

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

November 2018



Advent Doors returns to Harwell and Chilton this December!
See inside cover for more details



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HOMEGROUPS



Do you enjoy discussing books you've read? Meeting friends for a coffee and discussion? Being challenged by other people's beliefs? Then you may enjoy becoming part of one of our homegroups.

Homegroups meet in homes throughout our villages at various times and on various days each week. You don't need to commit to attending each week - feel free to turn up when you can.

If you're unable to meet with others maybe you'd enjoy reading some of the same material as a group and discussing it online, or one to one.

You would be particularly welcome to join a homegroup towards the end of November and finishing before Christmas, to look at a short series that the Bishop of Oxford has produced on the Letter to the Colossians. This will be helping us to resource our personal lives and the life of our local churches.

Meeting together is a great way of learning together, sharing with one another and supporting one another. If you would like to know more please do contact Vicky Johnston (contact details on the front cover) or Jean Barton.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sarah and Melanie, our Children & Families Workers (contact details on front page) have lots planned for the coming months.

As well as the regular activities on Sunday mornings and Fledgelings toddler group on Mondays and Wednesdays they are planning an activity session for children to enjoy during our Remembrance Sunday services; a Christmas Decorations morning (see below); a return of our very popular Advent Doors; and our Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Matthew's.



Advent Doors started in Chilton & Harwell 4 years ago. Each day a new location is revealed where you arrive each evening to

receive a sticker for your calendar along with a tasty treat. More details to follow on Facebook & on our website.

Saturday 1st December

Christmas Decoration Making

Make decorations and decorate the church Christmas trees!
Drop in anytime between:

10.30am - 12.00pm @ St Matthew's Harwell

2.30pm - 4.00pm @ All Saints' Chilton

Materials and refreshments all provided free of charge.

Can children please be accompanied by an adult.

RECTOR'S LETTER

When I was a young teen, I remember hearing stories about people with incredible memories, who were able to recall in great detail what they did, had to eat, and even the weather on any given day. I heard about others who could learn the order of a shuffled pack of cards, or remember great long strings of numbers, and was deeply impressed. I wanted to have an



amazing memory, too, and effortlessly be able to remember lists of objects or facts. So for a time I invested in learning some mnemonic techniques – some of which I still sometimes use now – but I can't really claim to have got anywhere near to the abilities of the 'memory athletes' that so inspired me at the time. Like most of us, I am good at remembering certain things, but pretty poor at remembering others!

Remembering is essential to mental and social functioning, and many of us recognise and therefore fear the incapacitating effects of the memory loss associated with dementia. We know the importance of that precious store of facts and skills that we have built up over our lifetimes, and that we constantly need to draw upon to give us a sense of identity, and enable us to function well in the present.

But it is not just individuals that need to draw upon a rich well of memory and experience. Families, communities and nations have a common past, and shared memories that unite them, create their identity, and direct their futures. 100 years on from Armistice Day, when the guns of the great and terrible First World War finally fell silent, our nation takes time to pause from the bustle and stresses of 21st century life to reflect and remember. We are who we are because of the sacrifices made by so many, our freedom won at great cost to those who went before. And taking time to remember our shared past should result in a better future, in which we all strive for

forgiveness and reconciliation, seek to avoid the horrors of war, and pursue the path of peace.

The church of Jesus Christ is exhorted by its Lord to remember. Building on the ancient story of Passover rescue of God's people from slavery, Jesus established a meal of bread and wine to encourage his

people to remember a sacrifice made once for all for the forgiveness of sins and the reconciliation of all things and all people to God. Remembering Jesus' death on the cross reminds us of our identity as one, reconciled people, and inspires us to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour, the Prince of Peace. 'Do this in remembrance of me', he says.

Some things are best forgotten, but others are vital to remember. Forgetting and forgiving the sins committed against us, we must remember with gratitude the freedoms won for us by the sacrifices of all those who have paid the ultimate price. We will remember them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan". The script is cursive and fluid.

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

Our Remembrance Day services are on 11th November at All Saints' Chilton at 9.30am and at St Matthew's Harwell following the service on the High Street which starts at 10.45am. Both services have an activity for primary-aged children and younger in the Village Halls running in parallel.

Two weeks later (25th November) in both churches we have 'All Souls' services to remember loved ones who have died, whether recently or years ago. See page 6 for details.

2ND DECEMBER TOY SERVICES

This Christmas, St Matthew's and All Saints' are once more supporting the Women's Refuge in Oxford by providing gifts for mothers to give to their children on Christmas day. The Refuge have asked us to focus on donating gifts which are suitable for teenagers.



Items should be brand new please, not second hand, and not wrapped (NB no wrapping paper donations required either). Items with violent connotations (e.g. with images of swords, guns, etc) would not be a good idea, for obvious reasons.

Since teenagers tend to be a bit beyond "toys" as such, here is a list of the kind of thing that the Refuge finds that their teenagers really appreciate:

- ◇ Gift vouchers – particularly popular are Argos, Amazon, Game, iTunes
- ◇ Headphones
- ◇ Diary/Journal you can write thoughts in/ Hard backed notebook
- ◇ Grooming items e.g. make up (e.g. nail varnish); hair products (e.g. gel, hair clips, hair brushes); shaving set, etc.
- ◇ Things to do e.g. knitting/sewing set; science set; board games (especially any electronic versions e.g. Monopoly with the credit cards); family games such as Twister
- ◇ School bag/plain backpack
- ◇ Handbag/backpack that doesn't look as though it's for school
- ◇ Pyjamas (any size aged 13-17)
- ◇ Hoodies (any size aged 13-17)
- ◇ Beanie hat (any size aged 13-17)

Please bring your donation to one of our special advent "Toy Services" on **Sunday 2nd December** at 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton or at 11am at St Matthew's Harwell. This is a service particularly appropriate for children, whom we find really connect with the idea of giving a gift to less fortunate children at Christmas time.

Anyone unable to make the service is welcome to bring their toy to the Church Office by Friday 30th November at the latest.

Chilton PCC would like any monetary gifts given on 2nd December to be donated to the SeeSaw Charity which provides grief support for the children of Oxfordshire. Thank you.



REGULAR EVENTS

You can find details of all our 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 put information, and sometimes photos of our events on our facebook page: facebook.com/HCChurches



Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
9.30am Morning Worship	4th Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Remembrance Service 9.50am Family Service at CVH*	11th Nov	10.45am Act of Remembrance, High St 11.10am Remembrance Service 11.10am Children's activity at HVH*
9.30am Holy Communion	18th Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am All Souls' Service	25th Nov	11.00am All Souls' Service 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am All Age 'Toy Service'	2nd Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age 'Toy Service' 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Family Service at CVH* 9.30am Morning Worship	9th Dec	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	16th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Family Carols 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship 4.00pm Family Carols 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols	23rd Dec	11.00am Morning Worship No evening service
10.00pm Holy Communion	24th Dec	3.30pm Nativity Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Christmas Celebration	25th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Christmas Celebration 12.00pm Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	30th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Holy Communion
CVH* - Chilton Village Hall		HVH* - Harwell Village Hall

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

There are lots of activities planned for children & families in the run up to Christmas. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for details.

1st Dec Decoration Making

1st Dec Advent Doors will start

2nd Dec Toy Service in both Churches

16th Dec Carols by Candlelight in Harwell

23rd Dec Carols by Candlelight in Chilton

24th Dec Crib Service in Harwell

SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

As we move into the autumn, we are rapidly approaching a season of remembrance which includes Remembrance Sunday, exactly 100 years after the Armistice which marked the end of the Great War.

Later in November, we will also have an opportunity to remember and give thanks to God for members of our own families, and friends, who have died in recent years. Our main morning services on **Sunday 25th November** will take the form of 'All Souls' services at 9.30am at Chilton and 11am at Harwell. We will reflect on what these dear ones meant to us, light candles in their memory, and also be reminded of the Christian hope of the resurrection for all those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

We would love to welcome you to one of our services on the morning of Sunday

25 November and also to welcome other members of your family and your friends.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance Sunday parade and service this year will be on **Sunday 11th November**.

In Chilton the parade will meet at the Rose



and Crown car park at 08.45 for a 09.00 start to parade up to All Saints' service which starts at 09.30.

In Harwell, the Parade will form up at Townsend at 10.30 and set off for the War Memorial for the service there at 10.45. After the service the Parade will continue to the Church. Following the Church service, the RBL will march to a short ceremony at the War Graves in the cemetery.

We are providing an activity session for children in Chilton Village Hall from 09.50am and in Harwell Village Hall from 11.10am. Light refreshments will be available for parents during the activity.

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

This small friendly group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm in All Saints' Church. Our annual programme includes holding and organising the Charity Quiz evening in March and the large plant sale for Christian Aid. Visitors and new members are always warmly welcomed and the annual subscription is just £10.

At our next meeting on **Tuesday 13th November**, Sarah Barrett, one of our Children and Family Workers, will be talking to us - "Sarah's Story".

For further details please phone Judy Goodall on 01235 834503.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

David Williams

CHILTON CHARITY STALL

At the October Market which started with a heavy shower of rain we were pleased that we raised £300 for T2, a hub in Didcot which provides amazing support for adults with learning difficulties and autism (part of the StyleAcre charity).

Next month on **Saturday 10th November** we will be raising funds for SeeSaw. As well as the usual cakes, tarts, speciality breads and buns and of course irresistible white elephant bargains, books and plants there will be mouth-watering bacon baps on sale!



Grief support
for children
and young people
in Oxfordshire

Please come and support us on the 10th November between 9am and 12noon on Crafts End Green to raise funds for this very special local charity which helps bereaved children. We are always grateful to receive small white elephant items books and home produce – phone Judy Goodall on 01235 834503.

On **8th December**, same time, same place, we'll be raising money for the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

5th November 7.30pm in Poppies Tea Room
3rd December AGM & Party 7.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell. Contact Janice 832802.

HARWELL EVERGREENS

Join us on **Thursday 15th November** to hear Mr Bruce Duncan's talk on The Lone Soldier, 2.30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall. Talk followed by the usual delicious homemade cakes and biscuits with tea and coffee.

We'll have our annual Christmas Dinner on

December 1st at 12.30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall. Don't forget to bring your knife, fork and spoon with you! Contact Gill 831592.



GENERATION GOLD



Generation Gold is a quarterly service for people of retirement years

(however you choose to define that!). Our services are informal and based on a theme, and our next service will take place on **Monday 3rd December** at 2.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell. As we prepare for Christmas our theme will be 'Angels' and we would be delighted if you could join us. The service will be followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to socialise with friends old and new. For more information please contact Rev Pam Rolls (see front cover)

INTERVIEW WITH PETER BARCLAY-WATT

My first memories are from when I was six years old, and our father took the car out the garage for the first time in a long while. It was VE day 1945 and we drove to Aberdeen where I grew up. I am definitely a Scot and I'm definitely a Brit!

Like Byron I initially attended Aberdeen Grammar School and subsequently went to Trinity College Cambridge, interspersed with 10 years in Edinburgh.

I went to read maths at Trinity, but very quickly, after 3 or 4 days realised I was completely out of my depth. I switched to economics and law before returning to Aberdeen to do accountancy training.

During that time I came to Christian faith, despite having regularly attended church and been encouraged to read my bible. It was only when I was standing in the rain at Aberdeen Football ground listening to Billy Graham in July 1955 that I really understood the wonder of the gospel. However, despite feeling I must go forward in response, in my arrogance I felt this wasn't for a public school boy!

Two years later, having been preceded by prayer to Cambridge, God in His mercy spoke to me so clearly at the freshers' sermon whilst sitting on the steps below the pulpit listening to John Stott.

The next 3 years allowed me the benefit of fellowship in the Christian Union before returning to Aberdeen. Having qualified as an accountant in Aberdeen, I came to London supposedly for 2/3 years. I met Nicola in London who was then living in Sevenoaks, and our compromise between our two homes became Oxford, with holidays in Scotland.

I don't think there has been a year that we haven't travelled up to Scotland.

While Nicola was 1 of 5 girls and would have liked 4 children, I felt that 3 was enough. But we ended up with 5 when we fostered Michael and Katie on a long term basis.

We had 40 happy years living in Marsh Baldon, and when our 3 children got married within 7 months of each other (subsequently giving us 7 grandchildren now aged between 10 and 16 years) they felt it would be good to have a base in Scotland where we could all be together. Hence the decision to buy a house in Abbeymoore where mountain biking and hill walking are a particular delight.

Like here in Harwell, we have enjoyed a very supportive homegroup and church fellowship. I am so conscious of the prayer support I have received since the loss of Nicola earlier this year.

I've been fortunate to enjoy good health, enabling me to enjoy days in the mountains with my grandchildren who are now into Munro bagging – 282 mountains, and they're working down from the highest ones.

Some of my fondest memories include trekking in the Simien mountains in Ethiopia, described as the finest walk in Africa, and visiting underground rock churches. I also greatly enjoyed being part of a Latin Link step team working up on the Altiplano for 6 weeks in Bolivia shortly after my retirement.

Now time with the grandchildren is very special.

Looking ahead, you may not see me out walking alone for much longer as I plan on getting a dog!



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