

# RIDGEWAY BROADSHEET

July/August 2018



Did you plant a sunflower at the Feast or Chilton STEAM day?  
Post a photo of your flower to our facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/HCCchurches](http://www.facebook.com/HCCchurches)



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## WHY GET MARRIED IN CHURCH?

A while ago there was a national social media campaign to give a snapshot of life in the Church of England. Over three years all sorts of people took over the @OurCofE Twitter account for a week: from Bishops to Foodbank organisers to 'celebrity' but nonetheless jobbing vicars like Rev Richard Coles. There was also room for the person-in-the-pew to contribute and I tweeted, too, about life in Harwell and Chilton.

Many of us @OurCofE tweeters stayed in touch after handing over the account. In the week after the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex my timeline seemed to explode with church after church reporting that enquiries about marrying in church were coming in thick and fast.

So why marry in church, whether it's Chilton or Harwell or somewhere else?

The main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs, is receiving God's blessing.

Another attraction is the awe-inspiring backdrop. Our two churches and many others in the country are heritage buildings where thousands - over the course of many hundreds of years - have made their vows done before. There's

something special about following in their footsteps.

Couples marrying in church usually end the preparation phase for their marriage having a significant connection with the Minister who takes their wedding. This will start with support to explore your thoughts about spiritual matters as well as help in constructing a service which is unique to you. You could start with the online ceremony planner at [yourchurchwedding.org](http://yourchurchwedding.org).



There is also something very special about making significant vows in your local community. The people who help on your special day – from cleaning the church to doing the flowers (if you'd like us to) to providing the music are guaranteed to help make your wedding a memorably happy

day, and after your wedding, your church will always be there to support you, whether you choose it to mark the big events in life or come to worship regularly.

I think that the rash of post-Royal Wedding enquiries to my Twitter friends' churches means couples sensed that a church is more than simply a wedding venue!

Liz Roberts

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Weddings celebrate love – the love of two people for each other, the love of families and friends, and also the love of God – the beginning and source of it all. Love makes the world go round. The airwaves are full of songs about love, much of our literature is stories of love, the cinemas are full of romance.

But what is real love? The love we celebrate at weddings is more than romantic love. Romantic love is a wonderful thing, but it is the sort of love that can be here one day and gone the next. A Bible reading popular at weddings – 1 Corinthians 13 – describes true love that is deep-rooted and endures.

### Firstly, love should come first

The Bible starts with a love story. In telling us of the very first married couple, Adam and Eve, the Bible explains how it is God's good plan that "a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife." Marriage completely re-orders our priorities and commitments. Everything else – hobbies, career – must come second to a marriage.



1 Corinthians 13 says *"If I have everything but not love, I have nothing."* Love is the most important thing.

A marriage should be a top priority. The wording of the marriage vows is important. Hollywood weddings say "I Do" which suggests the here and now, whereas the response in a wedding is "I Will", pointing to the future. To love is a decision, an act of will. And saying "I Will" to love means saying "I Won't" to some other things. It needs commitment and effort to continue to keep one's vows, but love is the priority.

### Secondly, love is about number two – the other person in other words

For love to be deep and lasting, it has to be filled with trust and commitment. And especially, it requires us to be quick to say sorry and graciously accept the failures of the other. The longer we know someone, the more faults

we discover, and the more opportunity there is to forgive!

Love is about 'number two' – our husband or wife in other words. These words from 1 Corinthians 13 make that clear: *"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, endures all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."*

If that sounds tough, that's because it is. It is actually impossible, if we try to do it on our own. And that brings me to my third and final point.

### Thirdly, love needs a third person involved: God

The Bible, in the book of Ecclesiastes, says, *"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken"* (Eccl 4:12). The awe-inspiring love that we celebrate at weddings becomes possible when God is involved. Love like this is a gift

from God. God is the one who gives us the ability to love.

Couples at weddings promise to love one another "until death do us part". The old joke is that 'marriage' is not a word, it is a sentence – a life sentence! And that is the Christian understanding of marriage. Just as there is no ending to the circle of gold of a wedding ring, so there should be no ending to the loving in a marriage. As we read in 1 Corinthians 13, love never ends. And if the eternal God of love is part of a marriage, then eternal love becomes a possibility.



Rev'd Dr Jonathan Mobey  
Rector of Harwell with Chilton

## WEDDINGS

I chose to get married in the small village Church that I attended as a child, in East Hanney. It isn't a traditional old Anglican building, but it was where I felt most at home in a church building. A special part of my wedding day was how so many friends helped us. My friend Beth did all the catering for us, a friend of my boss did the flowers, the church was beautifully decorated with a Swedish flower arch from friends at Hanney Church. The minister was from Witney Methodist because my husband had become a Christian through doing an Alpha course there just a couple of years before we got married. A lady who helped run that Alpha course kindly made my wedding dress and the bridesmaid dresses.



If you would like to explore getting married at All Saints' Chilton or St Matthew's Harwell, please contact me in the Church Office. If you are already married but would like a wedding blessing, however long you have been married - please contact me and in both cases I will arrange for you to meet with the Rector,

Jonathan to discuss things further. Also see [HCChurches.org/weddings](http://HCChurches.org/weddings)

We run Marriage Courses to help couples to think through different aspects of their relationship. The Course is helpful for those preparing for marriage, and for those already married. Again, please contact me if you are interested in attending the Course.

Vicky Johnston



## OTHER EVENTS

4th July 8.30pm	Night Prayer, All Saints' Church
10th July 7.45pm	All Saints' Women's Group, All Saints'
13th July 9.15am	CAP Prayer Meeting, St Matthew's Lounge
14th July 9.45am	Holiday Club Planning Meeting, St Matthew's
19th July 2.30pm	Evergreens, St Matthew's Church Hall
28th July 10-12noon	Evergreens Coffee Morning, St Matthew's Church Hall
28th July 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, Chilton Village Hall
16th August 3.00pm	Evergreens Summer Party, St Matthew's Church Hall
20-24th August	Pyramid Rock Holiday Club
25th August 10.00am	All Saints' Art Group, Chilton Village Hall

Services at All Saints'		Services at St Matthew's
9.30am All Age Worship	1st July	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am All Age Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	8th July	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	15th July	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	22nd July	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer	29th July	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Worship	5th Aug	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Evening Prayer
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00am Pebbles Family Service 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)	12th Aug	11.00am Morning Worship
9.30am Holy Communion	19th Aug	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Holy Communion 6.15pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Morning Worship	26th Aug	11.00am Morning Worship 6.15pm Holy Communion

**REGULAR EVENTS**

You can find details of all our regular events and meetings on our website [HCChurches.org](http://HCChurches.org). You can also pick up a welcome leaflet from All Saints' Chilton or St Matthew's Harwell for this information.

We also put information, and sometimes photos of our events on our facebook page: [facebook.com/HCChurches](https://facebook.com/HCChurches)





## PLANT SALE

All Saints Women's Group are delighted that the total raised for Christian Aid was **£1560.50**. This included money made from the Grand Plant Sale in May and the sale of Cryptic Quiz Sheets on the theme of Berkshire Towns and Villages. Thank you to everyone who contributed toward this truly whole village event.



## HARWELL EVERGREENS

Don't miss a talk by former John Radcliffe Cardiac Technician Keith Johnston at Harwell Evergreens on **Thursday 19th July** at 2.30pm. Keith will be talking about cardiac pacemakers and some other devices used to investigate and treat heart rhythm disorders.

On **Saturday 28th July** Harwell Evergreens have their coffee



morning from 10am-12noon. All village members very welcome - whatever age! Evergreens Summer Party is on **Thursday 16th August** at 3pm.

All meetings at St Matthew's Church Hall and include tea, coffee and homemade cakes and biscuits.

Contact Gill on 831592.

## CHARITY MARKET

The Charity Stall on **Saturday 14th July** on Crafts End Green between 9am and 12 noon will be for the Oxfordshire branch of the Parkinsons Society.

On the **11th August** the stall will be for the Oxfordshire Motor Neurone Disease Association. Any offers of help, home produce and white elephant goods are always warmly welcomed.

On the **9th June** we raised the good total of **£253.20** for The Porch in Oxford supporting homeless people. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped in any way. Special thanks are due to 7 year old Gregory Wells who organised individuals to decorate a pebble. This proved to be great fun and was greatly enjoyed by all the participants.

In the afternoon at the STEAM event All Saints' Women's Group raised a further **£240.05** by selling second hand books and a few plants. This money will go towards the two charities the event was supporting - Be Free Young Carers and Helen and Douglas House.

## CAP DEBT CENTRE

If you are struggling with finances, please don't suffer in silence. Contact Christians Against Poverty Didcot Debt Centre. They help you every step of the way. Head Office prepare a detailed payment plan and communicate with all your creditors. See [www.CAP.org](http://www.CAP.org) for more information.

If you're not in debt, but would like help to manage your money better, please contact the Church Office and enquire about CAP Money courses.



## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Weddings

*"Those God has joined together"*

Margery Pepper & Timothy Dry  
Daniel Rivers & Victoria Campbell

### Funerals

*"He who believes in Me will live"*

Donald Pike  
Helen 'Mary' Perry  
Ernest Bungay

## CHRISTENINGS

We regularly have christenings in both Harwell and Chilton Churches. If you are interested in having your child christened, please contact Vicky in the Church Office to arrange a visit.



## A ROCHA MISSION FOCUS

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world.

This is our response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. See [www.arocha.org](http://www.arocha.org)  
If you would like to join our church Environmental Group, please contact Vicky in the Church Office.



## HARWELL GARDENERS CLUB

Garden Visits on **2nd July & 6th August**.  
Contact [jvmarkey@googlemail.com](mailto:jvmarkey@googlemail.com)

## DIDCOT GOSPEL CHOIR



Didcot Gospel Choir have their summer concert at Cornerstone Arts Centre on **30th June**. To find out more email [didcotgospel@gmail.com](mailto:didcotgospel@gmail.com) or ring 834295.

## ALL SAINTS' WOMEN'S GROUP

On **Tuesday 10th July** at 7pm in All Saints Church we shall be holding a bring and share supper to celebrate the end of a happy and eventful year. Any queries please contact Judy Goodall on 834503.

## CHRISTIAN AID

In addition to the Plant Sale, the amount collected from door to door collections in Chilton Village and Chilton Field came to a total of **£864.48**.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and special thanks to those who delivered and collected the envelopes. Hazel Benton

## PREFACE TO THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

*In the presence of  
God, Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit,  
we have come  
together  
to witness the*



*marriage of N and N,  
to pray for God's blessing on them,  
to share their joy  
and to celebrate their love.*

*Marriage is a gift of God in creation  
through which husband and wife may  
know the grace of God.*

*It is given  
that as man and woman grow together  
in love and trust,  
they shall be united with one another  
in heart, body and mind,  
as Christ is united with his bride,  
the Church.*

*The gift of marriage  
brings husband and wife together  
in the delight and tenderness of sexual  
union and joyful commitment  
to the end of their lives.*

*It is given as the foundation of family  
life in which children are nurtured  
and in which each member  
of the family,  
in good times and in bad,  
may find strength,  
companionship and comfort,  
and grow to maturity in love.*

*Marriage is a way of life*

*made holy by God,  
and blessed by the presence of our  
Lord Jesus Christ  
with those celebrating a wedding  
at Cana in Galilee.*

*Marriage is a sign  
of unity and loyalty  
which all should uphold and honour.*

*It enriches society  
and strengthens community.*

*No one should enter into it  
lightly or selfishly  
but reverently and responsibly in the  
sight of almighty God.*



*N and N are now to enter  
this way of life.  
They will each give their consent to  
the other*

*and make solemn vows,  
and in token of this they will each  
give and receive a ring.*

*We pray with them that the Holy  
Spirit will guide and strengthen them,  
that they may fulfil God's purposes  
for the whole of their earthly life  
together.*