



Harwell and Chilton

PCC Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

What is the purpose of this Newsletter

The Benefice Governance Review was completed towards the end of 2025. One of its recommendations was that PCC needed to improve communications between the two Parochial Church Councils and the congregation. It suggested that this could be achieved through a quarterly newsletter highlighting matters discussed at PCC meetings and decisions that were subsequently agreed. It would also include information on forthcoming Benefice events such as the Harwell Feast.

The Newsletter is divided into two sections, one concerning general Benefice topics, the other, matters specific to each Parish. It will be available on the Benefice website, and there will be some hard copies at the back of the Churches for those who prefer to obtain information in this format.

This is a trial format but if the Newsletter is thought to be of value, it is planned to produce a second edition in June, after the Annual Meetings and another two editions in late summer and before Christmas.

Any comments via the Church Office would be welcome!

Forthcoming Events

Sunday Morning Sermon Series

A new series of sermons started on 4th January in both Churches. The first three Sundays are entitled “Keeping in touch with God” and these are followed by a series of sermons on “Our Church” which will continue up till Lent. A subsequent Lent series of sermons have also been planned.

Harwell Feast 2026

This will be taking place on the 25th May on the Recreation Ground and the Benefice has accepted the Committee’s kind offer of the use of the Marquee for a Service the previous day (Sunday 24th). Planning for this is underway, and Rebecca Lewes and Alex Reich are leading this. They would welcome help both in advance of the Service and on the day.

Chilton fun run – afternoon 13th June

Planning is in progress for a community event on 13th June to be held at the Amphie-Theatre on Chilton Field. The event will include a fun run for children and young people (various distances), music, food and a chance to meet others living in Chilton. The theme for the event will be “run the good race” in relation to 2 Timothy 4, 2 (I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.). Further details to be worked out in due course. Anyone interested in helping with this event is welcome. Please get in touch with Pat Moseley or Alex Reich.

Our Mission Partners

The Mission Sub-Committee members are Helen Brook, Peter Barclay-Watt and Yvonne Sanderson. The budget for the PCCs Mission Funds is decided in December each year based on 10% of the giving received during the year. In 2025, All Saints’ contribution amounted to £3,500. The organisations and individuals that the committee suggested should benefit was agreed by the PCC at their budget meeting.

The Organisations chosen are:

Mission Aviation Fellowship, CPAS, Scripture Union, The Leprosy Mission, Arocha

The Individuals are: Chris and Suzy Wilson and Endri and Dyshi Tabacu

The Committee are looking for more people willing to join them, as at present, they are just three. This is an important part of the Benefice’s Vision of **“Growing God’s Church, wider, deeper and closer”**

Work currently being undertaken by the Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee is responsible to the PCC for the upkeep of the structure and fabric of the Church.

Repairs to the render in the South Aisle and chancel arch have been carried out and the final painting phase should be complete by the end of February 2026.

The Committee has proposed that the church architect be commissioned to provide an assessment and advice on the options for improved access to the Church in sufficient detail (including an indication of the construction costs) so that the PCC, in conjunction with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, can decide how to proceed. This was agreed at the February PCC meeting.

The Committee are looking for more people willing to join them.

Benefice Information Technology Sub-Group

The Joint PCCs have set up a new sub-committee chaired by Stuart Gibson to review the current hardware and software use by the Benefice and to make their recommendations on improvements. The remit of this sub- group is:

- a) Identify and assess current IT hardware and software.
- b) Review and recommend new software bearing in mind legal requirements.
- c) Keep the hardware and software updated as needs and legislation changes.
- d) The Committee's remit does not include the organisation or content of the Churches website.

The Committee had its first meeting in November and once some initial work has been done, further meetings are planned for early 2026. The Committee is looking for more people willing to join them.

All Saints' Finances

Our PCC Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, has reported the outturn for 2025 is better than budgeted due to the increase in giving resulting from the fundraising campaign and some savings on fabric repairs which have been deferred to 2026 (£7,000). Also there was no Children and Families Worker expenditure.

The surplus for 2025 of £4,000 will be carried forward to 2026 as the General Fund needs to at least break even each year as there are no unrestricted reserves. The main expenditure is the Parish Share which will rise by 4% in 2026 to just under £26,000. The budget for 2026 will be looked at by the PCC at the February meeting. PCC receives a financial update from the Treasurer at each meeting and bases their financial decisions on this.

Christians Against Poverty

The Benefice supports both financially and through volunteers the work of the Didcot and Wallingford Area CAP Debt Centre which has just celebrated its 10 year anniversary and having helped over 100 clients become debt free. Most recently Christmas hampers were distributed to 9 clients and their families in our villages of Chilton and Harwell thanks to the generosity of the church family. The clients were overwhelmed with the kindness which made such a difference to them at this difficult time of year.

Village Hall Service

On the second Sunday of each month the regular 9.30 service at All Saints' has been replaced by a service at 10.30 am. This is a more informal, family friendly service held in Chilton Village Hall to which all are welcome.

Fledglings in Chilton

Due to a drop in attendance it has been decided to cease the Fledglings parent and toddler group held on Wednesday mornings in Chilton Community Hall.