

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

It's that time of the month again, when I try to think of something to write for the village. Sometimes it's easy, often not. Do I praise or complain? Do I comment or attempt to coerce? Save me from this burden—volunteer to be editor!

Traffic lights breed in Sundon Road; is there a record for how many temporary lights you can have in a given distance? Gas and water mix with the internet in Bury Close/Park Leys. Well, water features do seem to be a thing in this village.

Finally, do support Christian Aid Week. Come to the united service at the Methodist Church and/or donate. We are not collecting house to house, but you can donate via their website or at the church. It is a worthwhile cause. Look at their website to see what they are doing.
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 2024 copy by 10th May please.

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Letter from Rev. Claudia Lupi, Methodist Minister

Dear friends of Harlington,

I would like to make a biblical reference while also considering addressing also to an atheist or God-seeking public.

This month Christian communities celebrate Pentecost. This is a festival celebrated 49 days after Easter, to remember the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. This event crowns the Easter period and celebrates the birth of the Church. According to believers, the Holy Spirit created diversity and unity together and one cannot be sought without the other. I'm in accordance with the bible; the Holy Spirit, on the day of Pentecost, descended on each one and then put everyone in communication. This means that everyone has been given a gift that must be valued.

Non-believers can grasp this event or story in a symbolic and constructive way: the birth and shaping of "a new, diverse and united people". This calls believers and non-believers to unity in difference, without falling into the temptation of seeking only diversity or becoming rigid in exclusionary positions, when one closes oneself in one's own particularisms or beliefs, judging others in the inability to listen and perhaps considering themselves the best or the ones who are always right. In the religious field they are the so-called "guardians of the truth".

At the same time we must not seek unity without diversity by conforming to others and forgetting our identity by homogenising ourselves to others. May this 'Pentecost' event, celebrated in Christian communities, remember and stimulate everyone to welcome and love without discriminating against races, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, genders, different from us. May our village always be the mirror of this openness and welcome, always kind and ready to have a new heart open to others.

Claudia

Pentecost is an English (from the Greek) name for the Jewish festival of Shavuot. It occurs 50 days (hence pente) from the first day of Passover (inclusive counting). Shavuot means week and it is also known in English as the Feast of Weeks (seven weeks or a week of weeks after Passover). Shavuot was a festival celebrating the wheat harvest. On this festival day, the Disciples received the Holy Spirit, and the name Pentecost has been appropriated by the Christian church. Anglicans and Methodists tended in the past to use the term Whitsun, although this has increasingly gone out of fashion since 1972 when the Bank Holiday was moved from Whit Monday to the last Monday in May. Particularly in the North of England you will still see Whit processions, but the evangelical Whit Monday meetings changed date.

Harlington In Bloom *plus* HVH 100 Club



Following the nominations for Spring Front Gardens Award, the independent judge kindly viewed the gardens in early April. We are delighted to congratulate the following:

- First Old Manor Farm (Wentworth Court)
- Second 18 Glebe Gardens
- Third Mulberry Cottage (Church Road)

The Award/Certificates will be presented at the Awards evening at the end of September. Well done to everyone.

The new bed outside the Carpenters is looking good. The violas didn't survive their lifting and replanting, so the planting has been replaced. I hear even violas in the Wrest Park gardens struggled this year, so perhaps the changeable weather played a part.

Do bear in mind the possibility of running another Village Open Gardens in 2025. Contact Vivienne in the first instance v.dunlop@ntlworld.com/ 07758575715 (leave a message) or via our Facebook page messenger. Or any committee member, of course.

We are delighted to have received some sponsorship donations but welcome more – large or small. Sponsors will be acknowledged in a future Contact issue and also on our display boards at events. Contact Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207 or rosemarypc86@gmail.com for further information.

Dates for your Diary (Some dates may be amended or added nearer the time)

- Sat 1 June Summer Planting. All Welcome 10.00 am
- Sat 24 Aug Village Show Display boards, gazebo and maybe a Quiz!!! 2.00 pm
- Fri 27 Sept Awards Evening All Welcome 7.30pm

Vivienne Dunlop on behalf of HiB Committee <https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> or judy.harfield@apertech.co.uk (Treasurer); Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207

HVH 100 Club

The winner of the March 100 club was no3 belonging to Jill Thew of 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

Mrs Audrey Gammon

Audrey was born in July 1933 to parents Jock and May and was the middle girl of three. As their father was a professional footballer, the family moved to live in the area of whichever team he was playing for – so Barbara was born in London, Audrey in Walsall and Josie in Kent. When Audrey was six the Second World War commenced, her father joined the British Army and her mother, together with her very good friend Mollie, lived in the family flat in Neasden as they worked together as part of the war effort. For a short period of time towards the end of the war they were evacuated to their paternal grandparents in Dundee. But Audrey's final years of schooling were back in Willesden, north London. When she left at the age of fifteen, her Headmaster wrote this glowing report:

“Audrey is intelligent, industrious and of considerably more than average ability. In addition she is unusually conscientious and thorough, has a pleasing manner, a happy disposition and she takes pains with all she does. She is completely honest, reliable and trustworthy, popular with teachers and fellow pupils alike and as a prefect she has carried out responsible duties in a highly satisfactory manner”.

A perceptive report showing early personality traits which were to remain with Audrey throughout her life. When she left school she commenced her working life as a PA with Ascot Water Heating, and it was here that she met the young man she would go on to marry. His name was Patrick Gammon – known to everyone as Pat – and there was an instant attraction between them. They started going out together and married on 12th September 1959 at Neasden Methodist Church. They honeymooned in Jersey and made their first home in Wembley.

Two years later Audrey and Pat moved to what is still the family home in Harlington. It was a new-build house, they even watched it being built! Right up until she was eight months pregnant, Audrey continued to travel to London by train. With the birth of Paul and Claire, the family was complete and Audrey became a very loving mother, kind, loving and always there for them, her children say they had an idyllic childhood. Audrey became very involved in community groups including litter picking, collecting newspaper for recycling, babysitting and she often attended Parish Council meetings.

When they were younger her children remember some great holidays, often in Devon and also the Isle of Man, where Pat indulged his love of TT Racing. Audrey wasn't left out; she rode pillion in her early days and went on to take a great interest in the sport herself. Later on they holidayed further afield, visiting places such as Bruges, Amsterdam, Venice, Yugoslavia and Spain. She and Pat had shared an interest in the Second World War visiting places such as Arnhem. Something they didn't share was a love of dancing – but before marriage Audrey

Mrs Audrey Gammon Ctd.

had been very keen and a most accomplished dancer.

In 1973 Audrey took a job at Greenfield Primary School where she worked as a secretary for ten years. She then had a complete career change, because her last job saw her working for Marks & Spencer in Luton in their food department where she remained until she retired in 1998. She was a valued employee, and wherever she worked, she not only made many friends, she kept them as well.

Audrey was close to her sisters, and the bond between them grew even stronger when Barbara and her family moved to Sundon Park. Although Audrey had been heartbroken when Josie went to live in Australia for a time, she was all the more delighted when Josie finally settled in a house just across the road.

Pat died nearly nineteen years ago and, understandably, his death left Audrey in pieces, they'd been together for over 50 years and were true partners, they'd been a good team and she missed him dreadfully. She described him simply as "one in a million". However, she was a strong lady and she coped – she continued to live in the family home where her garden gave her a great deal of comfort. Whenever she was stressed or there were problems, she'd be straight out into the garden. She particularly enjoyed working in the front garden where she'd catch up with friends and find out what was going on in the village. It's no exaggeration to say that it was her love of her garden, plus the home that she'd shared with the family, that kept her in the village. She also had many other interests: the theatre in London and Milton Keynes, ballet, antique auctions, the Heritage Trust, the National Trust.

Life was progressing well – despite the fact that fourteen years ago Audrey had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She was one of the small percentage of people to be successfully operated on but it took her the best part of a year to make a full recovery. Consequently, when she was diagnosed with serious lung problems last October, she declined treatment - not wanting to go through any further medical procedures. She was cared for at home and died peacefully, at home, and she is now reunited with Pat.

It's been said that she was "born in the wrong era" because she was quite traditional, very dignified and you never heard her grumble, complain or use offensive language. But, more importantly, it's also been said that she was the most amazing, unselfish and strong woman who chose the perfect father for Paul and Claire and the most wonderful husband for herself. She was a major part of family life; a supportive and devoted wife, a loving sister and mother, a caring aunt and a loyal friend, and although she will be very much missed, she leaves some wonderful memories which will live on.

Based on the tribute written by Funeral Celebrant, Dorothy Mason

Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight

You inspire me, Harlington!



Thank you one and all for your encouragement and inspiration. Firstly thank you to Harlington Methodists who have decided to take Brain Tumour Research as their charity this year, news like this fires me up and drives me to achieve more. So please come and join us at their coffee mornings the last Saturday of every month 10-12 where there will be more news and chance to meet to share progress and fundraising ideas as well as a warm welcome.

Thank you also to Harlington Brownies who decorated Easter Bonnets at their last meeting before Easter and then held an Easter hat parade. I was invited along with their parents to meet the Brownies and tell them a little bit about the charity and receive their donations. It was actually 28th March which was wear a hat day so I kept the hat on that I had worn all day and joined in their fun: it was great to be amongst company sharing our hat fun, Easter chocolate nests and presenting each Brownie with a cream egg. The Brownies and their families collected and donated £35 to the charity that was an amazing amount. Thank you for joining forces with me.

Thank you to those who donated to mark wear a hat day, to Betty, Judy and Ian who have been spring cleaning and have donated clay pots and gardening tools, deckchairs, kneelers and garden equipment for me to offer for donations. To all those who have provided plants, as I write this £191.92 has been raised in plants and items from the front of my house.

I, too, have spring cleaned the front of my house so that I will be ready to put out more plants and tender plants mid to end of May when the chance of frosts have gone. I spent yesterday in my garden till 7.20pm pricking out my tomatoes. I have set Marmande and Tumbling Tom, I have yet to prick out the Gardeners Delight, Moneymaker and Pomodillo (Thank you whoever left these seeds in my seed store and the Zinnia and Bizzie Lizzies! Your seeds will raise vital funds for the charity. In working outside at the front I met some of my lovely supporters; you are all my blessing, you give me purpose and joy in my growing and an opportunity for conversations and sharing my reason for being.

Bless you all and thank you. Keep growing Harlington, keep supporting, keep inspiring!

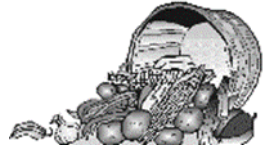
Best wishes

Jane and Emma Barltrop and Alice Sulaj

Harlington Village Show

38th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 24th August 2024



Most of the flower and vegetable seeds have been planted by now – some protected in case of late frosts – but what a joy to see things start growing again. Gardening, as we know, is a great leveller, as failures can happen to anyone despite their best efforts, even the top growers. Of course top growers have all the correct paraphernalia, but most of us can manage to grow something, even if we just have a flower pot or planter. The Show has plenty of different classes to choose from. Look out for Show posters nearer the time, and the schedules will be delivered to your home in early July. This year they will have a bright yellow cover. The schedule will also contain a few tips on showing, and preparing for the Show.

Flower arranging classes: **76** The novice class will be Flowers & foliage in a mug; **77** A miniature arrangement in a shot glass; **78** “Garden Party” – an arrangement in a recycled container; and **79** “Sunrise”. The novice class is open to anyone who has never had a first prize in classes 77 -79. Please check the schedule carefully for the maximum size allowed for each exhibit.

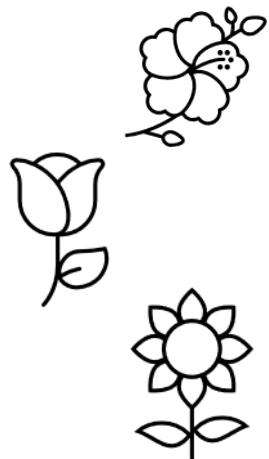
If you have a query about any of the classes listed above, or entering the Show, please message us via our Facebook page. If you're interested in advertising in the schedule, please do contact us asap.

HVS Committee

"The country ever has a lagging Spring,
Waiting for May to call its violets forth,
And June its roses--showers and sunshine bring,
Slowly, the deepening verdure o'er the earth;
To put their foliage out, the woods are slack,
And one by one the singing-birds come back.

Within the city's bounds the time of flowers
Comes earlier. Let a mild and sunny day,
Such as full often, for a few bright hours,
Breathes through the sky of March the airs of May,
Shine on our roofs and chase the wintry gloom--
And lo! our borders glow with sudden bloom."

- *William Cullen Bryant, Spring in Town, 1850*



Edna Holton 1928 – 2024

Edna Holton lived in Harlington for about 32 years, and has recently passed away aged 96. Although she lived in Barton Road for many years, she had more recently moved to a care home in Hastings to be nearer her family.

Edna was born in east London in 1928 and went to school in Edgware, then on to technical college. She was very competent at shorthand, and good at maths and book keeping. Her father passed away when she was just 16, but her mum lived to the ripe old age of 102. She had one younger sister, Audrey.

With her first husband Dennis, Edna ran a cafe for a while in London, during which time she had two sons, Simon and Chris. When her marriage broke down, Edna worked for Lucas Services in Borehamwood from 1964-1976, working her way up from the position of clerk to be the secretary to the service director. She then worked for Giltspur Engineering Design as the Director's personal assistant. During this time she met her second husband John at an Over-50s Club. They courted for 5 years and were then married at Amphill registry office in May 1988. Their reception was held at The Jolly Coopers pub in Flitton, and they would return to the pub every year for their anniversary, and have their photo taken in the pub garden.

John and Edna loved to travel, enjoying their many holidays together, and they loved to dance. John was also a keen photographer and kept neat albums with all their holiday snaps. Using his experience as an amateur photographer, he judged the Photography classes at the village Flower Show for many years. Edna was a lady who took pride in her appearance and was always immaculately dressed. It's hard to believe that this same lady was also an accomplished badminton player.

When John died in 2018, Edna found it harder to cope on her own and was quite 'lost' without him. She then appreciated visits from friends, and started going to church events and Ladies Bright Hour. Sadly, dementia gradually took away her memory and ability to cope at home, even with carers calling in to help with personal care and neighbours checking that she had eaten etc. Her favourite food though was chocolate, and she looked forward to daily visits from one kind neighbour in particular – he usually came with a small chocolate bar!

Many of us had got to know her so much better before she left the village, and were sorry to see her leave Harlington.

The information about her life is taken from the tribute given by her son Chris at her funeral, with some additional information.

T. Murphy

Crafternoon Tea *plus* Wellbeing Walks

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, so let me know if there is something you are likely to want.



Our May meetings will be 6th, and 20th on Zoom as well as in person, and refreshments are served at each meeting. Our first meeting in June will be 3rd, and will be an in-person only meeting.

Many members of the group find ourselves being asked if we can help complete someone else's project – from completing some embroidery, to making up something from the left-over knitted squares someone else has made. Some people can manage one

craft, and not another – so a knitted blanket which requires a crocheted edging – or lazy daisy flowers on a knitted jacket – is a very minor thing to do – but makes the original project complete. Have you been a completer on someone else's project, or been asked to help complete something? The poppy trails around the village for the Remembrance weekend are a team effort – have you been part of that?

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

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HJFC Booksale *plus* HVPS & WAC



Harlington Juniors FC would like to thank everyone that attended the book sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th April. It was hard work but very rewarding; seeing people chatting and eating bacon rolls outside in the sunshine. It really felt like bringing the community together. On behalf of Harlington Juniors Football Club, we thank you all.

Karlos Williams
Chairman, HJFC



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If your child was born between 01/09/2020-31/08/2022 and you would like them to join Pre School from September 2024 or for more information, please e-mail staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk for a session request form. **All forms to be returned by 6th May 2024.**

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 staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

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Flittabus *plus* Mrs Audrey Gammon Thanks

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In May, the next bus will be:

Tuesday 7 May 2024

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No need to reserve a seat: *Please remember: It's first-come first-served.*

Flittabus Excursions – details at: <https://flittabus.co.uk/excursions>

* **National Memorial Arboretum, Staffs** – Wed 15 May 2024 – £36pp

* **Summer Garden Open Day at Thenford** – Fri 24 May 2024 – £38pp

For late-breaking news on our excursions, please phone **Derek Wood** on **07563 170 067** or email him at excursions@flittabus.co.uk

Mrs Audrey Gammon - Thanks

We would like to thank all those that attended Audrey's funeral on Tuesday 2nd April. It was wonderful to see so many friends and to hear how fond people were of her. Thanks also for the cards and messages, they have been a huge comfort.

She will be sorely missed.

Josie, Claire & Paul

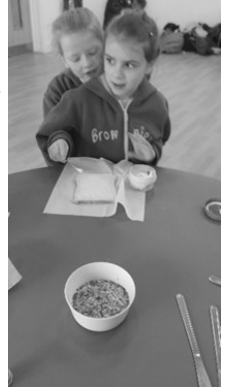
"Don't knock the weather: nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

- *Kin Hubbard*

Harlington Brownies & Scout Group



Brownies enjoyed a Division Thinking day celebration at the Farmstead, Houghton Regis. We enjoyed a tour of the continents doing an activity at each continent, these included making smores, fairy bread, Mardi Gras masks and active ball games.



Rainbows arranged an amazing joint Science evening. Girls went inside bubbles, we made snow and watched explosions, fire appear and got covered in toilet roll with the wind disco.

To finish the term, we had an Easter egg hunt and made Easter bonnets. Jane Barltrop came to look at our parade and we had a collection for Fluffy cloud charity Wear a Hat day.



Girls have been working hard on their brownie awards. Jonida received her Bronze Brownie award and Sophia, Abbey and Georgia their Silver award.

Well done girls!



Harlington Scout Group

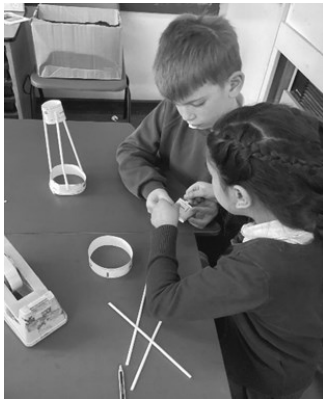
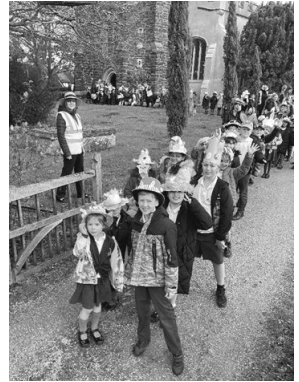
Harlington Scout Group would like to thank the Ladies in Waiting for their kind donation.

Sarah Beardsall

Harlington Lower School & Friends of St Mary's



On Maundy Thursday the whole school walked to St. Mary's Parish Church in Harlington for our Easter Service. Year 4 shared the story of Easter and the whole school sang songs. It was a wonderful occasion and we thank St Mary's for welcoming us to the church.



This half term the children also enjoyed participating in our Science Week. During the week different classes made dinosaur fossils, flying vehicles and capsules to transport an egg.

We are looking forward to a Summer Term filled with exciting events and activities. Please join us for our annual Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July.

Friends of St Mary's

Could you help us?

Tuesday 21st May 6 - 8pm at St Mary's Church



St Mary's Friends' group is starting a series of work parties to help maintain the churchyard whilst still being a safe haven for wildlife and flowers, and a peaceful place to visit. *We'd love some help!*

If you can spare any time at all during the evening, please pop along. If you could bring your own gloves, and any equipment like secateurs that would be helpful, but we will also have some available. Most of the work will entail tidying rather than traditional gardening as we don't have any formal flower beds and have someone who cuts the grass. If a weekend would be better, or you have any other comments or ideas, or would like to know more about the Friends group, please contact us via our Facebook page: St Mary's Harlington, or email tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com. THANK YOU.

Harlington Community Speedwatch & HLS Fair

Launched by Bedfordshire Police back in 2009 as part of their community watch schemes including streetwatch, dogwatch & horse watch.

Speedwatch was designed to equip volunteers to help highlight & monitor speed concerns in their local area.

It was not designed to be an enforcement scheme, but an educational one aimed at raising awareness of speed restrictions and encouraging drivers to reduce their speed to the legal limits in areas where speeding has been identified as a concern.

Normally they only allow groups to monitor four different roads. In Harlington were allowed to monitor five: Sundon Road, Westoning Road, Goswell End Road, Barton Road and Toddington Road. All exact monitoring locations have been risk assessed by Beds police for basic health and safety reasons and location criteria, such as not being too close to any junctions, on a bend and having a hardstanding surface.

Since Harlington speedwatch restarted in February 2023 it has completed 74 sessions around the village averaging 74 hours totalled by its volunteers, has checked 12290 vehicles and has registered 260 vehicles speeding, their details get sent to Beds police who take further action.

If you have concerns with speeding vehicles in Harlington & want to learn more about the community speedwatch group or even become a new volunteer, please contact Matt on 07970087818

Harlington Lower School Summer Fair

Saturday 6th July 11am—3 pm

All proceeds go to educational and social enrichment for pupils

Entry free

Farm animals BBQ Games

Entertainment Raffle

Market stalls Yummy food

Scan QR code for further information



Flit Vale Wildlife Group



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

Wildlife walks & talks

**Saturday May 18th, Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting Green, Bedford,
MK44 1AA at 10.00am**

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm, led by Wildlife Trust BCN staff*

Strawberry Hill Farm has been left to rewild for 25 years. This 150-hectare site, the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region, has presented a remarkable opportunity for the Wildlife Trust Beds, Cambs & Northants to protect this unique habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

We shall be hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora.

*£4 per adult

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.)

**Saturday June 1st, Flitwick Moor and Folly Wood (TL045354), 10.30am-
3.00pm**

Invertebrate Day 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 (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

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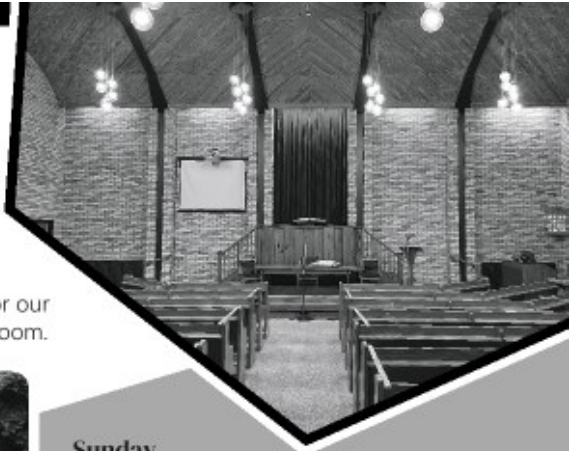
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Advertisements

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



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Messy Church News



Have any of you still got Easter Eggs left? In March we looked at Easter in our Messy Church. We started with Palm Sunday. For that we made flags to

wave by drawing them with special crayons that we could then iron on, and we made donkey models. We talked about



Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha and made cakes. For the Last Supper we made a cup from a paper plate. We made crosses in a number of ways, and a moveable picture to show the Resurrection. (These pictures were of the things we left in the chapel as samples—pop in some time and see.)

In our next Messy Church, at 4 pm on 18th May, we will be explore Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church.

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

"By the time one is eighty, it is said, there is no longer a tug of war in the garden with the May flowers hauling like mad against the claims of the other months. All is at last in balance and all is serene. The gardener is usually dead, of course."

- Henry Mitchell, *The Essential Earthman*

LIFE Church & Christian Aid Week



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

All Welcome

May 2024

5th – Sunday Worship

12th – Christian Aid United Service at Methodist Church **10am**

19th - Pentecost Sunday - Vicky Yorke

26th – Polly Oliver

Wednesday 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

Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May

Everyone is equal in the sight of God

For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Our groundbreaking work began in 1945, when we were founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War.

For more than 75 years, we have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

Methodist Church

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



MAY preachers are:

- 5th 10 am Come and See led by Tina and Clive
6 pm Rev. Nigel Bibbings. This service includes Holy Communion
12th 10 am United service for Christian Aid Week
19th 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
26th 10 am Tina Salmon

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 25th May, from 10 am to 12 noon, in the hall

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 **May**:

- 2nd - Margaret Newman (Methodist Minister)
9th - Elaine Mountfort (From Council talking about recent crime in the area)
16th - Vicky Yorke (from Life Church)
23rd - Nigel Bibbings (Methodist Minister)
30th - Claudia Lupi- (Methodist Minister for Harlington)



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

St Mary's Church



New Priest-in-Charge: we are getting closer to the licensing service for our new Priest-in-Charge, Father Mark, on June 5th. Attendance at this service is by invitation only but there will be a further service of welcome at Westoning Church at 10am on June 9th, giving everyone a chance to meet him.

Churchyard: Various wild flowers are starting to appear as the weather warms up a bit. We're waiting to see if the bee orchids put in an appearance again which would be a real treat. Take a walk through and see what you can spot. By the way, what do unionized bees want?.....More honey and shorter working flowers of course!

Recycling collection: a reminder that we collect empty biscuit wrappers (sweet and savoury), plastic cake wrappers and crisp packets. Eg Packets for digestives, Cheddars, Ryvita, mini rolls, crumpets, Kit Kat and Twix or shop own brand. You can leave them in the marked black bin inside the side church gate opposite the vicarage. These are then sent to Terracycle to be recycled. We do not take cardboard which can go in your normal household bin, and neither can we take any other plastic packaging eg for fruit and veg, tea bags, pet food sachets, washing powder. We also no longer collect chocolate wrappers.

Lower School visit: The church was full of colour on March 28th as the Lower School children enjoyed their Easter service followed by hot cross buns. They all wore colourful home made Easter bonnets and sang beautifully. Different children also contributed by reading part of the Easter story. It was a very special occasion, and thank you to all the children and teachers for coming to see us.

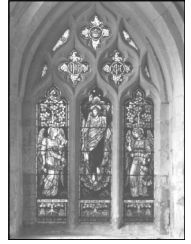
Family Messy Breakfast: May's free fun session is on Sunday 12th from 9am to 10.15am in the Parish Hall. Continental breakfast, children's crafts and story, led by Rebecca. All welcome.

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

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend the May services in our beautiful village church which includes Pentecost (Whit) Sunday on 19th. and Trinity Sunday on 26th. On 5th. June there is the licensing service for our new Priest-in-Charge. This is a diocesan service which is officially by invitation only, although it is certainly hoped that there will be space for people representing the villagers and congregations of the three parishes of the Benefice to attend. May's services are:



Sundays

- 5th 8 am Book of Common Prayer Service
9.30 am Holy Communion service
- 12th 9 am Families Messy Breakfast
10 am Churches Together Christian Aid service in Methodist Church
- 19th 9.30 am Holy Communion for Pentecost Sunday
- 26th 9.30 am Holy Communion for Trinity Sunday

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. 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 as is the church website which is at <https://www.harlingtonchurch.org>

The church Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/

We are on 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* Wednesday Coffee Mornings

May

6 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
7 th Flittabus	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
12 th Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
12 th United CA Service	Methodist Church 10 am
18 th Wildlife walk	Strawberry Hill Farm 10 am
18 th Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 – 6 pm
20 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
21 st Friends Working Party	St. Mary's 6 – 8 pm
25 th Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am to 12 noon

June

1 st HiB Summer planting	Village Hall 10 am
1 st Wildlife walk	Flitwick Moor and Folly Wood 10.30 am

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

You can send things just to be entered here.

**GET YOUR JUNE 2024 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY
10TH MAY 2024**

Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Games



If you would like to join us for coffee/tea, a chat or a game of table tennis we would love to see you. We meet every Wednesday in the Parish Hall from 10 am until 12 o'clock. The Games Group section have begun playing table tennis again and you are very welcome to join us.

We also have a small snooker table, and if anyone would

like to come perhaps to play different indoor games eg chess, card games or Scrabble, please do come along any Wednesday morning to see us and have a chat. Doreen Gatward and Valerie Bates.

