



Harlington *September*

Methodist **2023**

Monthly

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Hi folks,

Have you noticed how many different New Years there are? Even the church has more than one. We have the Calendar New Year, sometimes celebrated with a Watchnight service, the Liturgical New Year starting with the first Sunday in Advent, some office holders start their New Year in May, and we start the main New Year in September, with the Academic New Year.

There is a Charlie Brown cartoon where Lucy is thumbing through her diary, and comes to the conclusion that the year is not, in fact, new but is a "used" year. As I get older I think that there are a few years like that. Ecclesiastes chapter 1 verse 9 (NIV) says:

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago. It was here before our time.

Of course, as soon as you say that you realise how ridiculous it is. What is more, as soon as we stop complaining that nothing changes we start to complain that everything has changed! However there are some things which don't seem to change.

Regretfully, the first of these seems to be human nature. We live in a world where frequently it seems that the poor are generous and willing to share the little they have, while the rich seem to want to hang on to what they have and look for ways to gain more. People generally seem to be prepared to believe

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any old rubbish if it fits their preconceptions. (One of my favourite radio programmes is “More or Less”, which looks at numbers and statistics that get casually quoted by people who saw them somewhere and don’t take the trouble to check, like the person who claimed that 300 million tons of beef were consumed annually in the UK, which, if it were true, would mean that on average we each ate 5 tons of beef a year, or around 30lbs of beef a day!) I could rant on....

Thankfully something which really doesn’t change is the love of God. Part of our duty as Christians is to challenge the bad results of human nature and make sure that people have a chance to know about the love of God for them.

So can we make this new Methodist year a genuine “New” Year? Can we take the best of the things that don’t change into a world where things should change and play our part in fulfilling Revelations chapter 21 verse 5

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

Clive

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.

WIFI

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

SEPTEMBER DIARY

- 1st 1830 626 Club
- 2nd
- 3rd 1000 Morning Service led by Tina and Clive Salmon
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 4th
- 5th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 6th
- 7th 1430 Thursday Fellowship
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 8th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 9th
- 10th 1000 Morning Service—Local arrangement
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 11th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 12th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 13th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 14th 1430 Zoom Fellowship—Session 16—John 14—Comfort
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1930 Worship Consultation
- 15th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 16th 1600 Messy Church
- 17th 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 18th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 19th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 20th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 21st 1430 Thursday Fellowship
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
- 22nd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT

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23rd

24th 1000 Morning Service—Local Arrangement/United Service
1430 Outside Booking PBGS

25th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley

26th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS

27th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing

28th 0830 Outside Booking NHS
1430 Zoom Fellowship—Session 17—The Secret of the Vine
1445 Ladies Bright Hour
1930 HCT Meeting

29th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

30th 0930 Circuit Youth Leader Training—all day
1000 Coffee Morning

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The two Thursday Fellowship groups still meet, every other week.

At 10.30 am. Live. Please contact Helen/Sandra 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.

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR

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.

Speakers

7th. - TBA

14th - Nigel Bibbings

21st – Colin Quine

28th - Patrick Kandeh (Meeting in Sanctuary)

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - SEPTEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
3rd Sep	1430	1730	PBGS—Singing
5th Sep	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
10th Sep	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
11th Sep	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
12th Sep	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
13th Sep	1545	1800	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
17th Sep	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
19th Sep	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
24th Sep	1430	1730	PBGS –Singing
25th Sep	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
26th Sep	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
28th Sep	0830	1730	NHS Community Health Workers
	1930	2100	HCT Meeting
30th Sep	0930	1730	Circuit Youth Leader Training

ROTAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STEWARD</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
03 September	am pm	Setterfields	
10 September		Jo?	FLOWER ROTA September may be full but there are other spaces to be filled.
17 September		Madeline	
24 September		Alan and Christine	

LETTER FROM NELLIE

I did wonder, hesitate, as to whether I should include my particular 'hellos' of the forthcoming, fairly momentous, birthday on Sunday 27 August 2023 for the September issue of Methodist Church News but it seemed a sort of presumptuous (early days) but these are things I really want to say.

Most strongly I feel I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank everyone for the kindnesses and friendship I have received from members and friends of Harlington Methodist Church and of course many in the village. I would have liked also to include everyone at my celebration, but nephews and nieces still abound, family spread here and there, so an occasion for us all to gather. I am actually the last of the Kent family. We were five girls and five boys – I was the eighth child. So much responsibility I feel.

My association with the Methodist Church goes back to childhood. My mother, Adelaide Kent, nee Giles moved from Ledburn, Bucks after my father had died in 1926. He was a tenant farmer on the Mentmore Estate. He caught a chill at haymaking time mid year, developed pneumonia and unfortunately did not recover. Maybe mother returned to the village for a hopeful assistance from her four brothers, the Giles's. we came back to Wood Farm, Sundon Road and there was quite a large herd of dairy cattle. My mother would have commenced attendance at 'chapel' immediately. I can remember services in the old chapel and Sunday School. The Harlington families, also the Cleavers, Deatons, Stones, the Chambers, Justices all. I can bring them all to mind despite being so young. As we trooped into Chapel, the present one, filling at least two pews. Ladies Bright Hour was ongoing those many years ago and course Mrs Patti Stone, two of my aunts and other well known ladies of the village, Mrs Alf Denton a lovely image in my mind as I was allowed to come on a Thursday afternoon on way home ,from school and after was given a delicious piece of home made cake. So, dear Ladies Bright Hour, unexpectedly to me, you gave me such a celebration last Thursday afternoon, Barbara Donaldson and her ladies choir, tea, cakes and flowers – so beautiful. Please print a SPECIAL thank you from me.

Well dear Mary, Trevor the point of my letter here to you, is that you acknowledge in September issue Church News, my thanks to everyone for my life since 2007 here in the village and your consequent friendship, it has been joyous.

Yours sincerely

Nellie Nicholls

ISSUE #33

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **SEPTEMBER** edition will be **THU 14TH SEPTEMBER** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 21st September 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



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. 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.

CTIH PRAYER WEEKEND 21st -24th September 2023

Each year has a different theme, this year our theme is ‘HOMELESSNESS’. The weekend starts at 2pm on Thursday 21st Sept and finishes with a United Service at 10am on Sunday 24th September. Each year a ‘Prayer Tent’ is erected in the Sanctuary for quiet personal prayer and we also have a creative prayer area. If you would like to spend time in prayer for the Homeless or for any other reason during our Prayer Weekend go to one of the Church Websites where you will find a link to the Time Slot Sign-up Sheet which will show you times available or contact Vicky Yorke on 07984762567 for further details. Martin is our contact. More information will be available later.

BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST ANNUAL BIKE'N HIKE

The Beds & Herts historic churches trust annual Bike'n Hike charity ride, walk and drive around our churches takes place on Saturday 9th September. Our church will be open to receive and sign for visiting volunteers from 9am to 5pm.

We need volunteers to man our reception desk. We also have sponsorship packs for those who want to go out on their chosen churches tour.



BEDS & HERTS
Historic Churches Trust

If you can do an hour or two at the church or want a sponsor pack please contact John.

LINK TO HOPE

Helping to rebuild lives and communities in Eastern Europe.

Please ask me for a leaflet if you would like to take part in this year's Shoe-box Appeal.

All completed shoeboxes need to be delivered to me or left at the church by 1st November.

Thank you very much,

Dorothy

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.

CIRCUIT STEWARD

Following changes in the Circuit Stewards, "our" Circuit Steward will be Tania Stanford.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all your kind thoughts and wishes during my recent latest hospital trip. I am much improved and back home but still on increased medication and resting as much as possible.

Mary.

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Over the summer period we have had more Local Arrangements than usual for our morning services. Cathy led one at the end of July, having recently visited Ephesus. Also we could not Zoom or stream for two weeks as both Martin and Clive were away. We are now back to normal.

Many things took a break in August, including 626, TFT, LBH and Messy Church. These all restart in September.

Crafternoon Tea has continued in August, although they had to cancel the last July date.

HARVEST

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 1st October. We would normally decorate the church on the afternoon before, which will be Saturday 30th September. This will be a coffee morning day, as the last Saturday in September, but it also coincides with a Mental Health First Aid course, which Harlington is hosting (and at least 3 members are attending), and which runs from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The course will use the church in the morning, and the lower hall in the afternoon.

There will be tables and vases available in the lower hall during the coffee morning, for people to arrange their own flowers, or the flowers provided by others. Please leave all the completed arrangements on one table, but leave all the tables used for the coffee morning out, as they can be used for lunch. The flower arrangements will be moved into the church in the course of the afternoon – either over the lunch break and/or after the course is finished. If there are other things than flower arrangements to be put in the church (should we be given a theme by the preacher), they can be left with the flowers.

REFLECTION

When my children first went to school and started to be taught arithmetic I was amazed at the way they were taught and the theory they were taught with it. When I went to University to study Mathematics, the first thing we did in the Pure Maths module was to learn about Peano's Axioms for a Whole Number System. With this we went on to derive what numbers are, and not just whole numbers but all numbers. I could go on to talk about Dedekind and how Goedel brought the whole thing crashing down.

When I go to the shops to buy something, the last thing I want is Peano's Axioms. I just want simple arithmetic to count my change. There is a need for the deep theory, but for everyday living we don't need or want it.

When I study the Bible I quite like the deeper insights that modern theological study has given us, but for everyday life I could do with the simple and straightforward. I blame Paul for the theological complexities, but if it hadn't been him someone else, such as Augustine of Hippo, would have complicated things.

Christianity, like maths, is at its heart, simple. That doesn't mean it isn't difficult.

It is not that Christianity has been tried and found difficult, it is that it has been found difficult and not tried.

There are times when you need the complexities, the deeper understanding of faith, but it is always necessary to know the basics, that God loves us, that Jesus died for us, that we are forgiven and that we need God.

We live in a world that very largely doesn't want to accept that, a world full of people getting by. Sometimes they wonder why they aren't satisfied.

In my office I have a copy of an original illustration from Winnie the Pooh. It shows a small boy dragging a teddy bear downstairs by one arm. The text is:

"This is Winnie the Pooh going downstairs. Sometimes he feels that there is another way if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it."

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People can be like that. They know there should be something more, but the constant bumps of life put the search for it out of their minds as they fight for the day-by-day. The parable of the sower comes to mind as I think of different sorts of things that represent the bumps.

So what is the conclusion of all this reflection? Well for one thing, do we know what we believe? Then, do we think about how we live to show it? Finally, have we got a story to tell that might help others, and a way of letting them have a moment of deep quiet to think about it.

Dear Lord,

Let us find our story and share it with others, so that they can find their story and you.

Amen

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 14th SEPTEMBER**
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.'