

Harlington *March*

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,

Easter Sunday falls on the very last day of March, so while we will be thinking and preparing for Easter, there will be another Monthly due out for that Sunday. We can therefore think of other days that lead us into this time.

Mothering Sunday is on 10th March. Now usually referred to as Mother's Day, in a commercialised way to persuade people to buy cards and flowers, it was originally a day that servants could return to their homes and to their 'Mother' church. It was also a day when the Lent fasting rules were relaxed. While it is a great day to think about mothers, we may also think about what we would regard as our Mother Church and why.

Passion Sunday is the 17th March. It celebrates Christ's Passion. I must say that I always think of Jesus looking over Jerusalem with the knowledge that it would be destroyed not that many years later by the Romans, following a revolt. This was what the Jewish leaders were afraid of when they said that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Maybe this is a day to think about the things we are passionate about, and also to consider occasions when we (or others) have let expediency come before justice. I think the Post Office scandal is an example of this today, I'm sure there are others.



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Palm Sunday, on 24th March, is when we celebrate Jesus entry into Jerusalem. It is often referred to as the Triumphal Entry. We can easily imagine crowds shouting and people waving. I wonder how many of the crowd hadn't got the faintest idea of what was happening, but were just in a happy mood—it was a big thing to be in Jerusalem



for the Passover—and were happy to shout with everyone else when they saw a procession. Even the Disciples did not understand what it really meant, and they had no idea what was going to happen. Have we ever gone along with the crowd unthinkingly?

Maundy Thursday, 28th March is when we remember the Last Supper. There are lots of things that we might think about on that day. One is Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and Simon Peter's reaction. Leadership through service is important, as is the willingness to be served, even when we like to think of ourselves as independent and capable. Then comes the arrest and trials, leading into Good Friday.

We inevitably think of the crucifixion on Good Friday, but Peter's third denial must also have happened then, at the very start of the day. This may lead us to consider the times we don't stand up for things, but let them slide. This could be not calling out racist comments, or not saying what we believe, or, through our passive choices letting wrong things stand.

Then comes Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, when nothing is apparently happening. I expect we have all had times like that, when, no matter what we do, nothing appears to be happening.

Just some thoughts,

Clive

CHRISTINE WARD

Christine Ward's funeral will take place at the Methodist Chapel on Tuesday 5th March at 11 am, and afterwards in the Lower Hall.

No flowers, donations split between the Royal British Legion and the Methodist Church.

Dress colourful, not sombre.

MARCH DIARY

- 1st 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 2nd 1600 TFT Sleepover
- 3rd** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi—BB Enrolment Svce
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion
1915 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 4th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 5th **1100 FUNERAL –Christine Ward**
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 6th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 7th 1430 Thursday Fellowship—Session 19—John 16: 5—15
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 8th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 9th 1600 *Cinema Club*
- 10th** 1000 Morning Service led by Angela Brydon—**MOTHERING SUNDAY**
1900 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 11th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 Outside Booking Scott Hemsley
- 12th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 13th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 14th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1700 Outside Booking—HNNH Social
1945 Worship Consultation—ZOOM
- 15th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 16th 1600 Messy Church
- 17th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion
1900 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir
- 18th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 19th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 20th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*
- 21st 1430 Thursday Fellowship—Session 20—John 16: 16—33
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 22nd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT

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23rd

24th 1000 Morning Service led by Steve Rogers

25th 1400 Crafternoon Tea

1900 TFT Band Practice

2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*

26th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

27th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily-Child Singing*

28th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

29th 09.45 **GOOD FRIDAY** Walk of Witness starts at the Chapel

30th 1000 Coffee Morning

31st 0930 EASTER Morning Service—led by Rev Claudia Lupi, inc Communion

1900 Outside Booking—Lydia Kidman—Choir

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 March are as below.-

7th - Jenny Spouge

14th - Joanne Sherwood

21st - Diane Maple

28th - Maundy Thursday Doreen doing Easter table decorations

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 - MARCH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
3rd Mar	1915	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
5th Mar	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine - Dance
6th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
10th Mar	1500	1900	Cinema Club
10th Mar	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
11th Mar	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
12th Mar	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
13th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
14th Mar	1700	2030	HNH Social
17th Mar	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
19th Mar	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
20th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
24th Mar	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir
25th Mar	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
26th Mar	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
27th Mar	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
31st Mar	1900	2030	Lydia Kidman—Choir

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STEWARD</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>ROTAS</u>
03 March	am pm		Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
10 March	Tina		The Flower Rota for 2024 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.
17 March	John		
24 March			
31 March	Tina	Easter Flowers	

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

February is a short but interesting month. Our last service in January was a Communion Service led by Rev Jenny Spouge, this service being the last Sunday because of the United Service the previous week. Claudia led our 'Come and See', Nigel our evening Communion and Claudia our morning Communion. The Worship Group took the remaining service.

Lent started in February, and we held our annual Pancake Parlour, a splendid if tiring event. (See separate report)

626 Club had its highest attendance ever, with 31 children one week, and even having 21 at the start of half-term.

TFT has come third again in the England and Wales Master-team competition.

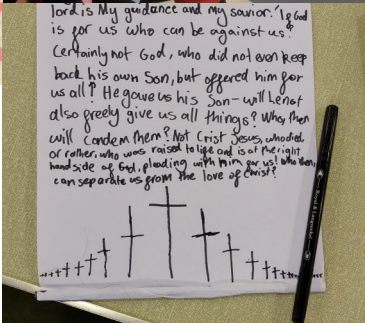
Bright Hour Fellowship is meeting regularly, as are the two Thursday Fellowship Groups.



Messy Church met on the first Saturday of Lent, and we looked at things relating to the Jesus' baptism and the start of his ministry. We made doves in various ways, snakes (brood of vipers), nets for fishermen, scrolls, and cooked bread rolls. It was a fun time, and



I was asked some interesting questions about faith by some of the children while we were doing the activities.



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ISSUE #39

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **APRIL** edition will be **THU 21ST MARCH** 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 March 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

VINDRA

Vindra fell down some steps whilst in Trinidad. Her ankle is broken in 3 places resulting in surgery to fit a plate and 3 screws.

She'll be in plaster for 3 weeks then will be fitted with a boot, and will remain in Trinidad till early April.

I know she would appreciate our prayers.

Thinking about you all

Jo

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place on 3rd March after the morning service. The Annual Report should be out soon. For those needing to join on Zoom, we will keep the service Zoom link open.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

As usual we will be joining with the other churches in Churches Together in our annual Walk of Witness round the village. We will start at 9.45am at the chapel, there will be drama at about 10.30 am at the shops and we will finish at St. Mary's with Hot Cross Buns. Do join us if you can for all or part of it.

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Film Club met as usual on the second Saturday. Some of the teenagers are asking if they can have films for their age-group and we are wondering if this could be done at the same time as a film for younger children.

Crafternoon Tea has met twice with the now usual good attendance.

Open the Book continues in term time.



HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church will be on 16th March 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 March session takes place during 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 March 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.

EASTER FLOWERS

As usual, we would like to decorate the chapel with flowers for Easter as a collective effort. Conveniently, we have a Coffee Drop-in on Easter Saturday, from 10 am till 12 Noon. If you would like to help with the flowers, bring them along then, or speak to Doreen, and have a cup of tea as well. (Why is it a Coffee Morning and not a Tea Morning?)



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

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.cavenays@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

BEING A VESTRY STEWARD

There may be those in our congregation who have thought that this job is scary – contacting a stranger, the preacher; finding readers; contacting the organist, making announcements in church, ‘doing the technology’. It may even feel as if you are nagging people.

This is no longer the case at Harlington!

Well, at least some of it is no longer the case. Contact with the preacher is now done by Tina and Clive, who then supply the organist/pianist and the vestry steward with the hymns and readings.

The vestry steward still finds readers if they are wanted, in advance of the service, or even, as I have done, asked people as they arrive for the service. You are talking to friends, and while some may say “I’ve forgotten my glasses!”, many will say “Yes, of course.”

You would also need to put the hymn numbers on the board (board and numbers live in the vestry), get a glass of water for the lectern, and make sure that the preacher is wearing a microphone (and it is switched on!). Clive or Tina will give you the mic, and if you want, they will switch it on for you. You don’t have to do anything else with it, except make sure you retrieve it after the service! (and give it back to Clive or Tina).

The scariest moment may be the beginning of the service! You need to say a prayer – not long, just dedicating the service to God, and saying thank you to him for the preacher and the work they have put in. You can write it down if that helps – the congregation won’t mind, and neither will the preacher. In fact, the preacher may prefer to have this prayer in the vestry, where the congregation can’t see and hear. You may also need tell the congregation about any notices – this may just be a reminder, or it may be a last minute notice – and these can be written down as well – in fact, writing them down is the easiest way not to forget something! This is the last really public thing the vestry steward has to do. After the service, if it is a morning service, the steward offers the preacher tea or coffee, and gives them the opportunity to speak to members of the congregation – most preachers will do this for themselves – returns the microphone to Clive or Tina, the water glass to the kitchen, puts the hymn numbers away, and makes sure that when the preacher leaves, they take all their belongings with them.

As a church, we are currently really short of vestry stewards, especially on Sunday mornings. Tina and Martin are both also Local Preachers, so may not be present, Clive is busy with the technology, and Mary and John are

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PROJECT 2023

The “new set” of accompanists, who started their “shift” in early September 2023, were pulled out almost immediately after the 7th October attack, and were only able to continue to support and accompany online. Now, six ecumenical accompaniers have returned to Palestine and Israel, resuming in-person operations for the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

Our total for our 2023 project, the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, was £459.11, which will be sent as soon as possible, although the programme has been largely on hold, due to the war in Gaza.

PROJECT 2024 (PANCAKE PARLOUR)

Dorothy, Doreen and Tina made 11 pints of batter. Doreen, Dorothy and Kay cooked 116 pancakes. We lost count of the number of teas and coffees Kay made! We raised 124.61. Our thanks also go to Barbara Donaldson and Sandra, who delivered pancakes to customers, and to Stella and Martin, who dealt with the money.



We now need a new Project, for which this is the starting money, along with the January Coffee Morning. This year, if we follow our usual pattern, it should be a local charity. If you have any suggestions, mention them as soon as possible – we ought to make the decision at the Church Council on Tuesday 27th February. We will then have plenty of time to work on publicity.

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feeling that they are not really fit to do the job. Cathy is still working – and at this time of year, working very hard, including some weekends.

If you feel you could do at least some of the things above, please talk to any of the current vestry stewards about the role and pray about it.

Tina

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 21st March**

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.'