

# RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

March 2014

## History in the making!

The Berkshire Archdeaconry has existed in its present form for nearly a thousand years, making the change which is ahead an important moment in our history



On the 1st March, the four Deaneries of Abingdon, Wallingford, Wantage and Vale of White Horse will transfer up into the newly created Archdeaconry of Dorchester, under the Episcopal oversight of Bishop Colin

(Please see inside for more information)

**Rector of Harwell with Chilton**

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**Church Administrator**

Mrs Carolyn Vickers  
Office hours: Wednesday & Thursday  
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L E N T

## LENT GROUPS

In the New Testament, we frequently read of God's people gathering together, and enjoying making time to be with one another and for God, to hear his voice. As a result, communities that were committed to helping and encouraging one another were built up.

Whether or not you come to Church regularly, you may welcome the chance to meet with others during the week. Lent is a great opportunity to do so. This year we shall be looking at "Christ and the Chocolaterie." We would look at part of the DVD "Chocolat" and then discuss various issues.

Lent begins on Wednesday 5th March. The groups would meet in the weeks beginning 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April. If you could only meet some weeks that is fine. Days and times will be finalised when we know when people are available. The meetings will last no longer than an hour and a half. If you would like to know more or have any queries do speak to Jean Barton – 01235 861117 or [jeanvbarton@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanvbarton@btinternet.com).

Alternatively there are leaflet at the back of the churches with a reply slip to leave in the box provided.

## CONNECT

Sunday 16th March. 'Connect' is a free family event every third Sunday of the month at Chilton School, 4.30-6pm. All welcome. For children there are crafts and a meal; for adults tea and cake and a chance to relax with other local families. For everyone an interactive 'thought for the day' on a Christian theme, and music. It is informal, interactive and fun.

## PASTORAL CARE

We have a small team who are able to offer support and friendship especially to those who are lonely, housebound or unwell. If you, or anyone you know, would welcome a visit please get in touch. It is helpful to know of cases of illness either at home or in hospital. Also if you unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let us know.

Please contact:

(for Harwell) Joan Impy 820346,

(for Chilton) Judy Burbage 833182

the Rector 799376, or Carolyn in the

Churches Office 834256 or e-mail

[office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)

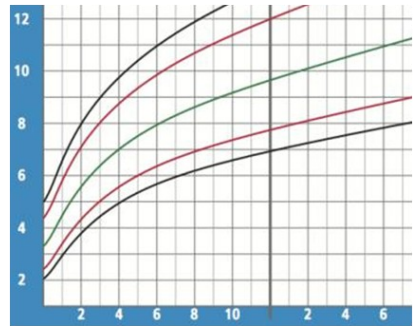
## FOOD BANK

Didcot Emergency Foodbank always needs non-perishable goods. There is a list of items required on the noticeboard in both church porches. Please bring donations to St Matthew's Church office (in the church and up the stairs) on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (normally). Thank you.

Over the past few months our family has developed a keen interest in growth charts. Our baby son, born 3 months prematurely, has at last begun to climb into the right zone, the fruit of my wife's patient dedication to his well-being, aided in various ways by kind friends, relatives and experts. Growth often needs to be nurtured.

Failure to grow at the expected rate is a sign of poor health, and not just in children. Many people are – albeit cautiously – breathing sighs of relief as the British economy at last appears to be growing; economic health is vital to the flourishing of a nation. It is no less true of the Church, either. A healthy church is a growing church.

Jesus told his followers to 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:19-20), and the biblical book of Acts describes the early church growing dramatically over a short period of time. Even under the persecution of the Roman Empire, the Church continued to grow, and there are now over two billion Christians around the world, the number having nearly quadrupled in the last 100 years.



Whilst Christianity has grown enormously in some parts of the world in recent years, notably in sub-Saharan Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, amongst some groups it is apparently in decline. The Church of England, for example, has in general not done well in keeping young people. But there are significant exceptions to this and many areas of healthy growth.

Recent research has identified a number of factors in the churches which are growing. These include consciously prioritising growth, being prepared to change and experiment, sharing leadership, and emphasising welcome and nurture. But another key factor is a focus on and investment in outreach to children and young people – the 'missing generation' – and youth and children's workers are particularly effective. The Christian faith is for all ages, and it provides, amongst other things, identity, purpose and values. A large body of research shows that it is correlated with greater happiness and a reduced risk of mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency and marital instability. The Christian faith is good news for young people and for wider society.

Our churches have just embarked on raising funds to employ someone to work with children and families across Harwell and Chilton, giving leadership to the work, and providing groups, activities and support to the children and families of our villages. This is a significant investment, but one that we are confident will be worthwhile. It is vital that our children grow – it is a sign of good health – but we know that growth often needs to be nurtured; it is our prayer that this initiative will enable that to happen. Further information about this project can be found at <http://hcchurches.org/cfw>.

Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

# March 2014

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Alpha Course

8:00pm-9:30pm Thursdays at St Matthew's meeting room

### Bell Ringing

7:30pm Mondays at All Saints' Church Tower

7:30pm Thursdays at St Matthew's Church Tower

### Choir Practice

7:30pm Wednesdays at All Saints' (not 5th March)

### Fledgelings

9:30-11:30am Mondays (during term time) at St Matthews Church Hall

### Home Groups

8:00pm Mondays at 10 Jennings Lane, Harwell

8:00pm Tuesdays at 13 Latton Close, Chilton (usually)

10:15am Wednesdays at St Matthew's meeting room (during term time)

1:45pm Wednesdays 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

8:00pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays at 'Milburn', Wantage Road, Harwell

### Prayer Meeting

8:30am Saturdays at both St Matthew's and All Saints'

### Youth Fellowship

7:00-8:30pm Sundays (during term-time) at St Matthew's meeting room

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### Missions Prayer Meeting

Monday 3rd 10:00am at 15, Elderfield Crescent, Chilton

### Chilton Wives' Group

Tuesday 11th 7:45pm at All Saints' Church - Talk by Clive Holmes - 'Pauper to Priest'

Saturday 15th 7:15pm at All Saints' Church - Quiz Night

### Connect

Sunday 16th 4:30pm at Chilton School

### Holy Communion (BCP)\*

Tuesday 18th 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)\*at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell

### Harwell Ladies' Group

Tuesday 18th 7:30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall - AGM & Auction

### Harwell Evergreens

Thursday 20th 2:30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall -

Talk by Ben (from Harcourt Arboretum) - 'Travels in Chile'

## SERVICES

	<b>All Saints' Chilton</b>	<b>St Matthew's Harwell</b>
2nd March	9:30am All Age Worship - 'Education Sunday'	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)* 11:00am All Age Worship - 'Education Sunday' 6:15pm Evening Prayer
<i>5th March</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>7:45pm Holy Communion</i>	
9th March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)* 9:30am Morning Worship	11:00am Morning Worship 4:30pm 'Hands Free' Worship
16th March	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)* 11:00am Holy Communion 6:15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)*
23rd March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)* 9:30am Morning Worship	11:00am Morning Worship 6:15pm Holy Communion
30th March	9:30am All Age Worship - 'Mothering Sunday' 6:15pm Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)* 11:00am All Age Worship - 'Mothering Sunday'

(BCP)\* = Book of Common Prayer

## OTHER EVENTS

### **PCC meetings**

Tuesday 4th March 7:45pm at St Matthew's Church

### **Marriage Preparation Course**

Saturday 8th March 9:30-3:30pm at St Matthew's Church Hall

### **Didcot Choral Society Concert**

Saturday 22nd March 7:30pm at St Matthew's Church  
'Durufié Requiem and Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine'

For more information on any of these events  
please check the website: [www.hcchurches.org](http://www.hcchurches.org)  
or e-mail the church office  
[office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)



Mission Focus March 2014



In recent months a number of prominent Britons have spoken out against the persecution of Christians in many places throughout the world. Prince Charles, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Minister for Faith Baroness Warsi, shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander and former Defence Minister Liam Fox have all added their voices to a chorus of cries against anti-Christian persecution. With headlines such as the torching of church buildings and Christian homes in Nepal, Sri Lankan Buddhist monks leading attacks on churches, deadly attacks on Christians by Boko Haram Islamists in Nigeria, and the targeting of Christians in a series of Christmas bombings in Iraq, it is clear that, in many parts of the World, professing faith in Jesus Christ can be life-threatening.

Barnabas Fund has been helping persecuted Christians for over 20 years. Founded in 1993, its mission is to support Christians where they are in a minority and suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. Its goal is to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders. It makes those needs known to Christians around the world and encourages prayer and financial giving in support of these brothers and sisters in Christ. All gifts are monitored to ensure that they reach the proper recipients and are used in line with the stated needs.

Barnabas Fund believes that, in accordance with Biblical teaching, Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who persecute them. We support Barnabas Fund through prayer and a donation from the World Mission budget.

If you would like to know more about Barnabas Fund visit [barnabasfund.org](http://barnabasfund.org) or see the information in church.

## ARCHDEACONRY CELEBRATIONS

(Continued from the front page)

Over the years, there has been much to rejoice over and to celebrate. On Saturday 15th March at 5:00pm, we shall be holding a special Archdeaconry event in Newbury St Nicolas, to celebrate our life together, to mark this important ending for Berkshire Archdeaconry and to pray our farewells to the four Deaneries transferring to Dorchester.

This event is for everyone in the Archdeaconry, from every parish, clergy and lay, young and old, so please do join us. The event will take the shape of a simple Service of the Word, with readings, a symbolic presentation from each of the four Deaneries, a sermon and prayers of farewell.

## ST MATTHEW'S LADIES GROUP

We are a group of ladies who meet monthly for fellowship and friendship. We have a variety of speakers, some with a definite Christian emphasis, some which embrace social concerns and other gatherings which are just for pleasure e.g. a garden meeting and a meal at a local restaurant. At least once a year we join up with Chilton 'Wives' Group', usually for a Christmas celebration. We normally meet in St. Matthew's Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Please feel free to come and join us or contact me for further details. Joan Impey 820346

## WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

You can visit our website to find out about our various activities and groups, catch up on news, listen to sermons, access the members-only address book, find useful documents, and lots more: [hcchurches.org](http://hcchurches.org) or [harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](http://harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk). If you would like to keep up to date with news from our churches, why not 'like' our Facebook page? [facebook.com/hcchurches](https://www.facebook.com/hcchurches)

## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Grand Annual Plant Sale for Christian Aid, organised by Chilton Wives' Group, will be held this year on Saturday May 17th at Chilton School from 10am to 12 noon. If you are planting seeds now or when the warmer weather comes we would be grateful if you could plant a few extra for sale. Thank You. Judy Goodall, 43 Crafts End Tel 834503.

## BISHOP COLIN

The Bishop of Dorchester is the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE. His work involves him in supporting about 200 churches in Oxfordshire. In addition he has strong links with a variety of groups, such as Creation Theatre Company, Oxford Inspires and Bible Reading Fellowship. He is Chairman of the South Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership and of the county-wide Stronger Communities Alliance. Nationally he has a remit for the Church of England in connection with chaplaincy in detention/removal centres and also with the police.

Colin Fletcher began his ministry in 1975 as Curate at St Peter's, Shipley, a large suburban church in the Bradford diocese. In 1979 he became Tutor in Ethics and Early Church History at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and Curate of St Andrew's in North Oxford. From June 1984 he was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Margate, and from 1989 to 1993 also Rural Dean of Thanet. In 1993 Colin was appointed Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, before becoming Area Bishop of Dorchester in October 2000.

See more at: <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/dorchester/bishop-of-dorchester>

## HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Harwell Village Hall, Monday 3rd March 7.30pm. Talk by Chris Day - 'It's a jungle out there!' Competition: Cactus or other succulent. For more information contact David Drummond, 821615.

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining. The March meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 18 March, the topic being Life in Prison with Keith Blois.

Didcot & District U3A aims to encourage and enable older people in Didcot and District who are no longer in fulltime paid employment to help each other to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experience. There are over 25 interest groups including family history, gardening, wine appreciation, dance, science & maths, play reading, creative writing, walking, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, badminton, photography and 5 languages. There's something for everyone! Tel: 07804 159993  
Email [didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com](mailto:didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com)  
Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>.

## CHARITY CRYPTIC QUIZ SHEETS

The latest quiz sheet, priced at £1.25, is now available and is on the theme of 'The Weather and Shipping Forecast Sea Areas'. All monies will be divided equally between Young Dementia UK and Hamlin Fistula UK. Sheets are available from: Atomic Hair on Harwell Campus, Shea at the Rose and Crown, Audrey Slater 9 Latton Close, Judy Goodall 43 Crafts End. We are delighted to say that the Christmas Quiz on the theme of Pantomime raised £203 for SeeSaw and was won by Gill Riches from West Hagbourne with a perfect 50/50.

## THE BIG CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

This year the Chilton Wives' Group Quiz Night will be held on Saturday March 15th at Chilton School Hall. Tickets are priced at £8 each and this includes a hot supper and a pudding. Teams comprise a maximum of 6 players. We would be grateful if teams could arrive at the hall by 7:15 pm to ensure a prompt start at 7:30 pm. The Charities we are supporting this year are the Oxfordshire-based Young Dementia UK and Hamlin Fistula UK. Young Dementia UK supports people under 65 and their families providing specialist care. Hamlin Fistula UK support a hospital and outreach centres in Ethiopia which care for hundreds of young women with obstetric fistula. Tickets are available from Judy Goodall, 43 Crafts End Tel 834503, Audrey Slater 9 Latton Close Tel 834558. Ticket numbers are limited, so please apply early for this fun evening.

## PRODUCE MARKET

Thank you to everyone who supports our local produce market held on the second Saturday of the month between 9am and 12noon in the Rose and Crown Car Park . In December the Charity stall raised £220 for the Oncology Unit at The Churchill Hospital. In January we raised £166.78 for the Lydia Thomas Gift Fund – a Chilton Charity. Please continue to support the Market for its tasty cheeses, artisan bread, fresh fruit and veg. and home-produced goods, not to mention the books and white elephant stalls. Offers of help are always welcome as are books, home-baked cakes and pies, plants and small good-quality white elephant items.  
Judy Goodall 43 Crafts End Tel 834503

Please submit noticesheet items to Carolyn 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 Ridgeway Broadsheet items is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.