

Harlington *March*

Methodist **2023**

Monthly

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Dear brothers and sisters,

We should learn to prefer the love of Christ over all.

To prefer nothing to the love of Christ can refer to our love for Christ or his love for us. It probably refers to both. But, for now, let's make a choice. John, in the Gospel, who knows a lot about love, human and divine, says that it is not we, who have loved God, but it was God who first loved us.

A healthy self-love is the only attitude starting from which we can truly love others and therefore stop being selfish and self-centred; but healthy self-love is not in our genes.

We have to learn it. We have to acquire it. Otherwise the great commandment to love your neighbour as you love yourself would be impossible and the attempt to fulfil it would become a purely annoying and boring duty.

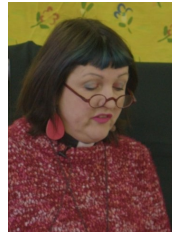
Without self-love, there can be no love for others, but self-love must be learned.

We learn healthy self-love through the experience of other people who love us.

To prefer nothing to Christ's love for me means to experience being loved, accepted, and so it also means acquiring a healthy self-love.

It is a closed circle, but the circle has a necessary beginning: Christ's love for

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me, acceptance of Christ's undeserved gift of love to me is only the beginning of the hard and difficult work that leads to God.

Christ's love accepts us "as we are," but does not let us remain as we are. His love for us is also the power, the creative power, to transform us into what we are not yet.

God is also hammer and chisel. If I truly love myself, I need to stand still under the blows, stand still to move forward. I want to change to become what God wants me to become. And I want the same for my brothers.



God invites us to look at him and to let him transform us so that living solidarity, sharing, listening, being patient, forgiving, fighting for the justice of our neighbour, announcing the word of God and giving testimony of his love, being mindful in whatever we do, praying for a stranger while we walk, stand up in the difficulty aware of God's presence...will be our priority, will be a necessity for our life, something we cannot forget, something that will shape our relationships with God, with the other, with ourself.

Dear all, may the love of Christ be your guide and your strength.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers...

The peace of the Lord be with you

Claudia, your minister

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.

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Our services this month started with the enrol-



ment service for the BB and Girls Association, also known at TFT. They led the service, with Claudia, having prepared during their sleepover at the church. TFT also took 3rd place in the England final for the Masterteam competition, missing 2nd place, and the UK final, by just 1/2 a mark.

We had 4 families at Messy Church, 3 in person and 1 online. That gave a total with helpers of 10 adults and 10



Changing stones into rock cakes?

children, the best attendance for a while. We were looking at the stories for the start of Lent, from Jesus' baptism to the temptations.

Speaking of Lent we held Pancake Parlour. As ever, you start wondering if anyone will arrive, but very soon the children came by from the Lower School, and



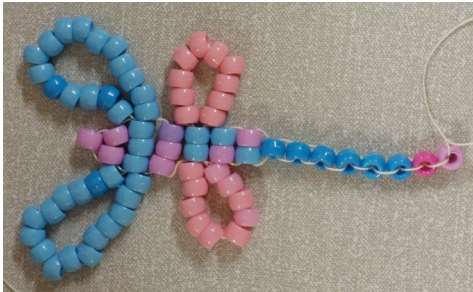
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soon the hall was full with a queue for pancakes despite having four frying pans on the go. We were assisted by folk from St. Mary's and Life Church. We had a wide representation of the village in those who came and it shows something of the breadth of our contacts with the community. More details are elsewhere in the monthly.

626 has continued strong with an average of 25 children. Activities have followed the normal pattern, although you



may have noticed some paper plate snakes around. Bead threading was also popular.

Ladies Bright Hour and the Thursday fellowships continue to meet, either in person or on Zoom. Crafternoon Tea has also met, the numbers for this are good and it provides an opportunity for people to get together, talk and craft.

We also held our usual Coffee Drop-in on the last Saturday of the month. These are good to come to for a chat, not to mention the sausage rolls. Volunteers to help run them will also be appreciated.



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place after the morning service on Sunday 12th March. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and it is where the whole church has the opportunity to discuss the present and future life of the church. Some key officers, most particularly the Church Stewards are appointed at this meeting, and we usually use this chance to appoint or review most of the church positions. If you would like to be a Church Steward please let one of the current stewards know.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Good Friday is Friday 7th April. This year we are responsible, and will be following the pattern from last year.

Would you like to be an actor, or could you help with the organisation? Please let me know. We will have a sign-up sheet out by the middle of March,



but get in now for a good role!

Clive

PANCAKE PARLOUR RESULTS

We held Pancake Parlour on Tuesday 21st February. It is estimated that the ladies in the kitchen cooked over 100 pancakes, and we raised 133.91 for our project, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

Thanks to Jo for organising and to everyone who helped, cooking, serving, taking orders (and money!), setting up and clearing up, not to mention washing up.



March Diary

- 1st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 2nd 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 3rd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 4th
- 5th** 1000 Come and See led by Martin Wallis
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion
- 6th 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 7th 1230 FUNERAL SERVICE for Christine Whittle
1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 8th 0900 *Outside Booking St Mary’s—Interviews Tricia Murphy*
1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 9th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group– Lent Study session 2—Creating
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 10th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 11th 1000 *PARTY BOOKING—TIMES TBC*
- 12th** 1000 Morning Service, led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion
1100 CHURCH ACM
- 13th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
- 14th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 15th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 16th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 17th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 18th 1600 Messy Church
- 19th** 1000 Morning Service for Mothering Sunday, led by Ivor Mitchelmore
- 20th 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 21st 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 22nd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 23rd 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group— Lent Study session 3—Sharing
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 24th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 25th 1000 Coffee Drop-In
- 26th** 1000 Morning Service, led by Tina Salmon
- 27th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
- 28th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*

29th 1545 Outside Bookng—Emily Hancock Child Singing
30th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
31st 1830 626 Club

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - MARCH

DATE	FROM	TO	GROUP
01 MAR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
06 MAR	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
07 MAR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
08 MAR	0900	1300	Tricia Murphy. St Marys Interviews
08 MAR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
11 MAR	1000	1500	Private Party
14 MAR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
15 MAR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
20 MAR	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
21 MAR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
21 MAR	2000	2200	PBGS
22 MAR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
28 MAR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
29 MAR	1545	1800	Emilyt Hancock—Child Singing

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR—Speakers for March

2nd Rev'd Claudia Lupi
9th Jan O'Brien
16th Diane Maple
23rd Members Own
30th Annual Meeting

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

There is a letter on the notice board thanking us for our contribution during 2022. This was £834.66 which includes the collection of £93.31 on Christmas Morning.

We are taking part again in “Count Your Blessings” (Lent). Stella has sheets if you would like one.

ISSUE #28

Welcome to the twenty-eighth edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **APRIL** edition will be **THU 16TH 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 23rd March 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	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
05 MAR	am pm		
12 MAR			
19 MAR			
26 MAR			

FLOWER ROTA 2023

There's lots of gaps in the Flower Rota. If you could help with these it would be great as flowers enhance our worship and are much appreciated by those who receive them afterwards. If you can't manage to get flowers but would like to, just let me know and I'll get them on your behalf. Thank you Jo

STAMPS

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

NB. We have been advised that the Leprosy Mission will no longer be accepting stamps from the end of March 2023. Last date for 'posting' stamps to Dorothy is 12th March 2023 to enable time for sorting and forwarding.

Celebrating Easter

How do you like to worship?

Another Exciting EDI Event!!

Date: 25th March 2023

Time: 10am tea/coffee for 10:30 start

Venue: Farley Hill



Come, have tea/coffee, worship, socialise and finish off with a roll and soup.

South Beds Circuit EDI Group



CHURCH PROJECT

Our new Church Project is the **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel**. This is part of the World Council of Churches.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel is an international, ecumenical programme that recruits and despatches observers (known as Ecumenical Accompaniers - EAs) to several Palestinian towns and villages to monitor the interaction between the Palestinian inhabitants and the Israeli military. The presence of EAs is intended to offer protection and to moderate friction. Abuses of authority are monitored and reported and EAs speak publicly of their experiences. The EAPPI was founded in 2002 under the auspices of the World Council of Churches, in response to requests from Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land is also one of the founders.

Accompaniers have four stated tasks: to offer protection through nonviolent presence; to monitor and report violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; to support Israeli and Palestinian peace activists; to undertake advocacy work including public speaking.

SUNDAY SERVICES PROCEDURES

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



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

We will be back on 18th March 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 may well be needed to help

small children. Do remember this is

“messy” church and therefore there is usually at least one messy activity!



Our March Messy Church is just before Mothering Sunday.

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.

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 it to me

Thank you, Jo

REFLECTION

Saint Mark's Gospel, chapter one, verses 9 to 13

Not long afterwards Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, where he stayed 40 days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

There are many different ways of explaining the Bible story of the temptations. However, what I feel is really important about the story is that it says that, right at the start of Jesus' ministry, he made sure he was right with God and he set out how he would exercise his ministry.

For Jesus there were choices. As set out in the story, he could bribe, dazzle or compel people to follow him. From time to time the church has used each of these approaches to making followers. Jesus, of course, rejected them all. His choice was "listen to what I say, watch how I live".

It isn't that he didn't feed people miraculously, not to mention turn water into wine. It isn't that some of his miracles weren't amazing. It isn't that he didn't have the power to compel, as he said during his trial. But Jesus came to teach that God loves us, and wants us to love him as our free choice in response to that love.

How do we follow that approach? How do we show God's love and provide opportunities for people to respond?

As we consider our ways of being church this needs to be a key element of our plans. I was on a training course and the question was asked, "What 3 words would you use to describe your church?" This was followed by, "For each of these words complete the phrase, 'We will show *word* by doing _____'". What would you choose as your words? Do our actions complete the phrase.?

Prayer

Dear God, Help us to learn how to seek your ends by ways that you would choose. Help us to show your love and enable others to respond.

Amen

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

DEADLINE for inclusion in April edition is **THU 16th March**

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.'