

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Covid is still sadly with us, but now the vaccine is being rolled out quickly so, fingers crossed, we are all protected soon.

However, even during Lockdown, February has some fantastic excuses for 'stay-at-home' activities and over-indulgence! On Friday 12th it's Chinese New Year - what a brilliant excuse to get the Wok out and create a fabulous Chinese meal. Also if you missed the New Year's walk this year, perhaps you could go for a Chinese New Year one? Valentines day is Sunday 14th - another great excuse to make (and, of course, eat) some hand-made chocolates! Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day, is 16th Feb. Yet more opportunities to get creative in the kitchen. Jo Golby has shared her Pancake Parlour recipe (p21), and the only limit to all the toppings you could add is your imagination!! Our Feature Girl (p12), Shelby is one year old this month too - another excuse to raise a glass or eat some (seed?) cake!

And then of course - all we need to do is burn of all the calories!

Lois (Editor)



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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.

March copy by 12th February please.

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BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

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Letter from LiFE Church

We are now in 2021 having left the most challenging, extremely different 2020 behind. As the chimes from Big Ben rang out we were full of hope that 2021 would be different and we would be able to return to a normal life where we can meet up with family and friends, giving hugs and kisses without fear of COVID. Within days of this we were plunged into a third national lockdown with infection rates, hospital admissions and deaths rising at an unprecedented rate.

Big Ben, the bell in the Queen Elizabeth II Tower in Westminster, rang out for the first time on 31st of May 1859, over 160 years ago, but the melody for the quarterly chimes was composed back in 1793 for a new clock in St Mary's the Great in Cambridge and became known as the Cambridge Quarters. In the London clock tower there is a plaque with the lyrics to the chime which says:-

“Words and Music of the Chimes

All through this hour Lord be my guide,
That by thy power no foot shall slide”

Music from Handel's Messiah

This music's prayer of protection and reliance on God can be traced back to the clock in St Mary's and two verses in the bible from Psalm 37, verses 23-24.



In this time of darkness many people have been searching and turning to God. One of the most searched things on the internet has been prayer and more people are accessing church services via zoom and other internet based platforms and responding to the message of hope in Jesus.

At present we are all very hopeful that the vaccines will become effective and reduce the impact of COVID and this, alongside the measures of hands, face and space, will allow a normality to life to start to resume. At this time the sound of Big Ben has been silenced momentarily due to restoration (except for significant times i.e. New Year's Eve). We as believers are not silent but continue to pray the words associated with the chime over our country, government, city, towns and villages. We also pray that you all will be safe, know God's protections and hope in your lives.

Love and prayers

*Carol Gibbs,
Life Church*

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him. Though he may stumble he will not fall for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

Psalm 37 verse 23-24.

The Words of a Local Ambulance Driver

So with the roll out of the vaccine hopefully today - last night while I couldn't sleep I put some words together - here are my words:

The time has come, the Vaccine is here
We have waited so long, in grief and in fear.
My colleagues and I, through tiredness and tears
Have worn masks and shields to treat families and peers.
You clapped for us, to help us win
But everyday, our Green Line grew thin.

The front line was tough, crews saw heartache and pain
But we grew stronger together, while the virus remained.
The public were generous with food, sweets and gifts
But what every crew wanted was safety from shift.
My colleagues are struggling, the suffering is clear
But no hug for support as it would be too near.



At a distance I try to sympathetically ask
But the truth from a tear falls over a mask.
The hospitals full, with Ambos's in queue
For all you conspirators, please take a view.
The doctors and nurses, all in A&E
Treating the sick, in full PPE.

A 12 hour shift is finally ended
The crew are safe, and the patients all tended.
The fear is still real, as the threat is unseen
I shower and change, to ensure I am clean
My hands are all cracked, my face is all sore
As I scrub this disease out of every pore.

We have missed love ones and family, with Government pleas
Wear a mask and isolate, so at last we are free.
I pray to a God and ask "Why Let This Happen?"
The suffering and pain is like Armageddon.
The Scientists worked hard, day and night for a cure
At last a Vaccine, they had to be sure

Was safe and was tested, with brave Volunteers
Who stepped up, had the Vaccine, to end fears and tears.
With the end in sight, and hope finally here
We can hopefully clap, hug each other and cheer
But remember this Battle, in years that will come,
COVID-19 attacked, BUT THE NHS WON !!!!!!!!!!!!!



© Dave Tamarro



Flit Vale on-line Talks *plus* Jigsaw Library



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Protecting wildlife close to home

The Flitvale WLT Local Group Zoom Series of Lectures 'Future Wildlife'

A talk by Brian Eversham, CEO of the Wildlife Trust, BCN

24 February (7.30pm) - delivered via Zoom to your home!

What might our wildlife be like in 50 years' time, if the Trust succeeds in its aims (or not)? A thought-provoking discussion of future habitats and the species which may live in them, especially in response to the warming climate. Don't miss out on these fascinating talks!

Please contact Ann on flitvale.info@gmail.com if you wish to participate. She will then send instructions on how to log on nearer the time.

Also please Ann know if you wish to receive monthly copies of our newsletter by email.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.uk

Harlington Jigsaw Library



One of my Christmas presents this year was quite a difficult jigsaw, but as it's a picture of 2 of my grandchildren, I feel honour bound to complete it! It might be a way to help banish the January blues as we move into February, a month which usually brings with it such extremes of weather. So if you would like a new challenge, why not borrow a jigsaw? There is a wide range of sizes and difficulty, so there should be some-

thing to suit everyone. Just call/ text or email your request; approximate size, small or large pieces and I will then deliver to your home. You're welcome to collect if you prefer. When returning your jigsaw, please let me know if there are any missing pieces or any other problem.

Thank you.

Tricia

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Harlington New Grounds *plus* HNH *plus* Flittabus

Harlington New Grounds - HNG (Playing fields behind the Village Hall)

Did you know that:

- HNG is private land.
- It is managed by HPLT (Harlington Parish Lands Trust), HJFC (Harlington Juniors Football Club) and HCC (Harlington Cricket Club).
- Running costs are between £4.5k - £7k pa.
- Paid for by footballers, cricketers and fundraising.
- Last season HPC granted £1,250 to assist with maintenance and previously £1,000 for lawnmowers.



And now the weather...

The recent wet weather has made pitches unplayable; football matches were called off from early December (Covid regs did allow team sports). HCC have a permanent cordon around their pitch but now HJFC have extended cordons to direct people away from worst affected areas. The ground is sodden and, in some places – just mud; not only churned by footprints but also deep paw prints – no doubt from excited dogs chasing a ball.

The bad news... is the lockdown announced on 4 Jan has stopped all team games; necessary but hugely disappointing.

And the good news... is that grants from the FA and HPC will soon purchase new goal posts and relocate old goal posts for young people to play without damaging pitches. All we need is a drier weather and of course, a Covid vaccine – hopefully in time for the next cricket season.

Please be thoughtful and enjoy and respect the New Grounds – a jewel in the heart of the village.

Thank you *HPLT, HJFC & HCC*



HNH Good Neighbour Scheme & Flittabus

We are still reducing driving jobs during lockdown but we do have a few drivers willing to take you to appointments where other options are not available. This includes trips to the L&D, opticians, vets, dentists, and Vaccination centres.



We will also collect shopping and prescriptions from the village shop or Tesco.. Please note **Flittabus** services are suspended for the time being. We'll keep you informed of any changes.

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

07849 835410



Parish Hall Letter *plus* Message from CBC

Petition returns objecting to Parish Clerk's office relocation

The petition returns against Harlington Parish Council's (HPC's) proposals to move the Clerk's office to the Parish Hall East Room have been counted. Initially signatures were collected through word of mouth. However COVID restrictions limited proceedings, so the issue was publicised in Contact and petition forms delivered across the village. As HPC had already decided by this time not to proceed with their September 2020 proposal for a temporary move, the distributed petition forms only referred to the 2019 agreement to the permanent office relocation.



The petition returns have been counted and checked and any duplicates removed from the total. The final total is 411 signatures from the village population of 2297 (2011 census). 21.3% is the average percentage of children in a population (Gov.uk) so this response represents approximately 22.7% of the village electorate. Thank you to all who participated and supported this cause.

What now? Well, we will submit the petition to the Parish Council, in line with Council guidelines, and request that they reconsider their 2019 decision to approve the relocation. Hopefully, HPC will debate the issue at the next meeting of the Full Council (8th February at 7.30pm). **Why don't you look out for the agenda with the Zoom meeting details on the HPC website, and join the meeting to see what happens.** You'll also get a better understanding of how your council operates. After all, they are managing your facilities, and your money.

The Wednesday Morning Coffee and Games Group

Message from Central Beds Council



As the vaccine programme is being rolled out across the country, criminals are using this as a way to create new scams.

We have been made aware scammers are sending fake texts messages claiming to be from the NHS offering the Covid-19 vaccine. The link that accompanies the fake text message takes you to a fake NHS website which requests personal and financial details.

Please do **NOT** click the link if you receive a fake text message and please note that the NHS will **NEVER** ask you for personal information, or for your financial details for the vaccination. The vaccine is only available from the NHS and your GP will contact you when it is your turn.

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to **7726** (which spells "SPAM" on the keypad). This free-of-charge short code enables your service provider to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

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LiFE Church *plus* Harlington in Bloom



To know and love God. To make Him known

Everyone welcome

We continue to use Zoom for our meetings. Our Sunday services are at 6pm

February preachers are:

February 2 nd	John Doohan
February 9 th	Rose Agnew
February 16 th	Joey (DNA)
February 23 rd	Carol Gibbs

We also meet on Wednesdays at 7pm for prayer

If you would like to join in with any of these, please contact us for the link.

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

lifechurchcentralbeds@gmail.com

Harlington in Bloom



AGM: This meeting planned for Feb 12th has been postponed for now and a new date will be published in due course via Contact and the village Facebook page. Our AGM is a chance to review the year - a year when we've fortunately been able to continue with our planting and weeding by distancing, mask wearing and whatever else was required at various times!

Borders and planters: as I write in mid January, the shoots of our daffodils and other Spring flowers are peeking through the soil and will be wonderful when they flower. Meanwhile, the wallflowers, bellis, pansies and violas are doing their best to cheer us up. There is also new edging on the large border by Orchard House, so special thanks to volunteer Steve who sourced and created the new look.

Spring Garden judging: this will be in March, and is usually around the third week in the month, but may vary slightly depending on how the weather affects the Spring flowers, date tbc in next month's magazine.

Volunteers: the more the merrier! You just come whenever you are free for any of the work parties – weeding or planting. Dates will be available in the March Contact.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Ian on 874720 or Tricia on 07711 511729.

HiB Committee

Shelby the Macaw

I would like to introduce you to Shelby, the blue and gold Macaw.



Some of you may already know her very well, and some may be surprised to learn that Harlington has its own parrot. She isn't wild however, Shelby is a free flighted macaw, meaning that we (her owners Carlie and Dan and our four children) take her out to fly, just as you would walk your dog. Shelby is never harnessed in any way and is allowed to fly as freely as she likes.

Shelby's favourite places to fly include Bury Orchard in Harlington, whilst her human siblings play in the park there, and Flitwick Manor, where the trees provide perfect foraging opportunities.

It is rare to find a companion bird that is allowed to fly freely outside and so we are proud to be able to give her a life that allows her to fulfil her natural desire to fly and explore. Shelby never goes far, always remaining within sight of us, because we are her flock, and as a flock animal it would go against her natural instincts to fly away and live solo in the wild. Shelby relies on her flock to warn her of danger, keep her warm and socialise with her, and macaws are extremely social!

Naturally we get lots of questions about Shelby, one of them being what does she eat? Diet is one of the reasons Shelby doesn't fly away, and is something we have to manage carefully. She eats a mixture of different seasonal vegetables for breakfast, and organic pellets for dinner. Many people believe birds should live on a diet of nuts and seeds however this is wrong! Captive birds don't do nearly enough flying and exercise to justify an all seed and nut diet and so these sort of diets leave them at risk of obesity, heart and liver disease and ultimately an untimely death. That's not to say pet birds don't need *any* nuts and seeds, and so Shelby receives a piece of nut in exchange for positive behaviour and during training sessions, including when she flies outside.

Another thing that usually shocks people is finding out how long she is likely to live - it's far longer than most people believe. Should she remain healthy and well cared for by us, and whoever takes her on when she eventually outlives us, Shelby can live for up to 80 years. She came to us in May 2020 at 3 months old, so she has a very long way to go!

Shelby turns one on February 8th 2021, and although we may have enjoyed taking her somewhere different to fly it looks like the current situation may curtail that. We will be sure to make her a bird friendly birthday cake however!



We understand that seeing an exotic bird that would look more at home in Brazil, flying around Harlington in the winter is extremely exciting, so please don't be afraid to come and say hello if you ever see us.

Cont...

Shelby (Cont'd) plus Me! Plus Walking4Health

We love educating people on these beautiful creatures, and it is especially interesting for children, so please do approach. We only ask that dogs stay on leads and you do not attempt to touch Shelby.

Whilst at home Shelby loves to spend time sitting at the window, watching people, their dogs and families walk by whilst playing with the selection of toys we have especially for her at the window. Usually people stop to wave at her, so if you happen to see a parrot at the window along Westoning Road, Shelby loves to see a smiling face.



During these strange times, we hope to see you around the village, on your walks and exercising, and hope to bring some cheer and wonder to your day. We are budding photographers and enjoy taking beautiful pictures of Shelby in the village and share a lot of them with Shelby's almost 250,000 followers across her online social media accounts, so be sure to search YouTube, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram for "Shelby the macaw" and feel free to email your questions and enquiries to shelbythemacaw@gmail.com.

We hope to see you around!

Carlie, Dan, Ben, Kason, Elissa and Phebe Thomas

(I hated converting the beautiful colours in these pictures to greyscale - Editor)

Me!

Dear villagers, as there is a bit of space here, I will let you know that I am hanging up my editorial boots for the time being. I've loved editing the magazine and I hope you've enjoyed my efforts! However, the demands of moving have finally got the better of me. I've edited Contact for the last 2 years now and have thoroughly enjoyed it. As no one else has stepped up, the time has come to hand it back to the very capable Clive Salmon. He already does SO much in the village but being the community-minded person he is, he is grasping the nettle once again!

With very best wishes for a happy, healthy and Covid-free future.

Lois

Walking4Health



Walking4Health is cancelled until further notice

Unfortunately, after going to press last month, we were advised we have to cancel our walks for now - even in small groups with PPE.

Watch this space as we will start again as soon as we are allowed!

The Walking for Health Team
07887 708304

The Nativity Trail - Behind the Scenes

The Nativity, the gift of God's son to bring about eternal life to the world is a story of love and generosity.

Churches Together in Harlington (CTH), meet regularly through the year to discuss the various services and activities they will provide, the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Summer Fetes, Prayer Weekend, Remembrance Sunday, Contact, and Christmas. Every year we bring to the village the Christmas story through Carols in The Carpenter's Arms, the visit of Samson to the Parish Church Nativity Service and the Outside Nativity at the Village Hall.

Last year gave us all a challenge but our God is never short of a way to shed light in the darkness. Bringing the Christmas message of hope was the greatest fun for CTH. Carol Gibbs, of LIFE Church was inspired with the idea of the Nativity Trail and brought it to a CTH Zoom meeting at the beginning of November.

Such was the enthusiasm and excitement that it had begun to take shape before the end of the meeting. Who would be involved, where the displays might be and who would make the bodies. If we couldn't make a body we couldn't have a display! Rose Agnew agreed to look at making a prototype body for us and a week later sent out a 3-page document with full instructions. Rosie Hughes spoke to Andrew Asbury and Warren at Bradshaws. Andrew Fishpool was roped in and over the next three weeks there was a flurry of activity, emails, texts and telephone calls flying throughout the church as we reported our progress to each other.



Newspapers were requested from those who took a daily paper, fabrics dyed, swapped and borrowed, hair knitted, sheep and the camel made. Rose and Bob Agnew's Angel eventually reached 8ft high (*pictured left*), it seemed appropriate at that height as the shepherds were 'terrified' when they saw the angel! I heard a rumour that Andrew Asbury was going to use a blow-up Zebra as a donkey at the bus shelter but the zebra shrunk to a wonderful little donkey.

The white post box at the shop was supplied by Tie the Knot in Northampton and delivered at the last minute by my son-in-law at 5.00am on his way to work.



Sue and Robert Whittle took on the Shepherds and displayed them in their newly acquired shop in Lincoln Way. At the last meeting, only days before the launch day some of us expressed concern about faces. Fortunately, Sue Whittle was ahead of us and had bought masks from The Works, so off I went to buy five more. As I looked around I could only see three but was relieved to find just 2 right at the back of the shelf. Phew, just enough!

Looking at the weather forecast I saw we were expecting three days of rain before Christmas. Having saved some polythene sheeting from a delivery of furniture to cover all the outdoor displays I asked Rose and Hazel Wallis if they wanted some for their displays. Rose said she would 'sponge the angel down' if he got wet!

Cont/d...

Nativity Trail (cont'd) plus Letter plus Village Show



Busy stuffing arms & heads, Rob Whittle and his Mother

Hazel informed me Mary and Gabriel would be on the roof and so 'would have to fend for themselves'! In the event it was the Angels that took the brunt not of the rain, but the wind that changed the direction of the one on the roof and knocked the 8ft angel off his sack barrow. The cross, which was not designed to be in the display 'just happened to be in the porch as always' served as a poignant reminder of why Jesus came to be our sacrifice and atonement for our sins.

If anyone would like a copy of the booklet that was produced for those who couldn't get out to see the display please text or phone me on 07984762567. Vicky Yorke

Many thanks to 'KROPPS and BOBBERS' whose fabulous Barton Hair window display straw girl was generously donated to Harlington where she transformed into a shimmering straw angel with corn locks. Warm appreciation also to our new, unfinished café 'HUB and SPOKE' who opportunely provided the lighted windows for the shepherds, the numerous sheep and their visitation from the straw angel.

We loved the displays - every last presentation. We circled the trail each day for our daily walk and had lots of chats with numerous, happy, delighted and over-awed others.

Tina Johns

35th Harlington Village Show - Sat 28th August 2021

In 2020, our 35th Show was sadly cancelled, but like perennials, we're hoping to pop back up when we can, with an even better Show. So here we are, still wondering whether a 2021 Show is even possible this year, but we'll certainly plan in hope.

Having bought seeds, and ordered plants, it's been wonderful to hear from fellow gardeners about their plans for this year. There is a such wonderful thing about growing which never ceases to amaze – that even tiny seeds can germinate and grow, capable of producing a large and very productive plant.

It's perhaps too early to start serious planting yet, unless you have a heated greenhouse or are planning early crops, but the joy of gardening is that even if you plant something "late", most crops catch up once the weather improves. Some of you may already be chitting your early potatoes or planting tomatoes and peppers, but if not sure about timings, and need advice, there is so much to be found online.

Our Harlington Village Show Facebook page has lots of 2020 garden photos from villagers and more will be added as the year goes on. We'd love to see your photos – and they can be of anything you're growing, or plants you already have in your garden. Or post to tell us about your successes (or failures?!). We'd love to hear your stories. Happy gardening!

HVS Committee



Hub & Spoke Café



www.thehubandspokecafe.co.uk

Coming soon, your new local café

We are looking forward to serving you with great proper coffee, tea & soft drinks, locally baked sweet & savoury goodies as well as the Hub & Spoke specials.

Look out for our launch treat in next month's Contact Magazine!

Rob & Sue Whittle

Messy Church *plus* HSAC



If I had been told a year ago that we would be in lockdown to various degrees for the best part of a year, and that I would be running what is effectively a television broadcast studio in order to hold any kind of Messy Church, I wouldn't have believed it.

But that is where we are and are likely to stay for the next few months, albeit with the hope of vaccines to come.

The broadcast for the Christmas Messy Church took a slightly different format, with the craft activity integrated into the celebration. We started with an angel, made in advance, with the construction on a slightly speeded up video. We needed our angel in advance because of the important role of the angel in the Christmas story. By the wonders of modern technology, our angel appeared to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, and became a whole choir of angels. Technology also helped a star appear to the wise men and journey across the sky. Thanks go to Aidan, our camera operator, who operated two of our three cameras.



In addition to the angel, we finished a model stable, made a sheep mask and marzipan Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, which I ate later at home! All these were described in the booklet, which also contained the stories and links to the songs.

We will continue with this format, and more "live" material will be available in February on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube channel, starting streaming at **4pm on 20th February**. 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 February topic will be "Lent", as this is the Saturday after Pancake Day.

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 6pm. 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

Harlington Society of Art & Crafts

It will come as no surprise that we cannot hold our AGM in February as usual. The committee is aware that we need to hold one, but under these unprecedented times it is impossible to do so. Therefore, we will hold one as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, keep being creative and stay safe.

Julie Tyler, Chairperson



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INSPIRING WOMEN

Here we are in lockdown again and facing all the restrictions that go with it. The shining light in all of this is that the vaccines are now being rolled out and hopefully that will be our defence against the virus.

The Christmas Raffle was drawn at our carol sing-along and the lucky winners were Iris Bates, Mel Fortune, Lin Merrison and Wendy Whaley. Enjoy those chocolates!

I'm hoping that your Christmas hyacinths are doing well. Mine is growing happily on the kitchen window sill in water and I can already see a bright pink flower emerging. Yvette Hampton's hyacinth looks beautiful (*pictured right*). Spring is definitely on it's way!

Our meetings are still sadly on hold until we can safely get together again. Have a look at our monthly newsletter from Sara for information on WI Zoom meetings and activities we can take part in. We need to be patient a little while longer, but in the meantime take care and stay safe.

Sally Tombe

For further information please contact Lin Merrison on 01525 757161



HVH 100 Club

The winner with ticket no. 99 in January was Ellie Bailey. 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 Heritage Trust

As I type this in early January the Covid variant cases are rising rapidly but there is great hope on the horizon with the roll out of the vaccines progressing. So fingers crossed. No future events are planned at present for the HHT calendar but, when things change, we will let you know in this Magazine and in our HHT March Newsletter.

Take care everyone and try to keep well.

*Barbara Thurston
HHT Secretary*

Methodist Chapel *plus* Shrove Tuesday

We continue to use Zoom and YouTube for our services, whether we are able to be in the building or we must worship from home. Our services are all at 10am. At present the building is closed, but changes take place at short notice.



February preachers are:

7th Feb Rev. Nina Johnson “Come and See”

14th Feb TBA

21st Feb TBA

28th Feb Rev. Nina Johnson

Our circulated material is available on <https://www.southbedsmethodist.org.uk> If you want to join us, the Zoom link is normally sent out the day before. Email me, clivedsalmon@aol.com, or phone 874481 to be added to the link email list. Or you can watch us live on YouTube, or see the later recording, on the Harlington Methodist Church channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw

We will be holding a **Virtual Coffee Morning** via Zoom on **Saturday 27th February** 2021. Please contact me for the link for this.

Clive

Shrove Tuesday 16th February

OK we won't have our assembly line in place at the Methodist chapel this year but I hope you'll all be making pancakes in your own homes, I certainly shall. Sadly we can't all be together this year chatting over our pancakes but we can still mark the occasion, any excuse for a little over indulgence.

How about some pictures for next month's Contact of you tossing or scoffing your pancakes?

Below is my Basic pancake recipe, for fun really, and it is very basic but we always get plenty of compliments. Consulting your cookery books you can add egg yolks, butter, olive oil etc. but when you're cooking 100 or so this one seems to work.

BASIC PANCAKE RECIPE

- 1 pint (570 ml) milk
- 8 ozs (225g) plain flour
- 2 large eggs

Jo Golby



St. Mary's Church Services in February

At the time of writing most of our worship gatherings have moved online. Please contact Linda or Nigel to request the zoom links or to ask to be included in the weekly Church information email.



- * We offer a Service of the Word in church at **9.30am each Sunday**. Social distancing will be observed in these services and face masks will need to be worn.
- * Within the Quintet of churches (Harlington, Toddington, Chalgrave, Tingrith and Westoning) we have introduced a **Live 11am Sunday Service, via Zoom Link** so you can tune in to a service from your homes to worship together, although physically separated.
- * We continue to offer the **Recorded Service** each week. The service is presented by Nigel and Linda and produced by Robert Johns, with musical support from Nicholas Hopton. Access can be gained each Sunday (and during the following week via our Facebook and Website pages).
- * Currently our Wednesday Service is suspended but check the notice board or website for updates.
- * A Quintet **Upper Room Service** takes place **each Sunday at 6pm**. Join people from across the Quintet in an hour when you again do not need to stray from your home. There's music, scripture, reflection and prayer in a time where you can just sit and listen. Contact a minister for an invitation to the Upper Room.
- * Morning Prayer services are held via Zoom on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9.30am.

Please check the Church Noticeboard and websites for updates.

We also host a zoom **Afternoon Tea** gathering to which you are warmly invited. It is a good opportunity to meet for friendship and fellowship.

The church is also available for Private Prayer by arrangement. Please contact Linda or Nigel for more information.

Useful links are:

- Website: www.harlingtonchurch.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/
- A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667>

If you would like a chat or prayer, or would like to discuss marriages, funerals or baptisms, do call us on 01525 714442 or email Nigel: nwashy2@gmail.com or Linda: revdtoddington@gmail.com

We are here for you.

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



St Mary's Church Warden *plus* Food Bank

Services: in January, we continued with our Sunday 9.30am service, but with just a small number attending, whilst taking great care to distance, sanitise, and clean! Please visit our website for information about live and recorded services: www.harlingtonchurch.org, and see more details in this issue of Contact. We also meet for afternoon teas via Zoom, for a chat and to share our news, so please do get in touch for details if you'd like to join us. Which reminds me "Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call? Because there was no Zoom at the inn!"

Churchyard: on one dark and very still evening last month, a rustling sound in the churchyard soon revealed it was made by a deer. It was difficult to see in the dark, but when it heard me, it raised its stumpy, flat tail, showing white fur underneath; a muntjac. Unfortunately, having been disturbed, it didn't hang about, and quickly made off in the direction of the spinney.

Social: our latest Zoom Quiz took place on Friday 15th January as we welcomed folk to an evening of firing up the "little grey cells"! With a wide range of subjects and an impressive video round organised by Robert, the evening's winners were John and Liz Miles. Well done, and many congratulations, and thanks to all who took part for making it such a fun evening. Runners up were Judith and Adam Walters; third place Martin and Jane Stynes.

Services: please check our website, Facebook page or church noticeboard for up to date information on services. Take care, and stay safe.

Tricia, Churchwarden, 07711 511729

St Mary's Food Bank

I would like to thank the people of Harlington on behalf of the foodbank. There has been a steady increase in the months up to Christmas of food that we have been sending to people who have a great need. The true spirit of Christmas is obviously alive and well here. The week prior to Christmas we had to make two deliveries to the warehouse! A total of 227kgs was gifted and we thank you for your generosity and spirit, that in these difficult times, we can still remember those in need.

A special thanks to Sanjeev and Sunita in The Shop for being our collection point. This was an extra task over the holiday period that put work on their shoulders at a time when they already had so much to do.



There are some things that the food bank tell us are still needed; they would appreciate the smaller packets (half size) of Sugar. No frozen or fresh food can be taken due to shelf life but, should anyone need to know requirements or information, a phone call to us, Sandy and David on the number below, or Sanjeev has a notice in the shop, will help.

Once again many thanks and may our Lord bless you in your giving.

"As you have done for the least of these, so you have done for me"

Matthew, ch25 verse 40

David and Sandy Jones 01525 754313

Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight

2021 is underway and you helped to boot out 2020 with your usual generosity.

Christmas Cards: I paid in £326 for the sale of Christmas cards and 50 packs of Christmas cards in

total were sold which is pretty amazing when there were no coffee mornings as opportunities to sell and it all relied on you to get in touch with me to arrange their purchase. You will also realise that 50 x £4 or £4.50 does not come to £326 so **thank you** to the kind rounding up of donations that were made to allow and encourage research into this disease. Thank you.

Donations: A big thank you to new customers/friends and supporters of the charity who sent Christmas cards to me with encouraging messages and included a donation for Brain Tumour Research. An additional £55 was passed on to the charity.

Texts: Thank you for your Christmas texts and good wishes

Continued plant and seed sales: Even in these very cold and “uninspirational” days for being outside, many of you continue to visit and support by purchasing plants or seeds and in so doing support the charity - there’s dedication!

And so we are on our way into 2021. It doesn’t look at all likely that the “Wear a Hat” coffee morning will go ahead at the end of March so I will continue to put all my efforts into the plant sales and try to find some more exciting specimens to tempt you all with.

At the beginning of December I had my lovely willow tree pollarded and, being interested in willow weaving and having completed 2 day courses I asked the tree surgeon to leave me some bits of willow and I made some wreaths. I made three into bird feeder wreaths (no longer available) but there are also eight plain wreaths available if you wish to make a donation for one. I also made some small wreaths as Christmas tree decorations so watch out for my “Christmas range” later this year!!!

I look forward to seeing you all again as you take your exercise past my house in our third, and hopefully final, lockdown. Here’s hoping you find some interesting plants for your gardens to keep you busy, interested and occupied.

Praying you will all stay safe and well and we continue to raise funds and awareness for Brain Tumour Research on the other side of this pandemic

Take care

Jane and Emma Barltrop and Alice Sulaj



Crafternoon Tea *plus* Winnie-the-Pooh Quote

I got my hopes up prematurely! We returned to electronic format only in January, and will continue with this. Since many of our members are in the categories that will get early vaccines, we hope that by Easter we may be able to start planning to return to the church building, although it may be too soon to actually get together. However, bearing in mind the number of things we are unable to do at all, it is nice to see each other, even if it is only on Zoom. If you want to join us on Zoom, please let me know and I will send you a link.

I have finally started my own lockdown project! I bought the pattern and materials last May, but was already working on the Frozen figures for someone else. I completed these in December, and, expecting my house to be invaded by a two-year old for Christmas, put away my craft activities for the holiday. How many lockdown projects have you completed? Have you got pictures? If you let me have pictures, I can display them on the Crafternoon Tea section of the Clive and Tina website (see below).

Crafternoon Tea meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 2 and 4 pm. You do not have to be working at a particular craft, we welcome any and every craft.

Our February meetings will be **1st** and **18th**, and our first meeting in **March** is the **1st**! Further dates can be found on the website below.

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



This is a blanket. It is knitted on the diagonal, so that each square is part of a row, and each new square has stitches picked up from the preceding square and a square on the row below – very little actual casting on, although I know that many people prefer casting on to picking up stitches from a previous row. The pattern is fun to knit, and seems to take much less time than straight knitting – I now use the basic style for lap blankets

Another inspirational Winnie-the-Pooh Quote



It's more fun to talk to someone who doesn't use long, difficult words, but short, easy words like "What about Lunch?"

I love it when I have room for one of these (Lois—Ed)

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