

# Ridgeway Broadsheet

NOVEMBER



2013


## 'Winter Wonder' Concerts

Thursday 14th  
November  
5.45pm  
All Saints'  
Church, Chilton



Saturday 16th  
November  
5.45pm  
St. Matthew's  
Church, Harwell

in Aid of 'Children in Need'

[www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](http://www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)  [facebook.com/hcchurches](https://facebook.com/hcchurches)

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Please donate a toy for the children at the Oxford Women's Refuge. This Christmas, St Matthew's and All Saints' are once more supporting the Women's Refuge in

Oxford by providing toys for the children there. These toys will be given to women to give to their children on Christmas day. As you might imagine, women (and the children they bring with them) tend to flee to the refuge with very few belongings. So toys are scarce and spare cash is tight for these families. Unfortunately, domestic violence is particularly prevalent over the Christmas period, so the refuge often experiences an influx then. Having a decent toy to give at Christmas can make an enormous difference to these mothers and children. In addition, the toys will be used at the Refuge residents' children's Christmas party, and also throughout the year, as the Refuge likes to give each child a present of a toy on arrival if at all possible.

We will be holding our special advent "Toy Services" on Sunday 1 December at 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton and at 11am at St Matthew's Harwell at which we would be really grateful if you could donate a toy for the refuge. This is a service particularly appropriate for children, whom we find really connect with the idea of giving a toy to less fortunate children at Christmas time. The toy should be brand new please, not second hand, and unwrapped (NB no wrapping paper donations required). The age range of toys required is for children aged 0-15. The Refuge would particularly like toys for small babies (NB cuddly toys are acceptable, again provided they are new) and for 11+s as these tend to be the least well catered for. For the older children, anything that they can "do" e.g. a science or craft kit or game, as

boredom is a real fact of life in a refuge. Toys with violent connotations (e.g. swords, guns, etc) would not be a good idea, for obvious reasons. Anyone unable to make the service is welcome to hand their toy in to the Church Office by Thursday 30 November. The office is open Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.30-3.30 and is up the spiral staircase near the back of St. Matthew's Church, Harwell. If you would like advice about what toy to buy, feel free to contact Jane Woolley on Tel 221030. Chilton PCC would like any monetary gifts to be donated to the SeeSaw Charity that provide grief support for the children of Oxfordshire. Thank you.

## HARVEST THANKS

Harvest Sunday was a beautiful autumn day and 80-90 people of all ages came along for a Cream Tea and gave donations for the harvest produce in All Saints' Chilton. An amazing £305 was raised for Tearfund. Thank you so much to all that supported this event and also to those who helped in so many ways including decorating our churches, baking cakes and scones, setting up and clearing away to name a few things. Thank you also for the donations of tins and dry goods for the Didcot Foodbank given at both the morning services.

## HARWELL EVERGREENS

Harwell Evergreens are holding a Coffee Morning on the 2nd November. This is instead of our usual Autumn Sale. We have a Christmas Shopping trip to Swindon on the 21st November. This instead of the usual meeting. Coach pickup times will be 10 am (a little earlier for those who join the coach at Didcot). Harwell Evergreens Christmas lunch will be at Harwell Village Hall on December 7th: all Evergreens are welcome.

## David Winter reflects on Guy Fawkes...

### GUNPOWDER TREASON

'A planned bomb attack by religious extremists on a strategic site in central London has been foiled by the security services, acting on secret intelligence. Eight men have been arrested and charged.'

That could be a story from yesterday's newspaper, but in fact (as astute readers may have guessed) it's an account of an event over 400 years ago which will be marked with thousands of bonfires up and down the land this month.

On 5th November 1605 a man called Guy Fawkes was discovered with something like 36 barrels of gunpowder in a crypt underneath the House of Lords on the day of the State Opening of Parliament. He was apprehended, and under torture revealed the names of his co-conspirators, all Roman Catholics intent on assassinating the king, James I, and restoring a Catholic monarchy to England. It's that event which, through the murky mists of time, we commemorate with fireworks, bonfires and - yes - 'guys' on 5th November every year.

As a child I remember singing, 'Please to remember the fifth of November/  
Gunpowder, treason and plot/ I see no reason why gunpowder treason/  
should ever be forgot'. Does anyone still sing it, I wonder? Perhaps the time has come to forget Fawkes and the plot, and simply have the fireworks.

Until about fifty years ago there was still an anti-catholic element in some of the bonfire night celebrations. Thankfully, just as such religious conflicts are very much part of our distant past, so in recent times have we seen that the endless recitation of ancient feuds helps no one - and may even distort history. After all, even in 1605 Fawkes and his companions didn't have the support of most of their fellow-Catholics, and it's very possible that the intelligence that uncovered the plot came from within their ranks.

We are all too aware, however, that terrorism, bombs and assassination attempts are still very much part of contemporary life. There are people in today's world who misguidedly believe that they are doing God's will by killing those who do not share their religious practice or political beliefs. Fawkes and his friends, with the kind of indifference to risk which modern terrorists also display, were fanatically committed to their cause.

They, and their modern counterparts, are a reminder that while faith is a wonderfully good thing; religious fanaticism is a dangerous delusion and violence of this kind is never the best answer to injustice. The real game-changers in modern history have risked their own lives rather than taking the lives of others: people like Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Janani Luwum, Nelson Mandela, Lech Walensa and Oscar Romero. 'Love your enemies,' said Jesus. Then there's a good chance you'll change them, and in changing them you may change history.

NOVEMBER



2013

Saturday 2nd

8:30am Prayer Meeting in both churches

10.00am Harwell Evergreens Coffee Morning in the St. Matthew's Church Hall

Sunday 3rd

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)\* at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

9:30am All Age Worship at All Saints' Church, Chilton

11:00am All Age Worship at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

6:15pm Evening Prayer at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

7:00pm Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church meeting room

Monday 4th

9:30am Fledgelings at St Matthew's Church Hall

10:00am Missions Prayer Meeting at 15, Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at All Saints' Tower

Tuesday 5th

2:30pm Chilton Evergreens at Chilton Village Hall

7:45pm Combined PCC meeting at All Saints' Church, Chilton

Wednesday 6th

10:15am Home Group at St Matthew's Church meeting room

1:45pm Home Group at 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

8:30pm Night Prayer at All Saints' Church, Chilton

Thursday 7th

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Matthew's Tower

8:00pm Home Group at Milburn, Wantage Road, Harwell

Saturday 9th

8.30am Prayer Meeting in both churches

Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)\* at All Saints' Chilton

9:30am Morning Worship at All Saints' Church, Chilton

10:45am Harwell War Memorial

11:00am Morning Worship at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

4:30pm 'Hands Free' Worship at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

7:00pm Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church meeting room

Monday 11th

9:30am Fledgelings at St Matthew's Church Hall

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at All Saints' Tower

Tuesday 12th

7:45pm Chilton Wives' Group at All Saints' Church, Chilton

Wednesday 13th

10:15am Home Group at St Matthew's Church meeting room

1:45pm Home Group at 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

Thursday 14th

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Matthew's Tower

5:45pm 'Winter Wonder' 'Children in Need' Concert at All Saints' Church, Chilton

8:00pm Home Group at Milburn, Wantage Road, Harwell

Saturday 16th

8:30am Prayer Meeting in both churches

5:45pm 'Winter Wonder' 'Children in Need' Concert at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

Sunday 17th

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)\* at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

9:30am Holy Communion at All Saints' Church, Chilton

11:00am Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

4:30pm Connect at Chilton School

6:15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)\* at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

7:00pm Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church meeting room

Monday 18th

9:30am Fledgelings at St Matthew's Church Hall

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at All Saints' Tower

Tuesday 19th

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)\* at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell

7:30pm Harwell Ladies' Group at St Matthew's Church Hall

Wednesday 20th

10:15am Home Group at St Matthew's Church meeting room

1:45pm Home Group at 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

Thursday 21st

2:30pm Harwell Evergreens - Christmas Shopping trip to Swindon - this instead of the usual meeting. Coach pickup times will be 10am (a little earlier for those who join the coach at Didcot)

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Matthew's Tower

8:00pm Home Group at Milburn, Wantage Road, Harwell

Saturday 23rd

8:30am Prayer Meeting in both churches

Sunday 24th

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)\* at All Saints' Chilton

9:30am Morning Worship at All Saints' Church, Chilton

11:00am Morning Worship at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

6:15pm Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church, Harwell

7:00pm Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church meeting room

Monday 25th

9:30am Fledgelings at St Matthew's Church Hall

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at All Saints' Tower

Wednesday 27th

10:15am Home Group at St Matthew's Church meeting room

1:45pm Home Group at 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

Thursday 28th

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice at St Matthew's Tower

Friday 29th

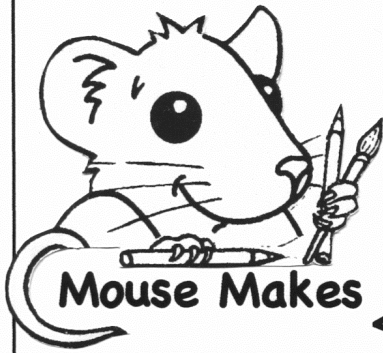
7.30pm Youth Fellowship—Big Church Night In—The Deliverance Centre, Reading

Saturday 30th

8:30am Prayer Meeting in both churches

Afternoon Advent Activity Afternoon—location to be confirmed

\* Book of Common Prayer



## Mouse Makes

CHRISTMAS is coming,  
ADVENT is near!

Colour in **one** section of the Advent candle (starting at the bottom) on each of the **four**

Sundays before Christmas and read about God's **promise**, God's **message**, God's **gift** and God's **good news**.

On Christmas Day colour in the flame at the top of the candle, cut the candle out and hang from the tree.

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

Can you find these words?  
ADVENT • PEACE • JOY  
HOPE • LOVE • GOOD • NEWS  
JESUS • BIRTH • SAVIOUR



# ★ ADVENT ★

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### **Baptisms**

*"Welcome into the Lord's family"*

Eleanor Marie Robin Buxton

### **Funerals**

*"He who believes in Me will live"*

John Reginald Talbot

Jack Craddock

Richard Lawrence

## DIDCOT CHRISTMAS STREET FAIR

Come and sing in the Gospel Choir! After the success of last year's Didcot Churches Gospel Choir, we've been invited to sing again at the Didcot Christmas Street Fair on Thursday 28th November. The choir will be once again be organised by the King's Church and we'd like to invite people from all the churches in Didcot and the surrounding area to make up the choir. You don't have to be an accomplished musician, we're just looking for people who enjoy singing and praising – the more the merrier, all ages welcome and no auditioning! The commitment will involve 4 rehearsals from 3-5pm on Sunday afternoons to practise a small selection of songs. These will be on: Sundays 27th October, and 10th, 17th & 24th November. Rehearsal CDs for each part will be provided. If you're interested, please come along to an initial meeting/rehearsal on: Sunday 27th October at 3pm St Birinus School Hall. In the meantime, please e-mail [lizzie.butler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizzie.butler@hotmail.co.uk) to register your interest and join the mailing list for updates on venues and times.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards will be on sale from mid November, after services and from the office during the week on Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30-3.30pm. Any profit will support the work of the churches.

## SCOUTS FIREWORKS

Harwell Scout Group will be holding their annual Firework evening on Friday 8th November. It is primarily a family friendly event held at the Harwell Primary school with entry by donation. We will be running a bar and BBQ with the gates opening around 6.30pm and fireworks starting at about 7.15pm (subject to weather and us getting the fireworks all set up!!).

## ADVENT ACTIVITY AFTERNOON

Saturday 30th November. No need to book—nothing to pay. All children aged 5-11 will be very welcome and we'd love those under 5 to join us too provided an adult stays to look after them. Details of location and timing to be confirmed: see [hchurches.org/](http://hchurches.org/) advent

## ADVENT CALENDARS

**THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR**  
You've seen and maybe tasted the 'Real Easter Egg'. Well, the same people, the Meaningful Chocolate Company, are about to bring us the Real Advent Calendar. Each window contains a chocolate star and a line from the Christmas story, plus a 24 page copy of the Christmas story behind the giant final window. Tesco will be stocking the Real Advent Calendar from October. The company will make a donation to The Children's Society for every sale and have committed to giving at least £26,000 to their work with disadvantaged children.

## HARWELL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We need your help – have you a spare few hours during the Poppy Appeal Remembrance period October 28th – November 10th to take part in the house to house collections in Harwell and Chilton Village? The Collection Tins, Poppies, etc will be delivered to you and collected afterwards, you will be advised on how much was raised in 'your' tin and the total collected. All money raised goes to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which helps servicemen and women past and present who are experiencing all sorts of difficulties be it wounded, injured or sick service personnel returning from active duty, help with caring for a dependant or just some comradeship. For more information about how the Royal British Legion helps ex-service personnel visit

[www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk](http://www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk)

If you are able to help then please contact Wendy Clarke, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Harwell Village and District via email [ian.clarke470@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.clarke470@ntlworld.com) or post, Royal British Legion, Westfield, Harwell, Oxon OX11 0LG. Please mark For The Attention of Wendy Clarke, PAO. Thank you.

## HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Meeting at Harwell Village Hall, Monday 4th November 7.30pm. Talk by Chris Day 'The A-Z of fool proof Gardening' Competition: Winter Berries. More information: Dave Drummond Tel: 821615.

Please submit noticesheet items to Carolyn by Wednesday of the preceding week, either via the website, by email, by phone, or by leaving a note in the vestry. The deadline for Ridgeway Broadsheet items is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

## DIDCOT & DISTRICT U3A

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. The November meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 19 November at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic will be 'The work of Sobell House'. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. There are over 20 interest groups including wine appreciation, science & maths, play reading, creative writing, walking, knitting, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, badminton, photography and 5 languages. There's something for everyone! Tel: 07804159993 Email: [didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com](mailto:didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com) Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

## AUCTION OF PROMISES

With additional housing in our parish in the near future, Harwell needs to upgrade its Village Hall. There is a host of community activities being held to boost the building fund—see [harwellvillagehall.co.uk](http://harwellvillagehall.co.uk)—including opportunities to see big screen films right here in our High Street. November's fundraiser is an Auction of Promises on Saturday 23rd - bid for local services such as babysitting or catering or treats such as tea at the House of Commons. Entry by £5 programme from Bob's Family Butchers. Offers of promises to auction to Julia at 07771 780078 [julia@firstclasstraining.co.uk](mailto:julia@firstclasstraining.co.uk)