

Harlington Methodist Monthly

February 2025

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Hi all,

February is the shortest month in the year, which you may feel is a good thing since January always feels so long, particularly if your money comes in monthly. I don't know about you, but it means I will have to get organised to fit things in to the time I have available, particularly editing Contact.



Many people budget their money. It is, after all, sensible to try to work out what money you have and to spend it wisely. Charles Dickens' father was sent to debtors' prison, and he was brought up in poverty. He worked in a boot-blackening factory, having had to leave school at the age of twelve. This is probably the reason for Mr. Macawber in David Copperfield:

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen, nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery.

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However, do we ever budget our time? After all, it may be possible to get more money, but time is a strictly limited commodity. Have you ever considered keeping a diary record of just how you spend your time? This is not a thing most of us would want to try, but if we keep a private record, just for us, may be we could learn something. Keeping it private means we can be completely honest, so that if you feel you have no time for yourself, but then discover you are wasting time while putting off tasks you don't want to do (like editing Contact), you could spend that time better for yourself.



We might also consider when we do things best. Are you an owl or a lark? You may have noticed that I'm an owl. Perhaps there are some things you should do in your "prime" time and others that are best done at other times. Anyone who has ever run a conference knows that nobody want the spot just after lunch when many of the attendees just want to sleep. You will notice the more clued speakers put in activities, questions and answers and so on to prevent this.

Michel Quoist wrote a whole meditation about time in one of his books (they were popular in the 60s and 70s). He talks about not having time for things, putting them off until it's too late.

Lord God, you only gave us so much time. Help us to use it well, for ourselves, for others and for you.

Amen.

Clive

FLOWERS

There are currently a lot of gaps in the Flower Rota. Now that Christmas is behind us, could you look and see if there are dates which you would like to offer.

Have a word with Doreen.

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 15th February 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.

Our February session will be the second session on Joseph, going from Pharaoh's dreams to the end of the story.

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.

Thanks to the people who came to help setting up was quicker this time and we will aim to revise our timings for the teams during the next session. If you can help for this one 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.

CHARITY FOR 2025

The church's charity for 2025 will be the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), as agreed in 2023. During the course of the year we will try to provide you with information about the work they do on the coast and in the seas around the UK.



FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st
- 2nd** 1000 Morning Service led by Tina and Clive Salmon —Come and See
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Margaret Newman inc Communion
- 3rd 1100 Funeral of Irmgard Hoddinott
- 4th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 5th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
1930 Churches Together in Harlington (in Church)
- 6th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 7th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 8th 1600 Cinema Club
- 9th** 1000 Morning Service led by Richard Armiger
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 10th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 11th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 12th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 13th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 14th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 15th 1600 Messy Church
- 16th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 17th
- 18th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 19th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 Church Council (on Zoom)
- 20th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 21st

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22nd 1000 Coffee Morning

23rd 1000 Morning Service led by Peter Baker

24th 1400 Crafternoon Tea

2000 *Outside Booking*—Scott Hemsley

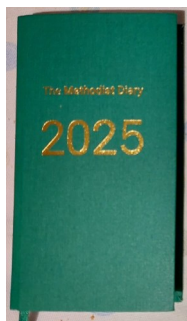
25th 1600 *Outside Booking* Kristy Dance

26th 1545 *Outside Booking*—Emily—Child Singing

27th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

28th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT



OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - FEBRUARY

04th Feb	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
04th Feb	2000	2200	PBGS
05th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
05th Feb	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
08th Feb	1500	1900	Cinema Club
09th Feb	1500	1700	PBGS
10th Feb	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
11th Feb	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
11th Feb	1945	2200	PBGS
12th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
12th Feb	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
18th Feb	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
19th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
24th Feb	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
25th Feb	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
26th Feb	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

Tina led the last service for the old year with a reflection on the Wise Men. The first Sunday of the new year came with snow. It was impossible to tell what it was going to be like on the roads, so Claudia led this service, our Covenant Service, from Dunstable over Zoom. We had a reasonable attendance, considering the weather, with some others on Zoom. As an aside, we need to work out how best to do that when most of the words are on the screen, for those using phones or tablets at home. The 12th of January was led by the Worship Group.

We had a United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This was led by St. Mary's with a Methodist preacher, Roger Owers. It was hosted by the Life Church in the Parish Hall, which was cosy with the good attendance from the three churches. Unfortunately services out of our building are not streamed or Zoomed at present.

As we said last month, 626 Club attendance before Christmas was averaging about 20. We had 4 children on the waiting list who turned 6 before Christmas so it seemed like there was plenty of space to bring them all in in January. Having a group start together works well for the youngest ones. We invited them to our 2nd meeting in January, and our attendance that evening was 30! In the next couple of days, Tina had 5 more requests for people to go on the waiting list, but it will probably be September before there are spaces.

TFT had a long break over the Christmas holiday, but are now back. They have taken the Christmas tree down and put it away. They made scones that evening.

In the guise of 1st Harlington Boys Brigade with Girls Association, TFT



had made it to the BB England and Wales Masterteam regional final. On Saturday 18th January 4 members of

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TFT attended the final in Hemel Hempstead. With only 2 teams going through to the UK final, it was a very close finish and a nail biting tie break for 2nd place, with Harlington beating Scarborough by 1/2 a point. The final is in Glasgow on March 1st (slightly further afield than this final in Hemel) I guess the leaders will be drawing straws for who provides the transport!

Thanks to all who responded to our appeal for additional help for Messy Church. Things were set up very quickly, we can look at the timings for this again.



Unfortunately the attendance in the church was low, but with Zoom as well we had a core group. Next month, I'm told, we'll have more there in the flesh. We looked at the first part of the story of Joseph, up to him interpreting dreams in prison in Egypt. We made bread for the baker and cups for the cupbearer. We also had coats of



many colours and rubbings to ornament camels. Then there were beards for hairy Midianites (or Ishmaelites) (hairy owes more to Lloyd-Weber than the Old Testament). We also made pyramids to represent Egypt. We tried bubble pictures for dreams, which didn't quite work, but was very messy—

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one to practice for another time.

Crafternoon Tea met at the end of December by popular request and in January. Attendance is good and the group enjoy the chance to get together.

Bright Hour met during the month.

There was no Coffee Morning in December. We start again this week when our charity for this year will be the RNLI.

Fellowship Groups have continued on Zoom and in person.

Open The Book has continued at Sundon and Harlington.

At Sundon we have told the story of the Wise Men to complete the Christmas stories, and have now moved on to stories of prophets and kings. It can be interesting when three of you tell a story with five speaking parts! Any volunteers?

Film Club showed Minions.



BIRTHS

Mary & Trevor are pleased to announce the arrival of their latest grandchild, a girl, BEAUX MARY ANN on 08 Jan at 1315 weighing 5lb 5oz. Mother and daughter are doing well.

IRMGARD HODDINOTT

We were pleased to receive a Christmas card from Irmgard, and therefore a little shocked to hear of her death.

Her funeral will be at 11 am on Monday 3rd February here in the church.

STEWARDING FOR FUNERALS

We have the funeral for Mrs Joan Blunt on Friday 31st January as well as Irmgard's funeral. If anyone can assist with stewarding at either of these, please let me know. I will be at both, but it helps to have others to assist.

Clive

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Our ACM will be held on 23rd March after the morning service. Please put this date in your diaries,

In preparation for this we will soon be asking for reports from organisations, so start thinking about what you will write!

PANCAKE PARLOUR

Shrove Tuesday, better known as Pancake Day, is on 4th March. I'm sure we would like to run Pancake Parlour as usual, but before we say we will, do we have volunteers to help? We have also asked the other churches in the past, so can you let Tina know before 5th February, which is when Churches Together should be meeting.



POSSIBLE LENT COURSE

The Chosen is a seven series, 56 episode production about the lives of the 12 disciples from when they are chosen by Jesus to after the resurrection (and I'm guessing to Pentecost). I have so far watched 4 of the series, series 5 is due out at Easter (it covers Holy week), series 6 is currently being filmed.

I think it is very well done and true to the gospels in respect to what Jesus does and says. They have created back stories for each of the disciples using information in the Bible and their imaginations. It shows what it would have been like to follow Jesus, how the Jewish authorities worked, how the Jews celebrated their festivals and what it was like to live under Roman occupation. It is very relatable.

If people are interested I would like to organise sessions at my home to watch season 1 during lent. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll try to find a day and time that's suits everyone.

Cathy

07816932744

Cathysheehan06@gmail.com

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP — February Speakers

6 th	Richard Luscombe	about holiday in New Zealand and Australia
13 th	Joanne Sherwood	
20 th	Sheila Norris	
27 th	Claudia	

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	
02 February	am John pm Cathy		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.
09 February			
16 February	Cathy		
23 February	Madeline	Caveney's	

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.

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 #50

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **MARCH** edition will be **THU 13TH FEB** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 20th February 2025. 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 you have something to say about local events, personal experiences or trips? Or even about your New Year Resolutions? Do you make any? What are your hopes for 2025? Why not write a short article for our Monthly Newsletter

Clive

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.



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 March edition is **THU 13th February**

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.'