

Welcome

A very warm welcome to you, whether you are new to St Matthew's and All Saints' or worship with us every week. We hope you will feel at home in our churches. Please introduce yourself to someone, and stay for coffee, which is served after most services. Please see the back page for useful information for visitors.

If you are a newcomer or visitor, do please consider filling in and returning a welcome card, so that we can be in touch with information about groups and activities of interest and how we can serve you.

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) at All Saints'

9:30am Morning Prayer (BCP) at All Saints'

11:00am Morning Worship at St Matthew's

4:00pm Carols by Candlelight at All Saints'

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight at All Saints'

Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church Hall
7-8.30pm for 11-18 year olds

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's

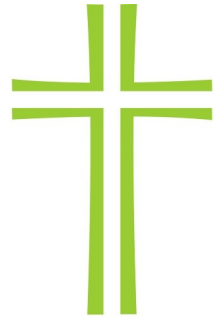
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**HARWELL
CHILTON
CHURCHES**

CONTACTS

Jonathan Mobey

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Vicky Johnston

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churches.org.uk
Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri 9.30-2.30

If you would like to
talk with the Rector
about any matter, please
contact Jonathan directly,
or via the Church Office

St Matthew's Harwell
with All Saints' Chilton

#GODWITHUS



God With Us is a short, colourful booklet for Christmas that explores the Christian faith. It offers 13 simple reflections that unpack the constant refrain of Christmas readings and carols – that God is with us. It makes an ideal gift for friends and family and use at home. Please take one or more if you can use them, and you may like to consider reimbursing the £1 cost. If you use twitter, keep an eye out for the #Godwithus campaign.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We would love to add Christmas greetings to friends around the world on our Facebook page. If you'd like to join in, please send an email to Vicky in the Church Office with a Christmas message, and a photograph of yourself outside Harwell or Chilton Church. Thank you.

NARNIA PRAYER SPACE

The Narnia-themed Prayer Space planned for Chilton Garden Centre on 14-16 December will not be going ahead this year, but we hope to do something similar in the future.

CAROL SINGING

A group will be carol singing at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell on Monday 18th December at 7pm and would welcome some extra voices. In Chilton, carol singing will be on Monday 18th December from 6.30pm starting at the Church lychgate and going around the old village, and on Thursday 21st December from 8pm at the Rose and Crown. All welcome to join in!

ST MATTHEW'S RE-ORDERING

We have received a Faculty (permission) to replace the pews at St Matthew's with 200 'Abbey' chairs and to carpet the floor. We are now starting to look at planning the work in detail – what all the various associated tasks are, the order in which they should be undertaken, and when and what manpower will be required.

The full cost of the project is £59,000. We have already raised/secured £31,500, and the PCC has underwritten £15,000 from a legacy received, but we still have £12,500 to raise. Would you please consider donating towards this, for example by sponsoring a chair? See separate fundraising leaflet for further information.

CAP NEWS

Another client went debt-free this week. Total clients debt-free through Didcot and Wallingford Area CAP Debt Centre = 11. Praise God!

christians
against
poverty

CAP

SPRING HARVEST 2018

Several of our church family have booked to attend Spring Harvest at Butlins Minehead on 3-8 April next year (the week following the Easter weekend).



Spring Harvest is a fun-filled, inspiring experience for all ages, so do consider booking to go along at the same time. But hurry – there are very few

spaces left: www.springharvest.org
If you do book, please let Jonathan know.

ST MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Since 2000, St. Matthew's tower has been floodlit at Christmas and the cost of this, nearly £5 per day, has been covered by specific donations. We hope that again the inhabitants of Harwell will want to see their church tower lit up this Christmas and we would welcome your contributions in £2 coins, which can be put in the wall safe just inside the door, any time during November. All £2 coins put here will be used for the floodlighting and will not be put into the general church funds. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS TOGETHER



We are looking for volunteers to help at our Christmas Together Lunch at Chilton Village Hall. Last year we served 50 lunches, and we'd love to do so again this year. Please speak to Alison Gale or Vicky Johnston if you'd like to help. If you'd like to attend the lunch please book your

place with Vicky in the Church office. Tel 834256 or office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

BALSAM PROJECT THANKS

A BIG THANK YOU to St Mathew's and All Saints' and Fledgelings Toddler Group for supporting Balsam's stall at Didcot Street Fair last Thursday helping us to raise £190.09. Thank you to everyone who donated toys and books to fill our stall to overflowing!

Thanks again for all your support for Balsam Family Project.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

We are looking for a female to join the leadership team on Sunday evenings at St Matthew's Church Hall. Please contact either Tim Brook or Vicky Johnston if you would like to be involved.

DIDCOT FOODBANK

The Didcot Food Bank are short of supplies for Christmas and are asking for help to give the area's struggling families a proper treat and ensure nobody goes hungry.

Pasta, rice, tea and tinned tomatoes are especially needed. Didcot Food Bank is hoping to offer Christmas hampers with puddings and mince pies.

Please leave your donations in All Saints' or St Matthew's and we'll take them to the Foodbank.

Thank you.

Margaret & Mel Gibson

21ST JANUARY

SAVE THE DATE!

On 21st January we'll be having a commissioning service for our new Children and Families' Workers, Sarah Barrett and Melanie Shields. We will then be having a bring and share lunch at Chilton Village Hall. All very welcome to join us!



CHURCH OFFICE

Please note that Vicky Johnston is off sick until after Christmas and so unable to respond to emails or phone calls to the office. Please direct urgent enquiries to Jonathan. Thank you.

VISITORS' INFO

Children and young people are especially welcome at our services, and there are groups for children and young people in Harwell, and for primary aged and pre-school children in Chilton, along with a family area in both churches.

At our services of Holy Communion all who love the Lord are welcome to share with us. If you require a gluten-free wafer please indicate this to the sidespeople before the service.

Both churches have a hearing loop, and large print service and weekly noticesheets are available. Toilets are at the back of the church in Harwell and accessed from outside at Chilton.

NOTICESHEET ITEMS

Please submit noticesheet items to Vicky by Wednesday of the preceding week, either via the website, by email, by phone, or by leaving a note in the vestry. The deadline for Broadsheet items is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

News items also appear on our website. You need to be logged-in to see some of them: <http://HCChurches.org>

P R A Y E R F O C U S

*'...in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God' Philippians 4:6*

Please pray for...

- A peaceful solution to the troubles in Iraq, Syria and Gaza
- Those who live in Chilton Field Way in Chilton, and in Hengest Gate in Harwell
- Comfort, for all victims of intolerance and those oppressed by their fellow humans
- All those involved in journalism and broadcasting
- Those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather; draw near and comfort them in spirit, and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship
- Ourselves that we will be faithful in witness, active in service, and joyful in our praise

Collect for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Alternative Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

There are many church groups and activities happening every week and space does not permit inclusion of all of them. You can find details of all church events and groups on the church website: <http://HCChurches.org>

St Matthew's Registered Charity Number 1158861

