

Harlington *April*

Methodist **2023**

Monthly

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REFLECTION

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verse 1. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.

This is the start of a familiar passage which those of us who remember the sixties will associate with the version turned into a song by Pete Seeger, and recorded by any number of singers, often in protest against the Vietnam war.

Ecclesiastes is attributed to King Solomon, although it is often thought to have been written some 7 centuries later. It is a book of, often depressing, worldly wisdom. This passage reminds us that some things can only happen when the time is right, and that there is a time for things to come to an end. For example, had the pandemic occurred a few years earlier there would have been no Zoom, no Facebook and no YouTube.

This is true in the life of the church in general, and individual churches specifically. Right place right time is true for many activities that are successful. Another group trying to repeat the success finds that it doesn't work for them, either the place or the time are wrong.

And what applies to starting can apply to ending. Many things have a natural lifespan, they come to an end and need to finish. Many of us will be aware of activities that have persisted not because they were useful or desirable but out of respect for a founder or early leader.

We discussed the idea of one church in Harlington. It is easy to say: "Why? We are doing a number of good and successful things." But we are also

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living in a changed time with a membership that is getting older and, unfortunately, smaller. What is the right thing for today? Is there something different for which this is the time or season?

When we ask questions like this there is a need for deep discernment. There was a reason why things were as they were. How far has this changed? Is the new thing taking us in the direction God is wanting us to go? What are the options open to us? How much can we see of the future?

At present, nothing needs to be rushed (but see the bit about a new Property Steward). Preparation now will mean that nothing needs to be rushed in the future. Pray, think and talk about where our future lies.

I know who holds the future, and he'll guide me with his hand.

Prayer

Father God, please guide our future. Shout to us what you want, because some of us are very deaf. Nudge us when we fail to respond. Help us to be good witnesses for you. Amen

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



We will be back on 15th April 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 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.

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.

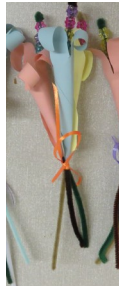
At 2.30 pm. On Zoom. Contact Tina (874481) for dates and details for the joining link. If there is any subject you would like to discuss or study, please let Tina know.

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

We had our usual services during the month, including our evening communion service. If you want to see the morning services, they are available on our YouTube channel. We also held the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Christine Whittle. Rob can give you the link to the recording of this service.

In March, TFT won the Battalion senior's football and unihoc trophies, the company section unihoc, the battalion first aid competition and the company section table tennis competition. Fortunately we made Mothers Day cards at TFT the Friday before the day, as only one of them had a card sorted out 😊

626 Club made “flowers” to give as Mothering Sunday presents to their mums and the ladies of the church. Emily, who is now helping as an adult leader put a lot of effort into this with the children.



Messy Church in March looked at women in the Bible coming up to Easter. We made Melting Moments, to mark the fact that the women were usually responsible for food for Jesus and the disciples, we made Mother's Day cards, as it was the day before, we made praying hands to mark Jesus in prayer, and jars to think about Jesus feet being anointed (but we used clay, not alabaster). We didn't do well trying to make “palm” crosses, but we could identify people seen from odd angles, or just their hands. We have had more children with the last two Messy Churches, and we hope this continues.

LBH and the Fellowship Groups have continued to meet, as has Crafternoon Tea.

We had an email on Wednesday from the Harlington Village Pre School, asking if they could bring group to the church to learn about Easter—the next day! Having taken in a deep breath, of course we said “Yes”. So we had 6 3 year olds and 3 adult helpers in the church. We showed them the Lego Easter film (one of them, there are several on YouTube), talked about Easter Eggs and Hot Cross buns, and made praying hands (even though 2 of them had been to Messy Church). We sang “Jesus love is very wonderful”. They then sat in the hall and had their snack before going back to Pre School.

BEETLE DRIVE

TFT are running a Beetle Drive at the church on the evening of 22nd April in aid of raising funds. We will be serving jacket potatoes as the main meal. Please see Martin or Hazel for tickets. Please pay what you feel is reasonable for a meal and an evening's entertainment (suggested minimum is £5).



BEER AND HYMNS

We will again be hosting Beer and Hymns at the Carpenters Arms. The next event is at 7.30pm on 11th April, singing the classic Easter hymns. Non-alcoholic drinks also available.

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. The sign-up sheet is now out, get in now for a good role!



We are also hoping to have something meditative in the chapel for those who can't walk. Clive

SUNDAY SERVICES PROCEDURES

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.

April Diary

- 1st
- 2nd** 1000 Come and See led by Tina & Clive
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion
- 3rd 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 4th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 5th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Dance Exam Rehearsals*
- 6th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 7th **GOOD FRIDAY — WALK OF WITNESS**
- 8th
- 9th** 0930 Morning Service, led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 10th **1400 No Crafternoon Tea**
- 11th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
1900 **BEER ‘N HYMNS—**The Carpenters
- 12th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Dance Rehearsals*
- 13th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group– Lent studies week 4—Encouraging
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 14th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 15th 1600 Messy Church
- 16th** 1000 Morning Service, led by Worship Group
- 17th 2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 18th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 19th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 20th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 21st 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 22nd **TFT BEETLE DRIVE**
- 23rd** 1000 Morning Service, led by Rev Claudia Lupi
- 24th 0900 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock - Dance Exams*
1430 Crafternoon Tea - **Note change of time**
- 25th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 26th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 27th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group– Lent studies week 5—Celebrating
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 28th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 29th 1000 Coffee Drop-In
- 30th** 1000 Morning Service, led by Sheila Norris

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - APRIL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
03 APR	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
04 APR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
05 APR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock –Dance Rehearsals
11 APR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
12 APR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock Dance Rehearsals
17 APR	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
18 APR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
19 APR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
24 APR	0900	1700	Emily Hancock—Dance Exams
25 APR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
26 APR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
28 MAR	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
29 MAR	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR—Speakers for April

6 th	Members Own for Easter
13 th	TBA
20 th	Vicky Yorke
27 th	Sheila Norris

WANTED

Jo is leaving. She does a lot of things around the church. As we think about them we become aware of the many, often unnoticed things. One important job is Property Steward. The job does not require the person to do everything, but to get things done when they are needed, either on an ad hoc basis, such as when a roof tile needs sorting, or as part of the regular routine of property care. Without things like lift checks, fire safety tests, gas inspections and so on happening it will not be long before we cannot use our building. And things cannot just be left to the remaining usual suspects; they already have enough. Property can be worked by a team, providing people come forward to volunteer. Could you volunteer?

ISSUE #29

Welcome to the twenty-eighth edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **MAY** edition will be **THU 20TH APR** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 27h April 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.
02 APR	am Jo pm	Rosemary	
09 APR	Tina	EASTER	
16 APR	John	Alan & Christine	
23 APR	Mary	Mary Caveney	
30 APR	Tina		

EASTER FLOWERS

We shall be decorating the church for Easter on SATURDAY 8th APRIL from 2 pm. Any help will be very welcome, in providing and arranging flowers or donation

Many thanks Jo

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This was held after the morning service on 12th March. Among the things discussed were:

Jo's roles when she moves

One church in Harlington as (if) our numbers shrink

How to spend a thousand pounds.

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

DEADLINE for inclusion in May edition is **THU 21st April**

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.'