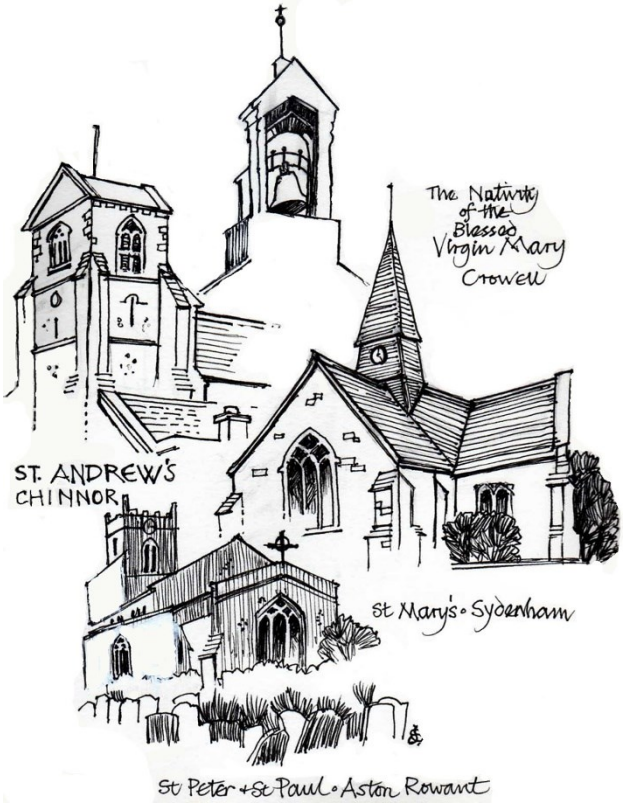


THE UNITED PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2026

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





The United Parish Ministry Team

Rector
Vacancy

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 01844 352472
office@unitedparish.church

St Andrew's Church Hall
Tricia Prescott 01844 352472
office@unitedparish.church
Booking link: https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewschurchhall/

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Jane Tucker 07890 346781
safeguarding@unitedparish.church

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

To make a donation, please see page 34

NOVEMBER 2026	TIME	CHURCH	SERVICE	LED BY
Sunday 1st November All Saints Day	**8am**	St Andrew's, Chinnor	**Holy Communion**	Rev'd Charlotte Collins
	9am	St Peter & St Paul Aston Rowant	**Morning Prayer**	Margaret
	10.30 am	St Andrew's Chinnor	**Holy Communion**	Tony
	6pm	St Andrew's Chinnor	**Taizé Style Service**	Tony & Monica
Sunday 8th Nov Remem-brance	**10.30 am**	St Peter & St Paul Aston Rowant	**Remembrance Service**	Rev'd Des Foote
	10.45 am	St Andrew's, Chinnor	**Church: Margaret Memorial: Tony**	Leader: Tony Preacher: Rev Heegon Moon
	10.45 am	St Mary's Sydenham	**Remembrance Service**	Joan
	4pm	Blessed Virgin Mary Crowell	**Remembrance Service**	Rev'd Charlotte Collins
Sunday 15th Nov 2nd Sunday before Advent	**9am**	St Peter & St Paul Aston Rowant	**'Coffee and Chat'**	Aston Team
	10.30 am	St Andrew's Chinnor	**Holy Communion**	Rev'd Sue Morton
	6pm	St Mary's Sydenham	**BCP Evensong**	Sydenham Team
Sunday 22nd Nov Christ the King	**9am**	Aston Rowant	**Holy Communion**	Rev'd Des Foote
	1030 am	St Andrew's Chinnor	**Holy Communion**	Joan and Margaret
		Crowell	**No service this week**	
Sunday 29th Nov Advent Sunday	**10.30 am**	St Andrew's Chinnor	**United Parish Holy Communion**	Lead: Joan Preach: Margaret Celebrate: Tony Blessing: Joan

To make a donation, please see page 34

Readings November and December

Sunday 1st Nov ALL SAINTS	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
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***
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
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
Sunday 6th Dec Advent 2 Purple	Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85. 8-13 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8
Sunday 13th Dec Advent 3 Purple	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28
Sunday 20th Dec Advent 4 Purple	2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 *Canticle:* Magnificat Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38
Thursday 24th Dec Christmas Night white	(Set III) Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14
Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day white	(Set II) Isaiah 62.6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2:1-20
Sunday 27th Dec Christmas 1 white	Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21

To make a donation, please see page 34

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

Pastoral letter

Tony writes:

In the Church Year, at the start of November we look back to the lives of 'All the Saints'; to those who have travelled before us in faith, leaving us examples of lives that in a variety of ways, have made sense of God, and the life of Christ. We see examples of how God's Spirit inspired them and learn something of their relationships with each other and God himself, through Jesus.

This November as a United Parish, we are also very much looking back to the wonderful ministry and love of the Revd Dr Jacky Barr, as she has left us, and is busy preparing now for the start of her new ministry in the parishes of Atworth with Shaw, and Whitley, in the Diocese of Salisbury on the 10th November. We hold her in our love and prayers, praying for her and the church and community she is now travelling with.

In their Parish Profile which was provided to Jacky to give her an idea of what these parishes are like and looking to for the future, they included these words:

We are looking for that someone
Who will lead us in God's name
Who will guide us on our journey
Who will nourish and sustain

We're a group of willing players
Our teamwork ethic's strong
We have skills and great potential
Our love for Christ, it drives us on

We can testify in this United Parish to how God equipped and enabled Jacky to lead us, guide us, nourish us, sustain us, and love us over the last nine years, deepening our love for Christ.

To make a donation, please see page 34

This month in 'Morning Prayer', there appears daily the Canticle, *'A Song of the New Creation'*, based on Isaiah 43, which includes these words:

1 'I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.'

2 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

3 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of. old.

4 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

5 'I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

6 'The people whom I formed for myself, that they might declare my praise.'

This is not saying forget the past, after all we begin the month by thinking about all the saints, then shortly afterwards on Remembrance Sunday we will recall the horrors of war. What the canticle calls us to do is not to cling to the past and dwell on 'The Good Old Days' but look to the 'new thing' that God is doing.

God's promise for Jacky and her new parish and community, is the same for us here in our United Parish. Whatever the future holds, and however long 'The Vacancy' lasts , he is the Lord, the Holy One, who makes the way ahead navigable and sustainable. There will come the day when we too like our brothers and sisters in Christ now led by Jacky, will praise God for preparing us and our new minister for the 'new thing' he is doing.

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,

To give drink to my chosen people,

'The people whom I formed for myself,

that they might declare my praise."

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 Janet		Percy Saw

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.

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
@ St Andrews Church Chinnor

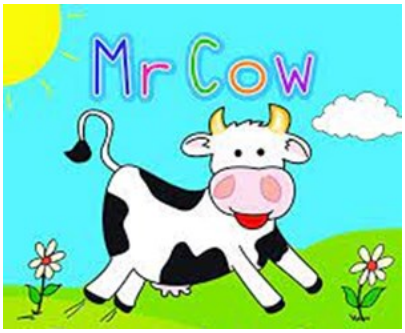
All those who care for children are **very welcome** to attend these free of charge sessions!

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.

Chooseday Church *Tuesday afterschool* *3.15--4 15pm*	*Starboddlers* *Thursday* *11—11.45am*
	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

MID WEEK SERVICE



Every Thursday, 10am, St Andrew's Chinnor

Streamlined service no hymns, short reflection, Followed by refreshments, always with the Good Biscuits!

TAIZÉ STYLE WORSHIP



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 8th November, 6th December

MEN'S GROUP



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

Next meetings: 2nd November, 7th December

FAIRTRADE & ETHICAL

THIS ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

TRY TO BUY

WITH SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MIND

Preparing for those longer nights, cooler days and festivities?

To c**heck 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

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



Remembrance Sunday Services

in the United Parish

Sunday 8th November 2026

Chinnor 10 40am

War Memorial service with Parade:
(gather in the High Street, followed by a Service in St Andrew's Church)
In addition to the Parade and War Memorial service, also

10 45am A short **Service of Remembrance**,
including the roll of honour and 2 minute silence in St Andrew's church
(For those who don't want to, or are unable, to join the War Memorial service, this will take place inside the church itself)

Aston Rowant 10 30am

Service of Remembrance
(the service begins in church and then will move outside to the War Memorial)

Sydenham 10 45am

Service of Remembrance
(gather on the green)

Crowell 4pm

Remembrance prayers



October Photo Diary

Oliver and Ellie's Wedding

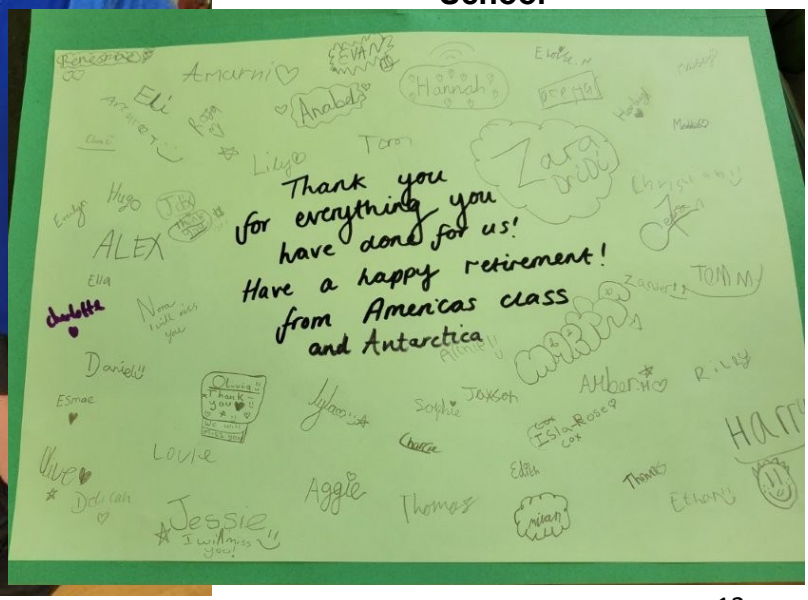




Aston Rowant Harvest Lunch



Jackys Farewell from St Andrew's School



REV'D DR JACKY BARR'S FAREWELL PARTY

Thank you to all those who donated money towards Jacky's farewell present – after consulting Jacky, the following were purchased :
Holy water pot with sprinkler;
Triple holy oil stock with case;
Garment bag for robes; E gift vouchers.



On behalf of everybody who attended Jacky's last service and her party in the Village Hall, a big thank you to all who joined in the bring and share lunch. Special thank you to Abbey who made two wonderful photo displays of Jacky's time in the United Parish. BIG thank you to all the volunteers – list too long to name all - who manned the refreshments, food lists, putting out tables and chairs and packing them away again, managing the sound system, and not least Fiona for her excellent speech. Thank you to Jacky for providing the prosecco for her toast.



There is a time for everything,
And a season for every activity under the heavens:
A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot,
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

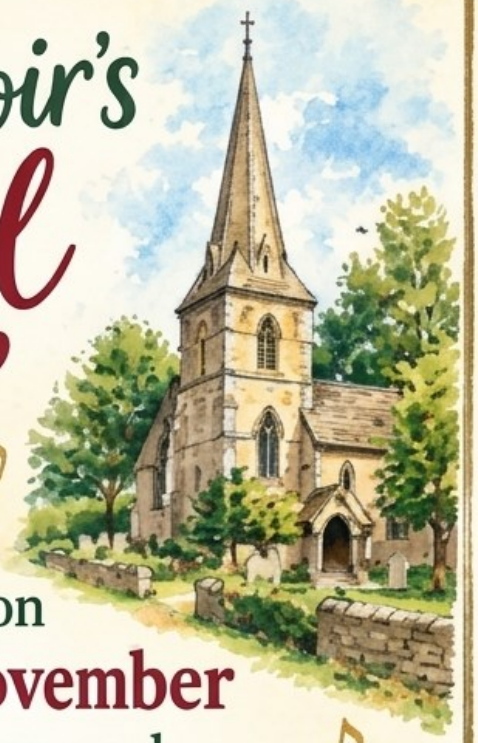
By the grace of God, Jacky has served us well. On Sunday 18 October 2026 was Jacky's last Sunday as our Rector. This is a time to look back and a time to look forward; a time for joy and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to almighty God for what Jacky has given us in our lives together.



May God, the Father, bless Jacky in her new parish.

To make a donation, please see page 34

Sydenham Choir's 'Rehearsal on Tour'



Do come along on

Tuesday 17th November

at **6.30pm** for the annual

Sydenham Choir's 'rehearsal on tour'.

Now in its 11th year and having visited a wide selection of churches throughout South Oxfordshire:

St Peter & St Peter

at **Aston Rowant**

will be kindly hosting us this year.

We plan an *informal* programme lasting for approximately 40 minutes of much loved songs including a sprinkling of Christmas.

It's free (but contributions are welcome)

and starts at 6.30pm for 40 minutes or so.

Do come along – no booking necessary.



News from Sydenham - November

Fiona Kermack

Christmas Art Fair in Sydenham - Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November presented by the Art Exhibitionists

A third of the door proceeds will go to St Mary's Church with a further third to Lindengate 'Mental and Physical Wellbeing' Charity

Christmas is coming early to Sydenham this year, as The Art Exhibitionists transform St Mary's Church and The OSR into a festive celebration of creativity, community and Christmas spirit from Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November 2026.

Visitors will be welcomed into the magical exhibition showcasing talented artists selling their paintings, prints, sculptures, embroidery, mixed media, jewellery, ceramics, scented candles and more.

It will be packed with opportunities to find truly individual Christmas presents - the sort of gifts you won't find on the high street - while enjoying a wonderfully relaxed and festive atmosphere. Refreshments will be served - FRIDAY- BAR- 2- 8pm (no café serving wine, mince pies, soft drinks, mulled wine, beer etc

SATURDAY and SUNDAY - CAFE ONLY 10- 4pm serving tea, cakes, mulled wine and mince pies.

There will also be a craft corner suitable for children and adults too

Friday afternoon/evening. Paint a christmas decoration (£12) or a Christmas Platter (£40) with Potastic Pottery.

Saturday Afternoon (1pm onward tbc)- create a christmas themed needlefelt design (£10) with Mel Co Art.

An adult must be present with participating children as needles are involved

Sunday Afternoon 2-4: Cat Illustration £10. Using a pre drawn illustration from Award winning artist Mel Cairns, Mel will gude you on adding colour and finishing flourishes to make the perfect cat keep sake or gift for a cat lover!

£5 entry pp (through the church gates) Under 16's go free with a paying adult

12 - 8pm on Friday 30 October and 10am - 4pm on Saturday 31st and Sunday 1st November.

See www.theartexhibitionists.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you

To make a donation, please see page 34

Sydenham Christmas Fayre Saturday 5th December

Save the date



The annual and very popular Sydenham Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 5th December between 12 and 2pm. This short time window is packed with activity from beginning to end with chrissy pressie ideas, a raffle with great prizes, a kiddies corner, gourmet deliciousness , mulled wine and of course our famous home made soups , crusty bread and irresistable pudings. New this year is the chance to have your treasures valued. With Gold and Silver prices currently at record levels, it could be a good time to hunt through your cupboards and jewellery drawers! For further info, please ask Fi via fiona.patrick1@btinternet.com or 07785 220621

Harvest

Our Harvest Service was well attended with 37 adults and children . Led by Joan, rousing hymns were sung, many offerings were taken up to the altar and refreshments were served afterwards . Matilda recited a poem and Derek spoke passionately about the challenge of the changing climate to farmers. The flowers were as usual beautifully arranged and appropriately themed .

A Farewell to Our Much-Loved Rector

It is a bit of a challenge to sum up ten years in just a few minutes — particularly when you're talking about someone who has achieved such a lot, provided so much of herself, and **given a great many of us rather more hugs** than we might have thought physically possible!!

From the moment she arrived in the United Parish, first as curate and then as Rector, she made an immediate impression. People liked her — and it's not difficult to understand why.

Being a rector is a bit like being a parent, a counsellor, a teacher, a diplomat and an events manager — all rolled into one, with the occasional sermon thrown in. And that's before you've even found the church keys!

Over the years, Jacky has seen what needed to be done then got on with the job. She has reshaped our Parish giving real meaning to the words **UNITED** PARISH , strengthened the bonds of friendship between us, taken on an enormous amount of responsibility and kept things moving - all with great determination.

Jacky is indebted to her church wardens, every single member of the PCC, her parisioners and **above all** her brilliant and dedicated ministry team – Joan, Margaret, Brian, Des and Tony.

Jacky has always had a special place in her heart for the children of our parish. Through her work with both St Andrew's and Aston Rowant Schools, as a governor, and with Open the Book, Reinspire and Starboddlers, she along with Margaret and now Fiona and the dedicated team has brought children closer to the church. She has always welcomed them with open arms, no matter how chatty and noisy they are, and made them feel they belong. Jacky and the team truly believe that children are the future of the Church, and that sometimes the future is rather louder than the present!"

She simply gets on with it. And if she has decided something needs to happen, you can be fairly sure that, quietly but firmly, it probably will!

Continues Overleaf

To make a donation, please see page 34

She will admit though that administration is not her greatest strength, but she invariably delivers—even if sometimes towards the last minute, leaving the rest of us breathless with anticipation.
But what makes her so special is that she has combined all that determination with warmth, compassion and a wonderful sense of fun. Fellow PCC members have provided some words that capture Jacky perfectly:
Joyful
Inspirational
Genuine
Caring
Good sense of humour

And ….she certainly Likes her cider (and red wine!)

We have, in Jacky, a Rector who delivers thoughtful and inspiring sermons, who can bring comfort when life is difficult, and who has been there for so many people in our Parish when they have needed her the most. And we also have a Rector who is perfectly happy to don a large hat for a WI summer party, appear in countless selfies of weddings and cristenings that we know she just loves conducting, invite us to mark the summer and winter solstices at an unearthly hour, sport a wonderfully individual haircut and deliver the sort of enormous hug that leaves you in absolutely no doubt that you have been hugged!
Again, quoting some words from those of you around me,
'Jacky is a people person'.
She has a heart of warmth and love, reaching out to anyone in need or just in welcome'.

And that is the real measure of what Jacky leaves behind: not just the things she has believed in and made happen, or the responsibilities she has carried, but the people whose lives she has touched, the friendships she has nurtured and the sense of fellowship, love and harmony she has created.
We shall all miss you enormously as well as your lovely daughters and family but wish you every happiness and success in your new Parish doing what you do best – sharing God's warmth as you have done so successfully here.
They are very lucky people but remember …. pace yourself.
We hope you know just how much you are loved and how much you have meant and will continue to mean to this Parish.
And the lovely thing is – we know how much we mean to you. Emotions were high in the weeks leading up to your final service but you managed to hold it together right up until the end when a wobble or two appeared.
So, on behalf of us all, thank you Reverend Dr. Jacky Barr – our Jacky!
Thank you for your dedication, your wisdom, your humour, your kindness — and, of course, those impressive hugs!
Here's to Jacky!

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH : HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS : SATURDAY 28 AND SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

A big thank you to the St Andrew's Church Flower Guild who decorated the church so beautifully with harvest arrangements. On Saturday night the Friends of St Andrew's Church hosted a Harvest Supper. Thank you to Sue Greaves for her excellent co-ordinating of all the food – two course meal with tea and coffee. A BIG thank you to Derek Nixey for supplying the wine, providing the backing music and for giving a short talk on the history of the Nixey family on farming in Chinnor. Thank you to all those who helped make salads, etc and helping on the night. Lastly, thank you to all the guests who supported this event and for our Rector, Revd Dr Jacky Barr, for opening with a special harvest prayer.



On Sunday a Harvest Festival Service was held at St Andrew's Church welcoming the Methodist Church. Thank you to all those who donated dried goods. The dried goods were split between the Sharing Life Trust in Thame and The Porch in Oxford.





To make a donation, please see page 34

Friends of St. Andrew's Church Chinnor

Lunchtime Concert

Featuring

PAVLOVA WINDS



Friday 6th November

12:30 to 1:15

Admission is FREE with a retiring collection in aid of St. Andrew's Fabric Restoration Fund and Cotswolds Arts Through Schools

Refreshments Available

Friends of
St Andrew's Church, Chinnor



Christmas
CARD WORKSHOP

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: Lauretta at post@milligan.me.uk

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

To make a donation, please see page 34



Margaret and I would like to thank all who participated in the CCGW! All Age ***Creation Calls!*** service at St. Andrew's on 11th October

The focus was on worship and gratitude for God's beautiful and intricate Creation, and acknowledging our place within it to fulfil God's instruction to tend and nurture the land, to respect the Earth, share its resources and care for the environment. God is faithful, but we must do the work too!

'The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it' Ps 24.

We have been asked to share the inspiring video we watched:

Creation Calls! By Brian Doerkson – is available on You Tube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28sqs5H5hao)

CCGW! which covers the churches in Chinnor, is a partner in action with A Rocha, Christians in conservation. Our churches participate in their ***eco church*** initiative, which this year celebrates 10 years. With their guidance we have made appropriate changes to function more sustainably and encourage parishioners to live greener and simpler lives.

We are thankful for so much on our doorstep here in the Chilterns - helping to preserve some threatened wildlife in our beautiful church grounds, tending our Community garden and allotments, sharing green issues, engaging with challenging times, recycling and repairing and, with Christmas not too far away – supporting Fair Trade products, through Rod Thorpe at the Methodist Church.

Small actions really can lead to significant impact, and the message was one of Hope and encouragement to continue to do what we can – in our consumer choices at home and in our gardens to ensure our little bugs and creatures are fed and have places to hibernate and lay their eggs during the colder months to come. All of them are a vital part of the complex web of life.

If you'd like to give a bird box as a gift, for a modest donation, do see Lauretta Milligan, or children might like to create their own bug hotel!

We finished our worship with this – reminding us to always Show Creation the Love!

Continues overleaf

Show the Love Prayer

So beautiful is the world that you created – from soil to sea, plants and trees of every sort.

How wonderful the waters teeming with living creatures, birds flying across the skies, all creatures and beasts on the land

Oh, how we have taken for granted and so greedily from the earth – destroyed habitats, hunted to extinction, desecrated environments.

We are sorry for our ignorance and our selfishness

Turn us into agents of action –

Help us to change our ways –

Encourage us to bring others with us; family, friends, politicians and those with influence to….

Learn new fairer, greener ways to live with each other

On this beautiful blue planet, till every…

Valley and mountain top, field and forest, river and sea is restored, and we find a new balance to live as You intended, for….

EVERMORE.

So Lord we thank you for the changing seasons and this time of autumn, when nature can rest after fruitfulness and activity. We honour you when we honour your creation, so send us your Spirit to strengthen, inspire and equip us so that we may bear witness by our words, attitude and actions, however small, to the harmony of creation, to tread lightly upon the earth, and encourage each other to live wisely amidst your creation.

CCGW! will shortly be snuggling down into our straw filled show box and hibernating until the Spring, when we look forward to planning events and welcoming you along!

Jo Whitfield

Bell ringing

My name is Julian and I started to learn how to ring bells in 2023. I have always liked the sound of the bells ringing, especially at weddings, so one day in September 2023, I was walking past St Andrews and I decided to go in and try to find out some information. I spoke to the tower captain Malcolm and then went to the next practice night on a Friday. I thought bell ringing was just people pulling on ropes randomly and making a nice noise, but it's a little bit more complicated than that!

So I started to learn to ring at St Andrews on Fridays. At first I was just learning to pull the rope one way (hand stroke), with Malcolm catching the rope after. Then learning to pull the rope the other way (back stroke) and then eventually pulling the rope both ways and catching both ways also. You have to pull the rope with a sufficient amount of power, so the bell rings as it swings from side to side. Next, you have to learn how to "stand" the bell, which means to pull the rope sufficiently, so the bell swings up to a balance point and then slightly more until it rests upside down on a piece of wood called the stay.

Progress was slow in the beginning, as there is not much you can do apart from learn hand and back strokes and catching the rope. Also, one's learning has to be fitted in between the other ringers ringing, so initially you don't get more than a few minutes on the rope each week. At this time, it was suggested to me that I may benefit from a rope handling course, which was offered by Oxford Ringing School, so I quickly enrolled and in early 2024 I had ten one hour sessions, one teacher to one student, in Abingdon and Dorchester. With it being one on one for the whole hour, my rope handling skills improved and I was soon able to ring on my own, with improved technique.

At Chinnor practice nights, now that I could ring, unassisted, with the other ringers and "stand" the bell afterwards, I became more involved and everything became more enjoyable.

Next, I learnt how to ring in rounds, where the bells strike one after the other. So bell 1 strikes, then bell 2, bell 3 etc up to bell 6. Then I learnt "call changes" which means the bells start off in rounds, but then the conductor calls out a change, which means the order changes from the initial rounds to a new sequence. This means that 2 or more bells can have new positions in a new sequence, so what starts off as 1,2,3,4,5,6 could change to 1,3,2,5,4,6 etc. So I learnt what this meant and how to change position, by speeding up or slowing down your bell to fit into the new position.

Then the fun begins ! This is where I learnt that you don't just pull the rope randomly and hope it makes a nice sound with the other bells. The bells can be

rung in specific sequences, called "methods" and there are hundreds of them and even if you ring bells for fifty or sixty years (and there are some people who have and are still alive today!), you still won't be able to ring all known methods.

To learn a method, you have to practice a lot and also do a bit of homework, as you have to learn what the actual method involves, in other words, the different changes that you have to ring, fitting in with the sequence of the other bells. I found that I needed to ring more than one practice night a week, otherwise progress was slow and I was keen to learn, so I started to ring at different churches, including Chearsley, Thame, Aston Rowant, Marlow, Benson, Haddenham, Watlington, Chalgrove, Turville, Nettlebed, Monks Risborough, Lane End, Cuddington and Hambleden. I met lots of other bell ringers, some young, but mainly of the "mature" type and I rang lots of different bells, all with their own "personality" and I gained more and more experience ringing different methods.

Sometimes ringers ring a "peal" which takes about 3 hours of non-stop ringing or "quarter peal" which takes about 45 minutes, involving one or more methods. In order to ring a quarter peal, there has to be a minimum of 1,260 changes, which means each bell is ringing 1,260 times, in other words, you are pulling the rope 1,260 times. In order to get 1,260 changes, the conductor has to "call" numerous changes to get the different variations in the striking sequences. So, as well as knowing the "work" involved for a basic "plain" method, you also have to learn what to do when the conductor calls a change, which means your bell takes a new direction in the sequence. I have rung 8 quarter peals now and I can say it is very mentally tiring to concentrate for 45 minutes pulling on a rope while standing in the same position, trying not to forget where your bell is in a sequence and staying focused enough to keep your bell position correctly in the method, especially when your mind wanders and suddenly you are thinking about what you are going to eat for dinner or what you plan on doing at the weekend. But it is a challenge which I enjoy and it is satisfying if you all complete the quarter peal without the conductor stopping it midway if it has gone wrong.

So, if you are thinking about having a go yourself, I would definitely recommend it. I have always found the environment on church grounds to be calming and relaxing and when I ring, I get absorbed in the wonderful sounds the bells make and I forget about whatever is happening "outside". I call this meditation. Lastly, the sound of the bells are of a healing frequency, so when they ring and you are nearby, the bells are healing you, that's why they sound so lovely.

Go on, give it a go, I am sure you will enjoy it and you are exercising your brain by learning a new skill.

Friends of St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday 28th November
10 am to 12 noon

Stalls Crafts
Gifts Refreshments
Cakes Books Toys
Raffle Tombola
and so much more!

Fundraising for the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Andrew-Chinnor

To make a donation, please see page 34

Advent Lunch
at
Aston Rowant Church
on
Tuesday 15 December
12.30 – 2.30pm



Lunch will be provided
(Jacket potatoes, fillings, side salad)

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH : CHRISTMAS MARKET : SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026 : 10AM-12 NOON

Christmas is just around the corner, and the Friends of St Andrew's Church Christmas Market is the ideal place to shop for lovely, personalised presents for all the family and friends.

As there will be stalls selling crafts, Christmas decorations, jewellery, gifts, books, toys, £1and 5op stall, jams, pickles, cakes, etc, any donations towards these stalls would be gratefully accepted and can be delivered to the church (choir vestry) a week before the market. Please note no white elephant goods.

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

To make a donation, please see page 34

Monica Jane Sedgley Bartlett — a life well lived

12th April 1938—17th September 2026



Over 170 people gathered at St Andrew's Church to celebrate the life of our dear friend Monica Bartlett on Thursday 15th October 2026.

Monica's life was one of faith, love and practical care: for her family, for her church and for the many children and young people whose lives she helped to shape.

Monica was born in Walsall in the West Midlands, to Constance May, (a comptometer operator at Walsall Conduits) and Montague Joseph Sedgley Ayres, (a photolithographer.)

Monica had a younger sister, Penny, who spoke at the service of Monica being the family historian: partly because she was the eldest, and partly because she carried Sedgley, an old family name, among her own names.

Monica attended school locally, including Queen Mary's School for Girls in Walsall. There was an early indication of the interests and commitments that would shape her life: by the age of sixteen, she and her friend Maureen were already running a Brownie pack.

After school, Monica went to St Mary's in Cheltenham to train as a primary school teacher. There she met David, who was studying at St Paul's, the equivalent college for men. After college they kept in touch despite David returning to the Falklands to teach. When he returned to England, they met again, and were engaged within three months. Her mother was understandably a little alarmed by the speed of it all!

They married in 1963 at St Margaret's in Great Barr and moved into rented accommodation in Sydenham, for about ten months.

In March 1964, David dramatically collapsed with diabetes and was treated at RAF Halton hospital. Somehow, amid his illness and treatment, they managed to secure their home in Grafton Orchard, moving there in August 1964.

With David working at St Andrew's School, Monica took over a Brownie pack meeting at Chinnor Village Hall. Dorothy Richardson joined her about 5 years later. Originally Chinnor was part of Thame District, but Monica helped to enable Chinnor to become it's own District. She later also ran Rangers, was District Commissioner and held several roles within the Division and County.

It was a commitment that involved the whole family. Jon remembered that he and Ian had to be Brownies for an hour on Mondays, accompanying their Mum until David finished school and could collect them!

David's parallel commitment to Scouting, meant that family life revolved around these movements. Every Summer Monica would spend a week at Scout camp as QM (quartermaster), which meant organising the food and preparing the white trays of food for the boys to take away

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And cook their meals. There was, of course, an expectation that the trays would come back clean, with everything returned in good condition. Woe betide any Scout who did not meet that expectation!



Family holidays initially meant a week at Scout camp followed by another week camping. Eventually Monica rebelled against the second week of camping and holidays became time in Cornwall or the Lake District in self-catering accommodation.

Monica and David were both strict and fair as parents. Both were also fond of that familiar parental response: “Go and ask your father,” or, “Go and ask your mother.”

There was much affection and laughter in family life. Ian remembered Monica’s wholehearted support for his love of telling jokes, even when the jokes were, in truth, terrible, she always laughed. Ruth and Ben spoke of their great love for their mother, and of the love she gave them.

Monica could always be relied upon for a sensible answer when asked for advice. And if she did not have a clue, she was honest enough to say so.

Her care also found expression in her cooking and baking. Monica was a keen supporter of Christian Aid. When the Christian Aid Fête was held in the Old Nelson garden, she would bake loaves, rolls, Chelsea buns, Lardy cakes, Welsh baps and her speciality, a Swedish tea ring – an upgraded Chelsea bun. Ruth remembers taking all these goods to the fete piled high on a pushchair. And all the children remember the lunchtime treat of eating the less perfectly shaped rolls and buns.



And it was not only her baking that was appreciated. Ruth said she had not realised quite how good her mother’s macaroni cheese was until she tasted some, somewhere else.

Jesus was always at the centre of Monica and David’s life. Their faith shaped their marriage, their family life and their service to others. Its strength was particularly evident when their dear son Pete died tragically, far too young. They spoke openly about how their faith helped them through that deeply sad and difficult time.

The Mothers’ Union was another important part of Monica’s life. She especially supported the church’s baptism ministry, attending baptisms and sending anniversary cards for five years afterwards: a faithful way of reminding families that they were remembered and belonged. From Mothers’ Union came the Mother

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Continues Overleaf

Teresa's co-workers, group, who initially knitted and sewed clothes for Children in India. Later clothes went to Eastern Europe and Africa. She was still attending this group until July.

At one time she was involved in a Young Wives group. She also organised the collection of items for, and filling of, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, for a long time.

Monica and David ran the Sunday School for many years, initially straight after the morning service, but they really wanted it to be part of the service. Eventually, their wish was granted and they were able to start at the church hall and bring the children across to church in time for communion.

Music, too, was part of Monica's life. She loved Handel's *Messiah*, and a recording from it opened the service celebrating her life. She loved singing and took part in many of the musicals conducted by Jane Honeyball at the Methodist Church.

Each of her children contributed memories of their mother. Her granddaughter Sam shared *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep* and her nephew Dan played the organ.

Across all these memories, we meet the same Monica: loving and sensible, faithful and practical, ready to encourage, ready to laugh, and ready to get things organised when something needed doing.

We remember the children she supported, the families she kept in touch with, the food she prepared, the causes she served and the home she made with David. Above all, we remember the love she gave, and the faith that sustained her.

And of course her beautiful smile, which was always a little cheeky as well. One of Monica's most treasured gifts was her smile, because when you received that smile you knew that you were loved.

After the service in church, time was spent together in the Pavilion where we continued sharing stories of both Monica and David. And in true Bartlett family style, the evening was spent in the field known as Badger's Bend, cooking sausages, bacon and dough twist over an open fire, while a more serious bonfire was lit from a flaming model plane flying down a string into the fire.

For Monica, and for a life so well lived, we give thanks to God.



The Frontline for Homeless Day Services in Oxford
139 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RL
Tel: 01865 251798
Email: info@theporch.org.uk

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

Dear all,

Thank you for your Harvest Festival donation

On behalf of everyone at The Porch, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation following your Harvest Festival.

Your kindness and generosity mean so much to us and will help us continue supporting people experiencing homelessness and vulnerability in Oxford. Donations such as yours make a real difference, helping us provide practical support, care and a welcoming place for people who may be facing some of the most difficult times in their lives.

We are incredibly grateful that you chose to support The Porch as part of your Harvest Festival celebrations. Your generosity reflects the wonderful spirit of community and compassion that makes such a difference to the people we support.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved in organising and contributing to the collection.

With warmest thanks and best wishes,
The Porch Team

Sharing Life Trust
Unit D2
Station Yard
Thame
Oxfordshire
OX9 3UH

Caring • Connecting • Empowering

9 October 2026

Dear St. Andrew's Parish Church, Chinnor

The Trustees would like thank Chinnor Methodist Church and St. Andrew's Parish Church for your recent harvest donations delivered to the Sharing Life Trust Food Bank in Thame. We are grateful for your generosity, which touches the lives of people who are in need of help.

We held a promotional exercise in Waitrose supermarket recently which has resulted in a greater awareness of the need for the food bank, and an increase in donations of essential food items since then. As well as the food donations, some people offered to volunteer with us. All this has been also a great encouragement to us. If you would like to have some of our promotional leaflets to distribute, please let us know.

We continue to use the BanktheFood app to publicise our weekly food needs, which we are keen to promote, and are always happy to hear from people who would like to volunteer at the food bank store. Our website has all these details if people are interested in contributing in any way.

Yours sincerely
Christine Waring
Trustee

To make a donation, please see page 34

Friends of St Andrew's Church : Quiz Nite

A big thank you to all who attended the Quiz Nite on Friday 25th September 2026. The amount raised was a magnificent £477 towards the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church. Thank you to the quiz master, David Watson, and the counter, Allan Brawn, for a fun evening.

The results are as follows:

Nice but Dim 89.1% (1*); Nearly not all there 83.6% (1); Upper Chinnor Bakers +1 75.5%; Les Quizerables 69.6%; Back to Basics 69.1%; Just Five 65%; Crafty Crafters 63.6%; The Wild Ones 56.8%; Ladies that Lunch 54.5%; Silver Spoons 47.3%. Figures in brackets record the number of perfect rounds; * indicates a perfect round with the Joker in play.

Due to an oversight on David's part, the answers to the Warmup Quiz were not given. To correct this oversight, the Warm Up Quiz and answers follow:

In the Christian Calendar, what name is given to the Sunday before Easter and the feast that commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem? Palm Sunday

Which 97-mile river enters the North Sea at Berwick, Northumberland? Tweed

The National Wallace Monument is located just outside which Scottish city? Stirling

Which quiz board game involves the collection of coloured wedges? Trivial Pursuits

Founded in 1123, which hospital in Smithfield, London is the oldest hospital in Britain? St Bartholomew's Hospital

What hereditary metabolic disorder, characterised by recurrent acute attacks of severe inflammation in the joints, is caused by the disposition of salts of uric acid? Gout

Which winter sport can Nordic or Alpine? Skiing

Raindrops keep fallin' on my head; Walk on by and What the world needs now is love are among the countless hits by which prolific songwriting duo? Bert Bacharach and Hal David

In mechanics, what is the name given to the maximum speed that an object can reach while falling? Terminal Velocity

Which author of financial biographies has written works including Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon, a profile of convicted cryptocurrency Fraudster Sam Bankman-Fried? Michael Lewis

Once again, thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Quiz Night 2027.

To make a donation, please see page 34



To make a donation, please see page 34



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) _____

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Full Home address _____

_____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
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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.

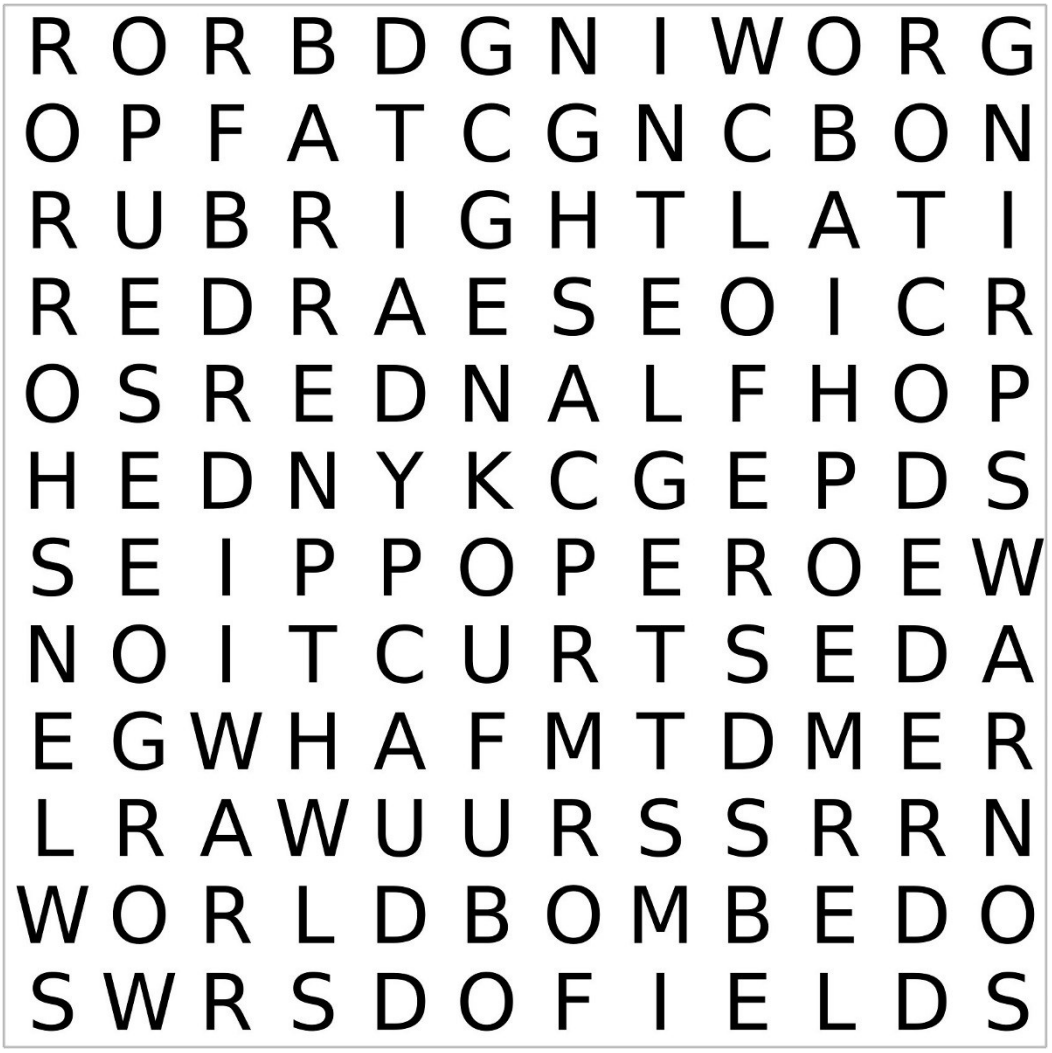


The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

PUZZLES

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

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Wordsearch - The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

Those endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such horror, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

World War France Flanders Green
Fields Bombed Barren Bleak Destroyed
Spring Destruction Bright Red Poppies
Mud Chaos Seeds Grow Soil
Cheerful Growing Horror Doctor poem

Solutions

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



Parish Office

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

Rector: Vacancy

Parish Office: Tricia Prescott

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor, OX39 4PG

01844 352472 - office@unitedparish.church

Treasurer: Susan Ashdown

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

Submissions should be emailed to magazine@unitedparish.church

DEADLINE: November Magazine is 22nd November

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

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Time	What	Where
30th October	12am-8pm	Sydenham Church Art Show	St Mary's Church
31st October	10am-4pm	Sydenham Church Art Show	St Mary's Church
1st November	10am-4pm	Sydenham Church Art Show	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
8th November	10.30am	Service of Remembrance	St Mary's Church
8th November	10.45am	Service of Remembrance	Sydenham Green
8th November	10.45am	Service of Remembrance	St Andrew's Church
8th November	4pm	Remembrance prayers	Crowell Church
14th November	2-4pm	Christmas Card Making workshop*	St Andrew's Church Hall
17th November	6.30pm	Sydenham Choir Rehearsal on Tour	St Mary's Church
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
13th December	10.30am	Christingle Service	St Andrew's Church
15th December	12.30-2.30pm	Advent Lunch	Aston Rowant Church
19th December	7.30pm	Brass & a glass - Chinnor Silver Band Concert	St Andrew's Church
21st February	TBC	Duck Races and Cream Tea's	Aston Rowant Green

***** Friends of St Andrews Event