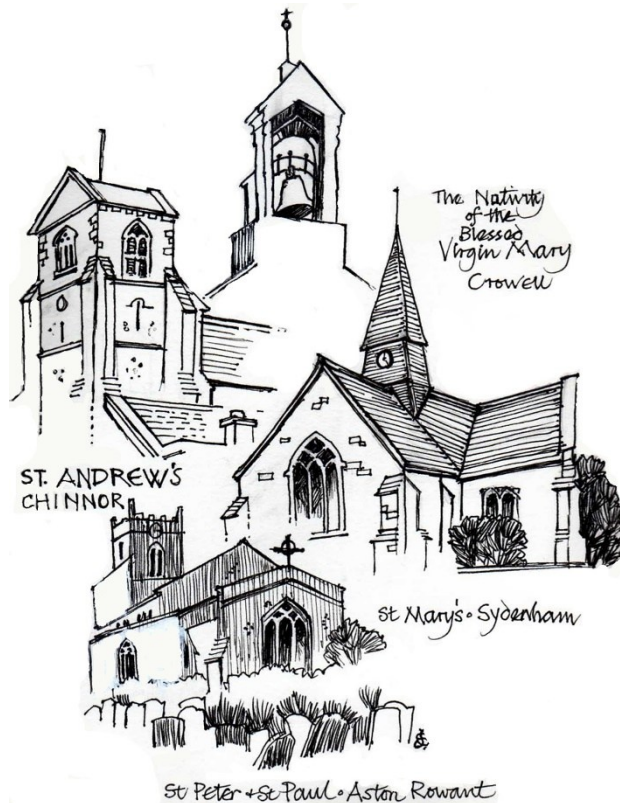




THE UNITED PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2026

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





The United Parish Ministry Team

Rector

Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr
rector@unitedparish.church

07769 825305
01844 352027

Associate Priest

Rev'd Joan DeVal

01844 353404

Licenced Lay Minister (L.L.M)

Margaret Poole

01844 281042

Retired Priests

Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths
Rev'd Tony Whitaker

01844 355953
01844 761267

Children's Minister

Fiona Ludlow
childrenswork@unitedparish.church

Useful United Parish Contacts

Parish Office

Tricia Prescott
office@unitedparish.church

01844 352472

St Andrew's Church Hall

Val Welford
vrwelford@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker
safeguarding@unitedparish.church

07890 346781

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-Crowell-United-Parish>

April 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Maundy Thursday 2 nd April	7pm	St Andrew's, Chinnor		Jacky
Good Friday 3 rd April	10am Sydenham - Margaret Noon-3pm St Andrew's - Jacky			
Easter Vigil 4 th April	Sun- set 8pm	St Andrew's Chinnor		Jacky
Easter Sunday 5 th April	09:00	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Jacky
	10:30	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	10:00	Sydenham	Holy Communion	Tony
Sunday 12 th April Easter 2	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Tony
	1030 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	All Age Worship	Margaret and Shane
	1030 am	Sydenham	No service	
	6pm	Crowell	Holy Communion	Jacky
Sunday 19 th April Easter 3	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Richard and Pam
	1030 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	Jacky
Sunday 26 th April Easter 4	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Tessa and Jo
	1030	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Crowell	BCP Evening Prayer	Maggs and Jacky

MAY 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 3rd May Easter 5	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion Followed by APCM	Jacky
	6pm	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Taize	Tony and Monica
Sunday 10th May Easter 6	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Margaret
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Christian Aid @ Methodist Church	Led by Method- ists
	1030	Sydenham	BCP Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Crowell	Holy Communion	Jacky
Thursday 14th May Ascension Day	10am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Tony
Sunday 17th May Easter 6	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Aston Rowant Team
	1030am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Sydenham	BCP Evensong	Margaret
Sunday 24 May Pentecost	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Tony
	1030	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	Crowell	Evening Prayer	Maggs and Andy
Sunday 31st May	8am	Holy Communion		Jacky
		United Parish Service 1030 ROGATION (and TRINITY) @Manor Farm, Chinnor		Jacky

Sunday readings Year A 2026

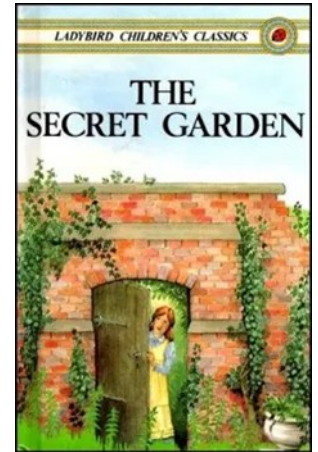
<p>Maundy Thursday 2nd April Exodus 12.1-4[5-10], 11-14 Psalm 116.1,10-17 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35</p>	<p>Good Friday 3rd April Isaiah 52: 13-53 Psalm 22 Hebrew 4: 14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42</p>	<p>Easter Vigil 4th April Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Proverbs 8.1-8,19-21; 9.4b-6 Zephaniah 3.14-20 Romans 6.3-11 Matthew 28.1-10</p>
<p>5th April Easter Sunday Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18</p>	<p>12th April Easter 2 Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21 Acts 2.14a,22-32 Psalm 16 John 20:19-31</p>	<p>19th April Easter 3 Zephaniah 3:14 -20 Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35</p>
<p>26th April Easter 4 Genesis 7 Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10</p>	<p>3rd May Easter 5 Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14</p>	<p>10th May Easter 6 Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:7-18 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14:15-21</p>
<p>17th May Easter 7 Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68:1-10 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11 John 17: 1-11</p>	<p>24th May Pentecost/Whitsun Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b 1 Cor 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23</p>	
<p>31st May</p>		
<p>Trinity Sunday Isaiah 40.12–17,27–31 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13.11–13 Matthew 28.16–20</p>	<p>Rogation service Deut 11:10-15 Psalm 147: 1-13 Romans 8:18-25 Mark 4:26-32</p>	

PASTORAL LETTER

A Secret Garden by Jacky

I have recently read the children's classic *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett for the first time. It surprised me.

As I read, I kept expecting something terrible to occur. I was waiting for the moment when the father would return in anger, or one of the children would fall ill again, or some other dark plot twist would undo all the goodness that was growing. But it never came.



Instead, the story simply unfolded with gentleness. A neglected garden is discovered. Children who were lonely and unhappy begin to change. The earth warms. Seeds sprout. Fresh air and friendship slowly heal bodies and hearts. Page by page, life quietly returns.

I realised how much of my anxious imagination has been shaped by the stories of our age. We have become used to expecting disaster. News, films and even many novels prepare us for betrayal, tragedy or sudden catastrophe. We are trained to look for the moment when things fall apart.

But *The Secret Garden* refuses that pattern. And spring arrives, because winter just cannot last forever.

The Easter story itself begins in a garden, in springtime. On the first morning of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb while it is still dark. There, in the garden, she meets the Risen Jesus (John 20:14–16). It is a beautiful moment. Life has quietly returned where death once seemed to rule.

Perhaps that is why spring speaks so deeply to the soul. Buds appear on branches that looked dead. Soil that seemed empty produces life again. Something buried begins to grow. Jesus once spoke in a similar way about seeds: "*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*" (John 12:24)

The children in *The Secret Garden* discover that tending a garden leads to their healing, it is their salvation. As they dig and plant and watch things grow, their physical health improves, friendships flourish and they experience joy. Life within the children begins to flourish, almost without them noticing.

This beautiful and gentle story shows us that the slow and patient work of tending a garden leads to flourishing. Equally the slow and patient work of our hearts and souls also leads to flourishing. In a garden, the work is weeding, sowing, tending and watering. For our hearts and souls, the slow and patient work is love, joy, kindness, peace, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. It is by cultivating the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) that we truly flourish.

As Spring continues, we will see small resurrections happening all around us, as trees burst into leaf and blossom, as shoots emerge from the ground and as flowers open. And maybe we can notice these and remember the truth of Easter, not in naïve denial of suffering, but that life is stronger than death, love is greater than fear, and that goodness, once planted, can grow again. This is the eternal work of the Risen Lord.

Easter invites us to tend the garden of our own hearts. And sometimes the truest sign of Resurrection is the quiet growth of love.



PRAYERS



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



<p>Please pray for: Bev Gillian Dorothy Claire Karen Lara Amelia Liam Carol Olivia Terry Joan Bob Breda Suzanne Bill</p>	<p>Baptisms Sienna 5th April St Andrews Dominic 12th April Aston Rowant Elsie 10th May St Andrews Wilfred 31st May St Andrews Weddings Gina and Mike 11th April Aston Rowant</p>	<p>For those who mourn for:</p>
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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.

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>
HALF TERM	
21 st April	16 th April
28 th April	23 rd April
5 th May	30 th April
12 th May	7 th May
19 th May	14 th May

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: 6th April, 4th May

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 3rd May

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: 7th April, 5th May

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



St Andrew's Church of
England Primary School

Volunteers Needed to Hear Children Read

Could You Help a Child Grow in Confidence?

Both church schools in our parish are looking for adults to come into school and listen to children read.

This is a role that the schools truly cherish. It is a chance to offer time, encouragement, and a listening ear. Many volunteers find it a joyful and rewarding experience.

If you could spare an hour a week, please let Rev'd Jacky know and she will put you in touch with the school.



**All volunteers will be asked to complete safeguarding training and a DBS check, in line with the school's policies and commitment to keeping children safe. But don't worry, its not at all arduous and the school will guide you through it.*

To make a donation, please see page 31

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

Easter Services 2026



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 Praise Family Service



To make a donation, please see page 31

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

Chinnor Easter

Stations of the Cross — Good Friday

Start—10.00 am Car Park
Village Centre.



Stations of the Cross

This year's walk will take us on the journey which Jesus took and led him to the cross. Local artists have created paintings depicting the last hours of Jesus' life. These pieces of art work are on display from Wed 1st April—Wed 8th April around the village. See map for locations.

Finish— 11.30 am Refreshments at Chinnor
Community Church, High Street, Chinnor

All are Welcome

Organised by Chinnor Community Church, Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church :
01844 352938 email: cocchinnorcommunitychurch@gmail.com Charity No. 1146343



Good Friday – 3rd April 2026

Chinnor Cross Walk Stations of the Cross

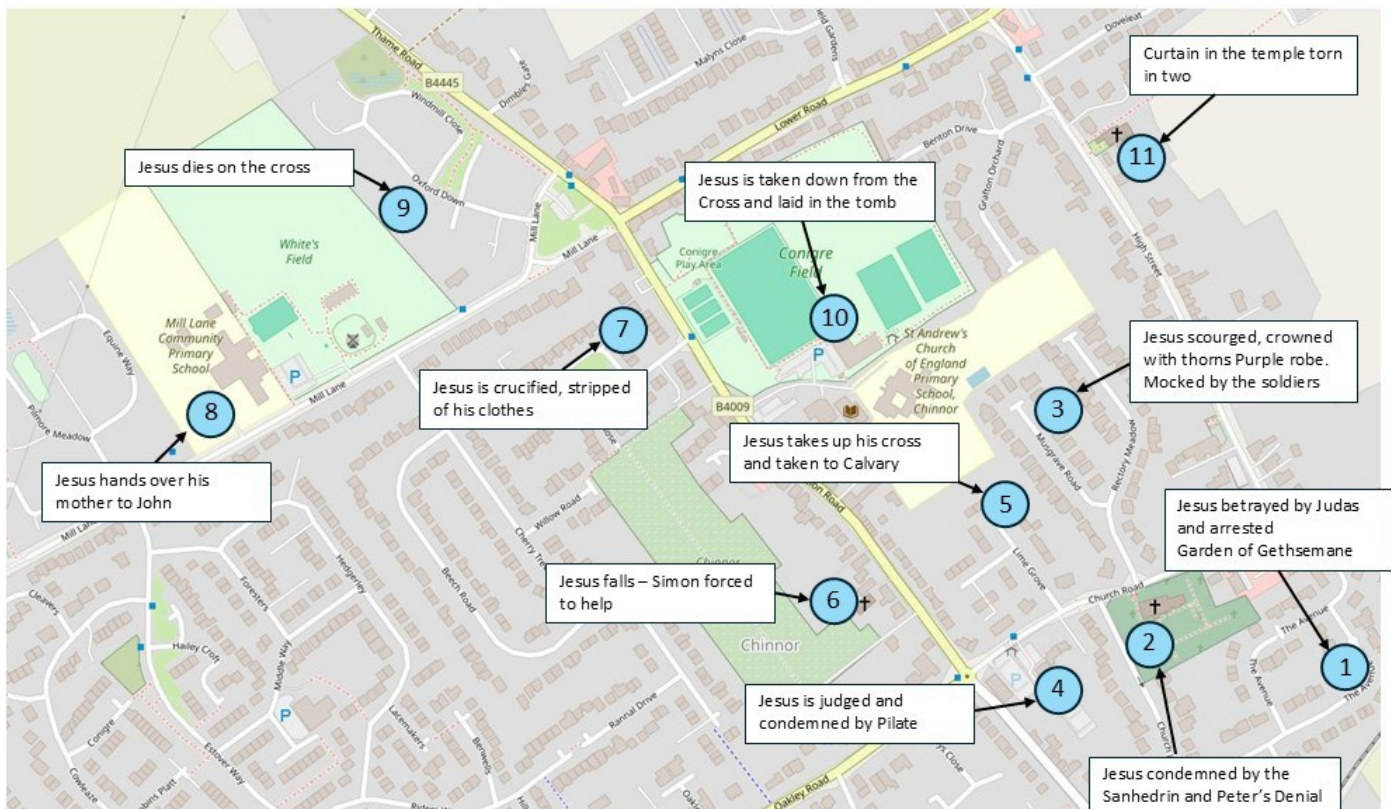
The annual event of Chinnor Cross Walk will take place as normal on Good Friday 3rd April. The initial starting point is the Village Centre, setting off at 10.00 am.

2026 sees a different kind of Cross Walk. It will be visiting 11 Stations of the Cross. Paintings done by local artists and children of the village, will be on display around the village and will be the stopping points for the cross walk this year. The 'Stations' depict the journey taken by Jesus from his arrest, through Jerusalem to the cross. The paintings will be in the village from Wednesday 1st April to Wednesday 8th April so if you are unable to join the Cross Walk you still will be able to see the paintings. A local map is available showing where the paintings have been erected in the village.

If you have never been on the Cross Walk, come and enjoy it, the company, the paintings and refreshments at the end in Chinnor Community Church.

Organised by St Andrew's Church, Chinnor Community Church and the Methodist Church. Thanks to all artists and those taking part.

Stations of the Cross – Good Friday 3 April 2026



To make a donation, please see page 31

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

An Invitation to Review Giving

Dear Friends,

We are blessed by our United Parish being more than a collection of buildings or services; it is genuinely a living community of prayer, care, and shared faith shaped by all who belong to it. Every act of generosity (time, skills, prayer, or financial giving) helps sustain the worship, welcome, and presence that we offer together.

This life together is sustained by the faith and generosity of its people. Everything we are able to offer from weekly worship, baptisms and funerals, pastoral care, open churches, and community events like the Christmas tree festival is funded locally by those of you who value and belong to this parish community.

Many people assume that churches receive financial support from central Church funds. In reality, we receive no central funding for any of our costs. Like most Church of England parishes, we must raise our own income to cover ministry, building repairs and maintenance, insurance, safeguarding, heating, lighting, and energy bills.

The parish is supported by the parish.

At present, we are operating with a financial deficit each year. Careful stewardship enables us to continue, but this pattern is not sustainable indefinitely. There is no external organisation that will step in to meet this gap; the future of the parish rests in the shared generosity of those who belong to it. Therefore, we are inviting everyone connected to the United Parish to prayerfully review their giving.

To give a sense of scale, our annual running costs are around £120 000. Even a modest increase in regular giving can make a significant difference.

Scripture reminds us: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9.7). But, please know that this is not about pressure or asking for more than you can comfortably or cheerfully give.

If you are able, please consider:

- Reviewing your current level of giving
- Setting up or increasing a standing order or direct debit
- Completing the Gift Aid form (over page) if you are a UK taxpayer, allowing us to reclaim an additional 25p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you.

Regular giving helps us plan responsibly and steward well what has been entrusted to us.

**Bank details for standing orders:
United Parish of Chinnor (CAF bank)
Account number 0001 9680
Sort code 40 52 40**

Some people also choose to remember the parish in their will. Legacy gifts of any size have sustained churches for generations and help ensure that worship and witness continue long into the future. Adding a simple letter of wishes to an existing will is an easy way to do this. Please do contact me if you would like to see an example of such a letter.

We recognise that financial circumstances differ greatly. If you are able to increase your giving, we are deeply grateful. If you are not able to, please know that your presence and participation remain highly valued. We ask only that each person considers what is right and possible for them.

Thank you for sustaining the life of this parish. Together, we will continue to keep prayer alive, our doors open, and the light of Christ present in the heart of our community.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Jacky

To make a donation, please see page 31

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



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



Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of Charity: United Parish of Chinnor (Registered Charity number 1142316)

This includes

St Andrew's, Chinnor,
St Mary's, Sydenham,
Ss Peter&Paul, Aston Rowant
BVM, Crowell

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Time to try Bell Ringing?

Malcolm - Tower Captain

My older brother had briefly rung in the 1960s, and influenced me to start learning just before Christmas 1968 in my home city of Liverpool.

Later I became a "local" at towers in London and Taxal Derbyshire, before moving to Princes Risborough in 1990, joining the Chinnor St. Andrew's band a few years later. I've been Tower Captain since 2009.

Ringling is an underestimated traditional English activity. It's a unique and challenging skill which, once learned, can be taken through life, developed further, and taken up again as and when the opportunities arise.

I've greatly enjoyed bringing on new members of our vibrant and diverse social group, and being a custodian of the precious medieval instruments you hear us ring every week.

It's fun, free and for everyone. Why not give it a go?

Darrell - Recent Learner

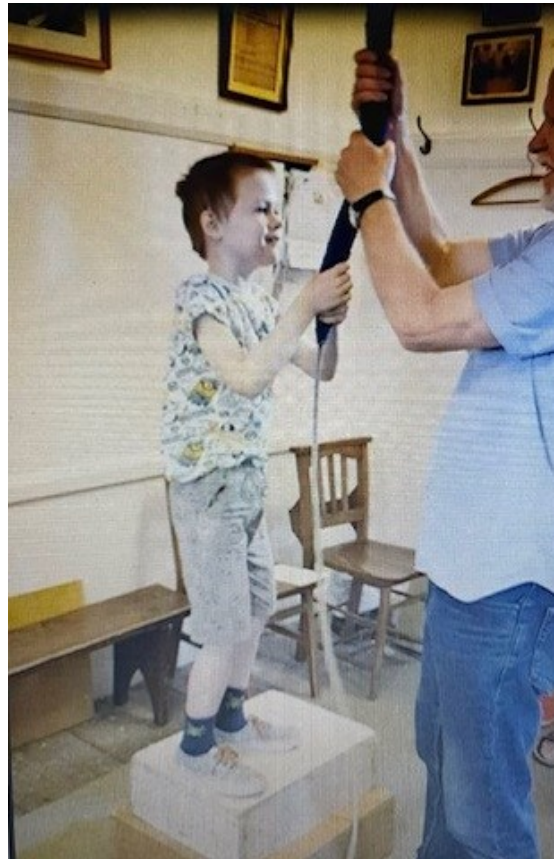
What started my bell ringing adventure?

It all began when I was 6. Back in 2018, St. Andrews's Church had an open day, where people could come up to the bell tower, & ring. I, as my curious self-did, went up with my mum, & rang the bells! I was obviously not particularly great, as you would expect, but I did it, & it was incredibly fun! I was asked by the people who helped me ring if I would come back when I was older...

7 Years Later...

I started my Duke of Edinburgh award in October 2025, & that was when it struck me. I was asked if I would come back ages ago. I used this opportunity to find something to do for my skills section for DofE, & I am so glad I found the right thing... Little did I know, young me discovered a hobby I now love. From amateur, all the way to where I am now (Semi-amateur), I have enjoyed my journey bell ringing & wish to continue for the years to come! I would encourage all young

people to come along & join bell ringing. It may sound boring at first when you first think about it, but I can guarantee that you will love it! It also would be helpful, as it would revive a dying British tradition, & also we are having a shortage across the UK in the number of young bell ringers at churches. I thank myself when I was younger for discovering this, DofE for rediscovering a hobby I now love & am always excited to do, & the more advanced bell ringers for helping me get to the stage I am at now!



GILLIAN ALICE SKINNER

21 November 1937 – 3 February 2026

Gill was born in Maidstone, Kent just before the war. She always told us that one of her earliest memories was lying on the grass in the summer, watching the vapour trails in the sky, as the Battle of Britain was fought above her. She grew up as an only child, until she was almost 12, when the wish she made at every opportunity was granted and her sister Jane arrived. She was always a bit of a bookworm, the source of her wide knowledge. She went on to be head girl at Maidstone Girls' Grammar School, and then to Reading University, to study History. She made many friends for life at the Christian Union and most importantly her lifelong partner Brian.

During her engagement, when Brian was away touring the world, Gill was teaching Deaf children at a school in Dartford. She was constantly organising trips to historical sites and places of natural beauty, such as where the Venerable Bede had written his history of the English Church, or the marshes where her favourite character, Alfred the Great, (she specialised in the Anglo-Saxon period) had hidden from the Danes after losing some battle or another.

Shortly after their Wedding in 1962 she went with Brian to far away rural Chile, at the time a long 5 week voyage by sea, not the nice short non-stop 13 hour flight like now. Communication was only by letter that took weeks, it must have been like travelling to another planet. Living in incredibly rough conditions on a shoestring missionary salary, and running the mission farm in Maquwhue, they started their family of 5 children. As Brian's eye sight began to deteriorate, Gill became his driver and then his carer.

After retirement, and moving to Chinnor, a new project as Cherry and Blueberry Farmers gave them the perfect excuse to spilt their time between England and Chile, now much more prosperous and developed. Gill took on all the administrative side during harvests and took care of farm certification, to make sure the fruit was eligible to be sold in British supermarkets; she took great offence if she ever got less than 100% in an audit.

Gill lived in many houses in different places, but everywhere there was a garden, which she would design and manage to produce the flowers she much loved. She so enjoyed visiting garden centres to buy more plants. Gill was a loving, caring person, who saw the good in everyone and prayed for all those she met in daily life.

Rt. Rev'd. Brian Antony Skinner

1 March 1939 – 9 February 2026

Brian was one of 5 children of loving, caring parents. His Mother took the family to St. Paul's Church, Slough. He was placid, kind and very adventurous, with a great sense of humour. As a young boy in Church and only the height of the pew in front, he decided to while away the time by gnawing at the wood! His marks were still there until about 6 years ago, when they replaced the pews with chairs!

Brian met Gill at the University Christian Union and they got engaged after Brian Graduated. (They married in 1962) . After University Brian decided to 'back pack' his way to Chile, taking buses, boats and lifts from anyone who could help him. He had decided at an early age to following whatever God planned for him. He then returned to the UK and trained for the Church of England ministry. His first Curacy was in Woking and both Gill and Brian felt called back to Chile as missionaries. Brian was appointed Bishop of the 5th Region of Chile, which included Easter Island. They stayed for 24 years!

They then returned to the UK, now with 5 children and worked at St. Andrew's Church, Chorleywood and St. Peter's Church, Iver. During his time in Iver, he introduced the Alpha Course and also decided to re-build and re-furbish the old Church Hall and an extension to the Church. He also recommended 6 folk to go forward for Ordination, including Brian Griffiths.



He found that having a Grade 1 Church in a conservation area a challenge, so he decide not to wait for permission to tarmac a car park, but persuaded workmen locally repairing a road, to give him the 'left over' tarmac. Needless to say it got him and the PCC into a lot of trouble for a while. Brian and Gill were extremely hardworking, and would do any job that needed doing.

They moved to Chinnor to retire in 2006. Brian's ministry did not stop, he still cared for all, even though his sight was failing. He never forgot his missionary calling and prayed for all he met. He was truly a man of God.

News from Sydenham

Mothers Sunday

'Rosemary's Poseries' created by Rosemary, Adele and Heather and tied in purple ribbon were gifted during the Mother's Day Service at St Mary's . They contributed to an overall lovely tribute to these very special people who play and have played an important part in our lives.

Delivered in a 'Songs of Praise ' format and led by Sydenham members of the PCC the congregation chose their and their Mum's favourite and much loved hymns.



Matilda read a poem on behalf of and specially written by Flo Bradley (who was needed on the the rugby pitch) and Adele found a reading befitting to the occasion. Judging by the comments received and the best bit is that everyone had a great time!

Save the date

Saturday 4th July, 7.30pm . St Mary's Church.

The Sydenham Singers annual concert will celebrate a special anniversary of Les Miserables, visit the four seasons as well as give a nod to American Independence Day. If you would like to be part of the chorus or even centre stage let us know!

Audience tickets will be available soon so keep a watch out for further details or contact Fi Kermack via 07785 220621.

Hunger Lunch at Aston Rowant Church

The Hunger Lunch, held in Aston Rowant church on 2nd March, raised the splendid amount of £335.00, as well as a good quantity of dried and tinned foodstuffs. Susie Thompson very kindly took the food to The Porch, a charity that supports the homeless in Oxford and which we have supported for very many years.

We never know how many are going to turn up, but in the event it was very well supported, so thank you to everyone who came, and big thanks to the soup makers!

Rona Knight



MOTHERING SUNDAY : 15 MARCH 2026 : ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

A big thank you to Moyra and her family, as well as all the other volunteers, who helped make bunches of flowers for the Mothering Sunday service at St Andrew's Church. Special mention to Wendy Jarvis for her donation of her beautiful hellibores.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday arrives quietly in Lent,
not with trumpets or restaurant bookings,
but somewhere between confession and the kettle boiling.
It is one of those church days
that carries many stories at once.
Some come remembering mothers
whose hands shaped their childhood,
whose voices still echo in small sentences
that appear unexpectedly in our own mouths.
Some come carrying photographs instead of people.
Some come with gratitude.
Some with complicated memories.
Some with an ache they rarely speak aloud.
Some would have liked to be mothers
and the world did not unfold that way.
Some have buried children.
And some — though they might not say it —
have quietly mothered far more lives
than they ever expected.
Church, in its gentle wisdom,
never meant this day to belong only to one story.
Long ago, people simply walked home
to the church that had first held them,
the place where they were baptised,
the place where someone first whispered their name before God.
They called it *Mother Church*.
Not because it was perfect.
No family ever is.
But because it was the place
where people were gathered,
sheltered,
sometimes corrected,
often forgiven,
and always — somehow — held.
Which perhaps is the deeper
meaning of mothering.
Not a title.
Not even a role.
But a way of being in the world.
The quiet work of noticing
when someone is weary.



To make a donation, please see page 31

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

The instinct to make space
when someone is lost.
The habit of gathering people close
when the world grows cold.
Jesus once spoke of longing
to gather people as a hen gathers her
chicks.

It is a curious image.
A little awkward.
Possibly even faintly undignified.
Which is exactly the point.
Love, when it is real,
is rarely elegant.
It is busy, and patient, and practical.
It makes tea.

It listens longer than it planned to.
It keeps the light on.
And so on this Mothering Sunday
we give thanks for the mothers we have known —
and for the many ways
the work of mothering continues quietly among us.

In kitchens and classrooms.
In friendships and families.
In parishes and communities.
In all those ordinary acts of care
that hold the world together
more than we ever quite notice.
And perhaps today
we remember this as well:
that whenever we shelter one another,
whenever we nurture hope,
whenever we make space for
someone to belong —
we are participating
in the gentle, patient mothering
of God.

(A reflection by Mary Adeboyo, Reader/Licensed Lay Minister, St Faithful's, Havnot)



World Day of Prayer Hosted by St Andrew's Church

What a wonderful opportunity to be able to host this very meaningful ecumenical service again this year, as we learnt about the challenges that the Nigerian women have in their everyday lives in Nigeria, especially with concerns surrounding young Christian girls.

Thank you to all those that helped to make this possible, our musicians, readers, worship leaders and the refreshment teams. Everyone really did enter into the spirit of this very prayerful service, as we joined the wave of prayer across the world, during a 24 hour period.

Thanks also to those that dressed for the occasion, and especially Kiki, from Nigeria who joined us at the evening service and taught us how to swing our hips as we danced up and down the aisle during the collection. Something that is customary during every service in Nigeria.

Both our services were well supported and there was some wonderful fellowship and conversation after, over refreshments.

The Ecumenical WDP Committee



To make a donation, please see page 31

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



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

**A FREE
PERFORMANCE
BY**

**CANTILENA
WINDS**



**Friday 17th April
11.00 am to 12.00 noon
Followed By Refreshments**

Donations towards the care and maintenance of
St Andrew's Church (www.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/514/>)

CANTILENA WINDS CONCERT BAND
FRIDAY : 17 APRIL : 11:00AM-12:00 NOON
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHINNOR
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

Cantilena Winds Concert Band, Director of Music, Michael Pegram, was formed in February 2015 to provide extra music making for local musicians. The band rehearses fortnightly on Friday mornings throughout the year and enjoys playing Friday morning concerts for local communities.

Repertoire includes: marches, light classical pieces, film and TV themes, as well as pieces from 1940's swing to more modern popular music. The band offers its services free of charge and has played in such venues as local churches, care homes and bandstands, including Windsor and Henley on Thames.

A big thank you to the Cantilena Winds Concert Band for offering to host a free concert for the Friends of St Andrew's Church. Donations towards the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church.

THANK YOU

From the Rector



I would like to say huge thank you to the Milligan family (Lauretta, Nigel and Nic) for their hard work in making the north door of St Andrew's church more accessible. This is the first stage of assessing what we will be able to do on a more permanent basis.

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH :
LUNCHTIME CONCERT : 13 MARCH :
PIANISTS : NIKITA AND TYMOFII BURZANITSA

Thank you to everybody who attended the Lunchtime Concert on Friday 13 March – it is wonderful to see the support for these Lunchtime Concerts and the audience enjoying the talent on show by the visiting musicians and groups. Nikita played a variety of pieces from Ravel, Liszt and Hough, and Tymofii played several pieces from Chopin. From door donations, a grand total of £442.25 was raised which was divided between the St Andrew's Church Fabric Restoration Fund, and Nikita and Tymofii for the purchase of a new piano.

The next Friday Lunchtime Concert will take place on Friday 1 May with Wendlebury Winds – see poster for more details. Whether you are seeking a moment of calm or a burst of inspiration, the lunchtime concerts offer the perfect end to the week to escape.

On Friday 17 April the Cantilena Winds band will be hosting a concert from 11am with refreshments served after the concert. This is a free concert with a retiring collection for the St Andrew's Church Fabric Restoration Fund. See poster for more details.





ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHINNOR

There are Work Parties planned for the following Saturdays – dates are as follows :

25 April

30 May

27 June

25 July

29 August

26 September

Come and enjoy the company of friends old and new as we care for the grounds and the church.

10am-12 noon

Refreshments provided.



FRIENDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH
EASTER
FAMILY AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April
2 until 5 pm

Special Highlights :

- **St Andrew's Church Flower Guild Easter Displays**
- **Easter Trail for children (All children must be accompanied by Adults)**

Fundraising towards the ongoing care and
maintenance
of St Andrew's Church.





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.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.

CHINNOR CHURCHES GO WILD!

A Rocha UK have informed CCGW! that Regina Ebner, who has served for last five and a half years as Partners in Action coordinator, will be leaving A Rocha. CCGW! is very grateful to Regina for all her help over the years and she will be very much missed. CCGW! wish her all the best with her future endeavours. Regina has remarked that she has loved seeing how churches come together and work to create spaces and care for nature- what a brilliant example CCGW! is!

Regina joined the charity at a time of very rapid growth. The last five years have seen some amazing changes and Regina has played a pivotal role in seeing through these changes.

A Rocha UK will, temporarily, recruit a team administrator to support Andy Lester with the PIA work and will aim to re-recruit in the autumn. A Rocha UK is undertaking a review of its conservation work and that process will help us to shape this role for the future.

Partners in Action will continue to be an important part of A Rocha UK's work - we would value your support and prayers through this time of transition.



To make a donation, please see page 31

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

MAUNDY SERVICE : ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, ASTON ROWANT

This photograph was taken approximately 50 years ago at the Palm Sunday Service. The crowd of children led the donkey from Aston Park to the church. One of the children is the son of Shirley Smith, Terrence, who is holding the cross. The donkey was on loan from the Baksindale family. Do you recognise anybody in this photo?



St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Prayers for Earth



On

World Earth Day

Wednesday

22nd April 2026

12 Noon – 1pm

(Drop in any time)

Please bring your concerns about
the Earth that we could address in
prayer.



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 April 22nd at noon for Prayers for the Earth (that date happens to be Earth Day). We can include prayers for 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.

Jane Tucker

'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

UNITED PARISH P.C.C MINUTES

(25th February 2026)

- Welcome and Prayers by Rev'd Jane Haslam (Asst. Archdeacon).
- Apologies recorded.
- Minutes of previous meeting on 19th November 2025 - Approved.
- Correspondence – None.
- Treasurer's Report – Discussed and Accepted
- Rector's Report -
Proposal: To hold the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (A.P.C.M.) – plus Vestry Meeting and First P.C.C Meeting immediately after a United Parish Service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 3rd May 2026 – Passed unanimously.
- Church Warden's Reports – Read and approved.
- Children's Work Co-Ordinator – Excellent work being accomplished in all areas.
- Friends of St Andrew's – On going events to raise funds for the care and maintenance of St. Andrew's Church.
- Deanery Synod – meeting held on 26th February (the day after the PCC Meeting) to be included in next report.
- DBS Checks – Ongoing
- Meeting closed with The Grace

Maggs Warman



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.





PUZZLES

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



Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with his disciples, he warned them he was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and his blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesame that this fearful cup might be removed from him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

	Jesus	Ate	Last	Passover	Meal	
Disciples		Warned		Betrayed	Bread	Blessed
	Wine	Thanks	Drink	Covenant	Law	
Old	New	Body	Blood	Gethsemane		
Cup	Removed	Will	Easter	Approach	God	

Solutions

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

B S E S O G W Y E G S H
 N O E H E E E L P T U E
 P D R D N T H A N K S M
 B R E A I H S A O L E B
 O H T V W S N A A A J W
 D C S T O E C E L D C A
 Y A A V V M V I E U K R
 B O E O A A E S P N U N
 I R C R V N S R I L B E
 A P G D B E T R A Y E D
 D P W I L L D W T O O S
 M A B B L O O D E G S A

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: May Magazine is 21st April

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	What	Where
5th April	2-5pm	Easter Family Afternoon Tea*	St Andrew's Church
6th April	2-5pm	Easter Family Afternoon Tea*	St Andrew's Church
17th April	10.30am-11.30am	Cantilena Winds Concert*	St Andrew's Church
25th April	10am-Noon	St Andrew's Work Party	St Andrew's Church
1st May	12.30 - 1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with Wendlebury Winds*	St Andrew's Church
3rd May	12am	APCM	St Andrews Church
16th May	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
30th May	10am-Noon	St Andrew Work Party	StAndrew's Church
31st May	10.30	Rogation Service	Manor Farm
6th & 7th June	1pm-5pm	Flower Festival*	St Andrew's Church
20th June	7pm	Chinnor Silver Band Concert	St Andrew's Church
27th June	10am-Noon	St Andrew's Work Party	St Andrew's Church
3rd July	12.30 - 1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with Helena Lee*	St Andrew's Church
4th July	10am	Rectors Ramble	St Andrew's Church
4th July	7.30pm	Sydenham Choir Concert— Celebration of Les Miserables	St Marys Church
11th July	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
25th July	10am-Noon	St Andrew's Work Party	St Andrew's Church
29th August	10am-Noon	St Andrew's Work Party	St Andrew's Church
4th September	12.30 - 1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with JamJar*	St Andrew's Church
12th September	10am-1pm	Repair Café	St Andrew's Church
25th September	7.30pm	Friends of St Andrews Church Quiz Nite*	Chinnor Village Hall
2nd October	12.30 - 1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with Allsorts*	St Andrew's Church
5th October	10.30am	MacMillan Coffee Morning	St Andrew's Church
30th Oct—1st Nov	11am	Sydenham Church Art Show	Sy Marys Church

* Friends of St Andrews Event