



# Harlington      November Methodist      2023 Monthly

**Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi**

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**Senior Steward: Martin Wallis**

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Hi all,

Some of you will be aware that Claudia is unwell. She has now been signed off till 3rd December, although she may be around occasionally before then. If you need a minister, contact Patrick.

Please remember that British Summer Time ends and clocks go back an hour over Saturday night/Sunday morning.

Apart from that, have you noticed how shops are getting ready for Christmas? I know that many things need to be planned early, but not buying fairy lights! Obviously some forward planning has to take place, and you might want to think about ways we can use the Christmas Season to tell people that it's about more than trees, turkeys and toys. Churches Together are planning some events, so start to look out for them and for any requests for help with them.



November is a month for Remembrance. We will have the usual Parade and Service at the War Memorial followed by the United Service in St. Mary's. It is chilling to look back at the many and varied causes of both World Wars, not to mention the smaller wars between and since and to realise that, when it comes to seeking peace we have not made a lot of advances. We are still

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inclined to see things in terms of our own advantage and not to look at the wider case for justice and right.

You have probably all heard the story of the motorist who got lost driving down country roads and stopped to ask a local how to get to wherever it was he was going. "If I were you, I wouldn't start from here," came the response. It would be really nice if we could start from somewhere different, get rid of the wrong directions we've taken in the past and start on a clean page.

We can do that with God, but not with the world, which is not as loving and forgiving as God is. We have to look back, admit what was wrong and try to get things back on course. After a while, the Sat Nav stops telling you to turn round and starts recalculating!

Perhaps if we can use November to consider seeking justice then in December we could start thinking about peace.

Clive



**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EVENING WITH  
BISHOP SAMEER ISAAC KHYMLA,  
BISHOP OF DURGAPUR,  
CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA**

On: **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**  
At: **The Square Methodist Church**  
Ashton Square  
Dunstable  
LU6 3SN

Time: **6.30pm Cold Buffet Supper**  
**7.30pm A service**  
with an international flavour  
Guest speaker: Bishop Sameer  
And other invited guests...



Please let us know if you will be joining us for the supper by contacting [dimitchelmor@aol.com](mailto:dimitchelmor@aol.com) or [berrylinda@virginmedia.com](mailto:berrylinda@virginmedia.com)

## NOVEMBER DIARY

- 1st 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 2nd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 3rd 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 4th
- 5th 1000 Morning Service led by Sheila Norris  
1800 United Evening Buyan Service with Holy Communion
- 6th 1400 Crafternoon Tea  
1900 TFT Band Practice  
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 7th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
- 8th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 9th 0830 *Outside Booking—Tricia Murphy/St. Marys*  
1430 Zoom Fellowship Group— Session 17—John 15: 1—11  
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 10th 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 11th 1600 Cinema Club
- 12th 1055 **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at the War Memorial followed by**  
1110 Service at St Marys. NO SERVICE at HMC
- 13th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 14th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
- 15th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 16th 1000 Circuit EDI training Session  
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 17th 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 18th 1600 Messy Church
- 19th 1000 Morning Service—Preacher to be arranged
- 20th 1400 Crafternoon Tea  
1900 TFT Band Practice  
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 21st 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
- 22nd 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 23rd 1430 Zoom Fellowship Group –Session 18—John 15: 12—16: 4  
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 24th 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 25th 1000 Coffee Morning

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- 26th 1000 Morning Service including Holy Communion —Led by Martin Wallis
- 27th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 28th 1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance
- 29th 1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing
- 30th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

### **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. 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 November are as below.-

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Alan Parfit
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Olivia from Action for Children (NB. In Church Sanctuary)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Aley Green with Jam for Sale
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - TBC
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Sue Blain with Poetry

Helen James

### **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.

### **PROJECT**

You may remember that our project for this year is the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel and Palestine. I have printed up some recent articles – mostly from before the 7<sup>th</sup> October attack by Hamas. If you want to see them, ask me.

Our total for the year so far is just short of £400.

Tina

## **OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - NOVEMBER**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>GROUP</b>
1st Nov	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
6th Nov	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
7th Nov	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
8th Nov	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
9th Nov	0830	1730	Tricia Murphy obo St Marys
11th Nov	1500	1900	Cinema Club
14th Nov	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
15th Nov	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
16th Nov	0930	1430	Circuit EDI Training
21st Nov	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
22nd Nov	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
20th Nov	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
28th Nov	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
29th Nov	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

## **ROTAS**

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>STEWARD</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Please check the flower rota at church and see if you could fill any of the spaces.</b>
05 November	am Hazel pm Martin	Doreen Poppies	
12 November	No Service	“ “	
19 November	Cathy		
26 November	John	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.

## REVIEW OF THE MONTH

As our monthly is prepared for the last Sunday of the month, and is circulated on the Friday before, it is easy to miss things happening on that Sunday. It would be a shame to miss the Prayer Weekend, which was again excellent. In particular the service on Sunday morn-



Dunstable  
Salvation Army  
Corps

Mr Martin Wallis  
C/O e-mail: martinwallis@hotmail.com

Dear Martin

RE: DONATION TO COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thank you so much for the very kind donation of £193 we have received, via Christian, to support our work in the Community Kitchen, and I enclose a receipt for your records.

Your donation will be of great help to us as we continue to support those within the community of Dunstable, who are struggling with basic day-to-day living. Unfortunately, there is a great need during these days, and we are grateful to you. Without donations such as these we would not be able to undertake the work that we do. Please pass on our very grateful thanks to all those involved in the decision to send monies to us and please be assured they will be used for the purpose in which they were given.

God bless you.

Yours sincerely

Sue Hall  
Corps Treasurer

ing was memorable, not only as a review of the prayer time but in the way Christian, our speaker, shared not only his experience of working with the homeless through the Salvation Army, but also his experience of being homeless. A col-

lection was taken for the SA, this is the letter from them . If you missed this service it is still available to view on our YouTube channel, look under Live.

We had a lot of preaching changes due to Claudia being unwell. Thanks to Jenny and Geoff for each taking service a short notice.

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626 has met, albeit with one really quiet week when the Friends of the Lower School were running a Halloween Disco—at least it gave us a chance to get the radio controlled model cars out, which we can't do on the normal busy evenings.

TFT won the National BB Ten Pin Bowling contest. Some of the TFT band have been part of a band tour in Scotland over half-term. They seem to have had a good time.

Crafternoon Tea has continued to meet both live and on Zoom, with one person Zooming in from the States! They have also welcomed the people who repurpose last year's wreaths to decorate for Remembrance, as they did last year.

Bright Hour Fellowship has also been meeting. Aley Green is scheduled to come this month, which means jams and pickles.



Messy Church used the parable of the Good Samaritan. We told the story using a sand picture background and lolly stick puppets—I didn't colour mine but some of the children coloured theirs. We covered chocolate buttons with foil to look like coins and there were pouches painted with fabric inks.

We also made chocolate crispy cakes—we should

have added marshmallow to be real "Rocky Road" but we did add raisins. We also made robber masks for the story. We are aiming to show how Jesus changed people's thinking about God through stories, healing and meeting people. As usual there is work displayed in the chapel



The Thursday Fellowship Groups have been meeting.

Film Club has also met, with around 40 children turning up.

Open the Book continues in Harlington and Sundon, and our evening service at the beginning of October was a celebration of 20 years work in Harlington, including stories told in the various ways we use, including one of our films we made when we couldn't go into the schools.

## **HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH**

Our next Messy Church will be on 18th November 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 healing of blind Bartimaeus. 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.

## **LUTON CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP**

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the planned closure of Luton Christian Bookshop. The Religious Book Depot opened in Reginald Street in 1946 and there has been a continuous resource of Christian Literature in Luton for the past 77 years. However, since re-opening after the Covid lockdown we have been losing over £1000 a month. We therefore plan an orderly closure before our financial resources run dry.

However, if any person or organisation has a realistic rescue plan that complies with Charity Commission Rules, or feels they can volunteer for one full day a week, I would love to hear from you before the 3rd November, after which we plan to start a closing down sale.

[john@lutonchristianbookcentre.co.uk](mailto:john@lutonchristianbookcentre.co.uk)).

Final shop closure is planned for 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

May I take this opportunity to thank all customers and Churches for continued encouragement and support at this difficult time.

*John Maple*

Chair of Trustees



## **ISSUE #35**

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **DECEMBER** edition will be **THU 16TH NOVEMBER** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 23rd November 2023. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.



### **The Methodist Church South Bedfordshire Circuit (35/3)**

Beds, Essex & Herts District

#### **All are Welcome?**

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is about ensuring that no-one feels excluded from the Kingdom of God, and that in the Methodist Church all are valued.

The work of the Circuit EDI group continues with a Circuit Service on Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6 pm.

#### **Save the date – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 6pm on Zoom**

Our focus in this service is those for whom attendance at church is difficult or impossible. It is easy for people to be out of sight and out of mind, but we know we should do better than this.

How can the church help those who cannot attend? How can they help us?

The true meaning of Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, (another phrase Methodism uses as an alternative to EDI) requires a two-way street.

Technology may help – hence a service on Zoom – but many people who cannot attend do not have, or are not comfortable with, the latest technology. Where do we go from here?

#### **LINK TO HOPE—LAST CALL!!!**

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 **1<sup>st</sup> November**.

Thank you very much,

Dorothy

## **REFLECTION**

### **Micah 6: 6 – 8 – What does the Lord require?**

Do you ever wonder how a preacher chooses their hymns – or wonder why a particular hymn suddenly becomes very popular? Over the nearly 40 years I have been preaching, my requirements for hymns have often been confounded by the lack of a hymn or worship song that precisely mirrors what I want to say.

Last week, Geoff asked Clive and I to review his service, as part of the circuit's continuing development for Local Preachers. We liked the service, but the reviewing process requires more than "we liked it". One of the questions is "Comment on the way the service was put together", in a section which asks about balance – singing, silence, prayers, etc. We had noticed that 3 of Geoff's hymns came from the Justice and Peace section of Singing the Faith, but we were not sure that the final hymn, "Show me how to stand for justice" (713), was quite the right hymn – although we both like the hymn. Geoff said he thought it was exactly the right hymn! One of the virtues of Methodism is that our preachers are not exactly alike, and as their hymnology will reflect their particular way of thinking, we will get to sing many different hymns.

It has been said, many times, that Methodism sings its theology, including in the preface to Singing the Faith, but I wonder sometimes how true this is, or perhaps, more accurately, whether our changing hymnology sufficiently reflects our changing priorities in society. (Although, in fairness, that is also mentioned in the preface to Singing the Faith)

Take the subject of justice, for example. A subject that has been around in the Bible since the very beginning, in broad terms. The Ten Commandments have to do with justice, and on and off all through the Old Testament, the subject comes up. My text is one of the most famous – God's people are to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. But has that been in our hymnology?

Clive and I possess three generations of Methodist hymnbooks. Working backwards, there is Singing the Faith, authorised in 2010, Hymns and Psalms, authorised in 1983, and The Methodist Hymnbook, authorised in 1933.

In Singing the Faith, the section called Justice and Peace is a sub-section of God's Enduring Purposes. It contains 30 hymns, and lists 7 more, to be found outside the section, which may be appropriate. If one looks at the tex-

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tual reference section towards the back of the music edition – which I suspect does not appear in the words only copy – for the Micah text, there are 7 hymns which reference these verses, including 4 which might be appropriate from outside the section.

Bearing in mind that the subject of the section is justice and peace, we might find, if we went through them carefully, that for many of the hymns, the subject is peace – “Make me a channel of your peace”, no. 707, for example. It talks about many roots of lack of peace, but justice is not one of them. There is no hymn by Charles Wesley in the whole section.

In Hymns and Psalms, there is also a sub-section called Justice and Peace, in the main section God’s World – the Social Order. It contains 16 hymns, including one which specifically references this passage – “What does the Lord require, for praise and offering”. If you want to look at it, there are copies of Hymns and Psalms in the cupboard in the passage, it is no. 414 – it does not appear in Singing the Faith. The section does include a Charles Wesley – “All glory to God in the sky, and peace upon earth be restored!” (his exclamation mark!) Again, many of the hymns in the section focus on peace, rather than justice. 3 hymns outside the section are referenced in the textual index – but only 4 hymns altogether are referenced to this particular passage. There are overlaps between the sections in Hymns and Psalms and Singing the Faith – almost all of them written in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In The Methodist Hymn Book, there is no mention of justice at all. The almost relevant sub-section is Trustfulness and Peace in the Christian Life section. There are 38 hymns in the section, and 25 additional hymns that might fit. The 3 hymns that reference Micah 6: 6 – 8 are not in the Trustfulness and Peace section – which doesn’t surprise me – and are not among the additional hymns either. One, a Charles Wesley, is in Repentance and Forgiveness, one is a harvest hymn, and the third, no. 897, “What service shall we render thee” is in the section National and Social Service: Citizenship and Service, along with “I vow to thee, my country”. I don’t think I have ever sung it, never mind used it in a service.

Next time you are thinking about the hymns used in a service, consider – are there hymns covering your concerns available to the preacher? How do the hymns fit into the service? How do they add to your feeling of worship?

**NOTICES** Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at [hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com). OR

**DEADLINE** for inclusion in December edition is **THU 16th November**

### **CHURCH BOOKING DIARY**

**PLEASE check with Trevor before adding any dates or events.**

**Prayer Chain number:** Dorothy Preston 874841

**Church Website:** [www.harlingtonmethodist.church](http://www.harlingtonmethodist.church)

**Church YouTube channel:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR\\_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw](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.'***