

# RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

February 2017



**Dr Ruth Banciewicz**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Buffet 6.30pm, lecture 7pm**

Pickavance Lecture Theatre  
Rutherford Appleton Lab  
Harwell Campus OX11 0FA

Free but please book online <http://tiny.cc/godlab>



**Rector of Harwell and Chilton** Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
The Rectory | Church Lane | Harwell | OX11 0EZ  
01235 799376 | [rector@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)

**Associate Minister** Revd Pam Rolls

01235 834475 | [pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk)

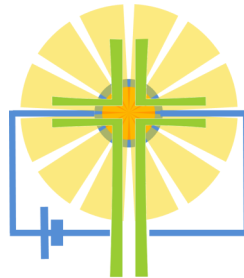
**Children & Families Worker** Mr Peter Shields

07467 038734 | [Peter@machparish.co.uk](mailto:Peter@machparish.co.uk)

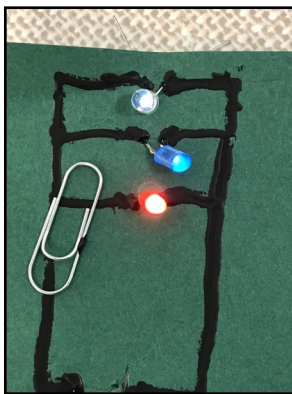
**Church Administrator & PA to the Rector** Mrs Vicky Johnston  
Harwell Church Office | Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 9.30-2.30 | 01235 834256  
[office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)

## CROSSING THE GAP - SCIENCE & FAITH

Crossing the Gap - a science and faith project in Harwell and Chilton churches - has been running for a full term and so it seemed a good time to reflect on what we have achieved so far. Crossing the Gap is funded by the World Templeton Charity Foundation through the Scientists in Congregations project. In October our grant, and those awarded to seven other projects, were celebrated with a reception at Bishopthorpe Palace hosted by the Archbishop of York. You can view a video on our website: [HCChurches.org/science](http://HCChurches.org/science).



Each fortnight on a Thursday a science discussion group meet in the lounge at St Matthew's church to discuss the relationship between science and faith. We have enjoyed discussions about miracles and science, and the awe and wonder that can be experienced through science. This coming term we will complete our sessions about awe and wonder and we will review the Test of Faith material from the Faraday Institute - a perfect introduction to looking at science and faith.



On the last Friday of each month we have been meeting at 4:30pm at the Church Hall in Harwell for Family Science Club. We do some hands on science, e.g. investigating

the difference between raw and hard boiled eggs (from the outside!), making volcanoes erupt, and building our own electrical lights for Christmas lanterns. This is followed by an exploration of how our experiments might help our faith, or how our faith might help us understand our experiments. Every session concludes with a free meal shared together. It has been a delight to welcome between 20 and 30 people to each session and to see parents and children together exploring science, learning about faith and having fun together.

The final stream of the project is to invite guest speakers to the Harwell Campus to give a wider view on



Science and Faith. We were privileged to welcome Professor John Lennox in January as our first speaker giving a lecture titled 'Cosmic Chemistry: Do Science and God mix?'. The event was excellent with nearly 200 people enjoying the lecture. This term we will be joined by Dr Ruth Bancewicz from the Faraday Institute talking to us about 'God in the Lab' which is really exciting! (See front cover for booking information).

This project will be running until August so it's not too late to come to any event - please be assured of a warm welcome! If you would like to know more please contact Jonathan Mobey; [rector@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk) or Carina Loble; [carina.lobley@cantab.net](mailto:carina.lobley@cantab.net) or see: [HCChurches.org/science](http://HCChurches.org/science)

## Science versus Faith?

I was appalled recently when one of my children was asked in class to choose between the scientific and the biblical explanation of the beginnings of the universe. "What if I think they are both true?" asked my conflicted offspring. The teacher didn't seem to be able to cope with this possibility and was unable or unwilling or unable to adjust the lesson plan to accommodate a surprising turn of events. So she insisted on sticking with the dichotomy; science *or* religion was the choice. And that is the way many people think today, but is, I believe, based on misunderstanding.

If I were to come into a kitchen to find a kettle boiling, I could explain what is happening in terms of the electricity from the cable causing the element to heat up, the heat energy being transferred to the water molecules, increasing their kinetic energy to the extent that the vapour pressure of the water exceeds that of the ambient atmosphere, and the liquid therefore boiling. That is a scientific explanation. But it is also true that the water is boiling because someone is intending to make a cup of tea. Both explanations are true. One is concerned with process and mechanism and is 'scientific', the other is concerned with purpose and meaning. It would be a nonsense to be forced to choose between the two explanations.

We live in an area of wonderful scientific research and technological innovation, and our local communities and churches are full of those who happily call themselves both scientists and Christians. This month's back page interview features one of them, Dr Tony Hughes.

Feeling the need to somehow have to choose between science and faith is a relatively new thing, and certainly not shared

by many scientists, past and present. The possibility of science itself – the discovery of orderly laws by which the universe is governed – is underpinned by Christian beliefs that there is a divine Creator, who has ordered all things, and created human beings in his image with the ability to understand how things are and then creatively apply that knowledge. It can be argued that it was the Christian worldview that gave rise to the scientific revolution in medieval Europe, with scientific pioneers across the disciplines, such as Boyle, Galileo, Mendel, John Ray, Newton and Faraday, being inspired by their faith, as are many leading scientists today.



Kepler expressed it well for those in his field: "astronomers are the priests of God called to interpret the book of nature". The founders of the Royal Society considered the study of nature to be a form of religious worship and devoted the Society "to the glory of God the Creator and the advantage of the human race".

Both science and theology are concerned with the search for truth. If you are interested in thinking about important things and exploring the relationship between science and the Christian faith, why not consider coming to the talk advertised on the front cover, or the fortnightly discussion group, or the monthly Family Science Club? There is lots of good material online and in print, too.

As it says in Psalm 111:2, and inscribed above the main door of the Cavendish Physics Laboratory in Cambridge,

"Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them." Let's ponder together!

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
Rector of Harwell and Chilton

## NEW CAP DEBT CENTRE

A new CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre has been set up to cover Didcot and the surrounding area. If you would like help with debt, please see [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) and enter your postcode. Or ring our new Didcot Debt Centre on 0800 328 0006 to book an appointment or to find out more.

[Capdebthelp.org](http://Capdebthelp.org) "CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to debt help they give people across the country." Martin Lewis, Money Saving Expert  
"Whatever the situation you are facing, there is hope. As a charity, we offer a completely free service to help you lift the burden of debt. So give them us a call today and start your journey towards debt freedom." Didcot Debt Centre.



If you're not in debt, but would like to do a CAP Money Course, our next one is running at Didcot Baptist Church starting on Monday 20th February, along with 27th February and 13th March. These sessions will end around 12 noon. Book your place by contacting Vicky in the Church office or online at [capmoneycourse.org](http://capmoneycourse.org).

## FAMILY SCIENCE PHOTOS



Our next Family Science Club meeting is on February 24th February at 4.30pm. We meet at St Matthew's Church Hall, near to St Matthew's Church and finish our meetings with a free meal. Our evening Science & Faith Group meetings take place fortnightly in St Matthew's Lounge. Contact the Church Office for more information.

SERVICES

FEBRUARY

Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's	
9.30am All Age Worship 'Christingle'	5th Feb	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Worship 'Christingle' 6.15pm Evening Prayer	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	12th Feb	11.00am Morning Worship	
9.30am Holy Communion	19th Feb	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	26th Feb	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion	

REGULAR EVENTS

You can find details of all our regular events and meetings on our website [HCChurches.org](http://HCChurches.org). You can also pick up a welcome leaflet from All Saints' Chilton or St Matthew's Harwell for this information.

We also put information, and sometimes photos of our events on our facebook page: [facebook.com/HCChurches/](https://facebook.com/HCChurches/)



OTHER EVENTS

2nd February 8.30pm	Night Prayer at All Saints' Chilton
2nd February 7.30pm	Science & Faith Group, St Matthew's Church Lounge
12th February 2.30pm	Walking group see <a href="http://HCChurches.org/walking">HCChurches.org/walking</a>
14th February 7.45pm	All Saints' Women's Group, All Saints' Church
16th February 2.30pm	Evergreens, St Matthew's Church Hall
16th February 7.30pm	Science & Faith Group, St Matthew's Church Lounge
20th February 10.00am	CAP Money Course, Didcot Baptist Church
24th February 4.30pm	Family Science and Faith, St Matthew's Church Hall
25th February 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, Chilton Village Hall

You are very welcome to join us for any of our services or meetings.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms & Thanksgivings

*"Welcome to the Lord's family"*

Florence Lily O'Leary

### Weddings

*"Those that God has joined together"*

Ian East & Alison Ross

### Funerals

*"He who believes in Me will live"*

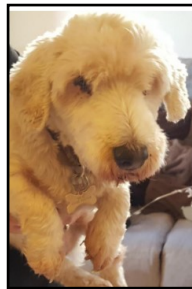
Michael Dawes

Trevor Holt

Enid Jordan

## NEW HOME NEEDED

Can you give this dog a home? This 8 year old Sealyham Terrier really needs a caring forever home. If you want a loyal friend who will stay by your side and doesn't ask for much except a brief walk twice a day, food and a comfy bed. Please contact 07976 538252 for more information.



## CHRISTINGLE



Our Christingle All Age services are on Sunday 5th February. 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton and 11am at St Matthew's Harwell. Each orange has a red ribbon, a candle, and best of all, sweets and dried fruit! Many churches have these services in December, but we like to save it. Why not come along and join us?

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Chilton Wyevale Garden Centre for their generous donation of the magnificent tree which was displayed on the top of the tower at All Saints', Chilton. It looked lovely and we had many compliments about it. We are very grateful to Chilton Wyevale for their kind gift. *Hazel King and Members of the PCC.*



Thank you to all who came carol singing around Chilton Village and/or in the Rose and Crown just before Christmas. A total of £160.60 was raised for Save the Children. Thank you also to Bill and Muriel Millar and to Shea at the Rose and Crown for their hospitality.

## CHILTON CHARITY QUIZ SHEET

The Christmas quiz sheet on a theme of Shops and Businesses in the High Street and Shopping Centres was won by Mary Napper from Didcot Library with a perfect 50 out of 50. Second was Ivory Lucas from Stanford in the Vale, and Hilary and Peter Groves from Limetrees came third. This quiz sheet has raised over £170 already for SeeSaw; the next quiz sheet will be available from 11th February. *Judy Goodall*

## HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Harwell Village Hall, 7.30pm, Monday 6th February. The Adventures of a Seed Detective, by Adam Alexander Competition: Snowdrops. Contact David Drummond 821615.



## CHARITY MARKET STALL



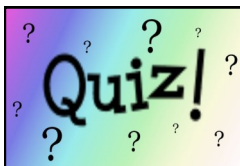
The amazing amount of £3,865.10 was raised by the Charity Stall at the monthly produce market during 2016. Our thanks go to everyone who comes to buy, our great band of helpers who remain cheerful through the wind and rain, and of course those who donate goods, bake for us and sort, store and refurbish donated goods.

In December the great total of £655 was raised for the Oncology Unit at The Churchill Hospital; this included a generous donation. £303.50 was raised at our January market stall for the benefit of the Chilton Lunch Club; thank you to everyone who supported us.

On February 11th we will be raising funds for Young Dementia UK who provide excellent support for families and people diagnosed with early onset dementia.

We are always grateful to receive small items for the white elephant stall, books and home produce. *Judy Goodall*

## GRAND CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT



All Saints' Women's Group will be holding their Annual Quiz Night on Saturday March 18th at

Chilton Village Hall. Tickets including a hot supper and tasty pudding cost £10 per head and teams will comprise of up to 6 people. For further details contact Judy Goodall on 01235 834503.

## POPPY APPEAL 2016

The amount collected from Harwell Village and Harwell Campus in November was £2,497.34. The amount collected from Chilton Village, Chilton Field and the Curie Avenue shops and businesses was £1,274.12. So the total for the local house to house and business collection in 2016 was £3,771.46.

Thank you to everyone who donated and to those who went door to door with the poppies.

*Peter Cox, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Harwell and Hazel King, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Chilton.*

## NEW CHAIRS

Have you seen the new chairs in the chancel at St Matthew's Church? Both our churches are usually open during daylight hours so that visitors can pop in for some moments of quiet.



## U3A

Didcot & District U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. On 21st February, Phil Judkins will give a talk entitled 'Enigma, Bletchley and the Hunt for Hitler's secret weapons' 01235 211291; [secretary@didcotu3a.org](mailto:secretary@didcotu3a.org)

## INTERVIEW WITH TONY HUGHES

I went to school in Newport in South Wales and then read physics at Jesus College Oxford. I met Margaret at school and we came to this area when I did research at the UKAEA Harwell Laboratory for my D.Phil. In those days it was known as 'Harwell Atomic' to distinguish it from Harwell Village. We lived first in a prefab at Chilton and then went for two years to Cornell University in the USA. I am a 'solid state physicist' and the research that I did involved experiments at very low temperatures and a lot of theory using quantum mechanics and group theory. The Didcot Herald used to describe people like me as 'boffins'.

We came back from the USA in 1969, moved to Harwell Village and have been here ever since. The house we have lived in for over 40 years dates back to the 17th century. The work to keep it up has probably helped with the main church job that I have done for 17 years as Chairman of the Buildings Committee. I've also played in the Orchestra for over 20 years and, through Margaret being leader of the Visiting Team for twelve years, I have collected some involvements in helping people cope with life's problems. We brought up four children and have four grandchildren aged 10 to 18 who keep me on my toes.

In the 1970s I wrestled with whether to keep doing research or get more involved in managing research. I did both for a while and ended up as a Research Director for the UKAEA. Then I moved to the Research Councils before I retired.



I saw a fair bit of the world as a research scientist including Japan and India. Japan is the only place where I've given lectures in my socks and India was an eye-opener. Heathrow seemed like a morgue compared with all the crowds in India.

As a scientist and Christian I am very aware that the more we understand, the more we realise that many mysteries remain, some seemingly beyond our comprehension. The vast range of scales of what we understand about the universe is mind-boggling. To those who doubt the work of a Creator God I would refer to one eminent scientist-

theologian whose advice is to weigh up the evidence and think hard about what it means.

With my background of Sunday school, school and church when I was growing up I've never had a 'born again' moment, but it was only when I joined the church orchestra that I started going to church regularly again and thought about these things more carefully, rather than just trundling along as a token believer. I was also nudged towards more serious thought by a few other people! I'm very glad to see how the Science and Faith project is now providing a forum for such debate.

On a lighter note, whilst I have a doctorate I am not a 'proper doctor'. I don't often use it myself, but when others have described me as 'Dr Hughes' in hospitals it certainly causes extra deference! My sister used it once before I visited my mother in hospital and the nurses were almost curtsying as I came in. Most embarrassing.

Please send items to Vicky by the 2nd Wednesday of the month.  
01235 834256, [office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)

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