

Harlington AUGUST

Methodist 2025

Monthly

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Hi all,

If you look at a lectionary you will see we are in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is what any Sunday is called if it isn't linked to something specific, like Advent, Christmas or Easter. A lot of the year is Ordinary Time. This isn't surprising. There are only so many special times in the Church year.

We live our lives mostly in ordinary time, We are not going through things that are exceptionally good, or particularly bad, things are just ordinary. But is that really true? In many ways each day presents the extraordinary to us, if we allow ourselves to be aware of it.

We can look at the world and see the wonders of creation. We can study the sky, look at the stars. All these things are ordinary, and yet definitely extraordinary. A good start is to let ourselves be aware of this as we move around in our daily lives.

But don't stop there. What about the extraordinary that comes from the people around us, friends, neighbours, family, even strangers. Isn't it extraordinary how we receive help, kindness, support from people around us? And yes, I know that it is not always the case, but see how often it is. See how often someone gives a friendly word, or goes the extra mile for us, and helps us or cheers us, comforts us or cries with us.

And let us not stop there. How often does a word come into our mind, or a feeling? How often do we feel God, present with us in good times and bad, more often noticed when things are going wrong and we need help, but there in the ordinary times when we look and are prepared to acknowledge it,

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It is perhaps a paradox that ordinary times are only ordinary because we let them be. If we pause and reflect then all times can be extraordinary, all seasons can be special. If we can live as if every day is extraordinary time, what will that do to the way we live our lives? How will that change what we show to others?

Then we can focus on ways that their lives can be extraordinary too. Wouldn't that be good?

Clive

CHURCH PROJECT 2025 – RNLI

Our church project for this year is the RNLI – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution – which was 200 years old last year. Although some RNLI crew are paid, most are volunteers, including the beach lifeguards – and it is our donations which provide the funds for equipment and training. The equipment includes the boats, both inshore and offshore. These days, equipment also includes drones equipped with speakers, to hover over water users and tell them when they are in danger – because they are in the wrong area, or because the sea is getting rougher. Clive and I watched a lifeguard training session on Crantock beach a couple of years ago, where a group of lifeguards were being trained with the drones.

We are an inland village, but many residents holiday on the coast, or visit it for the day. Every time you use a lifeguarded beach, you are protected by the RNLI. If you have to be rescued from the sea within British coastal waters, for whatever reason, it will almost certainly be the RNLI who rescue you! So far this year, we have raised over £150, including the money raised at the Pancake Parlour in March. Our coffee mornings each month also raise money for this project.



Lifeboats

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 20th September 2025 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.

We are having a get together in August with some others in the Circuit who run Messy Church, so we may have some completely new ideas for September..

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.

Messy Church is always on the third Saturday. If you can help at any of these, please let Clive or Tina know so that we can arrange things most efficiently. If you stay to the end you get tea!

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.

CHURCH PROJECT 2026

As decided at Church Council, this will be the Paynter Children's Home Founded by the Thornton- Greet family over a 100yrs ago it is situated in the Naraylia Hill Country of Sri Lanka.

More material about this will be made available in the course of the year.

AUGUST DIARY

- 1st
2nd
3rd 1000 Morning Service Come and See led by Peter Baker
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Margaret Newman, inc Communion
4th
5th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th 1000 Morning Service led by Michael Adams
11th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
12th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
13th
14th
15th
16th
17th 1000 Morning Service *Local Arrangement*
18th
19th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
20th
21st
22nd
23rd
24th 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
25th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
26th 1000 *Outside Booking—Circuit Messy Church Group Meeting*
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
27th
28th
29th
30th 1000 Coffee Morning
31st 1000 Morning Service led by John Enejo

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - AUGUST

05th	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
11th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
12th	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
19th	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
25th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
26th	1600	1900	Kristy Burgoine—Dance

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour is now taking a summer break. It will recommence on 11th September

NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The church has now opened a bank account with the Co-op Bank. If you pay money to the church by standing order or other regular means, or make occasional BACS payments, the details are:

Name: Harlington Methodist Church

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 67420034

In the mean time we are keeping the existing account open to allow time for people to make the changes, but will close it by the end of the year.

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH

Our services over the last month have been varied. Ivor Mitchelmore brought his guitar for the last service in June, and he and Vivien played for several of the songs. Tina and I led the "Come and See". We then had the Circuit Service on Dunstable Downs. Usually we are hoping it won't rain; this year we were hoping it wouldn't be too hot! It was warm, but not too warm. For once there wasn't enough breeze to fly a kite. There was a good turnout. We



had sunshades instead of umbrellas. The easy chairs were used for interviews, and there was a soft play area. We had a band with a drum box, and singing from the Zimbabwe Choir and the High Street singers. Back to the chapel the next week with worship led by the Worship Group, remembering Action for Children.

Bright Hour have continued to meet, and will be celebrating Barbara's birthday this week, at Doreen's.

The BB Band played at the Lower School Fair at the end of June. TFT also had a stall there, working with Harlington Hot-shots. TFT is now on it's summer break.



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626 Club moved into Summer mode, and spent part of each week on Bury Orchard. Kite flying has been popular, even when there was little wind.

Messy Church ended up a bit different. By the time the first family arrived we had begun to think that no-one would, so we moved into an on-line mode.

We did all the activities in the church, selecting those that weren't too messy. We were talking about

holidays, based on Jesus going to the Temple as a 12 year old. We started with icing biscuits and making sandals.



The biscuits were to show

the crowd, and the sandals, the journey. The hands also showed the crowd, but as well as this, with the different sizes, we could show growing up. It is difficult to show being lost, so we hid sweets for the children to find. If you're lucky, they may not have found them all.



Open The Book carried on to the end of term where possible, and will now restart in September.

Crafternoon Tea has been meeting, with occasional new people coming in to join them. It will continue through the holiday period.

Fellowship Groups held their final meetings for the summer.

Coffee Drop-in was competing with the Lower School Summer Fayre, so had a smaller attendance..

Film Club showed the cartoon "Wreck-it Ralph"

The New Project Group's first project, the Summer Camp holiday club has just started, and is going well.

CHURCH “NEW PROJECT” GROUP.

In September we will be running a live trial of WorkSpace. We have started publicising it with the August Contact, although nearer the date will probably add other means such as Facebook.

We are also starting to publicise the “Meet your village” We intend to run this at the end of September, which will overlap the Prayer Weekend, but we have discussed this and see that there may be synergy. There are already people moved in at the Brambles and Pilgrims Chase, and I am told there is one house occupied in Castlefields. Publicity for this will be leaflets to the new houses and more general means to the rest of the village.

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	
03 August	am Cathy pm Martin	Leslie	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.
10 August	Cathy		
17 August	Steve TG	Kate	
24 August	John		
31 August	Madeline	Kay	

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. Next meeting is expected to be on 4th September.

DAVID GOODWIN

Dear Friends,

In January 1960 the Luton Methodist Circuit Plan listed a 'David Goodwin' as the organist at Marsh Road Methodist Church, Leagrave. I am very grateful to them for having given me the opportunity, a few years prior to that, to start playing occasionally in church under the guidance of their then organist. I was also very fortunate to go to Luton Grammar School where there was a pipe organ that had been donated in memory of one of the pupils who died in the second world war. This was used every day for morning assemblies and there was always a hymn or two. It was mainly played by pupils on a rota accompanying some 600 pupils and staff. It was quite challenging as it was in a fairly critical atmosphere.

Meanwhile, in church in those days there were always two services every Sunday and a choir practice on a Friday evening. I also had weekly organ lessons from the organist at The Square, Dunstable. My lovely parents paid for these although I still cannot imagine how they could afford to do so. This all started before I had a car so I would cycle from home in Leagrave to school in New Bedford Road every weekday then, two or three days a week, cycle on to Dunstable after school to practise and to have an organ lesson at The Square. 'My chains fell off' had a different significance in those days!

It has been a great joy over all these years to accompany services in various local churches. However, health issues have recently made this very problematic. I am now completely deaf in one ear and have only 30% hearing in the other because of something called a vestibular schwannoma. I would be completely lost without hearing aids but these only partially restore hearing especially in the church environment. It is therefore with sadness that I feel that I can no longer continue to accompany services. I would like to thank you all for your encouragement and support over the years.

David



ISSUE #56

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **SEP** edition will be **THU 21ST AUGUST** 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 August 2025. Note the earlier date because of holidays. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

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 hall-way.

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.



TECH TRAINING

I am still trying to sort out a date for refresher training for the Sound System and for simplified Zoom, but a lot of things are happening at present.

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.

NIGEL BIBBINGS' FAREWELL

The Farewell Service for Nigel Bibbings will be held at Eaton Bray at 4pm on 3rd August. There will be a 'Faith Tea' after the service – teas, coffees and soft drinks will be provided in the Schoolroom. All churches are invited to bring food, but please label all items appropriately regarding allergies / sensitivities BEFORE donating them.

EATON BRAY

Eaton Bray will be holding a Thanksgiving Service on September 28th at 3.30pm, as the final act of worship in their building ahead of moving out on a new journey as a church. They welcome us to join them in this act of worship.

(As parking is limited, car sharing is desirable when visiting Eaton Bray)

PRAYER TIME

The annual church meeting proposed that we all pray for the future of the Church. It was proposed that we all try to do it at the same time at 8am and 8pm but from wherever we happen to be at the time.

Here are some suggestions for prayer topics.:

Sunday services and our preachers

Bright Hour Fellowship

Crafternoon Tea

Messy Church and leaders/helpers

626 Club and leaders/helpers

TFT and leaders/helpers

Those who come into the building for other things

Open the Book

Our Minister

All those unwell

The Village and the other churches

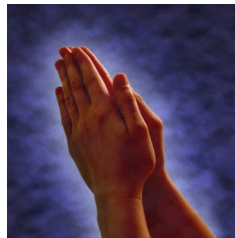
New people moving in to the village, particularly on the new estates

Things we do outside the church building

Summer Camp follow up

New Project team

WorkSpace



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 August edition is **THU 21st 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

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.'