



# Harlington Methodist Monthly

**APRIL  
2026**

**Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi**

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**Senior Steward: Martin Wallis**

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Dear friends in Harlington,

Grace and peace to you this Easter.

Easter comes quietly into our lives, much like the early morning light that slowly touches the fields around us. It does not force itself upon us, but gently reminds us of something we all long for: hope, renewal, and the possibility that things can change, even when life feels heavy.

For some, this season is joyful.

But for others, it may be a time of struggle.

There may be worries about health, about family, about work, about the future. There may be loneliness, grief, or simply a sense of being tired. And in a village like Harlington, where many different stories and backgrounds meet, these experiences can be very different, but the need for hope is something we all share.

The Bible offers these words of comfort and strength:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

These words speak to everyone. They remind us that darkness of any kind does not have the final word. Light remains. Hope remains. And even a small light can make a difference.

For Christians, Easter carries an even deeper promise: that death is not the last word.

We believe that when life on earth comes to an end, it is not the end of the

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story. The spirit continues to live held in God's love in a different dimension, in a place beyond our seeing, where life is whole, and love is complete.

This hope does not take away the pain of loss, but it gently holds it. It tells us that love is never lost, that those we carry in our hearts are safe, and that one day all things will be made new.

Easter, then, is not only about remembering but also about trusting that life is stronger than death, and that there is a life after life, and that love continues beyond what we can see.

Here in Harlington, I have seen that light in you.

In neighbourly kindness, in quiet generosity, in the way people look out for one another across different cultures, stories, and beliefs, there is something deeply good and deeply hopeful here. These are the small lights that keep a community alive.

If you are going through a difficult time, please know this:

You are not alone,

Your story matters,

And even in the darkest moments, there is a light that has not gone out.

This Easter is also a personal moment for me.

It will be my last Easter here with you, as I will be moving in July to serve the churches in Streatham and Brixton.

That is not easy to say, because Harlington has been more than a place; it has been a community, a shared journey, and a gift.

But Easter reminds us that endings and beginnings often walk together. That change, even when it is hard, can carry within it the seeds of new life.

So I leave you with gratitude and with hope.

My prayer for you is that, whatever your circumstances, you may find moments of light in the days ahead. That you may experience kindness both given and received. And that this village may continue to be a place where people of all backgrounds can live with respect, care, and a shared sense of belonging.

With every blessing this Easter,

Claudia

**Christ is risen—He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

The annual church meeting was held after the morning service on 8th March, and was attended by people present in church and some on Zoom.

Two new stewards were appointed: Mary Caveney and Sheila Norris, who will take up their roles at the beginning of May, which is the appointed day. Martin will remain as steward until the end of August, to provide continuity, and Clive and Tina will also remain as stewards for a further year. As we are a “small church”, in the phraseology of Methodism, any member of the church is entitled to come to the Church Council.

We reviewed the reports, as printed and circulated, and questions asked were answered. We noted the repairs that are planned for the kitchen—new boilers and dishwasher, to be done in the near future.

Also noted was that Claudia’s last morning service would be in June (the Plan is not yet available) and her last evening service would be 5th July.

**(Later communications with the Circuit may force a change here).**

It was suggested that we could have tea together—Stella offered to provide a cake—before that service. We took note of the Vision Day to be held at the end of August—see the article appearing later in this edition!

The next Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 14th March 2027

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

For some years, we have had a Prayer Chain – a number of people who agree to pray, when asked, for direct, personal requests. This is in addition to anything or anyone else you may be praying for in your own prayer time.

These requests remain confidential to the members of the chain, with the possible exception of requests involving a member of the church, when it may be appropriate to also inform our minister.

However, it is a long time since the church was invited to say whether they want to join the prayer chain. This is, therefore, an invitation to anyone who is a regular member of our congregation to be a member of the prayer chain as well.

If you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain, please let Tina know.

## **TECH TRAINING**

If you are interested in training on any aspects of the tech we use in the church, please let me know, and I will arrange a session. This will usually be at a Coffee Morning, but could be at a different time to suit. Clive

## APRIL DIARY

- 1st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Drama*
- 2nd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 3rd 0945 **GOOD FRIDAY** - Walk of Witness
- 4th
- 5th** 1000 **EASTER SUNDAY** led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 6th
- 7th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 8th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Drama*
- 9th 0900 *Outside Booking—Emily H—Extra*  
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 10th 0900 *Outside Booking—Emily H Extra—DANCE EXAMS*  
1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 11th 1600 Cinema Club
- 12th** 1000 Morning Service led by Worship Group  
1200 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 13th 1900 TFT Band  
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 14th 1430 Fellowship Group—Zoom—Ruth—session 3  
1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 15th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Drama*  
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 16th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 17th 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 18th 1600 Messy Church
- 19th** 1000 Morning Service led by R Acquah  
1500 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 20th 1400 Crafternoon Tea  
1900 TFT Band
- 21st 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 22nd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Drama*  
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

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- 23rd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship  
*1830 Gestalt Theatre—Emily T*
- 24th 1830 626 Club  
2015 TFT
- 25th 1000 Coffee Morning
- 26th** 1000 Morning Service, led by Roger Owers inc Communion  
*1500 Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 27th 1900 TFT Band  
*2000 Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 28th 1430 Fellowship Group—Zoom—Ruth—session 4  
*1600 Outside Booking Kristy Dance*  
*2000 Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 29th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Drama*  
*1930 Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 30th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship  
*1830 Gestalt Theatre—Emily T*

### **ROOM BOOKINGS**

PLEASE can all leaders and secretaries of hirers/users of the premises, keep me fully updated of dates, times, additions, cancellations, variations or any other reason so that I can be sure that the bookings diary is accurate and up to date.

Failure to update could lead to no heating, unplanned double booking or even a lost booking opportunity as examples. Outside hirers have also been requested to ensure their bookings are up to date.

Thank you for your assistance.—Trevor—contacts on page 16.

### **EASTER FLOWERS**

Everyone is invited to help decorate the church with flowers for Easter Sunday as usual. The church will be open on Saturday, but please check the time.

## OUTSIDE BOOKINGS—APRIL

01st	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
07th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
08th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
09th	0900	1400	Emily H—EXTRA. Exam practice
10th	0900	1600	Emily H—EXTRA—EXAM DAY!
11th	1500	1900	Cinema Club
<b>12th</b>	1200	1900	PBGS
13th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
14th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
15th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1830	2000	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
<b>19th</b>	1500	1700	PBGS
21st	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
22nd	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1830	2000	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
23rd	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Gestalt Theatre
<b>26th</b>	1500	1700	PBGS
27th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley—Band
28th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
29th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
30th	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Gestalt Theatre

## NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The church bank account is now 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

## **HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH**



Our April Messy Church will be on 18th April 2026 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 normal format is to do activities such as painting, cooking, and making things until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes singing and further activities, usually ones it is easier to do at home and that are less messy 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, or would like to help with the planning, please let Clive or Tina know so that we can arrange things most efficiently. If you stay to the end you get tea!

## **BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP**

Bright Hour meets at 2-45 pm in the Hall nearly every Thursday. They have an interesting variety of speakers who cover a wide range of themes, and you get tea and biscuits. Consider coming along, or if you know anyone who would like to spend some time with us, spread the word. It's not just for Ladies.

Speakers/activities for April are as below.–

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Doreen Gatwood
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Vicki York
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Diane Maple
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - John and Barbara
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Claudia Lupi

## **CHANGE OF MINISTER**

The exact timing of Claudia's farewell service is currently under discussion in view of the number of possible Circuit Services in July. We are also waiting for the plan to come out to be sure when her last service in Harlington will be.

Our new minister, Revd. Doreen Koffie-Williams, will be welcomed to the circuit on 6th September with a service at the Square at 6pm. Again, it would be good to have a good representation from Harlington.

## **PRAYER TIME**

At the 2025 annual church meeting it was proposed that we all try to pray at the same time at 8am or 8pm but from wherever we happen to be at the time.



Here are some suggested topics for prayer at 8.

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

Meet the Village follow up

New Project team

The Circuit

Stewards

Our new minister

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

TUES at 2.30 pm. On Zoom every other week

Contact Tina (874481) for details of the joining link.

From March, we will be studying the book of Ruth. If you would like to join us, please contact Tina for the Zoom link. See the Calendar for accurate dates.

## **HOLIDAY CLUB**

We are planning to run the holiday club again this year from Monday 20 July to Friday 24 July. We are looking for people to help in the kitchen from about 10am to 2pm to organise refreshments and to prepare sandwiches for all the volunteers. If you are interested in helping on any of the days, please speak to Cathy Sheehan or Emily Thornton-Greet. If you are interested in helping with the children, please speak to Emily.



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of other things are, as usual, on display at the church, except the cakes, which have been eaten. We have had three families involved, either



in church or on Zoom.

Open The Book continues at Sundon and Harlington with retellings of the Easter stories.

Crafternoon Tea has required us to rearrange the tables to allow for new people to fit in the space.

Fellowship Groups have met either in homes or on Zoom.

The Coffee Drop-in continues to be quiet. We need to look at how we encourage people to come.

The film for Film Club was Monsters Inc.

There is a brief review of the ACM elsewhere.

The funeral service for Danny James was held here, and can be seen on YouTube on the church channel.



## REFLECTION

Tina was once told that Christians should behave at Easter the way the disciple did at the time, and have the same feelings. But how can we experience the same despair that the disciples must have experienced, or suffer from the same bewilderment at what was happening? How can we have the utter surprise and delight at the news on Easter morning? We know what happened, as the disciples did not know what would happen.

I often wish that more had been written of that journey to Emmaus. Jesus walked with those disciples and explained the scriptures to them. We don't have that explanation. It is assumed that later Christians would know the key things of what was said. And we need to remember that these two were not among the twelve, yet Jesus talked to them that Easter Day.

Apart from that Jesus appeared to the disciples on many other occasions and taught them, and no doubt explained what they should have seen from his earlier teachings.

We have two thousand years of teaching and interpretation which forms our response to Easter, how can we respond as the disciples did?

Besides which, even if we could respond as they did on the day, would it be right? The disciples got to understand the meaning of the crucifixion and resurrection after Easter Day. We need to live with it all the time, including Good Friday. Jesus died because people have the ability to make wrong choices and we all do it from time to time. God created us with free will, the power to make decisions for ourselves, including wrong ones. But God loves us so much that he doesn't want us to bear the full, eternal consequences of those decisions. And to deal with that God sent Jesus knowing he would die.

When we see the results of the decisions other people make, how do we react? God forgave and forgives my sins. *And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.* Do we set out to help others find God's forgiveness?

So Easter is a celebration, a solemn one to be sure and one where we are reminded of the effect of our failures, but a joyful celebration both on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and a time when we need to convey that solemn joy to the whole world where so many need to understand that the price has already been paid.

Amen

## **CIRCUIT GATHERING “TO BOLDLY GO”**

We have received the following invitation from the Circuit Office. This meeting is a follow-on from the meeting last year. Note the need to sign up through Eventbrite. There is a link in the article or a QR code on the poster,

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to invite you to join the **South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit Gathering** on **Saturday 25 April**, at **Newland Methodist Church, Crawley Green Road, Luton, LU2 9TE**, from **10:30am to 3:30pm**.

This is a follow-up to last year’s Listening Day and will be an opportunity for the Circuit to:

- Reflect on the **mission priorities** we agreed together last year
- Share how things have gone over the past year
- Discuss what we need to **pick up, give up, or rethink** to achieve our mission goals

Commit together to practical steps for the year ahead

The day will include **worship, table discussions, and shared reflection**, all designed to be interactive, prayerful, and inspiring.

**Lunch will be provided**, so please let us know of any dietary requirements when you book.

### **Booking Your Place**

- Places can be booked via the Eventbrite link below or the QR code on the poster

You can book **individually**, or if your church prefers, your **senior steward can book multiple places** for your members in one go. However it may be difficult for them to include names of those without email addresses, so please could senior stewards also let the office have a list of names by 12<sup>th</sup> April?

Please book your place as soon as possible to help us plan catering and space.

We look forward to seeing you there as we explore together what it means to **“To Boldly Go”** as a Circuit!

With every blessing,

**The South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit Office**

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[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/circuit-vision-day-tickets-1984064485285?lid=mhwkwiitnr1&utm\\_source=braze&utm\\_medium=ebml&utm\\_campaign=clpo ceex lcm fad mec mc mum 0 0 eventpublished&utm\\_term=Main EventPublishedSubFree HeroSummary other%20feature%20usage&utm\\_content=e412e73b-f3c5-463c-af88-9aa6b8e94267\\_69a07c398c4b8547d5bcb38c2360a706\\_2cc6065c-8d9a-424d-a326-56cd04fcd4b9](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/circuit-vision-day-tickets-1984064485285?lid=mhwkwiitnr1&utm_source=braze&utm_medium=ebml&utm_campaign=clpo ceex lcm fad mec mc mum 0 0 eventpublished&utm_term=Main EventPublishedSubFree HeroSummary other%20feature%20usage&utm_content=e412e73b-f3c5-463c-af88-9aa6b8e94267_69a07c398c4b8547d5bcb38c2360a706_2cc6065c-8d9a-424d-a326-56cd04fcd4b9)

*Best wishes*

*Marina Mele and Jenny Spouge*

*Circuit Administrators*

## **REFURBISHMENT**

At last we have the new water heaters and dishwasher in the kitchen, much to the relief of all. You will need to switch the sink water heater on at the socket when you want to use it. It takes about 10 mins to warm



up. The boiler is similar to the old Zip heater and takes about 40 mins to heat. In both cases please switch them off before you leave.

Instructions for the dishwasher should be available soon. Thanks go to Martin for his work on this.

Now to work on the other things, like the lighting.

## WALK OF WITNESS

The annual Churches Together in Harlington Walk of Witness/Prayer walk around the village takes place as usual on Good Friday. It starts from the Methodist Church at 9.45 am. At about 11 am there will be the dramatized retelling of the Good Friday story outside the shops, and we finish at St. Mary's Church with Hot Cross Buns and tea/coffee.

As ever, volunteers are needed to take part in the readings and prayers round the village and in the drama. Can you let me know if you can take part in the drama as soon as possible?

Thank you Clive

## COLLECTIONS

During the pandemic we stopped passing the collection plate during services and many people set up standing orders to pay their collection directly into the bank. However, there are a few people who still prefer to pay by cheque and cash and some visitors leave money in the collection plate by the door. At the Finance and Property meeting on 21 January we agreed we would re-introduce the taking up of the collection during the service.

There is, of course, no obligation to put any money in the plate so it is ok to just pass the plate along the row. If you would like to give your collection using an envelope scheme please let Cathy know.

Stewards will, as before, be responsible for taking up the collection and counting it after the service.

Cathy

## ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
05 April	am Cathy	Doreen
12 April	Cathy	
19 April	Steve TG	Christine and Alan Parfitt
26 April	Madeline	Setterfields

**Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.**  
**The Flower Rota for 2026 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.**

## **ISSUE #64**

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **MAY 2026** edition will be **THU 14TH APRIL** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 21st April 2026. Th. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

## **THE FOOD BANK**

The Food Bank collection is now back in operation and Cathy will be taking the items to the food bank about once a month. There is a collection box in the main entrance but she is happy to pick up from other places if needed. No fresh food is accepted. They are often short of the items marked \*\*

Milk (long-life)

Fruit juice (long life) \*\*

Pasta sauces (jar)

Soup

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned meat meals (e.g. Chilli con carne, beef stew, chicken curry) \*\*

Tinned solid meats (e.g. Ham, corned beef) \*\*

Tinned fish (e.g. Tuna, salmon, mackerel)

Tinned vegetables \*\*

Tinned potatoes & instant mashed potato \*\*

Rice & pasta

Tinned fruit \*\*

Cereal

Rice pudding (tinned)

Tea bags & instant coffee

Jam

Snack noodles (pots/packets)

Crackers or savoury snacks \*\*

Biscuits & snack bars

500g bag of sugar

Laundry products \*\*

Toiletries

Pet food

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

**DEADLINE** for inclusion in May 2026 edition is THU 14th April

**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)

**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 are also available.

**WIFI**

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

**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.'*