

Harlington *October* Methodist **2023** Monthly

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

01582 663639/07702 012755 reverendlupi@yahoo.com

Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

01525 875850 martinwallis@hotmail.com

September is the month when activities restart, by October we are fully back in the swing of things and, horror of horrors, even starting to think about Christmas! And so we fit ourselves back into our daily, weekly, monthly and even annual pattern of activities. Why does this remind me of Ecclesiastes?

And yet we all know to turn away from Ecclesiastes' call of "Meaningless, meaningless." If you are just following a pattern because you have done that for years, is it time to look round and say, "Time for a change"? If you feel you aren't achieving anything with what you do, is it time to do something different?



It is an often repeated aphorism that to do the same thing and expect a different result is the definition of madness. When we want a new result we need to take a new action. Sometimes when we all change jobs in the church we decry the change—"same people, different hats". Is a change as good as a rest? Does it give us a chance to use our past experience to see things in a new light?

So, this October, is there anything you want to change? Is there something you'd like to try? Is there something you would love to give up? What can we do to support each other in this?

Clive

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets every Thursday afternoon at 2.45pm in the hall.

Members have the opportunity to hear from a variety of invited speakers, share in the company of others and enjoy a nice cup of tea. So why not join us?

New members are always made very welcome. No need to book ahead, just come along! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Speakers for October are as below.-

5th. Russell Preston

12th. Frederick Cole

19th. Rose Agnew

26th Claudia

Helen James

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.

CIRCUIT STEWARD

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

WIFI

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

OCTOBER DIARY

- 1st** 1000 **HARVEST** Service led by Frederick Cole
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
1800 Evening Service—Open The Book Anniversary Service
- 2nd 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 3rd 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
2000 Finance & Property Ctte—Zoom
- 4th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 5th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 6th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 7th
- 8th** 1000 Morning Service—Led by Worship Group
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
- 9th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 10th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
- 11th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 12th 1430 Zoom Fellowship Group—Session 16—John 14—Comfort
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 13th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 14th 1600 Film Club
- 15th** 1000 Pastoral Visitors Dedication Service
Led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
1430 Outside Booking PBGS
1800 **CIRCUIT SERVICE @ The Square** with President of Conference
- 16th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 17th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
1745 Outside Booking PBGS
1930 Church Council—on Zoom
- 18th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 19th **LOCAL BY-ELECTION**
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1930 Churches Together in Harlington

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20th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

21st 1600 Messy Church

22nd 1000 Morning Service—Led by Geoff Best

1430 Outside Booking—PBGS

23rd 1400 Crafternoon Tea

2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley

24th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance

25th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing

26th 1400 Zoom Fellowship Group—Session 17—John 15:1—11—The
Secret of the Vine

1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

27th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

28th 1000 Coffee Morning

29th 1000 Morning Service—Rev Claudia Lupi

30th 1900 TFT Band Practice

31st 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance

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.

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - OCTOBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
1st Oct	1430	1730	PBGS—Singing
3rd Oct	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
4th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
8th Oct	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
9th Oct	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
10th Oct	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
11th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
15th Oct	1430	1730	PBGS-Singing
17th Oct	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS—Singing
18th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
22nd Oct	1430	1730	PBGS –Singing
23rd Oct	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
24th Oct	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
25th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
31st Oct	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance

ROTAS

Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina. There should be more than 2 names on it!

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	
01 October	am Tina pm Tina	Harvest	Please check the flower rota at church and see if you could fill any of the spaces.
08 October	Tina		
15 October	John		
22 October	Tina		
29 October	John		

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

September was the start of the new Methodist year, but services were not quite as normal as there were still a lot of “Local Arrangement” services on the plan. Because we were already down to do two of these, Tina and I took three, and used them to expand further on the Methodist Way of Life.

626 Club restarted, we have 32 on the register, with 27 turning up for the first evening, so our waiting list is still in place.

TFT has also restarted.

Ladies Bright Hour has had a name change to Bright Hour Fellowship and has also been meeting during September.

Messy Church had a Harvest based theme for September. We considered

the end of the story of Noah, with the rainbow promise of seedtime and harvest.

We made a variety of models and finger puppets for birds, insects and animals, planted cress and made some paper “branches”, tried balloon modelling and iced biscuits.



Some of the work is displayed in the chapel.

Fellowship groups are meeting again on alternate Thursdays, see the notice.

Open the Book has started again at both Harlington and Sundon schools.

Cinema Club meets again Saturday 23rd September and 14th October.

ISSUE #34

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **NOVEMBER** edition will be **THU 19TH OCTOBER** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 26th October 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 21st October 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 are basing this session on the story of the Good Samaritan. Do remember this is “messy” church and therefore there is usually at least

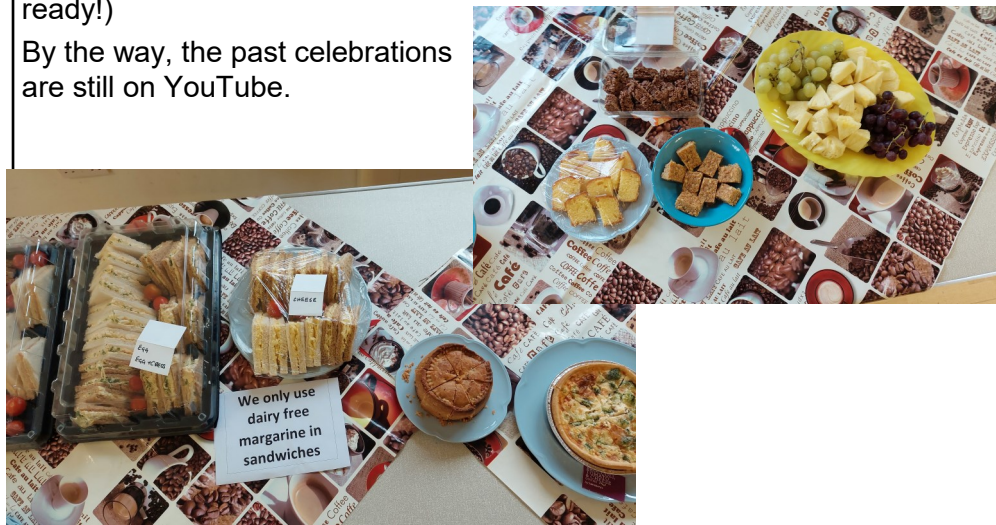
one messy activity!

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. (Special thanks go to the ladies who get tea ready!)

By the way, the past celebrations are still on YouTube.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Celebration will be on 1st October, preacher Frederick Cole. As customary we're asking for donations to All we Can, the Methodist Church's relief and development fund. Envelopes will be available for your gifts, or with details of giving directly to All We Can. Thank you.

During 2023, All We Can's focus has been on the theme, "Communities in the Driving Seat," working with Eagles, their partner organisation in Malawi, empowering communities experiencing poverty to lead the way in tackling it, using their local knowledge and expertise so that change is more effective and sustainable.

By placing communities in the driving seat of their development journey, Eagles has achieved remarkable impact and transformed countless lives. Our donations will directly support the work of Eagles and other partner organisations in Malawi.

We will be decorating for Harvest on Saturday 30th, in the Hall during the Coffee Morning (We have a training course running all day on the Saturday which complicates things!). Those who attend the course will move the arrangements into the Church during their lunch break.

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 Shoebox 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.



The **Methodist** Church

South Bedfordshire Circuit

On 15th of October 2023, 6.00pm
A Circuit Service is taking place at

The Square

(Note change of venue from plan)

Preacher: Rev Gill Newton,
President of The Methodist Conference

All Welcome

This service will also be lived streamed via YouTube



REFLECTION

Each year, Local Preachers are invited to attend a rededication service. As a Worship Leader, I was invited to this service. Geoff Best gave the message, and as part of it he repeated the phrase, "Text without Context is Pretext". He went on to say that we need to consider not just the immediate context of the passage but the context of the whole Bible.

When Tina and I were planning our next run of Messy Churches we wanted to speak more about what Christianity is in terms of Jesus' life and teaching. We settled on using the story of the Good Samaritan, the healing of Bartimaeus, and the story of Zacchaeus.

In these three stories we learn something of what Jesus came to show. The first is a story told in the context of a question asked of Jesus by someone trying to defend himself. When Jesus says, "Love your neighbour as you love yourself", which is a quote from the Old Testament, the lawyer asks, "Who is my neighbour?"

It is clear that the lawyer is aware that "neighbour" doesn't just mean the person next door. Whether he is trying to limit the scope of the word, or genuinely confused is less clear. Jesus usually knows what is in the mind of his questioners and therefore what direction his answer needs to take, and tells the story of the Good Samaritan. It is difficult for us to really feel the impact of the story as 2000 years have led us to associate "Samaritan" with "Helper", but in Jesus' day, at least to a Jew, Samaritans were the lowest of the low. They followed what the Jews held to be a perversion of the faith, an amalgam of Judaism and the Canaanite religions. If you recall the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well at Sychar, she talked about the Samaritan descent from Jacob.

So when Jesus makes a Samaritan the hero of the story he is picking someone who many Jews would not actually want to be helped by. When Jesus points him out as neighbour to the injured Jew, he challenges the current viewpoint of the Jews of the time as to whom should be loved.

Healing Bartimaeus has a similar effect. People who had an infirmity were seen as less in Jesus day. You may remember, at another healing, the disciples asked, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" Infirmity was seen as a sign of God's displeasure. When Bartimaeus cried out, the crowd tried to shut him up, but Jesus called for him and healed him. This is another example of Jesus showing, in this case through his actions, that the Bartimaeus and others like him, should not be ignored.

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The story of Zacchaeus is a further example of Jesus including the excluded. In this case it is a taxman, a hated collaborator with the Romans and extorter of money. (By the way, Roman taxes were lower than ours.) The Romans operated a system known as "Tax Farming". This is a sort of privatised tax collection. A person bids to the Roman governor for the right to collect taxes. They agree how much they will pass on and the rest they keep. They most likely sub-let the collection. Matthew was also a tax collector, but probably on a smaller scale, collecting taxes at the port. These subsidiary tax collectors also bid for the roll the same way, passing on the agreed amount and keeping the rest. As a system it is wide open to abuse and corruption, and it is clear that this was what was happening in Judea. You may care to look at what happened when Paul was arrested in Jerusalem later on. Jesus makes it clear that someone, even a tax collector, who reached out to him, could be saved without any preconditions. The consequence was that Zacchaeus paid back what he had stolen, but it must be noted that this was not done first, but rather as a response to salvation.

All three stories, in different ways, build up the picture of what Jesus wanted to teach about God's love and who this is for, that is everyone. It's not that the teaching was entirely new, but Jesus lived it.

Of course, the ultimate exercise of this is Easter, and this follows our three Messy Church sessions.

How do you study the Bible? How do you find the context? How do you relate the various parts to each other? How do you relate them to your understanding and experience of God?

Prayer

Lord God, help us to understand what we read in the Bible. Help us to not cherry pick the bits we like or to misunderstand what is meant by what is written. Help us to live our lives in the light of our understanding and to be able to share our faith with others.

Amen

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

DEADLINE for inclusion in November edition is **THU 19th October**

CHURCH BOOKING DIARY

PLEASE check with Trevor before adding any dates or events.

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.'