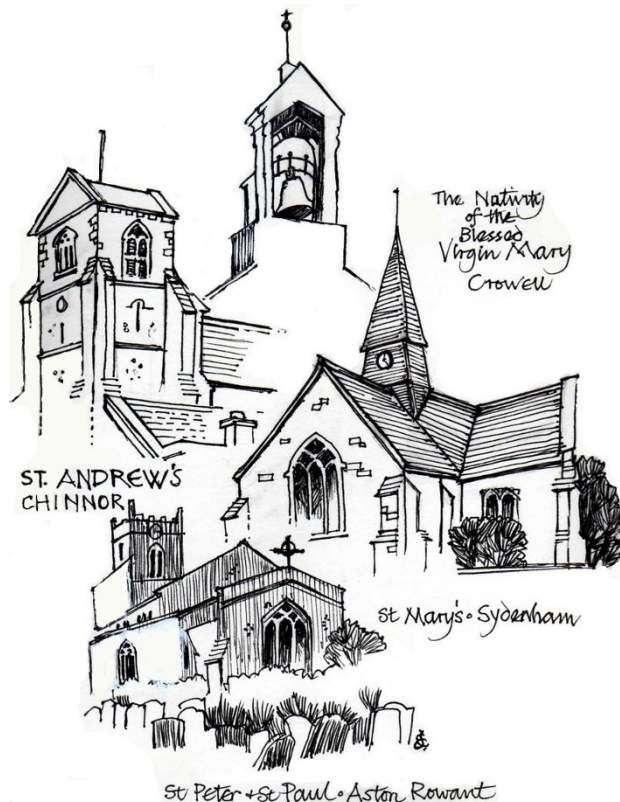




THE UNITED PARISH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 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

01844 355953

Rev'd Tony Whitaker

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

Tricia Prescott
 office@unitedparish.church

01844 352472

Booking link: <https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewschurchhall/>

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker
 safeguarding@unitedparish.church

07890 346781

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

To make a donation, please see page 34

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

October 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 4th Oct Trinity 18	8am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Com- munion (No hymns)	Jacky
	9am	Aston Rowant	Harvest	Margaret
	1030 am	St Andrew's Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky
	6pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	Taizé	Tony and Monica
Sunday 11th Oct Trinity 19	9am	Aston Rowant	Holy Communion	Tony and Jacky
	1030 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	Green Worship CCGW!	Margaret and Jo
	1030	Sydenham	Harvest Service	Joan and Sydenham Team
	6pm	Crowell	Holy Communion	Jacky
Sunday 18th Trinity 20	1030 am	UNITED PARISH SERVICE St Andrew's, Chinnor	Holy Communion	Jacky and Ministry team
Sunday 25th	9am	Aston Rowant	Morning Prayer	Aston Rowant Team
	1030	St Andrew's	Holy Communion	Tony and Joan
	6pm	Crowell	Evening Prayer	Margaret
Saturday 31st Oct	4pm	St Andrew's	Comemoration of the Departed Service	Ministry Team

COME AND SAY GOODBYE TO JACKY!

Sunday 18 October

Join us as we celebrate Jacky's time with us as Curate and Rector, and wish her well in her new parish.

10:30am

Farewell Service

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Everyone is very welcome.

12 noon–1:30pm ·

Bring-and-Share Lunch

Chinnor Village Hall

If you'd like to join us for lunch, please bring a plate of food to share and let us know you're coming.

2pm ·

Cake & a Glass of Bubbles!

Come along to say hello — and goodbye!

You're very welcome, whether or not you join us for lunch,

The Party will continue until 4pm.

To let us know you're coming for lunch, or ask any questions, please email office@unitedparish.church or call

01844 352472

ALL WELCOME!

Readings October and November

Sunday 4th October Trinity 18	Exodus:1-4,7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46
Sunday 11th October Trinity 19	Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106:1-6 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14
Sunday 18th October Trinity 20	Exodus 33:12- end Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
Sunday 25th October Last Sunday After Trinity	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-end

Sunday 1st Nov ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	570 Sing To The Lord A Joyful Song (Gonfalon Royal) 519 Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace 516 Love Divine All Loves Excelling
Sunday 8th Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13 OR other suitable Remembrance readings	Suitable Remembrance Hymns
Sunday 15th Nov 2nd Sunday before Advent	Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 Psalm 90:1-12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	411 Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind 81 Lord For The Years 262 O Lord My God, When I In Awesome Wonder
Sunday 22nd Nov Sunday next before Advent Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	89 O Worship The Lord On The Beauty Of Holiness 393 Brother Sister Let Me Serve You 589 The King Of Love My Shepherd Is
Sunday 29th Nov Advent 1 Year B	Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20* 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37	24 come thou long-expected Jesus 31 lo he comes with clouds descending 455 guide me o thou great redeemer

PASTORAL LETTER

Jacky writes:

As I come towards the end of my time as Rector here, I am discovering something I hadn't quite expected: the exquisite tenderness of goodbye.

I felt it particularly strongly recently at St Mary's, Sydenham. I came to the end of the service and raised my hand to pronounce the blessing, as I have done so many times before. And suddenly I realised that this was the last time I would stand in that place and speak those words over that congregation.

It caught me completely by surprise. I knew I was leaving, of course, but in that moment, I really *felt* that I was leaving and the feeling was incredibly intense, and has stayed with me it ever since.

The closest I can get to describing it is as an exquisite tenderness.

Exquisite is a word we tend to use for something exceptionally beautiful, delicate or fine. It has been a beautiful thing to be part of this community, sharing so many different experiences with you and growing close through friendship and fellowship. But exquisite can also mean something so acutely felt, that it can be almost painful. And that be exactly right for these last weeks. I feel balanced on the knife edge between the pain of leaving and the beauty of what we have shared.

And then there is tenderness. We handle something that is tender gently because it is precious. But a tender place can also be a sore place. My heart is tender at the moment in both senses. There is so much here that is precious to me, and leaving makes my heart sore.

I don't think I need to hurry that sadness away. These years have mattered. You have allowed me into your lives, sometimes at moments when everything has changed. We have carried difficult things together and had plenty to laugh about. God has been with us in all of it, often in ways we have only recognised afterwards.

Perhaps that is why the blessing at Sydenham affected me so deeply.

I have said those words hundreds of times: *the blessing of God Almighty ... be among you and remain with you always*. But that day I heard the last few words differently. "Remain with you always" felt very poignant because I won't remain here.

Being your priest has been an extraordinary privilege. For these years, my life has been bound up with yours. Now that is changing, and knowing that the time is right to move doesn't stop me feeling the sadness of it.

Yet the blessing has never depended on my staying. It is God's blessing, and God will still be here, among the people I love, in the places I have come to know so well. I find that comforting, even while my heart is sore.

Jesus knew what it was to part from people he loved. There is room in our faith for the sadness of goodbye. I can trust that God will be with us all in what comes next.

Thank you for allowing me into your lives and trusting me with things that matter deeply. Thank you for the friendship and the cups of tea, and for all we have shared in worship. We haven't always agreed, and some things have been difficult. Those are part of our time together too. I am grateful for the love you have shown me, and I will miss you.

When I pronounce the blessing for the last time, I suspect I will find it difficult to get through. But I will mean every word:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

That will still be my prayer for you as I leave this parish, alongside a great sense of gratitude and privilege for having been your Rector.



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:
Bev Gillian Brian Dorothy Amelia Terry Joan Bob Karen Paul Sue Fred Steve	Crowell 11th Oct Elodie St Andrew's 4th Oct Ellie	Monica Bartlett Julian White

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 Andrew's 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</i> <i>11--11.45am</i>
Sept 29th	Oct 1st
Oct 6th	Oct 8th
Oct 13th	Oct 15th
	Oct 22nd
HALF	TERM
	Nov 5th
Nov 10th	Nov 12th
Nov 17th	Nov 19th
Nov 24th	Nov 26th
Dec 1st	Dec 3rd
Dec 8th	Dec 10th
	Dec 17th

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 5th October

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 4th October

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: 6th October, 2nd November

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL



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



TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

Sunday 13th September 6:00 pm Harvest Supper: Crowell
(All welcome, ploughmans supper, bring your own drinks)

Saturday 26th September 6:30 pm Harvest Supper

St Andrew's Church

(see poster for more details)

Sunday 27th September 10:30 am St Andrew's Church with
Methodist Church

Sunday 4th October 9:00 am Aston Rowant Service

Tuesday 6th October 12:30am to 2:30 pm

Harvest Lunch : Aston Rowant

Sunday 11th October 10:30 am Sydenham Harvest Service

*If you are able, please bring
non-perishable goods to these
services that will be donated to
the Sharing Life Trust (our local
food bank) and The Porch (a
homeless charity in Oxford)*



To make a donation, please see page 34

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



**FAIRTRADE & ETHICAL
THIS AUTUMN & ADVENT**

TRY TO BUY

**WITH SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN
MIND**

Preparing for those longer nights, cooler days and festivities?
To check out Fairtrade & Ethical options, including Real Advent
Calendars*

go to:

www.ethicalsuperstore.com (choose 'Ethics' in 'Shop by'
dropdown & click Fairtrade)

www.ethicalshop.org ,

www.wearefairtrade.com or visit local outlets.

Or check about stocks held by **ROD THORPE** –': **01844 351565**

Email: chinnormethodisthire@mail.com

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

***To sponsor an Advent Calendar** for a Food Bank, ring 01844
351565 for details.

'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](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**



Saturday 31st October 2026 4pm

You are invited to the service of
**Commemoration of
the Faithful Departed**

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

A beautiful traditional service to remember your loved one(s) with hymns, Bible readings and the lighting of a candle, as the names of those we love, but see no longer, are read aloud.

We will include all those whose funerals we have taken part in this last year.

If you would like the name of your loved one read out as part of the service (whether their passing was recent or some time ago), please contact the Parish office by email

(office@unitedparish.church) or leave a message on 01844 352472 before Thursday 29 October 2026. Lists will be available in each Church for names to be added from 5 October 2026.



Silver Harmony

Holiday at home 19th and 20th August at Chinnor Community Church.

Thank you to all the kind people who helped to make these days so successful.

I went on Thursday 20th and had a very enjoyable time.

After being greeted by Viv Haywood we could select various things to do. These included flower arranging, making cards, felt brooches, paper hedgehogs or we could sit and read the papers!

We had a delicious sandwich lunch followed by an opportunity to see pictures of the Arctic (with Polar bears) and lastly we were entertained with songs from the Beatles, Elvis Presley and others from the 50's and 60's.

Events like these take thought and organisation and are much appreciated by the Chinnor residents who came. Thank you.

Barbara Bedford

Chinnor Christian Aid

Come and join us for a delicious **Autumn lunch** on **Saturday October 31st** at **Chinnor Methodist Church**, Station Road. We will be serving a variety of home-made soups, followed by seasonal crumbles. The event will start at **12.30pm until 2pm**. There is no fixed charge but we ask that you give a cash donation for the work of Christian Aid, gift aided if possible. We will also have a raffle, cash only. If you would like to reserve a place, please email shortmantm@gmail.com.

In the last couple of months, Christian Aid has been heavily involved in the emergency relief in Venezuela and Nepal as well as the ongoing projects in many other countries. It has also continued to provide long term aid to Gaza and South Sudan. We do hope you can come along and support us and enjoy some delicious food.

We look forward to seeing you.

Chinnor Christian Aid Team.

Update on Chinnor Praying Together

As I write this to meet the deadline for articles, the September session has not yet happened so I cannot report on it. However, I can report that representatives of all three churches have met and agreed that the Prayer Vigils will definitely become monthly events and will meet at one of the three Churches in the village, on rotation. It was also decided that evening sessions may be better for some people, so the time of day and day of the week will change from month to month.

Make a note in your diary that the October session is currently planned for Chinnor Methodist Church on Wednesday 21st October from 19.00 – 20.00. Again, please feel free to drop in for a few minutes or the whole hour, or to leave a note of requests for prayers for a specific issue in any of the Churches, during the week preceding 21st Oct. The specific topic for prayer in October is not yet defined but it will be advertised in all three Churches, and also on Chinnor Facebook pages early in October.

If you have any questions, or suggestion for the next topic please contact me on Janetucker7@gmail.com

Jane Tucker

News from Sydenham

Fiona Kermack

Choir news

We held our annual catch up to discuss our future plans, including planning our upcoming Harvest and Christmas events, plus next year's concert themes: 'Trains and Boats and Planes' and a 1950s–1970 revival. Afterwards, we enjoyed a wonderful social gathering hosted by Chris and Caroline. Thank you to our hostess with the mostest!



Future Choir Date

Rehearsal on Tour: Join us on Tuesday, 17th November at 6.30pm at St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant. Enjoy a free, 40-minute informal programme of favourite songs and Christmas music—no booking needed!

Come and Sing!

St Mary's Choir aka Sydenham Singers is a friendly group that meet every Tuesday at 6.15pm for an hour in St Mary's Church. Come and sing with us and let that feel good factor take over! Amongst our ongoing church services and special days, we hold an annual concert, organise a choir outing, support Parish weddings and funerals and lots more. If interested call Fi on 07785 220621 or just come along for a taster.



Church News

Bye bye to Jacky

We said a fond goodbye to Jacky after nine wonderful years as she moves to Wiltshire. In her time with us, she has brought a real sense of fellowship and togetherness. Our PCC meetings are now harmonious and enjoyable whilst also allowing for healthy debate. She has worked hard with the community and with us all but above all, is a lovely, loving and fun person.



Her last service at Sydenham was Evensong on the 20th September. We found some wine, we brought platefuls of food and Jacky was profusely thanked for all her support over her 9 years tenure. We wish her all the best in her new Parish - they are very lucky people indeed..

Harvest Festival: Join us on Sunday, 11th October at 10.30am for a fun, family-friendly service led by Joan. Please bring tinned food or pasta donations for local food banks. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

To make a donation, please see page 34

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

Ride and Stride

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust annual Ride & Stride on Saturday 12 September saw walkers, horse riders, and cyclists visit historic county churches to raise maintenance funds. St Mary's Sydenham was on the route—thanks to Eleanor Church for organizing paperwork, juice, and biscuits, and to the villagers who greeted visitors. A word from Eleanor:

"Thank you very much for supporting and helping with Ride and Stride. We had a better number of visitors than in recent years and noticeably many more than some local churches that I visited."

One visitor came from Australia but I don't suppose she cycled all the way!"

Comment from some hardy walkers - Ulrika, David, Aava and Madeleine



Sixteen thousand (human) steps and thousands more (canine) were clocked up as we walked from our church, St Mary's in Sydenham via St Peter and St Paul in Aston Rowant and finished with the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in Crowell before heading back home. It was a pretty day and although the sky went a little dark at times we stayed clear of rain and enjoyed blackberries along the route. Our dogs Jackson and Holden slept very well that afternoon!

General News

Coffee Morning: Held the second Thursday of every month from 10am to 12 noon in the Old School Room, featuring cakes, coffee, and chat. All welcome!

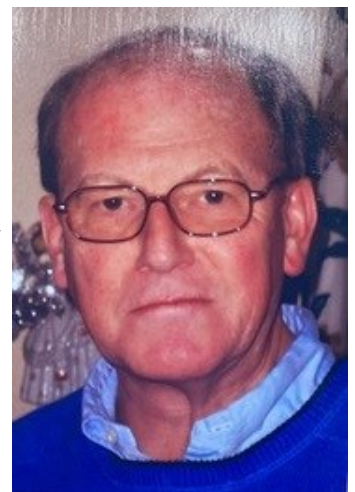
Sydenham Art Fair (30 October – 1 November): The Art Exhibitionists transform Sydenham Church and the OSR into a festive celebration of creativity and unique Christmas gifts.

Sydenham Christmas Fayre Saturday 5th December

Christmas Fayre (Saturday 5th December, 12–2pm): Enjoy present ideas, a raffle, a kids' corner, mulled wine, homemade soups, and puddings. New this year: get your gold and silver valued! Contact Fi Kermack for details.

Nick Oakley

It is with great sadness that we report that Nick Oakley has died. A fine man, ever polite and a true gentleman. His great interest in people led to a regular article in the Sydenham newsletter where he interviewed a number of village people finding out lesser known and fascinating facts about them. Very much a supporter of the Church he was keen to help wherever he could and volunteered to find readers for the services at St Mary's. Nick made the most of every minute and was ever positive in his outlook refusing to let any difficulties stand in his way. We will so miss him. Our love and best wishes are with Annie, Samantha, Charlie and William and their families.



To make a donation, please see page 34

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



ST MARY'S, SYDENHAM **FAMILY HARVEST** **SERVICE**

SUNDAY

11th October at 10.30 am

**Please come and celebrate Harvest
at our short service for all the
family. Led by Joan, it promises to
be interactive as well as fun
Please bring, if you can, offerings
for Harvest (tinned food, pasta etc)
to be distributed amongst local
food banks).**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU.**

THE ART EXHIBITIONISTS PRESENT
SYDENHAM CHURCH
CHRISTMAS
ART FAIR



STEP INTO OUR MAGICAL EXHIBITION SHOWCASING
TALENTED ARTISTS SELLING THEIR PAINTINGS, PRINTS,
SCULPTURES, EMBROIDERY, MIXED MEDIA, JEWELLERY,
CERAMICS AND SCENTED CANDLES... PLUS LIVE MUSIC
DEMONSTRATIONS & MULLED WINE

© LUCY JOHNSTON

12-8PM FRI 30TH & 10-4PM SAT 31ST
OCT PLUS 10-4PM SUN 1ST NOV

£5 Entrance Under 16's Go Free With A Paying Adult

1/3 OF DOOR PROCEEDS TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

& 1/3 TO LINDENGATE 'Mental & Physical Wellbeing' CHARITY

ST MARY'S CHURCH & OLD SCHOOL ROOM, SYDENHAM OX39 4ND

www.theartexhibitionists.co.uk



To make a donation, please see page 34

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

MARQUEE SERVICE : SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 2026

Thank you to all who attended the Marquee Service and donated generously to the Nepal Floods Appeal. A grand total of **£419.83** was donated to Christian Aid. Thank you to the members of the United Parish, Methodist Church and the Chinnor Community Church. Your kindness will help save lives and provide much-needed support to people and communities who need it most. Christian Aid is working with their faith-based partners, who are collaborating with local organisations in affected communities to provide vital assistance, including food, cash support to help families buy essential supplies, and other emergency resources.



Thank you to both Jackies for their help with the refreshments, for Rod presenting a farewell present to Pastor Pete and Kath from St Andrew's Church and the Methodist Church on his retirement, and the band for their beautiful playing.



Bats in the Belfry

Most people, when saying farewell to important people in their lives, run a fun event. Maybe a lunch do, an evening party, a barbeque, a trip to the theatre. Bell-ringers have a strange habit when bidding farewell to friends. They retire to the local church tower and ring, sometimes peals, but more often quarter peals. So if you are within listening distance of **St. Andrew's Church on 7th October between 7pm and 8pm** you will, I hope, hear us **ringing a quarter peal to say farewell to Jacky**, and to wish her all the best for the future.

What are peals and quarter peals? In the past it was just a long period of ringing, and depended on what the Tower Captain thought constituted a peal or quarter peal. Sometimes it might be twenty minutes, sometimes it might be several hours. This obviously led to a lot of argument and in the end the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (yes there really is such a body), decided some rules needed to be laid down for what constituted a peal. As bellringing is mathematical, rather than musical the first thing they looked at was the total number of changes on any given number of bells.

Continues on next page

To make a donation, please see page 34

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The number of changes on five bells, which is how we usually ring at Chinnor, with the tenor, or deepest bell always ringing last, is 120 changes, which takes about four minutes, so is obviously not suitable for a peal.

If the tenor rings as part of the method this gives 720 changes, which is still only twenty minutes.

However when we get to the full extent on seven bells then we have the grand total of 5040 changes to play with which will take anywhere between two and half and four hours depending on the weight of the bells and the number of bells being rung. Just because 5040 changes is the extent on seven bells it doesn't mean only seven bells can be rung. If, for instance, you are ringing twelve bells then you extract 5040 changes from the 479,001,600 changes available, and which incidentally would take thirty seven years of non stop ringing to complete. The Central Council in its wisdom decided the full extent on seven bells, or as 5040 is a somewhat awkward number, anything over 5000 changes can be considered a peal.

There are, of course, other rules. Each bell can only ring once in any change, and in any change every bell must ring – no rest for the wicked. Each bell can only move one place at a time, no hopping from first place to fifth place and no change can be repeated in the whole peal or quarter peal. Today it is not so difficult, you set the parameters in your computer and get it to compose a peal for you. Imagine writing out 5000 changes and ensuring that no change is inadvertently repeated. Sometimes peals are rerung on significant anniversaries. For instance a famous peal, rung at Southwark Cathedral was proposed to be rung on the hundredth anniversary. Sadly when they came to check out the peal it was found to be false ie. some changes had been repeated. However enough of such technicalities – it is inclined to give one a headache.

Also peals tend to be somewhat long – imagine standing on the end of a bellrope remembering what your bell should be doing for three to four hours, so for those of us with less stamina, we ring quarter peals, which are surprisingly quarter of a full peal and comprise 1260 changes, which if we get it right should take around 45 minutes. The peal or quarter peal has to be rung without a break, and hopefully without any errors! Much concentration needed here.

Our treble ringer will be ringing his first quarter peal – and we wish him luck. Another of our newer ringers has a few more quarter peals under his belt, and will be ringing a quarter peal at Aston Rowant also to bid farewell to Jacky. Our tenor ringer has rung at least one other quarter peal also at Aston Rowant. William, our conductor has rung many peals and quarter peals at such places as Canterbury Cathedral, St. Clement Danes in London and at Windsor for royal occasions, so we hope he will be able to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Incidentally a few days after the attempted quarter peal we shall be ringing again on the Saturday for a wedding, and on that occasion our two young ringers will be on the end of a bellrope for their first wedding. This is a big occasion, as it is the only time ringers get paid for their time on the bell, so we wish them well, and hope they enjoy the spoils of their efforts.

So here's wishing you well Jacky. We wish you weren't going, but 'change is the only constant in life' as they say.

To make a donation, please see page 34

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

RIDE+STRIDE for Churches 2026

Saturday 12th September 2026

On behalf of the United Parish, a big thank you to all the volunteers at all four churches in the United Parish who gave their time to welcome Ride & Stride visitors to their churches on Saturday 12th September 2026. The footfall was low but as the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (<https://ohct.org.uk/>) is a very generous grant body, it is important to continue supporting them through their annual Ride & Stride event.

Thank you to all who sponsored

Lauretta and Nic on their walk. A total of £340 was raised through cash sponsorship as well as online sponsorship. With gift aid, the grand total raised is £410. This will be split between OHCT and St Andrew's Church.



CHINNOR OPEN GARDENS : GRANT : STARBODDLERS

On Thursday 3rd September Starboddlers received a grant of £50.00 from Chinnor Open Gardens. Thanks to Lauretta for presenting the cheque on behalf of Chinnor Open Gardens. The grant will be used to purchase more toy animals and instruments.



To make a donation, please see page 34

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

St Andrew's Educational Trust.

A year ago I wrote an article setting out the history and purpose of the St. Andrew's Educational Trust and as always, time has flown by and a new Academic Year is upon us.

Our role making grants to provide individuals who need some financial support with their educational aspirations is just as important today as at any other time, with spiralling costs, and we can help where the need falls outside the support that should be provided primarily by the Local Authority. To recap, to be eligible, the applicant has to be from within the Chinnor Parish boundary, and in Education. That might be education in Chinnor, outside of Chinnor at say, Lord Williams's School for example, or college or University. The purpose may be for help towards the cost of books, a musical instrument or equipment or towards the cost of a trip that broadens the individual's experience. We try not to be too proscriptive and treat each case on its merits.

Some examples of requests that we have supported are help towards the cost of a Scout Trip, the cost of equipment needed for acting lessons, the cost of specialist books for a University Course, and we have given help through our two Primary Schools and Lord Bill's towards the cost of residential trips to Kilvrough Manor and Youlbury.

More information about us can be found at:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/27-117CM/page/97324/>

Application is relatively simple and can be done on the internet through the link on our page on the web site mentioned above.

If you are thinking of making an application and need additional help please make contact with us through our Administrator, who is now Seb Hearmon, who can be reached by email at trust.admin@unitedparish.church.

We are here to help where we can and we look forward to hearing from you.

Ian R White

Trustee of the St Andrew's Educational Trust.

Registered Charity No: 287030

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH : Repair Café 12th September 2026

Feedback

It was a busy Saturday with people being asked to back to the next Repair Café as there was too much of a back log! All in all, approximately 36 visitors who registered 42 items.

Stats

There were 3 volunteer fixers and helpers.

Of the 42 items checked in 29 were fixed with 7 being repairable and/or given advice given. Unfortunately, we were unable to fix 6 items. This gave us the grand total of a 86% fix/advice rate.

Items registered

The sewing team were kept busy with 11 items coming in, including a very much-loved toy elephant. Some interesting items came in for Peter, an intricately carved 3-legged stool that had a leg broken (taken home to fix), a beautiful old bible box (fixed) and a pond yacht (advice given). There was the usual toasters and lamps, along with a shredder, Dictaphone, hair dryer, Nutri bullet, pressure washer, a golf buggy and other items. Eamonn was popular on sharpening with 9 items coming in.

As always, the feedback was very good and included:

- Excellent
- Very helpful
- An industrious time in church which was a great experience
- Amazing, friendly volunteers
- Wonderful

Such lovely people giving up their time and saving things from landfill.

Watch this space for dates for the 2027 Repair Cafés.



Christmas Cards

The Children's Society Christmas Cards will be available to order from Tuesday 29th September 2026.

A selection of Christmas Cards with an order form will be kept in St Andrew's Church Chinnor. If you would like to order cards, please complete the order form with your contact details. We would appreciate the correct amount of money being paid when the order is made. Please see Laurretta Milligan, Margaret Poole or Tricia Prescott after the 10:30am service for more details or if you need help completing the order form.

The last date for ordering will be **SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026**

We expect the cards to arrive by the end of November.

Thank you

Tricia Prescott – office@unitedparish.church

Chooseday Church is BACK!

After a long summer break, it has been wonderful to welcome back the Chooseday Church Family, catching up on all that they have been doing over the summer and exploring how we are all very special to God and loved no matter what age we are.

We have enjoyed the smell of toast, especially if it is covered in chocolate spread, and the welcomed cup of tea. The time to catch up and play games with the children with the help of parents, and the welcome we have received from Jan and Liz as they serve the refreshments.

And then there has been the learning through craft by painting pebbles with Ladybirds, as we remember that God made every living creature for a special purpose, and that all are special to him no matter how big or small.



To make a donation, please see page 34

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

Harvest Lunch
on
Tuesday 6th October, 2026
12.30 - 2.30pm
at
Aston Rowant Church
Ploughman's lunch will be provided



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL :
SATURDAY 5th – SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2026

It's never too soon to be thinking about Christmas! Our annual Christmas Tree Festival is a well-loved event and a cornerstone of Chinnor's Christmas celebrations. It's back again this year – when the church will be full of beautifully decorated trees reflecting on the meaning of the season. Charities, local schools, shops, businesses, clubs and societies are invited to decorate a Christmas tree. This year the theme is “**The Magic of Christmas**”. The Festival will run from Saturday 5th to Sunday 13th December and brings together all parts of the community, offering space for everyone to reflect, celebrate and wonder.

The Festival is an opportunity for the whole community to be part of a spectacular display within our beautiful medieval church by decorating a Christmas tree. The style is entirely your choice. Real trees (5ft high) can be bought for £20 each by participants – only 10 will be bought and will be on a first come basis. There will be 15 artificial trees available – again on a first come basis. The alternative for participants is to use their own recycled tree. The maximum number of trees will be 25 this year to allow easy movement around the trees. There is no charge for participating.

During the festival, the public will be invited (for a small entrance donation) to wander through the forest of decorated trees while soaking up the festive atmosphere. Over the weekends there will be music groups entertaining the visitors. There will be refreshments on all the afternoons the festival is on. All monies raised during the festival by the Friends of St Andrew's Church are in aid of the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church.

If you are interested in participating, it would be appreciated if you could please contact Laurretta Milligan at post@milligan.me.uk or telephone number 01844 355290.

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CROWELL

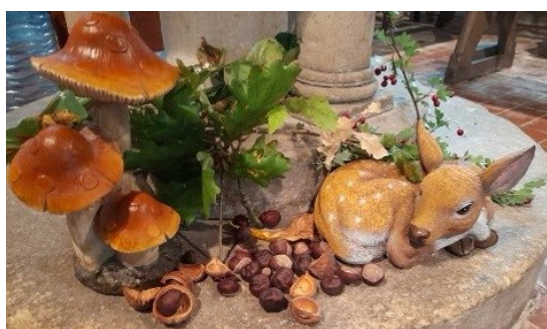


SOUL SPACE

What a time was had by all! We were taken to the seaside where we imagined we were walking along the beach barefoot. Feeling the sand between our toes just as in the poem, Maggie and Milly and Molly and May who went down to the beach to 'play one day John Mansfield's poem 'Sea Fever' took us 'down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky'. Vivaldi took us through the season of Summer where we ended up at Tranquillity Bay. After several more exciting events in the form of verse we were all hungry. What better way, to sit, and enjoy life than with a cream tea, scones, jam and cream. The question? Which should go first? Jam or cream? Our time together ended in prayer and yes, you've guessed it the stick of rock to take home.

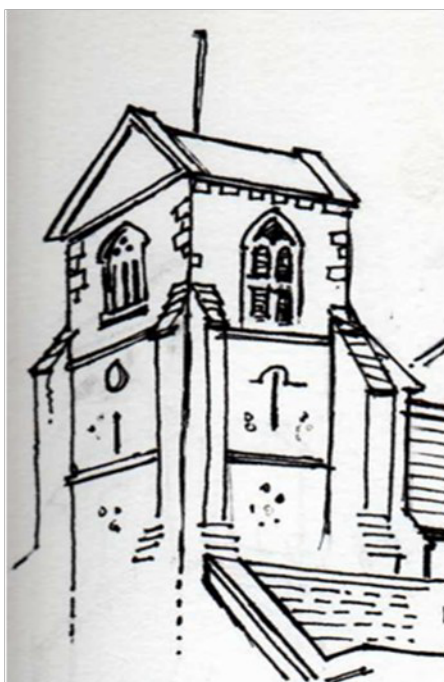


HARVEST SUPPER



The Harvest Supper was well attended and we had a jolly good sing before tucking into a table filled with delicious food. Chicken drumsticks, cheese scones, hams, bread and too many other things to mention. This was then followed by a delicious damson and apple crumble. Let's not forget the apple fritters which were an absolute hit and disappeared in a flash. Another singing session before Jacky gave a final blessing. Thanks go to Monica for keeping us in time and 'hopefully' in tune.

Maggs Warman. (Church Warden)



**Friends of St.
Andrew's Church
Annual
General
Meeting
Report and Accounts**

**Tuesday 27th October 3:30pm
Preceded By
An illustrated talk by Dom Blyth
on
THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR AND
CHINNOR**

Refreshments to follow Talk & AGM

**St Andrew's Church
Church Lane
Chinnor OX39 4PG**

RSVP : Laretta on (01844) 355290

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



**Saturday 14 November 2026
2 to 4 pm**

**St Andrew's Church Hall, Chinnor
OX39 4DH**

**Cost: £10 pp
Including refreshments
All Materials Provided**

Book: Laretta at post@milligan.me.uk

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

Wow What A Visit!

A very warm welcome awaited when 'Starboddlers' visited Hempton Field Nursing Home.

With the age range spanning more than 90 years, the youngest being 5 months; young and the not so young, enjoyed worshipping together as Starboddlers shared their Thursday session of Mr Cow and other familiar songs with the residents.

It was such a joy to see some of the older children engaging with and helping the residents. After the mayhem, when calm was restored as the children left, the residents shared with us their joy at seeing the toddler church children and their child minders and parents, and being part of their worship.

So much so, that we have been invited back for Christmas songs and Nativity, so watch this space.



10 Years of Eco Church

Celebrating a decade of churches caring for creation

For 10 years, Eco Church has been helping churches across England and Wales put care for God's earth into action.

Launched by A Rocha UK in 2016, Eco Church supports churches to care for creation across every part of church life — from worship and teaching to buildings, land, community engagement and everyday lifestyle choices.

A Rocha UK has commissioned this 10th anniversary report from Eido Research. The report celebrates what has been achieved so far, learnings along the way, and looks ahead to identify improvements we can make to increase its impact in the years ahead.

To read the full report, see <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/ec10years/>

Both St Andrew's Church and St Peter and St Paul's Church have achieved Silver awards and the Methodist Church has achieved Bronze award. Chinnor Churches Go Wild! Is a Partner in Action with A Rocha UK.



Many thanks to Susie Thompson who has for many years collected donations from St Andrew's Church and delivered these to The Porch in Oxford. Unfortunately, Susie can no longer deliver the donations to Oxford. Is there anybody who can take over this role – it would be once a month? If yes, please contact Laurretta on email post@milligan.me.uk.

The Porch Day Centre targets its services at those who are experiencing, or have experienced, rough sleeping, hostel accommodation, supported housing, or who are vulnerably housed.

See their website : <https://theporch.org.uk/>.



CREATION CALLS!

A Chinnor Churches Go Wild! All age
Creation Care Service

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

St. Andrew's Church at 10.30 am

Followed by refreshments



Alpha
YOUTH

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Join a conversation on life, faith & purpose
CCC Website and Youth Alpha page here





Join us for the
**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**



**Enjoy Coffee, Cake & Music while
supporting a great cause!**

**St. Andrew's
Church, Chinnor**

**Monday 5th
October 2026**

11.00 – 12.30



**Performance from the
Chinnor Silver Community Band**

Free entry – donations to

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**





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.



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.





In memory of the late Jean Florence Stanley, 19 February 1934 - 23 July 2026.

PUZZLES

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

To make a donation, please see page 34

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



To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skillfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke	Feast	Day	Written	Gospel
Acts	Greek	Physician	Travelling	Faithful
Paul	Compassion	Parables	Prodigal	Son
Good	Samaritan	Women	Poor	Lepers
Sinners	Jerusalem	Pagan	Rome	Early
				Christians

Solutions

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

L	P	F	Y	A	A	M	P	O	P	G	I	M	Y
P	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	S	O	J	A	A	I
N	T	I	G	T	G	O	S	P	E	L	P	N	N
C	C	T	S	A	E	F	R	R	L	U	E	H	I
C	I	H	S	G	N	O	U	I	E	A	L	E	K
L	O	F	R	N	D	S	P	R	R	P	I	E	L
E	G	U	E	I	A	A	H	L	P	S	E	U	M
E	A	L	G	L	S	O	Y	O	G	R	K	L	N
N	S	A	E	L	R	T	S	G	G	E	O	C	P
S	L	M	N	E	T	T	I	R	W	N	A	O	E
R	T	N	C	V	C	G	C	A	N	N	A	G	P
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	I	P	O	W
S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	N	S	H	O	R
E	L	C	E	T	L	A	N	E	M	O	W	D	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: Susan Ashdown finance@unitedparish.church

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: November Magazine is 20th October

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 01844 351909

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	What	Where
2nd October	12.30 - 1.15pm	Lunchtime concert with Allsorts*	St Andrew's Church
4th October	9am	Harvest Service	Aston Rowant
5th October	11am—12.30am	MacMillan Coffee Morning	St Andrew's Church
6th October	12.30-2.30	Harvest Lunch	Aston Rowant Church
7th October	7pm	Quarter Peal for Jacky	St Andrews Church
11th October	10.30am	Harvest Service	Sydenham Church
11th October	10.30am	Chinnor Churches Go Wild All age service	St Andrew's Church
18th October	10.30am	Rev'd Jacky's Farewell service	St Andrew's Church
18th October	11.30am	Rev'd Jacky's farewell party	Chinnor Village Hall
21st October	7pm	Prayer Vigil	Methodist Church, Chinnor
27th October	3.30pm	Talk by Dom Blyth on the English Civil War and Chinnor followed by a short AGM *	St Andrew's Church
30th Oct—1st Nov	11am	Sydenham Church Art Show (see page 18)	St Mary's Church
31st October	12.30-2pm	Chinnor Christian Aid Autumn Lunch	Methodist Church, Chinnor
31st October	4pm	Commemoration of the Departed	St Andrew's Church
6th November	12.30-1.15	Lunchtime concert with Pavlova Winds*	St Andrew's Church
14th November	2-4pm	Christmas Card Making workshop*	Chinnor Church Hall
28th November	10am-Noon	Christmas Market *	St Andrew's Church
5-13th December	2-5pm	Christmas Tree Festival "The Magic of Christmas" *	St Andrew's Church

* Friends of St Andrews Event