

Harlington Methodist Monthly

**FEBRUARY
2026**

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

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Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

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Hi all,

You know that feeling when you go into the supermarket just after Christmas and find shelves of Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs? That feeling that the world is more concerned with collecting your money than with the season, and is only trying to move from one spending occasion to the next? (I must say I'm surprised not to be seeing shelves of Valentine's day cards, that seems to be missing so far this year.)

And yet I'm aware that in February we are starting Lent, with Ash Wednesday on the 18th of the month. This will lead us into Easter, as Lent telescopes the period of Jesus' ministry from the Temptations at the beginning to Holy Week and Easter 6 weeks later. Somewhere around Mothering Sunday the emphasis changes.

What does Lent mean to us? It was a solemn season, with a restricted diet and time for reflection. Will we still use this time to reflect? What will we reflect on, exactly? Perhaps we might use the time, on our own or in a group, possibly formed for the purpose, to reflect on what the last year has meant for us, and what we might do this year to support the good things and deal with the not so good. We have had two prayer initiatives suggested this year, one for the world and the second more locally. Have you kept up with either?

Traditionally we hold our Annual Church Meeting during Lent. The time when we produce, read and discuss our reports is also a time of reflection. How

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have we responded to the things we discussed last year? What would we like to see this year? (Those who usually prepare reports might like to start thinking about them now—the 8th March isn't far away).

Lent shouldn't just be a time starting with pancakes and finishing with hot cross buns and Easter eggs, pleasant though they are. Consider committing yourself to a time of reflection.

Clive

PS Don't forget the Circuit Ash Wednesday service, held this year at the Square at 7.30 pm

CHURCH STEWARDS

We need some new church stewards. Tina, Clive and I have all been stewards for more than 6 years, which is meant to be the time-limit. I will be resigning as a church steward at the annual general meeting on 8th March, but I'll continue to 30th September if no-one comes forward to replace me, if the annual meeting wishes me to. The role of the church stewards is to work with the minister and members to establish/review our mission and work towards it, represent the church to the village, to the other churches in the village and to the circuit. You don't need a great deal of knowledge about how the Methodist church works, just a willingness to listen to the church, distil our views, work with the minister and be proactive in undertaking necessary tasks. In the past, we have had people take on just some elements of the steward role, a bit like a job share. The more stewards we have, the less work is involved for each person. Ideally, we will have six church stewards. The role of church stewards can include acting as vestry stewards but is separate.

Ultimately, if we don't have stewards, we will have to cease to meet as a church.

Please pray and ask God if serving as a church steward for a few years is part of your calling.

Martin Wallis

THANKS

For all your sympathy and support since Christmas. It is much appreciated.

Tina

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 21st February 2026 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 normal format is to do activities such as painting, cooking, and making things until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes singing and further activities, usually ones it is easier to do at home and that are less messy 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, or would like to help with the planning, please let Clive or Tina know so that we can arrange things most efficiently. If you stay to the end you get tea!

THE FOOD BANK

COVID meant we had to stop collecting for the food bank. Should we bring it back? Cathy is willing to take the food to the food bank if enough people are interested. Please let Cathy know if you think we should start collecting again.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

TUES at 2.30 pm. On Zoom every other week

Contact Tina (874481) for details of the joining link.

From March, we will be studying the book of Ruth. If you would like to join us, please contact Tina for the Zoom link. See the Calendar for accurate dates.

TECH TRAINING

If you are interested in training on any aspects of the tech we use in the church, please let me know, and I will arrange a session. This will usually be at a Coffee Morning, but could be at a different time to suit. Clive

FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi—**TFT Enrolment**
1500 *PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 2nd 1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 3rd 1430 Fellowship Group—Zoom—Sermon on the Mount: 13
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 4th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
1930 Churches Together in Harlington
- 5th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1830 *Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G*
1930 CHURCH COUNCIL—ZOOM
- 6th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 7th
- 8th** 1000 Morning Service led by—Cathy and Steve
1500 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 9th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
- 10th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 11th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 12th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1830 *Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G*
- 13th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 14th 1600 Cinema Club
- 15th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
1500 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 16th 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 17th 1430 Fellowship Group—Zoom—
1500 PANCAKE PARLOUR

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- 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 18th 1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
1930 Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at the Square, Dunstable
- 19th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1830 *Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G*
- 20th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 21st 1600 Messy Church
- 22nd** 1000 Morning Service, led by Michael Adams
1500 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 23rd 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
- 24th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking PBGS*
- 25th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 26th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1830 *Gestalt Theatre—Emily T*
- 27th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 28th 1000 Coffee Morning

PANCAKE PARLOUR

Providing we can get the kitchen back into a fit state in time, we intend to run Pancake Parlour again this year.

17th February 2026

3 to 6 pm

All volunteers please have a word with Doreen. Even if you can't volunteer, come along and meet the community who come to join us for pancakes.

Profits go to our charity for the year, the Paynter Home in Nuwara Eliya. Sri Lanka.

THE NEW PROJECT COMMITTEE (NOT NAMED YET)

This was formed to look at how we can serve our community. We have had three events so far with different levels of success. Workspace, Get to know your village and Holiday Club. If you are interested in joining the team please speak to Cathy

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS—FEBRUARY

01st	1500	1700	PBGS
02nd	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley
03rd	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
04th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1830	2000	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
05th	1930	2030	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
08th	1500	1700	PBGS
10th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
11th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
12th	1830	1930	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
14th	1500	1730	Cinema Club
15th	1500	1700	PBGS
16th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley
17th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
18th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
19th	1830	1930	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
21st	1600	1800	Messy Church
22nd	1500	1700	PBGS
24th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
25th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
26th	1830	1930	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G

NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The church bank account is now with the Co-op Bank. If you pay money to the church by standing order or other regular means, or make occasional BACS payments, the details are:

Name: Harlington Methodist Church

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 67420034

PRAYER TIME

At the annual church meeting it was proposed that we all try to pray at the same time at 8am or 8pm but from wherever we happen to be at the time.

Here are some suggested topics for prayer at 8.

Sunday services and our preachers

Bright Hour Fellowship

Crafternoon Tea

Messy Church and leaders/helpers

626 Club and leaders/helpers

TFT and leaders/helpers

Those who come into the building for other things

Open the Book

Our Minister

All those unwell

The Village and the other churches

New people moving in to the village, particularly on the new estates

Things we do outside the church building

Meet the Village follow up

New Project team

The Circuit

Stewards

Our new minister



WIFI

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

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH

January is a quiet month after the activity of Christmas.

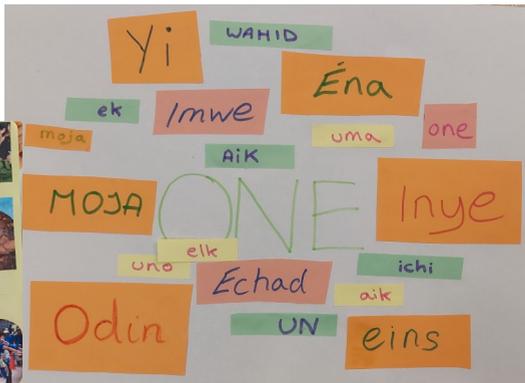
Services for the last month included our annual Covenant Service, led by our own minister, and including Holy Communion. Other services included our monthly evening Communion service, led by Rev. Joanne Sherwood, which was well attended considering it was the beginning of January.

Bright Hour Fellowship restarted on 8th January after a Christmas break.

626 Club met on 9th January following their Christmas break. While the attendance varies, we had 26 children on one week.

TFT have also restarted. Activities have included a Badminton evening.

Messy Church met just before the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and we looked at



themes and activities associated with being one and being inclusive, including pictures of inclusion, and word art based on words for one in various languages. We particularly mentioned Jesus and the children, and Peter at Joppa. If anyone wants to add their picture to the Children of God big picture, please feel free. Work out how snakes fit to the theme!



Open The Book continues at Harlington and Sundon. We took the boat to Sundon for the story of Jonah, and discovered how much the children like singing "Our God is a great big God", and they know the actions.

Crafternoon Tea seems to go from strength to strength with good attendance

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from regulars and visitors, sometimes on Zoom.

The Zoom Fellowship Group is now meeting on Tuesdays, which enable people to attend both it and Bright Hour

There was no Coffee Drop-in in December.

Film Club showed Minions, the rise of Gru

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

Bright Hour meets at 2-45 pm in the Hall nearly every Thursday. They have an interesting variety of speakers who cover a wide range of themes, and you get tea and biscuits. Consider coming along, or if you know anyone who would like to spend some time with us, spread the word. It's not just for Ladies.

Speakers/activities for February are as below.–

- 05th - Rev. Patrick Kandeh
- 12th - Rev. Joanne Sherwood
- 19th - Alan and Christine Parfit
- 26th - Rev. Claudia Lupi

CHANGE OF MINISTER

There will be a farewell circuit service for Claudia on 19th July at 6pm at the Square, preceded by an afternoon tea for people from Claudia's churches, so it would be good if as many of us as possible can attend.

Our new minister, Revd. Doreen Koffie-Williams, will be welcomed to the circuit on 6th September with a service at the Square at 6pm. Again, it would be good to have a good representation from Harlington.

REFURBISHMENT

We had an extra-ordinary church council on 21st January and agreed to the replacement of the water heater, instant boiler and dishwasher in the kitchen. We will also be looking to fix the lighting in the halls with the help of a grant that we will be applying for from the circuit.

PRAYER CHAIN

For some years, we have had a Prayer Chain – a number of people who agree to pray, when asked, for direct, personal requests. This is in addition to anything or anyone else you may be praying for in your own prayer time.

These requests remain confidential to the members of the chain, with the possible exception of requests involving a member of the church, when it may be appropriate to also inform our minister.

However, it is a long time since the church was invited to say whether they want to join the prayer chain. This is, therefore, an invitation to anyone who is a regular member of our congregation to be a member of the prayer chain as well.

If you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain, please let Tina know.

MORE THANKS

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT
HARLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH



Just a little "thank-you"...

...to say thank you very much!
FOR THE CHRISTMAS
HYACINTH BULBS
THEY HAVE BEEN ROSELY A
BRIGHT PINK COLOUR
HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED
CHRISTMAS
AND LOOK FORWARD
TO A PEACEFUL 2026

Stella



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

I can't find anything about Count Your Blessings for this year on the Action for Children website, but if you are interested let me know, and I'll keep looking. If they run the scheme again this year I will provide the details to you. If not we might have to work out our own scheme!

CRAFTIVISTS

The latest pieces (as seen at the Circuit Service at Harlington!) of art by the South Bedfordshire Circuit Craftivists group were selected for inclusion in an international art magazine - you can see more, including the full magazine, via links on the Craftivist page on the Circuit website. They can also be found on the main Methodist Church national website, and in this week's mailing from the Connection.

COLLECTIONS

During the pandemic we stopped passing the collection plate during services and many people set up standing orders to pay their collection directly into the bank. However, there are a few people who still prefer to pay by cheque and cash and some visitors leave money in the collection plate by the door. At the Finance and Property meeting on 21 January we agreed we would re-introduce the taking up of the collection during the service.

There is, of course, no obligation to put any money in the plate so it is ok to just pass the plate along the row. If you would like to give your collection using an envelope scheme please let Cathy know.

Stewards will, as before, be responsible for taking up the collection and counting it after the service.

Cathy

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
01 February	am Hazel pm Tina	Helen
08 February	John	
15 February	Steve TG	
22 February	Madeline	

Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.

The Flower Rota for 2026 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Our Annual Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 8th March 2026, after the morning service, starting at about 11.30 am.

It will also be on Zoom, as an extension of our usual Service Zoom.

Mark the date in your diaries, and get ready preparing the reports which usually are the basis of our discussion.

This is also when Church Stewards are elected.

FLOWER ROTA—2026

Doreen has kindly agreed to manage the flower rota again for 2026 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.

The rota is looking a bit sparse at present—see the picture opposite.

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.



FINANCE & PROPERTY

Are you interested in serving on the Finance & Property Committee. We meet 3 times a year and report to Church Council. We monitor the finances and upkeep of the property. We have had one volunteer, but there is room for more. Please speak to Cathy if you are interested

We also still need one or more Property Stewards. A lot of the job involves getting people in to do work, and opening up for them. You don't have to do the actual jobs!

FLOWER ROTA

Flower Rota 2026

4 th Jan		5 th July
11 th Jan	Janek . John	12 th July
18 th Jan	Christine Alan Parfitt	19 th July
25 th Jan	Doreen	26 th July
1 st Feb	HELEN.	2 nd Aug
8 th Feb		9 th Aug
15 th Feb		16 th Aug
22 nd Feb		23 rd Aug
1 st Mar		30 th Aug
8 th Mar		6 th Sep
15 th Mar	Lesley	13 th Sep
22 nd Mar		20 th Sep
29 th Mar		27 th Sep
5 th Apr	EASTER DOREEN	4 th Oct
12 th Apr		11 th Oct
19 th Apr	Setterfields.	18 th Oct
26 th Apr		25 th Oct
3 rd May		1 st Nov
10 th May		8 th Nov
17 th May		15 th Nov
24 th May	TINA	22 nd Nov
31 st May	Mary & Trevor	29 th Nov
7 th June	Lesley	6 th Dec
14 th June	Dorothy	13 th Dec
21 st June		20 th Dec
28 th June	Doreen	27 th Dec

ISSUE #62

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **MARCH 2026** edition will be **THU 12TH FEBRUARY** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 19th February 2026. This seems terribly early, but it is the Thursday before the last Sunday of February, which is very early as February is such a short month. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

HOME BAKING—INGREDIENTS

Thank you to those who have already provided ingredients list for home baked items.

If you usually make something – the same something particularly – and can produce a list of the ingredients, I can laminate it, so that you don't have to worry about producing it each month.

If we provide such lists – just the ingredients, not the recipes – they can live in a drawer in the kitchen, and be retrieved when necessary. I have been asked previously by several people if home-baked items were (a) gluten-free, or (b) suitable for vegetarians or vegans.

Bought items have to have a list of ingredients on the packaging, so all we have to do for those things is make sure the packaging is available to read – don't throw it away until after the contents have been consumed!

Tina

ROOM BOOKINGS

PLEASE can all leaders and secretaries of hirers/users of the premises, keep me fully updated of dates, times, additions, cancellations, variations or any other reason so that I can be sure that the bookings diary is accurate and up to date.

Failure to update could lead to no heating, unplanned double booking or even a lost booking opportunity as examples. Outside hirers have also been requested to ensure their bookings are up to date.

Thank you for your assistance.—Trevor—contacts on page 16

Blank page, because pages come in 4s and we had a nice lot of extra bits this month, but only 3 pages worth.

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

DEADLINE for inclusion in March 2026 edition is THU 12th FEB
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.'