

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

October 2019

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

HARVEST CELEBRATION



9.30am All Saints' Chilton, 11.00am St Matthew's Harwell



Rector of Harwell and Chilton Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey

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Day off usually on Wednesdays

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity which provides support for farmers, farm workers and families through difficult times. 400 volunteers throughout England and Wales provide listening, support advocacy and signposting to those who need our help. We are in contact with about 6,000



present in the fields with little or no social interaction. There are pressures at the moment about the uncertainty of the future shape of

agriculture and trade agreements as we move towards leaving Europe.

In the last year farmers have sought help from FCN because of financial issues, mental and physical well being concerns, family problems including worries about succession, animal diseases such as bovine TB and difficulties in relationships with policy makers and increasing demands on farming practices. The helpline which is staffed every day by volunteers between 7am and 11pm – 03000 111 999 – has been very busy indeed at times.



people from the farming community each year; our volunteers travel

an average of 130,000 miles annually visiting farms to spend time with those who need us. As an organisation with a Christian ethos we help everyone who comes to us regardless of their faith; our volunteers are motivated by the command to love our neighbour. The second story of Genesis in the Bible pictures God creating the first humans from the soil and putting them in the garden to till and care for the soil (Genesis 2). Farmers are the inheritors of that theological understanding of our origins and our link with and care for the land. The church holds agricultural festivals throughout the year – Plough, Rogation, Lamas and especially Harvest mirroring the festivals of the Old Testament – to celebrate the work of farming, to pray for the land, to think about the responsibility each of us have for the creation.



Farming is a risky and volatile industry with farmers forced to deal with issues beyond their control such as fluctuating market prices, animal diseases, the weather – and farming can be a lonely and isolated occupation with long hours

As well as working with farmers we also liaise with a variety of stakeholders - vets, agricultural organisations, healthcare services - to provide information about the issues the farming community is facing. Together with other farming help charities we raise awareness of issues of personal resilience and wellbeing with agricultural students, young farmers and others within the industry while others give talks to churches and other supporters of our work in rural communities.

The Revd Canon Glyn Evans DL, Diocesan Rural Officer, the Diocese of Oxford in the counties of Berks, Bucks & Oxon.

RECTOR'S LETTER

I write this on a warm September day, blue skies, sun shining. The last few days in the 20's Celsius, perhaps, before more autumnal weather is upon us.

We love to talk about the weather, don't we? Well, I do! It is said to be quintessentially English to talk with friends and stranger alike about the wind, rain, sun, snow, hail, or whatever it is that is coming to us from the heavens. The sheer unpredictability of it all makes for conversation. In some places, where the change from day to day is minimal, there is little to comment on. But in England, where – it has been said – we do not have a climate, merely weather – we can celebrate or bewail our shared, varied experience.

Talking about the weather is a gentle way to start a conversation, and one I recommend if you're not sure what else to say, but feel you want or ought to strike up conversation and break up an awkward silence or avoid having to pass another human on the road pretending they don't exist. The conversation may quickly peter out – "Lovely day", "Yes, isn't it?" – or it may lead on to deeper and potentially more interesting topics. But it is as good an opener as any, and arguably better than the alternative "How are you?" which is frequently asked without any real commitment to explore the depths of that profound query, and as often as not prompts that standard, "Fine, thanks. And you?"



Talking about the weather is a safer bet for community relations than launching into a discussion about Brexit, and whilst both the weather and Brexit affect all of us, meteorological discourse is more of a social leveller. No amount of campaigning is going to affect the weather and it is not open to a people's vote; we get what we are given.

"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45)

In drawing attention to this fact of nature, Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount is highlighting God's grace – his indiscriminate kindness that he shows to all, supplying our needs in accordance with his perfect knowledge and love. God knows what we need and provides for us, and not just bread for our physical needs, but the Bread of Life for our spiritual needs, too.

Jesus is the one who has come down from heaven, the gift of God provided freely for all, that we might have life – not just limited and earthly, but in all its fullness and eternally. He is the life-giving sunshine of God, piercing and transforming the stormy darkness of our world. Now that is quite some weather to talk about!

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

WEEKLY GROUPS

Mondays

9:30-11:30am Fledgelings Baby & Toddler group (term time) St Matthew's Church Hall
8.00pm Home group in Harwell

Tuesdays

9.30am Home group (during term time)
9.30am Christianity Explored group (during term time)

Wednesdays

9:15-11:15am Fledgelings Baby & Toddler group (term time) Chilton Field Community Room
10.15am Home group (term time) at St Matthew's meeting room
1.45pm Home group (term time) in Chilton
7.30pm Home group at various homes in Chilton Field
7.30pm Choir Practice at All Saints'

Thursdays

7.30pm The Alpha Course at St Matthew's Church
7.30pm Bell ringing at St Matthew's Church Tower
7.45pm Home group at various homes in Harwell
8.00pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Home group (term time)

Fridays

2.00pm Home group at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell

Saturdays

8.30am Prayer meeting both at St Matthew's and All Saints'

Sundays

Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church Hall
7:00-8:30pm for those in school years 7-13

BIBLE SUNDAY

On Sunday 27th October, we'll be celebrating Bible Sunday during our morning services - 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton and 11.00am at St Matthew's Harwell.

If you'd like to get into a habit of reading the bible, there are lots of resources available. We have created a leaflet with some suggestions of bible translations to use, both paper copies of bible reading notes and online apps that can be used. You'll be able to find the leaflet on the website and in our churches from 25th October.

Meeting with a small group of others can be a great way to get to grips with bible study - we have a number of different groups that meet each week in both Harwell and Chilton. Please contact Vicky in the Church Office if you'd like to find out more, or see HCChurches.org/homegroups

Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
9.30am All Age Harvest Celebration	6th Oct	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Harvest Celebration 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Family Service *CVH 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	13th Oct	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	20th Oct	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	27th Oct	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please note that our planned quiz night on Saturday, 5th October has been cancelled. Our next social event is our barn dance on Saturday 16th November. Tickets are £10 per adult - children under 18 years old are free (see back page) Our visit to the Christmas markets has also been cancelled from 30th November. Our Christmas Together lunch will be held at St Matthew's Church, Harwell on 25th December. Our games night has been postponed, and will not be happening on 25th January as previously planned. See HCChurches.org/social for future events.

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



24TH OCTOBER

Tea and cake will be served in Chilton Village Hall between 3:00pm and 5:00pm on Thursday **24th October**.

All donations will go to the Rotary End Polio Now Campaign which is working towards the eradication of Polio from the world. Richard & Hazel Benton

CRYPTIC QUIZ SHEETS

Oxford Hospitals Charity

The latest quiz, No 54, is now out on a theme of Composers and Famous Painters. All money raised will help towards providing specialised equipment at the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe to help in the rehabilitation of children with acquired brain injuries. Quiz sheets are available from Atomic Hair, Shea at the Rose and Crown, the Goodalls or from Audrey Slater.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who came to Brian's Thanksgiving Service on **5th September**; it was truly amazing to see you all there. It was such a lovely, special service and we felt very proud that so many of you wished to remember him.

We would also like to thank everyone for all the support you have given us during Brian's illness and afterwards. There have been so many acts of kindness that have helped during this difficult time. Without the love and support from all our friends in Chilton it would have been so much more difficult.

Thank you.

Liz Morris, Petra, Alexandra and family.

POPPY APPEAL

26th October – 11th November



If you would be willing to call house to house during the end of October and early November to collect for the 2019 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, please contact Hazel Benton for Chilton Village and Chilton Field, and Peter Cox for Harwell Village.

hazel.benton@btinternet.com
Harwell.Secretary@RBL.community

Many thanks, Hazel & Peter

CHILTON MARKET STALL



The next Charity Market will be held on Saturday **12th October** on Crafts End Green between 9am and 12 noon. We will be raising funds for the Style Acre Hub in Didcot for people with moderate learning difficulties and autism. We will have a new stall "BZB" selling eco-friendly products such as bar shampoo and providing refills. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

CAP MONEY

Our next free CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money course is on Saturday **28th September, 5th and 19th October** from 10.15am - 12noon at St Matthew's. Email harwellandchiltoncapmoney@gmail.com



HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

7th October, 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church. 'Britain in Bloom' a talk by Jim Buttress. Competition: Harwell In Bloom.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Margaret Russell

Baptisms

"Welcome into the Lord's Family"

Mark Johnston

REPAIR CAFE



Come along to our next repair café at St Matthew's Church, Harwell on Saturday **19th October** from 2-5pm. See HCChurches.org/news for more details.

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 (not Tearfund as previously advertised) to join the walk.

EVERGREENS

Harwell Evergreens meet at St Matthew's Church Hall on **17th October**, 2.30pm to hear Jennifer Cowling speaking on 'From Page to Stage.' Our Coffee morning on **26th October** has been cancelled.



ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday **8th October** in All Saints' Church at 7:45pm. Our speaker will be Alan Winchcombe on the subject of "The writers and the artists of the Goring Gap".

CHILTON CHURCHYARD

Chilton Churchyard Needs You!!

Volunteers are needed to help with tidying up All Saints' churchyard on Saturday **2nd November** any time from 9.00am and finishing in time for lunch. This is open to everyone in the village; we would love to see lots of people come and give a helping hand for as long as you like as there are lots of jobs to be done to tidy up before winter and to have it looking good in time for the Remembrance Day services. The main jobs are: weeding the borders in the Garden of Remembrance, trimming and tidying round grave stones, and of course raking leaves. For those looking for a heartier workout (treat it as a green gym perhaps?!) there is some clearing of the French drains around the church and nettles along the border with the path.

While we have some gardening tools if you are able to bring your own it would be really helpful, not forgetting the gardening gloves.



Thankyou. For more details please contact Vicky in the Church Office.

PASTORAL CARE

Harwell and Chilton Churches have a small team of volunteer pastoral carers.



Anyone who is experiencing sadness, feeling down or lonely can contact the team, in confidence, to request a friendly visit. Please contact the Church Office in the first instance. 01235 834256, VJ.HCChurches@gmail.com

BARN DANCE



**Charity Barn Dance
Saturday 16th November
Chilton Village Hall
7–10pm**

Tickets £10 per adult, children are free

All proceeds to Tearfund
Tickets available now from the Church Office

HCChurches.org/social 01235 834256

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