

Harlington Methodist Monthly

May 2024

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Do you look forward to birthdays? Children often can't wait. When ours were young, we used to say they were wishing their lives away. As we get older birthdays may cease to be so exciting. The ones we really celebrate we may face with both anticipation and dread.

Pentecost is often said to be the birthday of the church. How do we face that? For the disciples who didn't know what was going to happen, or when, it was a matter of patient and fearful waiting for something, anything. For them it came as an amazing thing. The effect was to overwhelm their fear and cause them to rush into the streets to tell everyone their news, the good news of Jesus.

Of course, for us, the anniversary is as different as a birthday is from the actual birth. We celebrate, sort of. There used, when Whit Monday was a bank holiday, to be big tent meetings on that day, particularly at Cliff College. I used to go with my parents from wherever we were in the country. I'm told that special trains were run on this line up to Sheffield, stopping at all the stations to pick up people. They were certainly big meetings.

How can we celebrate now? How can we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on what were ordinary men and women like us? I believe the Holy Spirit still comes to us to empower us to do the tasks that God wants us to do. How can we show this to the world?

Clive



Pentecost is an English (from the Greek) name for the Jewish festival of Shavuot. It occurs 50 days (hence pente) from the first day of Passover (inclusive counting). Shavuot means week and it is also known in English as the Feast of Weeks (seven weeks or a week of weeks after Passover). Shavuot was a festival celebrating the wheat harvest. On this festival day, the Disciples received the Holy Spirit, and the name Pentecost has been appropriated by the Christian church. Anglicans and Methodists tended in the past to use the term Whitsun, although this has increasingly gone out of fashion since 1972 when the Bank Holiday was moved from Whit Monday to the last Monday in May. Particularly in the North of England you will still see Whit processions, but the evangelical Whit Monday meetings changed date.

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. 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.

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Merry Church will be on 18th May 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.

This is the day before Pentecost, so it is easy to work out what our subject will be!

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.

MAY DIARY

- 1st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 2nd 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 19—John 16: 5—15
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1630 *Outside Booking—Emily—Dance*
- 3rd 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 4th
- 5th** 1000 Morning Service - Tina and Clive
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Nigel Bibbings inc Communion
- 6th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*
- 7th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 8th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 9th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 10th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 11th 1600 Cinema Club
- 12th** 1000 **UNITED SERVICE for Christian Aid Week**
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 13th 1900 TFT Band Practice
- 14th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 15th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 16th 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 20—John 16: 16—33
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 17th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 18th 0700 *Outside Booking—Private Party*
1600 Messy Church
- 19th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 20th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band Practice
2000 *Outside Booking Scott Hemsley*

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- 21st 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 22nd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 23rd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 24th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 25th 1000 Coffee Morning
- 26th** 1000 Morning Service led by Tina Salmon
- 27th
- 28th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 29th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 30th 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 21—John 17—Jesus prays for us
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 31st 1830 626 Club

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 May are as below:-

- 2nd May - Margaret Newman (Methodist Minister)
- 9th. May - Elaine Mountfort (From Council talking about recent crime in the area)
- 16th. May - Vicky Yorke (from Life Church)
- 23rd. May - Nigel Bibbings (Methodist Minister)
- 30th. May - Claudia - (Methodist Minister for Harlington)
- Helen James

STEPHEN PARKINSON

I regret to announce the death of Stephen Parkinson on Monday 22nd April. Stephen had been a worship leader for 25 years at The Square and was due to receive a certificate at the Local Preachers Celebration service.

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - May

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
01st May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
02nd May	1630	2000	Emily Hancock—Dance
05th May	1500	1700	PBGS
06th May	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
07th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
07th May	1945	2200	PBGS
08th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
11th May	1500	1900	Cinema Club
12th May	1500	1700	PBGS
14th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
14th May	1945	2200	PBGS
15th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
18th May	0700	1400	Private Birthday Party
19th May	1500	1700	PBGS
20th May	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
21st May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
21st May	1945	2200	PBGS
22nd May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
29th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
28th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
28th May	1945	2200	PBGS

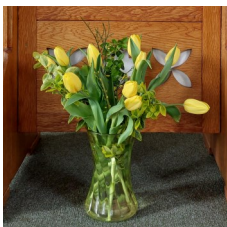
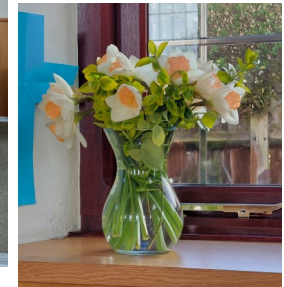
ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina. The Flower Rota for 2024 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.
05 May	am Cathy pm	Sue Brandham	
12 May	Tina		
19 May	John	Tina	
26 May	Cathy	The Caveney's	

REVIEW OF THE MONTH



The final Sunday of the month is often omitted from the monthly as it happens after publication, but the 31st March was Easter Sunday, and despite the clocks changing and the service starting earlier we had a good attendance. Thanks to all who provided and arranged flowers. Our April services continued as usual and at the usual time.



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I also don't generally mention the coffee drop-ins as they also fall into this odd time, but in March Jane Bartrop came with material about Brain Tumour Research, our new project for 2024. She is hoping to join us at many of our Drop-ins. Come and support the work, not to mention have a sausage roll or cake with your tea or coffee.

626 attendance was quieter over the holiday period but has returned to normal now the schools are back.

TFT took its usual holiday break, but is now back.

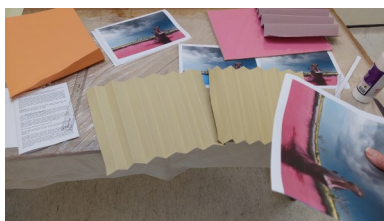
Messy Church was a little quiet, but we still managed to cover a lot about Passover, which started on Monday 22nd April. I don't know if this is the far-



thest it gets from Easter. We looked at the origins of Passover, with models for things in the plagues—see the next page for the picture of a river turning to blood. We also tried tasting some of the things eaten, and considered

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how the Jesus celebrated in the Last Supper making a decorated cup (having explained that the cup Jesus actually used wouldn't have been so ornate).

Bright Hour Fellowship had their AGM this month.

The Film Club leaders were worried that they might not have many children as they met at the end of the holiday. At 2 minutes to only 2 children had arrived.... By the time the main feature started there were 27.

The Thursday morning fellowship group has met, but Thursday afternoon has been on hold.

PROFESSOR JOHN MARTIN KAM

Just in case there are any of you I haven't mentioned it to, here is a picture of Pippa's husband receiving the King's Ambulance Medal. Pippa and the family are in the background.



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.

LOCAL PREACHERS CELEBRATION SERVICE 28th APRIL

After some debate following the death of Stephen Parkinson it was decided to continue with this service. Come and support the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in the Circuit on this occasion.

REFLECTION

Acts Chapter 1 verses 10 and 11a: They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?"

One festival we don't make much of is Ascension Day. I suspect that this is, in part at least, because it happens on a Thursday when people are at work. If you went to a church school, something may have been said, but it largely passes the rest of us by.

Should it? Is there something for us to learn in the story of Jesus' Ascension? In good Methodist fashion, can I suggest three things?

The first is that Jesus was going to go away some time. Jesus was not going to be physically present on earth for ever. While it would have been a miracle and no doubt have ensured many followers, that isn't the way God works, and would mean Jesus had taken the temptation he rejected at the start of his ministry, to use miracles to convert the crowd.

The second thought is that when things happen, it's no good us just standing there staring. And if we've been told to do something, in this case to wait in Jerusalem, then you need to do it.

The third thing is that Jesus expects us to carry on and to get on with things, not on our own, but with the Holy Spirit as our companion. While the disciples were told to wait for a while it was ten days, not ten years.

For us the big difficulty is always going to be knowing what we are supposed to be doing. The disciples had the consolation of having been told directly, we need greater discernment bringing together the Bible, our traditions, our situation and current circumstance and putting these with what we think God is saying to us. Sometimes this is something just for us, other times it requires a whole community.

So on 9th May we may care to remember the Ascension and think, "Are we just standing here?"

Prayer

Lord God, let us hear you as you speak to us, and be willing to do what you want. Let us not stand staring but follow your will and take action.

Amen

ISSUE #41

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JUNE** edition will be **THU 16TH MAY** 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 May 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

WRITE FOR THE MONTHLY

Do feel free to write something for future editions of the monthly. It could be news of things you are doing, cries for help, a reflection or similar. Maybe, during the holiday season, you will feel inspired by the location or something to communicate with the fellowship here.
Clive

WIFI

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

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

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 June edition is **THU 16th May**

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.'