

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

It's May, and people are already moved into Pilgrim's Chase and the show house is being set up for Castle Fields (Sorry, as far as I know there never was a castle in Harlington, or for that matter, a Chase, although these was enough woodland for 400 pigs).

It was the Methodist Church's pleasure to present Jane with a cheque for Brain Tumour Research, though not as much as it would have been when we ran the booksale. Speaking of which, is anyone going to run one this year? They're hard work but great fun if you can do it.

It is also something we can do in making a village service available on YouTube most weeks. You don't have to be a Methodist to share it with us.

What makes this village a community is people who do what they can to share with others, whether for VE Day or litter picking. Best Wishes.

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 copy by 10th May please.

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

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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A letter from the Methodist Minister

Dear friends,

In this Easter season, the call to follow Christ in his 'humiliated lowliness' is a central theme for all citizens of our village. Regardless of our beliefs, we are united in the call to live in simplicity, to listen to others, to recognise the needs of our neighbours, and to support those in need. This means to live as resurrected people. This unity in diversity, this shared commitment to humility and service, is what makes our community strong and resilient.

While the celebration of Easter for believers is rooted in the resurrection of Christ and his teachings, it holds equal significance for those who do not share this belief. For them, Easter is a time to extend love and commitment to their families and those who may be alone, mirroring the same spirit of unity and care.

We all urgently need consideration and care to respond to the gift of a beautiful and fascinating life, instead of a selfish, empty, lonely life we all need shoots of new life colours wherever we are in our journey.

The power of the resurrection passes through people in different ways. Both believers and non-believers can all together, even with different heightened awareness, demonstrate that what is bitter can be converted into sweetness, the first fruits of new life.

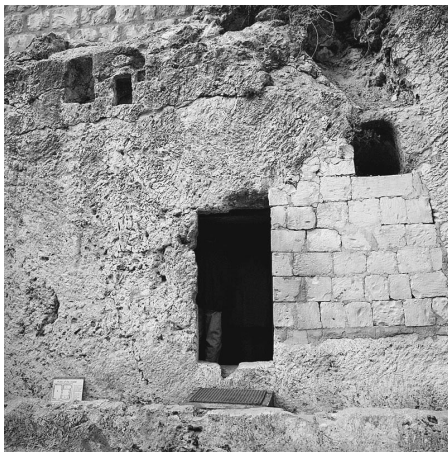
This Easter, how can we forget the many signs of death and life in places of war, violence, abuse, inequality, hunger and the cry of our world? Let us remain close to those marked by this time's wounds, even among us. Let us stay close to the people overwhelmed by wars and conflicts.

It is through a contemplative gaze that we can avoid being paralysed by the presence of evil. Instead, we can join hands with others and become the architects of a resurrected life, a life filled with hope, love, and peace.

With these sentiments, dear brothers and sisters, I wish you to 'celebrate Easter' founded and firm in hope. Let this hope be a guiding light in our lives, inspiring us to continue our journey towards a better, more compassionate world.

May love and peace be with us all

Love from Claudia



Harlington Lower School *plus* Good Friday Walk



It's been a busy and joy-filled half term at Harlington Lower School, with our children taking part in a wide range of experiences that celebrate both tradition and diversity. From our Ramadan assembly to Science Week, there's been plenty to inspire curiosity, creativity and thoughtfulness.

Highlights have included a Year 2's charity week where they raised money for Children in Need and a springtime walk for Oak Class, which ended with a lovely visit to the Hub and Spoke café. We're always pleased when learning takes us beyond the classroom and into the community. A heartfelt thank you also goes to St. Mary's Church for welcoming us so warmly for our Easter Service at the end of term.

It's been equally special to welcome families into school, particularly for our Mothers' Day Tea where we enjoyed cake and time together. Beyond our own gates, our Year 4 School Council representatives made us proud at the Pyramid Schools Trust Equality, Diversity and Inclusion event, working alongside other schools to create a charter that reflects the values of kindness, fairness, and belonging for all.

We are delighted to have welcomed two new schools into the Pyramid Schools Trust this half term (Brooklands Middle School and Beecroft Academy), strengthening our collaboration and enriching the opportunities we provide for every child.

We are also especially grateful to the volunteers from the village who give their time to support learning in school – your help makes a real difference. If anyone else in the community would like to get involved, perhaps by listening to individual children read, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us at office@harlingtonlower.co.uk.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Congratulations to all who took part in our Good Friday Walk of Witness and the drama outside the shops. This is now forming a Harlington tradition.



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 May, the MK service is on: **Tue 6 May 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.*

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – flittabus.co.uk/excursions

* **St Albans**

Wed 30 Apr 2025 – £20.00 pp Transport only

* **Coton Manor Garden**

Fri 16 May 2025 – £40.00 pp Transport and Admission to Garden

* **Braintree Village**

Fri 30 May 2025 – £30.00 pp Transport only

* **Stamford and Rutland Water Cruise**

Wed 18 Jun 2025 – £45.00 pp inc Transport / Time in Stamford /
One-hour trip on Rutland Belle

* **Blenheim Palace including Flower Show**

Fri 27 Jun 2025 – £55.00 pp inc Transport / Admission to Palace /
Admission to Flower Show /
Admission to Grounds

Flittabus *plus* Barton Le Clay Bowls Club

* **Highclere Castle (aka Downton Abbey)**

Wed 9 Jul 2025

SOLD OUT

* **Great Central Railway**

Sat 19 Jul 2025 – £56.00 pp inc Transport / Day Runabout ticket

•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.

"The month of May was come, when every lusty heart beginneth to blossom, and to bring forth fruit; for like as herbs and trees bring forth fruit and flourish in May, in likewise every lusty heart that is in any manner a lover, springeth and flourisheth in lusty deeds. For it giveth unto all lovers courage, that lusty month of May."

- *Sir Thomas Malory, Le Morte d'Arthur*

Barton Le Clay Bowls Club

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dimcdonald@btinternet.com

Brain Tumour Research



29th March 2025



I think this date will always be imprinted in my heart and mind. It all began when I returned home to a box of 40 individualised crocheted hats with a mini Easter egg hidden inside. They are beautiful and beautifully decorated: pirate hats,

pretty floral hats, Luton Town coloured hats, they are stunning and it is thanks to Jackie our post box topper Queen who brings joy and inspiration to seasonal celebrations for the Harlington community by decorating the top of post boxes, making these so much fun and creating memories. She kindly decided to create hats for our craft stall and raise money for the charity in memory of a dear friend and colleague who recently passed away after being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour. They are the



most perfect accessory to mark this incredible day where we are asked to wear a hat in memory of those and their families who have lost a loved one to a brain tumour. Thank you Jackie for your love, support and creative skills that have inspired those who have supported our fundraising by donating to support research that will prolong life and eventually provide a cure.

Then during last week I received an invitation to attend the monthly coffee morning at Harlington Methodist Church to a cheque presentation. Harlington Methodist Church made the very kind decision to take Brain Tumour Research as their charity for 2024. Tina and Clive Salmon presented me with a cheque for £775.63 on behalf of their church with very kind and supportive words. I must say I felt very overwhelmed by their generosity and willingness to maintain our partnership with the opportunity to return this autumn to continue to support by buying Brain Tumour Research Christmas cards and merchandise. Their kindness has achieved more than fundraising for Brain Tumour Research, I feel like I have a very kind and second family who are interested and show empathy for those experiencing the loss of a loved one to a brain tumour. Thank you, it means the world.

Harlington Gardeners' Society & BTR *ctd.*



Do you have a ticket for the FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday May 17th?

If not why not join the Harlington Gardeners' Society coach trip to the RHS Wisley garden in Surrey on that date. We still have a few places left. The cost is £30 & if you are a member of HGS (£4) you get free entry to the gardens. The coach

will leave Harlington at 9 am & return at approx. 6 pm. To book your place please contact me on 01525 753235 or by email at antony.roberts@ntlworld.com

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

Brain Tumour Research *ctd.*

From this I moved on to the tea/coffee wear a hat fundraiser that I organise annually but had not been resurrected since Covid 5 years ago! There seemed fewer people attending but what a lovely loving and supportive feel. We spoke to lots of lovely new supporters, and it was a memorable and lovely afternoon. Thanks to all those who helped to make this possible by running stalls and to those who attended, those who have added to our blue recycle sack, items are still being left on my doorstep: foreign currency, old mobiles etc. If this bag fills up I may get another so please keep donating. Finally thanks for the kind and generous donations from those who were unable to attend but wished to contribute and support. At this event I was also given a donation from the Harlington Village Wednesday Coffee Morning for £50, Thank you all so, so much. All this blows my mind. I appreciate each and every one of you not just because of your financial support for the charity but also the understanding and empathy that you feel for those going through this awful experience; it really helps.

Thanks also to Gill and Bob for their donation in memory of a friend and resident who recently passed away from a brain tumour.

What a month! What an amazing village! I really feel appreciative that I am able to live in such a happy and supportive community. Thank you Harlington

With my love and thanks

Jane Barltrop

Harlington in Bloom



Such lovely sunny weather as I write this! Nominations and judging have taken place for Spring Gardens. It was a funny season with planting starting out strong and then, that cold snap and lack of rain, meaning that we found many gardens looking 'between' seasons.

Look out for the results in the next issue of Contact.

We're looking forward to Open Gardens on Saturday 5 July 12 noon to 5pm. Tickets in the form of a printed programme will be available from a gazebo beside the Village Hall Carpark. Tickets will be £5.00 per adult with children free of charge. Cash only. Any profits after costs will go into the Harlington in Bloom funds for future projects. We will have more details in next issue of Contact of the gardens you can see and where you may also purchase a cream tea or a bun or two. Save the Date! It is such a lovely day. Fingers crossed for clement weather. Thank you to all who have come forward to open their gardens. Contact Vivienne 01525 633290/07758575715 (+ ansaphone) for more details.

We will be welcoming sponsors again for our activities to make the village decorative. Thank you so much to our sponsors who have stepped forward so far. Hats off to *Green Valley Construction* down at the stables on the Barton Road. Would you like to be a sponsor? We will mention you in Contact, on the Open Gardens Programme and in posters at our events. Contact Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207 or rosemarypc86@gmail.com for further information.

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

Sat 12 April HiB Weeding/pruning work party. Many thanks to those who came!

Sat 31 June Summer Planting. All Welcome 10.00 am

Fri 26 Sept Awards Evening All Welcome 19.30 pm

Sat 25 Oct Winter planting All Welcome 10.00 am

Sat 8 November War Memorial Tidy Up in advance of Remembrance Sun 10.00 am

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

Harlington Village Pre School



Harlington Village Pre School & Wrap Around Care

Childcare
Choices

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learn through play'*

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

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

If your child was born between 01/09/2021-31/08/2023 and you would like them to join Pre School from September 2025 or for more information, please e-mail staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk for a session request form.

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

The Conifers, Westoning Road, Harlington, LU5 6PD

www.harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

"Yes, I will spend the livelong day
With Nature in this month of May;
And sit beneath the trees, and share
My bread with birds whose homes are there;
While cows lie down to eat, and sheep
Stand to their necks in grass so deep;
While birds do sing with all their might,
As though they felt the earth in flight."
- William Henry Davies, *In May*



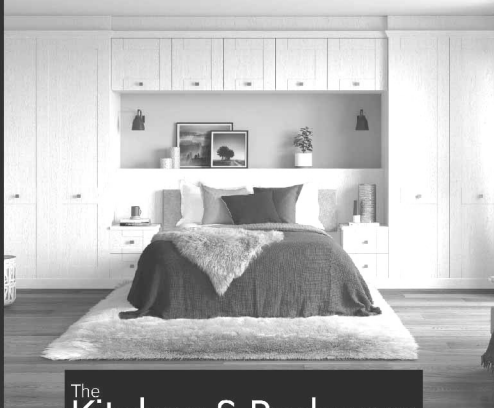
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Flit Vale Wildlife Group *plus* Wednesday Coffee



Wildlife Trust for
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& Northants**

Wildlife walks & talks

Saturday, May 17th, Strawberry Hill Farm, near Knotting Green, Bedford, (MK44 1AA) 10.00 am

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm lead by Wildlife Trust BCN staff

We have previously visited this wonderful site which was left to rewild for 25 years. The site of 150 hectares is the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region and has presented a remarkable opportunity for the WLT BCN to protect this unique habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

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

Charge: £4.00 per person

Booking for outdoor and online Flit Vale events is essential, as places are limited.

Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 075801 78889 to reserve your place.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.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.



Lower School Summer Fayre



A festive poster for the Harlington Lower School Summer Fayre. The background is light grey with a large white circle in the center. At the top of the circle is a smiling sun wearing sunglasses. Below the sun, the text 'HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'SUMMER FAYRE' is written in a very large, bold, sans-serif font. To the left and right of the text are two hot air balloons with striped patterns. Below the main text, the date and location are listed: 'SATURDAY, 28 JUNE' and 'HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL, WESTONING ROAD'. Below that, the time '11AM - 2PM' is written. A dark grey banner with the words 'FREE ENTRY' in white, bold, sans-serif font is positioned below the time. Below the banner are four ice cream sticks with different colored cones. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'Join us for' is written in a cursive font, followed by 'Bouncy Castle, Barbecue, Performances, Stalls & Games and Grand Raffle' in a bold, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner is a circular logo for the 'FRIENDS OF HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL' featuring a school building and the letters 'FHLA'. In the bottom right corner is a QR code. The entire poster is framed by a decorative border of small flags and bunting.

**HARLINGTON
LOWER SCHOOL**

**SUMMER
FAYRE**

SATURDAY, 28 JUNE **HARLINGTON
LOWER SCHOOL,
WESTONING ROAD**

11AM - 2PM

FREE ENTRY

Join us for

**Bouncy Castle, Barbecue,
Performances, Stalls & Games
and Grand Raffle**

 **Facebook.com/FHLSA**





VE Day

Community Lunch to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day



BYO PICNIC or BBQ available

REFRESHMENTS

BAR

ICE CREAM

RAFFLE

**With Entertainment from Miss Em and village
groups through the afternoon**

Bring family and friends together

**Monday 5th May
Bury Orchard
From 11.30 am**

Crafternoon Tea

Crafternoon Tea meets on alternate Mondays, at Harlington Methodist Church, between 2 and 4 pm. There are likely to be all sorts of different 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.



One of the most common discussions at Crafternoon Tea is the finishing of projects – with knitting or crochet, it may be the sewing up, or the edging, particularly if it involves either picking up stitches, or changing skill – finishing a knitted piece with a crochet edging, especially if crochet is not your skill. With embroidery, or tapestry, it may be how to finish – a frame, or part of a cushion or tablecloth, or hem the edge and leave it at that. But with the large yellow flower here, I cannot make up my mind whether the wire that holds the petals firm is worked over, or threaded through to finish. I should say that no-one I know made these, they were sent to a friend from the USA! Does anyone know – or would you like

to guess?

Our May meetings will be on 5th and 19th, and our first meeting in June will be 2nd, (just in case Contact is late!) 5th May will also be the village remembrance of VE Day – we may spend some time out of the Church building, weather permitting, although I am not sure how well we can do Zoom on Bury Orchard. The meeting on 19th will certainly be on Zoom as well as in person, but the 2nd June meeting will be in person only, as Clive and I will be away. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

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

Harlington Surgery and SMC & Wellbeing Walks



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

She gives us details of the surgery's forthcoming May Bank Holiday closing dates, and the latest date for handing in repeat prescriptions:

May Bank Holiday Closure

closed Monday 5 May 2025

***** There may also be a further surgery closure on Thursday 8 May 2025, to mark VE Day. To be confirmed.

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.

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 well-being, we're all in it together. We're a friendly bunch

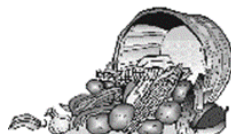
so you'll get the warmest of welcomes. Everyone walks for their own reasons, whether to ward off illness, manage health conditions or boost their wellbeing. Yet we all get more out of it by walking together.



Harlington Village Show

39th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 16th August 2025



The planning is continuing apace as the Show committee make decisions about what to test and trial you with this year! We have had a real mix of weathers through the previous 38 years of the Show and yet people always come up trumps with their entries. Sunshine naturally brings more visitors on the day, but we hope you'll support us whatever the weather! There's also plenty of time left to be grow, make or be creative. Exact information about size, number and measurements will be given in the schedule, so please check these carefully when you receive a copy in July.

Children Pre-School: 3 ginger biscuits, a pasta necklace, a decorated paper plate in any medium

Children 5-8: a Lego garden, a pasta necklace, a decorated paper plate in any medium

Preserves and Cookery: an air fryer sweet bake, a Victoria sponge, a bread loaf in a 500g tin, 5 vegetarian "sausage rolls", 5 ginger biscuits, 5 cheese scones, fruit flavoured gin (250ml bottle), plus jam, jelly, citrus curd, favourite chutney and a jar of pickled vegetables

Visit our Facebook page or Instagram to see example photos of the classes. Flower arranging classes will be listed in the June Contact.

If you'd like any advice about entering the Show or how to display your entries, please do contact us at harlingtonvillageshow@gmail.com. Also send us photos of things you are growing or making – we'd love to see them, and they can be added to our Facebook page or Instagram.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

The earth throws back her slumber-robe,
And, kissed awake by showers,
Reaches her emerald banners out
And laughs a wealth of flowers...

~Sara L. Vickers Oberholtzer, "A May Parable,"
Souvenirs of Occasions, 1892

Messy Church News



Our March Messy Church was at the beginning of Lent, not long after Pancake day. Starting with Jesus' baptism, we looked at significant dates, including making pancakes and Mothering Sunday. We went right up to the start of Holy Week.

As well as pancakes we did painting, made Mothering



Sunday picture frames, sheep masks (representing Jesus chasing traders out of the Temple) and palm leaves for Palm Sunday.

Our next Messy Church will be on 17th May 2025 at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and Halls.



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

Advertisement

Westoning Baptist Church

You are very welcome to join us for our services at the Church or online.



Sunday

Services 11am & 6pm

Sunday School

9.30am - 10.30am (term-time)



Tuesday

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

7.15pm

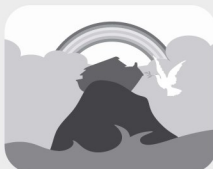


Friday

Noah's Ark Toddlers Group

9am - 11am (term-time)

In 'Hope Hall'



Find out more



 Large free car park on site

 Zoom Meeting ID: 292 960 6969

 **Greenfield Road MK45 5JD**

 **westoningbaptistchurch.org**

Harlington Parish Council

Harlington Parish Council

1	Cllr Terry Culverhouse	7	Cllr Martin Waldron
2	Cllr John Harfield	8	Cllr Marcus McNamara
3	Cllr Pete Hughes	9	VACANT SEAT
4	Cllr Karen Saunders	10	VACANT SEAT
5	Cllr Mary Walsh	11	VACANT SEAT
6	Cllr Jack Goodenough	12	VACANT SEAT

PARISH CLERK / COUNCIL OFFICE

Alison doyle	01525 875933	<u>clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk</u>
Parish Office, Church Rd, Harlington LU5 6LE		

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mary Walsh	<u>mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>
Cllr Gary Purser	<u>Gary.Purser@centralbedforshire.gov.uk</u>

All Residents are invited to attend Council meetings:

All meetings are held at the Parish Hall Church road, Harlington, LU5 6LE	DATE	MEETING TYPE	TIME
	22nd April 2025	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
	13th May 2025	Annual Council Meeting	7.30pm
	3rd June 2025	Finance & General Purposes	7.30pm
	10th June 2025	Full Council	7.30pm

Want to keep up to date?

If you have not already done so, we recommend you sign up to our newsletter. You can subscribe free of charge by following this link <https://harlington-pc.gov.uk/> on the right hand side of the page, enter your email address and click the blue subscribe button. We will send you the latest Parish information straight to your inbox.

Looking for a venue to hire?

The Parish Hall is available to hire to residents and non residents for regular or occasional bookings. If you are interested in booking the Parish Hall please contact the Council Office on 01525 875933 or use the contact form to initially check availability.

Stay up to date with local news and events

Pick up the Harlington Paperchain from you local Parish Council Office and The Hub and Spoke Cafe! To keep up to date with local news, events, and stories from around the village, the Paperchain is your go-to source for everything happening in Harlington.

LIFE Church *with* Baby & Me



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

All Welcome

May 2025

4th – To be confirmed

11th – Christian Aid United Service **10 am** St. Mary's

18th – Café Church

25th – Margie Lim

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

coffee, cake, & chat

THURSDAY May 1st, 15th & 29th

10 – 11.30

HARLINGTON PARISH HALL



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.



MAY preachers are:

- 4th 10 am Come and See led by Clive and Tina Salmon
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi.
11th 10 am United Service for Christian Aid Week at St. Mary's Church
18th 10 am Steve Rogers
25th 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion.

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 31st May 2025, from 10 am to 12 noon, in the hall.
Proceeds this year in aid of the RNLI

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

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

New members are always made very welcome. No need to book ahead, just come along! We look forward to seeing you.

Speakers/activities for May are

- 1st - Patrick Kandeh
8th - Cathy Sheehan
15th - Rev. Seung-Wook Jung Continuing talk about Korea
22nd - Dr. Robert John
29th - TBC



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 t315485@gmail.com

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



Friday 4th April Harlington Lower School Easter service. What a lovely celebration with the Lower School children. They sang and read beautifully and lots of the children (and teachers) wore their Easter bonnets. With thanks to Head Teacher Mrs Blunt, class teachers and helpers for co-ordinating and organising such a special occasion.

May 1st. We welcomed Luton U3A for a guided tour of the church led by Russell Preston. We hope to have more guided tours on our annual Gift Day on Saturday 13th September.

Sunday May 11th is our monthly Messy Church, at 9am in the Parish Hall, with free breakfast, story, and creative crafts linked to the theme of the month.

Sunday 1st June at 3pm, 'Life as a Yeoman Warder'. We're delighted to be welcoming a Tower of London Beefeater giving a talk about his position as a ceremonial guardian of the Tower. Other highlights will include his royal connections through a previous career in the Central Band of the RAF. Refreshments afterwards with home made cake.

Save the date. Midsummer Dinner Saturday 28th June at 7pm in the church. Not quite midsummer I know, but close! Start with Pimms or soft drink, followed by a 3 course meal, then tea or coffee. To book, contact Tricia via admin@harlingtonchurch.org.

Churchyard: we might have some more bee orchids blooming this year if I've correctly identified the leaves which have appeared. They didn't make an appearance last year, so fingers crossed for this year. And remember, if you offend a group of beekeepers, you may hear some veiled threats.....

For service and event information, including our VE Day service on Sunday 4th May, see Contact, the noticeboard outside church or our website: www.harlingtonchurch.org. If you'd like to speak to someone about a life event or for prayer, please contact revmarkedwards@outlook.com, or our Lay Reader, robert@harlingtonchurch.org. You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

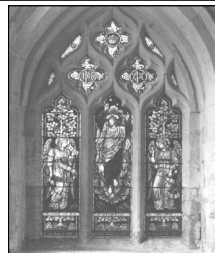
Look, look: a May-mess, like on orchard boughs!

~Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889)

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church. This month we are having a special service to commemorate VE day and we also join with the other churches in Harlington for our annual Christian Aid service. The services are:

- 4th 8 am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am VE commemoration service
- 11th 9 am Families' Messy Breakfast in Parish Hall
10 am Churches Together in Harlington Christian Aid service
- 18th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 25th 9.30 am Holy Communion



Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Other times

The church can be made available for private prayer by arrangement, please contact one of the church wardens, Tricia Murphy tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com or Neil Walter neil@harlingtonchurch.org, 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 Fr. Mark Edwards revmarkedwards@outlook.com 07305 822186 or Dr. Robert Johns robert@harlingtonchurch.org 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.

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

"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

Barton Community Choir, Advert

Love to sing? Come and be part of something special! Founded in 2010, Barton Community Choir has been singing for joy ever since. We welcome everyone who loves to sing—no auditions required! We are an inclusive choir, and new members are buddied up to help you feel at home.

When & Where?

📍 Ramsey Manor Lower School, Manor Rd, Barton,
MK45 4NS

📅 Every Monday (term time)

🕒 Registration from: 7:00 PM

🎵 Warm-up: 7:30 PM

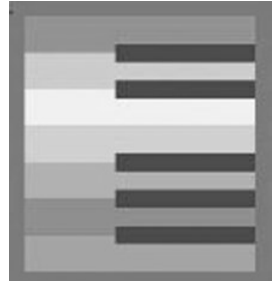
🎤 Singing finishes: 9:00 PM

🔓 Step-free access

✦ **First session FREE!** Come along for a taster session and experience the joy of singing in a friendly community. For more details, contact us or just turn up and sing!

email: bartoncommunitychoir@gmail.com

facebook: [BartonCommunityChoir](https://www.facebook.com/BartonCommunityChoir)



Here is a heart that knows
The truth of May
And walks the way,
By which its fairy beauty leads,
Through woods and lanes,
With haunting strains
Of magic music, sowing seeds
Of summer in the sod,
Until she finds her fulness,
And bows down in adoration
'Mid the yellow cowslips
At the golden feet of God.
~G. A. Studdert Kennedy,
"The Truth of May,"
The Sorrows of God and Other Poems,
1924

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Village Diary *plus* Directory Changes

May

1 st	Baby and Me	Parish Hall 10 am
5 th	VE Day Celebration	Bury Orchard From 11.30 am
5 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
6 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
11 th	Families' Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
11 th	United Service CAW	St. Mary's Parish Church 10 am
15 th	Baby and Me	Parish Hall 10 am
17 th	HGS Coach Trip	9 am
17 th	Wildlife Walk	Strawberry Hill Farm 10 am 7.30 pm
17 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
19 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
25 th	Bowls Open Day	Barton Le Clay Bowls Club 10am – 3 pm
29 th	Baby and Me	Parish Hall 10 am
31 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 Noon

June

1 st	Talk	St. Mary's Parish Church 3 pm
2 nd	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm

Don't forget the regular weekly things that aren't shown here such as the Wednesday Coffee and the Wellbeing Walks, not to mention the regular church services.

You can send things just to be entered here.

GET YOUR JUNE 2025 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH MAY 2025

Directory Changes

Add

Harlington Off-Road Cycling, Ron Simmonds

.....harlingtonoffroadcycling@gmail.com 01525 873264

Remove

Harlington Heritage Trust

Village Hall bookings on line only

If you have other changes let me know. The next full issue will be in the July or August edition of Contact