beloved cats, Mr Fudge and Miss Morgan, John always keeping a careful watchful eye over them as he met their needs, even moving chairs if one had laid claim to his own chair.

But there was one subject that we had in common, and I really enjoyed sharing with John, and that was, keeping up to date with what was happening in the local farming community and especially the shepherding.

When John retired and the funds allowed, John and Daphne along with Stephen started to keep sheep. Ever the good Shepherds, the sheep became part of everyday life, their wants and needs being met by daily trips to check that they were all okay, no matter what season no matter what the weather. And lambing, well that was another matter, with early mornings and late nights. Care and support for their sheep paramount

But those of you here today would not be aware, that those sheep of the past became famous with our school children, especially Snowy the pet lamb, with our school children in the Parish, as we shared photos of them during our Reinspired sessions about the 'Good Shepherd'.

Liz has shared with us this afternoon Psalm 23, that Daphne and the family had chosen for this service. Knowing what we know of Daphne's faith and the shepherding and care that John and Daphne gave to their flock of sheep, it was no surprise to us at all, that this was one of their chosen Bible passages.

Psalm 23 is a passage we turn to in every season – in times of peace, in moments of fear and especially at a time of grief. It's a familiar passage that offers comfort and a profound and unshakable

Today as we remember John/Dar we find comfort not in the philosophy or the platitude, but in a person: the Lord, our Good Shepherd.....

Rev'd Jacky reflected on how the family, particularly Daphne, Steven and Liz, Kathryn and Kevin, and Richard gave John an extraordinary gift by enabling him to remain at home in his last days, in familiar surroundings, cared for with patience, tenderness and dignity. It was an act of love that was quiet, faithful and, at times, costly but right for John.



As Katherine highlighted, being born in and growing up in the Eagle (now the Peacock) had a lasting effect on John. From being a skilled grower of pansies and creator of hanging baskets, to navigating around the country (especially London) by the pubs. And I'm sure that John's generous support of many events in and around Chinnor, by providing the PA system, came from the understanding how important community is, undoubtedly instilled in him by his parents Olive and Cliff while they ran the Eagle. He was also the go to man for a local disco.

He and Daphne set up the Henton Cancer Fund, that is still going, over 50 years ago. This is a wonderful testament to a couple who always wanted to help others.

John's life continues in Daphne, in his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It continues in stories told and retold, in country music played in his memory, in kindness offered without expectation, and in gratitude for ordinary days. Love does not disappear. It changes shape, but it remains. These are all qualities John modelled for us all and I know he has passed them onto those he loved and loved him.

So today we commend John into God's keeping, trusting that the Shepherd who led him through life now leads him into peace. And we entrust ourselves to that same care, as we continue the journey without him, carrying love, memory, and hope with us.

And as Psalm 23 ends with a vision of heaven as great feast, we might imagine John's heaven as walking back in to the Eagle and God saying to him "Welcome Home John". Amen.

Would you like to join the next Chinnor Prayer Service?

Last November a dozen or more folks from across the Parish came together for an hour one Wednesday to join together to pray for peace. It was a very meaningful and successful event. There was no formal structure, some people prayed aloud many just sat praying silently, people arrived and left as they could, there was no need to stay for the whole hour.

Some of those attending wanted to do it again someday, consequently we have put an entry in St. Andrew's Church diary for **Wednesday 22nd April** at noon for Prayers for the Earth (that date happens to be Earth Day). We can include prayers for the effects of Climate Change, care of our environment, management of plastics and toxic chemicals, support for wildlife, as well as anything else that is high in the news by then.

Please put a note in your dairies and come along if you can.

'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 Rev'd Tony Whitaker if you have any suggestions for, or comments about the website



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

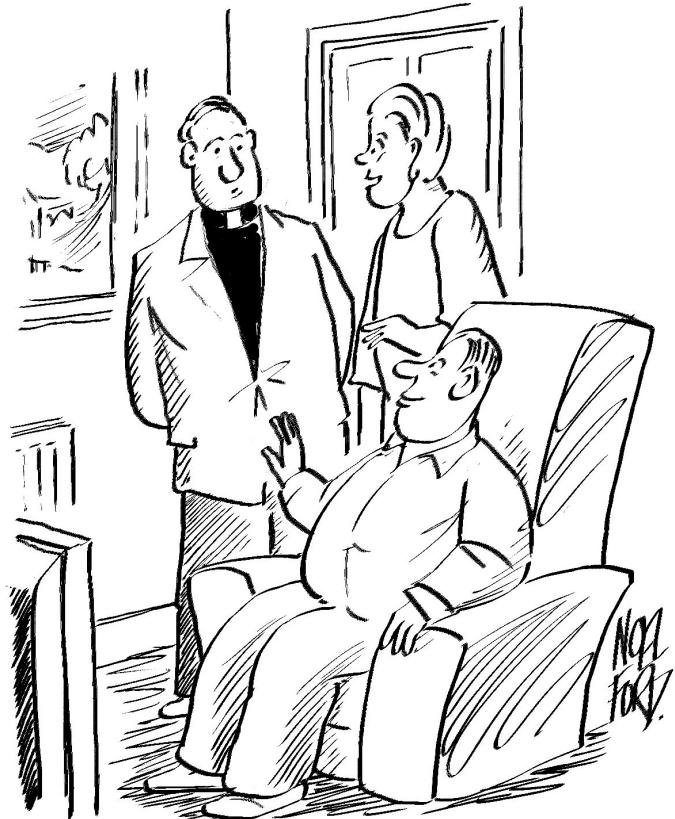


<https://www.justgiving.com/unitedparish-chinnor>

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.





Henry is making a real effort for Lent –
he's giving up the remote control and
walking to the TV

PUZZLES

							7	2
					9	5		3
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6				7	9	5
			6				1	
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

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The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

Candlemas, 2nd February, comes exactly 40 days after Christmas. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-40). So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day.

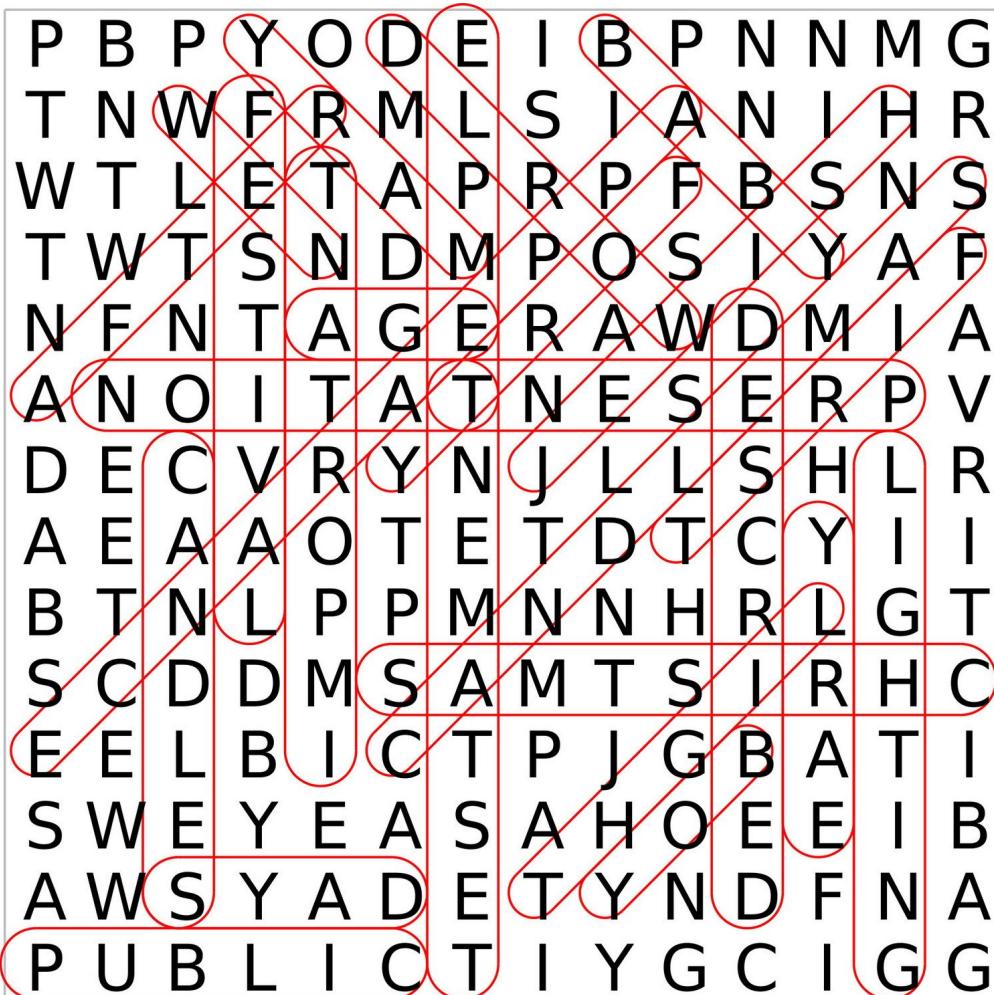
Candlemas	Forty	Days	After	Christmas
New	Testament	Important	Age	Baby
Boy	First	Public	Appearance	Mary
Jewish	Temple	festival	presentation	described
Light	world	candles	lighting	early

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Solutions

3	5	9	6	4	1	8	7	2
1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6	3
6	7	8	5	3	2	9	1	4
9	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	8
4	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	5
7	8	2	9	6	5	4	3	1
5	9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6
2	6	7	4	5	3	1	8	9
8	4	1	2	9	6	3	5	7



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

Parish Office

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

Rector: Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr

Parish Office: Tricia Prescott

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor, OX39 4PG

01844 352472 - 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

Parish Magazine:

Editor: Nicholas Milligan

Editors Note— We are trialing going back to a monthly edition of the magazine.

Submissions should be emailed to magazine@unitedparish.church

DEADLINE: March Magazine is 19th February

The churchwarden's contact details

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Vacancy

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Roy Harrison 01844 353887

Vacancy

Nativity of B.V.M. Crowell

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Maggs Warman 01844351909

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	What	Where
1st February	6pm	Taize Service	St Andrew's Church
2nd February	5pm	Parish Zoom Meeting	Zoom (Online)
3rd February	7pm	Pint & a Chat—Men's group	The Crown, Chinnor
6th February	12.30pm	Lunchtime concert* see p16	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	12.30-2pm	Hunger Lunch	Aston Rowant
2nd March	5pm	Parish Zoom Meeting	Zoom (Online)
3rd March	7pm	Pint & a Chat—Men's group	The Crown, Chinnor
13th March	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert* see p17	St Andrew's Church
19th April	10.30am	Cantilena Winds Concert*	St Andrew's Church
22nd April	Noon	Prayer service	St Andrew's Church
1st May	12.30pm	Lunchtime concert: see p 17	St Andrew's Church
16th May	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
6th & 7th June	10am-3pm	Flower Festival*	St Andrew's Church
20th June	7pm	Chinnor Silver Band Concert	St Andrew's Church
3rd July	12.30pm	Lunchtime concert* see p17	St Andrew's Church
11th July	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
4th September	12.30pm	Lunchtime concert* see p17	St Andrew's Church
12th September	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
25th September	7.30pm	Quiz Nite*	Chinnor Village Hall
29th September	10.30am	MacMillan Coffee Morning	St Andrew's Church
2nd October	10am-1pm	Lunchtime concert* see p 17	St Andrew's Church

* Friends of St Andrew's Event