

# Harlington Methodist Monthly

## August 2024

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**Senior Steward: Martin Wallis**

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Hi all,

On the next page you'll find a diagram. I'd have put it on this page but it's just a fraction too big to fit and it would be a shame to shrink it. I have taken it from the Learning Network newsletter, although you can find it in other Methodist publications. You might want to turn the page and look at it before reading on.

It is a fact that the Methodist Church is shrinking. The question is whether we have fulfilled God's purpose for us, in which case closing up and moving on is the right thing to do, or whether there is work yet to do for which Methodism is uniquely placed. If, like me, you think the later is the case then you may wish to take inspiration from the picture.

Methodism is an odd organisation. By origin we're Anglican, as can be seen in many of our formal services. But necessity forced Methodism to evolve in a different direction. We have Local Preachers, because ministers couldn't and can't take all the services. Some of those were women pretty much from the start, and we recognised women's ministry 50 years ago.

Our organisation balances lay and ministerial authority. Lay folk run the church and are responsible for many things that in other churches are only controlled by the clergy. However, they do not dominate the organisation.

Of course, this is all irrelevant if it does not contribute to the primary functions of a church; spreading the word and worshipping God. Back to the diagram! What does this say to us and where is it peculiarly Methodist.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# THE METHODIST CHURCH

A PLAN TO HELP US CHANGE AND WELCOME NEW PEOPLE

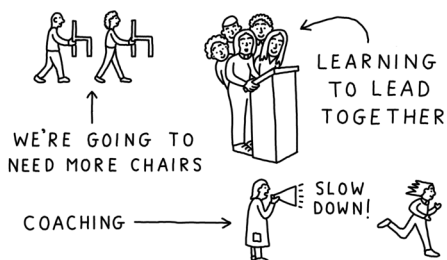
## 1 A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE



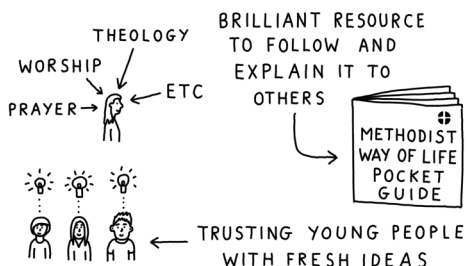
## 2 TELLING OUR STORY



## 3 PUTTING MISSION FIRST



## 4 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS



The **Methodist** Church

davewalker.com

You will probably not have read the God For All strategy report to conference. I have looked through it, much of the picture is based on it. I do hope you remember the Methodist Way of Life (MWOL); Sheila, Martin, Tina and I used it for several services last year; if you've forgotten it we could get hold of the pocket guides.

It seems to me that Methodism, despite or perhaps because of its love for committees, offers each of us a chance to see what God has for us in our life. We each have the opportunity to tell others about it, and we and they are

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allowed, even encouraged, to consider what we believe and how we relate to God, rather than being told what we must believe. This more free approach has its own problems; some people prefer to be told what to do and think—it often seems as if more controlling churches attract people!

People in our church do a lot in the community. Can we learn to tell our story, without going on about it, as part of what we do? Can we see how other parts of picture relate to us. We are about to have a big opportunity to welcome new people. Let's do it. Clive

— STRATHMORE —

SUMMER BBQ2024

4TH AUGUST 1PM-6PM

Organised by  
Community Breakfast Club





Activities:

Bouncing Castle

Arts & Crafts

DJ & Live Entertainment

Face Painting

Dancing

Food & Drinks:

Halal and Vegan/vegetarian options are available



Supported by  
**Luton Rising**  
for women  
for women  
for women

Managed by  
**BLCE**  
Barnabas & Lillian  
Cotton, Luton

Find us at:  
43 Strathmore Avenue,  
Luton LU1 3NY

FREE EVENT!

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Harlington Methodist Monthly August 2024

## AUGUST DIARY

1st  
2nd  
3rd  
**4th** 1000 Morning Service led by Chris Berry  
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Margaret Newman inc Communion  
5th  
6th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
7th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing,*  
8th  
9th  
10th  
**11th** 1000 Morning Service led by Sheila Norris  
12th 1400 Crafternoon Tea  
13th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
14th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing,*  
15th  
16th 1600 *Outside Booking—Rehearsal*  
17th 0900 *Outside Booking—Wedding*  
**18th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev. Tim Haines inc Communion  
19th  
20th  
21st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing,*  
22nd  
23rd  
24th  
**25th** 1000 Morning Service led by Christina Salmon  
26th 1400 Crafternoon Tea  
27th  
28th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing,*  
29th  
30th  
31st 1000 Coffee Morning

**OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - AUGUST**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>GROUP</u></b>
6th August	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
7th August	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
13th August	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
14th August	1545	1930	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
16th August	1600	1900	Wedding Rehearsal
17th August	1100	1500	Wedding
21st August	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
28th August	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

<b>DATE</b>	<b>STEWARD</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>
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04 August	am Cathy pm Cathy	
11 August	Madeline	
18 August	John	
25 August	Clive & Tina	

**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.**

**OFFERINGS**

Can I ask you all to review your giving to the Church. We have lost a few regular givers because they have sadly passed or moved away and our collection income is down by 12% on last year. Our costs continue to go up including the circuit assessment which is going up by 4% next year.

If you are unable to increase your giving that is OK. I just ask that you take a moment to review it .

Thanks in advance

Cathy 07816932744



## **REVIEW OF THE MONTH**

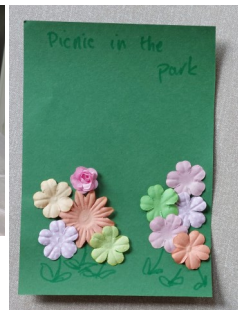
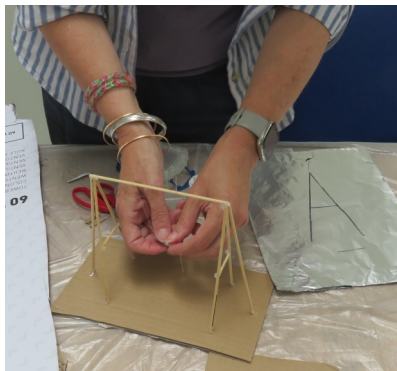
Our outdoor worship was fun - but indoors because of the weather! This means you can see it (again) because it's on the Square's YouTube. Have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yypoFU6trwo> .

We didn't have an evening Communion Service in July, but we had a variety of morning services including the Action for Children Sunday service led by the Worship Group, and Communion in the round.

626 Club met till the end of July, going to Bury Orchard when possible.

TFT finished just before the end of the school term, having played at the Lower School Fair.

Messy Church met and looked at picnics and where we like to have them.



We used the story of the feeding of the 5,000. We are also going to put up more pictures on the notice board, although we will still have things displayed in the church. We took a display to the Lower School Fair as we were providing the PA system.



Crafternoon Tea has met in July and is continuing during August, including Bank Holiday.

Bright Hour met in July, but is taking a break in August.

Our Coffee Drop-in continues, in aid of our charity. Jane has written a report for us of a recent activity.

Film Club met in July, with two films. Next meeting is September.

## **BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH**

*A report on our visit to a centre of excellence where research into a cure for Glioblastoma brain tumours is underway.*

On 10th July my daughter Emma, my sister in law, Sue and I were invited to the Brain Tumour Research centre of excellence at Queen Mary University of London to find out how our fundraising is helping support scientists leading the way in research into Glioblastoma GBS brain tumours.

We were given the opportunity to tour the labs at Queen Mary University of London, led by principal investigator Professor Silvia Marino. We spoke to scientists about their work to find a cure for the disease and placed 11 tiles on the Wall of Hope in Pete's memory.



What an amazing day! I didn't know what to expect but I wasn't expecting to be in such an amazing building with such incredible scientists, celebrating our fundraising efforts, and sharing the same sense of loss with so many other families.

To date we have raised in excess of £42,000. This allowed us to add 11 tiles in memory of Pete on the wall of hope. For every £2740 raised a tile can be placed on

the wall of hope.

It was a privilege hearing from the researchers and the incredible work that they do, how far they have come and some of the thinking behind what they do. Being present in that inspirational building where this all takes place felt monumental.

Seeing the wall of hope makes you realise how many lives are touched and affected by this awful disease and knowing some of the pain those families are feeling.

We enjoyed tea and cakes during the presentation as we sat in the neuron pod (see picture below).

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It was an opportunity to take time to reflect, consider and “be” in the environment of the work that will take us closer to a cure from this dreadful disease.



It allowed us as a family to focus on Pete, our journey, and give credit to our fundraising and hope on what we want to achieve by it. It was a very worthwhile day which has provided some sense of healing, knowledge and a feeling of community as those affected are collectively gathered under one amazing roof, with those who are organising the funding for the research, BTR, and those who are enabling progress to achieve our motives, to find a cure.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all

for taking Brain Tumour Research as your chosen charity this year and for supporting our efforts to make a difference to those who suffer from a brain tumour and their families living with the loss.

Our thanks

Jane Barltrop

### **SARENGA HOSPITAL**

KSN Hospital in Sarenga India have indicated that they no longer need glasses. They are now producing them locally. So please could you not send any more to Chris or Ivor.

However the refugees have indicated a real need for laptops or mobile phones. If you have any that are in good working order but no longer use please could you pass them on to either Chris or Rev. Claudia.

Chris is going to the hospital in September!

## **ISSUE #44**

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **SEPTEMBER** edition will be **THU 15TH AUG** 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 August 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

## **ZOOM & YOUTUBE**

Because of holidays these will not be available on 28th July and 4th August  
Clive

## **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

## **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.

## **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 of the joining link. We won't be meeting during August!

## **HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH**



Our next Merry Church will be on 21st SEPTEMBER 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.

Our September session will be in the harvest period, so we will be thinking about the natural world, creation and harvest. An important area of thought is our responsibility for God's creation. 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, as are the fully recorded sessions we did in lockdown.

## **BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP**

The fellowship is taking a break during August, but will be back in September. Look out for details next month.



## **EDI NEWS**

On Tue 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm, Revd Jonny Bell will lead an online event exploring the topic of neurodiversity, with particular attention to ADHD, Dyslexia, and Dyspraxia. The session will be broken down into four main parts: first, we will have the opportunity to experience what it can be like for neurodivergent people; second, we will hear the experience of a neurodivergent minister; third, we will get some tips on how we can be more inclusive as a justice-seeking church for neurodivergent people; and fourth, we will have a chance for questions and answers. Please have a square piece of paper with you for one of the activities in the session.

You can book to attend this online event at: [Neurodiversity awareness Tickets, Tue, Aug 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Thanks

**Stuart Watkin**

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Learning & Development Officer | The Connexional Team

# Please Join us for

# Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2 – 4.30 pm £5 per person



At 115 Station Road, Stanbridge, LU7 9JG

**Please reserve your scone:**

Jackie Roberts: 07534 369710

Sharan Hewitt: 07974 358013

Debbie Mitchelmore: 07845 259896

All Proceeds to the Kitchen Project at The Square Methodist Church

**WiFi**

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

**NOTICES** Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at [t.caveney@ntlworld.com](mailto:t.caveney@ntlworld.com) OR [t315485@gmail.com](mailto:t315485@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE** for inclusion in September edition is **THU 15th August**

### **CHURCH BOOKING DIARY**

**PLEASE** check with Trevor before adding any dates or events.

**Prayer Chain number:** Dorothy Preston 874841

**Church Website:** [www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk](http://www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk)

**Church YouTube channel:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR\\_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw](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.'*