
Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Summer is with us with weeks of overheating followed by thunderstorms. Most groups have stopped for the school holidays, although do look at the diary and see which haven't.

I, for one, am looking forward to a holiday. Even with the curse of the mobile phone, I know that I will be able to say, "Sorry, I'm away," and politely decline any chores.

Of course, that means that getting back into the swing of things in September is just that bit harder.

You can keep your hand in by getting ready for the Village Show, not forgetting that it is a bit earlier this year. There are classes to suit almost everybody.

Have a good summer. I hope you have a time of true recreation,

All the best,
Clive

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Harlington Village Magazine

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Contents

Letter from the Life Church	4
HMC Project 2025	5
Flittabus	6
Ramblers Wellbeing Walks	7
Brain Tumour Research	8
Bedfordshire Local History Association	9
Harlington in Bloom	10
Harlington Lower School	11
Crafternoon Tea	13
Harlington Village Hall	14
Harlington Gardeners' Society	15
WorkSpace	15
Flit Vale Wildlife Group	16
Contact	17
Harlington Village Show	18
Wednesday Coffee and Games	18
Messy Church News	19
Harlington Parish Council Information	21
Life Church	22
August Messy Morning Church	22
Baby and Me	22
Methodist Church	23
Bright Hour Fellowship	23
St. Mary's Churchwarden	24
St. Mary's Church Services	25
0—4 Club	26
Village Diary	28

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.

September copy by 10th August please.

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<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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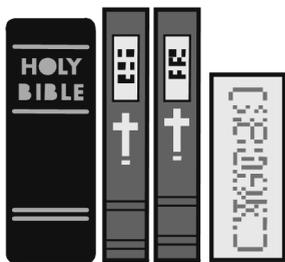
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A letter from the Life Church

Are you enjoying the sunshine? Hopefully you are having time to relax with a nice cool drink, perhaps enjoying the garden. I find during the summer I enjoy reading a wide variety of books. During most of the year I never seem to have the time or space to indulge in the world of novels. I enjoy classics like *Pride and Prejudice* by Charlotte Brontë biographies and then perhaps the latest novel on the shelf.



We are so fortunate to be able to have such a wide scope of easily accessible books whether in paper or on a Kindle (other electronic devices are available). Often I would be packing books in my case and hand luggage ready for me to indulge on the long awaited holiday and even one year a lady and I even exchanged books around the pool.



There is one book I and many others love to read daily is called the Bible, and believe it is the word of God. It is a collection of 66 books written over about 1,500 years and as Christians we believe is the living word of God. It was written in multiple languages, the Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the New Testament was written in Greek. There are believed to be around 40 authors who contributed to the bible, including kings,

farmers, poets and fishermen. The word Bible comes from the Greek word “biblia,” meaning “the books” or “the scrolls,” and is linked to the ancient city of Byblos, known for its papyrus.

When you explore the Bible you will find lots of stories for example about people, war, love, romance, drought, floods, creation Jesus and God. A few interesting facts are that there are only two nuts mentioned by name in the Bible: almonds and pistachios. Salt is mentioned 41 times in the Bible but pepper is never mentioned. The word “hate” is used 87 times in the Bible but the word “love” is used 310 times.

Over the month of August Life church would like to invite you to join our Bible Book Club at 10.30 in the Parish Rooms. It will be a time to sit and explore a bit of the Bible, ask questions and hear what God is saying to us. It will be a relaxed

Life Church Letter, *plus* HMC Project 2025

time over a cuppa, and cake with no agenda.

A final fact is that the Bible is the most shoplifted book: Despite its widespread availability, it's the most stolen book, according to some sources. We will have Bibles available for you to take and read, should you wish.

I would love to invite you to join us on the 3rd, 10th and 17th August . All ages welcome.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions - contact@life-church-harlington.com

Happy reading

Carol Gibbs

Leader Life Church.

Methodist Church Project 2025 – RNLI

Each year Harlington Methodist Church chooses a project. Our church project for this year is the RNLI – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution – which was 200 years old last year. Although some RNLI crew are paid, most are volunteers, including the beach lifeguards – and it is donations which provide the funds for equipment and training. The equipment includes the boats, both inshore and offshore. These days, equipment also includes drones equipped with speakers, to hover over water users and tell them when they are in danger – because they are in the wrong area, or because the sea is getting rougher. Clive and I watched a life-guard training session on Crantock beach a couple of years ago, where a group of lifeguards were being trained with the drones.

We are an inland village, but many residents holiday on the coast, or visit it for the day. Every time you use a lifeguarded beach, you are protected by the RNLI. If you have to be rescued from the sea within British coastal waters, for whatever reason, it will almost certainly be the RNLI who rescue you!

So far this year, we have raised over £150, including the money raised at the Pancake Parlour in March. Our coffee mornings each month also raise money for this project.



Lifeboats

Flittabus

Flittabus

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Your bus service run by volunteers

A message from Linda Horn, Chairman of Flittabus

My sincere apologies to the Harlington residents who wished to travel to Milton Keynes on Tuesday 1 July 2025. Due to an administrative error, we had no driver scheduled to drive that route. Unfortunately I didn't spot this in time.

Our website: <https://flittabus.co.uk>

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 August, the MK service is on: Tue 5 August 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.

REGULAR FLITTABUS TO HITCHIN

Don't forget that Flittabus also operates a regular service from

Harlington to Hitchin every Friday.

Departure from outside the **Upper School** on Goswell End Road at **09:17 am**.

Return from Hitchin (St Mary's Square, Bus Stop H, Flittabus service FL7) at **12:15 pm**. The journey each way takes about 35 minutes – assuming no traffic delays.

"The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room."

- *Horace Walpole*

Flittabus *ctd.* plus Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – flittabus.co.uk/excursions

<i>Date</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Price per Person</i>
Sat 16 Aug 2025	Day trip to Brighton	£40 Transport only
Wed 27 Aug 2025	Day trip to Cambridge	£30 Transport to city centre
<i>Sun 14 Sep 2025</i>	<i>Henley-on-Thames, Vintage Afternoon Tea Cruise</i>	SOLD OUT
Sat 20 Sep 2025	Severn Valley Railway, Worcs.	£65 incl Transport and Day Rail travel ticket
NEW DATE Sun 5 Oct 2025	Henley-on-Thames, Vintage Afternoon Tea Cruise	£75 incl Transport and 3-hour Afternoon Tea Cruise

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.

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.



Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight

Sorry to gripe



I apologise that I have to have a moan first, having had MY hanging basket taking down from its bracket on the front of my house and now vanished. I really couldn't believe it and nobody that I have shared this news with gets it either. I appreciate that I had other baskets hanging on a table but this was up on a bracket on the front of the house. I at least expected a decent donation for my prize basket having spent £8.50 for the plants, never mind the basket, liner and compost! This was never realised so you can imagine my upset and disappointment. If you inadvertently took my basket thinking it was up for a donation I would appreciate you returning it to me and I will return the donation you made for it.

This really took the wind out of my sails and the enthusiasm from my fundraising efforts for a few days but there are other really kind gestures that give me confidence and a desire to continue, so thank you to Patricia who donated a water butt which I will use at the front of my house to water the charity plants and will provide more than twice the amount of water than my small 100 litre water butt currently at the front of my house. I am so appreciative, also, to Frankie, Duncan and Jim for the courgettes, cucumbers, red currants and blackcurrants in the produce trug outside my house. Please come and take a look. I am expecting runner beans, tomatoes and who knows what else may be available: apples, plums and pears, and garlic once it has dried; please make a donation for the produce. Thank you also to Zeshan and Mahwish who sourced and donated a tray of dwarf stocks to the charity - come and donate for your bedding plants.

Thank you to Paula's mum who donated craft equipment and resources to Carol who is making greetings cards for our November fundraiser. Thank you to the anonymous donors of purple sprouting broccoli, red robin, sedum and anything else I have forgotten! Thanks also to the friends of Harlington Lower School and everyone who supported our plant stall on the 28th June. It was a happy day, we met lots of lovely people and raised £66 for Brain Tumour Research. Thank you for your support. Apart from the hanging basket episode this has been another good month, we have currently raised £1209.95. Please come and support us at the Village flower and vegetable show on Saturday 16th August at the Village Hall and donate for some plants or produce.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes Jane Barltrop

Bedfordshire Local History Association

A Grand Day Out.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending the Bedfordshire Local History Association (BLHA) Annual Conference, held at Colmworth Village Hall in conjunction with Colmworth and Neighbours History Society. On our journey to the meeting after leaving the A421 we drove through villages and hamlets without any new developments. After setting up the Beds Family History Society (BFHS) stand it was time for the AGM. It was noted that the Association was losing the Harlington Society but gaining Moot Hall and 6 individual members. It was also reported that Toddington History Society may also close. The Harlington Society, Harlington Heritage Trust (HHT) had been working with the County Archivist and felt that they had done a good job in telling the history of the village and had donated their residual funds to the BLHA. Later in the Treasurer's Report the sum amounted to £2,355.28.

A very busy schedule has been organised including talks on: An Iron Age/Roman Hilltop settlement near Bedford; A Roman Town at Great Staughton; Village Morphology; A talk about the Fielding family of Staploe and Rev Timothy Mathews of Colmworth; Bedfordshire Hedgerows including Parliamentary Enclosures; Arson and Riots in Bedfordshire. It was a very hot day and most members stayed awake during the talks.

Colmworth History Society put on a magnificent 'Bunfight' at lunchtime. During this period members could pay a visit to the exhibitions in the chapel and church. Unfortunately, we were not able to go on the walk later. I was very impressed with BLHA and hope they continue to flourish and look forward to attending the AGM next year.

Russell Preston.

"History, as nearly no one seems to know, is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely or even principally to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do."

James Baldwin



Harlington in Bloom



Just a fabulous day on Saturday 5 July. Together with our awesome Open Gardeners, we were delighted to welcome approximately a hundred paying visitors with assorted children, and committee out in force! The weather was kind to us, although not so kind with the dry spell in the weeks preceding. It was breezy up by the gazebo

with some amusing moments holding it in place, particularly in the morning! Our gardens on offer were absolutely brilliant. We can't thank those who opened enough. Such a tremendous effort and a really lovely village day!

Photos will be displayed on our boards at the village show in August, which we will be attending with our gazebo again!!!

Thank you so much to our sponsors *Green Valley Construction*, Sanjeev at *Harlington Shop; Nevilles, Funeral Services (Amphill); Wednesday Morning Coffee Group, Gardeners' Society, The Hub and Spoke Cafe*.

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

Fri 26 Sept	Awards Evening All Welcome	19.30 pm
Sat 25 Oct	Winter planting All Welcome	10.00 am
Sat 8 Nov	War Memorial Tidy Up in advance of Remembrance Sunday	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/ rosemarypc86@gmail.com

"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush- bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing
Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn."
- *Michelle L. Thieme, August's Crown*



Harlington Lower School



Harlington Lower School recently had the distinct honour of a visit from the Lord Lieutenant, who came to acknowledge a truly remarkable contribution to the local community. The special visit was to present a certificate to Margot Best from School Readers, celebrating her incredible ten years of dedicated volunteering at the school.

Margot has spent the last decade selflessly giving her time, hearing children read and helping to foster a love of literacy in countless young minds. Her unwavering commitment has made an invaluable difference to the pupils at Harlington Lower School, providing crucial support in their reading development.

The school expressed its deepest gratitude to Margot for her inspiring service and for being such an integral part of their community. Her long-standing dedication highlights the powerful impact that volunteers have in shaping the lives of local children.



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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.



Our August meetings will be on 11th, and 25th (Bank Holiday Monday). Both meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

This quilt is a triumph – it started with an inherited beginning to the top layer, and very few scraps. It has taken some time to complete! We have watched the progression from top layer only, to the positioning of the wadding, hand stitching the reverse (the bottom corner of the picture shows the reverse) to all the rest, and then machining the whole thing together. The edging where the reverse is hemmed over the top is machine embroidered. The quilt is at least single bed sized, and it looks great. Yes, I have seen other quilts, both in progress and completed, but never before from so early in the process – and never before made by someone who had never made a quilt before.

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

"Fairest of the months!
Ripe summer's queen
The hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear."
- R. Combe Miller

HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
**75TH BIRTHDAY
BALL**

SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2025

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Harlington Gardeners' Society *plus* WorkSpace



ANNUAL MEMBERS BBQ

This will take place on Saturday 9th August at 118 Goswell End Road starting at 5 pm. In case of inclement weather the venue will be moved to indoors at 120. Due to the price increase for meat we have had to increase the cost to £7/head for adults, collected at the gate. Please bring your own

drinks, glasses & have seats available in your car if you drive. If you have specific dietary requirements please provide your own suitable items.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

WorkSpace

Do you work from home?

Do you want to occasionally work with other people?

Every Friday in September, at the Harlington Methodist Church, we will provide a free of charge working space for people in Harlington using both the downstairs and upstairs halls. Quiet spaces and meeting rooms can be booked in advance.



After a successful mini trial in June, we will now extend the trial for September. Tea and coffee will be available with donations for this year's project which is Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

Each Friday the workspace will be available from 9am to 5pm and the dates are:



Friday 5 September 2025
Friday 12 September 2025
Friday 19 September 2025
Friday 26 September 2025

Flit Vale Wildlife Group



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

Wildlife walks & talks

Saturday, August 2nd, Jack Crawley Barn, Flitton Moor, (TL057360) 11.00 am

Dragonfly and Damselfly Walk lead by John Curd

A walk round this lovely reserve with John, a local odonata expert and enthusiast. We will be searching for the various dragonflies and damselflies that are regularly found here. We will also keep an eye open for any other flora and fauna.

Charge: £4.00 per person

Friday, September 12th, Flitwick Moor (TL045354). Meet at 7.00 pm

Bat Walk at Flitwick Moor with Aidan Matthews, BCN's Senior Reserves Manager (Bedfordshire)

Flitwick Moor is an excellent area for bats and we hope to see and identify several species. The wider rides provide good hunting for Pipistrelles. If you have a bat detector, please bring it along. A torch is essential and insect repellent is a good idea at this time of year!

Charge: £4.00 per person

Booking for outdoor 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) 07580 178-889 to reserve your place.

Sunday, September 28th, Flitwick Moor (TL045354). Meet at 10.00 am

Fungal Foray at Flitwick Moor, a joint event with Herts & Beds Fungi Group

A combined event with the Herts and Beds Fungi Group (HBFG). Hoping for a mix of damp and mild weather to guarantee a good showing of mushrooms and toadstools. Experts will help you identify your findings and tell you more about the wonderful and sometimes weird world of fungi.

Free, but donations welcome

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

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

Contact



Is it time for change for the CONTACT Village Magazine. Started in its present format 48 years ago is it now obsolete? The Management Committee would like polite feed-back from you as to whether you READ IT! KEEP IT! SCAN IT! or BIN IT! Would you like to see it continue as a paper magazine coming to you through the letter-box by village distributors or would a dedicat-

ed Web-site be more appropriate.

Over 1,000 copies are printed each month at present and circulated to every home free of charge by Churches Together in Harlington with some financial input from Harlington Parish Council and advertisements. With the number of new houses being built in the village, more funding would have to come to support a free magazine through the door. At present as new people are moving into the new homes, we are still delivering a CONTACT magazine.

Whether we go digital or try and remain a paper magazine we need more articles from village organizations and individuals. If you are a budding journalist, writer or indeed a potential editor the management team would be delighted to hear from you. We have become more and more aware that there have been fewer features from village organizations, partly because they no long exist or because officials have no time to provide us with their latest news. There can appear to be more Church information than Village News in the magazine and this is not how it should be. The Magazine was set up to be a service to the community covering every aspect of village life. Email the Editor, Clive Salmon at harlingtonvillagemagazine@yahoo.co.uk with your reply. If you don't do email, then call.

Flit Vale Wildlife Group *ctd.*

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

Harlington Village Show *plus* Wednesday Coffee

39th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 16th August 2025



Hopefully you're making final decisions about what you can enter in the Show. The schedule has some guidance about how to exhibit in various classes and you'll need the schedule to see what the classes are; instructions for the various sizes; number of items in the class; and how to display your exhibits. If you need any help at all, contact us via harlingtonvillageshow@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page. If you can't find your schedule or entry form, Sanjeev at the shop has some spare entry forms and the list of classes. This could be the year you win your first red rosette!

It's important that you get your entry forms in by 5pm at the latest on Thursday 14th August, and ideally as early as possible so that exhibitor cards can be written in plenty of time. Details of where to drop your form off are on the reverse of the form. We will again have a super raffle, so do bring along some change! We'll also have a variety of home made cakes and scones for the refreshments.

If you have problems with mobility, or perhaps use a wheelchair, please come slightly earlier to enter at 1.45pm. The Show officially opens at 2pm, and entry is £1 for adults, children are free.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Games



The Wednesday Coffee Morning is closed for the summer break. We will return on the 3rd September and look forward to seeing you all again.

Doreen Gatward,
Valerie Bates



Messy Church News



It was somebody's birthday on the day of our June Messy Church, so we decided to make the theme about feasts and parties. Jesus liked to go for meals with the people he met, but a lot of them were quite self-important. When someone talked about the feast in the kingdom of God, Jesus told the story of the great feast and the people who didn't come. We also talked about Jesus going to Zacchaeus house, and what happened. Have a look at some of our pictures, and see if you can see how they fit into the stories.



Our next Messy Church will be on 20th September 2025 at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and Halls. If you can't wait that long, Life Church are running a holiday session - see page 22.

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

"All your renown is like the summer flower that blooms and dies; because the sunny glow which brings it forth, soon slays with parching power."

- Alighieri Dante

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	clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Parish Office, Church Rd, Harlington LU5 6LE		

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mary Walsh	Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Cllr Gary Purser	Gary.Purser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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 July 2025	Full Council Committee	7.30pm
	2nd September 2025	Finance & General Purposes	7.30pm
	9th September 2025	Full Council	7.30pm
	14th October	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 your 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



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

All Welcome

August 2025

- 3rd - Bible Book Club
- 10th - Bible Book Club
- 17th - Bible Book Club
- 24th - No Meeting
- 31st - Bible Book Club

For more details about Bible Book Club read the letter from Life Church by Carol at the front of Contact

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



August 14th Messy Church Morning

10 – 12pm Harlington Parish Hall

Activities and Lunch

Baby & Me

for parents and babies

0 – 12 months

coffee, cake, & chat

THURSDAY August 7th & 21st

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.



AUGUST preachers are:

- 3rd 10 am Peter Baker
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Margaret Newman
10th 10 am Michael Adams
17th 10 am Local Arrangements
24th 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
31st 10 am John Enejo

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 30th August 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 are not meeting during August. Our next meeting is on 11th September when Sarah Bashorun is speaking about her work with 'Acton for children'. Everyone is welcome to join us to hear more about the charity.

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



Worship on Dunstable Downs

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



August is a quiet month for social events, but we start again with our **Gift Day** on Saturday 13th September with the church open from 10am - 4pm. You're very welcome to explore, and enjoy the church building. We will have refreshments all day, some activities for the children, church tours at 12 and 2pm, and hopefully live organ music, which is always wonderful. I wanted to learn how to play the organ.....but it was only a pipe dream!

Churchyard: Sadly, with such hot and sunny weather, the bee orchids didn't last very long in the churchyard this year. We also had some pyramidal orchids which I don't remember seeing before, so that was rather lovely too. On the south side of the church we have an unmown area where a plant called lady's bedstraw grows. This is a small yellow flower, and so named because it was traditionally used to fill mattresses. In case you are interested, it was also used as a substitute for rennet to curdle milk in cheese-making.

For service and event information, 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, robert@harlingtonchurch.org. You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

And finally, enjoy your holiday if you're having a break from work or school.

Best wishes, Tricia

Churchwarden

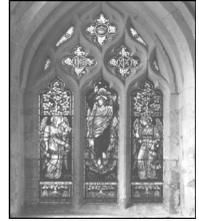
"August rushes by like desert rainfall,
A flood of frenzied upheaval,
Expected,
But still catching me unprepared.
Like a matchflame
Bursting on the scene,
Heat and haze of crimson sunsets.

Like a dream
Of moon and dark barely recalled,
A moment,
Shadows caught in a blink.
Like a quick kiss;
One wishes for more
But it suddenly turns to leave,
Dragging summer away."
- Elizabeth Maua Taylor

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church. Our August services are:

- 3rd 8 am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.30 am Morning Praise Service
- 10th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 17th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 24th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 31st 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)

"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs."

- Henry David Thoreau

Harlington 0 - 4 Club



Job Opportunity: Playgroup Session Leader (Paid Role)

Are you enthusiastic, caring, and passionate about working with young children? Do you enjoy creating fun, engaging, and nurturing spaces for children aged 0–4 and their parents or carers?

If so, we'd love to hear from you!

Harlington 0–4 is a not-for-profit community playgroup run by a dedicated group of local parent volunteers. We're looking for a reliable and creative Playgroup Session Leader to help us deliver enjoyable and enriching weekly sessions filled with play, learning, and connection.

About the Role

As our Playgroup Leader, you'll be responsible for planning and delivering weekly themed sessions that include activities like arts and crafts, messy play, and interactive free play. Your role will be key in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for families from Harlington and the surrounding areas.

Session Details:

- Mondays and Fridays (term-time only)
- Current hall booking, session times (but timings to be discussed)- 09.45AM – 10.45 AM plus additional time for set-up and clean-up
- We're open to discussing alternative days/times and more days for the right candidate!

What We Offer:

- Paid role at the national minimum wage (includes preparation, session delivery, and pack down)
- A part-time opportunity ideal for those who are self-employed, semi-retired, returning to work, or simply passionate about early childhood development
- A welcoming and supportive group of parent volunteers
- A chance to make a real impact in your local community.

How to Apply:

We're keen to appoint someone ahead of our September 2025 start, so interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.

To apply or request further information, please email your CV or any questions to: harlington0to4club@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming a new leader to our playgroup family!

Advertisements



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Village Diary *plus* Directory

August

2 nd	Wildlife Walk	Flitton Moor 11 am
5 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
7 th	Baby and Me	Parish Hall 10 am
9 th	HGS Members BBQ	118 Goswell End Road
11 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
14 th	Messy Church	Parish Hall 10 am – 12 noon
16 th	Village Show	Harlington Village Hall 2 pm
21 st	Baby and Me	Parish Hall 10 am
25 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
30 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 Noon

September

2 nd	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
3 rd	Wednesday Coffee	Parish Hall 10 am – 12 noon
6 th	Birthday Ball	Harlington Village Hall 7 pm
9 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
12 th	Bat Walk	Flitwick Moor 7pm
13 th	Gift Day	St. Mary's Church
20 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
26 th	HiB Awards evening	
28 th	Fungal Foray	Flitwick Moor 10 am

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 SEPTEMBER 2025 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH AUGUST 2025

Community Directory

Please check the new Community Directory, and let me know if any changes are needed. I will print amendments each month. The next full reprint will be in the January issue.

Clive