

Harlington Methodist Monthly

December 2024

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Hi all,

Advent Sunday is 1st December, so from the very first day of the month we will be looking to the Christmas season. Most of our Christmas celebrations actually take place in Advent. Once Boxing Day has arrived, it seems as if many people are only too anxious to get Christmas finished—maybe that's why January seems like such a long month.

There will be a lot of Christmas celebrations run in the village. Not all of these are run by or in the churches, but it is difficult to celebrate Christmas without any thought of God.

A lot of people will come into the churches, or gather by the shops to enjoy the togetherness that Christmas can bring, not to mention the Carols and the mince pies. That leads me to two thoughts.

The first is how do we take care of those for whom Christmas is not a joyful time for whatever reason? We are usually busy, and we have family to see and fun to enjoy. What about those who are sad or lonely at Christmas?

The second thought is that Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to introduce

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

people to the love of God. Many will be more receptive to the message, or at least in a place where they are willing to listen. How and when do we speak? I often feel we are in danger of the two extremes, trying to force the message down the throats of people who are thereby turned off on the one hand, whilst on the other hand saying nothing because we don't want to appear pushy. One approach turns people away while the other makes it seem that we too think the main message to be less important than the party. Perhaps this year we can think about the ways we can spread the message.

Clive

WALLACE EDWARDS

Just to ensure you have noticed on the Plan the important Circuit Service on December 8th at 2.30pm at Trinity, Leighton Buzzard.

This will be a Thanksgiving for the ministry of Wallace Edwards who has reluctantly had to cease preaching in health grounds.

The preacher at this service will be the former Superintendent of the Dunstable Circuit, the Rev David Jenkins.

Do come and join the Circuit in giving thanks – and for tea after the service.

Thank you

Jenny

If you would like to go and need a lift, or are going and can offer a lift, contact one of the stewards.



CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM KAY

To all my dear friends at Harlington Methodist Church. In lieu of sending individual Christmas cards, I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year xx

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church will be on 21st December 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 December session will be based on Christmas carols, and we will tell the



Christmas message through them, and sing some favourites..

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.

0—4 NATIVITY (Formerly known as the Pram Service)

We are holding this again this year, on 6th December at 10 for 10.15 am. If you would like to assist, let me know.

Clive

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.

DECEMBER DIARY

- 1st** 1000 Morning Service led by Sheila Norris —Come and See
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
- 2nd 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 3rd 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 4th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 5th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1930 Worship Consultation
- 6th 1000 0 - 4 Nativity (aka Pram Service)
1345 *Outside Booking—Western Renegades Line Dancing*
1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 7th 1700 BB National Masterteam Competition
- 8th** 1000 Morning Service local arrangement led by Cathy Sheehan
1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*
- 9th 1000 *Outside Booking—HNNH Christmas Lunch*
1900 TFT Band
- 10th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
1945 *Outside Booking PBGS*
- 11th 1200 *Outside Booking—Private NHS Team Event*
1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 12th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Session 24—John 19: 17—42—
Obedient to death
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 13th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 14th 1600 Cinema Club
- 15th** **1000 FAMILY CAROL SERVICE** led by Rev Claudia Lupi
Outside Booking—PBGS
- 16th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*

(Continued on page 5)

17th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
18th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
19th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
20th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
21st 1600 Messy Church
22nd 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion
23rd
24th
25th 0930 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE led Rev Claudia Lupi
26th
27th
28th
29th 1000 Morning Service led by Tina Salmon
30th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
31st

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - DECEMBER

01st Dec	1500	1700	PBGS
02nd Dec	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
03rd Dec	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
03rd Dec	1945	2200	PBGS
04th Dec	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
06th Dec	1345	1615	Western Renegades Line Dancing
07th Dec	1700	2200	BB National Mastermind Comp
08th Dec	1500	1700	PBGS
09th Dec	1000	1500	HNH Christmas Lunch
10th Dec	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
10th Dec	1945	2200	PBGS
11th Dec	1200	1500	NHS Team Event
11th Dec	1545	1930	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
14th Dec	1500	1900	Cinema Club
15th Dec	1500	1700	PBGS
16th Dec	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
17th Dec	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
18th Dec	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing

REVIEW OF THE MONTH

The final service in October was another Local Arrangements service. However the November services had planned preachers. The two less standard services were the service for Remembrance Sunday which began with the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and finished with the united service in St. Mary's. As usual,



the TFT band led the parade (after the colours). The evening service of Remembrance Sunday was another United Service at St. Mary's, this time a Communion Service celebrating the life and work of John Bunyan. Rev. Claudia preached, and gave a good address, showing her studies on John Bunyan,

about whom she had previously known nothing!

The TFT band had clearly been practicing hard for Remembrance Sunday, and had new tunes to march to, including, I believe, the St. Louis Blues. They also provided buglers to play in the ceremony.

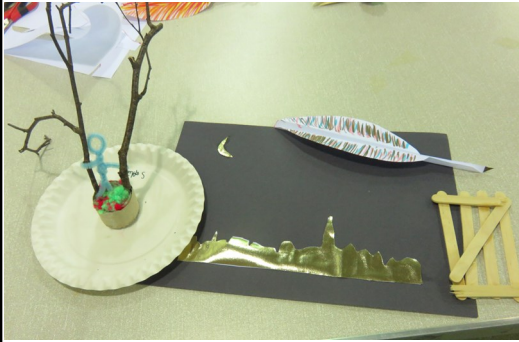
626 Club has met each week. We have had to make an effort to ensure we have sufficient parent helpers each week.

Messy Church picked up the John Bunyan theme. Some of our activities represented his life and the rest were based on Pilgrim's Progress. Bunyan was a soldier, a tinker, a preacher, a prisoner and a writer. We had a sword, pots, a man in a tree preaching and a



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



quill. We made chocolate angel delight to represent the slough of despond, a wicket gate and a golden city. You can see more examples in the church. Altogether we had 6 children and nine adults. We're not quite sure what will happen if all the families who come sometimes arrive together, but it would be good to find out!

Crafternoon Tea has met twice with a good attendance each time. A great deal of craft and chat take place.

Fellowship Groups have also met.

The Bright Hour Fellowship has had a variety of speakers.

Film Club is due to meet this week, as they could not meet on their usual day.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Advent Bible study 3,10,17 December 2-3pm

To meaningfully celebrate Christmas, Trinity are holding an Advent bible study course on Tuesdays December 3rd, 10th and 17th at 2pm in the Charteris Suite of the church. Each session will last around an hour and will be followed by light refreshments. We will be using the three Advent sections from the Methodist Church worship resource 'Hush the noise, join the Love Song this Christmas'.

Anyone from the Circuit is welcome to join us. For more information please contact Anne Gray, Church Office ttprojectoffice@gmail.com

Regards

Anne Gray

Trinity Methodist Church Office

www.trinitylb.org.uk

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION

If you would like to decorate a window for Christmas, have a word with a steward. It would be good if some were decorated before the 0—4 Nativity



CHRISTIANS IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

A very short extract from a letter from the Rev. Nicola Jones, currently in the Holy Land:

And talk turned to Christians becoming targets of Israel and not being the 'buffer' any longer between Muslims and Israel, disliked for how they were caring for families, educating their children, showing love and compassion. 'Israel wants us to leave: the land, the caring for people especially poor families which usually means Muslims and Bedouin families and most of all, for us not to witness the daily horrors they are subjected to.... '

So please pray for the struggling Christian community in Gaza and the West Bank.....pray for those in physical danger especially as it's all around with a young man shot dead in his car at the checkpoint we were stuck at two days ago in Nablus.

Referring to Christians praying and speaking out, Neimoller said:

'First they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the gypsies but I did not speak out because I was not a gypsy.

Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I am not a Jew.

Then they came for me

And there was no one left to speak out for me'



All Saints Church, Shaftsbury Avenue, Luton



17TH
DECEMBER
2024

7:30PM
START

ALL WELCOME

A Multifaith Event to Welcome and Distribute the Light
from Bethlehem to promote Peace throughout Luton

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets every Thursday afternoon at 2.45pm at the Methodist church Hall each week. 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? New members are always made very welcome. No need to book ahead, just come along! We look forward to seeing you.

December

- 5th .- Harlington Lower School Choir to come and sing for us.
- 12th. .- Cathy Sheehan
- 19th. Xmas music and celebration by Barbara Donaldson.

January

- 9th.- .- Pam Greener
- 16th.- Nigel Bibbibgs
- 23rd- Rose Agnew
- 30th. - Claudia

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	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.
01 December	am tba pm Tina		
08 December	John		
15 December	tba	Caveneys/ Setterfields	
22 December	Madeline	Caveneys/ Setterfields	
25 December	tba	Caveneys/ Setterfields	
29 December	tba	Caveneys/ Setterfields	

ISSUE #48

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JANUARY** edition will be **THU 12TH DEC** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 26th December 2024. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

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

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 January edition is THU 12th December

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.'