

# Ridgeway Broadsheet

October 2015

## Harvest 2015

Sunday 4th October

### Special Harvest Family Services

9.30am All Saints' Church, Chilton

11.00am St Matthew's Church, Harwell

*Donations of non-perishable food will be collected at both services for Didcot Foodbank*

### Harvest Ramble

Starting 2.30pm at All Saints' Church, Chilton

*c2 hours around the fields and countryside*

### Sale of Produce

5pm in The Rose & Crown Pub, Chilton

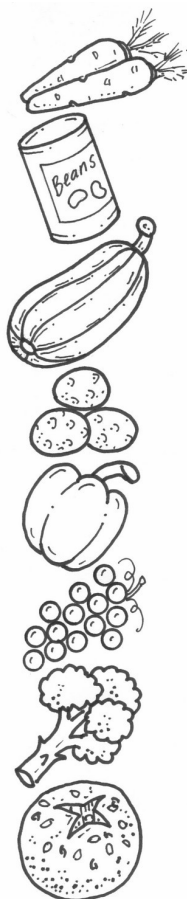
*Proceeds to Tearfund Refugee Crisis Fund 2015*

Monday 5th October

### Harvest Lunch

12 noon, Harwell Village Hall

*Proceeds to Tearfund Refugee Crisis Fund 2015*



**Rector of Harwell and Chilton** Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
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Harwell Church Office | Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 9.30-2.30 | 01235 834256  
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## Ways to respond to the Refugee Crisis

### 1. Pray

It can be hard to know how to pray. Christian Aid have suggested that we:

- Pray for those who have and are fleeing their homes into an uncertain future.
- Pray for those in authority to make wise, cooperative and compassionate decisions.
- Pray for change and a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria.

More prayer points can be found on the Christian Aid website.

### 2. Give

Tearfund have a Refugee Crisis Fund 2015 which St Matthew's and All Saints' will be supporting over the Harvest weekend.

### 3. Petition

Email or write to Ed Vaizey, our local MP. [dicksonce@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksonce@parliament.uk), or Ed Vaizey MP Office, Vale and Downland Museum, Church Street, Wantage OX12 8BL

Sign a petition to ask the government to respond <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/105991%E2%80%A6>

### 4. Support a grass roots group

<https://oxford.cityofsanctuary.org/>  
<http://www.asylum-welcome.org/>  
<http://refugeeresource.org.uk/>  
<http://positivenews.org.uk/>

### 5. Provide accommodation

- If you own a property that could be used for a refugee family, please contact Citizens UK [http://www.citizensuk.org/help\\_find\\_homes\\_for\\_syrian\\_refugees](http://www.citizensuk.org/help_find_homes_for_syrian_refugees)
- Home for Good are looking for foster families to take refugee children [www.homeforgood.org.uk/refugees](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/refugees)
- If you can offer a room please contact Refugees Welcome <http://www.refugees-welcome.net/>

*Lord of the journey,  
 We ask for your protection on all  
 who have fled their homes.  
 Give them strength on their journeys  
 and grant that they may  
 find places of compassion at which to rest.*

*Ease their fear as they throw in  
 heir lot with strangers  
 And keep alive their vision of finding  
 a secure and welcoming home.  
 Amen.*

## REFUGEES WELCOME

How many refugees in the Bible can you name? How about Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Esau, and Joseph? That's just those in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. There are plenty more throughout the Old Testament, including Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Ezekiel and Daniel, and Mary, Joseph, Peter and many others in the New Testament. And the central character of the whole Bible, Jesus himself, fled as a refugee to Egypt as a child. The Bible is full of people displaced by natural disaster, war, famine and persecution.

In fact, according to the book of Ephesians, all human beings are refugees of a spiritual kind, strangers to God's provision, wandering exiles, excluded from citizenship with God's people. That is, until Jesus welcomed us in. That was a costly welcome, but through Jesus' death we were granted not just asylum but a permanent home in the family of God.

It is right, and a very Christian approach, to want to respond to the refugee crisis. The current European migrant crisis has already been named the worst of its kind since the Second World War. Thousands of people are risking their lives to escape war and persecution from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea. Over 2,700 people have lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea this year. Many others have died using other perilous modes of transport.

With conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa showing little sign of improvement, how can we respond to

relieve the suffering of those affected?

We could use our people power to lobby the decision makers. We could write to or email our MP, Ed Vaizey, the Prime Minister, or sign a petition. We could give to any number of charities working with displaced people, including TearFund, whose work with asylum seekers our churches will be supporting this Harvest through our donations and sales of Harvest produce. We could support a grassroots group such as 'Jungle Books', or even consider providing accommodation for those in need, e.g. via Citizens UK. And we could pray.

The refugee crisis will not go away soon. Refugees will always exist, and we will constantly be called upon to respond to those in need. God has not ignored our plight, paying a great price to welcome us. Nor should we ignore the plight of those in desperate need.

*'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'*  
... "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:35-36,40 (NLT).



Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

**WEEKLY EVENTS****OCTOBER 2015****Mondays**

9:30-11:30am Fledgelings (during term time) at St Matthew's Church Hall  
7:30pm Bell-ringing at All Saints' Church Tower  
8.00pm Home Group at 10 Jennings Lane, Harwell

**Tuesdays**

8.00pm Home group at various homes in Chilton

**Wednesdays**

9:15-11:15am Fledgelings (during term time) at Chilton Field Community Room  
10.15am Home group (during term time) at St Matthew's meeting room  
1.45pm Home group (during term time) at 15 Elderfield Crescent, Chilton  
7.30pm Home group at various homes in Chilton Field  
7.30pm Choir Practice at All Saints'

**Thursdays**

7.30pm Bell ringing at St Matthew's Church Tower  
8.00pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Home group (term time)

**Fridays**

2.00pm Home group at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell

**Saturdays**

8.30am Prayer meeting both at St Matthew's and All Saints'

**Sundays**

Youth Fellowship at St Matthew's Church Hall  
6:00-7:15pm for those in school years 7-9  
7:00-8:15pm for those in school years 9-13

**OTHER EVENTS**

7th October 8.30pm	Night Prayer at All Saints' Chilton
8th October 7.30pm	Science & Faith Group, St Matthew's Church Lounge
13th October 7.45pm	All Saints' Women's Group at All Saints' Chilton
15th October 2.30pm	Nic Keymer: Footsteps Foundation. Bring and Buy Sale Evergreens St Matthew's Church Hall Mr M Palmer - working as a 'Met Man' in the Falklands and South Georgia
20th October 10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Cherry Tree Court, Harwell
20th October 7.30pm	Harwell Ladies Group, Jan Radford – Hospital Chaplaincy
22nd October 7.30pm	Science & Faith Group, St Matthew's Church Lounge
24th October 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, Chilton Village Hall
31st October 10am –12	Evergreens Coffee Morning, St Matthew's Church Hall
31st October	Blessing & Treats in Chilton. See our facebook page and website for details

**Sundays at All Saints'**

4th October	9.30am Harvest Sunday Family Worship
11th October	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship (BCP)
18th October	9.30am Holy Communion
25th October	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship

**Sundays at St Matthew's**

4th October	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Harvest Sunday Family Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
11th October	11.00am Morning Worship 4.30pm 'Hands Free' Worship
18th October	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
25th October	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion

You are very welcome to join us for any of our meetings.  
For more information please check our website  
[www.hcchurches.org.uk](http://www.hcchurches.org.uk), telephone 834256 or email  
[office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk).

\*BCP = Book of Common Prayer



## HARWELL HARVEST LUNCH



Come and join us for Harvest Lunch on Monday 5th October in Harwell Village Hall. We will serve tea and coffee from 11 o'clock onward and lunch from 12 until 2pm. Enjoy homemade casseroles and scrumptious fruit pies at very reasonable prices. (Main course is £4, tea and coffee 50p). Have a chat with other people from the village. There will also be stalls that sell harvest produce. All proceeds go to the charity Tearfund for their Refugee Crisis Fund 2015.

*Monika Buxton*

## SCIENCE AND FAITH

A new Science and Faith discussion group is now meeting every other Thursday, 7.30-9pm in St Matthew's meeting room. Meetings in October are on the 7th and 22nd October. All are welcome.

## GARDENING CLUB

October 5th 7.30pm Harwell Village Hall. Portrait of a Victorian Garden. James Bateman & The Story of Biddulph Grange. Russel Bowes. Comp: A Posy. Contact David on 821615 for more info.

## ALL SAINTS' CHARITY MARKET

Thank you to everyone who supported the September Market. An amazing £321.85 was raised for T2 which is a support and drop-in service for individuals with mild to moderate learning disabilities or autism, helping them gain skills and access to meaningful employment together with leisure and social opportunities.



The Market on **October 10th** will be for the Footsteps Foundation. The Footsteps Centre in Wallingford provides intensive physiotherapy programmes for children and young adults affected by a range of disorders including Cerebral Palsy, neuromotor and neurological conditions. Footsteps Foundation is a Registered Charity supporting families who would otherwise struggle to access the Footsteps Centre's physiotherapy programmes.

The Market is held in the Car Park at the Rose and Crown between 9am and 12 noon on the second Saturday of every month. Come and sample Shea's full breakfasts or bacon baps!

We are always grateful to receive donations of books, cakes, excess fruit and veg from your gardens and white elephant items, but not clothing. Contact Judy on 834503, at 43 Crafts End or at [thegoodalls43@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thegoodalls43@tiscali.co.uk)



FROM THE PARISH  
REGISTERS

**Baptisms**

*"Welcome to the Lord's family"*

Heidi McGregor  
Ava Aldridge  
Ellie Hunt

**Marriages**

*"Those that God has joined together"*

Adrian Brown & Gemma Pope

**Funerals**

*"He who believes in Me will live"*

Victor Smith  
Patricia Connolly

CHRISTIAN AID WALK



Please participate and support this event which is returning after a year's break: Saturday 10th October starting at All Saints' Church, Chilton (registration and start from 9-10am), 10 km circular course over bridleways and byways around Chilton (no styles).

If a 10 km walk sounds too tame, then why not set yourself a challenge: ride a bicycle and see how many times round you can get in two hours (twice, three times or even four), run or form a team of three or four with one member being carried or wheeled around in a wheelbarrow or cart, fancy dress or make it a family event? See how much you can raise for this very worthwhile charity. Contact the Church Office for sponsor forms or more information.

CHRISTIANS ACTING  
ON CLIMATE

"How can I make a difference?" Christians acting on climate will be taking place on Saturday the 10th of October at Christ Church, Abingdon. It's a half-day event for people who want tips for prayer, practical action and campaigning. Sponsored by the Diocese of Oxford, Hope for the Future, and CCOW, it gives a chance to share ideas, hear about what's happening nationally and locally, and discover resources for engaging your church and your community. The event is free, but registration is essential. For more information or to register: <http://bit.ly/1KOgdRt> or 01235 851763.

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
3RD AGE

Didcot & District University of the Third Age meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civil Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining. At our meeting on 20th October John Hunt will talk about "The Organ Grinder." The University of the Third Age offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with others and learn from them in friendly surroundings. Why not come along to the next meeting? [didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com](mailto:didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com)

BLESSING & TREATS

In the words of Sully from Monsters Inc, "Laughter is 10 times more powerful than screams". Help your children discover this for themselves by joining us as we go "Blessing & Treating" around Chilton. Help us turn Halloween on its head. Fun instead of fear. All followed by food and games around a bonfire. Look out for details on our Facebook page & website.

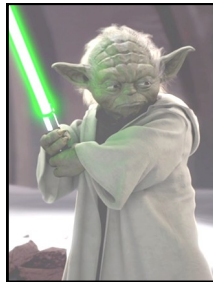
## ARE SCIENCE & FAITH IN CONFLICT?

During the summer of 2015 I had the opportunity to speak to scientists who are Christians about how their faith and science interface.

Having been a practising Christian in my early teens, I was persuaded that all the answers were found in science. I rejected God for several years until I rediscovered my faith at University. The Physics I was learning about at University seemed to point to something totally amazing at work, totally beyond everything we could understand and see and I eventually realised this was God using what we could see and measure to bring about His purposes. When I went back to church I was surprised to see not just fellow Physics students in church on a Sunday but also the lecturers, several lecturers from the department even once appeared on Songs of Praise. When I came to work at Harwell I was again surprised at the number of scientists who were Christians. I interviewed 7 of these and I realised that most saw no conflict

between science and their faith. One said "A lot of the conflict is more about people's perceptions than the reality of the situation." Another said "My real bug bear and annoyance is the fact that many scientists assume, and the culture is that there is an implicit assumption 'science has disproved the bible and God' is the context in which Christianity is viewed. I find this massively frustrating. I do not believe it is the case at all. People have an overly inflated expectation of what science can do and what it shows."

It became clear that no amount of scientific reasoning would disprove the interviewees' faith in the bible but as their faith was based on each persons subjective experience you could never prove it either. "It's what the bible teaches about me which I know by experience to be true that I am more convinced than anything of the validity of the



Old and New Testament of what the nature of man is. It's because it so accurately speaks to my condition and that's enough to tell me that this can only come from God."

Some scientists approach Christianity like an experiment. One interviewee, a lady scientist, went to church to prove God didn't exist and gave God four weeks to show himself. Within two weeks she knew that He was moving in the church and was present. Proverbs 3 tells us to not trust in our own understanding and it appears that we really have to let go of this in order to trust God. John Polkinghorne the Theoretical Physicist and Anglican Priest attended her church, she said "There can't be a conflict because he's really intelligent and he can't see one so I don't need to worry about it."

When George Lucas, who grew up a Methodist, created Star Wars he took the main principles of different religions for his concept of 'the force'. A work colleague wrote to me "The fundamental disagreement between science and

Christianity I believe is summed up by Yoda in The Empire Strikes Back, "Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter." Science deals with the material not the spiritual and therefore offers a very narrow view." Another interviewee said that science actually helped her understand God. She used the analogy of light and the fact that we can only see the narrow visible spectrum but we know that there is all sorts of other light. God's all pervading presence is all around but we can't see and touch it as we have a limited viewpoint.

For the Christians that I spoke to there was no conflict between science and faith. Until we develop a God or Holy Spirit detector we will have to keep the two separate. James Hellem.

A new Science and Faith discussion group is meeting every other Thursday, 7.30-9pm in St Matthew's meeting room. The next meeting is on the 8th October. All are welcome.

Please submit notices to Vicky by email or by phone.  
The deadline is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

[www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk](http://www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk)