

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

December marks what is now thought of as the Christmas season, although technically Christmas starts on Christmas Day, the period before being Advent. The twelve days of Christmas finish with Epiphany, 6th January, although the season can be considered as running on to Candlemas on 2nd February. It used to be that people put up decorations on Christmas Eve, now they take them down on Boxing Day. You will see a host of Christmas based events listed in this issue, with a lot of Carol Services and singing.

Unfortunately, many people are after your money at this time, and the scammers seem to be back in force on the phones and internet. Take care, fake calls include “Bank Security”, “Amazon Prime” and even “GWR Rail Tickets”! Don’t pay for someone else’s Christmas unless you intended to.

Clive

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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 2025 copy by 1st December please.

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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Christmas letter from St. Mary's Church

For most people December means Christmas and Christmas means shopping for gifts or food preparation. It is a very busy time of year, and a time when it is easy to lose sight of what is at the heart of Christmas. One way of helping us do this is through the Christmas carols we hear throughout December.

Sometimes, however, we might not be sure whether what we are hearing is actually quite accurate. A short chapter in the light-hearted book 'Christmas: tradition, truth and total baubles' points out, tongue-in-cheek, that the words of one of the top three most popular carols, are not strictly meteorologically accurate.

*In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

In actual fact, the likelihood was that it was not quite that cold. Nick Page, the author of the book comments: "if the shepherds were in the fields, then the frosty wind was not making any moaning, the earth was considerably less hard than iron, and the water was like ... well ... water." However, he concedes that, had the poem started "in the slightly chilly late autumn ..." it would not quite have the same effect, or be quite so memorable. He is right there!

This beautiful, profound poem by Christina Rossetti, which has two wonderful musical settings, one by Holst and one by Darke, concludes with words that challenge us directly:

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

However busy you are this December, do make time to come and hear and sing carols that retell the Christmas story, that tell of the best Christmas gift of all.

The Family carol service at the Methodist Church is on Sunday 15th December at 10 am. The village carol service with the Salvation Army is on Wednesday 18th December at 6.30 pm at the Lincoln Way shops. The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service with the Quintet choir is at the parish church, St. Mary's, on Friday 20th December at 7 pm. Life Church have carols on the 22nd December at 10.30 am.

Robert Johns

Reader, St. Mary's Church

Carols at the Shops *plus* Pre-Christmas Lunch

**Everyone is invited to 'Shine Your Light' for Jesus on
WEDNESDAY EVENING 18TH AT 6.30PM
OUTSIDE THE HARLINGTON SHOPS
Churches Together, Hub & Spoke
and the Salvation Army**



Over past years we have had wonderful evenings meeting up with friends and family outside the shops, drinking Hot Chocolate, eating Mince Pies and singing Carols with the Salvation Army Band to begin our Christmas Celebrations. Again we shall be spot-lighting the birth of Jesus with our human Nativity Tableau.



*Pre-Christmas Lunch
with
entertainment*

Monday 9th December 2024 from 11:30a.m.

Harlington Methodist Hall

Cost £7.50 per head

This includes soup, bread roll, homemade cakes.

Plus Entertainment!

**Please make payment and soup choice at Hub and Spoke or
Rita Panchal (85 Westoning Road)**

Harlington in Bloom



The winter bedding planting has been set in, as well as the beds dug over and fertilised. We also had a working party to plant more bulbs, weed and sweep up on Saturday 9 November, prior to Remembrance Sunday.

Tete a Tete bulbs which had been removed and stored from last year were planted, as well as tulips in the Memorial Garden. Some planted also in the long bed by the village hall. A whopping 200 aconites were planted under the trees behind the Memorial under the trees, which should provide a lovely spring display, along with the snowdrops. Thanks to those who turned out to help us.



Do contact Rosemary (details below) to go on our volunteer list. We always need more people with different skills, not least because, at any one time, people including committee members can be ‘under the weather’ and unable to help with the physical work. Many hands make light work; provide fun and companionship and interaction with a broad spectrum of villagers.

Join us next for the **AGM** for a round-up of the year and election of next year’s committee. More details on **Open Gardens** in 2025 will start coming after the

AGM and new committee is in place. Thanks to those Garden Owners who have come forward already.

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

Fri 7 February 2025 Annual General Meeting Parish Hall (tbc) 19.30pm

Sat 5 July 2025 Harlington Open Gardens

Vivienne Dunlop on behalf of HiB Committee v.dunlop@ntlworld.com <https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> [messenger](https://www.messenger.com/profile/harfield) or ju-dy.harfield@apertech.co.uk (Treasurer); Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207 rosemarypc86@gmail.com Follow us on facebook page Harlington in Bloom for calendar events, nice pics and news updates!

Harlington Heritage Trust *plus* Flittabus

Harlington Heritage Trust will be having an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) on Sunday 19 January at 15.00 in Harlington Village Hall. The meeting is to officially agree the dissolution of Harlington Heritage Trust, which will be on or before 31 March 2025. Refreshments will be provided.

Flittabus

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FLITTABUS TO MILTON KEYNES

On the first Tuesday of each month Flittabus provides a service from Harlington to Milton Keynes and back. Ideal for city shopping.

In December, the MK service is on: **Tue 3 December 2024**

In January, the MK service is on: **Tue 7 January 2025**

As usual: **Departure from Harlington: 09:15 am**, from the bus stop on Station Road, a few yards down from the crossroads.

Return from MK: 1:00 pm from Central MK, Exit Door 5.

No need to reserve a seat: *It's first-come first-served. However, in December, Flittabus hopes to provide a second bus if the first bus is full.*

FLITTABUS SERVICE TO HITCHIN

A reminder: The FL7 service runs every Friday, departing from the Upper School on Goswell End Road at 09:17 am. The return journey departs from St Mary's Square in Hitchin at 12:15 pm.

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – details: flittabus.co.uk/excursions

* **Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market**

Sat 7 December 2024 – £40.00 pp Transport only

If you wish to book a place on an excursion, please phone **Derek Wood** on **07563 170 067** or email him at excursions@flittabus.co.uk

Flittabus accepts payment by Bank Transfer / Cash / Cheque / Credit or Debit Card.

Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**

Funding the fight

A Glimmer of Hope!



My daughter Emma just happened to tune in to PM on 29th October and 25 minutes into the programme her ears pricked up as she heard some familiar names; Dr Paul Mulholland, the man responsible for Pete's chemotherapy treatment, and who has devised an experimental therapy on patients who are suffering a Glioblastoma (GBM) Brain Tumour. It has been used on 1 person so far, a man in Luton, Paul, and his tumour has halved in size. The procedure is basically a device under his scalp into which a radio active drug is fed directly into the tumour.

GMB is a terminal illness from diagnosis; it affects people of all ages, 3000 die each year and there is only an average survival of 9 months. Treatments are aggressive and involves surgery, chemotherapy for 6 weeks and radiotherapy, their survival at this point would be 5/6 months. When patients join this trial they will already have undergone this first course of treatment and when the tumour recurs they can be invited to enter the trial. Paul, from Luton, entered the trial 3 months after radiotherapy. Neurosurgeon, Miss Sethi at Queens Square carried out the operation where she removed a small amount of tumour and inserted a tube into the remaining tumour then sealed it up inside. Olaperib is a drug used generally for ovarian cancer and for this study it has been modified so it can be made into a solution and injected into the tumour and also modified to hold a tiny bit of radioactivity. This drug goes into the tumour and delivers the radioactivity just to the tumour cell. Paul Mulholland explained that the drug is not usually radioactive and doesn't get to the brain as a tablet, making this quite remarkable.

This is in the early stages as a trial but the 2nd person will have had their second treatment on the 30/10. The 3rd patient will have their operation and tube fitted soon and the 4th patient will join the trial in January. There will be 14 altogether initially and then expand to do combination treatment so target treatment into the tumour and then a treatment that goes around the body like immunotherapy. Paul Mulholland invited the pharmaceutical industry to contact the team with their immunotherapy drugs to partner with them to deliver the rest of this study.

So you can imagine my joy and optimism for our fundraising and I hope that those of you have supported any of my fundraising events will also share this joy and optimism. Yes it is early days, yes it is only one person but there is some progress. I emailed Paul Mulholland to thank him and wish him "every success in the development of this treatment and look forward to following its progress and extended life chances for those living with a brain tumour" and he replied

Brain Tumour Research *Ctd. plus HGS*

“Thank you for your message and words of encouragement. We will keep fighting to find better treatments for this terrible disease’

So we march on!!

What a busy October and more good news to deliver: Plant sales at my house have now reached £2080.29, I am thrilled thank you all so much.

Also do you recall Saturday 19th October? What an awful start to the day. I had a river running down my drive and it was my garage sale, but you turned out and supported, even sat in my gazebo to have a cup of coffee/tea and piece of cake and you raised £449.56 on the day. I received £155 in donations after that, thank you for your generosity and I have sold other items since so the total is now in excess of £600. Thank you all for supporting and donating. Thank you also to Liz and Jacqui for serving refreshments and providing yummy cakes and to Sylvia and Debbie for your delicious cakes. To Judy and Rita thank you for your jams and preserves. Finally thank you to Gill and Bob and their neighbour’s son who saved the day on the Sunday as the gazebo was about to take off whilst I was out, thank you for your help rescuing and helping to take down the gazebo, where would I be without you all!!

Fundraising does not stop. I hope to report on the tea coffee event on the 23rd November in the next Contact. I will be at the centre MK on the 18th November selling merchandise and with a collecting tin. Please look out for me and come and say hello. I am selling Christmas cards at my church, Holy Family, at all masses on the weekend 16/17th November and at St John’s Sundon on the 1st December. I will be outside Tesco on 16th December collecting for the Rotary Club who will donate to BTR for our support and anything and anywhere else I get the chance to spread the news and raise funds for research. I haven’t organised a Christmas post delivery in Harlington this year as there was so little interest but if you need help please get in touch.

Big thanks to you all and wishing you all a Very Happy and peaceful Christmas
Jane, Alice and Emma

Harlington Gardeners’ Society



Our New Year Social will take place on Saturday 11th January at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. At this event we hope to have a speaker. More details later.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

Harlington Upper School December Events



HARLINGTON SENIOR RESIDENTS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are warmly invited to join us for our delightful Annual Christmas Tea Party at Harlington Upper School.

★ Highlights:

- Festive food treats
- Hot beverages
- Live music
- Familiar and friendly faces

2024

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
AT 4.30 PM—6.00 PM

📅 RSVP NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION

CONTACT US AT RESIDENTS@HARLINGTON.ORG OR
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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE SEASONAL JOY WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN!



Harlington Upper School's Christmas Concert

Dec 18th 6:30pm

Tickets £5 via parentpay or on the door



HARLINGTON UPPER SCHOOL PRESENTS

Guys and Dolls

WEDNESDAY 11th
THURSDAY 12th
FRIDAY 13th
DECEMBER 2024

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Harlington Upper School Presents

Guys and Dolls!

11th, 12th, 13th December, 7pm

Family ticket (2 adults / 2 children):
£35

Individual ticket: £10

Tickets can be purchased in advance on Parentpay or by contacting the school Reception on 01525 755100.

After a sell-out show last year we advise you to purchase tickets in advance; don't miss out on this joyful start to your Christmas season!

HARLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HELP



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2025

Thursday 13th February from 7.30pm

at 25 Sundon Road

All interested parties welcome

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

We currently have 23 volunteers, most who are drivers, but we also have non-drivers as we help with forms, prescription collections, shopping etc.

We have again completed over 400 'jobs' this year in the village

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

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

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

Harlington Village Hall

The committee of Harlington Village Hall are looking for someone to take on the voluntary role of Bookings Clerk. The role mostly consists of responding to emails and sending out bookings forms alongside liaising with local groups and members of the committee and local community. If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact Natalie Jeffs (Chair) on 07793116621.

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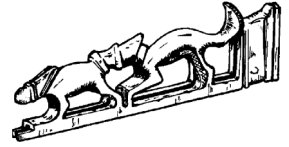
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Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Monday 2nd December 2024

Mowing a Path Through Life - Collecting Lawnmowers, their History and Use in Bedfordshire



Andrew's talk will cover how he got into vintage mowers, the history of mowers, and stories behind locally used, and locally manufactured mowers, including the Bedford Mower.

Speaker – Andrew Grout

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, MK45 1QJ 7.30 for 7.45 pm start. Members are free, visitors are very welcome £5.00 payable at the door. Tea and coffee to follow.

The talk will also be broadcast live via Zoom to Society members.

January 11th - Celebrity Lunch - Shackleton's Endurance: Rediscovery and Remnants – Mark Frary

February 3rd - Forensic Archaeology: Recoveries from the 19th Century to the Present – Dr David Errickson

www.adalhs.org.uk



Harlington Surgery & Sundon Medical Centre, Ads



News this time from Leigh-Anne, the Medical Dispenser at Harlington Surgery.

She gives us details of the surgery's Christmas/New Year closing dates, and the latest date for handing in repeat prescriptions:

Holiday Closures

Christmas: closed Wednesday 25 December 2024

closed Thursday 26 December 2024

open Friday 27 December 2024

open Monday 30 December 2024

open Tuesday 31 December 2024

New Year: closed Wednesday 1 January 2025

Repeat Prescriptions

As many of us know, the supply of medication to the surgery has been somewhat irregular this year, keeping Leigh-Anne and her team *very* busy.

She says that for this year the ideal Latest Date to hand in repeat scripts covering the holiday period is Wednesday 18 December 2024.

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HVH Halloween Fayre, HP Panto, Tree Festival

The first Halloween Fayre took place on the 28th of October 2007. It is with great sadness that I have to announce that the fayre on the 2nd of November will be the last. 17 years is a long time and none of us are getting any younger, me in particular.

I would like to thank all those who have given up their time to make sure the fayre was a huge success, whether they were involved in setting up the storyteller's wood, running stalls, refreshments, producing the advertising or involved in some other way. The highlight for me was the reaction from the children when they saw the spooky wood for the first time. I hope it was as memorable for them as it was for me and something to remember.

As it was our last, I thought it was fitting for all the proceeds to be given to Macmillan Cancer Care in memory of all those who we have loved and lost over the years. A check for £500 will be delivered to the unit in the next few days.

Thanks once more and I look forward to seeing you again when you visit Park Leys on Halloween 2025.

Bright blessings to you all.

Andy Bishop.

Harlington Perforians
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDRA BISHOP
HARLINGTON PERFORMS PRESENTS OUR 38TH PANTOMIME

Maid Marian & ROBIN HOOD

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 7:30PM
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2PM AND 7:30PM

HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BRADSHAW'S FROM 04/11/24
OR ONLINE: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/HARLINGTON-PERF

Christmas Tree Festival

in St Mary's Church

Saturday 30th Nov 12-5pm

Sunday 1st Dec 12-5pm

Adult ticket £2.50, children free

Craft stalls, raffle and refreshments

Festival Finale

5pm Sunday 1st December
Stories & songs for all the family

Harlington Lower School *plus* Wednesday Coffee

At Harlington Lower School recently the children have enjoyed learning in lots of different ways. As well as our learning in school, our youngest children have been out around the village exploring the season of Autumn and learning how to stay safe whilst out and about.



We have also had a number of visitors in school. Chestnut Class were thrilled to have some very special visitors to a history lesson on toys from their grandparent's childhood. The children were excited to share their learning with some grandparents and the opportunity to explore some different games and toys to the ones they have at home.

The Indian Experience visited school to share an assembly on The Festival of Light, Diwali. Following on from this, children in KS1 had workshops on creating rangoli artwork and an insight into Hindu worship and ceremonies.

We are grateful to everyone in the community who visits the school and who supports us with events in the village. If you would be able to help in school, either regularly or as a one-off to talk about a topic, please let us know at office@harlingtonlower.co.uk

Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Games



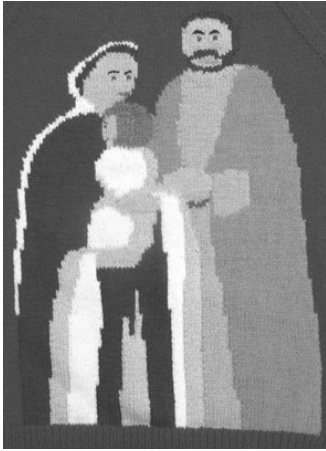
If you would like to join us for coffee/tea, a chat or a game of table tennis we would love to see you. We meet every Wednesday in the Parish Hall from 10 am until 12 o'clock. The Games Group section have begun playing table tennis again and you are very welcome to join us. We also have a

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.



Crafternoon Tea & Wellbeing Walks

As Christmas approaches, do you abandon your craft work to prepare? Fancy a break from those preparations, which seem to get more insistent every year?



We will meet on three dates in December this year, **2nd**, and **16th** – giving you sufficient time to finish something you might want to use over the festive period, or to take a break and still have time to finish preparations, and on **30th**. I know many of you will be unable to make this one, but for those who want to, we will be open.

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 December meetings will be as above. All meetings will be on Zoom as well as in person, and refreshments will be served at each meeting. Our first meeting in 2025 will be **13th January**.

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.

Flitwick Community Fridge

Have you heard about the Flitwick Community Fridge? This innovative project is preventing fresh food from going to waste. It is open to anyone to take surplus food items. Beyond just providing food, the Flitwick Community Fridge offers a range of activities, opportunities to learn new skills like cooking or gardening, and a space for friendly conversations.

What's on offer?

You may find a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, and some limited dairy products. The available items depend on what has been donated, and everything is offered free of charge. While the fridge does include a small community larder with dry goods, it's important to note that this is not a traditional food bank.

How to access the Community Fridge?

Anyone can donate or receive food from the community fridge without the need for a referral. It's important to emphasize that this service is open to everyone, regardless of whether they are a Flitwick resident or not.

For more information on what is available and updates follow the **Flitwick Community Fridge Facebook page** or call them on 01525 631900. If you would like a lift over there please call Harlington Neighbourhood Help (07849 835410) and if there is a driver available we can organise that.

Location and opening times

The Flitwick Community Fridge is located at the Food Hub next to The Rufus Centre on Steppingley Road. Ample free parking is available for visitors. The fridge is typically open Monday to Friday from 09:30-11:30 and 14:30-17:30, as well as Saturdays from 09:30-13:30, subject to stock availability.

You can select up to 3kg of food per household using a basket. Someone from the team will weigh the food and complete an anonymous form (only asking for a postcode) to allow them to track the needs and preferences of service users.

Additionally, special openings on Friday evenings (9.15pm to 9.45pm) and Sunday afternoons (4.40pm to 5pm) allow for the distribution of surplus food collected from local supermarkets that has to be used on the same day. *At these times you can take up to five items on a first-come, first-served basis and will be asked to take a ticket when you arrive, which will secure your place in the queue.*

Food donations

Most food in the fridge is generously donated by local businesses, including Tesco Flitwick (daily), Aldi Flitwick (weekdays), Waitrose Ampthill (Friday) and Co-op Flitwick (Monday and Wednesday) and they welcome donations including surplus produce from gardens and allotments but do have strict rules to follow.

Flitwick Community Fridge 01525 631900

Hedgehogs

Hello - First I'd like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Hogspital over the last year. Whether with newspapers, donations of money or things from the Amazon wishlist, it's all deeply appreciated & I couldn't do it without you. A massive THANK YOU must also go to Gwen Gray who gave the Hogspital £100 from her garage sale, and the Village Show committee who also gave £100 for the Hogspital. I feel very humbled & extremely blessed. Your donations have enabled the purchase of a Brinsea TLC portable incubator, it can run from a 12v supply in a car & has been invaluable for collecting abandoned babies.

To date (Nov 7th) the Hogspital has had 183 hogs through its doors this year, from tiny abandoned hoglets weighing 6grams to heavily pregnant sows who then produced 5 beautiful babies in the safety of a garden run. Injuries

have ranged from traffic accidents resulting in broken legs & head injuries, strimmer damage, dog attacks & sadly hogs used as footballs. Hedgehogs have come in from as close as 2 or 3 doors away to St Albans, Hatfield, Milton Keynes & the far side of Bedford. I've been privileged to deliver talks to Brownies, Beavers, the WI, schools & other community groups.

It is hard emotionally, when dealing with some of the brutal injuries inflicted by humans, and I've spent far too many evenings with a pair of pointy tweezers picking maggots from strimmer wounds, but it's all worth it when a hedgehog that came in as a 70 gram baby covered in ticks & flystrike is returned to its finder for release as a healthy 800g adult.

So once again - THANK YOU.

If you would like to donate to the Hogspital, the account details are below.

Happy Christmas & a peaceful New Year

Kate Dimmock, Harlington Hogspital

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Christmas Services

Join us this Christmas for a time of carol singing, Bible readings and a message as we worship our King and Saviour - Jesus. Our services are also broadcast online via Zoom.



"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14

Sunday
22nd Dec
6pm

Carol Service

A traditional Carol Service followed by mince pies.

Wednesday
25th Dec
10am

Christmas Day

Join us for worship on Christmas morning.



📍 Large free car park on site

📺 Zoom Meeting ID: 292 960 6969

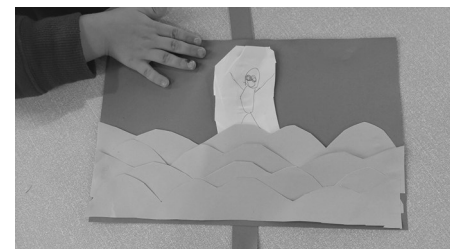
📍 **Greenfield Road MK45 5JD**

🌐 **westoningbaptistchurch.org**

Messy Church News *plus* 0—4's Nativity



In our October Messy Church we looked at Peter. Peter was a friend of Jesus, so we made friendship bracelets. We made fish and nets and a boat because he was a fisherman. We made a



church on a rock because Jesus said Peter was the rock on which the church would be built.

Our next Messy Church will be on 21st December at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and Halls. This will be our Messy Christmas session, so guess what the theme will be!

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

0—4's Nativity

6th December at 10 for 10.15 am, at the Methodist Church. A short Nativity for 0—4 year olds with their parents or carers, on the day when we can't meet in the Village Hall. Followed by tea/coffee/squash and biscuits or mince pies. All 0—4s welcome.

Tina and Clive

LIFE Church *with Baby & Me*



LIFE CHURCH HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

All Welcome

December

1st – Carol Gibbs

8th – Vicky Yorke

15th - Lighthouse Café church

22nd – Carol Service

Wednesdays 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



Baby & Me



for parents and babies

0 – 12 months

Harlington Parish Rooms

Thursday 12th December

10 – 11.30

coffee & cake

Sensory play



Methodist Church *including Bright Hour*

You are all invited to join us at any of our services. If you can't attend in person you can join us on Zoom or YouTube if you have access to the technology. You can also view the YouTube recording later if you wish.



DECEMBER preachers are:

- 1st 10 am Come and See led by Sheila Norris
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
8th 10 am Co-ordinated by Cathy Sheehan
15th 10am Family Carol Service with Rev. Claudia Lupi
22nd 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
25th **9.30 am** Christmas Day worship led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
29th 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 No Coffee Morning this month

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets every Thursday afternoon at 2.45pm at the Methodist Church Hall (unless shown otherwise)

Members have 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.

Speakers/activities for December are

5th. Harlington Lower School Choir to come and sing for us.

12th. Cathy Sheehan

19th. Xmas music and celebration by Barbara Donaldson.

No further meetings till 9th. January 2025

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

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



Christmas Tree Festival: Sat 30th Nov & Sunday 1st December. The theme this year is 'Christmas Around the World'. The church is open between 12 -5pm on both days, and there's a Festival Finale celebration at 5pm on the Sunday, with stories and songs. We're looking forward to the Lower School choir joining us then to sing some Christmas songs. Festival free entry for children, adults £2.50, which includes a cuppa. We'll also have some amazing craft stalls run by talented crafters, home made cakes, and a great raffle. Come and enjoy the sparkle - and choose your favourite tree.

We are also collecting new, unwrapped presents once again for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. This is so that a child who might not otherwise receive a present has a gift to open on Christmas Day. Bring your donations to church by the end of the Festival as we have to drop them off on Monday 2nd December. Alternatively, contact booking@harlingtonchurch.org for collection. Thank you

Messy Church: Sunday 1st December at 3.15pm in the Parish Hall. This will be the last Messy Church of 2024. Enjoy a story, craft and song with Rebecca, before heading into the Festival Finale.

Crib Service: Tuesday 24th December at 1pm. Samson will be joining us along with several kings and shepherds for this lovely family service leading us up to Christmas Day. Please see Robert's separate article for the list of church services over the Christmas period.

Churchyard: we did the annual hedge cutting in record time this autumn. Many thanks to all of the helpers from our Friends Group who came to help, and also to villagers who did slow down whilst we were doing the work. The grass has had the last cut of the year, and now we're back to dealing with the 1000s of leaves covering drains, gutters and roof gulleys. Ah, the joy of being a Churchwarden. Why is it so easy to trick a leaf in the autumn?..... Because they fall for anything!

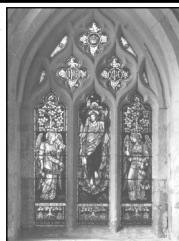
For service and event information, either check Contact, the noticeboard outside church or our website: www.harlingtonchurch.org. The church Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/

You can also contact me or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

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 (beginning 30th. November), we have our annual Christmas Tree Festival which concludes with a short service in church. Our Advent and Christmas services are:



- 1st 8 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
9.30 am Advent Day Morning Prayer
3.15 pm Messy Church
5 pm Christmas Tree Festival conclusion service
- 8th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 15th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 20th 7 pm Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols with Quintet choir
- 22nd 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 24th 1 pm Christmas Eve crib service with Samson the donkey
11 pm Christmas Midnight Mass
- 25th 10 am Christmas Day service
- 29th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesdays

Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 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

Further information and useful links

For personal enquiries, for requests for prayer, or for enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Fr. Mark Edwards revmarkedwards@outlook.com 07305 822186 or Dr. Robert Johns robert@harlingtonchurch.org 01525 873214.

The church noticeboard is kept regularly up-to-date as is the church website which is at <https://www.harlingtonchurch.org>

Remember that we are here for you.

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

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Village Diary *plus* HVH 100 Club

December

1 st Christmas Trees	St Mary's Church 12 noon – 5 pm
1 st Messy Church	Parish Hall 3.15 pm
2 nd Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
2 nd ADALHS	Flitwick Library 7.30 pm
3 rd Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
6 th 0-4s Nativity	Methodist Church 10 am
6 th Panto	Harlington Village Hall 7.30 pm
7 th Panto	Harlington Village Hall 2 pm and 7.30 pm
9 th Pre-Christmas Lunch	Methodist Church Hall 11.30 am
11 th Guys and Dolls	Harlington Upper School 7 pm
12 th Baby & Me	Parish Hall 10 am
12 th Guys and Dolls	Harlington Upper School 7 pm
13 th Guys and Dolls	Harlington Upper School 7 pm
15 th Family Carol Service	Methodist Church 10 am
16 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
17 th HUS Party	Harlington Upper School 4.30 pm
18 th Carols with SA	Outside the Shops 6.30 pm
18 th Christmas Concert	Harlington Upper School 6.30 pm
20 th Traditional Carols	St. Mary's Church 7 pm
21 st Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
22 nd Carol Service	Life Church in Parish Hall 10.30 am
24 th Crib Service	St. Mary's Church 1 pm
24 th Midnight Mass	St. Mary's Church 11 pm
25 th Christmas Day Service	Methodist Church 9.30 am
25 th Christmas Day Service	St. Mary's Church 10 am
30 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)

Don't forget the regular weekly things that aren't shown here such as the Wednesday Coffee and the Wellbeing Walks.

You can send things just to be entered here. **GET YOUR JANUARY 2025 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 1ST DECEMBER 2024**

Harlington Village Hall 100 Club

The October 100 Club winner was David Laurie of Brian Road with ticket no 65. If you wish to be part of the 100 Club and have the chance to win £50, please contact me at: harlingtonvillagehallsecretary@gmail.com The money raised goes towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Cara Thurston-Lack, Secretary of the HVH Management committee