

# Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Welcome to the New Year. Let us hope that it is not, as Lucy from Peanuts once claimed, a used year but one in which good new things happen.

I sometimes write about New Year's Resolutions at this time, even though I am really bad at keeping them. If you want to make one this year, how about taking part in a village activity you haven't tried before? If you're feeling very brave, you may wish to extend this to volunteering in a village group, they are always in need of such volunteers, and without them the organisations which give such character to our village collapse and die.

Will this year bring the change of new housing on either of the potential sites? If it does, what can you do to welcome newcomers to our community? (After all, it wasn't their fault that the developments came. Most of the housing in the village was a new development some time in the last 70 years.) Clive.

## 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 is at the discretion of the Editor/Management Team.

February 2023 copy by **10<sup>th</sup> January** please.

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BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

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## Harlington Upper School

### VACANCIES

Please keep an eye on our school website for upcoming vacancies, including support staff and Invigilators.

<https://www.harlington.org>

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## Letter from the Methodist Church

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January is named for the Roman god, Janus, the god with two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back; highly appropriate for the New Year. At this time, we both look back to the past and forward to the future.

The last year has not been a good one for many. We seemed to have just dealt with Covid, and to have relegated that to business as usual, when we have a major war in Europe, and the highest inflation since the 1970s. So we look to the future and wonder what this will bring us. What a cheerful prospect!



In general Methodists are not that keen on liturgy, that is formal prepared services. Most of what we have is shamelessly taken from the Church of England, with minor changes over the years. This is not surprising as both John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, were Anglican clergymen. The one bit of unique Methodist liturgy is our Covenant Service, normally celebrated at the beginning of the new year (although the church has so many different “years”, calendar, liturgical, administrative etc., it’s always possible to fit it in somewhere).

The Covenant Service is one in which we are called to reaffirm our total commitment to God in the light of his commitment to us. It is not the easiest of services. With lines such as *“Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,”* it represents a great challenge, as anyone who has been unemployed will know.

However, we are still in the season of Christmas, when we remember that God came to us as the baby Jesus, who lived and died to show us what love would do. Jesus, when asked about the Commandments, chose two passages from the Hebrew scriptures, (Old Testament) to sum them up as, “Love God, and love your neighbour”.

Maybe if we work on these, we will truly be able to wish people:

*A Happy New Year*

Clive

(Methodist Church Steward)

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# Flittabus

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*Flittabus*

Community Transport Ltd.



## Next Milton Keynes Flittabus

Tuesday 3 January 2023

Depart Car Park at Harlington Village Hall: 09:15am

Return 1:00pm from Door 5 CMK

*Flittabus*



## DRIVERS NEEDED

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Typically, drivers commit to two half days per month (mostly mornings), and schedules are agreed three months in advance.

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Or go to [flittabus.co.uk](http://flittabus.co.uk) to find out more.

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# Brain Tumour Research *plus* Harlington in Bloom

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## Happy New Year To You All



2023 has arrived. We await what it holds for us all: joys, happiness, sadness and disappointments, but in the knowledge that this is a great village and community that is here for us whatever life throws at us, whether it is a storm or a party!

Thank you all for a great end to 2022, for all your support, fundraising and your donations. Thanks to St Mary's and in particular Tricia for promoting and selling Brain Tumour Research cards at the church and coffee morning raising £156.50 and also to my church, Holy Family Luton, where £61 was raised through sales of cards, also to those villagers who contacted me to buy cards as £93 was raised bringing the total to £310.50 raised and 74 packs of cards sold to date, it has been an amazing year. Thankyou also to Doreen who offered bubble wrap for use as insulation in greenhouses and growhouses, I have 1 bundle left, it has proved very popular. Thanks also to those who chose BTR as their charity this Christmas and sent me a donation to forward, it will be very much appreciated.

There are plenty of plants available and some waiting to become established so I am optimistic that will be an increasing choice available to you this spring as well as bedding and vegetables as the weather begins to warm up, but right now as I write this article I just want to hibernate like the plants, curl up to sleep and rest after a busy 2022.

As 2023 approaches let's raise a glass and welcome it in, optimistic for the memories we will make, friendships to be made and all working to one aim to support one another in whatever this year brings.

Wishing you all happiness, good health and success.

Thankyou once again for your support and encouragement

Jane Barltrop

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## Harlington in Bloom

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### *Dates for your Diary*

10 February 2023 Annual General Meeting All  
Welcome 7.30pm Venue tbc

Follow us on Facebook page Harlington in Bloom  
<https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> for calendar events, nice pics and news updates!

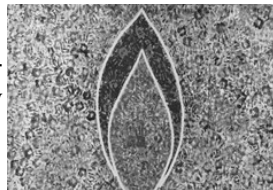
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# St. Mary's Talk *plus* Harlington Heritage Trust

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## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A talk to help us learn, remember, and understand. Presented around the time of Holocaust Memorial Day which is on Jan 27th



**29<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm in St Mary's Church, free entry**

Howard Mann will present a personal account of how his own family was affected by the events which took place during WW11. Howard lives in Harlington and frequently gives talks for local organisations such as Rotary. Although his subjects usually relate to his interests in science and astronomy, this talk describes an unexpected journey of discovery about his roots in Piotrkow in Poland which he undertook back in 2008.

His talk will introduce his family and will unfold the story of how he came to make this journey and what he discovered - extraordinary facts about his grandparents and how they came to England early in the twentieth century, plus the terrible scar that WW2 left on his wider family and on Poland itself. There was even a surprise bonus. Inevitably his journey included the camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau, which makes it appropriate to tell this story around the time we commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

27<sup>th</sup> January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. HMD is an international day to remember, amongst others, the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. The theme for HMD 2023 is 'Ordinary People' to remember all the 'ordinary' people whose lives were impacted in such a dreadful way. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future.

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## Harlington Heritage Trust

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Our first talk of 2023 will be Sunday 22 January in Harlington Village Hall at 15.00. The speaker will be Bryan Marsh on the topic of "The 1904/1905 Albert Brown Trophy Event – a pioneering motorbike race with local interest".

Sunday 19 February in Harlington Village Hall at 15.00 there will be a talk by Harry White and Louise Pratt on "Keech Hospice Care – Creation to Current Day".

The cost for each talk is £4 for members and £5 for non-members, including refreshments afterwards.

Other HHT events for 2023 will be publicised in the HHT members' newsletter, 'Contact' magazine and the HHT website.

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## Crafternoon Tea *plus* HVH 100 Club

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I used to subscribe to a cross stitch magazine, published monthly. Until I realised that I would never manage to make other than a very small fraction of the wonderful images they produced!



This map was designed as a minor centrepiece to a much larger piece, featuring the roses of the British Isles. Being much more interested in maps than in roses, I seized upon the map, jazzed up the colours and put it on a black background, rather than the original pale colour, intended to show the roses well.

If you are as familiar with the traditional counties as I am, you will notice that these are the modern counties – although looking at it, I notice that Avon and Somerset are still separate – so not quite what they are now, but not what they were when I was a child.

It was great fun to do, although it has not made it to the “framed” stage yet, and I am not sure where to hang it when it does.

Crafternoon Tea meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 2 and 4 pm, at the Methodist Church on Sundon Road. Conversation is often wide-ranging and not necessarily about craft – come and join in. You may find all sorts of crafts on the go, and if you want to learn a new craft, there may well be someone who can help. If you don’t have anything you are working on at present, don’t worry, the conversation and refreshments will still be open to you! Refreshments are served at each meeting.

Our January meetings will be 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. All meetings will be the hybrid version, on Zoom as well as in person. Please let me know if you want the Zoom link for any meeting.

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

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## HVH 100 Club

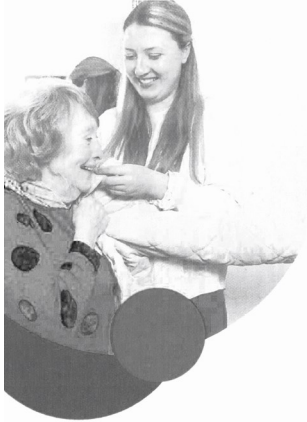
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The winner of 100 club for November was no 103 belonging to Elise Lefay of Chapel Yard Harlington.

If you wish to be part of the 100 Club and have the chance to win £50, please contact me at: [hvhtreasurer@btinternet.com](mailto:hvhtreasurer@btinternet.com). The money raised each month helps to fund the upkeep of the Village Hall.

*Dave Thew, Treasurer, HVH Management Committee*

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## Harlington Lower School *Plus* 0—4 Club

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We had a very exciting December with lots of winter and Christmas activities. Parents, carers and friends were treated to nativity performances by Reception and by Year 1 and 2. The children also enjoyed attending the pantomime as well as our community events of a carol service at the Methodist Church (*or they would have done but it was cancelled due to the snow—ed*) and delivering calendars around the village. The school is extremely grateful to everyone from the community who joined us for afternoon carol singing on the playground with Ampthill Town Band. We are grateful to everyone who made this event so special.

As we move into a new year, we are looking at what we can do to enrich the experiences of the young people in our school and our village. If you think that you could offer the school any support we would love to hear from you.

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## 0—4 Club

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children under 6 months free with older sibling.  
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HARLINGTON0TO4

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## Angela Hillyard *plus* HNH Good Neighbours

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### In memory of Angela Hillyard - 1932 to 2022

Angela first came to Harlington in the early 1960s, as the deputy head of Harlington Primary School. The school was then in what is now the Parish Hall, with an overflow class in the Village Hall. She lived in Sharpenhoe at the time and cycled up Abbott's Hill in all weathers.

Later she moved to Westoning Road, opposite the new primary school, but by the time it was fully in operation she had changed jobs to be Head of Streatley Primary School. By now she was driving a little mini. It suited her.

She never had the opportunity to stay on at school, due to her family circumstances (she was one of 6 children) so she took a job in the office of Luton College so she could take the courses she needed to get into teacher training at Offley Place. She took her Bachelor and Masters degrees at the same time as holding down her profession as a teacher. She had a life long love of learning, especially enjoying local history and contributed to the County History magazines. Until just a year before her death she was learning Latin for the fun of it!

In 1980 Douglas and Angela moved from Westoning Road to the old Harlington Arms on Station Road, where Douglas set up a craft pottery. Mum supported his ambitions until they both retired. They had a wonderful retirement travelling to Australia and New Zealand for 5 winters between 1991 and 2001, buying a campervan and travelling round, exploring the geology, history and wildlife of the country.

Angela was very well known in the village, being an active member of the Church, the Heritage Trust, the Ramblers, and through Dad, also enjoying the Arts and Crafts Society and the Garden Society. Even if you don't know her through those activities you may well have seen this wonderful, rather eccentric lady walking round the village, picking up other people's litter and collecting the elastic bands dropped by the postie.

At the age of 90 she organised her own birthday tea party for 50 guests. She died shortly afterwards, having lived a very full and adventurous life.

Melanie Ferris

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## HNH Good Neighbours

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**Good Neighbours - Harlington Neighbourhood Help (HNH)**

For help or more information contact:

**HNH Good Neighbours line 07849 835410**



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## HNH Lunch

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The four of us (known as the Jubilee Committee, who organised the village picnic lunch for the Late Queens Platinum Jubilee) organised a pre-Christmas lunch to raise much needed funds for Harlington Neighbourhood Help (HNH) who do such great things in helping our neighbours attend doctors, hospital appointments and other tasks.



There was a fantastic turn out while young and young at heart enjoyed the dulcet tones of Sundon Village Singers in the Methodist Church before enjoying a lunch of hot homemade soup and a roll followed by delicious choice of cakes with a cuppa.



The choir sang another set of songs which everyone joined in with, rounding off the afternoon with a chorus of Jingle Bells, getting us all in the mood for the forthcoming festive season.



Mrs Betty Goodge was the recipient of the “non-raffle” hamper - with which she was thrilled!

In all, £200 was donated to HNH which will go a long way in continuing to help neighbours when they are in need. Thank you to everyone who attended and the helpers in making the event such a success.

HNH are looking for more volunteers particularly drivers - if you think you can help please contact HNH Good Neighbours Line 07849 835410

Rita Panchal, Kate Carroll, Lidia Kidman and Suzan Whittle

# HARLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HELP



## Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm  
at The Hub and Spoke Café Lincoln Way**

### **Everyone welcome!!**

Harlington Neighbourhood Help (HNH) started in May 2000 as a pioneer group for Bedfordshire with initial funding of £200 and 80 volunteers.

We currently have 22 volunteers, most of them drivers, but we also have non-drivers as we help with forms, prescription collections, shopping etc.

We have had over 400 'jobs' this year in the village

Transport requests are for anyone who has difficulty using local public transport, but tend to come from some of our older residents. They are driven by DBS checked **volunteer drivers** who wait during the appointment, and are currently offered reimbursement at the rate of 45p per mile. We always need more drivers. Most local journeys are currently completely free thanks to donations.

Our committee has 7 members including a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Minutes Secretary. All are volunteers and are elected at the AGM each year.

If you'd like to get involved in any way contact Suzan Whittle,  
Secretary, on 07887 708304

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# Flit Vale Wildlife Trust

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Wildlife Trust for  
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## Wildlife walks & talks

**Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Zoom online, 7:30 pm**

**Dream Island: Two years on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire,  
talk by Steve Halton**

After graduating with a wildlife illustration art degree at Carmarthen, Steve volunteered on Skomer Island for a few months and was then offered a job as Assistant Warden on Skokholm for two years. This is the story of a magical island with choughs, puffins and peregrines by day and Manx shearwaters and storm petrels by night. A tale of birds, big seas, flowers and cliffs and people who love wild places.

Free, but donations welcome

**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, Maulden Village Hall, 7:00 pm for 7.30 pm start**

**Quiz Night including a fish and chips supper\***

Come and test your knowledge on a range of subjects and have a fun evening!

You can now book in your teams, maximum six members, for the event. Email Ann with names of your team members, a team name and meal choices. \* Vegetarian option available.

Cash payments at the door ONLY please.

£12.00 per person

**Note:** Due to conditions of the hall's license, you may not bring or consume your own alcohol. Wine, beer, and soft drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

**Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.**

For additional information or to reserve your place please email [flit-vale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flit-vale.info@gmail.com).

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412

[www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

Flit Vale Local Group

[www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)



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## Messy Church News

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For many people, by the time you read this, Christmas will be over and forgotten. It seems as if we start Christmas so early these days that by Boxing Day we want to forget it. So to go back and review our Advent Messy Church seems a bit odd, but the publishing schedule for Contact prevents me from being more up to date.

In Advent we think of Advent wreathes or rings, preparation, prophets and so on. Our Advent rings used battery tea lights. The cakes would later become “Angel” cakes, and the figures are finger puppets for Mary and Joseph and the angel who appeared to both of them to say that Mary would have a baby, and to call him Jesus. We also had, “His name is



John” appear on a piece of paper, representing the naming of John the Baptist. For the prophets we decorated paper plates as a lion and a lamb. Then we had tea.

Our next Messy Church will be on the 21st January, when we will continue the story of Paul, and see what happened to him after he became a Christian. We try always to have a Zoom link for those who can’t get to the chapel, and to livestream the celebration to YouTube, which also provides a recording.



Our old material is still available. Look on <https://cliveandtina.co.uk> for written material and drawings, or on Harlington Methodist Church YouTube Channel for recordings of previous Messy Church Celebrations, and where you can see Tina or me demonstrate some of the activities.

Don’t forget, while children need an adult, Messy Church is not just for children. If you find that making things helps you with the Bible stories, Messy Church may be for you.

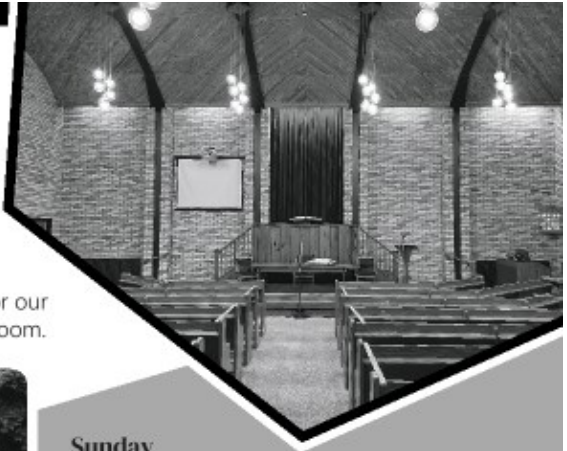
Clive

# Advertisements

## Westoning Baptist Church

We are an independent Baptist Church in Central Bedfordshire.

You are very welcome to join us for our services at the Church or live on Zoom.



### Sunday

Services 11am & 6pm

Sunday School 9.30am - 10.30am (term-time)

### Tuesday

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7.15pm

📍 Large free car park on site

📺 Zoom Meeting ID: 292 960 6969

📍 Greenfield Road MK45 5JD

🌐 [westoningbaptistchurch.org](http://westoningbaptistchurch.org)



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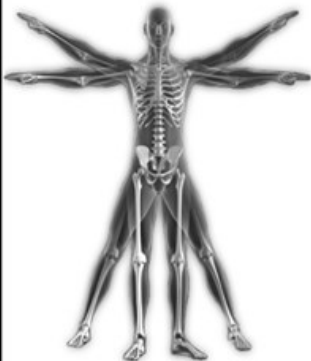
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# Toddington Carpet Bowls Club

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Would you like to try something new? Do you want some company? Need gentle exercise and fun?

Want 2 free sessions to give it a try? Well, come along to Toddington Village Hall.

We were set up back in 1999 and to date we enjoy meeting up for Sessions in Toddington Village Hall on Monday evenings from 7pm and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm. It is a bargain at only £10 a year to join our club and £3 per session you then attend. You can come for 2 free Sessions to see if this is the fun game for you! Suitable for all ages and abilities.

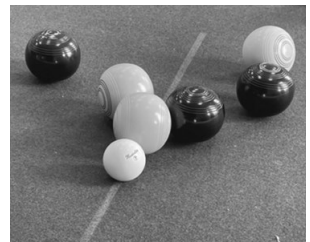


Ours, like most others, is a very sociable club. Every year members visit a local venue for a Christmas meal, and a summer event - such as an Afternoon Tea or a Jazz Cruise on the river Ouse – has been enjoyed.

This game is so easy to learn, and most people get the hang of the game quickly and let's face it we all have off days and roll more off the mat than on, but it is good gentle exercise, sociable and let's face it for that price it's cheaper than heating your own home at the moment for 3 hours!

We are in the Bedfordshire Carpet Bowls Association (BCBA) and get to play against Barton, Clophill, Colmworth, Cotton End, Haynes, Maulden, Renhold, Slip End, Turvey and Westoning. But you do not have to be in these matches of course, but you are more than welcome to join us to support. We do our best to car share to make it easier for everyone to come when the game is not at our hall.

Every year our club holds its own competitions - previously singles, pairs and either triples or fours, and since around 2003 numerous members have enjoyed going to Potters not only to play in the May ECBA Festival but also to enjoy the numerous pursuits and entertainment which that resort offers.



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## LIFE Church *plus* Hibernating Hedgehogs

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LIFE CHURCH  
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30am in The Parish Rooms

### JANUARY

1st - No Service

8th - Carol Gibbs

15th - Pete Gilbert

22nd - United Service 10am at the Methodist Church

29th - TBC

Wednesday 7pm Prayer meeting continues to meet on Zoom.

For more information check us out on our website.

You can also contact us through our website if you have any prayer requests or would like to talk to someone

[www.life-church-harlington.com](http://www.life-church-harlington.com)

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## Harlington Jigsaw Library

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First of all, a warm welcome to any new borrowers and I hope you enjoy making the jigsaws. There is now a wide variety of subjects and sizes available, from fairly easy to very difficult, and for children or adults.

Sadly I cannot accept jigsaw donations at the moment because of a lack of storage space. So please, if you have a puzzle you wish to give a good home, may I suggest taking it instead to a local charity shop, as they would be really grateful for your donation.



Please contact me if you'd like to borrow a jigsaw. Just call/ text or email your request; approximate size, "normal" or larger pieces etc and I will then deliver to your home. You're welcome to collect if you prefer. When returning a jigsaw, just let me know if there are any missing pieces or any other problem. Thank you. Tricia 07711 511729

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# Methodist Church

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Our morning services continue to be available on **Zoom** and streamed to **YouTube** on the Harlington Methodist Church YouTube channel, as well as in the church, where refreshments are available after the morning service.



## JANUARY preachers are:

1<sup>st</sup> 10 am Come and See led by Clive and Tina

**No evening service**

8<sup>th</sup> 10 am Steve Rogers

15<sup>th</sup> 10 am Annual Covenant Service led by Rev David Chapman (District Chair)

22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

29<sup>th</sup> 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi

If you want to join us on Zoom, the Zoom link is normally sent out the day before. Email me, [clivedsalmon@aol.com](mailto:clivedsalmon@aol.com), or phone 874481 to be added to the Zoom email list, or if you would like our printed service emailed to you.

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**COFFEE MORNING** 28th January 2023, from 10 am to 12 noon, in the hall

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## LADIES BRIGHT HOUR

We meet every Thursday at 2.45 pm in the Methodist Church Hall

5<sup>th</sup> Members Own

12<sup>th</sup> Sheila Norris

19<sup>th</sup> John Sorsby

26<sup>th</sup> Rev'd Claudia Lupi



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## ROOM BOOKINGS

Contact Trevor Caveney if you are interested in booking any of our Halls, Rooms or the Church, subject to COVID rules. The Halls are suitable for meetings, groups, clubs and particularly good for children's parties. Reasonable prices. Tel 01525 754527 or [hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com)

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“Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.” —*Oscar Wilde*

“New Year's Day now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.” —*Mark Twain*

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TELEPHONE:  
01525 591025

VISIT:  
[www.harlingtoncounselling.co.uk](http://www.harlingtoncounselling.co.uk)

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## Wellbeing Walks *plus* St. Mary's Family Team

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We always aim to offer two Walks each week, a short 40-minute walk around the village and a longer more strenuous walk within the village, but over fields. They are all accompanied by experienced walk leaders and there is no charge. You can choose on the day which you prefer to do. Do come and join us, get

some fresh air, stay fit and active and have a chat along the way.

**Walks start from the village hall car park on Friday mornings at 10.30am.**

If you might be interested in training to be a walk leader do please get in touch. The training is a simple and a very enjoyable day out.

Telephone number for all enquiries: The wellbeing team on 07887 708304

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## St. Mary's Family Team

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Well, what a fabulous afternoon we had in December and our entry to the Christmas Tree Festival looked great! Thank you to all the families who cut out hands and made Angels out of fairy cake cases in November to decorate it and a huge thank you to Dawn for putting it all together – it looked brilliant.

We had a lovely tea and made lots of Christmas craft before going into church to look at the Christmas Trees and join in and help with the Christmas Tree Festival Finale. It was so amazing to see so many families packed into the Parish Rooms enjoying the afternoon.

Our next messy Church style breakfast will be on **8<sup>th</sup> January at 9:00am** in the Parish Rooms... Bacon & Sausage Butties, croissants and other scrummy breakfast items, Story and Craft... It's time for the Kings to put in an appearance!... See you there!

Contact Rebecca on 07877 342640 or [cairdclan@ntlworld.com](mailto:cairdclan@ntlworld.com) if you would like more information.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if there is anything we can do for you.

With love from everyone at St. Mary's.

"New Year's eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another twelve months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights."

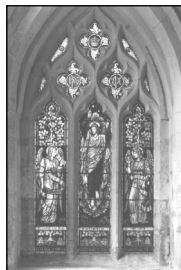
- Hamilton Wright Mabie

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# St. Mary's Church Services

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Everyone is welcome to attend the services in our beautiful village church. On 22<sup>nd</sup>. January all churches in Harlington meet together for our annual service for Christian unity, a very special occasion.



January's services are:

## Sundays

1<sup>st</sup> 9.30 am New Year's Day Sunday worship Service of the Word

*Please note there is no first Sunday 8 a.m. service this month, it will resume in February*

8<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Holy Communion

15<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Sunday worship Service of the Word

22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am Churches Together joint service for Christian unity at the Methodist Church

29<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Holy Communion

## Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

## Other times

The church can be made available for private prayer by arrangement, please contact one of the church wardens, Tricia Murphy [tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com](mailto:tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com) or Neil Walter [walterfamily@btinternet.com](mailto:walterfamily@btinternet.com), or the Church Reader Dr. Robert Johns [robert@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:robert@harlingtonchurch.org). Alternatively email [admin@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:admin@harlingtonchurch.org)

For personal enquiries, for requests for prayer, or for enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Dr. Robert Johns [robert@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:robert@harlingtonchurch.org) or 01525 873214.

## Further information and useful links

The church noticeboard is kept regularly up-to-date

The church website is at <https://www.harlingtonchurch.org>

The church Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/)

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

Remember that we are here for you.

**Dr Robert Johns (Reader), Tricia Murphy and Neil Walter (Church Wardens)**



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# St Mary's Churchwarden

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## St Mary's Church



**Christmas Tree Festival:** A huge thanks to all of the 20 village groups who entered a tree – the standard was amazing this year – and thanks to all of our visitors. First prize adults: East End Stables with their 'Little Donkey' tree, and the winning children's tree was Harlington Cubs with their creation for 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. Any monies raised will go towards our restoration fund, although the main aim was to have fun and enjoy a bit of 'sparkle'. The Salvation Army also sent their sincere thanks for all of the toys donated to their Christmas Appeal. And well done to all the children who found the elf for us. He was so naughty, hiding in different places around the church! Do you know what you call an elf who won't share?.....Elfish.

**South Porch restoration:** There is an ongoing programme of work and fund-raising to help maintain this beautiful building. The next stage of restoration is the south porch and we have been given a provisional start date of mid February. The structure is 'unsafe' with cracks which have widened and render is falling away. Currently, we are also monitoring other areas of the church which are in need of repair and may deteriorate further. We have received some funding from grants and church events, but certainly need to raise more! Part of this job will include restoring the sundial. If anyone would like to contribute towards this restoration, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please do get in touch.

**Friends of St Mary's:** our meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> was successful and well attended. We are moving forward now with the constitution and committee, but are still looking for a secretary to take the minutes and a chairperson to lead the meetings. If you think this might be you (!) do get in touch. More news to follow about the launch proper.

**A new vicar:** You may also wonder what's happening about finding a new minister for the benefice which consists of the 3 churches in Harlington, Westoning, and Tingrith. Well, a new job advert goes out this month, shortlisting (hopefully) will be in February and interviews will take place in early March. So we hope to have good news soon, and will let you all know.

As I write now in early December, I feel joyful about the upcoming celebrations for Jesus' birth, but there is also sadness as St Mary's community has 'lost' another two church members and good friends. Condolences to both families and may they rest in peace.

Wishing you all a peaceful and Happy New Year, Tricia Churchwarden

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# Village Diary *plus* HNH Good Neighbours

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## January

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Flittabus Milton Keynes	Village Hall Car Park 9.15 am
8 <sup>th</sup>	Family breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
16 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 - 4 pm (plus Zoom)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 – 6 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	HHT Talk	Harlington Village Hall 3 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wildlife Talk	On Zoom (See page 16)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
29 <sup>th</sup>	Talk	St. Mary's Church 3 pm
30 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 - 4 pm (plus Zoom)

## February

10 <sup>th</sup>	HiB AGM	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Flit Vale Quiz Night	Maulden Village Hall 7.30 pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	HNH AGM	The Hub and Spoke Café 7.30 pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	HHT Talk	Harlington Village Hall 3 pm

Don't forget the regular weekly things like the Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Friday Ramblers Wellbeing Walks that aren't shown here. If you want your events included here, send details to the editor. You can do that without sending anything else, if you want.

**GET YOUR FEBRUARY 2023 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY  
10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

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## HNH Good Neighbours

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### Drivers and volunteers wanted

If you are a driver with a bit of time available who could spare an hour or two every month to take our lovely Harlington residents to hospital, doctors, shopping appointments etc we would like to hear from you. You can specify how far you will travel and stay very local if it suits - Tesco's in Flitwick, Sundon Park doctors and the L&D are very regular requests for example. We will pay for you to be DBS checked and you can claim 45p per mile for all journeys made.

It is a very rewarding activity that helps our local community in many ways. If you would like to have a chat, please contact 07887 708304 or the main HNH number on **07849 835410**