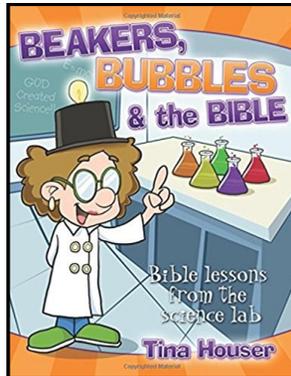


SCIENCE AND FAITH BOOK REVIEW

Beakers, Bubbles and the Bible is a series of 2 books by Tina Houser, published in paperback by Warner Press. Within the book are a number of fun science experiments which are mainly simple to do and mostly make use of household items.

With full colour pictures and excellent instructions these books guide the reader through the experiment to give an exciting outcome. The added extra with these books is that each experiment is linked to a verse or passage in the Bible, making them an excellent resource for using science to illustrate ideas from science or using the wonder triggered by the outcome of an experiment to reflect on the Christian faith.

What I love about these books is the number and range of ideas that are presented - each of the two books has about 50 experiments. Most of the experiments can be carried out at home with simple ingredients and are robust enough to work almost every time. The experiments are clearly designed and the ideas for discussing how this might relate to the Christian faith is very clear.



What I find more difficult about these books is that they are written for an audience in the United States of America. Consequently, some of the items required are targeted at the American market (though UK alternatives are available). Also it means the written English is American English which is worth bearing in mind when working with young people.

The contents and index is prepared to find an experiment to teach an element of Christian faith, they are not written from a view point of finding an experiment. For me, that has meant a lot of browsing through the book for a particular idea - which is no bad thing except when I couldn't find something I knew I had seen in the past!

Taking those comments into consideration I would give this book 4 stars out of 5 and recommend them to anyone looking for ideas for fun experiments to do that might trigger some interesting conversations about God.

Carina Lobley

ELECTORAL ROLL AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Electoral Rolls for our churches are being revised in the period 1st to 25th March inclusive. The Electoral Roll is your Parish Church's Register of Electors, the list of those qualified to vote at the Church Annual General Meetings which

are on April 22nd (Chilton, 10.20am) and 29th (Harwell, 11.50am). If you are already on the Electoral Roll you do not need to re-register. Forms may be obtained the back of church and should be returned Sunday 25th March.

RECTOR'S LETTER

March the 11th this year provides an opportunity for celebration. And I don't just mean for hard-pressed florists and chocolatiers hoping for a boost in their cash-flow. Mother's Day has become an international phenomenon, in part because of commercial interests, but also, I believe, because it is a good thing to appreciate and celebrate those who gave us life.

In Britain, mothers are traditionally celebrated on Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, a welcome half-way break in a season of austerity. But what of the fathers?

Hard as the men might try to be supportive and 'hands-on' with their families, much of the burden, especially in those exhausting early years (including of course pregnancy and childbirth itself!), falls on the mother. Much of mothering is hard grind, a 24-7 commitment to putting the needs of a small, dependent human being before your own, and bearing the toll, physically and emotionally.

Of course, there are rewards to be had along the way, and the joy of witnessing landmark achievements such as first words. It was not very diplomatic of my children that the first word several of them uttered was not the deeply rewarding 'ma-ma' but the rather galling 'da-da'! Of course, it was probably nothing to do with expressing a preference for one parent, but simply making an easier sound.

Whatever the significance of baby's first word, it is universally true that we are not very good at appreciating those who have given so much to us, in particular our parents. Mothering Sunday and the fathers' counterpart in June are an opportunity, in a small way, to address this oversight.

But there is a greater oversight that needs to be addressed. The love and sacrifice of our human parents directs us to an even greater, even more loving Parent, the one 'from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named' (according to

Ephesians 3:15). And like our earthly parents, we often take the heavenly Father for granted and neglect to express our gratitude to Him for His goodness to us.

Whilst our mothers give birth to us, feed, clothe, educate, and comfort us, God is the ultimate source of all those things. Whilst our mothers have made and make great sacrifices out of their love for us, all that is a pointer towards the much greater love of the God who became one of us in his Son, and the unimaginable sacrifice made so that the beloved children of the heavenly Father might have life.



Revd Dr Jonathan Mobey
Rector of Harwell with Chilton



REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays

9:15-11:15am Fledgelings Toddler group (term time) St Matthew's Church Hall
8.00pm Home group at 10 Jennings Lane, Harwell

Tuesdays

9.30am Home group (during term time)

Wednesdays

9:15-11:15am Fledgelings Toddler group (term time) Chilton Field Community Room
10.15am Home group (term time) at St Matthew's meeting room
1.45pm Home group (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
7.45pm Home group at various homes in Harwell
8.00pm Home group (1st, 2nd & 3rd, 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

7.00pm Youth Fellowship for those in school years 7-13 at St Matthew's Church Hall

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



We are planning to run an Alpha Course in 2018. See www.alpha.org for more information. Please register your interest in attending the course by emailing office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
7.45pm Ash Wednesday Service	14th Feb	—
9.30am Holy Communion	18th Feb	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	25th Feb	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Worship	4th Mar	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	11th Mar	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	18th Mar	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	25th Mar	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
—	29th Mar	7.45pm Maundy Thursday Service
9.30am Good Friday 'At the Cross'	30th Mar	11.00am Good Friday 'At the Cross'
8pm Easter Vigil	31st Mar	—
9.30am All Age Easter Communion	1st Apr	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Easter Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP) 9.30am Pebbles Family Service*	8th Apr	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	15th Apr	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship & APCM	22nd Apr	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	29th Apr	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship & APCM

* see page 7

GENERATION GOLD

Our next Generation Gold service is on Monday 12th March at 2.30pm at All Saints', Chilton and our theme will be 'Taste and See'. The service will be around 40 minutes long and will be followed by light refreshments.

Newcomers are very welcome to come to 'taste and see' along with the friends who've been coming regularly. If you'd like a lift please contact Vicky on 834256.

EVERGREENS

Meeting at St Matthew's Church Hall on March 16th at 2.30pm to hear from Julia Miles: "Ragtail Cocktail".

Talk followed by tea, coffee and cake. All very welcome to join us.

All are very welcome to Evergreens Coffee morning on Saturday 8th April 10am-

12noon at St Matthew's Church Hall.

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee, a lovely slice of homemade

cake, and a chat with friends - old and new.

Contact Gill Gay on 831592.



WALKING GROUP

Our next walk is on Sunday 8th April at 2.30pm. Please see the website for details nearer the time.

We are meeting bimonthly on Sunday afternoons. All very welcome to join us, including well behaved dogs. See www.HCChurches.org/walking

LEPROSY MISSION

As a Church, one of the mission agencies we support is the Leprosy Mission. As we have just marked World Leprosy Day on January 28th it is timely to hear of one person that this Mission has helped.



Easter is 57. She lives on the outskirts of Delhi. Leprosy has left this mother-of-four unable to work as she has numb hands and feet as a result of nerve damage.

Coming from a leprosy affected family Easter would have been left in a desperate situation 10 years ago when her husband died. The Leprosy Mission however provided education and training for Easter's children and support her.

She said, 'Without the Leprosy Mission I would probably be begging on the street and homeless, but I thank God for leading me to a dignified life.'



Thank you to everyone who has been collecting for The Leprosy Mission (TLM) in their coin phials. I am pleased to say that we have recently sent £100 to TLM.

Rosemary Rolls

See www.leprosymission.org.uk

HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

5th March at 7.30pm in Poppies Tea Room, Harwellian. 'Glorious Gardens of France' with Rosemary Legrand. Comp: Hellebores. Contact Janice Markey on 832802 jvmarkey@googlemail.com

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

"Those God has joined together"

Michelle Williams & Daniel Paley
Michael James & Sophie Gardiner

Baptisms

"Welcome into the Lord's Family"

Austin Jacks
Arthur Collier
Kian Lay
Esmé Bumpass
Rupert Dewhurst

Funerals

"He who believes in Me will live"

Irene Somner

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

All Saints' Women's Group is open to all women in Harwell and Chilton. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th March at 7.45pm at All Saints' Church Chilton.

We'll be hearing "Melanie's story" from Melanie Shields, followed by light refreshments. Contact Judy 834503.

CHILTON 8TH APRIL

On Sunday 8th April at 9.30am there will be two services in Chilton, coming together afterwards to share coffee and refreshments. All welcome!

The **Pebbles Family Service** will be held in the Village Hall. The second of these services, the first was held on Sunday 11th February when we had a family friendly time of informal singing, story, prayer and kite making.

The **Book of Common Prayer Service of Morning Prayer** will be held in All Saints' Church and is a lovely traditional way to start a Sunday.

CHARITY QUIZ

The All Saints Women's Group annual Charity Quiz night is on Saturday 17th March in Chilton Village Hall .

Tickets are £10 per person which includes a hot supper and a tasty pudding. Teams of up to 6 players.

The charities we are supporting this year are:

Oxford-based charity The Porch which supports homeless people. It provides hot meals and emotional support and tries to enable homeless individuals to find employment; it also cultivates a number of allotments in Oxford.



Hamlin Fistula UK, the charity that supports Ethiopian women who suffer from Obstetric Fistula and helps the prevention of this child birth injury through education and provision of appropriate midwifery services.



Tickets are available from the monthly market charity stall on 10th March as well as from Audrey Slater, 9 Latton Close, 834558, and from Judy Goodall, 43 Crafts End, 834503.

ADVENT WREATH

Thank you Dina Tisdall for once again making a fabulous advent wreath for All Saints' Chilton.

After 30 years of making advent wreaths for All Saints', Dina has decided that its time to pass the mantle on.

If you would be interested in making the wreath for Christmas 2018 please contact Liz Morris (834233) for more details.

INTERVIEW WITH MELANIE AND SARAH

Melanie Shields and Sarah Barrett started as job-share Children and Families Workers on 1st January 2018. They are both really excited to have this opportunity, and to be able to work together.

Sarah grew up in Dorset and the west country and went to university in Cardiff where she studied English Literature before becoming a primary school teacher.

She moved to Chilton Field four years ago to be nearer to her husband Tom's work in Culham. They have two children, Henry, 5 and Edward, 3. Sarah went to a women's Bible study group after attending toddler group in Chilton. It was here she began to explore how applicable and relevant Christianity is to how she wanted to live her life. She then went to an Alpha Course to learn more and made the decision to be baptised and later confirmed.

Sarah has found the Fledgelings groups in both Chilton and Harwell really friendly and likes the village communities and the welcome she has received in all aspects of her life here.

Melanie moved to Chilton from Bradford three and a half years ago with husband Peter. Their children are Josiah, 16, Aidan, 14, Elizabeth, 11 and Rosie, 9.

She was born in Kent and lived in Devon and later Manchester, Salford, Cambridgeshire and Bradford. Melanie loves village life, which is very different to the inner cities she lived in after leaving Devon! Whilst at college in Devon she was invited to church by a friend. She became good friends with both her and her parents who became like an adopted

Christian family to her. She felt welcomed and supported by them and the church and became a Christian at age 18.



Melanie has been involved in children's work since then, taking assemblies and Christian Unions in Manchester, helping at a city-wide Kids Klub in Bradford and running toddler groups in a variety of settings. She met Peter whilst they were both doing children's work in Manchester where he was her boss!

Both Sarah and Melanie are looking forward to serving children and families in Chilton and Harwell. They will continue to run groups such as Fledgelings, Pebbles and Holiday Club and are looking at introducing baby groups and fun community days, and finding other ways to help and support the families in both villages. They want to ensure that church in both villages is relevant, practical and accessible to all. They hope to extend a welcome and build good relationships with the community.

They invite any ideas of activities that people may like. Also, do contact them if you are interested in finding out more about their role and activities or would like to be involved in any way.

Melanie and Sarah will work their job share across the week and will have Fridays as their day off.

If you wish to contact them, their e-mail addresses are:

Sarah SB.HCChurches@gmail.com

Melanie MS.HCChurches@gmail.com

Please submit notices to Vicky via the website, by email or by phone.
01235 834256, office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk