

Harlington *March* Methodist **2025** Monthly

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Hi all,

As we all know, the church is not a building but a body of people who follow Jesus Christ. You would think the latter point would make it easier for the people to work together, wouldn't you? Maybe it's that I've just read Rev.

Richard Coles' latest murder mystery, set in a monastery, but I have to recognise that that is not always the case.



Members of the church do not always agree on everything. Nor should

they! When a group of people is doing something together it certainly helps if they agree so that they don't each go off and do their own thing: that way lies chaos. But what about the phenomenon of group think? Constructive disagreement, particularly at the planning stage can be extremely creative, depending on how it is handled.

Belbin was teaching at a management college and he noticed that some teams produced really good results and others didn't. When he looked deeper into this, he decided that it wasn't about individual abilities or intelligence but rather about how the people blended together.

We all have different skills, personalities and experiences. Bringing a blend of these into a project can be the difference between success and failure.

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This then opens the question about how we deal with our disagreements. It is too easy to let these be acrimonious or personal. We need to learn how to address problems without attacking people. At least in the church it should be possible to discuss different points of view in love, to consider that we might be mistaken, or at a minimum to try to understand why the other person sees things the way they do. We can't always find solutions to things that please everyone, but we should usually be able not to leave others out in the cold or feeling totally bereft.

We have a lot of discussions coming up around the future of this church. We are aware that we are an aging congregation with fewer people able to take on new roles. How we deal with this will be a mark of what church we will become.

Clive

FLOWERS

There are currently a lot of gaps in the Flower Rota. Now that Christmas is behind us, could you look and see if there are dates which you would like to offer.

Have a word with Doreen.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our next planned events are the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Christian Aid Week and the Lower School Summer Fayre. Keep your eyes open for appeals for assistance with these.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Amongst other issues raised at the Church Council were two things that are currently a problem for our church. One is money. Costs continue to rise, but money received has not. Could you consider if you could raise your giving, perhaps at the start of the new tax year?

The second is people. We always need new volunteers for jobs. We are particularly lacking a property steward. If anyone would like to do this job, please let me know. However, if you feel you could do part of it have a word. If we can share out some more roles that would be good.

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 15th March 2025 at 4 pm which will be live/Zoom/Streamed. If you would like to join us, either as a participant or a helper, please feel free. People may well be needed to help small children.

Our March session will be using a Lent theme, although we haven't quite decided which. The following session is on Easter Saturday.

Our normal format is to do activities until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes singing and further activities, usually ones it is easier to do at home. This is streamed and recorded.

Then at 5.30 pm we have tea. By the way, the past celebrations are still on YouTube, as are the fully recorded sessions we did in lockdown.

Messy Church is always on the third Saturday. If you can help at any of these, please let Clive or Tina know so that we can arrange things most efficiently. If you stay to the end you get tea!



LOCAL ARRANGEMENT SERVICES

There are an increasing number of Local Arrangements services on the plan. Although some churches have closed following the pandemic and some are working together, we have also lost a number of Local Preachers who have retired or died. We are also starting to see the reduction in full-time ministers. This means that it is getting harder to cover all the appointments on the plan, and we are seeing more LAs that we have not asked for. If you could help take part in preparing or leading an LA, please let one of the stewards know.

CHARITY FOR 2025

The church's charity for 2025 will be the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), as agreed in 2023. During the course of the year we will try to provide you with information about the work they do on the coast and in the seas around the UK.



MARCH DIARY

- 1st
- 2nd** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi —Come and See
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Margaret Newman inc Communion
- 3rd
- 4th 1530 **PANCAKE PARLOUR**
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 5th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 **ASH WEDNESDAY—CIRCUIT SERVICE**
- 6th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 7th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 8th 1600 Cinema Club
- 9th** 1000 Morning Service led by Sheila Norris
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 10th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 11th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 12th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 13th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 14th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 15th 1600 Messy Church
- 16th** 1000 Pastoral Visitors Dedication Service - Rev Claudia Lupi
Inc Communion
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 17th
- 18th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 19th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

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- 20th 1100 FUNERAL—Peter Rolph
1430 Thursday Fellowship Group
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 21st 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 22nd
- 23rd** 1000 Morning Service led by Angela Brydon
1100 **CHURCH ACM**
1500 *Outside Booking PBGS*
- 24th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 25th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 26th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—EmilyTG—Adult Dance*
- 27th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 28th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 29th 1000 Coffee Morning
- 30th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Patrick Kandeh (Mothering Sunday)
1500 *Outside Booking PBGS*
- 31st

CIRCUIT LISTENING DAY

As with every other part of the Church, the Circuit is going through major changes again, and will be holding a Listening Day on 26th April. This will be a full day from 10.30 am and include lunch. The intention is for people to listen to what is happening and to listen to the churches. Everybody is invited to attend. The Circuit is awaiting confirmation on the venue.

CIRCUIT SERVICE—DUNSTABLE DOWNS

This will be on 13th July this year. Please make a note in your diaries and try to attend this different service. If anyone would like to help either with the logistics or the worship let Claudia know.

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - MARCH

02nd Mar	1500	1630	PBGS
04th Mar	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
04th Mar	2000	2200	PBGS
05th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
05th Mar	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
08th Mar	1500	1900	Cinema Club
09th Mar	1500	1630	PBGS
10th Mar	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
11th Mar	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
11th Mar	1945	2200	PBGS
12th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
12th Mar	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
16th Mar	1500	1630	PBGS
18th Mar	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
18th Mar	1945	2200	PBGS
19th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
19th Mar	1930	2030	Emily T-G Adult Dance
20th Mar	1100		FUNERAL
23rd Mar	1500	1630	PBGS
24th Mar	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
25th Mar	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
25th Mar	1945	2200	PBGS
26th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
26th Mar	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
30th Mar	1500	1630	PBGS

NEWS FROM COLIN.

Sadly, Myrie is not continuing to make the progress they had hoped for. It is likely that she will move into residential care which Myrie understands and accepts would be much more convenient, with 24 hour care, and easier for Colin, friends and family to visit, being only about 3 miles from their house, and on a bus route.

Colin is familiar with the building and on good terms with the staff, having visited residents there in the past.

Please continue to pray for Myrie, Colin and their family.

Dorothy

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

The last Sunday of January was led for us over Zoom. Martin took the service from Scotland. It gave us opportunity to see the advantages and disadvantages of this, both for the congregation and the preacher. I have little doubt that we will have more such services, but not frequently. During Claudia's sick leave we had Rev. Margaret Newman and Rev. Patrick Kandeh taking communion services.

We also had two funerals, conducted by Rev. Seungwook Jung and Rev. Joanne Sherwood and we are grateful for their ministry in this. Thanks also to those who helped steward. Both families used the Hall afterwards.

Having had our highest attendance at 626 Club one week in January, we have had some of our lowest attendances in February. We may make spaces earlier than we expected at this rate, although the numbers are down more to erratic attendance than to children dropping out permanently.

TFT continues to meet during term time.

Bright Hour Fellowship has met regularly. Seungwook substituted for Claudia.

Fellowships have continued.

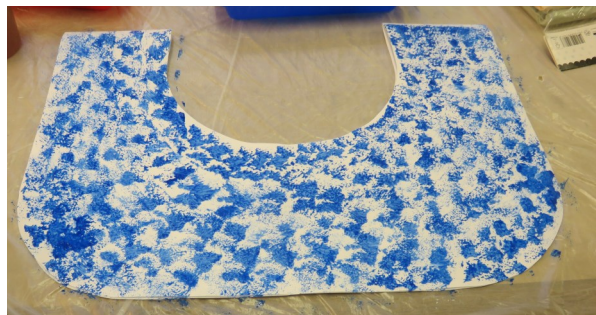
We have a number of families who come to Messy Church, but usually only



two at a time. We have sometimes speculated on what would happen if they all turned up together. The answer is a noisy, somewhat chaotic but glorious occasion, when we had twelve children, including the babes in arms, eight parents/grandparents,

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two activity leaders and four in the kitchen. This was our second session on Joseph. We took the story on from Pharaoh's dreams to the end. We made fat cows with tubes or Playdough and thin cows with pipe cleaners. We made Egyptian collars. We made grain sacks with origami and cups to hide in them. We had stamps for heads of corn. We used wafers to build barns and we iced biscuits for cows and wheat. We also sang and prayed. Then we had tea.

Crafternoon Tea has met twice. They are planning a trip to see "The longest yarn" at Peterborough.

Film Club showed Paddington. The film was well attended and notable for the way the audience were involved by it. Lots of comments coming in response to the on-screen action. I never realised how much the film was about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion before.

The Coffee Morning was not as well attended as some, but it provides a space for people to get together and this was the first in aid of RNLI.

Open the Book continues both at Harlington and Sundon. Sundon continues to require the creativity of three people playing four roles and narrating.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Our ACM will be held on 23rd March. In preparation for this we will soon be asking for reports from organisations, so start thinking about what you will write!

It will now include a broader discussion with Angela Brydon, the District Discipleship Enabler about the mission of our church.

There is talk of lunch!



PANCAKE PARLOUR

Shrove Tuesday, better known as Pancake Day, is on 4th March. I'm sure we would like to run Pancake Parlour as usual, but before we say we will, do we have volunteers to help?



POSSIBLE LENT COURSE

The Chosen is a seven series, 56 episode production about the lives of the 12 disciples from when they are chosen by Jesus to after the resurrection (and I'm guessing to Pentecost). I have so far watched 4 of the series, series 5 is due out at Easter (it covers Holy week), series 6 is currently being filmed.

I think it is very well done and true to the gospels in respect to what Jesus does and says. They have created back stories for each of the disciples using information in the Bible and their imaginations. It shows what it would have been like to follow Jesus, how the Jewish authorities worked, how the Jews celebrated their festivals and what it was like to live under Roman occupation. It is very relatable.

If people are interested I would like to organise sessions at my home to watch season 1 during lent. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll try to find a day and time that's suits everyone.

Cathy

07816932744

Cathysheehan06@gmail.com

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP — March Speakers

- 6th Chris Berry, talking about experiences at the Mission Hospital in West Bengal, India.
- 13th John Sorsby with Barbara Donaldson talk titled 'Face the Music'
- 20th Alan and Christine Parfit - Talk on Gilbert and Sullivan
- 27th Claudia

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	
02 March	am pm	Nellie Nichols	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina. The Flower Rota for 2025 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.
09 March		Helen James	
16 March			
23 March	Cathy		
30 March	Madeline		

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The two Thursday Fellowship groups still meet, every other week.

At 10.30 am. Live. Please contact Helen/Sandra for dates and location.

At 2.30 pm. On Zoom. Contact Tina (874481) for dates and details of the joining link. For Lent, we are thinking of joining Cathy's video group.

TECH TRAINING

I have been asked if I can run some refresher training for the sound system. If anyone else is interested let me know and I'll set something up.

It would also be useful to have some others around for when I am on holiday who can at least operate Zoom. With the fixed camera we can operate a simplified Zoom-only system. If you would like to learn how, let me know.

Clive

ISSUE #51

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **APRIL** edition will be **THU 20TH MAR** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 27th March 2025. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

WRITE FOR THE MONTHLY

Do you have something to say about local events, personal experiences or trips? Or even about your New Year Resolutions? Do you make any? What are your hopes for 2025? Why not write a short article for our Monthly News-letter

Clive

FLOWER ROTA—2025

Doreen has kindly agreed to manage the flower rota again for 2025 and a copy is on the notice board in the hallway.

Regular bookings have already been added BUT please check to see if any have been missed.

PLEASE check the list often to see if you can fill a space. Unable to provide the flowers? No problem—just make a donation to Doreen and she will sort out a flower display on a 'blank' date.



WIFI

WiFi is available in the Hall. Ask Clive for the password. Note that the system keeps information on the type of sites visited.

NOTICES Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at t.caveney@ntlworld.com OR t315485@gmail.com

DEADLINE for inclusion in April edition is **THU 20th March**

CHURCH BOOKING DIARY

PLEASE check with Trevor before adding any dates or events.

Prayer Chain number: Dorothy Preston 874841

Church Website: www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk

Church YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw

FACEBOOK

Don't forget the church has a Facebook page. You can use this for communicating, and it's very good for showing pictures. If you want to join the group, contact Martin. Remember, the more people who use it and who belong to the group, the more useful it becomes.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHURCH FAMILY



Pick up your pen, pencil or keyboard and share with us what you are doing in your life and as part of the Church.

Please feel free to send me items of interest, messages, birthdays, anniversaries or anything else you might wish to share for inclusion in future editions of these E-notices. Keep safe.

Trevor & Mary

CONTACT MAGAZINE

The latest edition is available at <https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

Paper copies will also be available.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

'The calling of Harlington Methodist Church is to respond to and celebrate the Gospel of God's presence. In all of our activities we seek to serve Harlington and the wider world. Most of all we aspire to honour and serve the living God.'