

Saturday 17 October to Sunday 25 October 2020

HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

at St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton



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 Deborah Evans

Harwell Church Office | Tue/Thu/Fri 9am-3pm | 01235 834256

DE.HCChurches@gmail.com

BEES IN THE EAVES

Churches traditionally have bats in the belfry. In late June St. Matthew's attracted a different flying species. It seems that some bees had swarmed in a garden in Harwell and a beekeeper had been summoned to capture them.



By the time he arrived they had moved on. He followed them and found that they had their sights on a new home in the eaves of the north aisle of the church, just under where

lead had been stolen from the roof a year before.

Becca Lewis, one of the churchwardens, happened to be there at the time and was told that Shire Pest Solutions of Didcot might be able to tempt the bees



to choose a different home. A box with an enticing entrance was placed on the roof nearby, but the bees spurned this offer and stuck to their original choice.

As the end of August approached something had to be done, because the work to repair the roof was planned to start in September and the bees were making it clear that they did not wish to be disturbed. Unfortunately Shire



Pest Solutions could not identify exactly where the bees were.

But on 8th September they tackled the problem head on by removing a section of the roof boarding and located what by then was quite an extensive hive.

The bees were vacuumed (yes, at least 10,000 of them!) into special box and taken away to be re-housed.



Our thanks goes to Shire Pest Solutions of Didcot for their work and allowing us to use these photographs.



RECTOR'S LETTER

We have lived - and are continuing to live - through strange and challenging times. Few, if any, areas of life have been unaffected by the global spread of Covid-19. With the possible exception of swarming bees(!) (p2), every other group and organisation has had to innovate, adapt, and get used to new ways of doing things. And local churches are no exception. This expanded edition of the Ridgeway Broadsheet reports on some of the activities that have been going on in and around our villages, and some of our (provisional!) plans going forward.

October is traditionally a time when we give thanks for and celebrate the harvest. There will sadly be no community suppers or barn dances this year, but we will mark this theme in our various services, both online and in person (detailed on p7).

The coming of harvest is a good time to remind ourselves of the faithfulness and reliability of God, when all else seems uncertain.

The popular hymn 'Great is the faithfulness' by Thomas Chisholm remind us:

*Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars
in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness,
mercy and love*

Covid has changed the world, but it has not changed God. And in the midst of uncertainty and change, we would do well to base our lives on the only unchanging certainty - on God himself.

God gives us the harvest - and everything we have - out of his

goodness and love.

And it is for us to decide what to do with - how to 'steward' - all that he has given us.

There is great need in our communities, especially at this time, and great opportunities to do great good. But to do so needs commitment from us in

terms of our use of our time, talents and 'treasure' (money and possessions).

Do please consider supporting the work of our churches helping those in debt (p9), amongst families (p8,10), older people (p4), maintaining and developing our beautiful churches, and in a whole host of other ways (e.g. see our annual reports). Information about all this and how you can get involved can be found on our website, or through any of the contacts listed. But be assured that whatever you offer of your time, talents or treasure - however small - God will multiply anything we give.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan".

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

GENERATION GOLD

Welcome to this update on Generation Gold – our quarterly service for people of retirement years. Over this turbulent six months we have been restricted in what we could do in terms of services and the serving of refreshments so we have tried to keep in touch with our members by phone or e-mail. We couldn't hold our services planned for June and September so we tried something different!



In June, when our church buildings were closed,

we sent out a letter to each of our members to keep them up to date with developments and offered a reflection on Psalm 23 reminding ourselves that God supplies us with all our needs even in the most challenging times. We enclosed a tea bag for each member and encouraged them to think about the other members in the group.

In September, when we were due to have a service based on a 'picnic' theme we delivered cream teas to our members because we were unable to meet in large numbers or serve refreshments. These were very well received along with a book mark and a letter inviting members to reflect on the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

We were thrilled with the response of so many who had thought and prayed deeply about Jesus' hospitality to a huge crowd.

We are now in the throes of planning our Advent meeting and hope to be able to hold this in St Matthew's Harwell at the end of November. We will have to keep an eye on the restrictions and might have to do things differently but we will definitely do something!

If you'd like to know more about Generation Gold, or if you would be interested in helping in some way (e.g. making cakes, helping to set up, welcoming people) then we'd love to hear from you.

With our love and prayers, Pam & Jan

Pam Rolls, Associate Minister
01235 834475

Jan Radford, Associate Minister
01865 391282

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 or DE.HCChurches@gmail.com

EVERGREENS

Sadly due to the current pandemic situation Evergreens are not meeting, but are truly hoping to return sometime in January. For any updates or if you are interested in finding out more about Evergreens please contact Gill Gay on 01235 831592.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Denzil Hands-Clarke
Charles Roberts
Claire Hands-Clarke
George Haines
Marion Eagles
Kathleen Nicholson
Elizabeth Gill
Brian Cummings
Charles Roberts
Grace Mein
Howard Wilkinson
Rodney Sturch
Doris Rouse

HARWELL HELPERS



Harwell Helpers was set up at in March to support those in the village of Harwell (up to the A34 and those in Rowstock to the east of the roundabout). The geographical distinction was made as other groups were also set up at the same time.

HARWELL HELPERS (CONT.)

The brain child of a group of parishioners who met prior to lock down, the aim was to support our neighbours while the nation closed down as a precaution for COVID-19.

During the summer months over a hundred people registered to help in a myriad of ways...

To get prescriptions, do shopping, provide access to food banks, provide spiritual support, have a chat, go for a dog walk, sew scrubs, make face masks, shields and clips for masks, make toys from competitions...

The businesses in the village have been amazing, some worked directly with individuals while others supported us through our web page.

We have supported people as they asked and referred them onto other agencies, particularly more recently.

No task too small and supporting our neighbours became the theme and it underlined for all of us what a fabulous village we live in.

As we approach autumn and indeed winter we have lost some volunteers as they have gone back to work but we are still here if the need arises.

We are still discussing how we move forward with perhaps a community kitchen.

HOME GROUPS

Sharing together in the current time as we deal with the effects of the Coronavirus outbreak is not easy. Meeting together face to face in groups is not possible because numbers are often too large.

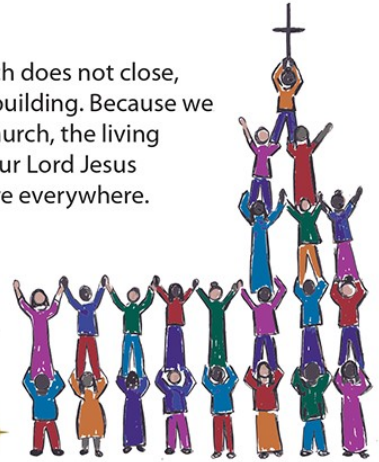
However here in Harwell and Chilton there are groups of people meeting via 'Zoom' (or sometimes other apps) or keeping in touch through the telephone or email.

Meeting together regularly, where we can study the Bible together, express our thanks, and our needs and pray together is an important part of our Christian journey.

Often, when we are with other Christians, we hear what God is saying to us and we can receive encouragement and help when we are facing difficulties or we can laugh and rejoice at the good things that have happened.

Way back in March, I had no idea how Zoom worked but I began to understand and use it. I joined a group and it has been so good to meet with others regularly – sometimes one can even forget that they are not in the room with you!

The church does not close, only the building. Because we are the church, the living body of our Lord Jesus and we are everywhere.



Please do be in touch with me if you would like to meet up with others. There are currently 5 groups meeting via the internet and others keep in touch by 'phone or email. I can be contacted via the Church Office.

Jean Barton

Home Group Co-ordinator
office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

ON - LINE OFF - LINE

*If you cannot access the website and would like a copy of services on a DVD or a printed copy of sermons, please contact the office on 01235 834256.

REGULAR EVENTS

You can visit our website to find out about our various activities and groups, catch up on news, watch recorded services, listen to sermons, find useful documents, and lots more: <http://hcchurches.org> or harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk.

If you would like to keep up to date with news from our churches, please join our website database and 'like' our Facebook page? facebook.com/HCCchurches

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our services have had to take on a different pattern in recent months, and currently services are being held both online and in person, as detailed below. Given the frequency changes to regulations and guidance, please check our website for the up-to-date situation: <http://hcchurches.org/services>

ON LINE*

A weekly online service can be found on our website from 9am every Sunday. Services and sermon notes from previous weeks can also be found there.

IN PERSON

We have in-person Sunday evening services alternating between Chilton and Harwell, and a gathering for families in Harwell at 10.30am.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

October

Harvest Festival

During the week Saturday 17 to Sunday 25 October we will be celebrating harvest with floral displays and an opportunity to say a prayer of thanks to God in an interactive activity. During this time we will also be following our usual practice of collecting for Didcot Emergency Foodbank. Packets and tins of non-perishable food can be left in either of our churches, to be delivered to the Foodbank at the end of the week. Do drop in to either of our churches.

November

Remembrance Sunday

We will be unable to mark Remembrance Sunday in the usual way, but will be supporting our villages to do whatever is possible. In Chilton, we plan to have a socially-distanced ceremony in All Saints' Churchyard on the morning of Sunday 8th November. Please see church and village websites/Facebook pages nearer the time for details.

December

Advent and Christmas

Christmas will look very different this year, but we are making plans! One thing that we will be doing as usual is collecting from the community donations of Christmas gifts for children aged 0-16 staying at the Oxford Women's Refuge over Christmas, so that the women have something to give their children on Christmas Day. Please drop off your gift either on Saturday 28 November 10am-12 noon at St Matthew's Church, Harwell, or anytime between Monday 23 and Sunday 29 November to Yew Tree Cottage, High Street, Harwell OX11 0EQ or to 1 Manor Close, Chilton OX11 0SS.

Gifts should be new and unwrapped. Please see hcchurches.org/Refuge for more information.



Please submit notices to Deborah via the website, by email or by phone. 01235 834256, office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

MONDAY FLEDGELINGS

At St Matthew's Church from Monday 5th October...

- * Two, one-hour sessions on Monday mornings, with half an hour in between for cleaning
- * Pre-booking only (no drop in) with limited numbers; details kept for Track and Trace
- * Social distancing of adults and children (families to bring blanket and place apart), face coverings to be worn by adults, hand sanitiser available throughout
- * No refreshments/snacks served but families may bring their own
- * Children to be given individual pack of toys/books/puzzles
- * Structured second part of the session to include:
 - + Bible story
 - + Craft activities (children will be given their own packs and remain at place)
 - + 'See and Know' (leader sings, adults/children join in with actions/instruments)



Details on how to book can be found on facebook.com/fledgelingsOX11 or on the Church website: <http://HCChurches.org/fledgelings>

SUNDAY PEBBLES FAMILY SERVICE



Whilst there is no traditional morning service at St Matthew's Church, Harwell we are planning to have our relaxed, family friendly **Pebbles Family Service** every other week at 10.30am. It will be held at St Matthew's Church outside, or inside depending on the weather! We will observe the required social distancing, and when inside face coverings will need to be worn by those over the age of 12 unless exempt.

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S, YOUTH & BIBLE GROUPS

On alternate weeks to Pebbles Family Service, at 10.30am we aim to have our regular Sunday morning children/ youth groups - **Pebbles, Kids' Church and Pathfinders**. Also, from **11th October**, we intend to run a **Bible study** for grown ups (following the 'Rule of Six') running at the same time. We will start all together with worship



Pathfinders

and prayer, after which the secondary aged young people will leave for Pathfinders and the grown ups for the Bible study.

Please follow current guidelines for face coverings. We will all meet socially distanced either outside, behind St Matthew's, or inside St Matthew's and the Church Hall.

christians
against
poverty

CAP

You are not alone

If you've been made redundant or had a drop in income due to the pandemic, you're not

alone. Maybe you're still waiting to hear what your family's financial future is likely to look like, come the end of the furlough scheme in October – you're not alone. The Government's economics forecaster, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), has said unemployment could more than double by the end of this year to the highest levels since the 1980s. Universal Credit claims have soared.

However much you are the victim of national – and, in this case, international – circumstance, it's impossible to see past the painful personal impact on individuals. Preying on those suddenly vulnerable but still wanting to do the best to keep their head above water, we can expect an increase in loan sharks offering immediate relief through cash payments. With no paperwork or signed agreements, a loan shark can increase the debt to anything they like. They will often appear by "personal recommendation" (they never advertise as their activity is illegal) and take personal belongings as security for the loan. Some people have had to hand over passports or car keys!

If this has happened to someone you know, **it's the loan shark who is in the wrong, not your friend.** Please

encourage them to report their experiences to reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk; telephone: 0300 555 2222 (24-hour service) or text a report to 07860 022 116.

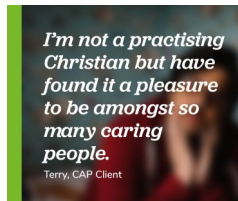
You're not on your own

If you are in unmanageable debt, whatever the reason, there is local help immediately available from a free professional debt counselling service. The Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre will work with your creditors to agree a repayment plan and with you to develop a budget to pay that back over an agreed period. You get to hand over all the demanding letters you've been receiving, and possibly ignoring, to the CAP worker and then no one can get at you to harass you for repayments: you simply refer them to CAP which is dealing with everything on your behalf.

Our two churches help fund this local service but you don't have to be a churchgoer or a Christian to benefit. CAP is available to absolutely everyone.

You can make an appointment to be seen (at the moment on-screen or by phone) in your home by calling **0800 328 0006** from 9.30am weekdays. Find out more about CAP - which works across the UK with a variety of services, including job clubs - at www.capuk.org.

CAP's strapline is that there is "always hope". And there is.



HOLIDAY CLUB 2020

After much consideration due to the current Covid situation we were delighted to be able to run a smaller version of Harwell and Chilton Churches Holiday Club this year. We ran holiday club for three weeks over the summer holidays with each week welcoming a bubble of 15 children. This was only possible due to a team of twelve amazing volunteers!



We had some lovely feedback from parents who found this year especially helpful after so much time in lockdown. Feedback included a boost to children's confidence,

a really fun time, enjoyment of the supportive environment, and a time to encourage their Christian faith.

One of our activities was to write a psalm which you can read below.

*God you are amazing,
the bestest, good!*

*You made a dog, everything and
it is marvellous, beautiful, brilliant.
When I see a horse, a dog it makes
me feel happy, extremely happy.*

God you are great!

*The people are full of happiness.
Being in your creation makes me
feel happy and excited.*

*God you are good, amazing
and incredible.*

*You made me and know me
and that is great and wonderful.*

*You are with me all the time
and so my mind explodes.*

God you are the greatest, the best!

Our theme this year was 'Wonder Zone'. Through the week we found out more about who God is and how exploring science and following him can go hand in hand. Each day scientists spoke about their area of science and how they see God through their work and how their faith helps them. We explored space, living things, chemical reactions and the future of robots!



We tried to make giant bubbles, made film cannister rockets, models of the solar system and coke bottle geysers! Each day we also had prayer activities, bible sessions and the usual crazy dancing (but sadly - due to current restrictions - no singing this year!). The afternoons were filled with fun activities like craft, Hama beads, games, boules, and super soaker water games. Many jokes were told and facts revealed, and interesting questions about both science and faith were asked and answered.



CHILTON MUTUAL AID (CMA)

Chilton Mutual Aid (CMA) was set up in response to the news that we were heading into national lockdown.

The main purpose of the group was to provide support to those in Chilton.

The group also recognised that it would provide a sense of purpose and value to all involved - at a time of great uncertainty it was important to keep us all connected.

The idea quickly gathered momentum and a system was set up involving coordinators taking support requests from their allocated areas.

The coordinators accessed our database of 100 plus volunteers, selecting one to fulfil the support request. These ranged from shopping and prescription requests to telephone calls providing emotional support.

A financial process was set up – supported by Chilton Church Treasurer, Stuart Gibson – that protected both volunteers and “customers”.

Financial donations were made to the CMA fund, these contributed to the cost of food bags, which supplemented SOFEA food boxes. These were delivered to those in the most need on a weekly basis by our fantastic volunteers.

Local councillors also helped us to secure a grant of £500.



CHILTON MUTUAL AID

As founder of the group, I want to say a huge thank you to my CMA Lead counterparts – Jenny, Sarah B, Sarah O and Lucy – and to all of the amazing volunteers who have made the group such a success, to all of those who donated and also to my family (who have shown such patience throughout!). It has been an incredibly humbling experience that, above all else, has shown the love and compassion we have for each other in this wonderful village of Chilton.

As we head into the next phase, the group will continue; however, reflecting a lesser need, it will run differently to before. If you need support, please email chiltonaid@gmail.com (our response times may be a little longer than during lock-down).

Please also contact us if you are keen to become/remain involved – any help of any sort is always welcome!

Annabel

INTERVIEW WITH VICKY MACARTHUR

How long have you lived in Harwell?

We moved to Upton from Ealing in 1999. I had lived in Grove from the age of 12 and went to King Alfred's School and sixth form before going to London to study Nursing.

We decided to move to Harwell village from Upton as we had joined the congregation of St Matthew's when we first moved to Oxfordshire and I was involved with many of the children's groups in Harwell having moved here with a 3 year old and a 6 month old baby.

What do you love about being in the village?

I like living in Harwell because it has a strong sense of community. This sense of community has never been more apparent than now as more than 100 people have signed up to help with the Harwell Helpers scheme that has been set up to assist residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

What is your involvement with Harwell & Chilton Churches?

I've been a member of St Matthew's Harwell for over 20 years and have been involved in various ways during that time including being on the parochial church council, leading the children's work, running a home group, playing in the band and occasionally speaking during services.

Where do you work?

I have worked as a lecturer in nursing at Oxford Brookes University for 20 years. I also work a day a week in the minor injury units around Oxfordshire.

How long have you been a Christian?

I became a Christian when I was doing a degree in nursing at Kings College University. Although I was brought up as a Roman Catholic, I made the choice to become a Christian at a 'guest service' at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), London in February 1988.

The vicar was Sandy Millar and the thing that he said that really spoke to me was that there was no sitting on the fence. You can't be neutral about God. You are either for Him or against Him. I had been comfortably agnostic up until that point. I didn't necessarily want to be an atheist, but I also wouldn't have described myself as a Christian. I thought I was sitting on the fence, but I realised that I had to make a choice, so I chose God.

HTB became a 'hub' for me as I started work as a nurse. Wherever I moved, I always had the same church family at the centre. I met my husband Allan at HTB and we got married there and our first child, Callum was baptised there. We have had our ups and downs as a family, and sometimes I have moved away from God, but I always find myself being drawn back. And when I do turn back, I never experience any feelings that I am being judged. It is just like the parable of the prodigal son; God is there with open arms and a big smile that says 'You're back! I missed you!'

