



Harwell and Chilton

PCC Newsletter

JUNE 2026

Benefice PCC Members and Church Officers

At the Annual Parochial Church Meetings the following people were elected to serve:

St Matthew's Church Warden: Stephen Manning

All Saints' Church Wardens: Alex Reich and Judith Russell

St Matthew's PCC:

Tony Hughes (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Clarke (Secretary), Nick Clarke (Treasurer), Adrian Bollon (Diocesan Synod Representative), Roger Mawle, and Jane Woolley. Sarah Barrett was subsequently co-opted to serve for one year. They join Rebecca Lewis and Adrian Rance-McGregor who have not yet completed their three years.

All Saints' PCC:

Hazel Benton (Vice Chair), Naomi Gibson (secretary), Stuart Gibson (Treasurer) Liz Morris, John Pigott, Pat Moseley.

Children's and Families Worker

The Benefice held a workshop in April to discuss the potential role and job description of this key position. It was attended by all those involved or experienced in this aspect of our work, and was a very successful morning. It has now been agreed that we can re-advertise the vacancy, and a steering group is being formed to draw up the job description and person specification, prior to advertising.

Praise in the Park: Fullness of Life

The Committee responsible for the organisation of the Harwell Feast kindly offered the Benefice the use of the Harwell Feast marquee on the afternoon(24 th) before the Feast.

It was a very successful afternoon and over 100 people took part in the service which included personal testimonies as well as hymns and prayer.

Our thanks go to Alex Reich and Rebecca Lewis for organising it, to Didcot Baptist Church for the sound system, everyone who produced and served the tea and cakes, and others who helped generally with the event.

Safeguarding

The protection of children, young people, and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of St. Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton.

The Churchwardens, along with Parish Safeguarding Officers, have recently undertaken a review of our Safeguarding system, processes and status. We have then benchmarked them against the guidance the Diocese of Oxford has issued in respect of the Safeguarding training an individual performing a specific role in the Church should undertake e.g. PCC member, Preacher and Leader, Individual working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. We have written to all individuals performing specific roles within our churches, asking them to ensure that their safeguarding training is up to date and to undertake the relevant training as soon as possible.

We recognise that the safeguarding bar has been raised by the Church of England in recent years, and therefore there may be gaps in people's training. We are planning to run some group training for some of the more general courses.

Church Services at St. Matthews' and All Saints'

We are having a six months' trial period of using service booklets at St Matthew's supported by hymns on the overhead screens. Deborah, our church administrator estimates that not having to spend time creating weekly service sheets will give her about 1 ½ days extra time each week to spend on other Church Office tasks.

Forthcoming Events

Hallebaloojah! – afternoon 13th June

Starting at 2pm at Chilton Field Amphitheatre there will be: Children's Races – a fun run of approx 3 km. and an obstacle course for younger children, Bring and share picnic tea and live music. Entry forms from Chilton Church, Chilton Primary School, via the church website or the QR code.



Cream Teas - afternoon 27th September

Following the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 27th September cream teas will be on offer in All Saints' church.

PCC Away Day

We are planning to have an Away Day in the Autumn for PCC members, but also open to those who might like to join us. The theme for the day will centre on planning the way forward for our Church over the next 12 to 24 months and setting long and short term goals.

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. It has taken some time for the plaster to dry but the final painting phase should be complete by the end of June 2026.

The church architect, Philip Waddy has provided an assessment and advice on the options for improved access to the Church. The PCC has agreed on a plan to adjust the slope from the path through the porch and into the church which will provide a continuous gentle slope. The architect has been commissioned to draw up precise specifications which will be used to apply for permission from the Diocese to carry out the work and to obtain tenders from contractors.

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

Treasurer's Report

The work of the Benefice Fundraising Group in 2024/2025 resulted in an increase in planned giving of some £95 /month, with an additional £4k from one-off donations. The number of regular givers on the electoral roll was unchanged but giving was increased. We were very grateful to a number of Chilton residents who signed up to generously give to the Church on a regular basis and those that gave a one-off donation.

Thank you to everyone who contributes financially and also those that give their time. It is very much appreciated.

The additional funding generated enabled us to cover our costs in 2025 and generate a surplus. However, the bill for the plaster repair work has still not arrived but fortunately will be cover by the surplus.

Stuart Gibson, the Church Treasurer, reported the following financial position in the period from 1st January 2026 to the 31st May 2026.

Income £22k

Expenditure £18k

While the current situation appears healthy, there are a number of significant items of expenditure which will not arise until the second half of the year, such as insurance, joint running costs with Harwell and a number of building maintenance items.

Any comments on this Newsletter via the Church Office would be welcome!