

# Review of 2013



ST MATTHEW'S  
H A R W E L L

## A year in the life of St Matthew's, Harwell

This is a very short Review of 2013 at St Matthew's, Harwell. It is taken from the much longer publication - the Annual Report - which is the official record for authorities such as the Charity Commission, since St Matthew's is a registered charity. You can find the Annual Report [here](#).

All Saints' Chilton and St Matthew's Harwell are two parishes under one Rector, Jonathan Mobey. The Rectory is in Harwell and the Administrator for the two parishes, Carolyn Vickers, works from Harwell Church. Carolyn is your first port of call for many things. You can reach her on 01235 834256 or [office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk). You can find other ways to contact us at the end of this Review.

The vision of both Churches is *"Sharing life at the heart of the community, making followers of Jesus"*. All of the activities you can read about in detail in the longer Annual Report or elsewhere on this website support that vision.



## Worship, music and prayer

### Worship and music

Every Sunday we meet together to worship God, hear from his Word, pray together, and encourage one another. Our services range from the quiet, traditional ones from the Book of Common Prayer, to contemporary, family-friendly ones. You may want to see how many people attend each kind of service to help you decide which to try out first. You can find that information in Appendix 3 of the [main Annual Report](#).

We have an all-age Orchestra, which accompanies two services a month and all the main Festivals, such as Christmas and Easter. If you're a musician, we'd love to introduce you to others! The Orchestra was joined by the Hands Free band (Hands Free is a contemporary afternoon music-led service once a month) to accompany a large 'Songs of Praise' event on Harwell Recreation Ground the night before the Harwell Feast, welcoming visitors from all over the area. If you visit the Feast on the late May Bank Holiday each year, you'll usually find the barbeque being cooked and served by members of St Matthew's and our sister church in Chilton, All Saints'.

The church tower has eight bells and we have an enthusiastic bell ringing team. You can find out more about bellringing at St Matthew's [here](#).

### Youth and families

We welcome children from babes in arms to teenagers at our services and offer them a Creche, Scramblers (age 3 - 6), Discoverers (7-11), Pathfinders (12-14) and Youth Fellowship (from 15). All ages are approximate and our young people are welcome to join the group where they feel most comfortable. YF takes place in St Matthew's Church Meeting Room but is a joint activity with All Saints', Chilton

and happens during term-time on Sunday evenings. Other youth provision takes place during the Sunday morning service during term-time. Find out more [here](#).

**Connect** was launched in January 2013 as part of our programme of welcome to the new families moving into the 'Chilton Field' development. It takes place in Chilton School and offers a place to meet, socialise and play, and somewhere where some of the key themes of Christianity can be gently presented. Each session is based on a Bible story or theme, and key ingredients are a film clip or short animation, a craft activity, Want to know more? Click [here](#)

Holiday Club 2013 took place over a week in August, was free to attend and open to all children of primary school age. More than 60 volunteers from both St Matthew's and All Saints' made it happen. 82 children attended, 66 of them for all five days, and they



represented 51 families drawn from a wide area, covering Harwell, Chilton, Didcot, and surrounding villages.

We held two activity sessions aimed at primary school children in 2013. These are structured around a Christian or Bible theme and generally feature crafts, a story and singing.

**Harwell Young Singers** is a youth singing group, open to all, which often contributes to services or sings at weddings and other celebrations.

The 1st Harwell (St Matthew's) [Scout Group](#) is a thriving group offering all four Scouting sections, catering from age 6 - 18.



**Fledgelings** caters for both parishes and is for pre-school aged children and their parents and carers. The group meet in St Matthew's Church Hall, 100m South of the main church door.

There is play and activities for the children and chatting for the adults and the high ratio of volunteer helpers ensure a welcoming, supportive atmosphere. Do you know someone who'd like to join us? Discover where and when [here](#).

### Outreach, support and other activities

Offering emotional and practical support for Church members and non-members is how we try to demonstrate the love of Christ. Some ways of doing it are more visible than others.

The **Visiting Team** (and many individual members of St Matthew's) take on quiet practical support for those in need of help, whether short or long-term, at home or, for example, in hospital.

**Evergreens** is an afternoon social group for older residents and **Ladies Group** offers evening fellowship; both have a membership including churchgoers and non-churchgoers. The Harvest Lunch is a community-wide event organised by St Matthew's and held on a weekday to provide a hot meal and contact for many: Church members, Mums dropping in from toddler activities and staff from the two biggest employers in the village or, further afield, Harwell Campus.

We are pleased to welcome concert-goers to our beautiful building with its fine acoustic and new projection screen facilities (installed in 2013).

We set aside 15% of our annual budget to support a variety of mission partners working in the UK and across the world. See who they are and where they work [here](#).

A number of [House Groups](#) meet across the week at a variety of times and locations for fellowship, study and prayer. In recent years, we have run an Alpha course annually.

## Finances

The financial position of St Matthew's Church is satisfactory. Its income just about covers its tightly-controlled expenditure and it has some funds in reserve for a 'rainy day'. Operating from a Grade 1 Listed Building brings with it its own costs but we also own the purpose-built Church Hall about 100m from the Church.



The care and maintenance of both buildings is the responsibility of the volunteers of the Buildings Committee of the PCC. We have only just started hiring out the Hall but the income has been valuable: it helps defray the running cost of the Hall at a time of stretched finances for the Church as well as bringing the broader community into contact with the Church by offering them an additional village venue . You can make booking enquiries about the Church Hall [here](#).

You can see the church balance sheet in full [here](#).

## Who's who

The Rector is [Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey](#) who is supported by two Churchwardens and the Church Council (the PCC). The PCC, which is elected annually, sends delegates up to Deanery (that is, the group of 19 churches in our area) and out to organisations such as Churches Together in Didcot and District, the Village Hall Management Committee, the local branch of Christian Aid, and the local Youth Club, 'Our Street Corner'.

For more information, there are various ways to get in touch:



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[facebook.com/harwellandchiltonchurches](https://facebook.com/harwellandchiltonchurches)

or, if you would like to keep up to date with activities at All Saints', do keep an eye on this website. You can visit it *without* registering to



hear sermons

read our [magazine](#) delivered free to households in Harwell and Chilton



catch up on weekly news by checking out the [notice sheet](#)

and much more. *By registering*, you can also take part in discussion forums and find contact details for fellow Church members.