



Harlington *August*

Methodist **2023**

Monthly

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

01582 663639/07702 012755 reverendlupi@yahoo.com

Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

01525 875850 martinwallis@hotmail.com

One of the problems with the way we often learn Bible stories is that we learn a series of episodes and don't see the links between them. (For those who have lived in London, it's a bit like the way we use the Underground map without realising just how close some places are, because they are on different lines and seem to be a long way apart.)

Matthew chapter 14 contains three stories, the first of which is rarely considered with the other two. The chapter starts with the death of John the Baptist. It is on hearing this news that Jesus tries to get a bit of solitude, but the crowd follows him. We know this second story as "The Feeding of the Five Thousand". This is then followed by the story of Jesus walking on the water, and of Peter trying to do the same thing. Three quite different stories which follow one another but which we usually separate. I was looking at the chapter for Messy Church as I wanted the third story.



A few years ago we were set the challenge of reading the Bible in a year. This requires you to read quite large sections of the Bible at a time. This may help you see how things fit together, although it also has the risk of overload. I would, however, suggest that it is a good idea when faced with a passage from the Bible to have a quick look at the bit just before and the bit just after

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to help place the passage in its context. Sometimes it is surprising how it all fits together and gives us new understanding of familiar readings.

Another thought from this chapter is the recognition that even Jesus wanted time on his own to think. Also that he didn't always get it, but that he treated those who interrupted with kindness and generosity. In the holiday season many people try to get away for a break. I think that ministers particularly need time to reflect, and not just on holiday. But there is also the question of the way Jesus responds to the crowd. The Feeding of the Five Thousand is

in all four Gospels. In Mark chapter 6, Mark's version of the story, it says, "Jesus had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd". Do we have compassion on the people who interrupt us?



Now is holiday time, a time for a break even if you don't go away.

Have a rest and help others to have a rest too, but if things happen, remember compassion.

Clive

WIFI

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

AUGUST DIARY

- 1st 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th 1000 Morning Service led by Fredrick Cole
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Nigel Bibbings inc Communion
- 7th
- 8th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 9th
- 10th
- 11th
- 12th
- 13th 1000 Morning Service led by Colin Quine
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 14th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 15th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 16th
- 17th
- 18th
- 19th
- 20th 1000 Morning Service led by Martin Wallis with Communion
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 21st
- 22nd 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 23rd
- 24th
- 25th
- 26th
- 27th 1000 Morning Service led by (Local Arrangement)
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 28th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley

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29th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
30th
31st

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - AUGUST

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
1st Aug	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
6th Aug	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
8th Aug	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
13th Aug	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
14th Aug	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
15th Aug	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
20th Aug	1430	1730	PBGS –Singing
22nd Aug	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
27th Aug	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
28th Aug	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
29th Aug	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing

STEWARDS NEEDED

At our last Church Council we were reminded that we need more volunteers to be Church Stewards. We try to keep to the Six Year Rule, but before much longer all the current stewards will have been in post more than six years. Could you be a Steward? Talk to Martin, Clive, or Tina.

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Our normal Sunday services happened, including Zoom and YouTube, except for the 9th, when we went to Dunstable Downs.



The weather for the 9th was difficult to forecast, as Dunstable seemed to be right on the dividing line between weather systems. The set-up team arrived just before 9 am, and met the guy delivering the Portaloos at the gate. After the usual issues unlocking, we sorted out which way we would face and started to set up for the service. There was one sharp shower just before 10 while we were setting up, but by the time the congregation came the rain had stopped and gradually the weather improved so that by the time we were having our picnic the sun was shining. We had a good time of worship, including songs from the Zimbabwe Church that meets at Oakdale. The theme was homes, and some people made shelters and others had made cardboard model houses which were put together to form a town.



One other thing we did in a morning service was to say farewell to Jo, who has now moved to Hitchen.

Film Club has met twice since our last monthly. After the summer break I'm sure the parents will be reviewing how things have gone and deciding where to go from here.

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TFT has now paused for the holidays, having been busy in July with the Lower School Fayre and other band things. I believe they will be part of a larger BB band tour.

626 has been out on Bury Orchard as often as the weather permitted. We got some new kites as well.



We held Messy Church, a small attendance but with much fun and creativity.



What do you think of our lighthouses? We talked about Peter walking on the water, but we looked at the people who protect us and rescue us, particularly at the seaside. We made rock cakes, both because we like them and because people are often rescued from rocks/cliffs at the seaside. We made sandcastle desk tidies and then pictures that showed a fire engine or an ambulance depending on the angle you look at them, paintings of helicopters and "helicopter" twirls as well as boats, and, of course, tea. Do look around the church to see actual examples (but not of rock cakes because we ate them).



Ladies Bright Hour has met, including a farewell for Jo.

The Thursday fellowships have continued. Sandra has now taken over the Thursday morning fellowship.

Open the Book at Harlington and Sundon continued till the end of term.

ISSUE #32

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **SEPTEMBER** edition will be **THU 17TH AUGUST** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 24th August 2023. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church takes a break in August and so our next Messy Church will be on 16th September at 4 pm which 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.

In September we will celebrate creation and the wonderful world we live in. Do remember this is “messy” church and therefore there is usually at least one messy activity!

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.

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR

The Ladies Bright Hour don't meet in August. We restart on Thursday 7th September. Why not come and join us at 2.45pm in the Methodist Hall for an interesting and informative afternoon, friendliness and tea and biscuits.

SPECTACLES

If anyone has any old pairs of spectacles Stella will be collecting them during August for Chris Berry to take with him when he next goes to visit the hospital in India in September.

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
06 August	am John pm TBA	
13 August	John	
20 August	Cathy	
27 August	Mary	

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

**FLOWER ROTA
This is looking very blank at present. Could you fill a space?**

WHO TO CONTACT IN AUGUST

August is a holiday month, and with that, Jo moving and Dorothy's operation we are a bit thin on the ground.

Claudia is away until the 28th of August. She is being covered as follows:

Now to 13th August contact Patrick Kandeh 01582 732524

14th to 28th August contact Nigel Bibbings 01525 872026

There will be no Church Stewards around until 13th August so if you need to contact anyone before then you will need to go direct.

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.

FAREWELL HMC

Dear Friends



First of all, thank you so much for the lovely send off you gave me on Sunday 16th and all your good wishes. I shall miss you all so much but I think it's right that I should join a new church so I can worship locally and make friends. The Methodist Church is wonderful in that it's a worldwide family and I hope I can prove that in Hitchin.

My 40+ years at HMC have been a great time of fellowship

and learning, we've had our highs and lows and we've shared them together. I shall always remember all the ministers I've known and especially all you folk and the ones who've gone before.....

My new address is 1 Tudor Court, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2BE so please come and visit me and I'll definitely be back to visit you

With love and blessings Jo

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the church family for your prayers, get well messages, cards and flowers following my recent back surgery.

Dorothy

TECHNOLOGY

In view of the absences we are not able to run our usual Zoom or YouTube on 30th July or 6th August. We hope to resume normal service on 13th August. If anyone wants to learn more about the technology, either in simplified or full formats, let me know.

Clive

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Stella has received this letter from Action for Children. The amount includes the Count Your Blessings money.



Mrs Stella Inwards
11 Bunyans Walk
Harlington
Dunstable
LU5 6NN

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

Date: 27/07/2023

Thank You

Dear Mrs Inwards

We were so grateful to receive your recent donation of £529.77 on behalf of Harlington Methodist Church. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

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. You can find out more about our work and impact on our website – www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact

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

Thank you again for your incredible support.

Yours sincerely,

Linden Lance
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



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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 September edition is **THU 17th AUGUST**
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.'