

Harlington June

Methodist 2023

Monthly

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

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Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

01525 875850 martinwallis@hotmail.com

Hello all,

You have another letter from me this month. If you want to read what Claudia has written, her sermon for Pentecost is in the service for Pentecost Sunday, 28th May that came out with the monthly!

What makes a church? We know that the church is the community of worshippers, rather than the building, but is that all? Perhaps I could ask what makes a good church, but that brings its own issues.

Perhaps I can throw in a few thoughts.

At the top of the list must come the obvious. A (Christian) church is a community of people who believe in God, and that they are reconciled with God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Of course, if we are reaching out to new people there may be some joining our community who are learning but have not yet accepted Jesus Christ.

What else? I think there should be a place or places for learning, and opportunities to question and discuss in good faith and with tolerance and empathy. I know at least 4 different interpretations of Jesus' death (Rev. David Hinson prepared a series for the Local Preachers.) Different people have different understandings. Consider the different responses to that verse in "In Christ alone".

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

What about places of mission and evangelism? Jesus told us to go into all the world. I think a church should facilitate that in a variety of ways as well as push us a bit to do it.

How about worship, a word which is used to mean different things by different people? Should we all look for the same thing or should we expect differences? If the latter, how do we create unity in diversity? Is it a matter of what we like, or is there an element of what we need? How do we cope when what I need and what you need seem to clash?

Then there is care, both for each other in the church and for those on the fringes or even outside the church. Are we structured to care? Better, are we inspired to care? It seems to me that a group of people who don't, at least care for each other can hardly be regarded as a community. That, by the way, is what lies behind "Creating Safer Spaces" and the work of safeguarding.

You may notice that these broadly follow the headings that Methodism is currently using. Do you agree with them? What would you change? What could be done better, to be a better church and community.

A church is not a building, not even a group who meet in a building. How are we doing?

Clive

◀ BACK TO PENTECOST ▶

Sunday 28 May 2023 - 3pm

**Mobilising Christians to gather
in public spaces to sing, pray and
go LIVE on social media at 3.15pm**

#BACKTOPENTECOST

Instagram Twitter Facebook YouTube

**Bringing the LIGHT of the GOSPEL
and the CHURCH to the PEOPLE...**

WWW.NDOPW.COM
MORE INFO: 07429 379 777

WHAT IS BACK TO PENTECOST?

Christians of every stream, tradition and denomination across the British Isles and Ireland are being invited to take part in a public Pentecost Flash mob. The plans are for Christians to take part in Flash mobs at 3.00pm in the afternoon of Sunday 28th May in shopping malls, high streets, railway stations, town halls or key public places.

All those taking part will sing the same song and pray the Lord's Prayer AT THE SAME TIME (3:15pm) as a sign of unity.

These will occur across the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales and the Isles - TOGETHER!

Please don't overthink it; join us today and tell every Christian you know. Can you imagine what will happen if the millions of Christians in these Lands UNITE AS ONE?

Life Church are organising a gathering in Harlington village car park at 3.00pm to sing at 3.15 Sunday afternoon 28th May and would like you to join with them.

WANTED

We still need volunteers for jobs. Property Committee is taking over the various property jobs, but there are others.

Clive

RECYCLING TOOTHBRUSHES AND TUBES

Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be anywhere locally to take these, so we won't be collecting any more, unless anyone can give us further information.

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 are currently looking at the 2nd half of John's Gospel.



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on 17th June at 4 pm and 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. Do remember this is “messy” church and therefore there is usually at least one messy activity!

We are now going back to the last part of St. Paul, so there will be a shipwreck! We may even go for snakes! (You look up the story in Acts) There will be a number of things to do, some involving



things to eat.

Our normal format is to do activities until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes singing and 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 past celebrations are still on YouTube.

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.



Mrs Stella Inwards
11 Bunyans Walk
Harlington
NR Dunstable

Date: 12/05/2023

3 The Boulevard
Ascot Road
Watford WD18 8AG
T.01923 361 500
actionforchildren.org.uk

Thank You

Dear Stella Inwards,

We were so grateful to receive your £185.39 donation on behalf of Harlington Methodist Church, and it's really important to me that I take a moment to say thank you.

Thanks to the generosity of you, and all our supporters up and down the U.K, Action for Children works directly with more than 671,000 children, young people and their families. Our frontline workers were on the ground helping children and families through 447 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online.

Our aim is to support the most disadvantaged young people who experience severe difficulties in their lives.

Working hard to give a better start in life to children in care through our Fostering and Adoption services, and offering inspirational care and support for disabled children and young people, and the families who care for them, are just some of the things we do on a daily basis.

Thanks to our network of local services, we're helping thousands of children all over the U.K.

Again, thank you for your £185.39 donation, we really couldn't do it without you.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Howard
Supporter Services Officer

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. Action for Children, previously NCH, was founded in 1869. Registered Office: 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 8AG. Telephone: 01923 361 500. Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092. Company no. 4764232. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard



JUNE DIARY

- 1st 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
2nd 1830 626 Club
3rd
4th 1000 Morning Service Come and See led by Martin Wallis
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Joanne Sherwood
5th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1700 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
6th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
7th 1545 Outside Booking Emily Hancock Child Singing
8th 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
9th 1830 **NO** 626 Club
2015 TFT
10th 1000 Outside Booking - Private Party
11th 1000 Morning Service led by John Enejo
12th 1700 TFT Band Practice
13th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
14th 1545 Outside Booking Emily Hancock Child Singing
15th 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 15—John 13: 8—13—A Traitor?
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1930 CHURCH COUNCIL
16th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
17th 1600 Messy Church
18th 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi, with Communion
19th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1700 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
20th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
21st 1545 Outside Booking Emily Hancock Child Singing
22nd 1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1730 Churches Together in Harlington
23rd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

24th 1600 Outside Booking - FILM CLUB 2
25th 1000 Morning Service led by The Worship Group
26th 1700 TFT Band Practice
27th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
28th 1545 Outside Booking Emily Hancock Child Singing
29th 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 16—John 14—Comfort
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1930 Worship Consultation
30th 1830 626 Club

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - JUNE

DATE	FROM	TO	GROUP
4th June	1430	1730	PBGS—Singing
5th June	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
6th June	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
7th June	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
10th June	1000		Private Party
13th June	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
14th June	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
19th June	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
20th June	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
21st June	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
24th June	1600	1800	FILM CLUB 2
27th June	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
28th June	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR—Speakers for June

1st tba
8th Rosemary Barratt
16th Members Own
22nd Ivor Mitchelmore
29th Rev. Claudia Lupi

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

May was a funny month for Sunday services. This was because we had two United Services, neither of which was in the chapel. The first, on the first Sunday in May and replacing our normal "Come and See" was an open air service on Bury Orchard marking the Coronation.



This was led by St. Mary's and

the Life Church, and Martin spoke. The following week we had the annual united service for Christian Aid Week, hosted in the Village Hall by the Life Church, led by Robert from St. Mary's and with Rev. Claudia preaching.

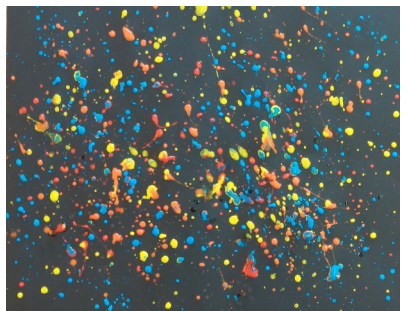
These were both good services, the only down side being that we couldn't run Zoom etc. The collection at the service was £133.50 which has been sent to Christian Aid. The rest of the services were as normal.



The TFT band played at the picnic following the service. TFT are also back into the "Ultimate Frisbee" season.

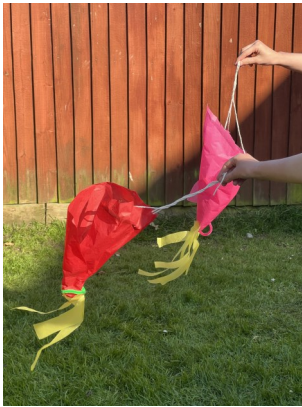
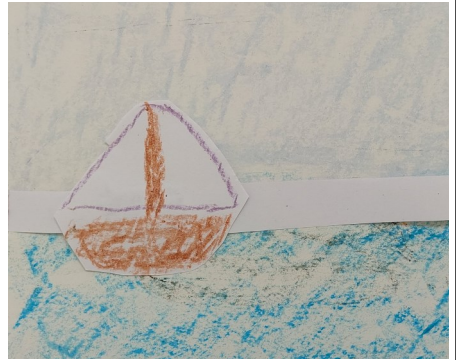
626 has continued strongly. We are averaging 25 in term time This is, in part, due to us having a lovely group of 6 year olds joining after New Year. Currently the club children are mainly at the lower end of the age group.

Crafternoon Tea has



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)



met twice, which included the extra bank holiday.

Messy Church was not so well attended this month, but we still had fun and learned about Ascension and Pentecost. We made splatter pictures to represent fire, and windsocks and moving boats for wind. Fruit flan introduced the fruits of the Spirit and cakes with candles celebrated the birthday of the



Church.. We also made pom-pom "fruit" and Ascension spirals with cotton wool clouds.

The Thursday Fellowship Groups are also continuing.

FILM CLUB

The first meeting of the new Film Club will be on 24th June at 4 pm.
Clive

WIFI

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

ISSUE #31

Welcome to the twenty-eighth edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JULY** edition will be **THU 15TH JUNE** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 22nd June 2023. These seem early but it's the way the Sundays fall.

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
04 June	am Mary pm	
11 June		
18 June		
25 June		Doreen

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

FLOWER ROTA

Another plea for more names on the Flower rota please
Jo

(Continued from page 11)

were you, I wouldn't start from here" - but unless we do we have lost people before we even begin.

So we may want to review how we are going to undertake mission and where we are going with it.

Prayer

Lord God, send your Holy Spirit to us to empower and encourage us to go out. Help us to learn to bring you to others. Show us where to start and teach us what to say.

Amen

REFLECTION

The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 8 inclusive. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked, "Are not all these men who were speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?"

The familiar story of the day of Pentecost is the start of the disciples' evangelism after Jesus' ascension. There are several points that come from it. For a start, the disciples had been told to wait until the Holy Spirit came. Until then they were to do nothing. We too can do nothing without empowerment; we need the Holy Spirit to be effective. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage and strength to take risks. We are often unwilling to do the same.

Then it must be remembered that the disciples went out. They went to where people were. We can find ways to bring people into our building, but we really need to think how we will meet them where they are. And the disciples were not at this time trying to create a church. They were trying to tell the people something they needed to know. There is a danger that we think of everything in terms of building our numbers when we should be thinking about meeting people's needs.

Next, consider that the disciples were speaking in the languages of their listeners. In a country where most people think they speak the same language, it is amazing how many variations there are. Often we are not speaking the language of our listeners, but are speaking our own church language. The crowd in Jerusalem were amazed by the disciples speaking their languages. Sometimes people are amazed by us, but for the opposite reason!

The story continues with Peter reminding his listeners what the prophet Joel had said. They would all have been aware of this. Peter, therefore, started where the people were. It can be difficult for us to do that. We may feel that they are so far from us that getting to where they are is too difficult—"If I

(Continued on page 10)

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.'