

Harlington Methodist Monthly

January 2025

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hi all,

I'm sure I've mentioned this before, because it's one of my favourites. Schultz, in one of his Peanuts cartoons, shows Lucy going through the calendar. After a while she yells out, "I knew it! This is a used year!"

The church has many "New Years". There is the administrative one, starting in September, when we need our accounts, the Liturgical one, starting with Advent, when this year we went from B to C. We are about to enter a new calendar year, the New Year that most people recognise. The question is; Will we treat it as a new year? Will things be new, or just a continuation of what has always been?

Sometimes we want to keep things the same, sometimes we want them to change. Sometimes circumstances force change on us. How will we respond? It can be difficult, both as individuals and as a Church to recognise



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the need to change, and to see the direction God wants us to take.



Our village is changing. Some of you saw this sort of change in the 1960s and 70s. Some of us were part of the change as the village expanded massively. I suspect that change was bigger in effect than the one we're going through now with the new developments but when you're on the outside you

don't see it so much. We don't know what this will mean for the village or the Church. Will there be new people come to join us?

Our Covenant service will take place on 5th January, the first Sunday in the New Year. In this service we pledge to do what God call us to do, whether we like it or not. This faces us with particular challenges. How do we discern the will of God? How do we turn that into a plan for us? How do we act on that plan?

As a Church we need to think on these things. Much as many of us would like, we cannot maintain the status-quo. However, God is in charge. Let's not face this with fear, but with excitement and anticipation for whatever the future may hold.

Happy and Blessed New Year to us all,

Clive



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Natasha and Pascal on the birth of their son on the 13th December 2024.

For further details, pictures etc., consult the happy grandparents, Hazel and Martin!

COVENANT SERVICE

Our Covenant Service is on the 5th January 2025. It contains this key prayer of commitment.

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
 put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you
 or laid aside for you,
exalted for you
 or brought low for you;
let me be full,
 let me be empty,
let me have all things,
 let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*

LOCAL ARRANGEMENT SERVICES

There are an increasing number of Local Arrangements services on the plan. Although some churches have closed following the pandemic and some are working together, we have also lost a number of Local Preachers who have retired or died. We are also starting to see the reduction in full-time ministers. This means that it is getting harder to cover all the appointments on the plan, and we are seeing more LAs that we have not asked for. If you could help take part in preparing or leading an LA, please let one of the stewards know.

JANUARY DIARY

- 1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th 1000 Covenant Service which includes Holy Communion
led Rev Claudia Lupi
No Evening Service
6th
7th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
8th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
9th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Session 25—John 20
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
10th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
11th 1600 Cinema Club
12th 1000 Morning Service led by the Worship Group
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
13th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
14th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
15th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
16th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
17th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
18th 1600 Messy Church
19th 1000 United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the
Parish Hall—Preacher Roger Owers
1500 1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
20th
21st 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
22nd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
23rd 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Session 26—John 21

(Continued on page 5)

1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
24th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
25th 1000 Coffee Morning
26th 1000 Morning Service Local Arrangement
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
27th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
28th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
29th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
30th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
31st 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - JANUARY

07th Jan	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
07th Jan	2000	2200	PBGS
08th Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
11th Jan	1500	1900	Cinema Club
12th Jan	1500	1700	PBGS
13th Jan	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
14th Jan	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
14th Jan	1945	2200	PBGS
15th Jan	1545	1930	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
19th Jan	1500	1700	PBGS
21st Jan	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
21st Jan	1945	2200	PBGS
22nd Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
26th Jan	1500	1700	PBGS
27th Jan	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
28th Jan	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
28th Jan	1945	2200	PBGS
29th Jan	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

As usual, I start this review with our worship for the month. On the last Sunday of November our worship was led by Rev Tim Haines, the Baptist pastor working ecumenically in the Houghton Regis North new estate. His theme was Christ the King, but he also talked of the ways the new community was developing, and gave us thoughts as we too expand.



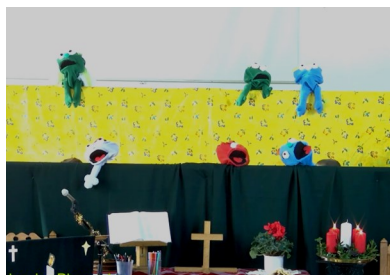
The 'Come and See' service for Advent Sunday, led by Sheila, introduced the Methodist Advent theme of 'Hush the Noise' with the film and liturgy. Our evening Communion service was led by Claudia.



Cathy led a Local Arrangement service, using a video of the shepherds' story, the first of a series on the life of Jesus. We are likely to have more local arrangements in the future.

The Family Carol Service followed. This included puppets with 626 Club and Messy Church children taking part, and reprised Bethlehemian Rhapsody.

We had a Communion service next using the Advent and Christmas liturgy.



Our well attended Christmas morning service was at 9.30 am. It was good to welcome old and new friends and families to this joyful service.

There were, however, other services to review. Although not held in Harlington, it was a delight to celebrate with Rev. Wallace Edwards as he ceased, on doctor's orders, to lead worship (officially) This service celebrat-

ed his life, ministry and, as we know, his pastoral care.

The Pram Service, which I am now calling the 0 – 4's Nativity (who has a proper perambulator these days?) is held when the 0—4 group cannot meet because of the Village Pantomime. This service suffered badly from the ef-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

fects of the Covid lockdown, with all the children who used to come now being out of the age range. This year we had a small group and we can hope that it develops again.

The Lower School held their Carol Service with us again this year. As Hazel had to make a hasty trip to Scotland, she asked me to lead. This service uses the Open the Book team and we used the latest OTB material, and I was fortunate to be able to rope in some other helpers to supplement the team. It is a great privilege to lead a service with the Church full of children and their teachers and helpers. Thanks to Trevor and Derek for help setting up and clearing back.

Pre-School felt unable to come to us this year but asked Tina and me if we could go to them and speak to the children. We sang some of the songs we used with the 0—4s, watched a short retelling of the Christmas story with Lego characters, and made sheep. It was fun.

Despite the terrible weather, the open air carols with the Salvation Army and tableau went ahead. Those that attended enjoyed it, even if damp, and there were lots of mince pies to go round!

Martin ran 'Beer and Carols' at the Carpenters, a drier venue.

626 Club has continued to met. We are averaging around 20 children at present, but are not always finding it easy to get the parent helpers we need.

TFT has also been meeting. They have had some meetings with young people who went to 3Generate, as part of efforts to develop work across the circuit for young people to be able to come together in greater numbers. During the first of these they decorated our Christmas tree. The band has also been busy, playing Father Christmas out at Centre Parcs, and if I interpret the video correctly they have developed quite a brass band in addition to the bugles, drums and bells. They entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's. As if that wasn't enough, they also won a place in the England final for the BB Masterteam.

Bright Hour Fellowship has continued to met, including a carol session at the home of Barbara Donaldson.

Crafternoon Tea continues strongly, with some members winning in the Adult



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

category at the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's.

We showed two Christmas films at Film Club, the short Raymond Briggs film Father Christmas followed by 'The Gringe'.

Unfortunately we had to cancel Messy Church because of Tina's health.

Fellowship Groups have continued.

Open the Book continues both at Harlington and Sundon. The schools and the children appreciate the teams going in each week. If you would like to join one of these teams, speak to Hazel or me.

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



As you can read above, we had to cancel the December Merry Church. Unfortunately, Tina appears to have developed an intermittent heart condition. When she is fine she is fine, but it can change for no as yet identified reason. We usually spend from 2 to 8 pm setting up, running and clearing

away for Merry Church, with the help of the catering team who usually come from 3 to 7 pm. Tina needs to reduce the time she is there and/or to have people to take over if necessary, so we can continue with this. Could you help?

Our next Merry Church should be on 18th January 2025 at 4 pm. 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.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

I could still do with someone who can look after the heating when I am not available, or who will take it on with me as their back-up. This normally takes me about 15 minutes each week. Any takers?

Clive

PROJECT 2024

Our project for 2024 was for Brain Tumour Research, supporting Jane Barltrop in her activities and raising money in addition to her usual activities. I have banked £533.75, from Pancake Parlour and the Coffee Drop-ins, and there will be more, I suspect, which has gone directly into the church bank account. When we have the full total, I will write a cheque, and let you know the full value for the year

PROJECT 2025

Last year, when we decided on Brain Tumour Research for 2024, we also decided that in 2025, as a “more distant” project, we would support the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution). The Institution celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2024 – and Natasha (Wallis as was) has been a member of the lifeboat crew stationed on the Moray Firth in Scotland, which makes it less of a “more distant” project than it might be!

PAST CHARITABLE GIVING

Not so much of a project – but have you been watching any of the programmes remembering the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami? We contributed to the Disasters Emergency Committee funds on that occasion – but there have been more stories published now, from journalists who were there on holiday, as well as those who were sent in after, and also stories from locals, as well as visits to some of the memorial sites.

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP — January Speakers

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets (almost) every Thursday afternoon at 2.45pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Members have opportunity to hear from a variety of invited speakers, share in the company of others and enjoy a nice cup of tea. So why not join us? We look forward to seeing you.

9th Pam Greener

16th Rev. Nigel Bibbings

23rd Rose Agnew

30th Rev. Claudia Lupi

ISSUE #49

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **FEBRUARY** edition will be **THU 16TH JAN** 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 January 2025. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
05 January	am ?	Doreen
12 January	Cathy	Christine and Alan Parfitt
19 January	United Service at Parish Hall	
26 January	Madeline	Dennis Ward

**Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
The Flower Rota for 2025 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.**

FLOWER ROTA—2025

Doreen has kindly agreed to manage the flower rota again for 2025 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.

SIMPLIFIED ZOOM

It would be useful to have some others around for when I am on holiday who can at least operate Zoom. With the fixed camera we can operate a simplified Zoom only system. If you would like to learn how, let me know.

Clive

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.

COMMUNICATION

How do we communicate within the church and to the people outside it? In the past, everything was spoken or written word. Until the copier, it was difficult to include pictures, as duplicators are not good with them. People wrote letters or spoke to each other. (The telephone was a device for direct conversation rather than text.)

Now we have emails, WhatsApp and Social Media. Old folk use email, the next generation down uses WhatsApp and Face Book, I think teenagers still use TikTok but I'm sure something else will replace it soon.

You may ask why the question. The thing is that we have a message to share, and we need support in doing it, and for both these we need to communicate. How can people pray for what we are doing if they don't know what it is? How can people learn of God's love if no-one tells them it is there? You may say that showing God's love in action is more important than talking about it, and it is, but at some stage you need to communicate that it is God's love, not just the actions of good people.

What is your communications strategy for 2025, or if that sounds like business jargon, how will you spread the message of Jesus to the world, and help others to help you?

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.

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 16th January

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.'