

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

September 2018



Ever wondered if there is more to life?

Alpha is a great way to explore some of
the bigger questions of life

Thursdays 7.30pm, starting 13th September

See inside for details



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ALPHA

Join us at Chilton Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 13th September to explore the Christian faith. We will use the new Alpha videos which feature Gemma Hunt and Toby Flint. Each meeting will start with a pudding and we'll have cheese and biscuits after watching the video and before we go into small groups.

We'll meet for 6 weeks initially, up to October half term. There will be an opportunity to meet again during November to complete the Alpha Course.

This is a great opportunity to explore Christianity and to get to know others in the process. Take a look at www.HCChurches.org/alpha for more information and contact Vicky in the Church Office to book a place. There is no charge for attending the course.

Comments from past Alpha courses that we've run:

I really enjoyed the Alpha Course! I have been looking forward to every Monday night (and not just because of the puddings although they were fabulous too :-). It's been a great opportunity to take some time out of every day life to think about some big questions, getting to know people better and reaffirm my faith. The bible present at the end was really lovely too; it lives in my handbag now and I take it everywhere.

I first heard about Alpha Courses 10 years ago and have wanted to attend. This course was right time and right place for me.

Was suggested by a family member and thought it would be an interesting experience.

Enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know them. And I've got an improved understanding of what it means to be a Christian.



We'll be meeting on Thursday evenings
13th, 20th, 27th September
4th, 11th, 18th October
1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November.
We'll have half day away on Saturday 3rd November to think specifically about the Holy Spirit.
Throughout the Course we'll think about Who Jesus is, the Bible, prayer, church, healing and suffering and more! You are welcome to share what you think in a safe, non-judgemental environment.
To find out more see www.HCChurches.org/news



RECTOR'S LETTER

Chocolate brownie or sticky toffee pudding? Say 'I will' or 'No thanks'? Cash in your pension pot or leave it untouched? Life is full of decisions, and every day is a succession of options and choices, some relatively insignificant, others potentially life-changing. But we can only make a good decision when we have the facts. We would never agree to major surgery without good reason – a diagnosis, an explanation of what is involved, and any associated risks. For important decisions, it is essential that we make a choice that is informed.



There is one issue that we each have to make a decision about, that is arguably even more important and significant than whether or not to have major surgery. What I am thinking about has significance not just for this life, but for eternity. Jesus put the issue before his disciples 2000 years ago: "Who do you say that I am?" And this is something that we each need to decide for ourselves. The Christian faith claims that everything hangs on our personal response to that question. But how do we make an informed choice?

For a start we should look at what the Bible says; it contains eye-witness accounts of the life, death and – alleged – resurrection of Jesus, and of those who first believed that Jesus rose from the dead. St Luke is concerned that his readers consider the evidence and make an informed decision about Jesus. Right at the beginning of his contribution to the Bible he says,

"Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I... decided to write an orderly account for

you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:3-4)

The Bible must be our starting point. But alongside the Bible we should look at the evidence of history. We should also look at whether the Christian claims hang together and fit with what we know of the world, or whether other religions or worldviews make more sense. We should

look critically at the difference that genuine adherence to the Christian faith makes in societies and in individuals. Does prayer make a difference? Does God heal today? Without

investigating these sorts of things, we cannot make an informed decision.

The Alpha Course provides an opportunity to explore these crucial questions in a friendly, interactive setting. Alpha has been run in 169 countries and attended by over 22 million people who have wanted to make an informed decision about matters of eternal significance. We will be hosting Alpha at Chilton Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 13th September. For help with making an informed decision about an issue as important as they come, why not commit spend some time in stimulating conversation, with good company and delicious puddings? (All for free). You may even get a choice of desserts!

<http://hcchurches.org/alpha>

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Mobey.

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

PYRAMID ROCK

A HUGE thank you to all those involved in our Holiday Club this week in Harwell School. We had 126 children attending, with over 70 people helping over the course of the week. We had 17 different afternoon activities including felting, Egyptian craft, photography, croquet, photography, baking, rounders, football and swimming.

During the mornings we thought about Joseph from the book of Genesis. Our thoughts from each day were how God has a plan for each of us (a good one)! God has sent his helper - the Holy Spirit, God provides for all our needs, God forgives us, and God is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.



Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's	
9.30am Morning Worship	2nd Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Pebbles Family Service 9.30am Morning Worship	9th Sept	11.00am Morning Worship	
9.30am Holy Communion	16th Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	23rd Sept	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion	
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	30th Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion	

OTHER EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

5th September 8.30pm	Night Prayer, All Saints' Church
10th September 2.30pm	Generation Gold at St Matthew's Harwell
11th September 7.45pm	All Saints' Women's Group, All Saints'
13th September 7.30pm	Alpha Course at Chilton Village Hall
15th September 10am	'House of Prayer' Training Day at St Matthew's Church
20th September 2.30pm	Evergreens, St Matthew's Church Hall
20th September 7.30pm	Alpha Course at Chilton Village Hall
27th September 7.30pm	Alpha Course at Chilton Village Hall
29th September 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, 18 Latton Close

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



HARVEST SERVICES



We'll be celebrating harvest on **Sunday 7th October** with All Age Services. 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton and 11am at St Matthew's Harwell.

We'll then enjoy a bring and share lunch at Harwell Village Hall at 12.30pm.

CHILTON CHARITY STALL

The next Market will be on **Saturday 8th September** on Crafts End Green from 9am to 12 noon. The charity



we will be supporting is the Oxfordshire branch of the Crohn's and Colitis Society. There are always treasures to be found on the White Elephant Stall, bargains to be found on the Book Stall and a wide range of cakes, tarts, home-made breads, jams pickles and home produce to tempt you.

At the July market we were delighted to raise £426 for the Oxfordshire Motor Neurone Disease Association. In June we made £432 for the local branch of Parkinsons UK. Thank you to everyone who supports the market. Any offers of home produce, books and small White Elephant items are always welcomed.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Meet at Poppies Tea Room, Harwellian Club on **3rd September**. 'The Sexiest Fuchsias In The World' Nick Dobson. Comp: Fuchsia. Contact: jvmarkey@gmail.com

D DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

D Day Memorial Service at the RAF Harwell Memorial Stone 9th June 2018

Wreaths were laid by RBL County, Branches and Veterans Organisations from across Berkshire and Oxfordshire and on behalf of the local communities and on site businesses, led by the Chair of the District Council.

Cadets from Wantage and Didcot ATC Squadrons formed a guard of honour and laid a wreath along with pupils of Chilton Primary school. The event was closed by a Tiger Moth flypast with many enjoying the sight and sound of the vintage aircraft.

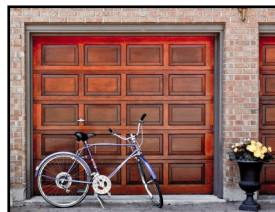
£42.27 was collected for the Poppy Appeal. Harwell Branch thanks all who participated and helped make the day a success

THANK YOU

After a number of years John and Hilary Alner are retiring from the White Elephant Stall at the Charity Market. We would like to give them an enormous thankyou for all the hard work they have done sorting, cleaning, repairing, testing and storing all the White Elephant goods. They have contributed so much every market day and it is very hard to resist Hilary's friendly persuasive sales technique. They will be greatly missed, cheerful even on the coldest and wettest mornings.

At present all the items are stored in the Alners' garage. Please can you help? Do you have some spare storage space in your garage or garden shed?

Could you help in any way? Please contact Judy Goodall on 834503.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Rodney 'Frank' Cox
Valerie Cubitt
Esmé Cox

Baptisms

"Welcome into the Lord's Family"

Louie Swinglehurst

QUIET DAY

Quiet Day **15th September** in Chilton.
10.30am - 3pm with an hour for lunch. The day starts with refreshments.

A reading is followed by a very short time to unwind and relax and then it's just you and God. See www.HCChurches.org/news.



ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

An exciting evening to start the year! Carina Lobley's topic will be "Life Science at Diamond Life Source" with hands-on experience.

We meet at 7.45pm at All Saints' Church on **Tuesday September 11th** and visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information please contact Judy Goodall on 834503.

ONLINE INFORMATION

You can visit our website to find out about our various activities and groups, world mission, catch up on news, listen to sermons at www.HCChurches.org. If you would like to keep up to date with news from our churches, why not 'like' our Facebook page?



facebook.com/HCChurches

GENERATION GOLD



Generation Gold were so thankful for all those who sent postcards for our special summer service.

Our next Generation Gold service is on **Monday 10th September**, 2.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell when we'll be thinking about harvest.

CRYPTIC QUIZ

This is No. 50!

The first quiz sheet was compiled in March 2006 and has supported over 27 different charities



raising over £9,200 with a wide range of topics from Public Houses in Oxfordshire via Fruit and Veg to shops and businesses. This quiz is to raise funds for Chilton Lunch Club.

Quiz Sheets at the new price of £1.50 will be on sale at the September charity market and from Atomic Hair, Shea at the Rose and Crown, Daphne Boddy, Sans Souci Reading Rd Harwell (221047), Audrey Slater, 9 Latton Close (834558) and Judy Goodall, 43 Crafts End (834503). Many thanks for your support.

EVERGREENS

Harwell Evergreens are meeting at St Matthew's Church Hall at 2.30pm on **Thursday 20th September**. Brian Lowe will be speaking from Odder Oxford. Contact Gill on 831592.

INTERVIEW WITH PHILL JOHNSTON

Phill Johnston was born within the sound of Bowbells. He moved with his family to Yarnton near Kidlington when he was 7, and then to Abingdon when he got married in 2002.

He moved to Harwell 3 years ago with his wife Vicky and children Mark and Toby. Phill works in finance at the John Radcliffe Hospital and enjoys cycling most of the way to work each day (getting the train from Didcot to Radley).

When & why did you do Alpha?

Back in 2000. I had heard about Alpha and was interested in going along but was a bit sceptical about what I might hear.

I went to a job interview in Witney and noticed an Alpha poster in a church window on the High Street. I found that the church was open, and the second week of Alpha was about to begin in 30 minutes and I was offered a free meal as part of the course! I didn't know anyone, but everyone was very welcoming.

What happened at Alpha?

We had a time to chat over the meal which was relaxed and unpressurised. Then we watched the Alpha video. Afterwards we could ask any questions we wanted – and say whatever we thought. The conversation wasn't forced and was a great opportunity to explore Christian beliefs in a friendly, open atmosphere.

I've always accepted that God is real, but didn't understand the good news about Jesus before doing Alpha. I knew that I was far from perfect. I was challenged to think more about God – and how righteous He is. I knew that I wasn't in the right place in God's view and learnt that Jesus had died to make right all the wrong things I had done.



I fought against becoming a Christian for a while as I grappled with these things until I finally saw that I couldn't escape the truth of Jesus dying on the cross for

me. I suddenly seemed to notice how there were so many churches everywhere. God's people are everywhere!

What difference has becoming a Christian made to you?

A deep sense of peace, that even though I'm far from perfect, Jesus' death on the cross has made me right with God. Also getting to know other Christians through church has been really good.

What's the best thing about Alpha?

The easy access to understanding what Christianity is about, great friendship and great food. Try it – you might enjoy it!

Please submit notices to Vicky via the website, by email or by phone.