

# Harlington      **MAY** Methodist      **2025** Monthly

**Minister: Rev. Claudia Lupi**

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Hi all,

Between me writing this and most of you reading it, the Circuit Listening Day will have taken place. As this is the first time this will have happened, I've no idea what it will be like. I will try to ensure that those of us who go share with you what takes place.

Also, as part of the Circuit Vision, The Mission Month will run from 24th May to 28th June. I hope to have more information about actual events later, and will circulate it with the weekly services when received.

We are still developing what was talked about at our Annual Church Meeting. The "New Project" group has met once. Hopefully you will see some of the results of this flow through, although like many such things, expect a gradual start as we explore what is possible for us and look to find what resources we can obtain to make things practical. One immediate thing is that I have put in a list of topics we can pray about in the 8 o'clock slot. These are just a few ideas. If there are other things you want to have added, let me know.

It is said of churches that it is easier to give birth than to raise the dead. Easter, however, is a time of resurrection. And things that look dead may only be dormant, waiting for sun or rain to enable them to spring to new life. We have the opportunity to be resurrection people, looking to spring into new growth. Or, to mix a lot of metaphors, we can be like a fire which seems to have died, but which can with care be nurtured until it blazes up again. Wesley Day is on the 24th May when Methodists remember John Wesley's heart being strangely warmed. Look what that started.

Clive

## **MISSION MONTH 24TH MAY—28TH JUNE**

This is an invitation to all the churches in the circuit to get involved in **Mission Month**.

Every single church in the circuit is experiencing the same, or some of the same, difficulties that we are all experiencing; aging and shrinking congregations, rising costs and less income, loss of key personnel; a smaller share of a minister's time, a loss of confidence after COVID and an increasingly absent sense of direction – I could go on...

Well, we could dwell on all that negativity, real and imagined or take an opportunity to focus on the positives for a change.

Every church has its own unique setting and mission within that setting. One size of outreach and mission does not fit all churches. Our circuit is large and disparate, ranging from urban to rural, small and cohesive to large and diverse communities and lots of others in between. It is easy to become focussed entirely on your own situation and lose sight of the bigger picture and that is that we are part of a circuit. The purpose of the circuit is to support and encourage churches, but the circuit is the churches, and the circuit can only achieve its purpose if churches support and encourage each other.

We invite each church in the circuit to register one (or more) outreach or mission activity that they will be running during the time period indicated. We will put together a timetable of events and invite others from around the circuit to come along. You should also advertise your event to your own community. It doesn't have to be anything fancy or innovative, it could be as simple as your regular coffee morning or fellowship group, or you could try something new – as long as it is something that you can manage and is something to which you are happy to invite your community, and others from the circuit, to attend.

We hope that this will be seen as an opportunity to go and see what others are doing, learn from each other and forge supportive and encouraging alliances, and most importantly, to recognize the circuit in action.

As a first step you need to start thinking and talking in your churches about what activity, new or existing, you could register to be advertised as part of **Mission Month**. If you have any questions, need ideas or some help in deciding what to do, then you can speak to your Minister, to Roger Owers (Senior Circuit Steward) or myself. The CLT will be happy to help in any way possible.

Tania Stanford (Circuit Steward) email: [taniastanford@live.co.uk](mailto:taniastanford@live.co.uk), Tel: 07957 941481

## **HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH**



Our next Messy Church will be on 17th May 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 May session is on the early church.

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!



## **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Our next planned events are the Christian Aid Week and the Lower School Summer Fayre. Keep your eyes open for appeals for assistance with these.

## **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 is 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.



## **MAY DIARY**

1st 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

2nd 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

3rd

**4th** 1000 Morning Service led by Tina Salmon—Come and See

1800 Evening Service led by Rev Claudi Lupi inc Communion

5th **VILLAGE VE DAY CELEBRATION**

1400 Crafternoon Tea

2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*

6th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

7th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

8th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

9th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

10th 1600 Cinema Club

**11th 1000 UNITED SERVICE @ St Marys—Christian Aid Week**

12th

13th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

2000 *Outside Booking—PBGS*

14th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

15th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Sermon on the Mount—session 2

1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

16th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

17th 1600 Messy Church

**18th** Morning Service led by Steve Rogers

1500 *Outside Booking—PBGS*

19th 1400 Crafternoon Tea

2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*

20th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

1945 *Outside Booking—PBGS*

21st 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

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22nd 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

0930 HLS Class Visit

23rd 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

24th 1000 Coffee Morning

**25th** 1000 Morning Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi inc Communion

*1500 Outside Booking—PBGS*

26th

27th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*

*1945 Outside Booking—PBGS*

28th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*

*1930 Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*

29th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Sermon on the Mount—session 3

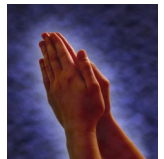
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

30th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

## **PRAYER TIME**

At the annual church meeting it was proposed that we all pray for the future of the Church. It was suggested that we all try to do it at the same time but from wherever we happen to be at the time. It was proposed that this be at 8am and 8pm so please set your alarms and join us in prayer at either or both of these times.



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

### **UPDATE ON MYRIE AND COLIN.**

Myrie has moved into a Care Home near where they live near Reading. Her eyesight has slowly deteriorated due to cataracts, but she is able to walk a few steps with a mobility frame and the help of a member of staff.

It sounds a very pleasant place with a hairdressers which Myrie has been pleased to visit, and she has made friends with other residents.

Her ensuite room has a patio where she has some colourful plants.

Colin was planning to spend a few days at Michelle's over Easter.

Please continue to keep both Myrie and Colin in your prayers.

Thank you

Dorothy

### **OUTSIDE BOOKINGS - MAY**

05th May	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
06th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
07th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
07th May	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
10th May	1500	1900	Cinema Club
13th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
13th May	1945	2200	PBGS
14th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
14th May	1930	2030	Emily T-G Adult Dance
18th May	1500	1700	PBGS
19th May	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley Band
20th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
20th May	1945	2200	PBGS
21st May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
21st May	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
25th May	1500	1700	PBGS
27th May	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
27th May	1945	2200	PBGS
28th May	1545	1830	Emily Hancock—Child Singing
28th May	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance

## **REVIEW OF LAST MONTH**

The last Sunday of March was Mothering Sunday. As usual, 626 made gifts and we provided flowers. Not all women wish to be, or can be, mothers, and some find this Sunday difficult. We like to give things to all the women in the church.



The first Sunday in April was our first “Come and See” since the ACM, and Martin led a highly interactive service complete with a relay race.

The Worship group led the next Sunday, then we had a Family Easter Communion Service on Easter Sunday. This was a well attended service despite starting 30 mins earlier. It was good to welcome visitors.

Easter being in April this year, the month has been largely school holidays. 626 has met each week apart from on Good Friday. During holidays, we plan for lower attendance, which gives us the chance to use the RC model cars, and do sand pictures.

TFT don't meet in the holidays, but their last meeting before the break was a joint one with teenagers from the Square as a follow on from their attendance at 3Generate, the national Methodist youth gathering.

Open the Book met only once at Sundon, but I was invited to lead the prayers at their Easter Assembly.

Film Club met a week earlier than usual because of the holidays although as this was the first Saturday of the holiday the attendance was still affected.



On Good Friday we held our usual united Walk of Witness around the village, starting from our church. Over more recent years we have experimented with the use of costume drama in this walk. This year we started the walk early (sorry—the change of time happened after the last Monthly went out) to allow time for costuming just before the drama. Having walked round the village to read and pray at significant locations, we went back to the shops for a narrated drama. This covered Jesus' arrest, trials and

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crucifixion. We then went back to St. Mary's for tea and hot cross buns. We have had a number of people say how moving the drama was this year. It is our turn to take the lead next year!

The 3rd Saturday of the month was Easter Saturday. We held Messy Church then, and we obviously looked at the happenings of Holy



Week and Easter. So we had hand and foot washing, which we combined with getting ready for working with food and clearing up after painting feet. We also had footprint stamps for those who didn't want paint on their actual feet. We made nail crosses, and torches for the mob arresting Jesus. We



also made empty tombs with bread rolls and Jelly Babies, although green icing isn't as bright as it used to be. We also made chocolate nests (with shredded wheat). In the Celebration we made origami cockerels for Peter's denial, and added eggs to the nests, and talked about

why we had eggs.

Crafternoon Tea met fortnightly through the month, including on Easter Monday.

Bright Hour Fellowship met weekly.

The usual Fellowship Groups met when possible, and there were also Lent Fellowship Groups running.

At the March Coffee Morning we presented a cheque to Jane Barltrop for Brain Tumour research (see separate article).



## PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE FOR LAST YEAR'S CHARITY



At our Coffee Morning on 29th March we presented Jane Barltrop with a cheque for £775.63 towards the charity Brain Tumour Research.

We have since received this card from her, and a letter from the charity. There is also a message of thanks in her article in Contact



Dear Friends at Harlington Methodist Church  
Thank you so much for choosing Brain Tumour Research as your chosen charity for 2024 and thank you so much for your amazing donation of £775.63 I was quite overwhelmed by your generosity, kindness and support.

I have loved my Saturday mornings with you sharing tea, cake and chats and hope to continue to join you and consider you all as my extended family

With love and thanks

Jane Barltrop

## WATER METER

After much effort and little response from the company, when Cathy saw that Sundon Road was being closed for Anglian Water, she asked if our meter was going to be fitted, and when told "No", suggested that it would be a good time to fit it. We have a water Meter.

Thanks, Cathy.



## **BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP**

Speakers for May:

- 1st - Patrick Kandeh
- 8th - Cathy Sheehan talking about Egypt
- 15th - Rev. Seung-Wook Jung talking about Korea
- 22nd - Dr. Robert Johns
- 29th - Rev. Tim Haines talking about his time as a missionary in Thailand

## **ROTAS**

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS	<b>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.</b>
04 May	am John pm	Janet and John	
11 May	At St Mary's	At St Mary's	
18 May	Steve TG	Tina	
25 May	Madeline	Mary and Trevor	

## **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.

## **CIRCUIT SERVICE—DUNSTABLE DOWNS**

This will be on 13th July this year. Please make a note in your diaries and try to attend this different service. If anyone would like to help either with the logistics or the worship let Claudia know.



## **ISSUE #53**

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JUNE** edition will be **THU 15TH MAY** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Thursday 22nd May 2025. This is early because the first Sunday in June is the 1st and we distribute for the last Sunday of the month. 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 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 and all the May Bank Holidays are coming up. I will suggest some dates as soon as I can.

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.

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

**DEADLINE** for inclusion in June edition is **THU 15th May**

**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)

**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.'*