

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

As you can see from the size of the type on the contents list, there is a lot in this month's edition, even if some regulars are missing. Also a couple of bits have been held over to next month.

It is good that so much is happening. If you know of other things, please write.

Harlington will soon be expanding. New people mean that there is more we can do! We are currently trying to work out how we fund the increased circulation of the magazine—we need to tell people what is happening and let them tell us what they would like.

Our informal group of ladies is working on the Coronation Celebration. Don't forget that the 8th has been designated as Volunteers Day, for you to consider what you could volunteer with.

Are you having trouble with technology? "You can do IT" is part of BRCC (see page 14) Their nearest group is in Houghton Regis. Is there a need in Harlington?

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.

June 2023 copy by 10th May please.

**PROMPT PAYMENT OF
ADVERTISING INVOICES WOULD
BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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<https://www.harlington.org>

Letter from the St. Mary's Church

No doubt May 2023 will be remembered for a long time as Coronation month, and 2023 as a coronation year, but the greatest story of all time which we commemorate every year in April and through to May — the Holy Week and Easter story — reminds us of a coronation that begins with a mock crowning, very different from the magnificent ceremonial of the crowning of a British monarch.

Jesus is unjustly condemned, ridiculed and crowned with a crown of thorns. This was a coronation that was not attended by honoured and respected guests, but by cruel and ruthless spectators who used this pretend coronation as a way of taunting Jesus, even putting up a sarcastic placard hailing the 'King of the Jews'.

Yet this event is turned upside down by what happens on Easter Day when Jesus rises from the dead and reappears to his disciples. He thereby demonstrates that he is truly divine, the Son of God, who has sacrificed himself so that we, all of us, can be reunited to God and so gain eternal life. He is therefore worthy to be worshipped and acknowledged as the King of Kings, who will reign for ever. As the well-known Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah puts it:

*King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever
Forever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

The Easter period this year continues right through to the end of May. In the middle end of this month, on Ascension Day (18th. May this year), we remember that Jesus ascends to heaven and takes his place as a divine King there, entrusting us at Pentecost (or Whitsun as it used to be called, 28th. May this year) the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to communicate with this King through prayer and worship and in all sorts of other ways.

So May is a great month, and not just because of the Easter and Pentecost story. This particular May, the four nations of the United Kingdom will also celebrate the coronation of a new King, and doubtless we will also enjoy the novelty of no fewer than three bank holidays!

As we do so, I hope it will be possible to take time to remember the people of the world who have very little to celebrate this month. Charities such as Christian Aid, whose week is 14-20 May, are particularly appealing for help for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, for support for people affected by armed conflict in Ukraine and Afghanistan, and food for innocent children, women and men in East Africa who face extreme hunger, caused by failed harvests and water shortages made worse by the Ukraine conflict.

Robert Johns, Reader, St. Mary's Church

Flittabus *plus* Harlington Heritage Trust

Flittabus

Community Transport Ltd.



Next Milton Keynes Flittabus

Tuesday 2nd May 2023

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

Return 1:00 pm from Central Milton Keynes, Exit Door 5

Flittabus excursions

Fri 19 May Cambridge £26pp

Sat 3 June Imperial War Museum Duxford £46pp (limited to 16 places)

Fri 23 June Blenheim Palace £45pp

Sat 8 July Black Country Living Museum £46pp

For more details and to book please call on 07563170067 or 07715161621

Payment by Cheque Credit/Debit card or Bank Transfer

e mail excursions@flittabus.co.uk

See also page 9 for Flittabus Transport to the Coronation Picnic

Harlington Heritage Trust

Sunday 14 May there will be a car outing to Redbourn for a guided walk. Meet at Harlington Village Hall car park at 13.00. Lifts will be available if required. The walk starts from the car park next to the Cricket Club Pavilion on Redbourn Common (postcode AL3 7DB) at 14.00 and will last around 90 minutes. The cost is £6 (cash) per person, payable on the day.

Sunday 11 June there will be a car outing to Ashridge Gardens. Meet at Harlington Village Hall car park at 12.45. Lifts will be available if required. The postcode is HP4 1NS. The cost is £9 per person, payable at The Bakehouse (café) on arrival.

This year's coach trip will be to Derby on Saturday 15 July, leaving the Village Hall at 09.00. **Open to all, not just HHT members.** Cost £26 per person, payable by 1 June. There are many places to visit in Derby including the Museum of Making (free), and Derby Cathedral. To express an interest, please contact Janice on 01525 877419, or email jtuckett01@aol.com. Note that this trip will only run if we have sufficient numbers.

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

Brain Tumour Research *plus* Love Our Wildlife



March - Brain Tumour Research Month and what a month it has been!



Thank you everyone for making it so successful in Harlington.

We had a great coffee on the drive event, despite the cold and wind we had a great turnout, and we were all wearing hats because it was so cold, thank you to all those who braved it! Lots of tea, coffee and cake were consumed, thank you to all those who baked such amazing cakes and biscuits and to Liz for serving hot drinks. We sold quite a few plants as well as lavender bags, Easter treats with hand knitted chicks and hats, bird feeders all made by Judy, Leslie and Liz Thank you! You all helped to raise £320, how magnificent, the total has increased since the event as some kind folk who were unable to attend have made their own donations, thank you so much that is so kind and generous.

At the event, we had a display of pink and yellow primroses and a rose named "Rose for Hope". The day before I had been invited to Burston Garden Centre where TV gardener Danny Clarke launched the beautiful yellow scented rose. He supports the charity in memory of his sister who died from her Brain Tumour. It was a great event. I apologise to all those who wanted to buy these primroses; I was unable to sell them for my suggested donation as I had paid £1.10 for each plant. I hope to grow them on and split them so that I can sell them on in future years to any interested supporters and raise further funds for Brain Tumour research. If you are interested in seeing or purchasing a rose, they are also available at Frosts and the Olde Water Mill, Barton. They cost £16 and at least £1 will go to the charity. I will try to find a place in my front garden so you can all enjoy my rose, feel free to come into my front garden if you wish to enjoy its perfume and I will try to source plants using the colours of the charity to make a border promoting it and in memory of Pete and my sister Anne.

Love Our Wildlife

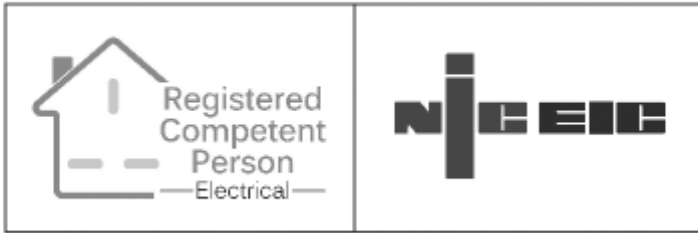
Driving down Sundon Hill in the village to be met by 2 Redkites flying up the road at eye level, a fox running from Park Leys along the footpath into Pilgrims Close and off under the railway bridge, repeat sightings of hedgehogs visiting the same gardens as last year, seeing 2 robin feeding together which will mean some baby robin soon enough! Love the wildlife in our village from the largest to the smallest of them. Take care of our village and wildlife will come to stay!
Frances

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Coronation Big Lunch

We are offering a limited number of pin badges commemorating the Coronation, with our village name and date on it. They are being sold at cost for £2 each.



Also, a raffle with prizes fit for Royalty including

- * A lunch for two at Gordon Ramsey's restaurant at The Savoy, followed by a visit to Buckingham Palace
- * Windsor Castle Gin, made from raspberries grown in the castle
- * A boxed set of red and white wine from Buckingham Palace
- * Coronation themed biscuit tin by Biscuiteers

And a few more!



*** SAVE THE DATE *** SAVE THE DATE *** SAVE THE DATE ***



Come and join
us to celebrate



Raffle tickets and badges available from Suzan Whittle via Hub and Spoke Cafe, or contacting Rita Panchal, Kate Carroll or Lidia Kidman.

THE CORONATION BIG LUNCH

Sunday 7th May 2023

Venue: Bury Orchard, Harlington

Midday onwards following united church service

The "Ladies in Waiting" are organising a village wide event to celebrate The Kings Coronation.

- Bring your own picnics, Gazebos and blankets and chairs!
- BBQ for those who prefer that option (pre-order details to follow)
- Refreshments, offers of homemade cakes welcome!
- Boys Brigade Band
- A Right Royal Raffle, with some incredible prizes

Village groups are welcome to set up stalls to promote and raise funds for their groups. Please email your interest for a pitch to harlingtoncoronation@gmail.com

We will need volunteers for this event to be a success. Please consider offering half an hour (or more) so we can make this event that can be enjoyed by young and old.

Celebrating the King! *plus* HNH Good Neighbours

The King's
CORONATION



2023

Come early to the Picnic on the 7th May at Bury Orchard and celebrate the King's Coronation with members of Churches Together in Harlington. We are holding a short Family Service for all ages at 11.30 am.

The Service will include a short talk, some traditional hymns and songs for the children.

Don't forget your picnics and chairs.



To make it easier to get to the picnic, Flittabus will be going around the village during the afternoon to pick up or return people. The route is shown on the map.

HNH Good Neighbours

Good Neighbours - Harlington Neighbourhood Help (HNH)

For help or more information contact:

HNH Good Neighbours line 07849 835410



Harlington Lower School *plus* Christian Aid Week



It was a pleasure to be able to hold our Easter service in St. Mary's Church for the first time in a number of years. Thank you to everyone at the Church for their hospitality. It was wonderful to hear the children retelling the Easter story and singing Easter songs. Please read an account of the morning written by one of our pupils:



“The Easter service was an amazing experience to teach children about Christ. The Year 4s were with Oak children who paired up and the Year 3s paired up with Y1s to walk to the church. Sadly it was very windy so some hats fell off but the teachers did get them back. Even my hat came off! The people who worked at the church were very nice and they loved our

singing. All the Year 4s spoke into a microphone in front of everyone and we all got hot cross buns. One of my friends didn't get a hot cross bun but they got a different type of food. Then we had the walk back which was an amazing walk. Then we went into school to have another great day. I rate it 10/10 and the Year 1s were as good as gold.”

By Eddie, Rowan Class



Christian Aid Week 14th—20th May

We will not be doing a door to door collection this year. To find out more about the work of Christian Aid, or to make donations, visit their website. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Alternatively you can come along to the United Service on 14th May in the Village Hall at 10 am and hear about their work there.

Harlington Cricket Club

Hello from Harlington Cricket Club! <https://harlington.play-cricket.com/home>

We are a small, village cricket club in the heart of Bedfordshire. We play on Saturdays through the Summer season in Division 3 of the Four Counties Cricket League and our first game of the 2023 season will be away at Open University on Saturday 22nd April.

As we get ready for another busy season we will be on the lookout for new players, returners and umpires for the 2023 season.

Winter nets have already started at Flitwick Leisure Centre, please contact us if you would like to come along.

We had a good run in the <https://harlington.play-cricket.com/website/division/108476> (Div 3) just missing out on the top spot having won 6 out of 8 games. Looking forward to winning next year!

Fixtures for the season below;

Date	Opponents	Where	Start Time
22/04/2023	Open University CC - 1st XI	Away	13:30
29/04/2023	MK Superkings CC - 1st XI	Away	13:30
06/05/2023	West Oxley Kings CC - 1st XI	Away	13:30
13/05/2023	MK Air CC - MK AIR CC	Away	13:30
20/05/2023	Westcroft CC - Saturday 2nd XI	Away	13:30
27/05/2023	New Bradwell CC - Saturday 2nd XI	Away	13:30
03/06/2023	Westcroft CC - Saturday 2nd XI	Home	13:30
10/06/2023	Eggington Foresters CC - Saturday 1st XI	Home	13:30
24/06/2023	New Bradwell CC - Saturday 2nd XI	Home	13:30
01/07/2023	Eggington Foresters CC - Saturday 1st XI	Away	13:30
08/07/2023	West Oxley Kings CC - 1st XI	Home	13:30
15/07/2023	Open University CC - 1st XI	Home	13:30
22/07/2023	MK Air CC - MK AIR CC	Home	13:30
05/08/2023	Aspley Guise CC - 1st XI	Home	13:30
12/08/2023	MK Superkings CC - 1st XI	Home	13:30
19/08/2023	Aspley Guise CC - 1st XI	Away	13:30
26/08/2023	Steppingley CC - 1st XI	Away	13:00
02/09/2023	Steppingley CC - 1st XI	Home	13:00

We welcome all ages and abilities, if you would like to join our friendly, social club, please get in touch with Matt Bailey on 07709173120 or by email: mattthew_evan_bailey@hotmail.com

Thanks, Mark

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Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity have a wide range of projects and services that benefit local communities across Bedfordshire. Many of these wouldn't be able to run without our fantastic volunteers.

We're always looking for more volunteers, and we'd love to have you join us for one (or more!) of our opportunities below. To find out how to get involved, visit bedsrcc.org.uk.

Wellbeing Walks are a great way to meet new people, get out in nature, and get some exercise – and they are free and open to all. If you love the outdoors and want to make a difference to others, become a trained walk leader for your local area.

You Can Do IT! is a digital inclusion project working to improve people's lives by getting them online and accessing services that will improve their wellbeing. People



learn skills such as joining an online activity group, using email, booking GP appointments and making video calls. The sessions are run by volunteers who offer the one-to-one support which makes a real difference to people's lives. (Nearest group currently Houghton Regis.)

Good Neighbour Groups are run by residents to benefit their local community. Volunteers help out with things such as shopping, walking the dog, or gardening - anything one neighbour might do for another. Find out if your local community has a Good Neighbour group on our website. If not, why not get in touch about setting one up?

Warden Abbey Vineyard is a community vineyard nestled between Old Warden and Cardington. Beds RCC has leased the vineyard since 2010, and developed it as a unique resource for the local community. The vineyard is cared for by volunteers and it's a great way to get outdoors, meet new people, and learn new skills.

Ivel Valley Conservation Volunteers carry out conservation tasks including tree planting, pond creation, and installing benches, which has made a real difference to the environment and communities in Bedfordshire.

Do you want to get involved and help out your local community?

Find out more about Beds RCC's volunteering opportunities by visiting bedsrcc.org.uk, calling 01234 838771 or emailing info@bedsrcc.org.uk.

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Wildlife walks & talks

**Saturday, May 13th, Nation Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10:00am
Butterfly Walk at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell***

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders.

*£4.00 per adult

**Wednesday, May 31st, St Andrew's Chapter House, Amptill (MK45 2EL)
at 7.00pm**

A talk on and a walk round Amptill Graveyard Nature Reserve*

A long-postponed talk and visit to this little gem of a site with Nigel Pollard, starting with a talk in the Chapter House and followed by a guided walk round the site.

*£4.00 per adult

**Saturday, June 3rd, Flitwick Moor and Folly Wood (TL045354), 10.30am-
3.00pm**

Bioblitz at Flitwick Moor

A joint event with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society. Come and join us at this lovely reserve and see what can be found on the Moor! Families welcome (all children must be accompanied by a parent/carer). All equipment will be provided and help given with identification of finds.

No charge, but donations welcome

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

For additional information or to reserve your place please email
flitvale.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

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.uk

Crafternoon Tea *plus* Messy Church News

Crafternoon Tea meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 2 and 4 pm, at the Methodist Church on Sundon Road. You may find all sorts of crafts on the go, and we enjoy watching others' skills, even if we do not want to try them! Conversation is often wide-ranging and not necessarily about craft – come and join in. 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 May meetings will be 8th – yes this is also a Bank Holiday, but Easter is the only one where I have other commitments, so if you are Coronationed out by Monday, come and join us – and on the 22nd. Both these meetings will be on Zoom as well as in person. The first meeting in June, 5th, is likely to be in person only, watch out for an announcement in the June Contact.



Have you noticed that when you see a picture of a completed article, no matter what that article is, from a piece of furniture to a soft toy, you have no idea of the size? I have a feeling that this rabbit is rather larger than the figure of Olaf, who appeared in the Contact in January 2021, but I have not seen them side by side. I will have to ask the manufacturer of the rabbit how big it is!

If you would like to try something new, or have recently developed a new skill, come and be part of the group, and educate us as you learn.

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

Messy Church News



March Messy Church covered Holy Week and Easter and, as it was just before Mothering Sunday, we focused on women. We made Flower Cards, Melting Moments, praying hands and clay jars.

Our next Messy Church will be at 4 pm on 20th May.

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. 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 *inc.* Barton Le Clay Bowls Club

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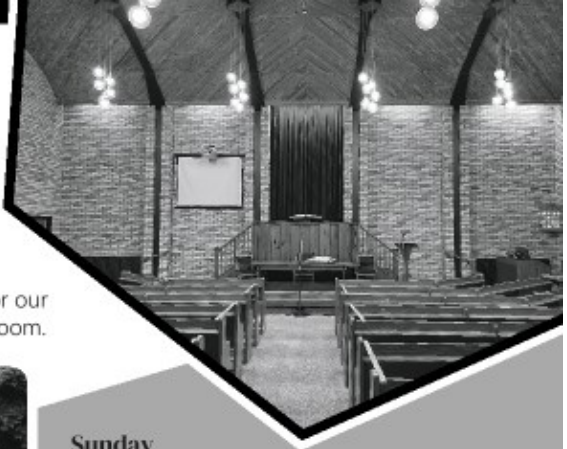
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Westoning Baptist Church

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St. Mary's Family and Children's Team *plus* HVPS

What a wonderful afternoon we had at our Messy Church Afternoon Tea on Palm Sunday. All things Easter of course! Easter Cards, chicks and chocolate eggs, Jesus riding on a Donkey and The Good News Story told through some smashing of chocolate eggs and lots of scones, jam and cream and of course Cake!

Our next session is Sunday 14th May a week later than normal due to all the Kings Coronation celebrations – so please join us on the 14th for Breakfast from 9am in the Parish Rooms

Contact Rebecca on 07877 342640 or 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 on the team!



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Situated behind Harlington Lower School, we offer sessional care and education for children in their two academic school years before starting Lower School. We offer a safe, friendly learning environment where children can explore, have fun and make friends. Our experienced staff are qualified to Early Years Level 3 or above, offering children the very best start to their early years education.

We accept children who receive: 2-year-old funding, 15 Hours & 30 hours (3–4-year-old funding). Children can also pay for sessions if they are not yet in receipt of funding or require hours beyond their funded hours. We accept tax free childcare and childcare vouchers.

If your child was born between 01/09/2019-31/08/2021 and you would like them to join Pre School next academic year (any time between September 2023 & July 2024) or for more information, please e-mail staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk for a session request form. **All forms to be returned by 19th May 2023.**

We also offer Wrap Around Care for children in their final year at Pre School to children in Year 4 at HLS.

Enquires: 07963 534038

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www.harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

LIFE Church *plus* Gardeners' Society & HiB



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at usually at 10.30am in The Parish Rooms

MAY

7th - 11.30 am United All Age Service to celebrate the King's Coronation - on Bury Orchard

14th – 10am United Service for Christian Aid Harlington Village Hall

21st - Rebecca Caird

28th - Worship

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

Harlington Gardeners' Society



ANNUAL COACH TRIP

This will take place on Saturday 17th June to RHS Wisley in Surrey "One of the Great Gardens of the World", with 3 spectacular new gardens opened since we last visited in 2018. The cost of the coach will be £22 with free entry to the gardens for HGS members. As the normal entrance fee is £16.50 you be appreciate this represents a considerable saving to our members. We would welcome new or non-members to join the trip, space permitting. Please book your place with Roger Allen on 01525 875525.

Harlington in Bloom

Planting 27 May TBC NEARER TIME 10 am

Weeding 29 May 10 am

Methodist Church *plus* HVH 100 Club.

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.



MAY preachers are:

- 7th 11.30am United Service Celebrate the King on Bury Orchard
6pm Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
- 14th 10 am United Service for Christian Aid Week in Village Hall
- 21st 10am Shepherd Kombo
- 28th 10am Service with Holy Communion led by 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, or phone 874481 to be added to the Zoom email list, or if you would like our printed service emailed to you.

COFFEE MORNING 27th May, from 10 am to 12 noon, in the hall

LADIES BRIGHT HOUR

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

- 4th John Sorsby
11th Members Own
18th Tba
25th Christine and Alan Parfitt



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

HVH 100 Club

March winner of the 100 club was No. 92 belonging to Natalie Jeffs of Westoning Road.

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

Dave Thew, Treasurer, HVH Management Committee

Marjorie Williams Part 2: The Harlington Years

Last month we learned that Marjorie came originally from Ireland and arrived in England on the day of celebrations in 1945 for the end of the war in Europe — but Marjorie thought all the celebrations were for her family's return to England!

After living in London, Marjorie's family eventually came to Harlington, moving into a brand new house in Foster Road. Marjorie lived there with her parents, and when they died inherited the house and so must be one of the few people who has lived in Foster Road since the houses were built in the 1960s. She was a commuter in the days of diesel trains, prior to



electrification, when missing a train might have meant an hour's delay. This was a comradely train with the Harlington club always sitting in the same carriage and becoming close friends. Marjorie had a high powered job as an administrator or personal secretary, ending her career as assistant to the Vice-Chancellor of City University (the picture is of her with the Vice-

Chancellor at the ceremony that confers graduates with their degrees). After retiring Marjorie threw herself into participating in local organisations which interested her. For many years she was a cub leader, taking the Leader name of Rikki (as in Rikki-Tikki Tavi from the Jungle Book — all leaders took Jungle Book names). Marjorie played tennis, badminton, and, later, table tennis. She always attended village barn dances. Marjorie was an enthusiastic member of Toddington Rambling Club, joining soon after the club started in 1980. She joined in as a leader for several walks, exploring new areas with lots of laughing and chatting, and pub lunches. Walking included group holidays in Freshwater, Isle of Wight, St. Ives in Cornwall and the Lake District. A few years ago she decided she preferred shorter walks, so joined Toddington U3A Strollers Group and Flitwick Health Walkers. And the accompanying pub lunches, of course.

Marjorie Williams *ctd.*

Marjorie pursued a number musical interests. She was a member of Luton and Toddington Music Clubs, the local U3A music group, and attended many concerts in Bedford and elsewhere, particularly enjoying opera and ballet at Milton Keynes and Dunstable theatres. She was secretary to the Harlington Festival committee in the 1980s. Apparently Marjorie would find out all she could about productions they were going to see at the theatre, about particular artists who would be taking part, and she would read all the critical reviews. She formed thoughtful and perceptive opinions that informed valued conversations during the interval and in the car going home. Yet it wasn't just music. Marjorie belonged to the Harlington Heritage Trust, the Harpenden Fine Arts Society and she ran the U3A Art Appreciation Group.

As to her character and wonderful qualities, here are some quotes of what people have said about her:

Marjorie she loved to tell a story, and did it so well. She had a fantastic sense of humour, and people described conversations dissolving into uncontrollable laughter. She had an ability to relate to everyone of all ages. In a nutshell, she was one of a kind. It has been an absolute privilege and an honour to have shared some special times with a truly remarkable lady.

I shall always remember as kind, cheerful, very knowledgeable, and very good company. I shall miss her friendship and smile.

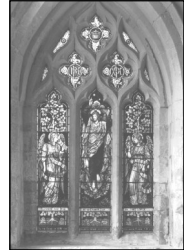
She was always gracious, kind and generous with a friendly and relaxed and easy manner. She was a knowledgeable and interesting conversationalist, but also a good listener. If you had a problem she showed great empathy and would offer helpful advice. ... She will be greatly missed.

She was a wonderful friend, a gentle quite listening lady with a very strong faith.

On that last note, not only was Marjorie a regular member of St. Mary's Harlington congregation, she was also for a long time secretary to the St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, and highly respected for her faith and friendship. We will all miss her.

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend the services in our beautiful village church. On Coronation Sunday all the churches are planning to come together for a short outdoor service just before the Harlington Coronation Big Lunch. May's services are:



Sundays and Ascension Day

- 7th 8 am. Book of Common Prayer Service
9.30 am Holy Communion for Coronation Sunday
11.30 am Joint family service for Coronation Sunday on Bury Orchard
- 14th 9 am Families Messy Breakfast
10 am Churches Together Christian Aid service in Village Hall
- 18th 7.30 pm Ascension Day service at Westoning Church (Thursday)
- 21st 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 28th 9.30 am Holy Communion for Pentecost Sunday

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 or Neil Walter walterfamily@btinternet.com, or the Church Reader Dr. Robert Johns robert@harlingtonchurch.org. Alternatively email 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 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/

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)



St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church

The Coronation: "Ring for the King". St Mary's church bells operate on an electronic system, and they will ring out on the day of the Coronation, probably leading up to, and after the service in Westminster Abbey. Churches are continuing centuries of tradition as bells have been rung in remembrance, to call people to worship, to celebrate special occasions, and to mark special events. We will also be celebrating with Churches Together in Harlington with a short family service on Bury Orchard at 11.30am on **Sunday May 7th**, just before the Coronation Big Lunch, which starts at midday.

Churchyard: We are delighted to be welcoming children from Harlington Upper School to help keep the churchyard tidy, as part of their school enrichment programme. A big 'thank you' to all of the children and teachers who are helping us. We've had another lovely display of primroses inside the churchyard this year, (in the corner adjacent to the children's play area). I'm keeping an eye on the nest boxes to see if any birds take up residence, and starlings have been investigating the vestry wall where a pair nested last year – and very noisily. By the way, what can you do to help a sick bird?.....Give it tweetment of course!

Friends of St Mary's: the group are organising a band and choir concert on **Saturday July 15th** in the church. More information to follow but [save the date!](#)

Church kneelers/ hassocks: a couple of families have contacted us about the kneelers in church, so if you have a family connection to any or would like to search for one, email us at: admin@harlingtonchurch.org

Organ 'recital': on Saturday 20th May members of the Beds & Herts Organists' Association will be visiting the church from 10- 11.15am, taking turns playing the organ. This is a great opportunity to hear the organ played by different organists, and performing a variety of music. It's free to drop in, and refreshments will be available. Just come and sit for a while, be still, and enjoy the lovely organ music.

THANK YOU to the Revd Linda Washington: Linda has now relinquished her formal Associate Minister post at Harlington, but will continue to lead the Benefice of Toddington and Chalgrave. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Linda for her leadership, support and care of St Mary's through the past 8 years. We're so very grateful for her commitment to the community at St Mary's Church, and the wider Harlington community. Linda may still officiate for some services, weddings or baptisms at St Mary's until a new minister is in post. We are currently in the process of advertising the vacancy, and interviews will be held at the end of May.

Please check the Contact magazine, our website www.harlingtonchurch.org, or the noticeboard outside church for our service information.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

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Village Diary *plus* Toddington Rambling Club

May

1 st	Flitton Flits Fun Run	
2 nd	Flittabus Milton Keynes	Village Hall Car Park 9.15 am
7 th	Joint Service	Bury Orchard 11.30 am
7 th	Big Lunch	Bury Orchard Midday onwards
8 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
13 th	Wildlife Walk	Whipsnade Downs 10 am
14 th	Family breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
14 th	HHT Car Outing	Harlington Village Hall 1.00 pm
20 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 – 6 pm
20 th	Organ Recital	St. Mary's Church 10 – 11.15 am
22 nd	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
27 th	Coffee morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
27 th	Planting	Harlington Village Hall 10 am TBC
28 th	Barton Bowls Open Day	Barton Bowls Green 10 am – 4 pm
29 th	Weeding	Harlington Village Hall 10 am
31 st	Wildlife Walk	Amphill Chapterhouse/Graveyard 7 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 JUNE 2023 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH MAY

Toddington Rambling Club

We are small independent walking club with about 86 members. Although this club was originally formed by Toddington residents the majority of members now live in Harlington & the surrounding villages. For many years we have organised the annual Harlington New Year's Day walk.

We walk most Thursdays and Saturdays with an occasional walk on Sundays, with a range of distances from 3 to 10 miles, both easy-go & brisker walks. You are welcome to walk with us for free on a trial basis & if you decide to join the annual subs are only £5 per year.

Visit our website <http://www.toddingtonramblingclub.co.uk> for the latest programme. The walks for April included Woburn Sands, Westoning, Steppingley & Deacon Hill. We have a holiday planned for the Elan Valley in Wales this summer. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01525 753235 or at 120 Goswell End Road, Harlington.

Tony Roberts - TRC Chairman