

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

October 2017

Sunday 1st October

9.30am All Saints'

Chilton

11.00am Harwell

Village Hall



**Please bring donations for
Didcot Food Bank**



01235 834256 | HCChurches.org



Rector of Harwell and Chilton Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey

The Rectory | Church Lane | Harwell | OX11 0EZ

01235 799376 | rector@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Day off usually on Wednesdays

Associate Minister Revd Pam Rolls

01235 834475 | pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk

Day off usually on Fridays

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

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

As we move into the autumn, we are rapidly approaching a season of remembrance. We are all aware of Remembrance Sunday when we honour the memory of those who have served our country in the armed services during war, as well as remembering and praying for those who continue to suffer as a result of violent conflict. This year our Remembrance Services will take place on **Sunday 12 November** (9.30am at All Saints' Chilton and 11am at St Matthew's Harwell).

But there is also an opportunity to remember members of our own families, members of our own communities, or friends who have died. These remembrances are the focus of All Souls' Day which is marked in the church calendar on **2 November** (the day after the better known All Saints' Day). In our main morning services on **Sunday 5 November** we are going to remember and give thanks to God for loved ones who have died in an 'All Souls Service' at 9.30am at Chilton and 11am at Harwell. We will reflect on what these dear ones meant to us and also be reminded of the Christian hope of the resurrection for all those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

In advance of the services on **5 November**, we will be writing to the families of those whose funerals we have conducted in the past 3 years. However, many of us will have lost loved ones more than 3 years ago, or we will have family and friends who have died but who didn't live in Harwell or Chilton. We would love to welcome you to these services, too, so please come, whether you receive a letter of invitation or not. And please pass on the date to others who you think might like to know about the All Souls' services.

Further details are available from Rev Pam Rolls, Associate Minister, 01235 834475 or pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk who is going to be leading the All Souls' services.

PEWS FOR SALE



You may know that we are in the process of asking permission from the church authorities to dispose of our pews in favour of more flexible, comfortable and practical seating. They are heritage ornaments which we want to go to a good home if we are allowed to remove them. We do hope that that permission will come soon and so are now taking reservations up to **15 October**. When we have disposed of a few pews before, they have been given a new lease of life as elegant additions to homes but also, with treatment, in gardens.

At the time of writing, we have at least 20 pitch pine or deal pews of varying lengths to rehome. The prices will be:

- short (H 103 x W 147 x D 63) - £75 ono;
- medium (H 103 x W 250 x D 63) - £100;
- and long (H 103 x W 310 x D 63) - £125.

You can view the pews in St Matthew's from 9am-3pm until 30th September, or by appointment from 4.30-6.30pm.

Assuming we are allowed to sell the pews, we will ask you to take away the one(s) you've bought away as soon as they are finally unfixed from the floor. This could be any time between mid-October and late November, and we may be able to give you only a few days' notice. One thing to consider then is that, if you reserve a pew but have a holiday booked (for example), you organise for a friend or neighbour to come down to claim it on your behalf.

Any queries or requests to view please to Liz Roberts on 07745 80 20 30.

RECTOR'S LETTER

This month's letter is an update on St Matthew's re-ordering plans. Whilst of greatest interest to the Harwell readership, many people in Chilton might be interested to know what is going on down the road in the sister church.

What's this all about?

You will hopefully recall that, following consultation, St Matthew's have committed to making the church building more flexible, accessible and comfortable by replacing the fixed pews with chairs and installing a new heating system. The plans also involve some minor levelling of the floor and laying a new carpet. We are also planning to redecorate the nave (the main seating area), which is a major project involving scaffolding.

So how far have we got?

We already have permission and funding for the redecoration, and are in the final stages of seeking formal approval for the seating/flooring project. We are doing some extra work on the heating plans before formally seeking approval to proceed with this. We have identified some - but not all - of the funding for the heating/seating/flooring project.

What is the timescale?

We have committed to the redecoration work between *25th September and 3rd November, during which time the church will not be open to the public*. During October the 11am services (1st to 29th inclusive) will not be held in church, and will instead be held in Harwell Village Hall (please bring your own bibles!). We hope still to be able to use the chancel for the 8am and evening services, however. (During this period, post for the office can be delivered to the Rectory).

We hope to do the seating/flooring work during November, if we are granted permission in time and contractors can be lined up, but this is currently uncertain. Alternatively this could be done in the New Year. This work should hopefully not disrupt our regular pattern of services and other activities. The heating aspect of the project would not happen until early 2018.

How can I get involved?

- Firstly, please *pray for the project*, for permissions and funding, and that it would help our mission to Grow God's Church, wider, deeper and closer.
- Secondly, please consider whether you might be able to *make a financial gift* towards the seating, the heating, or both, and whether you might like to donate a chair/chairs in memory of a loved one (see link below or call the Church Office).
- Thirdly, please consider whether you might like to *buy a pew*. Some are already spoken for, but there are still some available. There is more information about this on the previous page.

"We are fellow workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building"
1 Corinthians 3:9

For further information about the project and a downloadable copy of the fundraising leaflet, please see <http://HCChurches.org/fitforthefuture>



Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

AUTUMN TERM

We've got a fairly busy term ahead of us and thought you might like to see some of the topics and special services coming up (please note that not all services are listed).

Date	Chilton	Harwell
01/10/2017	Harvest Service	Harvest Service
01/10/2017	4.00pm Licensing Service	
08/10/2017	Journeying Together	Journeying Together
15/10/2017	Journeying Together	Journeying Together
22/10/2017	Journeying Together	Journeying Together
29/10/2017	Reformation Anniversary	Reformation Anniversary
05/11/2017	All Souls' service	All Souls' service
12/11/2017	Remembrance Sunday	Remembrance Sunday
19/11/2017	Communion	Communion
26/11/2017	Stewardship	Stewardship
03/12/2017	Toy Service	Toy Service
10/12/2017	4pm & 6.30pm Carols	Morning Worship
17/12/2017	Communion	4pm & 6.30pm Carols
24/12/2017	Morning Worship	3.30pm Crib Service
24/12/2017	10pm Communion	11.30pm Communion
25/12/2017	Christmas Celebration	Christmas Celebration
31/12/2017	6.15pm Watchnight Service	

FLEDGELINGS

Fledgelings is our toddler group for babies and children aged 0-5 years old and their carers. We meet from 9.15-11.30am during term time in St Matthew's Church Hall, Harwell on Mondays and in Chilton Field Community Room on Wednesdays.

We have refreshments for adults and children each week and everyone is welcome to join us. Our group is free, donations are welcome. We have a 'See and Know' session each week at the end where we sing some songs, think about a bible story and make a craft. Contact Vicky in the Church Office for more information on 834256 or office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk.



Services at All Saints'		Services in Harwell Please note our 11am services will be in Harwell Village Hall during October
9.30am Harvest All Age Worship 6.15pm Licensing Jan Radford	1st Oct	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Harvest All Age Worship
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	8th Oct	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	15th Oct	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	22nd Oct	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	29th Oct	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion

OTHER ACTIVITIES

4th October 8.30pm	Night Prayer, All Saints' Church
8th October 2.30pm	Walking Group see http://HCChurches.org/walking
10th October 7.45pm	All Saints' Women's Group, All Saints'
19th October 2.30pm	Evergreens, St Matthew's Church Hall
19th October 7.30pm	Science & Faith Group, St Matthew's Church Lounge
28th October 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, Chilton Village Hall
28th October 10am-12	Evergreens Coffee Morning, St Matthew's Church Hall

REGULAR EVENTS

You can find details of all our regular events and meetings on our website 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



POPPY APPEAL

If you would be willing to call house to house during the end of **October and early November** to collect for the 2017



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, please contact Hazel Benton for Chilton village and Chilton Field – 01235 821714 or hazel.benton@btinternet.com, or contact Peter Cox for Harwell Village – branch@harwellrbl.co.uk
Many thanks, Hazel & Peter

WALKING GROUP



Our next walk is on **Saturday 8th October** at 2.30pm. Please wear suitable foot wear and, dependent on weather, bring a raincoat/sunscreen/sunhat/water.

We are meeting bimonthly on Sunday afternoons. All very welcome to join in. See <http://HCChurches.org/walking>

DIDCOT U3A

On **17th October** Phil Judkins will talk on 'Enigma, Bletchley and the Hunt for Hitler's Secret Weapons' 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. See www.u3asites.org.uk/didcot

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

We next meet on **Tuesday 10th October** at 7.45pm in All Saints' Church Chilton. Our speaker will be Jane Woods talking about her family history in Chilton village and displaying photographs of old village life. We always welcome visitors and new members. Contact Judy on 834503.

CHILTON CHARITY MARKET STALL

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the September Stall which raised £361 for the Oxfordshire branch of Crohn's and Colitis.

On **Saturday 7th October** we are supporting Style Acre and in particular the Day Service in Didcot T2 which provides support and enables people with moderate learning difficulties and/or autism.

We always welcome small white elephant items, home produce and books. We look forward to seeing you there between 9am and 12 noon in the Car Park of the Rose and Crown. Contact Judy on 834503.

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



HARWELL EVERGREENS



On **Thursday 19th October** we'll be hearing from Sharron Jenkinson from Hearing dogs for the deaf. Join us at St Matthew's Church Hall at 2.30pm. The talk will be followed by cakes, tea and coffee. Contact Gill on 831592.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Jack Perry

John Oldland

MESSY CHURCH & SCIENCE

On the **30th August** the Visitor Centre on the Harwell Campus was converted to a Messy Church venue. There were two sessions each attended by about 100 people. Not having ever been part of Messy Church, this was a whole new experience. There were 10 experimental 'stations' with simple science experiments for the participants to have a go. At each station the participants were encouraged to think about how the experiment might highlight an aspect of Christian faith. After about 40 minutes of hands-on science, the group came together for a celebration - there was a short drama about science and faith, prayer and a song. Finally we shared some food and drink together. It was a really fun time and a great way to explore a range of activities and ideas.

Carina Lobley.

COFFEE MORNING

Come along to Harwell Evergreens Coffee on **Saturday 28th October** from 10am-12



noon at St Matthew's for some delicious homemade cakes, biscuits and hot drinks. Contact Gill on 831592.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

2nd October at 7.30pm in the Poppy Rooms. 'Roses' with Andrew Mikolajski. Comp: Sweetpeas from seed provided. 821615; dave.drummond@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WALK

There is a Christian Aid Sponsored Walk on **Saturday 7th October**. It will be just over 10km, starting and finishing at Chilton Church. An off-road route, taking in The Ridgeway.

Please contact Andrew Jones for more information: andrewpjones@theiet.org

CRAFTERNOON

Make something, share skills, all over a cuppa.

Saturday 25th November 2017

@ RAL Rec Soc 2-5pm

Make a donation for taking part.

Bring your own craft or maybe start something new with us.

Book: crafternoon@harwellvillage.com



WI AFTERNOON TEA

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

HARWELL WI

'The Big T'

Afternoon tea and cakes



Sun 29 October 2017

3.00 – 5pm - £3.00

Harwell 'Cherry' Village Hall

*Not just for the WI – EVERYONE WELCOME
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE VILLAGE HALL FUND
Further information from Penny on 01235 835430*

FRANCES GEERING ALMSHOUSES, HARWELL

The Almshouses have been an important feature of Harwell High Street and a fascinating part of our village history since the late 1730s. They were originally built due to a remarkable benefactress called Frances Jennings who decided to fight for her rights in a man's world. She had been born to a wealthy Harwell family and when she married at the age of 61, she realised that all her assets would become the legal property of her new husband William Geering. Frances therefore took steps to protect her considerable personal estate. A prenuptial agreement was very unusual in those days but she had an indenture drawn up in 1715 which stated that her assets should be kept "in trust for me and to my sole and separate use and... the said William Geering... should not intermeddle... therewith." Thus on her death in 1731 she was able, by her will made in 1723, to bequeath £1200 (over a million pounds today) to be used for building Almshouses in Harwell village.

The houses were built originally for 6 widows to live in, and 4 trustees were appointed to administer the charity. There was a real need for this type of accommodation as houses were often tied to a job and a family would often be made homeless. Records show that life in the Almshouses was not very comfortable with open smoking fires in each room, no indoor water supply and a toilet block at the bottom of the garden. By the nineteenth century, discipline was also harsh with instant removal from the Almshouses being the punishment for any drunkenness or disobedience - a list of rules was displayed in each almshouse room. Life in the Almshouses continued to be very basic until the 1960s when major refurbishment improved the



accommodation and gave residents more space by reducing the number from 6 to 4. Then again in the 1990s the interior was redesigned to make comfortable accommodation suitable for just 2 residents, whilst retaining a beautiful 18th century exterior.

Since the Almshouses were built, Trustees have always worked hard to ensure that Frances Geering's charity continued to support the needs of the village community and in 1893 combined with several other smaller village charities, afterwards known as the Harwell Parochial Charities. In earlier days the duties of a Trustee involved looking after the fabric of the building, appointing new residents, looking after their welfare and also administering charity to villagers in need.

In the 21st century 8 Trustees and a Clerk continue to have a role, but the duties have evolved and now include responsibility for maintaining a Grade 2 listed building, appointing residents and caring for their wellbeing, and working with the Charity Commission to ensure that the charity complies with required standards in managing a budget, risk assessment, and keeping the charity viable. Trustees are appointed for a 4 year period, and can with the approval of the other trustees, opt to carry on for further 4 year periods. We are an enthusiastic group and may have a vacancy for a new Trustee in the near future. If you would like the opportunity to support a part of the village heritage and have skills which you could offer as a Trustee, then please contact the Clerk, Clare Wagner, who will give you more details. Email: clare.wagner@jabrin.co.uk or telephone 01235 835425.

Please submit notices to Vicky via the website, by email or by phone.
01235 834256, office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk
St Matthew's Registered Charity Number 1158861