

Harlington *January* Methodist **2023** Monthly

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Dear brothers and sisters,

I have been with you already four months and I cannot believe it is already Christmas. At this time you might wonder, "Where has 2022 gone?"

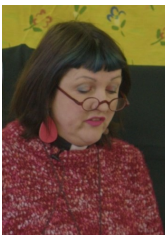


I hope you feel a strong feeling of gratefulness to God even if it has been a difficult year. We must always remember that God has been at our sight with his humanity and has supported us and has loved us even more when we felt lonely, doubtful, fearful and lost.

Jesus' birth reminds us of his presence in our life in the good and bad times. I wish you all to look ahead with enthusiasm for having been accompanied by God in your life aware of his friendship and continuous support. The Good News: No matter how our life and the world changes around us, God through Jesus is always there, guiding us through it all.

"The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken;" says the Lord, the one who pities you."

ISAIAH 54:10



Reverend Claudia Lupi

Here are some suggestion for

GREENING THE CHURCH – A GREENER CHRISTMAS!

Fun Things to do to Make a Greener Christmas:-

- Remove the beautiful wrapping papers from around your gifts and fold them up to keep for wrapping next year's presents.
- After taking down the Christmas cards, cut off the front pictures with no greeting on the reverse, and use these to write your Thank You notes. Alternatively, have fun in cutting out the best part of the pictures to make gift tags for next year.
- Use a circle to cut out the Christmas pictures and attach a thread at the top to make colourful 'baubles' for your Christmas tree or to decorate a twig from the garden.
- Use your food leftovers of turkey, stuffing, sprouts and carrots etc to make up some of the delicious recipes for Christmas leftovers that can be found online.
- Alternatively, simply liquidise the mix to make a warming soup – mmmm.
- Have separate boxes in the room to separate out rubbish, recyclable and reusable items, so nothing gets thrown out that can have a second life.
- Celebrate Christmas in your favourite Christmas jumper and turn down the thermostat by one degree. If you fancy a change of design Oxfam, amongst others, are selling a range of pre-loved Christmas jumpers!

Reverend Claudia Lupi

STAMPS

Don't forget to save your used Christmas stamps for the Leprosy Mission! There is a box just inside the main door, or you can give them directly to Dorothy

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR—Speakers for January

5th Members Own
12th Sheila Norris
19th John Sorsby
26th Rev'd Claudia Lupi

CHRISTMAS CARDS RECEIVED



To all my lovely
friends at HMC
Best wishes for Christmas
and the coming year
and sending you all
good wishes,
Love from
Helen (W)
x



CHRISTMAS 2022
Dear congregation,
I wish you a Christmas of
peace accompanied by
the comforting presence
of our lord Jesus XT,
our friend and healer.
love
Claudie

“Thanks be to God for
his indescribable gifts!”
2 Corinthians 9:15

January Diary

- 1st** 1000 Come and See led by Clive and Tina in Hall
2nd
3rd 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
4th
5th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
6th 1830 626 Club
7th 1330 BB Table Tennis Tournament
8th 1000 Morning Service, with Steve Rogers
9th 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
10th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
2000 Finance & Property Meeting—Zoom
11th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
12th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group—Slaves and Masters
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
13th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
14th
15th 1000 **Covenant Service** with Rev David Chapman (District Chair) inc
Communion
16th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
17th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance* 1600 Messy Church
18th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
19th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
20th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
21st 1600 Messy Church
22nd 1000 **UNITED SERVICE** for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
23rd 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
24th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
25th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
26th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group—Concluding thoughts about forgiveness
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
27th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
28th 1000 Coffee Drop-In
29th 1000 Morning Service, led by Rev Claudia Lupi
30th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
31st 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - JANUARY

DATE	FROM	TO	GROUP
03 JAN	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
07 JAN	1330	1700	BB Tennis Tournament
09 JAN	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
10 JAN	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
11 JAN	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
17 JAN	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
18 JAN	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
23 JAN	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
24 JAN	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
25 JAN	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
31 JAN	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance

Best Wishes to you all for a



Happy and Peaceful New Year

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

This month has included a lot of Christmas activities. We had our Family Carol service, which was well attended. TFT and 626 Club both took part.



TFT sang along to the parody video, "Christmas Coming Home", and 626 had a puppet performance to "Pathway to Heaven", a nativity version of "Stairway to Heaven".

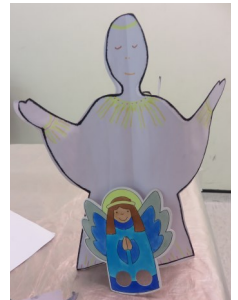
Our other services included our experiment with worshipping in the hall on the first Sunday of the month, both morning and evening in December. This



worked quite well, but we do need people to help set up on those Sundays, and to tidy up between services when we have an afternoon booking.



Christmas Messy Church took place the day before the Carol Service. We made woolly sheep, angels, and more of the finger puppet figures, although our marbling didn't work very well. Tea



included turkey and stuffing patties, pork and cranberry rolls and mince pies as well as the usual things, with something left over for after the carol service!

As well as our own Christmas things, members played a full part in other village Christmas time activities from the village pantomime to the Churches Together Nativity, and two Carol Singings, with Barbara Donaldson and with the Salvation Army.

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The 0—4s Nativity (Pram Service) took place on the first Friday in December and was attended by about ten children plus their adults. As ever, this was a joyful and noisy occasion, and we finished with tea, coffee and squash, and mince pies and biscuits in the hall. Hopefully this will build back up from now.

Unfortunately the Lower School Carol Service could not happen because the snow meant the school was shut that day; that will have to be something for next year. Open the Book did happen at both schools during the month, however.

Ladies Bright Hour meetings included preserves, pickles and chutney, as well as Christmas music.

The Thursday Fellowship Groups continue (see below).

TFT put up and decorated the tree in time for the 0—4s Nativity, and entered a tree in St. Mary's tree festival.

626 Club met with the puppet workshop running alongside our meeting on the 16th. At the end, the children who were involved with the puppets showed the rest, and those parents who had arrived to collect their children, what they would be doing at the Carol Service

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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

At 10.30 am. Live. Please contact Helen/Jo (872495) for dates and location.

At 2.30 pm. On Zoom. Contact Tina (874481) for dates and details for the joining link. If there is any subject you would like to discuss or study, please let Tina know.

CLOTHES

Melody, herself an Iranian refugee, is collecting good, clean clothes for refugees - men, women and children - living in hotels. She is working with Claudia at The Square.

If you have anything suitable, please give to me

Thank you

Jo

ISSUE #26 Welcome to the twenty-sixth edition of our monthly magazine/ notices. Deadline for items for the **FEBRUARY** edition will be **THU 19TH JAN** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 26th January 2023.

It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
01 JAN	am John pm n/a	Caveney/ Setterfields
08 JAN	Jo	Jo
15 JAN	Tina	Christine and Alan
22 JAN	Jo	TBA
29 JAN	Mary	Gwyneth

FLOWER ROTA 2023

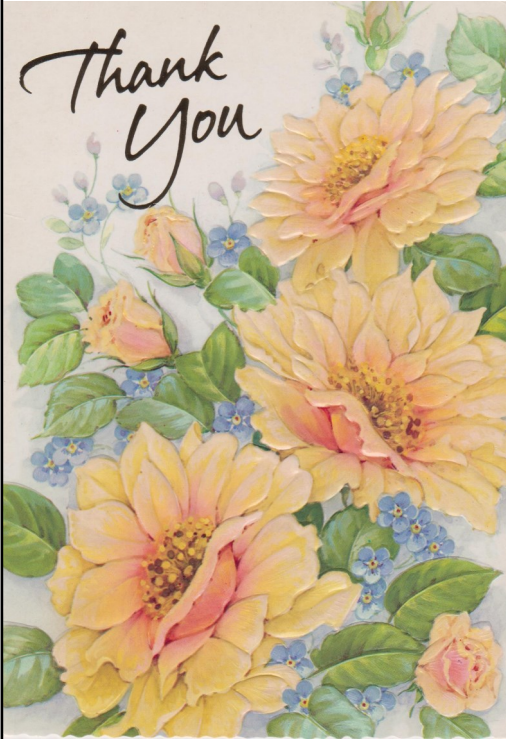
There is a new Flower Rota on the Notice Board. I have included special dates but do let me know if they are incorrect. I do hope you will feel you can contribute flowers each Sunday this year, it's a valuable asset to our time of worship. Many thanks in advance!
Jo

WINTER EXPERIMENT

At our last Church Council we decided that, as an experiment and to save heating costs, for the first Sunday in December and in January we would hold the services in the hall rather than in the church, and consider if we wanted to do this on other occasions. If you can help set up, please let Clive or Tina know. Also let one of the stewards know any comments you have on the experiment. We will discuss it at our next Church Council.

THANK YOU

We have received this card from Kate (Obiabo)



All Brothers & Sisters

Because you're very thoughtful,

This note is simply sent

To thank you and to let you know

How much your kindness meant!

Thanks for supporting me
and my family during the
passing of Rev. Dr Ebube Obiabo
God bless everyone.

Kate & Late Rev Dr Ebube's
family.

"He careth for you."

1 Peter 5:7.



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

We will be back on 21st January at 4 pm for the next live/Zoom/Streamed Messy Church. If you would like to join us, either as a participant or a helper, please feel free. People to help small children may well be needed.

We will be looking at St. Paul and his journeys

Our normal format is to do activities until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes further activities, usually ones it is easier to do at home. This is streamed and recorded. Then at 5.30 pm we have tea.

REFLECTION

Joshua chapter 24, verses 14 to 18. *“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord.”*

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our forefathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord because he is our God.”

This is a reading I often think about at times of new start, such as the new year. It comes at the end of the book of Joshua and the conquest of Canaan. Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt and through the desert to the promised land, but was not permitted to go in. Joshua then became the leader. The mark of his leadership was in crossing the river Jordan in the same way that Moses led the people through the Red Sea. You may remember that all through the time of the exodus, the Hebrews complained, and that they had to spend an extra forty years in the wilderness because they didn't trust God enough to go in after the spies had said what the land was like.

In this passage Joshua challenges them quite fiercely about their commitment to God.

While we travelled to Lincoln this week, Tina and I were listening to the radio, to a programme called “The new gurus”. It struck us that people today seem to be wanting someone to tell them what to do or to think. It also struck us that Methodism isn't like that. As a Methodist you are expected to think and to study. Then you have to make the choices. Of course there are standards and rules laid down. On 15th January, we have our Covenant Service, when we will be challenged in the Covenant prayer to make again that serious commitment to following God's will not our own. But a key part of Methodism seems to me to be developing the tools to enable you to think for yourself and to make your choices, rather than have a minister or elder tell you what you must do or believe. Many people find that difficult and would rather live in an authoritarian society.

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It also has it's own consequences. Five of the six Tolpuddle Martyrs were Methodist Local Preachers. That was a long time ago, now. How often today do we consider actions which may lead to such results? So, with the New Year, let us choose both who we will serve, and how we will serve.

Prayer

Lord God, as we reflect on the year that has past, with its joys and its sorrows, we know there will be choices to make in this new year. We need to think about those choices. Give us the strength not to be led astray by popular ideas when they are wrong, and not to put our own benefit before what is right. Let us see the choices before us in the clearness of the light of your love.

Amen

LATEST SUNDAY SERVICES PROCEDURES

Our 10 am Sunday service continues to be available on Zoom, and live streamed to YouTube as well where possible. The stream to YouTube stays there as a recording, so you can see it (again!) later.

The service is also available, sometimes with an abbreviated message, in text form by email and as a printed sheet, if you can't download it. Ask me if you want the paper version.

I now usually email the Zoom link on Saturday. If you are not on the list and want to be, contact me. It is still possible, if you want to, to access Zoom by phone. Contact me for the details if you need to use this method of access.

We are also holding a Communion Service at 6 pm, usually on the first Sunday of the month. This service is face-to-face only.

Currently please stick to the following in church:

1. If you suspect you might have COVID, or anything else infectious, please do not attend, but join us on Zoom or YouTube.
2. Hand sanitiser continues to be available.
3. Over refreshments we can all now sit round one table, although if the weather is good we may also put tables outside.
4. If you feel you need more distance, please feel free to keep apart.
5. If others require more distance, please respect this.
6. Windows can be open for ventilation.

Clive

NOTICES Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com.

DEADLINE for inclusion in February edition is **THU 19th January**

CHURCH BOOKING DIARY

PLEASE check with Trevor before adding any dates.

Prayer Chain number: Dorothy Preston 874841

Church Website: www.harlingtonmethodist.church

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.'