



Harlington *January* Methodist *2024* Monthly

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

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Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

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Hi all,

May I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Every time I see a reference to "New Year" I am reminded of a Charlie Brown cartoon, where Lucy looks through her new diary and decides that this year is not in fact new, but is a used year. I think she sees that the days and dates line up with a previous year, as, of course, they must.



So what makes a year "new"? Often the new year is just going to be a continuation of what has gone before. After all, 1st January only has significance because we give it significance. Whilst some people will have notable changes during the year, such as new jobs, new houses, educational changes etc., most of us could just continue as we are, except for being a little older. Is this what we want?

The tradition of New Year's Resolutions comes from our desire to improve, and using the change of calendar year as a time to think about things. Of course, most such resolutions are forgotten within days or weeks. It takes a lot to change a habit or develop a new one; six weeks, I believe is a quoted time.

What habits would you like to develop? Are there things you would like to change in your life? How will you start to make such a change? Things could include changes in your prayer life, or Bible reading or church attendance. They could include taking up new roles or giving up old ones.

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If you were to make resolutions for the church, rather than yourself, what would they be? What good habits should the church acquire? How do we go about helping it do that? How could the church help you with the things you want to do or become?

There are no answers to these questions, because they are for each of us to decide, but if you hope for collective change then you need to talk about it with others and bring ideas to the Church Council or the stewards for discussion. What would you prefer, a “New” year or a “Used” one?

Clive



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on 20th January 2024 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. Our January session is based round the story of Zacchaeus, and continues our series about ways Jesus changed how people thought about God.

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.

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.caveney@ntlworld.com and/or **t315485@gmail.com**

Thank you. Trevor

JANUARY DIARY

- 1st
2nd 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
3rd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
4th
5th
6th
7th 1000 **COVENANT SERVICE** led by Rev Claudia Lupi—Communion
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Jenny Spouge
8th 1900 TFT Band Practice
9th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
10th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
11th 1430 Thursday Fellowship—Session 18—John 15: 12—16: 4
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
12th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
13th 1600 Cinema Club -
14th 1000 Morning Service—Local Arrangement
15th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
16th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
17th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
18th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
19th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
20th 1600 Messy Church
21st 1000 **United Service at St Mary's**— Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity
22nd 1900 TFT band Practice
23rd 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
24th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
25th 1430 Thursday Fellowship—Session 19—John 16: 5—15
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
26th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
27th 1000 Coffee Morning
28th 1000 Morning Service—Rev Jenny Spouge inc Communion

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29th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
30th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
31st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*

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 January are as below.-

11th - Pam Greener

18th - Richard Luscombe

25th - Claudia

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.

PROJECT—CURRENT AND FUTURE

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 over £450.

We should be selecting a new project for 2024—it should be a local project. Anyone got any ideas? If so, please mention it to one of the stewards. (Tina, Clive or Martin)

Thanks, Tina

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - JANUARY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
2nd Jan	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
3rd Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
9th Jan	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
10th Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
13th Jan	1500	1900	Cinema Club
15th Jan	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
16th Jan	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
17th Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
23rd Jan	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
24th Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
29th Jan	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
30th Jan	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
31st Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

ROTAS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STEWARD</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
07 January	am pm Tina		The Flower Rota for 2024 will soon be available. Keep your eye out for it and look for spaces you could fill. Or speak to Mary.
14 January	John		
21 January	Not needed	Not needed	
28 January			

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

Unsurprisingly. December was dominated by Carol Services and Christmas events. Our own Carol Service was held on the 17th, and included puppets from 626 Club joined by Freya and Theo, and a song from TFT. Our other



Sunday services were held as usual. It is good to have Claudia back with us leading worship. She led our well attended Christmas Day service before going off to

The Square to lead their service.

Other carol services included the 0-4 Nativity, which had very poor attendance this year, a pre-school nativity, where we sang carols, had a Lego video of the Christmas story and made angels, and where, after drinks and biscuits in the hall, they performed "We're all going on a star hunt", which they were practicing to perform to their parents.

We also had the whole Lower School for a carol service with the Christmas story being presented by a combined "Open the Book" team.

Other carol events which church members were involved with included the Salvation Army carols where Rob and Sue provided the marque and refreshments, which they also did when Parkfield's choir sang at the shops.



626 Club has continued to meet during the month with our last meeting splitting into two groups for the Puppet Workshop. Tina and I make the basic puppet bodies with the mouths in, and the children have to stuff the arms with ordinary stuffing, put shaped foam plastic into the heads, add eyes, hair, noses and tongues, and then rehearse what they will do at the Carol Service.

TFT got through to the England final for Master Team. They also prepared their item for the Carol Service, although this was made difficult because Nicky was unable to attend the rehearsal and Hazel couldn't get to the performance. We enjoyed watching them, with their song, and seeing them enjoying singing carols. The band also played for Father Christmas at the Woburn

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ISSUE #37

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **FEBRUARY** edition will be **THU 18TH JANUARY** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 25th January 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

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Forest Center Parcs site.

Bright Hour Fellowship has met regularly, finishing before Christmas with Carol singing at Barbara's.

Crafternoon Tea is still meeting every fortnight (except New Year's Day!) with the wide variety of crafts going on, plus refreshments.

December Messy Church was our Christmas session, and was well attended. You can always tell how well attended it is by the nature of the leftovers available



after the service the next day. We told the Christmas story with a variety of crafts, making baubles with pictures or angels in, yule logs as Joseph was a carpenter, stained glass stables, nativity story wheels, pompom doll Marys, wafer stables and stars. You can see more examples of the things we made and read the booklet we prepare, in church as we display



the work for two months in windows.

Film Club showed Elf in December. The parents team are working to run this and starting to get used to running a monthly activity.

Beer and Carols took place on a Tuesday this year as the Carpenter's Arms is not opening on Mondays at present.

COVENANT SERVICE

Our annual Covenant Service will take place on 7th January 2024 at 10 am and will be led by our minister, Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion and is an opportunity to reconsider and recommit ourselves to God and the work we are called to do.

14TH JANUARY SERVICE

We have a Local Arrangements service shown on the plan for this Sunday. Most of our LAs are pre-planned by us, but this one has been given to us additionally. If anyone would be prepared to help with this, or to lead it (you may remember the service that Cathy led last summer when she talked about Ephesus) please let me know as soon as possible. Clive

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This service will take place at St. Mary's on 21st January, led by us with a preacher from the Life Church. Unfortunately there will not be Zoom or YouTube for that service.

REV PAULINA HŁAWICZKA-TROTMAN

Most of you probably didn't meet Paulina, but you may remember she married Arlington who then moved to Nottinghamshire where Paulina is a Lutheran Minister. When we received a Christmas card from them we were pleased to see it contained a notice of her Service of Consecration to the role of Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Great Britain. Paulina was elected to this office at their Synod last September and will be consecrated by the current Bishop on 20th January 2024.

SPACE

Not the final frontier, but a gap to be filled. Would you like to fill a gap in a future issue? Tell the church what you or your group are doing. It doesn't have to be a great essay, unless you want it to be. It could be a letter to the church, a reflection on a Bible passage or the story or stories of what is happening. Give it a go?

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas cards to me this year, I was very touched

My thoughts are with you as I envisage all your Christmas services and activities and I'm very grateful to Clive for keeping me in the loop.

I enjoyed a Nine Lessons and Carol's at Christchurch but missed various other things due to Covid. I'm fine, in good time for Christmas and am looking forward to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services there. They have made me very welcome and I'm getting to know quite a lot of people already. Life in Hitchin suits me well and my flat is virtually finished now.

It's been lovely seeing some of you already and I'd love to see anybody who could pop in, and I really mean that!

God bless you all and thank you for your friendship

Jo

MAINTENANCE

As no-one volunteered to replace Jo as property steward, the property committee is taking on this role. This means things will take longer to sort. In general, day-to-day issues seem to be being passed to me. If you notice something, let me know. Some things can be fixed quickly and easily but others will take time. I may well call for volunteers to open up for plumbers or electricians to fix things.

At present the Water Boiler is out of action—we will arrange someone from the firm to look at it in the New Year, in the meantime we have to use kettles. There are also lights in both halls needing fixing, and a bulb flickering in the chapel which needs further investigation.

Clive

HEATING

I used to act as Jo's back-up for the heating. Now I am doing it regularly I could do with a volunteer to act as my back-up. It also helps if users let me know if they are going to be in different locations or out of the building so we don't waste heat and money.

Many thanks

Clive

CHRISTMAS CARDS

There were quite a number of cards sent to the church, the Bright Hour and to Crafternoon Tea this year. Space does not allow each one to be included



individually. So here is an overall picture with thanks.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

We did not have our usual offering for Action for Children on Christmas Day, so there will be a plate in the church for a retiring collection for the next two Sundays.

If you would prefer to give directly, the website address is www.actionforchildren.org.uk, or if you would like to give through the Church account, please let Cathy know where the money is to go.

Thank you

Tina and Stella

PROVERBS

No, not the book in the Bible, although this contains many such, but the everyday kind. Have you ever noticed that when you find a proverb you can often find another to completely contradict it? For example:

“Look before you leap”, and “He who hesitates is lost”.

“Grass doesn’t grow on a busy street”, and “No use thatching an empty cottage”.

“A fool and his money are soon parted” and, “You have to speculate to accumulate”.

You can, if you wish, make up quite a game of finding similar pairs. The trouble is that we tend to remember the one that suits us and ignore the other, until, with changed circumstance, that becomes the one we find it easier to accept. A case in point is the pair:

“Many hands make light work”, and “Too many cooks spoil the broth”.

We all know that sharing tasks gets them done quicker, and are likely to quote it when we need help. When asked for help, however....

HMC is an active church. We do lots of things both for our own church and in support of the circuit, Churches Together, and folk in the village in general.

We need people to do small tasks to keep our church able to have an impact. We hope that, when the new houses are occupied, we will have some new people join us. We need to be open and welcoming for this, and we can’t just expect new people, if any, to take on tasks straight away.

So is there anything you could do, a small job to spread things around, a bigger job you’ve not previously considered? Come to the Covenant service on the 7th and join in the prayers.

Clive

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION SERVICE

On the 10th December we considered those who had difficulty getting to church who also need to be included. Are there other groups you think we should look at? Would you like to join the EDI team? 50 years ago, the Rev Victor Watson (you can google him) was doing this sort of thing, but a lot of the rest of Methodism is only now starting to catch up. Would you like to help?

Clive

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 February edition is **THU 18th January**

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.'