

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 17TH DECEMBER

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's
9:30am Holy Communion at All Saints'
11:00am Holy Communion at St Matthew's
4:00pm Carols by Candlelight at St Matthew's
6:30pm Carols by Candlelight at St Matthew's
Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church Hall
7-8.30pm for 11-18 year olds

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

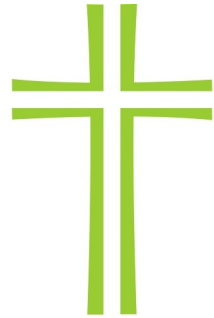
4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

9:30am Morning Worship at All Saints'
11:00am Morning Worship at St Matthew's
3:30pm Crib Service at St Matthew's
10:00pm Holy Communion at All Saints'
11.30pm Holy Communion at St Matthew's
No Youth Fellowship

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) at All Saints'
8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's
9:30am All Age Worship at All Saints'
11:00am All Age Worship at St Matthew's
12:00pm Holy Communion at St Matthew's



**HARWELL
CHILTON
CHURCHES**

CONTACTS

Jonathan Mobey
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Vicky Johnston
Church Administrator
& PA to the Rector - Tel: 834256
office@harwellandchilton
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. We have a few left in each church: please take one or more if you can use them. 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.

BROADSHEET DELIVERY

We have vacancies in both Chilton and Harwell for deliverers of the Broadsheet. There are eight issues a year, plus cards at Christmas and Easter. Please let Vicky know if you are interested in helping in this way.

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

christians
against
poverty

CAP

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

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

We have a special service on New Year's Eve at All Saints' Chilton, starting at 6.15 pm. It is going to be a time of reflection, looking back on 2017 but also looking forward to 2018. There will be time for quiet prayer as well as praying for each other and the needs of the world.

The time was chosen so that those who will be celebrating New Year's Eve with others can attend before going out. Equally, those with visitors might find the time to attend before their party, or bring their visitors along, too.

OUTREACH FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR!



If you have a Facebook or Twitter account, it would be great if you would 'like' (on Facebook) Harwell and Chilton Churches and/or 'follow' (on Twitter) @hcchurches. Once you do, you should start receiving daily posts from the Church accounts which you could 'share' or 'retweet' to help us get out the message about our Christmas services. Who knows? Your one or two clicks might remind someone who is expecting a lonely Christmas that there are people around who would love to see them, or give a newcomer who has never been to our Churches the nudge to try us out this Christmas. If you're not sure what you're doing on social media but would like to have a go, why not make this the excuse to get to grips with one or the other type? Contact Liz on 07745 80 20 30 for help in your home.

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, 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>

St Matthew's Registered Charity Number 1158861



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...

- The governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established (Rom 13:1)
- Those who live in Church Hill in Chilton, and in High Street in Harwell
- Our four Church wardens: Alex, Yvonne, Tim and Christina
- For our Archbishop Justin, and Bishops Steven and Colin
- 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
- For all who attend our Advent and Christmas services, that they would encounter God-with-us

Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Alternative Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. 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>