

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

November & December 2019

Charity Barn Dance

Saturday 16th November
7-10pm at Chilton Village Hall



Tickets available from the Church Office

Adults £10, children are free

Drinks and light refreshments will be provided

Please bring a plate of nibbles for the interval



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

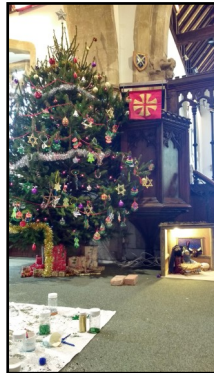
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Come and join us again for our **Living Advent Doors** each evening from **1st-23rd December**. Held daily from 5.30 - 7pm at different

homes around our villages, hear a section of the Christmas story each day and receive a chocolate and sticker. An activity for all the family!

We will be **decorating** our Christmas trees in All Saints' and St Matthew's on **30th November**. 10.30-12 in Chilton and 2.30-4 in Harwell. Come and feel festive and get creative (and glittery!) by making decorations at this free session aimed at preschool and primary aged children.



Pebbles Family Service is held monthly and is a really family friendly, informal service. Come and

hear more about the Christmas story, chat, pray and make a craft on the **8th December**. Join us from 9am for breakfast and stay for coffee and cake after!

Our **Crib Service** is held on **Christmas Eve** at 3.30pm at St Matthew's. Children can come dressed as a character from the Christmas story and enjoy



parading around the church as we tell the Christmas story and sing carols. Take time out from the craziness of this time of year and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.



New this year - we are very excited to be doing our first **travelling crib** on Sunday **15th December** at

4pm. Take a walk with us around Chilton village starting at All Saints' Church to hear the story of Christmas and sing some carols. Come dressed up as someone from the Christmas story if you would like to. Our journey will finish at All Saints' Church with mince pies and mulled wine.

Our family friendly **carols by candlelight** will be held at St Matthew's at 4pm on **22nd December**.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more details, or contact our Children and Families Workers Sarah and Melanie to find out more. (Contact details on the front page)

www.HCChurches.org/
www.facebook.com/HCCchurches

RECTOR'S LETTER

"I just want to be happy"

Happiness is a dominant concern for all humans and we want it above all else for our children. How to gain, keep or recover happiness could be argued to be the secret motive of all we do, or are willing to endure. Happiness has preoccupied the thoughts of philosophers, theologians and psychologists, and is a major motif in the Bible, with over 400 clear references, particularly in the Psalms. Joy, particularly expressed in worship, is a feature of the Christian religion across the world, even in places and times of great poverty and suffering, from Biblical times right up until today.

Joy for Christians is linked to God's provision and protection.

'You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and wine abound' (Psalm 4:7)

It is commonly associated with salvation, and to be truly joyful is to have "a taste of heaven", of being with God.

'You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore' (Psalm 16:11)

Having its origin in God explains why a key word for happiness, 'makarios', is sometimes translated 'blessed'. This is the word used in the Beatitudes, one of the most famous parts of the teaching of Jesus. In this setting, it refers not just a fleeting emotional state, but a permanent status.

Jesus invites people of all types to come to him for rest and refreshment, and says that he came in order to bring 'life in all its fullness'. He provides this as a free gift, which explains another key linguistic link, between the word 'charis' for grace and the word 'charo', which is the main biblical word for joy.

Joy surrounds the birth of God's Messiah, Jesus, as it does the announcement of the arrival of God's kingdom, and the resurrection appearances. It is also a key fruit of the Holy Spirit, God's presence among human beings.

C. S. Lewis in his autobiography described the essence of joy both as a by-product of earthly life with Christ and as a foretaste and pointer towards the Christian's eternal life with the Saviour. Even in the midst of suffering, it is possible to have a deep confidence in God and a joy that prevails and that sustains through times of trouble.



'Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning' (Psalm 30:5)

It is established through research that our actions and thoughts affect our happiness, and this chimes with the biblical commands to rejoice.

Counting blessings and being content with what we have, focussing on the good and positive, being mindful, investing in strong relationships, and being part of something bigger than ourselves are all in keeping with a God-focussed life that cultivates deep joy.

It is our desire for ourselves and those we love to be happy, and it is God's desire for us, too. He expects us to seek true joy and fulfilment, and to find it in Him alone, through Jesus, the one who freely gives 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

TOY SERVICE 1ST DECEMBER

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 advert "Toy Services" on **Sunday 1st December** at 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton or at 11 am at St Matthew's Harwell. These services are 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 29th November at the latest.

Chilton PCC would like any monetary gifts given on 1st 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 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



Services at All Saints'

Services at St Matthew's

9.30am Morning Worship	3rd Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Remembrance Service	10th Nov	11.00am Remembrance Service
9.30am Holy Communion	17th Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship - 'All Souls' Service	24th Nov	11.00am Morning Worship - 'All Souls' Service 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am All Age 'Toy Service'	1st Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age 'Toy Service' 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Pebbles Family Service *CVH 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	8th Dec	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Travelling Crib (<i>see page 2</i>) 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols	15th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	22nd Dec	11.00am Morning Worship 4pm Family Carol Service 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols
10pm Holy Communion	24th Dec	3.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am All Age Celebration	25th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Celebration 12noon Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	29th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion

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

GENERATION GOLD

Our next service is on **Monday 2nd December** at St Matthew's Church Harwell at 2.30pm when we'll be thinking about Advent and singing carols.

Our service is aimed at those of retirement age, but all are welcome. Please contact Vicky in the Church Office if you'd like more information, or to arrange a lift to the service.

We'll be enjoying light refreshments after the service.



HARWELL EVERGREENS

Harwell Evergreens meet on **Thursday 21st November** at 2.30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall to hear from Toni Duncan speaking on 'The Lone Soldier Part 2'.

The Evergreens Christmas Dinner will be on **Saturday 7th December** at St Matthew's Church Hall at 1pm.

Harwell Evergreens meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and will meet in the New Year on **Thursday 16th January**.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Monday 4th November, 7.30pm
St Matthew's Church. 3 talks by members.
Competition: Succulent or Cactus.

Monday 2nd December AGM and party with games and refreshments.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER



Christmas Day Lunch at St Matthew's Church Hall, Harwell

- * **Full Christmas Dinner**
- * **Music, fun and games**
- * **Wine and friendship**
- * **Ending with the Queen's Speech**

This event is for anyone who lives in Harwell or Chilton, who would like company on Christmas day.

Contact Vicky Johnston to book your place by Monday 16th December.

834256 or VJ.HCChurches@gmail.com



CAP MONEY COURSE



How about a free "financial MOT" before Christmas? The last CAP Money course of this year is on

Saturdays 9, 16 and 30 November, 10.15

- 12.00 in the church lounge in Harwell over a late breakfast. CAP Money is one element of the award-winning provision from Christians Against Poverty (debt centres, job clubs, life skills and more across the country) which is all free.

Find out more at capuk.org or email harwellandchiltoncap@gmail.com where you can also book for the November CAP Money course or be directed to other CAP Money sessions happening locally on different days of the week.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

"Those God has joined together"

Justina Petkunaite and Kai Hodson

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

John Andrews

John Redfern Clements

CHARITY MARKET

Thank you to everyone who supported the market on a very damp, drizzly October day. We were delighted to have raised £511 for T2 in Didcot, part of Style Acre who support people with moderate learning difficulties.

On Saturday **9th November** we will be raising funds for SeeSaw, the Oxfordshire charity who provide individual support to bereaved children.

On Saturday **14th December** the charity will be the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital. We are always pleased to receive offers of books, cakes, home produce, small white elephant goods and plants.

Whatever the weather we will be there on the second Saturday of each month on Crafts End Green between 9am and 12noon. If wet, the books will be under shelter in a nearby car port. Come and support these local charities and be amazed at what is produced and offered for sale on your own doorstep from chicken pies to focaccia, jams and chutney.

Also at the market will be Emma with yummy sausage baps and burgers, and Sally with the new stall B-Z-B from East Hendred selling eco-friendly goods, bar shampoos etc and providing refills for you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Sunday parade and service this year will be on **Sunday 10th 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

At our next meeting is on **Tuesday 12th November**. Hilary Groves from Chilton village will be talking to us about the servicemen who served in the First and Second World Wars, some of whom returned. Everyone welcome – we meet at 7.45pm in All Saints Church Chilton. On **10th December** it will be our Christmas meeting where we will be enjoying hot food and our speaker on that occasion will be Anita Pepper from Harwell village.

INTERVIEW WITH ELIZA WHEATON

I never really expected that I would come back to live in Oxfordshire. I was born in Abingdon and grew up on Boars Hill, but went to university in Cambridge (where I met my husband Chris), and then lived in Hammersmith, Staines and East Grinstead before finding myself back here, with family in tow this time!

I've never had a dramatic, "road to Damascus" style conversion to Christianity, or revelation about my faith. I went to a C of E primary school, I was confirmed in my school chapel aged 13, but I have had years when I did not go to church at all. However, I always had a feeling that there was someone on hand to watch over me, even if I didn't necessarily pay too much attention to that.

Then, when our children were little, and we were living in East Grinstead, I started going to baby and toddler groups at our amazing local church, St Swithun's. We began attending Sunday services as well, with the children in crèche and Sunday school, which was called Good News Club. Recently I found a copy of one of the church magazines which quoted the contributions of our two older children, then aged 5 and 3, to one of their discussions!



This all felt like it was very much the right thing to do for us as a family.

We moved to Harwell in December 2010 – the first service I remember us attending was the Carol Service at All Saints', which must have been the weekend after we had moved.

We are now very happily settled into life – and various rotas, from coffee to Kids' Church! – at St Matthew's, and two of our children were confirmed in September.

It has also been wonderful over the last few years to be part of a house group which is a great source of friendship and support, and to join in at Holiday Club as both participants and helpers.

In the late summer of last year I suddenly found myself being prompted to do something I would never have imagined that I would do, which is preaching. In every other situation where I have had to stand up and talk in front of a group of people I have found it both terrifying and embarrassing. When I am giving a sermon, however, it does not feel like that at all, a clear example of why we should follow God's lead, even when he is sending us in an unexpected direction. I am now praying over and reflecting on what role God is calling me to, and am sure he will continue to surprise me!

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