

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

September 2019



Alpha is a course exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes, and more.

**Give yourself time.
Try Alpha**



**Our next Alpha Course starts on
Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm.**

See page 7 for details



Rector of Harwell and Chilton Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
The Rectory | Church Lane | Harwell | OX11 0EZ
01235 799376 | JM.HCChurches@gmail.com

Day off usually on Wednesdays

Associate Minister Revd Pam Rolls
01235 834475 | pamrolls@tiscali.co.uk

Day off usually on Fridays

Children & Families Mrs Sarah Barrett | SB.HCChurches@gmail.com
Mrs Melanie Shields | MS.HCChurches@gmail.com

Church Administrator & PA to the Rector Mrs Vicky Johnston
Harwell Church Office | Tue/Thu/Fri 9am-3pm | 01235 834256
VJ.HCChurches@gmail.com

A ROCHA

Harwell & Chilton Churches support a number of Missionary Agencies financially and prayerfully. One of the organisations that we support is A Rocha UK which is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world.

This is their response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. They do this through:

- practical involvement in nature conservation projects and ecological research;
- campaigning on biodiversity issues;
- engaging with churches, schools, communities and individuals.

Part of the worldwide family of A Rocha organisations committed to conservation action as an expression of Christian mission, A Rocha UK works collaboratively with others who share their passion for the planet and their desire for its flourishing.

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT
WILD CHRISTIAN
connecting faith, nature and climate

Our faith has a lot to say about the natural world. So why do we so often neglect to take care of it? Join the Wild Christian community to explore the connections between faith, nature and big environmental issues like climate change. Each month, they send something to think about and a practical action that you can take in your own home to help nature along. We can all then share our efforts on social media to get a wider conversation going. There's so much we can do, from changing our lightbulbs to planting wildflowers. From windowsills to wide open gardens, we can encourage nature to flourish in whatever space we've got. Join us on the journey as we discover new ways to experience the amazingness of God's world. And then find ways to help protect it!
See www.arocha.org.uk to sign up.

HARWELL REPAIR CAFE

Come along to our next repair café at St Matthew's Church, Harwell on Saturday 19th October from 2-5pm. You can bring along a wide variety of items for repair including: toys, clocks, watches, clothing, garden tools, kitchen tools, electrical tools. Bring along your items and we'll do our best to repair them. We ask for a small donation towards the work of Sustainable Didcot who run the event.

We will also have a café at the event so that you can grab a tea/coffee and a slice of cake or biscuit during the afternoon. All welcome!

 Repair Café



RECTOR'S LETTER

I love trees and wood, the look and feel of timber, making things from wood (nothing very sophisticated, mind!), and the majesty and beauty of trees, and climbing them, though I do less of that now than I used to!

We are increasingly recognising the importance of trees in halting or even reversing climate change, their significance in ecosystems, in creating a pleasant environment to live, and even in maintaining good mental health. Looking after trees doesn't just make sense, it is part of our God-given duty as humans to look after planet Earth. As acknowledged in the Anglican Communion's 'Five Marks of Mission', the mission of the Church includes "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." The environmental theme to this month's Broadsheet acknowledges that.

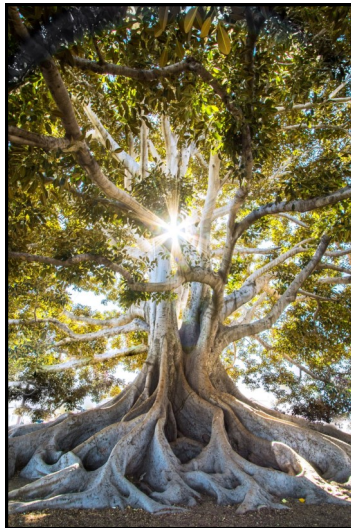
Trees have particular significance and symbolism in the Bible.

The Bible opens with trees being described alongside the rest of the natural world, and two famous trees in the garden of Eden – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life – and the Bible closes with the Tree of Life standing on each side of the River of the Water of Life; "On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2).

Trees are God's provision and a means by which God provides housing, food and shade for people and animals, and they represent happiness, well-being and longevity. God's provision of salvation through his Son Jesus is won through his death on the cross, also referred to as 'the tree'.

Furthermore, believers in God are described as trees that are deep-rooted and watered, bearing fruit. The person who trusts in the Lord flourishes "like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green" (Jeremiah 17:7–8 and Psalm 1).

God provides and cares for people through trees, and it is our responsibility to work with God to care for them and the whole of creation, for the good of all people.



"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys.

I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.

I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together,

so that people may see and

know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it."

Isaiah 41:17-20

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

SPACE ACADEMY

We had a FANTASTIC time at Chilton Primary School at the end of July with our Space Academy Holiday club. We sang songs, watched dramas, learnt from the book of Daniel in the bible and learnt a new memory verse each day.

Afternoon activities included hama beads, cooking, football, rounders, macramé keyrings, handbells, forest school, felt craft, space craft, number hockey and lots of board and card games.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of what our holiday club theme will be in 2020!



Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
9.30am All Age Worship	1st Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Family Service *CVH 9.30am Morning Worship	8th Sept	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	15th Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	22nd Sept	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	29th Sept	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion

*CVH Chilton Village Hall (BCP) Book of Common Prayer, traditional service

SOCIAL EVENTS

- 7th September Day trip to Bournemouth
 - 5th October Meal and quiz for Tearfund at Chilton Village Hall, 7pm
 - 19th October Repair Café at St Matthew's Harwell 2-5pm
 - 16th November Barn Dance at Chilton Village Hall, 7.30pm
 - 30th November Visit to Winchester Christmas market
 - 25th December Christmas Day lunch together at St Matthew's Harwell
- See www.HCChurches.org/social for more information and to book a place.

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 put information, and sometimes photos of our events on our facebook page: facebook.com/HCChurches



ALPHA

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

#TryAlpha

Would you like a chance to meet with others to think about the meaning of life, and explore what the bible has to say about it?

Alpha will be

running on Thursday evenings at St Matthew's Church Harwell from **12th September**. We'll have puddings, cheese and crackers, a film, and time to discuss each week. And it is free!

Email VJ.HCChurches@gmail.com or see www.HCChurches.org/Alpha.

CHARITY MARKET STALL

On **Saturday 14th September** the market stall will be raising funds for the Oxfordshire branch of the Crohn's and Colitis.

The market is held on Crafts End Green between 9am and 12 noon. Come and support this great local charity. We will be selling plants, books, an amazing selection of white elephant goods and a wonderful choice of home baked savoury and fruit tarts, cakes, bread, jams and marmalade and fresh vegetables.



In July **£563** was raised for the local branch of the Parkinson's Society.

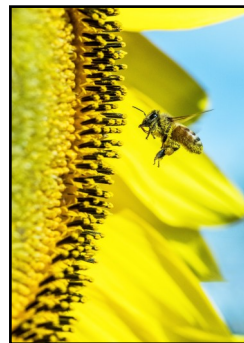
The June final total for Brain Tumour Research rose from £537 to **£617** with a few late donations and sales.

Thank you to everyone who supports and helps with our monthly sales. Offers of books, plants, small white elephant goods and home produce always welcome .

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

Our new year starts on **Tuesday 10th September** and the speaker will be Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire who will talk on 'The State of Nature and Pollinators'.

The meeting will be in All Saints' Church starting at 7:45pm.



HARWELL PRODUCE SHOW

The Harwell Village Produce Show takes place on **Saturday 14th September** in Harwell School.

Anyone is able to enter and the classes range from cooking, vegetable growing, flower arranging, arts and crafts, and photography. Children get their own classes but can enter the adult classes too. Schedules are available now from Bob's Butchers and you do not have to be a member of Gardeners' Club to take part. It's an opportunity for a happy village get together increasing interest in various activities.

Visitors welcome from 3.00 pm. Adults £1, Children Free. Prize Winning Produce for sale afterwards.



HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Monday 2nd Sept at St Matthew's Church 7.30pm. Herbs for the Garden, a talk by Margaret Easter. Comp: Sunflower (grown from seed provided in March)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

"Those God has joined together"

Maria Pepper & Paul Schaerer
Steve Tamblin & Megan Froud-Davis

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Colin Harris
Bill Monkhouse
Brian Morris

Baptisms

"Welcome into the Lord's Family"

Zachary Charles
Elliott Harris
Isobel Crossley

GENERATION GOLD

Join Generation Gold at Chilton Village Hall on **Monday 9th September**. Meeting at the earlier time of 12.30pm we'll be thinking about harvest during our service and enjoying a complimentary harvest lunch. Please contact Pam Rolls or Vicky in the church office if you'd like more information, or to arrange a lift.



EVERGREENS



Join Evergreens on **Thursday 19th September** at 2.30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall. Chloe Prince will be speaking about 'The Victorians'. Following the talk, light refreshments will be served. Evergreens is for

those of retirement age.

CHRISTIAN AID WALK

Christian Aid Fundraising walk on **Saturday 5th October**. Meet at All Saints' Chilton at 8.30am for a 10km walk. Families are invited to make a donation of £25 to Christian Aid to join the walk.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a lot of lost property at St Matthew's Church Hall! Please collect before the end of September, or it will be taken to a local charity shop.

D-DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE



D-Day Memorial Service at the RAF Harwell Memorial Stone 8th June 2019. Wreaths were laid by Senior Officers from Vauxhall and Dennison Barracks, RAF Benson, 38 Group

RAF, Local Councillors, 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 Guest of Honour, from 38 Group RAF – the same Group whose aircraft took off from Harwell in 1944. Cadets from Wantage and Didcot ATC Squadrons formed a Guard of Honour and laid a wreath along with pupils of Chilton Primary school. **£183.62** was collected for the Poppy Appeal. Harwell Branch thanks all who participated and helped make the day a great success.

INTERVIEW WITH STEVE HALE: LOGS AND DOGS

Steve describes himself as a "superannuated Eco Warrior" He is very keen on the "re-use" form of recycling! He recognises that this can border on hoarding!

He moved to Chilton 35 years ago, and his two children attended Chilton Primary School, and then the different local secondary schools. He went with his then wife to All Saints' Church. In the mid 80s they attended a Bible week camp in Yorkshire. He says that it was a life changing week. He committed his life to Jesus and was very eager to be baptised when they came home and started attending Didcot Baptist Church.

Steve was a broadcasting engineer most of his working life, though he did do a spell as a rocket engineer! He designed and built many facilities at TV stations, including Sky TV, BBC, ITN, amongst others. This work took him to various parts of the world, including Soviet Russia in the mid 80s. It was on this project that he was able to smuggle bibles and Christian books into Russia. He said it was amazing to meet the underground church there; something he will never ever forget. It's a long story... Ask him some time!

In the mid 90s, after being married for 15 years, his wife took their two children with her to live up North. This was a really devastating time for Steve and he missed the children immensely. But through it all he knew God was with him and many friends prayed about the situation. After 2 years of travelling to see his children regularly, he gained custody and the children came back to Chilton to live with him.

He became a single parent with his children at local schools. They are now in their early 30s. As he could not now travel with his work, he did many different part time jobs including taxi driving, coal man, even a tree surgeon. He was always on the lookout for fuel for his wood-burning stove. He was cutting down a fallen tree one day in the village. A lady asked him if he was a tree surgeon. He thought for a couple of seconds and said yes! So he became a tree surgeon on the spot and bought a chainsaw the following day! Steve met Jane 14 years ago and it was almost love at first sight. He proposed to Jane while walled up in a



Photo: Steve's "log lorry" and "Dougal"

Scottish castle! He had cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise money for an orphanage. They were married in September 2006. The reception was in Chilton Village Hall complete with marquee generously supplied by the Harwell Scouts. He used to be their leader.

What makes Steve an Eco Warrior? He said that it is just in his DNA – at University he was impressed by Friends of the Earth. He's always been interested in re-using items, and with his electronics engineering degree has found himself fixing all manner of electronic items over the years. He was very pleased to be able to install solar panels on his house 8 years ago and has just finished building a log cabin. Steve and Jane don't jet abroad on holiday (their passports ran out decades ago) but enjoy travelling with their two dogs to the Scottish Highlands in their 30 year old camper-van "Rainbow-warrior". Slowly!

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