

Harlington Methodist Monthly

October 2024

Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi

01582 663639/07702 012755 reverendlupi@yahoo.com

Senior Steward: Martin Wallis

01525 875850 martinwallis@hotmail.com

Hi all,

Last Sunday, 22nd September, was the Autumn Equinox, the day when the night is the same length as the day. This is taken by most people (excluding meteorologists) as the beginning of Autumn. We usually think of this as Harvest Time, even though harvest of grain at least happened in August, if not July. There are lots of Bible references to harvest, and lots of stories told which use harvest, and these cover a number of different things.



At the end of the story of the flood, in Genesis, God sends a rainbow, as a promise that seedtime and harvest will continue. We saw during spring and summer this year the effect that floods have on sowing and growing crops. I have no doubt that many farmers are waiting to see what happens this year and thinking about the cost of winter planting, wondering if it will be worth it.

Jesus, in his parables, talks about the harvest of people. The parable of wheat and weeds uses harvest to talk about judgement, and particularly God making the final judgement and the fact that we can't tell what the final outcome will be for individuals. We have to wait to see if a plant is a

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

crop or a weed.

Jesus also uses sowing seed as a metaphor for spreading the word of God. The Parable of the Sower is one of the more well known parables, possibly because it has an explanation that we can relate to. Seed is spread onto four different qualities of ground. The growth of crops and the success depends on the way the seed is affected. I sometimes think to myself, "Why didn't the farmer clear the thorns, move the rocks, avoid the path and/or focus only on the good ground?" Of course. When taken with the explanation, we can see that, as farmers spreading the word, we can't actually tell what the ground is like, it all looks much the same. It is frustrating to know that most of what you do will be wasted effort, but the rest? The rest leads to a harvest.



We don't always see it. It is really great when we do, when we get a response. Often here, particularly with young people, they move on and the harvest comes somewhere else. Paul wrote, "I sowed and Apollos watered, but God grants the increase." We have to remember this, think how we can continue to spread the word and thank God for the Harvest.

Clive

HARVEST DECORATION

As it is the Harvest Service on the 6th October can I please ask for volunteers to help decorate the Church on Saturday 5th. If the hall has not been booked I will be at Chapel at 2.30 pm. Donations for flowers or any garden flowers or foliage would also be helpful.



Doreen

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 19th October 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 October session will be based on the life of Simon Peter, the impetuous disciple, fisherman, rock and holder of the keys. 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.

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.

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES

If you would like to take part in this year's scheme, please ask me for a leaflet which has all the details. Shoeboxes should be completed and delivered to me by 8th November. Thank you very much.

Dorothy



OCTOBER DIARY

- 1st 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Bookings—PBGS*
2000 Finance and Property Zoom
- 2nd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 3rd 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 21—John 17—Jesus prays for us
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 4th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 5th 1430 Harvest Decoration
- 6th** 1000 Morning Service **Harvest Come & See** led by Tina and Clive
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Jenny Spouge
- 7th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 8th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 9th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 10th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 11th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 12th 1600 Cinema Club
- 13th** 1000 Morning Service led by Worship Group
- 14th 1900 TFT Band
- 15th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 16th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing,*
1930 *Outside Booking—CTIH*
- 17th 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 22—John 18: 1—27—Trial & trust
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 18th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 19th 1600 Messy Church
- 20th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 21st 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

22nd 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1930 **CHURCH COUNCIL—ZOOM**

23rd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

24th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

25th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT

26th 1000 Coffee Morning

27th 1000 Morning Service - Local Arrangement

28th 1900 TFT Band

29th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

30th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

31st 1430 Fellowship Group—Session 23—John 18: 28—19:16—Character
Test
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - OCTOBER

1st Oct	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
1st Oct	1945	2200	PBGS
2nd Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
6th Oct	1500	1700	PBGS
7th Oct	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
8th Oct	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
9th Oct	1545	1930	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
12th Oct	1500	1900	Cinema Club
15th Oct	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
16th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
16th Oct	1930	2200	Churches Together in Harlington
21st Oct	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
22nd Oct	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
23rd Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
29th Oct	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
30th Oct	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

As I write this the Prayer Weekend is happening. We won't know until Sunday how well it has gone, and we may never know how this time for prayer has affected those taking part, not to mention those praying. On the Subject of prayer Steve T-G suggested that people could set an alarm for 12 noon and pray for the peace of the world each day. This idea may already be spreading around the world! You might see how it works for you.

We had the usual services this month plus an extra evening service when the Circuit came to Harlington for a hybrid service. There were around 30 in the chapel for this service, plus around 40 on Zoom, with one of the speakers coming in on Zoom. It was good to hear good news stories from around the Circuit, and to be reminded of our need to reach outside the church walls.

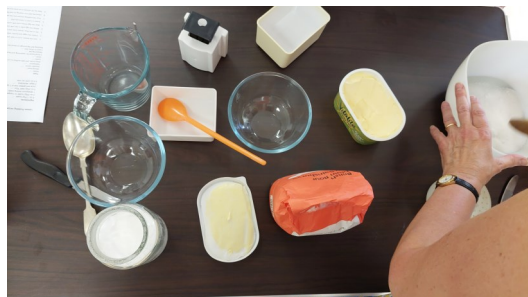
Bright Hour continued to meet and this included a party and a visit to Jo in Hitchen.

626 has restarted for the Autumn term. So far this term we have had 29 different children attend, although not all on one evening.

TFT have also restarted. They have had an evening of badminton at Flitwick, but the band event last Sunday was cancelled because of the weather.

Fellowship Groups are available both in person and on Zoom.

We had our first Messy Church last week, and while we did not have many people, we had a new family. We looked at creation as a harvest theme. We have left



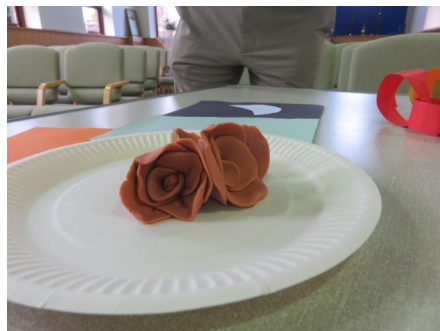
some things on the window sill, but are also looking to display more on the notice board in the passage, where they may be seen by more people.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Creative work included something representing each day of creation, and included cooking a very tasty lemon sponge pudding.



Open the Book has restarted at both Harlington and Sundon Lower Schools; at Sundon we are working with new OtB material that the Bible Society has developed.

The Eco Church group has met. The Methodist Church has set a target for each church, and the Connexion as a whole, to be carbon neutral by 2030, which is one year after the 100th Anniversary of the church building. Watch out for on-going work and discussions.

THANK YOU

To my friends at Bright Hour especially Doreen and Joyce, a sincere thank you for an unexpected birthday tea-party.

Beautiful, thank you

Nellie

CIRCUIT SERVICE - A LITTLE BIT MORE

Having a little space to fill, I thought that I could give a bit more of a review of things that were said as Good News stories in the service. Quite a lot of the time we see gloom and doom, and it is certainly true that many of our churches have an aging membership and some have closed, finance can be a problem and buildings need maintenance. But....

We heard from the Luton Branch of the Zimbabwe Church who meet at Oakdale, part of a wider group in the UK. They aim to be cultural expression tied to Zimbabwe. 12 from Luton joined with 400 who met at Blackpool to celebrate 21 years of the fellowship. You will have seen some as they sang at the Circuit Service in the Square (when Dunstable Downs was too wet).

Aley Green talked about going from 6 members and 6 others to 30 plus 30 in 30 years. Their outreach involved allotments and preserves. They now have 2 1/2 allotments, but also Coffee Evenings, Cakes and Company, a choir, Prayer Breakfast. They recently received 4 new members. They have restarted their Sunday School, bringing in children and parents who are not church members. They run a coach trip to the seaside and Christmas lunch. "Church is our workplace where we come to learn and understand, then we are supposed to go outside."

3 Generate is the youth gathering for the Methodist Church. 22 Young people and 7 leaders will be going from the Square, High Street and Toddington. This is where the young people have the opportunity to make their views known, and to have fun together. This is supported financially by the Circuit and District.

Toddington Holiday Club, before Covid, was a week long event attracting 60 children. They now run it one day a week during the school summer holiday, still with 60 children. Previous attendees, now teenagers, help with this, as does everyone in the church. It is about building relationships.

Trinity Messy Church also has whole church support—"there is no sell-by date on God's calling." "Things can't be done by one but require the whole church."

Trinity Tuesday morning service meets then because it is Market Day and buses are running, unlike Sundays. There are many retirement homes around Leighton Buzzard. Preachers come from inside and outside the Circuit. There is Communion once a month.

There are some common themes here, which may challenge us in our church life.

Enabling skills for ministry and mission



An online certificate

- Are you helping people change the way they work?
- Are you committed to working with people to achieve their purposes?
- Do you want to develop your approach in a context of competing demands?

This one-year part-time online course will enable you to develop your role through a mix of intensive feedback, reading and reflection. The course will enable you to

- Develop your approach through skilled and intensive feedback
- Improve your ability to read situations theologically
- Increase your confidence in understanding the systems, power relations and culture in your context.

The course runs from January to November.



Wesley House
Cambridge

In association with



Email office@wesley.cam.ac.uk to arrange an informal online discussion with a course tutor to see if the course meets your needs.

www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/enabling-skills

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP — October Speakers

- 3rd. - Dr. Robert Johns
- 10th. - David Piper about bagpipes and Scottish Dress
- 17th. - Rose Agnew
- 24th. - Alan and Christine Parfitt about Gilbert and Sullivan
- 31st. - Claudia

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	
06 October	am pm Tina	Harvest	Could you be a ves-try Steward? Have a word with Tina. The Flower Rota for 2024 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.
13 October	Tina		
20 October	Madeline	Madeline	
27 October	John	Trevor	

TELL OUT MY SOUL

Timothy Dudley-Smith, the author of this versified version of the Magnificat, and many other hymns we sing regularly, died recently.

My thought, though, is not about the writer, but how do I tell out the greatness of the Lord?

Are there ways we could be creating opportunities not just to do things but to speak about the reason for it?

What are your thoughts?

Clive

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

ISSUE #46

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **NOVEMBER** edition will be **THU 17TH OCT** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 24th October 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

Next month's Monthly will be the November edition, and before you know it we will be in Advent and getting ready for Christmas. Do you have something to say about that time? Or is it still too early, but you have something for Remembrance? Why not write?

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.

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 November edition is THU 17th October

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.'