

Harlington *December*

Methodist **2023**

Monthly

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Hi all,

Advent Sunday is the 3rd December, and for the first 4 Sundays of December and Christmas Day we will be lighting Advent Candles. Advent means "coming".



There are various different associations with the candles. If you look at the Advent hymns in Singing the Faith you will see the one Methodists most often use, although we look at different liturgies each year, which may not always focus on these themes.

On the 1st Sunday in Advent we think about the Second Coming, Jesus' promise to return in glory. It may seem odd to consider this at Christmas, which is about Jesus coming to earth the first time. However, we need to remember the purpose of Christmas, and not just think how sweet it was.

The 2nd Sunday considers the Prophets. If Advent is a time of preparation, it is good to remember how long God had been preparing and telling people, through the prophets, what was going to happen. The fact that the prophets were largely ignored or misunderstood shouldn't prevent us from looking at what they said.

Advent Three is the Sunday we concentrate on John the Baptist. John is the end of Old Testament style prophesy and the signal for Jesus. John is an interesting character. His life must have been focused on the job he was to do, although we know nothing of it between his birth and him appearing in the desert and baptising in the Jewish rite for the washing away of sins. He

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appears briefly, baptises Jesus, points some of his own disciples to Jesus, then is arrested and eventually executed because he has upset the King and his wife.

The 4th Sunday, this year Christmas Eve, is for Mary. Christians remember Mary for her willingness to obey God, at some risk to herself. (I think Joseph gets a bit of a raw deal. He had to accept and obey as well. At some stage after Jesus was 11, Joseph must have died.)

Finally, on Christmas Day we celebrate the coming of Jesus when we light the 5th, central candle.

Advent is a time for preparation and for reflecting on what Christmas is really about. Will you use these themes to get ready for Christmas?

Clive

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on 16th December 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. There will be a number of things to do, some involving things to eat.



Unsurprisingly, we will be focussing on the Christmas story on this occasion.

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.

CHANGE OF CONTACT EMAIL

Due to technical issues the usual contact email **hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com** is currently not available.

Please submit any items or room booking requests to: -

the.cavenays@ntlworld.com and/or **t315485@gmail.com**

Thank you. Trevor

DECEMBER DIARY

- 1st 1000 0-4 Carol Service
1400—*Outside Booking—Country Line Dancing*
1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 2nd
- 3rd 1000 Morning Service led by Tina and Clive Salmon
1800 Evening Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Margaret Newman
- 4th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
- 5th 1330 Pre-School Christmas event
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 6th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 7th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 8th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 9th 1600 Cinema Club—"ELF"
- 10th 1000 Morning Service—Led by Martin Wallis inc Holy Communion
- 11th 1200 *Outside Booking—HNL Christmas Dinner*
1900 TFT Band Practice
- 12th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 13th 1230 *Outside Booking—Carol Gibbs NHS Social*
1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 14th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 15th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 16th 1600 Messy Church
- 17th 1000 **FAMILY CAROL SERVICE** —Led by Rev Claudia Lupi
- 18th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
- 19th 1330 *Outside Booking—HLS Carol Service*
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 20th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
1830 **Salvation Army Carols—Hub & Spoke Cafe**
- 21st 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

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22nd 1830 **NO** 626 Club

2015 **NO** TFT

23rd

24th 1000 Morning Service—Led by Chris Berry

25th 0930 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—Led by Rev Claudia Lupi

26th –30th NO PLANNED ACTIVITIES

31st 1000 Morning Service—Led by Colin Quine

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 December are as below.-

07th - Margaret Newman

14th - Claudia

21st - Barbara Donaldson to lead Xmas Music

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. We will not be meeting during December—back on 11th January.

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 7th October attack by Hamas. If you want to see them, ask me.

Our total for the year so far is just short of £450.

Tina

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - DECEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
1st Dec	1000	1100	0-4 Carol Service
1st Dec	1400	1600	Line Dancing
4th Dec	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
5th Dec	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
6th Dec	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
9th Dec	1500	1900	Cinema Club
11th Dec	1200	1500	HNH Christmas Lunch
12th Dec	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
13th Dec	1230	1530	Private Social—Carol Gibbs
13th Dec	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
18th Dec	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
19th Dec	1330	1530	HLS Carol Service
19th Dec	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
20th Dec	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
21st Dec	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance

DATE STEWARD FLOWERS

03 December	am pm Tina		<u>ROTAS</u>
10 December	Hazel		Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
17 December			
24 December		Caveneys &	
25 December		Setterfields	Please check the flower rota at church and see if you could fill any of the spaces.
31 December		_____”_____	

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

Our normal services continued during the month, with some changes to allow for Claudia's sick leave, and for the Remembrance Day service. We celebrated Bunyan at our united evening service on the 5th when Robert Johns spoke and Rev Seung-Wook Jung conducted Communion.

Crafternoon Tea has continued strongly.

We had a good attendance at Church and on Zoom for Messy Church. We told the stories of some of Jesus' miracles, particularly Blind Bartimaeus. We made clay begging bowls, (yes, it really is messy), stamped pictures of



crowds, bookmarks, sheep, chocolate mousse and also advent rings, ready for the start of advent. Then the ones at church had tea.

TFT led the Remembrance Sunday Parade as usual, and have continued to meet on Fridays with band practice on Mondays.

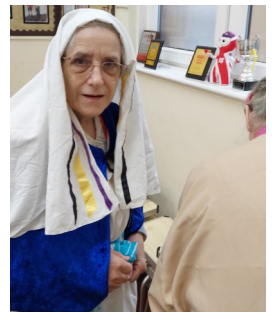
626 have also met regularly.

Bright Hour Fellowship are also meeting, although with some adjustment to speakers to cover for Claudia's absence.

Our Thursday fellowship groups (Thursday is clearly Fellowship Day at the Methodists!) are still meeting. Contact details are elsewhere.

Open the Book at Harlington and Sundon are on-going. At Sundon we have been looking at the story of Joseph.

Film club is now firmly re-established on the second Saturday.



ISSUE #36

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JANUARY** edition will be **THU 14TH DECEMBER** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 28th December 2023. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

CHURCH DECORATION

Could you decorate a window for Christmas?



The Methodist Church South Bedfordshire Circuit (35/3)

Beds, Essex & Herts District

All are Wel-

come?

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 10th December 2023 at 6 pm.

Save the date – 10th 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?

The Zoom link to access the service is:

[https://zoom.us/j/94865623492?
pwd=RlozVHRhYnFrcEU1cUJjdHZxUDQzQT09](https://zoom.us/j/94865623492?pwd=RlozVHRhYnFrcEU1cUJjdHZxUDQzQT09)

Meeting ID: 948 6562 3492

Passcode: 494002

NOTICES Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at the.caveney@ntlworld.com .OR t315485@gmail.com

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

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.'