



Harlington February

Methodist 2024

Monthly

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

01582 663639/07702 012755 reverendlupi@yahoo.com

Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

01525 875850 martinwallis@hotmail.com

Hi all,

February is the shortest month of the year, although this year, being a Leap Year, it is a bit longer than usual. When I worked for BT I used to feel a bit cheated by leap years. After all, I had to work an extra day but only got paid the same. When I was part time teaching, of course, and was paid by the hour, I got paid for working on the twenty-ninth.



You can look at many things in two (or more) different ways. One way of looking at a leap year is that we are getting an extra day. We often complain we don't have enough time. What will we do with our extra day?

We could arrange to have a Spa Day! Go out and be looked after and pampered for the day. I could spend the day working in the garden, trying to catch up on all the things I haven't done. We could spend the day working for a charity, trying to help others. What about a study day, or a retreat?

There are so many things we could do. Some might be perceived as being just for oneself, other seen as being more worthy or more generous. In fact, depending on each of us and our own situations any of these could be indulgent or beneficial. After all, if we come back from a day of pampering refreshed and ready to do something new, or just carry on, that could be good.

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Of course, we don't really notice the extra day that much, but think about it. How could you create 24 extra hours for yourself in the course of a year? Are there things you should give up/ reduce? Are there ways of using your time better?

Reflect on it.

Clive



CHANGE OF CONTACT EMAIL

The usual contact email **hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com** is currently working again—sometimes!

Please submit any items or room booking requests to: the above address AND **the.caveney@ntlworld.com** and/or **t315485@gmail.com**

Hopefully one of them will get a response!

Thank you. Trevor

CONTACT NUMBERS

Over the coming weeks Mary and I will have less access to our home land-line number. Please use our mobile numbers as first point of contact either for talking, SMS, WhatsApp, etc. The numbers are: -

TREVOR—07704 315485

MARY—07733 482444

CHURCH WEBSITE

We now have a new website under construction for the church. It is a work in progress, but do take a look.

www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk

FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1545 Outside Booking—Emily Hancock Extra
- 2nd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 3rd *0815 Outside Booking—Samantha—Yoga*
- 4th 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Nigel Bibbing inc Communin
1915 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 5th
- 6th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 7th *1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 8th 1430 Thursday Fellowship—
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
2000 Churches Together Meeting
- 9th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 10th *0800 Outside Booking—Samantha—Yoga*
0930 EDI Course Rev Jenny Spouge
1600 Cinema Club -"Sing 2"
- 11th 1000 Morning Service led by the Worship Group
1900 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 12th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
- 13th 1530 Pancake Parlour
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 14th *1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
For Ash Wednesday Services see notice
- 15th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 16th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 17th *0815 Outside Booking—Samantha—Yoga*
1600 Messy Church
- 18th 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
1900 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 19th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 20th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 21st *1545 Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*

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- 22nd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
23rd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
24th 0800 *Outside Booking—Samantha—Yoga*
1000 Coffee Morning
25th 1000 Morning Service—led by Richard Armiger
1900 *Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir*
26th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
27th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1930 CHURCH COUNCIL
28th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
29th 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 February are as below.-

- 1st - Barbara with John Sorsby
8th - Tamsyn Filby from the Leprosy Mission
15th - Sheila Norris
22nd - Geoff Best
29th - Claudia

Helen James

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Our local service this year will be on Friday 1st March, at St. Mary's Church, Harlington at 2pm.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in the presentation of this.

Thank you

Dorothy

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - FEBRUARY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
1st Feb	1545	2000	Emily Hancock—Extra
3rd Feb	0815	0915	Samantha—Yoga
4th Feb	1915	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
6th Feb	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
7th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
8th Feb	2000	2200	Churches Together
10th Feb	0800	0900	Samantha—Yoga
	0930	1430	EDI Course
	1500	1900	Cinema Club
11th Feb	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
12th Feb	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
13th Feb	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
14th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
17th Feb	0815	0915	Samantha—Yoga
18th Feb	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
20th Feb	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
21st Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
24th Feb	0800	0900	Samantha—Yoga
25th Feb	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
26th Feb	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
27th Feb	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
28th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STEWARD</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>ROTAS</u>
04 February	am Martin pm Tina	Stella	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
11 February	John		The Flower Rota for 2024 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.
18 February	Tina		
25 February	Cathy		

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Our Covenant Service was held on the 1st Sunday of the month this year. We had a united service in January for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This was at St. Mary's so we couldn't have Zoom or YouTube. We also had an additional Local Arrangements service.

626 has met each week and we had some new children start so we are quite full at present. Not sure what will happen in September as, unusually, we don't have anyone in the top age group and therefore due to move on to TFT. TFT had an evening learning how to do various household work. This included use of basic tools, wallpapering and painting. You will see that the scuff marks from their shoes have been painted over leaving the walls looking clean again! Band practice starts again in February.

Bright Hour Fellowship has met most weeks, although they had to cancel one due to illness.

Crafternoon Tea is well attended. They have recently been passed a lot of jewellery making items. Contact Tina for more information.

Messy Church in January looked at Zacchaeus. This was a well attended session and included our usual Zoom members. Congratulations to those who made the Tax Collectors



Booth, it was a bit of a challenge and needed real skill. Zacchaeus popping up in the tree was a bit easier, we made this together in the celebration. We also made mini



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ISSUE #38

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **MARCH** edition will be **THU 15TH FEBRUARY** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 22nd February 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

PANCAKE PARLOUR 13TH FEBRUARY

We want to hold Pancake Parlour again this year with profits going to our charity. This will be 3.30 to 6 pm in the Lower Hall. If you can help with this please contact Dorothy or Tina

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

After Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) comes Ash Wednesday. There will be two services in the Circuit.

2 pm The Olive Tree

7.45 pm High Street Leagrave

There is also a Communion Service at St. Mary's at 7.30 pm

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place on 3rd March after the morning service. As usual we will issue an annual report. If you usually prepare a piece for it be prepared as the request will be coming along soon.

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trees, and cooked heart shaped biscuits representing God's love.

Film Club had a good attendance for Small Foot. We have seen this film before, it's an interesting cartoon.

Open the Book is continuing at both Harlington and Sundon. If anyone else wants to help with these, please speak to Hazel or me.

The Thursday Fellowship Groups are also continuing to meet.



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on 17th February 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 February session takes place just after the start of Lent and will be part of our thoughts leading to Easter. 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.

FLOWER ROTA—2024

Doreen has kindly agreed to manage the flower rota for this year and a copy is on the notice board in the hallway.

Regular bookings have already been added BUT please check to see if any have been missed.

PLEASE check the list often to see if you can fill a space. At present February is looking very empty....

Unable to provide the flowers? No problem—just make a donation to Doreen and she will sort out a flower display on a 'blank' date.

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

WIFI

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

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.

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, or someone to take it over who I would 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

EATON BRAY

Eaton Bray are looking to use their church building in different ways. They write: *As we at Eaton Bray Methodist Church, in the South Bedfordshire Circuit, consider our mission in this place and the future of our building we are seeking new opportunities. One suggestion is that the building becomes a circuit or district resource for a potentially radical new mission.*

We have had conversations with a number of people involved in other chapels that have become places offering retreat spaces and these have shown us a variety of offerings and models. We will seek to explore whether any of these are a possibility as we journey into the future.

If you are interested in engaging with new uses for our building, please get in touch with Rev Jenny Spouge at jenny.spouge@methodist.org.uk.

Contact Clive for the full 'Press Release' and the leaflet they have prepared.

REFLECTION

Matthew Chapter 4 verse 1: *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.*

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 14th February, or St. Valentine's Day. The coincidence of that happening this year could be the source of a reflection all on its own. (I don't think taking your date out to a meal following strict Lent principles will earn you many Brownie Points.) I will concentrate, however, on Lent.

At the start of Lent we look at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He goes, at the age of 30, to where his cousin John the Baptist is 'preparing the way' for him. John is being quite rude to the people who come out to see him. For example, he calls them a brood of vipers. John has already been telling people that someone will be coming after him who is much more important than he is and who they should follow. Jesus asks John to baptise him, and John says that that is the wrong way round. John does baptise Jesus, and after this Jesus goes into the desert.

By the end of Lent, we are fully into the story of Easter with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. There is no time to consider the full three years of Jesus ministry, we just have the beginning and the end. We could question the logic of this. How can you go in thought from the start to the finish so quickly? I think the answer to this lies in Jesus' time in the desert and in the Temptations. It is during this time that Jesus identifies his approach to his ministry. Jesus has taken time alone with God to decide what he will do. The personalisation of the devil identifies this as a time of real struggle.

To me, the three temptations represent ways that Jesus could have approached his ministry. In some ways, this passage is about what he is determined NOT to do. When we compare this to actual events, we can see how it all relates, and even see how that approach leads Jesus to the cross.

Jesus rejects, albeit presented in nicely worded form, show, bribery and force as ways of winning people to God. Instead he uses example, story, compassion and empathy. It is sad to look back through history and see how often the church has chosen the very things Jesus rejected, and rejected what he chose.

This brings us to how we will approach the question of bringing people to Jesus. As can be seen from the New Testament, there are as many ways of doing this as there are individuals. But most seem to be based around seeing

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needs and responding to them. Sometimes those needs resulted in something “showy” happening, but that was not the purpose. Sometimes you might look at it as a bribe, but that wasn’t the point either. Often what we see is Jesus just talking to people and responding to their needs.

I will bring Valentine’s Day in after all. If we look at Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13, Paul says that no matter what else he does, if he doesn’t have love as the basis then it is a waste of time.

What is our way to show our community that God (who they often don’t think exists) loves them? How do we let the people in Harlington see the importance of God to them? What are we doing that helps this and what are we doing that hinders it? Think on these things in the coming month.

Clive

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?

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 March edition is **THU 15th February**

CHURCH BOOKING DIARY

PLEASE check with Trevor before adding any dates or events.

Prayer Chain number: Dorothy Preston 874841

Church Website: www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk

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.'