

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Well, here we are! Hopefully we'll all be let loose again shortly after you receive this magazine.

I recently re-read last December's issue and couldn't believe all the activities and festivities that had been organised - Carols in the Carpenters, the Christmas Tree festival in St Mary's Church, and the open air Nativity to name just three. Hopefully the village will be back to 'normal' by next Christmas!!! Fingers crossed a lot earlier than next December!

At time of writing, (have a viewing tomorrow), my house still hasn't sold, so you've got me for a little while longer. However, as it takes a couple of months to get up to speed with the editing, if anyone is thinking of a new venture / challenge for the New Year - I can highly recommend doing this.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.



Lois (Editor)

Ps. I had hoped to include the 2nd half of Harlington Remembers but ran out of room. It will be in January's Contact.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that Contact Magazine does not officially endorse any advertising material included in this publication

Our preferred typeface is Times New Roman for regular articles and notices. Submissions should be suitable for A5 format. Submissions may be abridged for space reasons and inclusion it at the discretion of the Editor/Management Team.

January copy by 12th December please.

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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Letter from the LiFE Church

Hello everyone,

As I write this, the whole of England is in lockdown and all we hear from the press is bad news. Covid-19 infections and deaths are rising and our lives will never return exactly to the normal we once knew. Enough of the doom and gloom, let me give you all some good news. Despite the media reports Christmas 2020 is NOT cancelled! It is likely we will have to celebrate things very differently, no large gatherings with family and friends, the events and activities we look forward to attending will not take place face to face but over the internet via zoom, Facebook etc. (other social media available) and the frenzy of going Christmas shopping for many people will increasingly be done on-line rather than in the shops.

As we approach Christmas in a different way can I encourage you to explore what, how and why we celebrate. As Christians we believe Jesus, the son of God, came into the world as a baby born, not in a clean NHS hospital with midwives in attendance but in a dirty, smelly stable with the animals present. Mary, the mother, did not have cards, flowers and gifts from family and friends but visits from shepherds and wise men. The birth was not announced on Facebook, Twitter or television but by a host of angels and a star in the sky. God sent his son into the world to give us hope because he loves each one of us - this is what we celebrate at Christmas. In a few months time we will remember his death on the cross for each and everyone. A favourite verse of mine from the bible says this;

This is how much God loved the world- he gave his one and only, unique Son as a gift. so everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life. (John3:16 message translation).

At the moment it can feel like we are going through a dark tunnel but we must remember there is a light at the end. I was once stuck in The Chanel Tunnel with my family for several hours. It would certainly have been unwise to get off the train and wander off into the tunnel but what we needed to do was to keep focused on the light we knew would eventually get brighter and bigger at the end. I encourage you to look to that light who is Jesus, whose birth we will be celebrating this Christmas and even Covid-19 will not stop us.

Unfortunately this year due to the ever changing restrictions the outdoor nativity service held on the Sunday before Christmas will not take place so the Churches have come together to create a Nativity Trail around the village depicting the Christmas story. We encourage you all to be involved by walking around the village, putting up stars and angels in your gardens or windows, collecting the activity sheets and map. Let's experience the Christmas story like we have never done before. See the advert in Contact, posters around the village and Facebook for all the details.

If anyone wants to know more about Jesus and the Christian faith please don't hesitate to contact us. Remember the Christ in Christmas!

Love and prayers

Carol Gibbs,

Life Church Harlington (07890 692574) or lifechurchcentralbeds@gmail.com

Churches Together *plus* Rotary Club Santa Float



NATIVITY TRAIL ANGELS AND STARS



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARLINGTON invite you to join them in making the Harlington Nativity Trail an exciting event for the village.

Please make and display an Angel or Star to hang in your window or somewhere outside from **20th Dec 2020-1st Jan 2021**. There will be life size models of characters from the Christmas story situated around the village.

From the 20th December you will be able to download a quiz sheet from www.harlingtonmethodist.church or collect one from The Shop or Bradshaws. (Prizes will be given to all those who complete the trail and return their completed quiz sheet - see Page 15).



Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale

We are all having to stay home this year to keep safe and it's no different for Santa. He wants to be fighting fit for a busy Christmas Day so this year he won't be going on his usual tour of the streets to wave to the boys and girls.

The Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale have helped him by knocking on doors to let you know he was coming and you have generously donated money used to fund a huge Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens and other charities Rotary supports. Money collected at one Christmas funds the next year's party so we are asking if you would be kind enough to make a donation, however small, using the just giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rotaryclubofflitwickvalechristmasappeal>

Rotary has used its available funds to help those in need in this year's Pandemic so we urgently need to build up our resources again. Please give just a little of the money you haven't been able to spend on entertainment this year and you will know you are doing something good for the community.

Rotary's motto is Service above Self, please help us to serve.

Next year we fully intend to host the party again and to help Santa bring cheer to everyone.

Please help us.



Harlington Butchers at Christmas

I'm walking home from Harlington railway station on the Friday before Christmas in the days when my children still believed in Santa Claus and snow at Christmas could, with luck, be more than just a Bing Crosby fantasy.

As a Christmas concession we've finished work at lunch time and so I'm rushing home excitedly, my suit wafting the aroma of cigarette smoke after 2 hours celebrating with my work colleagues in a packed and noisy Luton pub. Roger in Accounts may be a bit of a bore in the office, but after a few drinks he can certainly tell a good story!



The Train was hot with returning commuters, including the usual contingent of men awkwardly clutching hastily ill-chosen gifts for spouses and partners. Having left those who are travelling beyond Harlington, I round the bend in Church Road and enter Lincoln Way. I am greeted by the arcade of shops, glowing in the fading light. At the closest end of the row is the butchers - the sight of which sets my pulse racing. It's Charles Dickens and A Christmas Carol instantly recalled. As a boy, at the beginning of December every year I started and never finished reading that wonderful little book, with almost religious zeal – I wasn't a great reader!

What a joy the butcher's shop looks. Hanging from a mono-rail suspended from the high ceiling are a neat row of plucked turkeys and pheasants. The metal hooks that hold them wouldn't look out of place projecting from the sleeve of the dastardly Captain hook in a Harlington Performs panto production of Peter Pan.



Queuing outside is a winding row of people, most of whom I recognise.

What a Christmas dinner they will have. Filling the display counters are cheeses and pates, an assortment of homemade sausages and huge pork pies, with not a calorie count or government health warning in sight.



Boy, oh boy how I love Christmas dinner, and the left overs which, with luck, will last for days!

Howard and Megan see me and give a friendly wave. Having been working in their butcher's shop from before first light for many days, they are exhausted. They don't show it. I smile, wave, mouth "Merry Christmas" and, in my slightly rambling gait, continue to my front door where I am greeted by a riot of excitement.

© Duncan Willox
2/6/2020

It would be lovely to hear any news / updates of Howard and Megan, if anyone knows how they are etc.

(Thanks, Lois - Editor)

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Flittabus Services



The Flittabus route **FL6B** from Harlington to Flitwick on Thursday mornings will **CONTINUE throughout lockdown** and for as long as we have volunteers.

We can take up to 8 passengers under current rules. However if we have more than 8 people booked by a Wednesday lunchtime we will put on two buses. This service is free to anyone of pension age. You can hail it on the route and the driver can usually drop you off very close to your front door. The service will operate on the below amended timetable and will be subject to a number of safety measures in place to protect our passengers and drivers.

Prebooking is very strongly recommended, and you can now do this locally by calling **Sue Whittle on 07887 708304**. Helpline - 07960 388111

FL6B	Harlington - Westoning - Flitwick (Tesco)				
	Emergency Timetable				

Thursday only

Harlington, Westoning Road	9.28
Harlington, Wingate Road (Bunyan Way)	9.30
Harlington, Goswell End Road (Lay-By)	9.33
Harlington, Lincoln Way Shops	9.36
Harlington, Sundon Road (Village Hall)	9.38
Harlington, Sundon Road (Bury Close)	9.41
Harlington, Station Road	9.43
Westoning, The Chequers	9.48
Westoning, Church Road (Village Hall)	9.50
Flitwick, Coniston Road (Tesco)	9.55
Flitwick, Coniston Road (Tesco)	10.55
Westoning, Church Road (Village Hall)	11.00
Westoning, The Chequers	11.01
Harlington, Westoning Road	11.05
Harlington, Wingate Road (Bunyan Way)	11.07
Harlington, Goswell End Road (Lay-By)	11.11
Harlington, Lincoln Way Shops	11.13
Harlington, Sundon Road (Village Hall)	11.15
Harlington, Sundon Road (Bury Close)	11.17
Harlington, Station Road	11.20

Please visit
www.flittabus.co.uk
for further and updated information.

Flittabus Community Transport is a not for profit organisation and driven by volunteers.

Harlington Society of Art & Crafts *plus* Adverts



These are very strange and unusual times that we are living in. I hope everyone is keeping well and sane by creating lots of beautiful art and craft projects. Maybe you are making some Christmas themed craft and festive art? Perhaps you have tried a new craft or a different style of painting during the pandemic? If so, please share them on our Facebook page. It would be lovely to see what the creative and artistic people of Harlington have been doing during lockdown. So why not brighten up your day and lift your mood by getting creative and/or artistic.

Unfortunately, due to the present Covid situation it is unlikely that we will be able to meet very soon. As for our AGM, which is usually held in February, we will have to wait and see what the restrictions will allow. Watch this space!

It just remains for me to say *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year!*

Keep on making, creating and staying safe!

Julie Tyler (Chairperson)

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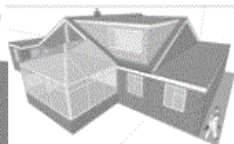
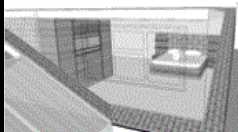
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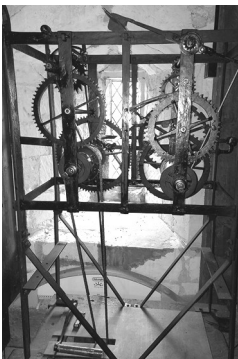
The Bells! The Bells!

Back in the September edition of the Contact magazine, I responded to an article asking for a volunteer to help assist in climbing on occasions, the tower at St Marys Church to conduct visual inspection of the bells and mechanisms, as well as adjusting the time whenever needed. Living only a short walk from the church I was delighted to be able to offer my time as well as to have the chance to climb up the historic tower and view for myself the bells that have rung out over the village since the 15th Century.

In early October I was lucky to be given a guided tour of the tower and, on a chilly Saturday morning I made the climb, accompanied by Allan Boldero, Church Warden -Tricia Murphy and her husband, Pete. Access to the top is via a very narrow, dusty and winding stone staircase. I didn't count how many steps there were but enough to break into a mild sweat! We eventually reached a small doorway which led us into where the bells are situated (*pictured below*). There are 8 bells in total and the first thought that goes through your mind is how on earth did they get them into place?

The bells are no longer rung by hand - a clever box of tricks in the church entrance enables the bells to be rung on the hour, or for other occasions including Weddings, Funerals etc.

The room below the bells holds the clock mechanism (which dates back to the mid-17th Century). (*pictured below*) This is also no longer wound



by hand, but it does need to be altered every few weeks and at the end of March and October. It has been known to lose or gain a few minutes depending on the weather conditions although this is not such an issue now as the clock workings are kept at a constant temperature by the addition of an electric heater.

Sadly, as many of you will know, the bells fell silent back in the early part of the year, due to a faulty circuit board. A fund was successfully set up by a local villager which raised enough money to be able to repair the fault and allow the bells to once again ring out over the village. A new circuit board was fitted, only to fail again after a couple of

weeks! However, the problem has now been resolved and all is well with the bells again.

We look forward to hearing them ringing out for Christmas 2020.

Andrew Fishpool

15th Century Graffiti



LiFE Church *plus* Adverts



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Life Church December Zoom meetings:

Sunday service at 6pm

and

Wednesday at 7pm for prayer

December 20th - Christmas Service with carols and dramatized readings.

Also, from December 20th for two weeks 'The Nativity Trail' - a joint venture with St. Mary's Church and Methodist Church.

See advert for all the details.

If you would like to join in, please contact us for the Zoom link.

If you have any prayer requests or would like to talk to someone the address is below.

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Welcome to yet more new borrowers. Jigsaws are pretty addictive! There are small to large puzzles with lots of different subjects.

Thank you again to everyone who has sent photos of their finished jigsaw – I really enjoy celebrating with you! Finally, when returning your jigsaw, please let me know if there is a piece missing or any other problem. It's good to know, and even a missing piece doesn't usually spoil the fun.

Just call/text or email your request; approximate size, small or large pieces and I can deliver to you or you can collect if you prefer. I hope in time that they will be somewhere more readily available, and accessible.

Tricia 07711 511729 tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com

Harlington in Bloom



Autumn Planting: We completed planting on Saturday 31st October, in a race to finish before the torrential rain! Thankfully most of us finished in time. The plants certainly haven't needed watering yet with all the rain we've had, and have bed-

ded in well. Our next job is to replace some of the rotten border edging, mainly around the flower bed near to the crossroads.

AGM: Our AGM is due to take place on February 12th 2021 in the Parish Hall, but this will probably be delayed until later in the year - we will let you know.

Volunteers: We warmly welcome a new volunteer, Teresa, and hope you enjoy being with HiB.

If you'd like to volunteer to help to water, weed or maintain HiB planting around the village, please contact Ian on 874720 or Tricia on 07711 511729.

HiB Committee

Harlington Neighbourhood Help

(Working in partnership with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity)

Harlington Neighbourhood Help Good Neighbour Scheme Update

We are reducing driving jobs during lockdown but will still try and get you to appointments where other options are not available. This includes trips to the L&D, opticians, vets, dentists and doctor's surgeries.

We will also collect shopping and prescriptions from the village shop or Tesco.

Please get in touch if you can give or need help.

07849 835410



Sue Whittle, HNH Co-ordinator

St Mary's Church Warden's Report

Bells: Well, would you believe it – we have a new circuit board, fitted in November, and the bells chime once more. I know everyone won't agree, but I love hearing them again – it's something about being a part of village life, enduring for hundreds of years. The clock, dating from around 1650, is also working again with its very familiar clunk, after the winding mechanism was restored to action.



Food Bank: The last delivery to the food bank totalled approximately 84 kilos! Thank you to everyone for your generous donations. The food bank would still like more puddings such as rice, sponge etc, plus tinned fruit and orange squash. They already have plenty of ordinary rice, pasta and baked beans! Many thanks once again to Sanjeev and Sunita at The Shop where food can be left when donated.



Church Angels: Several of our congregation are involved with prison visiting and this information is shared by them.

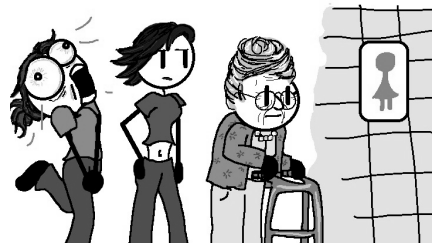
Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship project giving parents in prison the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children. Local churches, including those in Harlington, support prison volunteers with this. Last year, 4,400 presents were sent. This year, Covid brings unprecedented problems to the task of gift buying, wrapping, and posting. Sixteen members of St Mary's are currently on standby to support the big Christmas wrap in their own homes for local prisons. Gifts from Mum or Dad lessen the devastation of parental absence, especially when prison visits are stopped during lockdown.



For more information, please visit their website: prisonfellowship.org.uk.

Christmas & Parish Hall: we appreciate the importance of Christmas services to the village. We are still planning for our services and looking forward to welcoming you all. We are hoping to have the Parish Hall facilities open during this period, but are having problems sorting out access with the Parish Council. So please be aware the toilets may not be available - we really hope this doesn't prevent anyone from joining us. Take care, and stay safe.

Tricia Churchwarden 07711 511729



The Carpenters Arms

The CARPENTERS *Arms*

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us during our 10 wonderful years in the pub, it has been a great pleasure! We will be open again as soon as we are allowed ready to serve you with a smile! We have many memories of amazing times shared with you all and look forward to many more.

TERRY & TRICIA



**This Christmas is going to look a bit different for all of us ...
but we are here to help you make the most of it!**



**We are currently taking reservation for Customers wishing to dine
in-house with us throughout December
(These will be subject to change in line with any regulations)**



**All Covid-19 protocols implemented before lockdown will remain
in place with any additions.**

As always, we are all working hard to keep you safe



**We have fully decorated the pub for Christmas and the usual mulled
wine will be available**



**Takeaways will be running throughout December until 23rd
(This may be extended if we are unable to reopen)
The Delivery Team promise to be wearing Santa hats and a smile
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**Roast turkey with all the trimmings will be, we hope, a welcome
addition to our regular and takeaway menus**



**During the festive season drinkers will see the return of the marquee
transformed into a Christmas wonderland with heaters and lights**

**We really hope to see you during the festive period,
Merry Christmas from all at the Carpenters Arms**

Harlington Nativity Trail - For All The Family

20th DECEMBER—1st JANUARY

What to do:

Download the Nativity Trail map and quiz sheet from the Methodist Church Website or collect it from The Shop or Bradshaws. Follow the trail around the village to discover the life size displays that tell the Christmas story.



Fill in the quiz competition sheet

Questions for all ages

Prizes for children and adults



Join in the Nativity Trail by creating and displaying a star or angel in or outside your home



Return to: Methodist Church Post Box, or St Mary's Parish Church Porch or the Post Box at The Shop
or send by email to: lifechurchcentralbeds@gmail.com



Letters regarding the Parish Hall East Room

Another Paperchain has been pushed through the letterbox but the Parish Council has again failed to mention their plans to take over part of your Parish Hall to make a nice big new office for the Clerk. They are probably hoping that the annoyance and opposition from us villagers will go away, so they can proceed with wasting yet more of your council tax money on this totally unnecessary venture.

The idea of a ‘temporary’ relocation has gone quiet; given the uncertainty over future Covid restrictions and the current lockdown. Of course their original resolution to make the permanent move, passed last year, still remains – but we’re not supposed to remember that!

An on-going petition has raised many signatures so far, but we need as many as possible to make the Council remember that they are supposed to be working for our benefit – not theirs. **When a petition leaflet comes through your door please read the explanation and, if you agree, please sign and return it.** Otherwise a substantial portion of the limited public amenities your council tax pays for will be lost to support a local bureaucracy that already charges one of the highest precepts in the area.*

*Band D charge 2019/20

Barton le Clay	£86.75	Woburn	£54.02
Toddington	£91.10	Harlington	£147.78
Westoning	£47.22		

Source: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated_images/town-and-parish-council-spending-2019-2020-v3_tcm3-32254.pdf

The Wednesday Morning Games Group

Having taken an interest in the previous Parish Hall articles in Contact it has been useful to discuss it with villagers who seem to know about the issues.

Firstly, was anyone initially consulted about the HPCs proposed major changes to the Parish Hall? No. If you wanted to find out more where would you look? Parish council minutes perhaps or Paperchain? Well no, because there is nothing in them at all. Why not? The minutes don’t tell you what villagers or HPC have said. They don’t mention the objection letters which have been sent to HPC. And did you see any adverts for the vacant councillor posts, with 2 councillors apparently recently appointed? My guess is, probably not. Ampthill had a full page ad in The Oracle for a new councillor. HPC had an A4 page on the noticeboard by the Hall. Also the councillors email addresses aren’t on the HPC website any more for you to contact them. What’s going on?

The temporary office move seems to have quietened down – hopefully someone saw sense about the costs, practicalities etc, but the original resolution to move “permanently” is apparently still there, and likely to resurface. Now concerns seem to be about Hall use, with reassurances on the HPC website saying that the Hall will open when “it is covid compliant”. Read carefully. Cont/d....

Letters cont/d... plus Messy Church

It does not say that the Hall IS Covid compliant, although people seem to think it does.

Prior to this lockdown, we had been out of the previous lockdown for months. Why isn't the Hall "Covid compliant" already? So many places were managing to function; village halls, libraries, sports centres, shops, churches etc. I know we're in a middle of a lockdown at the time of writing, but even before this when Covid numbers were low in Central Beds, many halls opened. The Methodist Hall was already open, and the Village Hall near to opening before this current lockdown. I also heard the church has rights to use the Hall on Sundays. The main need apparently is for occasional use of the toilets in the Hall when services are on, but the church has been prevented from using them. Yes, we all have to behave differently, look out for each other, stay as safe as we can. And that's what we're doing; staying as safe as we can, but also carrying on living the best way we can, too. I've just signed a petition about the Hall and how it is used. Perhaps you could too?

The Parish Hall is a village amenity, acquired "for community use", a space we are fortunate to have. It usually provides ample room for all sorts of village activities, for the very young to the not so young. As we move forward, let's remember who it is there for. Is it for villagers or for HPC?

A concerned and puzzled villager

Messy Church



We tried again in October to live stream a shortened Messy Church session with just Tina and I present to lead it, and this time we made the technology work. You could see the story of the Good Samaritan and sing along with us to the songs in the celebration. Tina showed some coin rubbing, one of the shorter activities – there were others on the downloadable sheet.

We are continuing with this approach, so look out for some "live" material in December on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube channel, starting at **4pm on 19th December**. If you signed up on our contact list then we will email written material to you. If you haven't, then it's available on our website <https://cliveandtina.co.uk> and you can download it from there. Alternatively you can email me at clivedsalmon@aol.com.

Our December topic will, of course, be the Christmas story.

In the unlikely event that the Coronavirus no longer affects us, Messy Church meets in the Methodist Church and Halls on the 3rd Saturday each month from 4 to 6 pm. but keep an eye on Facebook, the YouTube Channel and our website.

Don't forget, while children need an adult, Messy Church, live or virtual, is not just for children.

Clive

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HVH 100 Club

The winner for November hadn't been picked at the time of going to press. If you wish to be part of the 100 Club and have the chance to win £50, please contact our Treasurer, Dave Thew at hvhtreasurer@btinternet.com.

The money raised each month helps to fund the upkeep of the Village Hall.

*Barbara Thurston, Secretary,
HVH Management Committee*



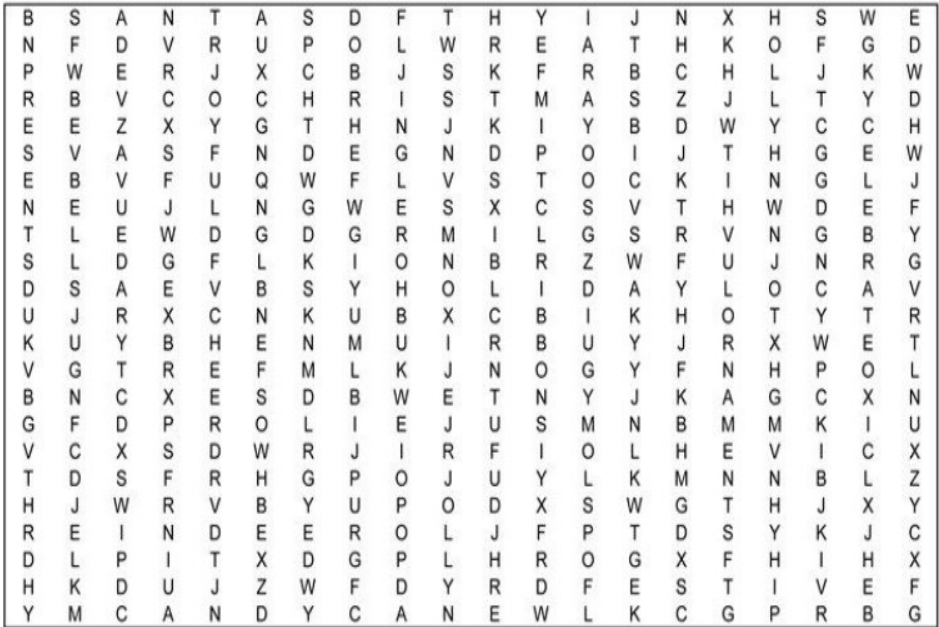
Harlington WI



With Lockdown 2 in progress we are still unable to have our monthly meetings and we will review the situation in the New Year.

Lin Merrison attended the Remembrance Service at the Memorial on Sunday 8th November and laid a wreath on behalf of Harlington WI.

As we won't be having our usual Christmas meeting we hope you enjoy a seasonal word search to puzzle over.



- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| christmas | holiday | santa | family | joyful |
| bells | celebrate | holly | ornaments | ribbons |
| jolly | december | cheer | presents | wreath |
| festive | jingle | reindeer | stocking | candy cane |

We would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sally Tombe

For further information please contact Lin Merrison on 01525 757161.

Methodist Chapel *plus* HHT

We continue to use Zoom for our services, whether we are able to be in the building or we must all worship from home. Except as shown, our services are all at 10 am.



December preachers are:

- Sunday 6th Rev. Dr. Paul Beetham
- Sunday 13th Michael Adams
- Sunday 20th Rev Nina Johnson this will be our family “Carol” service
- Friday 25th Rev Nina Johnson - this service will start at 9.45 am**
- Sunday 27th Sandra Goodwin

Our circulated material is available on <https://www.southbedsmethodist.org.uk> If you want to join us, the link normally sent out the day before. Email me, clivedsalmon@aol.com, or phone 874481 to be added to the link email list. Or watch us live on YouTube, or the later recording, on the Harlington Methodist Church channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw

Normally we hold a “Pram Service” for 0-4s at the start of December when 0 – 4 Club can’t meet because of the Pantomime. We can’t have the normal gathering as we’ll still be in “Lockdown 2”, but we will live stream a service telling a simple Christmas Story, and singing songs and carols for the children to join in, on our channel as above. This will be on **4th December at 10 am**

Specific Methodist Christmas services

4th December 10am Pram Service – a service for 0 – 4s and their parents and carers Live Streamed on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel.

20th December 10am A carol service with a difference in how we sing carols! On Zoom, and in the chapel as permitted.

25th December 9.45am Worship for Christmas Day, on Zoom, and in the chapel as permitted.

Harlington Heritage Trust

Predictably, due to the Corona virus still not abating, there is nothing to report regarding future events for the Harlington Heritage Trust. Members hopefully will have received the December Newsletters by now.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

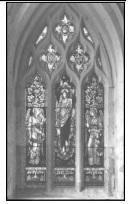
Take care everyone and try to keep well.

Barbara Thurston,
HHT Secretary



St. Mary's Church Services in December

These have been difficult days to negotiate for the church. Just as we had got in to a routine of safe and secure worship with strict protocols we entered into a period of further lockdown in November. Fortunately, we had not abandoned our alternative ways of worshipping and being church in the community. An audio service is issued each week and it has proved to be popular and the one for Remembrance Sunday was particularly poignant. The service is released via the church website and Facebook early each Sunday. The service is produced with the wonderful support on music by Nicholas Hopton and editing by Dr Robert Johns. It's a great team effort. The Wednesday morning group continued to meet until the recent lockdown and an Upper Room Service is offered by zoom each Sunday evening at 6pm. This has proved to be very popular



'A Church Near You' website is another useful Church of England site to locate local services and Harlington Church has its own page. Do take a look. You are most welcome to join us. The links are:

Website: www.harlingtonchurch.org.

Facebook: St Marys, Harlington <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/>

A Church Near You: Harlington Church <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667/>

If you would like to join in a service but do not have internet access, we would be very happy to deliver a copy of the service sheet to your home each week. Please let one of us know and we will make sure one is sent to you.

We now look to the season of Advent and if we are indeed lifted from lockdown and our churches are allowed to be open, we plan the following services at St Mary's:

Sunday 6 th	Holy Communion at 9.30am
Sunday 13 th	Holy Communion at 9.30am
Sunday 20 th	Holy Communion at 9.30am
Monday 21 st	Celebrating the Light. (Readings and Carols) at 7.30pm*
Wednesday 23 rd	Crib Service at 4pm*
Thursday 24 th	Crib Service at 5.30 pm*
Thursday 24 th	Holy Communion at 11.15pm
Christmas Day	Service at 10am
Sunday 27 th	Service of the Word at 9.30am

***There is likely to be limited places available at some services and particularly at those marked *** From 14th December booking will be possible at the Harlington Church website: <https://www.harlingtonchurch.org/>.

Daily Hope *plus* Walking4Health

DAILY HOPE has been a wonderful initiative by the Church of England to offer worship and comfort to people in their homes, especially those living alone. It is a free phone line on **0800 804 8044** where you can listen to hymns, prayers and a short service or reflection in the safety of your home.

Many people are beginning to find the isolation rather difficult and we are planning virtual Afternoon Tea gatherings with members of the congregation. If you would be interested to join one of these, please let Linda or Nigel know. We are also looking at other ways to connect for group study, prayer etc, but the phone is one of most important links. If you would like a chat or a prayer, or if we can support you in any way, please give us a ring on **01525 714442** Also, please contact Linda and Nigel to discuss weddings, funerals and baptisms. You can also contact us through the church website or by A Church Near You.

**Rev Linda and Rev Nigel Washington, Ministers and
Dr Robert Johns Reader**



Walking4Health - Harlington

Sadly, postponed once again!

Unfortunately all Bedfordshire Health Walk programmes are cancelled from Thursday 5th November following recent government guidelines.

Because of this future uncertainty at the time of going to press, and the weather in December, Harlington Walks 4 Health are cancelled until January 2021 at which time guidance will be revisited.

We intend to restart as soon as we can with two walks - a 90 minute hack over mixed ground via public footpaths, and a shorter 30-40 minute walk around the village, which is ideal if you want to stay close by or have limited ability.

We've had a few enquiries from individuals who would like to do 'buddy walks' where just one walk leader walks with you around the village. We have several leaders who'd be happy to do this one to one so please get in touch if this is of interest to you.

Please call **07887 708304** for updates.

The Walking for Health Team,



Brain Tumour Research *plus* A Poem...



**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight

NOVEMBER

Extract from a poem by Thomas hood

“No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
- November!”

No coffee mornings, no fundraising, no research!



Except dear friends with your support and kindness we continue to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research. You have supported by buying plants and produce to the tune of £4002.30. I am still receiving contributions of plants from kind supporters and until today there were bags of pine cones (thank you Carol).

I have put the tender houseplants away from frosts but have Spider Plants, Aloe Vera, indoor Begonia and Peace Lily available.

I have plans for 2021 and already have cuttings of Skimmia, Sismus, and Senecio that have taken and growing, as well as gathering seeds and growing: Verbascum (yellow), Hollyhocks (red) and an everlasting Sweet Pea (purple). I have saved my runner bean pods and butternut squash seeds as well as a bag full of seeds kindly donated by Kate and Nick, thank you. So I am hoping for another bumper year next year with your continuing support. There is still produce on my allotment, so there may still be leeks, sprouts and celeriac to come so please keep visiting 132 Goswell End Road and be surprised (there is one jar of crab apple jelly!) Sorry you have missed the green tomato chutney (thank you Judy)

I have Christmas cards available. If you wish to purchase any please call me on 875404. 10 cards for £4 (previous years design) or £4.50 (2020 design).

Thankyou for your continued support.

May we wish you a peaceful and patient Christmas as we await plans and restrictions for Christmas 2020, but in the hope that 2021 will see you all safe and well and opportunities to meet, socialise and hopefully fund raise together once again.

Take care

Jane, Emma Barltrop and Alice Sulaj

Looking up at our Christmas Tree



Our tree was lit with mini suns,
which set its fragrant pine aglow,
bauble planets frozen in space,
shone from equators or poles,
and silver tinsel Milky Ways,
sparkled across the galaxy,
so on our tree the universe,
was there for me to touch and see.

© Duncan Willox
22.12.19

Crafternoon Tea *plus* 0-4 Club

We had two hybrid format meetings, and then we were back into lockdown! All other things being equal, we will return to the hybrid format for our first meeting in January 2021. Until then, we will continue to meet on Zoom, so if you want to come, please let me know.

Apart from learning to cope with isolation and lockdown, have you challenged yourself with craft projects this year? One of my friends out of the village saw my three Christmas jumpers last year (in December), and asked me for the patterns. She has so far knitted two of them, not exactly the same as mine, and using different colours, which Crafternoon Tea has seen. My challenge was to produce the images in a format that could be followed!

Crafternoon Tea meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 2 and 4 pm. If you want to join us on Zoom, please let me know and I will send you a link. It is really easy to join, and the software will tell you what to do to join the meeting. You do not have to be working at any particular craft, we welcome any and every craft. Our December meetings will be 7th and 21st, further dates can be found on the website below.

Contact: Tina Salmon (christinasalmon60@gmail.com), 874481, website: <https://cliveandtina.co.uk>

The photo below shows all three of my Christmas jumpers, taken last December.



0-4 Club

Harlington 0-4 Club wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we hope to be allowed to see you again soon, in the New Year!

Harlington
0-4
Club



Harlington 0-4 Club



harlington0to4club



Harlington 0-4 Club

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THURSDAY PILATES 10.30AM

Personal Training sessions are all full at present, but if you wish to join a class on zoom, please send a direct message to me via WhatsApp or email.

07732 412247 or nessfit21@gmail.com



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