

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

December is with us with all the Christmas activities. I haven't had space this year to list them all separately, I have all the ones given to me, except the normal timed services, in the Village Diary. Lots of Carol singing to be had.

Congratulations to those who took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. Not many villages can muster a band. Some of ours were recently part of a BB Band Tour in Scotland—have bugle, will travel!

Building work is now well underway on the new houses just off Sundon Road. This will be fun over winter. I presume the lights are a protection for lorries manoeuvring at the entrance. Won't it be fun when building starts at the other site as well?

Oh well, enough of that, Merry Christmas to you all. 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.

January 2024 copy by 10th December please.

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

CONTACT

Harlington Village Magazine

Editor

Clive Salmon
01525 874481

e-mail and advertising

harlingtonvillagemagazine@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution

Debbie Miles

Postal Subscriptions

Betty Goodge
01525 873725

Treasurer

Sue Whittle
07887 708304

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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Christmas Letter from the Life Church

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 2:15)

I just want to ask you a question, are you ready?

By this I mean have you bought all the Christmas presents, wrapped and labelled them? Organised the food ready for friends and family on Christmas day? Is the tree up and beautifully decorated?

I am totally disorganised, rushing around in the last few days before Christmas to deliver Christmas cards and always still wrapping gifts on Christmas Eve. Every year I promise myself I will be organised ready to relax and enjoy the celebrations. With all the pressure, exhaustion and endless lists of jobs to do, the true meaning of Christmas can get lost.

As Christians we are celebrating the birth of a baby who was born in a stable over 2000 years ago.

The true message of Christmas is found in Luke's Gospel in the Bible. God came down to earth in the form of a man as a tiny baby who was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. The one we see in the manger is God who came to earth to die so that you and I could have forgiveness for our sins so that we would receive the greatest gift of all.

Your best Christmas comes not from the beautiful wrapped presents under the Christmas tree but from the One wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a wooden manger in the town of Bethlehem, the One whose birthday we celebrate.

Churches Together, Hub & Spoke and the Salvation Army invite you to 'Shine Your Light' for Jesus on **Wednesday Evening 20th**

December at 6.30pm outside the Harlington shops. For the past two years we have had wonderful evenings meeting up with friends outside the Hub & Spoke, drinking Hot Chocolate, eating Mince Pies and singing Carols with the Salvation Army Band to begin our Christmas Celebrations. We are looking forward to a return visit of the Band and another opportunity to spot-light the birth of Jesus this year with our Nativity Tableaux. Come wrapped up warm, and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Don't forget to bring your artificial T Light with you.



Happy Christmas, look forward to celebrating with you.

Carol Gibbs

Leader Life Church.

Harlington Juniors FC *plus* HVH 100 Club



The football teams have continued their strong starts to the season, U11s still with the 1 defeat this season scoring lots of goals along the way and the goals coming from different players and positions. Saturday 11th they play Lancot first team in a cup semifinal.

U13s are really holding their own after stepping up a league. In two league games they beat Luton Celtic 2-1 then away against a high flying Biggleswade team drawing 3-3 after being 3-1 down. They sit just off the top having scored 24 goals and conceded 11.

U14s have had a challenging month playing top of the league MK Wanderers narrowly losing 3-2. Although well beaten in the league cup at Stewkley, it was one of the best performances this season and hopefully provides a platform for the rest of the season.

Early days for the U18s having played just the 2 league games this season, winning them both. Early days but a promising start. For the two adult teams a great unbeaten start to the season came to a end with a 2-1 defeat for the reserves against Clifton but hopefully start another run and finish the year on top of the league. The first team had a tough run of games winning 1 and losing 2. Hopefully back to winning ways soon and finish what has been a great 2023.

If anyone would like to sponsor a game £40 is the cost. Please contact Karlos through the website for more details. We will once again be running a Christmas raffle, with cash prizes drawn on Christmas Eve, contact anyone from the football club for a ticket. Finally the last couple of weekends some of the coaches with helpers have been tidying up the New Grounds and doing loads of work on the 3 pitches to keep everything in the best possible condition. This includes clearing some of the hedges around the outside of the pitches and planting some trees and seeding the soil. The pitches have also been top dressed with soil and grass seed to try to keep them in top condition with the winter months upon us.

For further details on fixtures, teams, sponsorship, fundraising or general enquiries check out our website www.harlingtonjuniorsfc.com

HVH 100 Club

The 100 club winner for Oct was No 63 belonging to Graham Thew c/o Oak Close.

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

Harlington Lower School *plus* Garage Sale Thanks



Following the success of last year's community forum, we are holding another community forum on **15th January at 6pm at Harlington Lower School**. Any members of local community groups are welcome to attend to discuss how we can further build links between the school and community and work together.

This year we have taken the decision to not take part in lots of charity days across the year but instead to allocate a charity week for each class. In this week the class will discuss and agree on a charity they want to fundraise for and then organise a fundraising event for it.

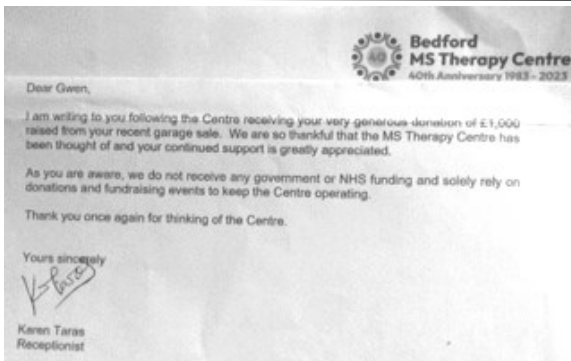
Year 4 were the first class to have such a week. This report was written by three of our Year 4 children.

In Beech Class we had a charity week where we decided to have a toys, games and books sale to raise money for a charity of our choice. We donated some of our old toys, books and games from home for the sale. There were lots of puzzles, soft toys, colouring books, action figures and books for older and younger children.

To choose the charity, we all had a vote so it would be fair and narrowed it down to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. All money made from the sale was donated to them. Make-A-Wish is a very kind charity that helps to grant some poorly children's wishes.

The sale was on Friday 3rd November on our school playground. The children from our school and their parents came to the sale and bought lots of exciting toys and games. We ran the sale ourselves, decided how much to sell the toys for, made posters to advertise it and set up the stalls outside.

The sale was really successful and in the end, we raised over £70 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We are really proud and hope the money is useful for helping poorly children have their wishes granted.



Pre-Christmas Lunch *plus* Garage Sale Thanks



Pre-Christmas Lunch with entertainment

Monday 11th December 2023 from 12 noon
Harlington Methodist Hall

Menu

Homemade Soup with a bread roll

Choose from

Broccoli and Stilton, Leek and Potato, or Butternut Squash

Cake and Tea/Coffee

£7 per head.

(this includes the chance to win a hamper of goodies)

Places must be pre-booked and soup choices made by contacting
Rita on 07967802961 or Sue on 07887 708304 or pop into the Cafe

Dear Gwen,

Thank you very much for your kind donation to Harlington 0-4 Club. The children helped to make this card and added some of their own creations too.

We have used some of the money to purchase a ball pit for the children and hope to use the rest towards some soft play mats. Thanks again.

Kind regards from

Cara, the 0-4 Committee and all our members

11 10 23
Dear Gwen,

Thank - you very much for the £100 you donated to

Harlington Brownies

We hope to use the money towards going to camp.

We appreciate the time and effort you put in raising money for so many charities with your garage sale

from
June Styres and
the Brownies

Brain Tumour Research

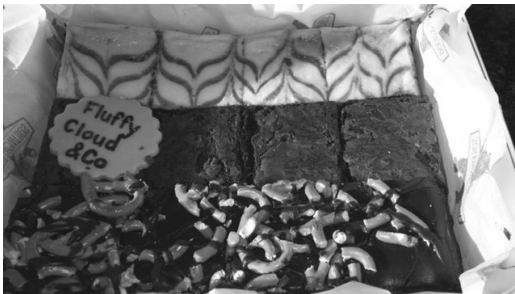


**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight



Yeah we did it! The tea/coffee and home made cake fundraiser was resurrected on Saturday 4th October and what a lovely

turn out, everyone so enthusiastic and someone attending commented “you could feel the love”, so true! As well as that you were encouragingly generous. I feel sure it was a record with £1170.26 raised on the day but since then very kind and generous donations have been received from kind folk who were unable to attend but wanting to support the charity, taking the total in excess of £1200, Thank you everyone!



A special shout to those who helped on the stalls, to the Tabor refreshment team: Liz, Rosie and Tracey; 2nd refreshment team Gill and Kay; plant stall Judy and June; Brain Tumour Research merchandise Frankie and Sue; “What’s in the box?” Mike and John; Craft stall Laura and Judie;

Raffle Alice, Emma, Sam and Alyvia and a big shout for all the amazing cakes so many people baked such a great selection, those who provided raffle prizes, plants, crafts. It was an afternoon of surprises and everyone helping out, thank you one and all. Another surprise came at the end when Judy, representing the Flower and Vegetable Committee, presented a lovely card and cheque for £100 to me for Brain Tumour Research having decided as a committee that this was a charity they wished to support in 2023 that is so kind of you and a real boost to our fundraising efforts, a massive THANK YOU!

I revealed in my vote of thanks the total to date before this fundraiser, drumroll please, an amazing and astounding £35,344.52 has been raised through coffee mornings, coffee on my drive, gazebo stalls, attending village functions with my plants and BTR merchandise, plant sales outside my house and a spinathon.

Ouch! That was a painful and exhausting way to raise funds! As well as all this our just giving page Fluffy Cloud & Co has raised a current total of £12,507.70 bringing the absolute current total to £47,851.92. It costs £2740 to fund a day’s research so we have raised sufficient funds to buy almost 17.5 days of research, that doesn’t sound masses, I know, but every £2740 is a day closer to making a breakthrough and finding a cure.

If anyone reading this would like any Christmas cards or you find you have run

Brain Tumour Research *ctd.*

out I will be selling cards at St Mary's tree festival or you can always knock my door 132 Goswell End Road.

Finally I would like to try something new and a service to Harlington as a fundraiser: I propose to deliver Christmas cards within the village of Harlington once a week on a Monday, every Monday during the month of December, 3 deliveries 4/12; 11/12 and 18/12. This would be in exchange for a donation to Brain Tumour Research for this service. If you would like me to deliver your Christmas cards please phone or email for a delivery slot, there will be limited slots depending on demand and the last delivery will be the 18th December.

You will need to leave contact details and the number of cards you would like me to deliver for you.

You would need to deliver the cards to me on the Saturday before your delivery slot between 9 - 11am and include your donation with your cards. I will collect from you if you are housebound at an arranged time.

Delivery slots	Date to receive cards between 9- 11am	Card delivery
1	2nd December	4th December
2	9th. December	11th December
3	16th December	18th December

Consider it a job done!

So wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas

With our thanks and best wishes

Jane Barltrop and family

Email to book delivery slot: janebarltrop@yahoo.co.uk

Phone number to book a delivery slot: 01525 875404

Mobile number to book a delivery slot: 07763 326980

Address to deliver your cards to: 132 Goswell End Road

Brain Tumour Research Thank You

What a lovely afternoon was spent on Saturday 4th November at the village hall. It was good to meet up with friends and make new ones at the Brain Tumour fund raising event.

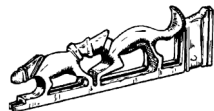
The atmosphere was great and the folks of Harlington certainly know how to make a good cake or two.

Thank you for making us so welcome,

Regards John and Mike (From Horncastle)

ADALHS *plus* Wellbeing Walks

Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Monday 4th December 2023

An Unassuming County: The Making of the Bedfordshire Countryside

An Unassuming
County

The Making of the Bedfordshire
Countryside



Brian Kerr

NEW REVISED AND UPDATED
VERSION

Landscape provides a rich recording of our past. Brian Kerr traces the changes which have shaped the countryside of Bedfordshire. Beginning with the fundamental geology Brian describes the natural landscapes and then charts how these have been used, giving us the familiar pattern of countryside and farming, we see today.

There is a renewed interest in farming, food security, the establishment of new woodlands, the impact of climate change, and the use of the countryside for energy generation.

Speaker Brian Kerr

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, MK45 1QJ 7.30 for 7.45 pm start. Members free, visitors very welcome £5.00 payable on the door. The talk will also be broadcast live via Zoom to Society members.

Future 2024 meetings:

Monday 5th February - Archaeology of the Route of HS2 in Buckinghamshire

Full details on the society website.

www.adalhs.org.uk

Harlington Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

The Harlington walks happen every Friday morning and start from the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30am. They are a great way to stay fit, enjoy the village, and meet fellow residents. It is almost impossible not to feel good when we're walking outdoors – it's a natural mood-booster and a tonic for mind and body.



Whether you used to enjoy walking but have lost your fitness or want to get started to improve your wellness, we're all in it together. We're a friendly bunch so you'll get the warmest of welcomes. Everyone walks for their own reasons, whether to ward off illness, manage health conditions or boost their wellbeing. Yet we all get more out of it by walking together.

Crafternoon Tea *plus* Flittabus

Did you see the poppy chains around the village?

Crafternoon Tea meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 2 and 4 pm, at the Methodist Church on Sundon Road. There are likely to be all sorts of crafts on the go, and we are happy to share what skills we have with others. We have materials, tools and magazines available, some always on the premises, and some which can be brought in if required.



In July, the picture was of a needle felting kit. I described the material as balls of yarn, but having done some research, I discovered that although they looked like balls of fluffy yarn, they are really balls of the wool or merino fibres as they would be before they are twisted into yarn. The balls pull apart, like cotton wool, and the felting is done with bunches of the fibre strands, with the aid of a felting tool.

This picture shows a completed, rather larger, item than those shown in July. There are tutorials on YouTube, should you be interested in looking before you buy!

Our December meetings will be 4th, and 18th on Zoom as well as in person, and refreshments are served at each meeting.

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

Flittabus

Flittabus

Community Transport Ltd.



Your bus service run by volunteers

THE NEXT MILTON KEYNES FLITTABUSES

Tuesday 5 December 2023

Departure from Harlington as usual at **09:15 am**, but from the new departure point: **the bus stop on Station Road, a few yards down from the crossroads.**

Return from MK as usual: **1:00 pm** from Central Milton Keynes, Exit Door 5.

For December only, please **reserve a seat beforehand**. To do this, call Margaret on **07 770 946 497**. And if you find you can't join us after all, please let Margaret know.

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- A tray bake sample box
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- Cream tea for one or two
- 12" Sourdough Pizza for one or two

We will also have hand-made Christmas biscuit boxes, and a guide to an Amazon best-selling guide to amazing places to eat near UK motorways.

Come and join us for the Children's choir from Parkfield School at 6pm on December 14th and the Salvation Army Band at 6.30pm on the 20th for the third year running. See the back of this Contact for more details.

Sue and Rob xx 01525 752367

6 Lincoln Way www.thehubandspokecafe.co.uk

Harlington in Bloom



Thanks you so much to all our volunteers planting and hedge cutting and all the rest. We couldn't do it without you. Have a festive holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

By the time you read this, we will have tidied the War



Memorial for Remembrance Day, and had two bulb planting days along the way on the 11th and 25th November. On the 11th we planted 50 kilos of bulbs along Goswell End Road. Filling in the gaps in the existing bulb display.

Next year we will be welcoming sponsors again for our activities to make the village decorative. While Harlington Parish Council pays for the main bedding plants for the village, sometimes we need a little extra for maintenance or capital expenditure on equipment such as the bowser and irrigation systems, extra bulbs, planter renewal etc Would you like to be a sponsor? Contact Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207 for further information.

Everyone very welcome to our events below: Note Change of venue for AGM.

Dates for your Diary

9th February 2024 AGM All welcome Parish Hall.7.30 pm

Vivienne Dunlop on behalf of HiB Committee <https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> or judy.harfield@apertech.co.uk (Treasurer)

Sundon Medical Centre and Harlington Surgery

With Christmas just round the corner, have you booked your flu vaccination?

Remember you are eligible for a **free flu vaccination** if you are:

- aged 65 or over (including those who are 65 by 31 March 2024)
- have certain health conditions or a learning disability
- are pregnant
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- are a carer
- are a frontline health or social care worker
- live in a care home

We are also doing a **pneumonia and shingles vaccination** campaign.

The **pneumococcal vaccine** is recommended for babies, people aged 65 and over, and people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from pneumococcal infections.

The **shingles vaccine** helps protect against shingles. It's recommended for people at higher risk from shingles, including all adults turning 65, those aged 70 to 79, and those aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system.

If you feel that you are eligible for any of the vaccines mentioned or have any further questions, please contact reception.

Last month, our receptionist **Diana retired**. Diana has been with Sundon Medical Centre and Harlington Surgery for the last 22 years. It has been a pleasure having her as part of the team for so long, and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

That being said, we now have **Karen** as the **new receptionist** at Harlington. Karen has been with us for a few years and has brought a new dynamic to the team. I am sure Karen's vibrant personality will bring great energy to Harlington.

As you may be aware, we have a new **patient check-in screen** at the Harlington reception desk. This has been placed at reception to help reduce the queues and wait times at the reception desk. The process to use the machine is simple – just enter your date of birth. But if you need any help, Karen will be there to assist.



Finally, after listening to our patients, we realised that **our website** was not very patient-friendly. So we recently **updated the site**, to make it easier to navigate and easier to find information. Please feel free to check out the new website at

www.sundonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

Sharlene Clarke, Practice Manager

Advertisements and Local Events



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some other well-known favourites!
Sunday 10th December, 14:30
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Refreshments and Raffle during the
interval

Tickets £8, under 16s free!
Email
amphilltownband@virginmedia.com
to reserve tickets



Barton Le Clay Bowls Club

Adjacent to Barton Rovers Football Club

COFFEE MORNING

&

CHRISTMAS TABLE TOP SALE

Friday 8th December

10am – 12.30pm

Entrance £5.00

Paid at the Door

Tea/Coffee, Cakes/Savoury Bites

Everyone Welcome

Harlington Lower & Sundon School Football Club

As we approach the festive period it's time for Harlington & Sundon FC to move to our winter pitches. This year we're off to Redbourne School, who are trialling some all-year-round maintained grass pitches - so hopefully we won't need to cancel any sessions due to pitch conditions. We move as we can't risk cutting up the pitch at Harlington Lower School, who kindly let us use their pitches and store our kit, which allows us to be associated with the school for FA purposes - but we're not a school-funded team.



All our coaches are volunteer parents, giving their time free, and support for the club is via donations and fundraising activities. This gives children in the villages the chance to discover and enjoy football, from age 4 in reception to year 4 (9 years). All our coaches are DBS-cleared, have FA safeguarding qualifications, and are first aid trained. Some are fully qualified FA coaches, which allows the club to compete in the local league. All of this takes money, as does our insurance, league fees and equipment maintenance costs, so fundraising is a year-round activity. Any ideas for this, or indeed support, is always appreciated so please do get in touch if you think you may be able to help in some way.



So far this season years 2, 3 and 4 have been in action in the Mid Beds Mini League, and it's fair to say the kids are having a great time! The under 5's have come on well under their two coaches and will be looking to play friendlies in the new year against other local teams. The reception group has been a great success so far, though more players are welcome to come and join us. The transformation from their first introduction to a football back in September, to where they are now, passing to each other and being able to dribble the ball and hit a target, has been fantastic. They have really enjoyed their Saturday sessions, which will hopefully increase to an hour when dedicated coaching is available.

We approach the year's end with optimism and look forward to continuing to grow the club and attract new players, whilst our oldest year starts to turn their thoughts to next season and the jump to Harlington Juniors FC or other local sides. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year from everyone at HLS FC.

Contact: Martin Atkins (martinatkins1@sky.com)

Flit Vale Wildlife *plus* HNH Good Neighbours



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

Wildlife walks & talks

Monday, 15th January 2024. 19.30 Maulden Church Hall 2A Church Rd,
Maulden, MK45 2AU

A slow worm population ten years on

Join Dr Gwen Hitchcock for an illustrated talk on a local slow worm population and their progress since their journey from the Luton-Dunstable busway site. After they were relocated to various other nature reserves in the area, Gwen and her colleagues have been monitoring the translocated slow worms for ten years. Are they thriving in their new homes? £4 entrance charge to this event.

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.)
We have no activity planned for December.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.uk

HNH Good Neighbours

**Do you drive? Make a difference as a volunteer for
Harlington Neighbourhood Help Good Neighbours**

Tel: 07849 835410

We are a group of residents who drive villagers to and from appointments – for example at the doctors, hospital, dentist, optician, the vets, to go shopping, or to collect and pick up prescriptions.

WE have completed over 320 jobs so far in 2023 and we really need *more drivers to share the load*. It is very rewarding, not onerous, you make a big difference to people's lives and get to meet new people in the village. We pay for you to be Disclosure and Barring Service checked and are fully insured. Mileage is reimbursed at 45p a mile.

It is up to you completely how much time you can commit and when, and we can and we can accommodate drivers who only want to do local trips or certain days or times. **Please call the number above to find out more.**

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Christmas Services

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"This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." John 4:42

Sunday
24th Dec
6pm

Carol Service

A traditional Carol Service followed by mince pies.

Monday
25th Dec
10am

Christmas Day

Join us for worship on Christmas morning.

📍 Large free car park on site

📺 Zoom Meeting ID: 292 960 6969

📍 Greenfield Road MK45 5JD

🌐 westoningbaptistchurch.org



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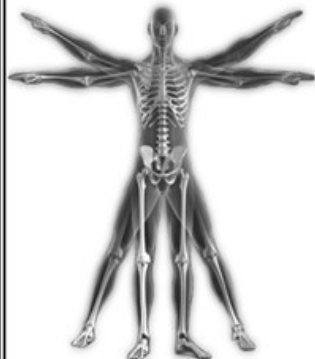
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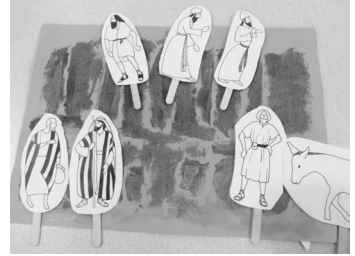
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Messy Church News *plus* 0—4s Nativity



October seems a long time ago, but in our October Messy Church we looked at the story of the Good Samaritan. We made a sand picture of the road to use as a background for lolly-stick puppets as we



told the story. We made crispy cakes (not quite Rocky Road), masks for robbers and purses for the money (chocolate drops wrapped in foil).

In our next Messy Church, at 4 pm on 16th December we will look at the Christmas story.

For those who don't know, from 4 pm we have activities, including painting, cooking, model making or similar, then at 4.45 pm we go into our celebration, with stories, songs and some more activities. While we're doing that, someone else is setting out tea, which we have from 5.30 pm to 6 pm.

We have a Zoom link for those who can't get to the chapel, and 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 with the Bible stories, Messy Church may be for you. Clive

A festive poster for a Christmas Fayre. At the top, there are two Christmas baubles. Below them, the text reads "ALL THINGS SEASONAL LTD PRESENTS" in a simple font. The main title "Harlington Christmas" is written in a large, elegant cursive script. Below that, "FAYRE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Further down, it says "SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 1-4PM" and "HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL". At the bottom, it says "FESTIVE SHOPPING, REFRESHMENTS, VISIT SANTA". There is a small illustration of Santa Claus in a red suit. The bottom of the poster features two decorated Christmas trees and a reindeer with a red bow around its neck. The background is white with small star and snowflake patterns.

0 - 4's Nativity

Friday 1st December
@10.00 for 10.15am



All children welcome
Bring an adult!



At the Methodist Church
Refreshments after

LIFE Church *plus* HHT



LIFE CHURCH HARLINGTON

Sunday services usually at 10.30am in The Parish Rooms

All Welcome

December

3rd – All Age Service

10th – John Doohan

17th - Carol Service 

24th – No Service (Please see services in St. Mary's & Methodist church)

Wednesday 20th – Carols with the Salvation Army by the Shops. See further information on page 4.



Wednesday 6th and 13th 7.15pm Prayer meeting 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 Heritage Trust

There is no event in December.

On Sunday 21 January Bryan Marsh is giving a talk on “Hoo’s the Fastest – Motor Speed Trials at Luton Hoo 1902-1923”.

The cost to attend the talk is £4 for members and £5 for non-members, including refreshments after the talk. Other HHT events for 2024 will be publicised in the HHT members’ newsletter, “Contact” magazine and on the HHT website.

Methodist Church

We meet in person in the church and also have people join on Zoom, or view the service on YouTube for morning services. Everyone is welcome.



DECEMBER preachers are:

- 3rd 10 am Come and See led by Tina and Clive
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Margaret Newman
10th 10 am Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Martin Wallis
17th 10 am Family Carol Service with Rev Claudia Lupi
24th 10 am Morning Service led by Chris Berry
25th **9.30 am** Christmas Day service led by Rev Claudia Lupi
31st 10 am Morning Service led by Colin Quine

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.

NO COFFEE MORNING IN DECEMBER

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets every Thursday afternoon at 2.45pm at the Methodist church Hall. Members have the opportunity to hear from a variety of invited speakers, share in the company of others and enjoy a nice cup of tea.

So why not join us? New members are always made very welcome. No need to book ahead, just come along! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Speakers for December .-

7th. December.- Margaret Newman

14th. December.- Claudia

21st. December.- Barbara Donaldson to lead Xmas Music.



ROOM BOOKINGS

Contact Trevor Caveney if you are interested in booking any of our Halls, Rooms or the Church. 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)

St Mary's Churchwarden *plus* Parkfields Choir

St Mary's Church



Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December, 12- 5pm in the church. Door entry £2.50, children free. Refreshments, home made cakes, and excellent raffle. We are also collecting toys throughout November and during the Festival weekend for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. Toys can be for babies and children up to age 16, new and unwrapped please, no food gifts. tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com

Festival Finale Celebration Sunday 3rd December at 5pm. With favourite carols, stories and poems for all the family. All welcome.

Crib Service 24th December at 1pm. Our favourite donkey Samson will be visiting us during the service, and we will have some carrots ready and waiting for the children to give him. Come and help us set up the stable, and enjoy the church decorated for Christmas. What do you call a donkey in the Arctic?Lost!

Concert of Sacred & Popular Music Friday 29th December, entry from 7pm. Includes music played by a visiting organist from Rome; a brass ensemble, Christmas music by Harlington Performs; rock anthems and classic tunes from The Cheats. It sounds amazing! Raising funds for St Mary's restoration work and also to restore a classic, historic organ in Sri Lanka. Donations on the door, or you can also book for interval cheese, biscuits and mulled wine (£10) via stevetg@me.com

For service and event information, check the Contact magazine, the noticeboard outside church or our website: www.harlingtonchurch.org. If you'd like to speak to someone, please contact myself or Churchwarden Neil Walter, or email our Lay Reader Robert: robert@harlingtonchurch.org

We'll look forward to seeing some of you at our Christmas services and events. A warm welcome awaits.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

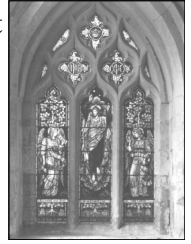


Parkfields Middle School Choir

Monday 11 December 2023 6pm outside the Hub and Spoke on the green
Parkfields Middle School Choir will be singing
(60 plus children)
There will be hot chocolate and sweet treats

St. Mary's Church Services

December is such a special month as it sees the season of Advent which leads into Christmas. On the first weekend of December we have our Christmas Tree Festival. Our Advent and Christmas services are:



- Sunday 3rd. 9.30 am Advent Day Morning Prayer
(no 8 am Book of Common Prayer service this month)
3.30 pm Families Messy Tea
5 pm Christmas Tree Festival conclusion service
- Sunday 10th. 9.30 am Holy Communion with Bishop Richard
- Sunday 17th 9.30 am Advent Morning Prayer
- Friday 22nd 7.30 pm Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols with Quintet choir
- Sunday 24th 9.30 am Benefice Book of Common Prayer Morning service
1 pm Christmas Eve crib service with Samson the donkey
11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Mass with Archdeacon of Bedford
- Monday 25th 10 am Christmas Day communion service
- Sunday 31st 9.30 am New Year Morning Praise service

Wednesdays

Wednesdays 6th. 13th. 20th. 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.

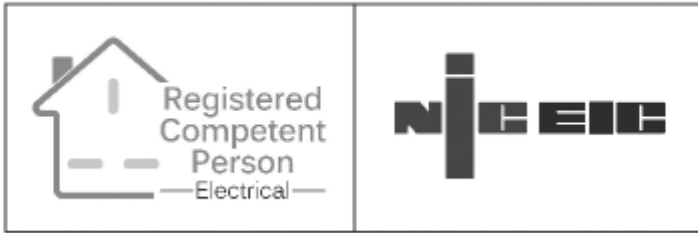
Dr Robert Johns (Reader), Tricia Murphy and Neil Walter (Church Wardens)

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Village Diary *plus* New Year's Day Walk

December

1 st	0 – 4s Nativity	Methodist Church 10 for 10.15
1 st	Pantomime	Village Hall 7.30 pm
2 nd	Pantomime	Village Hall 2 pm & 7.30 pm
2 nd	Christmas Trees	St. Mary's Parish Church 12 – 5 pm
3 rd	Christmas Trees	St. Mary's Parish Church 12 – 5 pm
4 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
4 th	ADALHS Talk	Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre 7.30 pm
5 th	Flittabus	Station Rd Bus Stop 9.15 am
8 th	Coffee Morning	Barton Le Clay Bowls Club 10 am
10 th	Band Concert	Parkside Hall Ampthill 2.30 pm
11 th	Pre-Christmas Lunch	Methodist Church 12 noon
11 th	Parkfields Choir	Outside shops 6 pm
16 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 – 6 pm
18 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
20 th	SA Carols	Outside shops 6.30 pm
22 nd	Traditional Carols	St. Mary's Church 7.30 pm
24 th	Crib Service	St. Mary's Church 1 pm
24 th	Midnight Mass	St. Mary's Church 11.30 pm
25 th	Christmas Day Service	Methodist Church 9.30 am
25 th	Christmas Day Service	St. Mary's Church 10 am
29 th	Concert	St. Mary's Church 7 pm

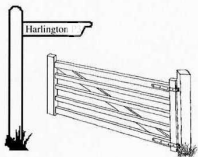
January 2024

1st Walk Village Hall Car Park 11 am

Don't forget the regular weekly things like the Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Friday Ramblers Wellbeing Walks that aren't shown here.

GET YOUR JANUARY 2024 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH DECEMBER

New Year's Day Walk



As usual the Toddington Rambling Club walk will commence at 11 o'clock prompt from the Harlington Village Hall car park & will be 4/5 miles in length.

All Harlington residents are cordially invited to attend, however due to weather conditions at that time of year a certain amount of mud should be expected & wellington boots or preferably walking boots should be worn.

It must be noted that the walk will be at your own risk so please take care & do not leave the walk without notifying either the leader or the back marker.

Regards Tony Roberts – Chairman of Toddington Rambling Club
