



Harlington *May* Methodist **2023** Monthly

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Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

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Hello all,

I haven't received a letter from Claudia, so you have something from me instead.

I could have had three evening church meetings this week—I decided to go to the Parish Council Annual Meeting with my Contact hat on and left Tina to cover the other meeting. It is a shame so few people attend; it's not surprising that parish counsellors feel most people are apathetic and it is one time, apart from elections, when you can hold people to account. (Speaking of elections, don't forget to take your photo ID with you when you go to vote next week.)

Two of the three church meetings were about open air worship, on Bury Orchard with Churches Together for the Coronation and on Dunstable Downs with the Circuit on 9th July. If people don't want to come inside our walls to worship, except for special times like Christmas and Easter, we need to go to them. This is the "Church outside the walls" idea.

When Martin runs "Beer and Hymns", this is also part of this concept. Most of Jesus' teaching took place in the open, and when John Wesley was prevented from preaching in churches he preached outside. Gwennap Pit is one place he preached on a number of occasions.



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Six years ago when Tina and I were on holiday we found the tree and sign pictured here outside the Anglican church at Winchelsea. (Winchelsea also has an original "Preaching House", although it is not now regularly used for worship.)

If people will not come to God, how can we work to help take God to the people?

Clive



SERVICES ON ZOOM

There will not be services in our church on either the 7th or 14th May. I regret that it is unlikely that either service will be available on Zoom or YouTube. Also note the time of the service on 7th on Bury Orchard (11.30 am).

We will endeavour to circulate printed services although these may not be the same as the actual services as they are being prepared by all three churches.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Many thanks to those who contributed to COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS for LENT

The total raised is £183.22.

Stella.

GWYNETH SMITH

Many of you will know that Gwyneth passed away peacefully on the 19th April. Our sympathies go to her family and friends.

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—we should be starting a new series this month!

CLEANING

This week we welcome Lesley Lockyer as our new cleaner. She'll be here Tuesday mornings so let me know if this clashes with anything. Do make yourself known to her if you meet her

Jo

A SPACE FOR YOU?

Here is a space, a blank piece of paper. An untouched canvas on which you could write, draw, doodle, communicate. What could you share? Or will there always be a b l a n k?



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

We will be back on 20th May 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.



By the way, the celebrations are still on YouTube.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14TH –21ST MAY



There will not be a house to house collection this year. If you do not already contribute to Christian Aid, or would like to make an additional gift, go to their website to donate.

WANTED

As is often the case, the call for volunteers to consider the jobs Jo does has been met with a resounding silence for the most part. We have a Property and Finance Committee on 16th May. This will need to be one of the key things on our agenda. On the whole, Harlington has not been one of those churches where all our time and money are devoted to the building, but we use it for so much, and have been enabled to do so because Jo has made sure it is kept in good condition, and while others have helped, she has made sure it all happened.

Please keep this in mind.

Clive

YOUTHSCAPE

The May Youthscape Prayer letter is attached with this Monthly. It contains some information on things that Youthscape is doing and prayer suggestions for each day.

PRAY for YOUTHSCAPE

MAY 2023



We're doing everything we can for young people...

SAVE THE DATE! We would love you to come and join us for our **One Day and Season's Crown** on Saturday 26th June 2-4pm. [More information about this event is below.](#)

Summer is fast approaching, and for us at Youthscape that means one thing: Satellites!

More than 3,000 Christian young people will be gathering at the Bath and Wells Shopping for five days from 6th to 10th August. All we have to do this month is get ready for it!

Youthscape launched Satellites last year as a national event for churches, to bring their youth groups together for fun, teaching and encouragement.

That first year was a roaring success and now we're back planning for the second one - this time in the sunny south coast.

As you can imagine, this means planning everything from huge evening celebration services, to sports and live night sets... Not to mention, talks, camping facilities and everything else you need to look after so many people.

We're committed to creating events that not only churches support young people to find a deep and lasting faith. This summer we're going to have the whole team and nearly 500 other volunteers working to make that happen!

Thank you, as always, for all your prayers.

Clive



MAY 2023

1ST MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	2ND MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	3RD MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	4TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.
5TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	6TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	7TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	8TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.
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25TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	26TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	27TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	28TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.
29TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	30TH MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	31ST MON Pray for the people of the world who are suffering from the effects of the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for the safety of all those affected.	

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 opened for ventilation.

MAY DIARY

- 1st 1700 TFT Band Practce
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 2nd 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 3rd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 4th **LOCAL ELECTIONS—POLLING DAY**
1430 Thurs Fellowship Group– Lent studies week 5—Celebrating
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 5th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 6th **CORONATION DAY**
1800 *Outside Booking—Sue Whittle—Kitchen*
- 7th 1130** United Service Open Air on Bury Orchard
1200 Village Celebration Picnic Lunch
1800 Evening Service led by Rev. Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 8th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
- 9th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
- 10th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 11th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1800 Fellowship Service
- 12th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 13th
- 14th** 1000 United Morning Service for Christian Aid Week in the Village Hall
1800 Local Preachers' Celebration Service at St Johns, Luton
- 15th 1700 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 16th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
2000 **Finance & Property Ctte**
- 17th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
- 18th 1430 Thurs Fellowship Group– to be decided—see page 3
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 19th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 20th 1600 Messy Church
- 21st** 1000 Morning Service, led by Shepherd Kombo
- 22nd 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1700 TFT Band Practice

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- 23rd 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
24th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*
25th 0900 *Harlington Lower School Visit*
26th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
27th 1000 Coffee Drop-In
28th 1000 Pentecost Morning Service, led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc
Communion
29th 1700 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
30th 1600 *Outside Booking –Kristy Dance*
31st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily Hancock—Child Singing*

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - APRIL

DATE	FROM	TO	GROUP
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 May

- 4th John Sorsby
11th Members Own
18th Tba
25th Christine and Alan Parfitt

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

April was a busy month as it included Holy Week and Easter.

Sunday Services continued as usual, except that our Easter Sunday service started at 9.30 am so that Claudia could get to The Square for 11 am. As we had to chase her out after the service, I'm not sure that she made it.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness also took place. The attendance was a bit lower than it has been, and we were unable to perform a full costume drama, and used dramatized readings instead. Next year St. Mary's will be leading on this. However, we may well work together as Churches Together in Harlington in order to make this more effective. This year we also had something in the church during the walk for those who would like to join but couldn't walk.

Messy Church had four families with 7 children and 4 adults present, plus 6 adult helpers for tea and activities. While we would like more, it has recently



felt like it is developing quite a secure attendance, including our usual Zoom attendees. You can see examples of some of what was made in the church, not the food things, though. The Bagel Tombs and the Pastry Puff "eggs" filled

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with fruit pie filling will have been eaten by now.

626 has continued strongly. We are averaging 25 in term time and a dozen during the holidays.

TFT has continued to meet during term time. The band is practicing for many things, including the Coronation Celebrations on Bury Orchard.

Crafternoon Tea only had one meeting, because of Easter. However that meeting was very well attended with something like 18 people there. Not that there isn't still room for others. For the £2 cost you get refreshments, and access to the various craft materials that get given to the group. This month there was a collection of card making materials, and there is always wool if you are fortunate enough to find the right colour and weight.

The Thursday Fellowship Groups are also continuing.

There was also an Easter "Beer & Hymns". These are now happening on Tuesdays as the pub is not open on Mondays at present.

LOCAL PREACHERS' CELEBRATION SERVICE

This will be held at St Johns, Luton, at 6.00pm on 14th May.

This year, the only recipient of a long-service certificate will be Jean Dimmock of Trinity, Leighton Buzzard, who has been on full Plan for 60 years, but we will, as usual, be celebrating the work of all Local Preachers.

The service is open to everyone, and while Clive and I will be going early, I am sure that lifts can be arranged for anyone who would like to come and doesn't have transport.

Tina

FILM CLUB

One of the few things we dropped over the pandemic was Film Club. Last Friday Trevor and I met with a group of parents who would like to restart this. Trevor gave them copious pages of notes which they took away to study. They are now planning to do something on 24th June.

Watch this space.

Clive

ISSUE #30

Welcome to the twenty-eighth edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JUNE** edition will be **THU 18TH MAY** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 25th May 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.
07 MAY	Am John Pm Jo	Please check rota	
14 MAY	Jo	Please check rota	
21 MAY	Tina	Tina	
28 MAY	Mary	Caveney's/	

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people who are used to that it is hard to realise that, even though I say it, the landline has precedence.

There are many other more significant things in the way we have learned to learn, in the way we see communal singing and so on. There are also the major shifts in ethics around marriage.

"It's good to talk," and perhaps better to listen and share, to support in an un-critical way and to provide opportunities to diverse people.

Prayer

Lord God, help us to embrace diversity not as a chore but as a joy. May we see the world from a variety of views and share with and learn from people not just like us.

Amen

REFLECTION

Jeremiah chapter 1 verses 4 to 8: The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

My third meeting this week was with the Circuit EDI group, reviewing our last event and starting to think about where we go from here. The question was raised about what we were trying to achieve, and I was reminded of our church "Next Steps" from before the pandemic. We said we would like our congregation to reflect our community and our leadership to reflect our (then) congregation. But for that to happen you need to enable and empower people who do not believe they are allowed leadership roles to take them. This will take the form of encouragement, training etc.

We were looking at where we go next, and another area of diversity is in age. When I started work in London, my class leader was 16. It's not allowed now, I'm not sure it was allowed then, really, but she was on the Church Council, as was I at the age of 21.

God often called or spoke through young people. Samuel is another example. Of course God also called or spoke through old people, Simeon and Anna are examples. In fact, God doesn't seem to be concerned with age at all, if the person concerned is prepared to listen to God's call and act on it.

So what can be done to achieve age diversity? This is, as we all know, a far from simple question, but is something to ponder as we all get older. It is often difficult to take on roles that other people have done for years, and it can be very difficult to let someone with little experience take on those roles. We want to pass on all that we learned so that they can avoid our mistakes. We often forget how much things have changed. "Time makes ancient good uncouth" to quote the hymn. But we need to engage in dialogue.

A small example. I have recently been getting many more calls to my mobile, as people in general drop landlines. But, like some other, older people, I do not keep my mobile with me at all times, it lives in my jacket pocket, hung up on the back of the door. For the landline, however, we have 7 cordless handsets scattered around the house; there is always one nearby, and there is an answer phone attached. I don't want to have a mobile in my hand, but for

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

DEADLINE for inclusion in June edition is **THU 18th MAY**

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.'