

RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

November 2017



Opportunities to remember...

Sunday 5th November - All Souls' Services

Sunday 12th November - Remembrance Sunday

9.30am All Saints' Chilton

11am St Matthew's Harwell

See inside for further information



Rector of Harwell and Chilton Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey

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Day off usually on Wednesdays

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ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH PEWS

Most people in Harwell village have probably sat on the St Matthew's church pews at one time or another. Even if not regular churchgoers, they may have attended a funeral, a wedding, the Carol Services, or perhaps just sat in church for a quiet rest or contemplation. Some of the pews that have become redundant over the years have also found their way into a number of homes in the village and elsewhere, often after some surgery. I know of two that are now in Leeds and two others are in a barn near Denchworth.

The pews in the main part of the church, date from the restoration of St Matthew's carried out in 1867. There are though now fewer than half of the original complement of 86 pews – they once filled the church including the south transept that now houses the organ. This figure assumes that all those shown on a plan dated 1860 were actually installed. Photographs and memories from the 1950s suggest that they were. The pews are variously described as 'pitch pine' or 'deal' and some are not in very good condition.

There are different accounts of what happened when the pews were first proposed. The authoritative account of the history of St Matthews by J W Walker in 1932 says: 'Prior to the restoration the body of the church was full of high pews. Within the chancel were two large square pews, one on the north side for the vicar's family, one on the south side – the rector's pew, but, as the rector was non-resident, it was occupied by the vicar's servants. The box pews in the nave aisle and transepts were taken out and replaced by varnished pitch pine open benches. The chancel was fitted with oak stalls for the choir,



reproduced after the original design, traces of which were found on removal of the old fittings.' This implies that the present pews and their now lost cousins replaced earlier more lofty pews that filled the church, and were presumably there from earlier centuries'.

However, there is another story that the late Douglas Jordan, who was an advocate of replacing the pews with chairs, used to tell. This was that the nave of the church was an open area used by the village for gatherings and events (the Village Hall of its

day) and that there was an outcry when it was proposed to fill this space with immovable pews. Doug forecast that there would be a similar outcry in modern times if anyone proposed to remove the pews and re-create the open area. In other words one generation's eyesores are another generation's sacred cows. There was indeed some dispute that postponed the 1867 restoration by 5 years, but it couldn't have been quite as in this story.

It is though very likely that at one time the main body of the church was an open area and used for village functions, including raucous ones. This was common practice, the nave being regarded as the people's area and the chancel as the place for holy worship.

But in the case of St Matthew's this space was filled up with pews well before the mid 19th century. Perhaps the outcry about pews was in some earlier time and had passed down the generations and become confused with some different 19th century dispute. Maybe someone out there knows the answer.

Written by Tony Hughes in 2015.

RECTOR'S LETTER

Who am I? Many a good film or book has been based on the hidden identity of the central character – hidden sometimes to others and sometimes to themselves.

Another popular genre and hobby currently is tracing our ancestral roots, whether through historical or genetic research. It is a basic human need to know who we are, and where we come from. Who am I?

National identity is very much in the news at the moment with an upsurge in a number of nationalist independence movements and the debates around Brexit. National identity is very difficult to pin down, and relates not just to geography, but also to culture, language and shared history. Influential in British national identity is the national memory of times of war, and of the sacrifices made by so many to preserve our national freedom.

Remembrance Day and our services on 12th November give us an opportunity to look back with gratitude and remember.

November provides another opportunity to remember with gratitude – on Sunday 5th both our churches will have a focus within the main morning services on remembering loved ones who have died. Our self-identity is very much tied up with the significant people in our lives – friends and family members; they have made us the people we are, and the very memory of them shapes our self-identity. Our present identity – who we are now – is rooted in what we have done and those who have been part of our lives to date.

One of the cruellest aspects of dementia is that it brutally strips away our self-identity, as our memories of what we have done and been and the people in our lives, are lost. Of course the individuals stripped of their

memories are the same people, but their loss of rootedness in the past brutally disrupts their self-identity and stability in the present.

But it is not just our present identity and sense of self-worth that is formed by the memory of what and who has gone before. Our future is determined by it as well.

The central aspect of corporate Christian worship is the memory of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, a key expression of that being a re-enactment of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples, which itself rehearsed the Last Supper (the Passover) that the children of Israel had before their miraculous rescue from captivity in Egypt. Both Suppers remember – and celebrate – that powerful demonstration of God's love for his people and his power to save them. The memory of those great, world-changing events, can create in us our identity as God's beloved children and members of His kingdom.

But ultimately it is not our memory that makes the difference. It is God's. As he was being crucified, the thief on the cross beside Jesus said

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:42-43); in doing so, the thief was assured of his identity as a beloved child of God and member of God's kingdom. Our future – and eternal – identity depends on us being remembered by Jesus.



Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

TOY SERVICE

This Christmas, St Matthew's and All Saints' are once more supporting the Women's Refuge in Oxford by providing gifts for mothers to give to their children on Christmas day. The Refuge have asked us to focus on donating gifts which are suitable for teenagers.

Since teenagers tend to be a bit beyond "toys" as such, here is a list of the kind of thing that the Refuge finds that their teenagers really appreciate:

- ◊ Gift vouchers – particularly popular are Argos, Amazon, Game, iTunes
- ◊ Headphones
- ◊ Diary/Journal you can write thoughts in/ Hard backed notebook
- ◊ Grooming items e.g. make up (e.g. nail varnish); hair products (e.g. gel, hair clips, hair brushes); shaving set, etc.
- ◊ Things to do e.g. knitting/sewing set; science set; board games (especially any electronic versions e.g. Monopoly with the credit cards); family games such as Twister
- ◊ School bag/plain backpack
- ◊ Handbag/backpack that doesn't look as though it's for school
- ◊ Pyjamas (any size aged 13-17)
- ◊ Hoodies (any size aged 13-17)
- ◊ Beanie hat (any size aged 13-17)

Items should be brand new please, not second hand, and not wrapped (NB no wrapping paper donations required either).



Items with violent connotations (e.g. with images of swords, guns, etc) would not be a good idea, for obvious reasons.

Please bring your donation to one of our special advent "Toy Services" on Sunday 3rd December at 9.30am at All Saints' Chilton or at 11am at St Matthew's Harwell. This is a service particularly appropriate for children, whom we find really connect with the idea of giving a gift to less fortunate children at Christmas time.

Anyone unable to make the service is welcome to hand their toy in to the Church Office by Friday 1 December at the very latest.

Chilton PCC would like any monetary gifts given on 3rd December to be donated to the SeeSaw Charity which provides grief support for the children of Oxfordshire. Thank you.

OTHER EVENTS

You can visit our website HCChurches.org 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. If you would like to keep up to date with news from our churches, why not 'like' our Facebook page? facebook.com/HCChurches

CHURCH SERVICES

Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
9.30am All Souls' Service	5th Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Souls' Service 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	12th Nov	10.30am Parade from Townsend 11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	19th Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	26th Nov	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am All Age 'Toy' Service	3rd Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age 'Toy' Service 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP) 4.00pm Family Carol Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight	10th Dec	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	17th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Family Carol Service 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
9.30am Morning Worship 10.00pm Holy Communion	24th Dec	11.00am Morning Worship 3.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am All Age Worship	25th Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Worship 12.00pm Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Watchnight Service	31st Dec	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Worship	7th Jan	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	14th Jan	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	21st Jan	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	28th Jan	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion

CHARITY MARKET STALL

On Saturday **11th November** the stall will be raising funds for SeeSaw - the local charity which provides vital support for bereaved children.

The market is held in the car park of the Rose and Crown between 9am and 12 noon. Contributions of small white elephant goods, home baking and books are always welcome.

On Saturday **9th December** we shall be raising funds for the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital - with a Christmas theme to the stall.

EVERGREENS

16th November Wendy Sinclair will talk about Canal Boat Painting at St Matthew's Church Hall at 2.30pm. There are places available on the coach to Milton Keynes on **23rd November**. Evergreens Annual Dinner is on Saturday **2nd December** at Harwell Village Hall. Contact Gill Gay 831592.

ALL SOULS SERVICE

On Sunday **5th November** we are holding special All Souls' services at 9.30am in Chilton and 11am in Harwell. We will be remembering and giving thanks to God for loved ones who have died and think about the Christian hope of the resurrection for all those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ. All are very welcome to attend these services.

HARWELL FEAST QUIZ

The Feast Village Quiz will be on Friday **24th November** at 7.30 pm in Harwell Village Hall. Teams of up to 8, £5 per person, Licensed bar. Call Sue on 820399

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A short ceremony will be held on Saturday **11th November** at 11.00am at the War Memorial in Harwell.

The Remembrance Sunday parades and services are on Sunday **12th November**. In Harwell the Parade will form up at Townsend at 10.30am and set off for the War Memorial for the service there at 10.45am. After the service the Parade will continue to the Church for a service at 11.00am. Following the Church service, the RBL will march to a short ceremony at the War Graves. Any Harwell Village Organisation wishing to take part or to lay a wreath should contact Peter via Harwell.committee1@rbl.community



CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP

We have a tidy-up event in All Saints' Churchyard on Saturday **4th November** from 9.00am and finishing in time for lunch. This is open to everyone and we would love to see lots of people come and give a helping hand for as long as you like. There are lots of jobs to be done to tidy up before winter and to have it looking good in time for the Remembrance Day services. The main jobs are weeding the borders in the Garden of Remembrance, trimming and tidying round grave stones and of course raking leaves. Please bring your own tools with you, not forgetting the gardening gloves.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

"Those God has joined together"
Jennifer Rawlings & Daniel Warner

Confirmations

"Welcome into the Lord's Family"

Sarah Barrett
Tom Barrett
Hannah Clapp
Grace Lewis
Caitlin Mobey
Carys Sharp

BROADSHEET DELIVERY

Would you like to help deliver the Broadsheet? We currently have a vacancy in Harwell. Please contact Vicky in the Church Office if you'd like to help.

NIGHT PRAYER

Night Prayer at All Saints' Chilton will be on Wednesday **8th November**, 8.00pm, rather than the first Wednesday of the month. All very welcome to attend.

ALL SAINTS' WOMENS GROUP

On Tuesday **14th November** our speaker will be TOMOMI MENTHEY. She will be demonstrating and teaching the Japanese craft of Origami. We shall be holding a Bring and Buy event to raise funds for LEUKEMIA. Everyone is welcome. Contact Judy Goodall on 834503.

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Meet on **6th November** at Poppies Tea Room 7.30pm. Members Night Comp: Nuts & Berries. Contact David Drummond 821615; dave.drummond@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH



Christmas Together 2017

On your own Christmas Day?
Just you and your partner?
Family away?

If this is you and you would like to share Christmas in the company of others, then please join us for 'Christmas Together'.

At Chilton Village Hall
on **25th December** from
12:30pm - 3:30pm
for a Traditional Christmas lunch and
pudding (vegetarian option available).
Transport can be provided within the
parishes of Harwell and Chilton.

There is no charge
but donations are welcome.

Book with Vicky **before 18th December**
on 01235 834256 or
office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Please let Vicky know of any special
dietary requirements
and if transport is needed.

GENERATION GOLD

Our next Generation Gold service is on **4th December** at St Matthew's Church, when we'll be thinking about stars.



Our short church service is followed by light refreshments and is aimed at people of retirement age - but all are very welcome to attend.

INTERVIEW WITH ALISON GALE

Alison has lived in Harwell for 29 years with her husband Sid. She grew up in Wallingford and went to Didcot Girls' Grammar School. From there she did a Maths degree in London and worked in IT for BT and then Yellow Pages. In 2003 she took voluntary redundancy and trained as a primary school teacher. From 2006-2013 Alison worked as a year 3 and 4 teacher in Newbury, which she thoroughly enjoyed. "Working in a Catholic school was amazing, there was a very strong Christian ethos that permeated throughout the school and through all the teaching. It was really wonderful to be so open about my own personal faith there."

Alison has always been involved with Scouting. She was a Brownie and Girl Guide as a youngster and became a Young Leader. She had a break while at University and, when she moved back to the area, she worked with Wantage Cubs in 1981. She had another break when her children were young and then became a Cub Leader in Harwell in 1998. Alison has been running the Wednesday evening Harwell Cub Pack since it started 4 years ago.

Since 1998 Alison has always been part of Harwell Church. When she first became involved with Cubs, Alison would attend the parade services at the church. At one of these services, nearly 20 years ago, Alpha was advertised – a weekly meeting where the basics of Christianity are discussed – and both Alison and Sid decided they would like to attend. Through that course, they both committed their lives to the Lord and Alison was baptised and confirmed in 2001. Alison said that she knew there had to be more to life, and this quote from C S Lewis made her realise that Jesus really was the Son of God, and what He said was of great importance.



"Jesus says he is God. That is either true, and he is Lord, or he's a liar, or he's a lunatic."

Alison has been involved in Children's Ministry for many years in the village. She was involved with a Playscheme that used to run at Harwell School for 2 weeks during the summer but, as it only ran in the mornings Alison, along with others, helped to start a Christian Holiday club in the afternoons during those weeks, where they had around 30 children attending. When the Harwell Playscheme closed it was decided to run the Church Holiday Club for a week covering school hours. "It was great to be involved in a community activity that involved so many volunteers."

When Jonathan Mobey came to Harwell and Chilton Churches, he increased the number of children that could be accepted. This has also meant gathering an even greater group of volunteers. We now have a waiting list every year for Holiday Club with many more children who would love to join us.

Alison has also been involved with our Family Science and Faith Group that met monthly throughout the last academic year and has helped Carina Lobleby with catering for some of the special speaker events.

Last year Alison, Sid and their homegroup decided to run a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day and served 50 lunches at Chilton Village Hall. It was a great event, and they even had BBQ'd Turkey! If you'd like to join the lunch this year, please contact Vicky in the office.

What is best about living in Harwell? "There are lot of different groups you can go to if you'd like to, and everyone is so friendly." Alison has really enjoyed being involved with the village productions of Godspell and the panto rehearsals this year.