

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

February 2020

Repair Café



THE
**BIG
FIX**

2020

Repair Café Saturday 15th February
St Matthew's Church Harwell 2-5pm



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

GENERATION GOLD

Generation Gold happens once a quarter in March, June, September and December and alternates between Chilton and Harwell churches.



We welcome a growing congregation of people from both parishes, some of whom are regular church members and others not. We worship God and spend time catching up with each other over delicious refreshments. While Jan and I lead Generation Gold, we are supported generously by a great team of people in both parishes who use their musical gifts and baking skills to bless our congregation.



Each service lasts about 35 minutes and is based on a different theme each time. Over the last year our themes have been 'New life in Jesus' (explored through the theme of butterflies) in March, 'Pentecost' (the birthday of the Church) in June, 'Harvest' in September (with a delicious lunch!) and 'Advent' in December.

We sing well known hymns and sometimes learn new hymns and songs too. We have an interactive discussion

during the service, hear a couple of Bible readings and a short address. We end our services with the giving of a gift to everyone to take home to remind them of our theme, and the serving of refreshments.



We began with about 30 people and have now grown to around 60. Our 'Goldies' share their enthusiasm with their friends and bring them along too. Would you like to join us (as a member and/or a helper), or do you know someone who might like to come to Generation Gold? Do speak to Jan or me if you'd like to know more.

Our next services take place on Monday 9th March at 2.30pm at All Saints' Chilton, and on Thursday 18th June at 2.30pm at St Matthew's Harwell.

Rev'd Pam Rolls
& Rev'd Jan
Radford
(Associate
Minister &
Assistant
Minister)



RECTOR'S LETTER

As one year – or even decade – turns to another, it is natural to be both looking backwards and forwards, as the Roman god 'Janus' is supposed to have done. Janus, meaning 'archway', was the god of both beginnings and endings, and reflects something of what Christians believe about the eternal nature of God who is above and beyond time – rules over it in fact – and is able to know perfectly the past, present and future.

And humans beings, made in the image of that God, whilst not able to perfectly know all time, alongside their ability to experience the present, are able to 'make present' the past through memory, and an as-yet-unrealised future through imagination.

We need both memory and imagination to make sense of our lives, which need to be seen as a narrative – a continuous thread – that has its full meaning only when seen in its totality. Life is not just a collection of clothes pegs, it has a line – a narrative – that brings it all together.

Seeing how that line stretches backwards and forwards is essential when we seek meaning and purpose.

I'm writing this letter just before what has been dubbed 'Blue Monday' – said to be the most depressing day of the year – due to a combination of post-Christmas blues, cold dark nights and the arrival of unpaid credit card bills. But it seems to me that there is still something of the optimism of a New Year – a new decade even – along

with its new excitement, expectation and opportunity.

We can look back and forward with different types of spectacles. I'm not advocating that we all seek to wear the 'rose-tinted' sort, which in their own way distort what we see around us, but rather the sort that allow us to see what is *really* about us.



The eagle doesn't get any more information into its eyes than we would receive if we were flying at the same altitude. But possessing the superior optical equipment that it does enables it to spot what it needs to see in a way that we never could.

It is my prayer for all of us, for our church, and our country, that as we enter a New Year and new decade, that we have the eyes to truly see and perceive not only what is around us, but what has gone before, and what could yet be. That we would have truly '20-20 vision'.

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan". The script is cursive and fluid.

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

We've had a busy, fun 2019 and thought we'd give you a snapshot of what we've been up to below.

Fledgelings in Harwell and Chilton have continued to thrive with new families joining us most weeks replacing those who move onto nursery.



Due to an ant infestation at the Church Hall, a temporary move to St Matthew's Church has become a more permanent arrangement in Harwell. Feedback from the families has been overwhelmingly positive and it's lovely welcoming them into the church each week.

Pebbles Family Services have also seen growth this year. Monthly we average 60 people attending each service, but following Holiday Club we welcomed several new families when the children were presented with Bibles after completing the memory verse challenge set during Holiday Club.

Pebbles, Kids Church and Pathfinders continue to run on Sunday mornings. The groups are constantly changing as the children grow older and move from group to group. Pathfinders (our group for secondary school-aged young people) has grown considerably this past term, as several children have moved up from Kids Church.



YF continues to run on a Sunday evening and has also seen numbers grow over the past term with

some new young people coming post-Holiday Club. They had a great time ice-skating in Oxford in December.



Holiday Club 'Space Academy' was held at Chilton Primary School. We had 124 children in 11 'dens'. We thought about the Biblical book of Daniel in the mornings, along with singing, dancing, a quiz, craft, and some 'out of this world' challenges. Daniel was a great example of how to follow God faithfully, and our Holiday Club song was called 'God's Way'.

This year we had hand bells, colouring, board games, crafts, rounders, football, microscopes, number hockey, sewing, hama beads, and many other activities during the afternoons.



Thank you to everyone who came to see us at **Harwell Feast and Chilton Family Fun Day** this year. We really enjoyed making and flying so many kites!

REVIEW OF 2019

We had a great time with Harwell Primary School in our **reflection tent**.

Each class came along and thought/reflected/prayed about their aspirations, things to be thankful for, how to handle frustrations, and positive and negative thoughts about ourselves.



Our **Light Party** was great fun at St Matthew's on 31st October. The children played party games, made various crafts and enjoyed hot dogs and cake.



Our **Travelling Crib** happened in Chilton for the first time in 2019 and was well received. 50 adults and children joined us as we walked and sang around the village, met a few characters from the nativity story, some sheep on the green, and a

conclusion at All Saints' with a carol and some mince pies and mulled wine.

Living Advent Calendar ran in Harwell & Chilton villages in the run up to Christmas.



Each evening families who registered could open a 'door' on the website to find out which home to visit that night. At each home they then heard the next part of the Christmas story and received a sticker and a chocolate.



As well as our regular groups we also have one off and special events/ services happen throughout the year. These include **assemblies, Christingle, The Easter Trail, Mums' socials, Education Sunday, Baptism Celebration, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance, Christmas decoration making, Carols by Candlelight, Crib Service...**

Looking at all this, it goes without saying that there is far too much going on for the Children and Families' Workers to do alone. The only reason we are able to do so much is because of the amazing team of volunteers we have across both churches. There are far too many people to list, but we are so grateful for all the time, energy, creativity and enthusiasm each and every one of them give.

We are really looking forward to 2020 and have some exciting plans

Melanie & Sarah



Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's	
9.30am All Age Christingle	2nd Feb	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Christingle 6.15pm Evening Prayer	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Family Service *CVH 9.30am Morning Worship	9th Feb	11.00am Morning Worship	
9.30am Holy Communion	16th Feb	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	23rd Feb	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15am Holy Communion	

*CVH Chilton Village Hall

(BCP) Book of Common Prayer, traditional service

REPAIR CAFE

Don't miss our fabulous repair café at St Matthew's on **Saturday 15th February** 2-5pm. See Facebook.com/HCCchurches

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Advance Notice: The Grand Charity Quiz Night will be held on **Saturday 21st March**. Tickets remain at £10 per person including a tasty hot supper; teams of up to 6 members. The charities we are supporting are – The Porch, helping the homeless in Oxford, and Hamlin Fistula UK, providing treatment for Ethiopian women with Obstetric Fistula. Tickets available from Judy Goodall. Please contact the Church Office for more details. **The next Cryptic Quiz** will be out on **Saturday 8th February** to tie in with the Quiz Night – further details to follow.

MATERNITY COVER

Church Administrator & PA to the Rector
Part-time post £21-28,000pa full time equivalent

Are you someone...

- with organisational and technical ability, an eye for detail, and good people-skills?
- able to show initiative and be reliable, with pastoral sensitivity and good judgement?
- who thrives on a combination of routine administrative work alongside projects that require innovation and imagination?

Further info: <http://hcchurches.org/adminpa>
Applications by 7pm **Monday 3rd February**.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church Harwell. 'The Gardens of Cotswold Wildlife Park' Tim Miles. Comp: Snowdrops.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Rosemary Rolls
Roland Puffett
Ted Ireson
Scarlett Saunders
Roger Wing
Fred Knight
Audrey Hastings
Amy Smith
Sylvia Gosney
Ken Howard
Vic Crocker

CHRISTINGLE

Our next All Age Worship is on **Sunday 2nd February**. 9.30am in Chilton, 11.00am in Harwell. Come along and make a Christingle during the service.



EVERGREENS

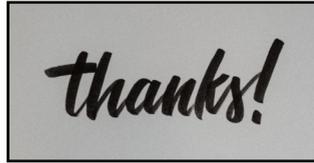
Thursday 20th February, 2.30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall. PC Richard Osborn Police Community Officer will be speaking. Home made cakes and biscuits will be served after the talk with tea and coffee. Evergreens are a monthly retirement group. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS

Thank you to all who supported the carol singing in the Rose and Crown and around Chilton village this year. We raised a total of £161 for Save the Children Fund. Thank you to Chilton Garden Centre for donating a Christmas tree to top All Saints' Church Chilton.

CHILTON CHARITY STALL

The next market supporting Young Dementia UK will be held on **Saturday 8th February** on Crafts End Green between 9am and 12noon. There will be a Valentine's theme.



The final amazing total for December's market for the Oncology

Dept of the Churchill came to £936 as the last £10 was raked up amongst fallen leaves in a Crafts End garden. One terrific gust of wind had sent many items flying down the road!

The January market raised £450 for the Chilton Lunch Club and £114 towards purchasing two sturdy gazebos for the market.

Thank you to everyone who supports the our very friendly markets. We always have an amazing selection of freshly baked items – chicken pies, cheese tarts, pasties, fruit tarts, cakes, focaccias, etc, home made jams and marmalades. The white elephant stall is a treasure trove, and of course there is a wide selection of books. Offers of small white elephant objects and books are always welcome, preferably during the week before the market so we have time to sort.

PLEASE NOTE – The market in April will be held a week early on **4th April** to avoid clashing with the Easter Weekend.

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S MEETING

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th February** at 7.45 pm in All Saints' Church when we will share an evening with Pam and Jan, with Anne and Carol in support.

REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

31 people from across the parishes came together to enjoy a traditional Christmas Day lunch at St Matthew's Church Hall on Christmas Day.



The event started with drinks before the main Christmas lunch was served; roast turkey & stuffing, pigs in blankets, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce and gravy.



We had a huge array of puddings to choose from; trifle, cake, mince pies, Christmas pudding, custard and cream followed by cheese and crackers. Tea and coffee were served as we took part in a fun quiz, before settling back to watch the Queen's Speech.

The event couldn't have happened without help from many village members. Thank you so much to all those who cooked a tray of potatoes or parsnips, helped washing up and tidying up on the day and to those who did such a great job of decorating the Hall beforehand. We would also like to thank you for keeping us in your prayers over the holidays, those prayers were certainly answered!



We would also like to give a big thank you to the Home Group who had the original vision for the lunch, and to everyone who made all the preparations for the day.

This year we were grateful for a substantial grant that Asda kindly awarded for our community lunch.

Everyone who came along enjoyed the event and we are planning to run Christmas Together again on 25th December 2020, but at Chilton Village Hall this year. Watch this space, and our Facebook page to find out more details later in the year.

www.facebook.com/HCCChurches or our website www.HCCChurches.org/news.

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