

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Firstly, please note that copy for January needs to be in by 1st December if we are to meet the printer's Christmas schedule.

I hope you are able to enjoy Christmas. For many people it is a time of fun and family. For Christians, it is a time to celebrate God's great gift of his son, Jesus Christ.

There are, though, people for whom Christmas is a time of loneliness and sadness, or a time of stress and worry. Please be conscious of them, and think what you could do to help.

Finally, you should by now be aware that there has been a planning application made for another development west of the railway line. Harlington Village Action Group has been formed to object to this. Consider if you want to join them.

Clive

CONTACT

Harlington Village Magazine

Editor

Clive Salmon

01525 874481

e-mail and advertising

harlingtonvillagemagazine@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution

Debbie Miles

Postal Subscriptions

Betty Goodge

01525 873725

Treasurer

Sue Whittle

07887 708304

Contents

Letter from the Methodist Minister	4
Christmas with the Salvation Army	5&14
Flittabus	6
Brain Tumour Research	8
Harlington Village Action Group	8
Gestalt Theatre Group	9
Messy Church News	10
Harlington Parish Council Christmas Coffee	10
Harlington Lower School	11
Ramblers Wellbeing Walks	11
ADALHS	12
Crafternoon Tea	13
Little Book Stop	14
Christmas Tree Festival	14
Harlington Surgery and Sundon Medical Centre	15
Wednesday Coffee and Games	15
Flit Vale Wildlife Group	16
Directory Changes	16
Harlington Hogspital	17
Harlington Performs Panto	18
Harlington Upper School Events	18
Beer and Carols	18
Harlington Parish Council Information	21
Life Church	22
Mini Lighthouse	22
Methodist Church	23
Bright Hour Fellowship	23
St. Mary's Churchwarden	24
St. Mary's Church Services	25
Village Diary	28

Contact is also published on-line -
<https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

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 2026 copy by 1st December please.

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Advertisements



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A letter from the Methodist Minister

A story to begin. It starts in the quiet. In a small town, under an ordinary sky, shepherds were watching their sheep when something unexpected happened. The night split open with light, and a voice said:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”

Luke 2:10

Dear friends,

That message, spoken on a hillside more than two thousand years ago, still feels close to our reality. It wasn't shouted in the halls of power, but whispered to ordinary people, people who were tired, worried, or wondering if the world would ever change.

And that's what makes it such a hopeful story. It tells us that light can reach anyone, anywhere; that joy can return; and that no night lasts forever.

As December begins, the days grow shorter yet somehow our village or street grows brighter. Fairy lights twinkle in Robert's café windows. The smell of baking drifts down the lane. Someone leaves a card, a smile, or a plate of biscuits at a neighbour's door.

Hope doesn't always arrive as a grand miracle. Sometimes it looks like:

a friend checking in when you're feeling low, laughter spilling out of the school nativity, someone lighting a candle for a loved one, or simply knowing you belong here, in this caring community.

And if this season feels difficult, if you are missing someone you love, or far from those who make you feel at home, may you know that you are not forgotten. The same light that once shone over a quiet hillside still shines for you.

Even in sorrow, love endures; even in distance, hearts remain connected.

That's the heart of Christmas, not glitter or perfection, but the deep reassurance that we are not alone. That kindness matters. That love still changes the world, even if you do not believe every part of the story, because hope, peace, joy, and love are gifts that belong to all of us.

This December, may you find hope in unexpected places. Speak words that heal instead of harm. Reach out to someone who needs company. Trust that even in hard times, new light will rise.

As the ancient words remind us:



Letter Ctd., Christmas with the Salvation Army

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

— John 1:5

That’s not just a Christmas promise, it’s a year-round truth.

May your home be filled with warmth, your heart be lifted by kindness, and your days be touched by light. Know that even the smallest spark of goodness can brighten the darkest night.

I want to say to each of you who are reading these words: Christ, the Light of the world, walk beside you in darkness and in dawn, reminding you that love still wins, that hope still grows, and that you are never alone. Love and peace to you all .

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Rev Claudia

Christmas With The Salvation Army



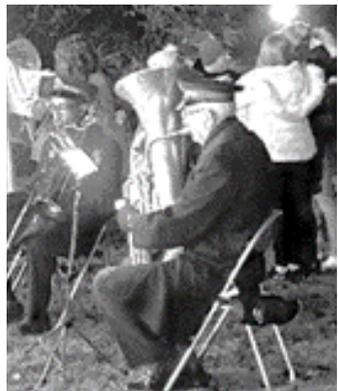
17th December at 6.30 pm

We invite you to join us outside the shops in Lincoln Way, whatever the weather, for our annual Nativity Tableau which will include some of the children from the village. Please

come and join in the singing of Christmas Carols with the Salvation Army who have kindly agreed to lead us once again.

Free Refreshments supplied by Churches Together in Harlington (CTinH) and served by The Hub and Spoke Team will be available from 6.30pm.

(CTinH)



Flittabus

Flittabus

Community Transport Ltd.



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Our website: flittabus.co.uk

FLITTABUS TO CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Route FL11

Date	Depart Harlington	Depart CMK
<i>The first Tuesday of every month e.g. 2 Dec 2025 *** 6 Jan 2026</i>	9:15 am <i>Bus stop on Station Rd, a few yards down from the cross-roads</i>	1:00 pm <i>Exit Door 5</i>

For the route map, see flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/

***** SPECIAL NOTE:** *The December service to Milton Keynes is always very popular, and this year we are providing two buses to MK on 2 December. If you have any queries about the service please call Margaret on **07 770 946 497**. As usual on timetabled routes we don't issue tickets or reserve particular seats.*

SPECIAL NOTE #2: *We are aware of the planned road closures in the Harlington area over the next month. These closures will possibly affect Flittabus route timings, but we will do our best to get you to your destination on time.*

FLITTABUS COMMUNITY HIRE

A reminder that Flittabus can provide community private hire facilities, subject to the availability of buses and drivers. The purpose of the hire must be recreational and of benefit to members of the community. For example: shopping trips to London, golf club trips, women's club outings etc.

All our buses accommodate up to 16 passengers.

Please note that all our drivers are unpaid volunteers; therefore requests for hires at unsociable times are unlikely to be accepted.

Each trip is priced individually.

For further information go to flittabus.co.uk/community-hire or contact us on **07 563 170 067**.



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Harlington Christmas

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SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

12PM - 5PM

HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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Brain Tumour Research *plus* HVAG



Thank You All



Thank you all for a great 1st November, what an amazing tea/coffee afternoon, thank you to all those who attended and those who sent donations in their absence, an incredible £1074.87 was raised and the atmosphere was one of warmth, love and support, never to be forgotten. A huge “Thank you” to all those who set the event up, ran a stall or refreshments, cleared away, made cakes, cards, provided plants, craft, tombola or prizes. We cannot thank you enough, you all mean so much to us and please know you are a massive support, thank you.

Thank you also to the kind person who found my lost keys and handed them into Sanjeev. Thank you to all those involved in returning them to me.

BTR Xmas cards are selling well and will be available at the Methodist coffee morning on 29th November 10-12am and at St Mary’s 12-5pm at the tree festival 6-7th December. I look forward to seeing you at one of these events and thank you for your support.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all and all your families a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Thank you for your support in 2025.

Best wishes

Jane and Emma Barltrop and Alice Sulaj

Harlington Village Action Group

Harlington Village Action Group have distributed leaflets to the whole village asking us to object to the latest proposed development on Green Belt land around the village. Space doesn’t permit including their full leaflet, there is only a small amount of room (a peculiarly Christmas situation).

Please read the leaflet. The leaflet gives ways to object that will be considered. We are at risk of having any bit of available land built on if this sort of development is allowed to go ahead outside the agreed local plan.

Scan this QR code to sign up to the HVAG mailing list or
Email: harlingtonvillageactiongroup@gmail.com



**Objections must be submitted
by 12th December.**

Advertisement *plus* Gestalt Theatre



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Welcoming, small classes (maximum 8 people) for all levels. Novice or experienced yogis will find a space here to find calm, stretch and strengthen your body and become part of a friendly, supportive yoga community.

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- Increase in energy and vitality

Classes start 6 Jan 2026 Tuesday and Thursday.

For a Free discovery call with Fran or to book your mat:

07800 502027 thefoldyoga@yahoo.com

Gymcatch App (search The Fold Yoga Studio)

123 Sundon Road. Parking on site, or even better, walk to us!



Award winning theatre group for kids, teenagers and adults creating through scripted, devised and improvised work.

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DRAMA

AGES 6 – 9	TUE 5.15 – 6 PM	£6 PER WEEK
AGES 10 – 13	TUE 6 – 7 PM	£7 PER WEEK
AGES 13 - 18	SUN/THUR 6.30 – 8.30 PM	£10 PER WEEK

DANCE

AGES 6 – 9	WED 5 – 6 PM	£7 PER WEEK
AGES 10 – 16	WED 6 – 7 PM	£7 PER WEEK
AGES 17+	WED 7.30 – 8.30 PM*	£8 PER WEEK

Term time only
Harlington Village Hall
LU5 6LS

*17+ Dance in Methodist Church LU5 6LR

Contact Natalie at Gestalt.theatre@gmail.com to register interest
www.gestalttheatre.com [@gestalt.theatre](https://www.instagram.com/gestalt.theatre)

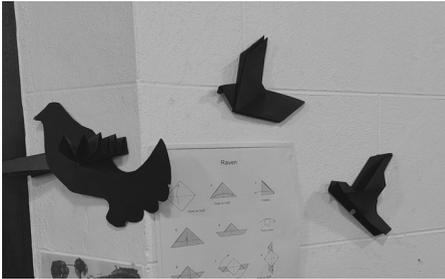
Messy Church News *plus* HPC Christmas Coffee



Christmas is coming—sorry parents—and on 20th December at our Messy Church, we'll be retelling part of the Christmas story in activities, words and music. Part of the story, because the whole story would take far too long; even 9 Lessons and Carols only covers a part.

We meet on the 3rd Saturday each month (except August) at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and Halls. We have 45 mins of craftwork, followed by a celebration with a story and songs, and more activities, before we finish with tea.

In our October meeting we made all sorts of things connected with the life of Elijah. These included things to eat and share, ravens, trees to sit under,



right up to Chariots of Fire (yes, this is where that comes from) and more.

Don't forget, while children need an adult with them to help them with crafts, 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



Harlington Parish Council Christmas Coffee

Harlington Parish Council are holding a Christmas coffee morning on December 17th 2025 in the Parish Hall from 11am. All welcome for mince pies, tea & coffee (or mulled wine) and to enjoy some festive carol singing.

Harlington Lower School *plus* Wellbeing Walks



The past few weeks at Harlington Lower School have been filled with wonderful activities.

We recently hosted a very successful Cosy Reading Morning, and it was truly wonderful! The school hall was packed with parents and carers who came in to enjoy reading alongside their children. Seeing so many people sharing a love for books and enjoying quiet time together was heart-warming. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special occasion!

Our school community also took time to observe Remembrance Day. It was lovely to see so many children representing the school on Remembrance Day by taking part in the village parade as members of their uniformed organisations. In school, we dedicated time to learning about the significance of poppies and remembrance, culminating in a reflective whole-school assembly to honour those who have served. We believe it is vital for our pupils to understand the importance of this act of remembrance.

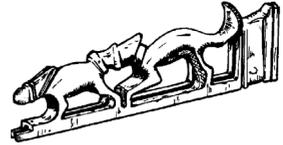
Finally, we are looking ahead to the festive season! As is tradition, the children across the school will soon be busy creating beautiful Christmas calendars. Our dedicated Year 4 pupils will once again take on the special task of delivering these handmade calendars to people across the village. We want to ensure our list is up-to-date. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to or removed from the Christmas calendar delivery list this year, please let us know by emailing us at office@harlingtonlower.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.

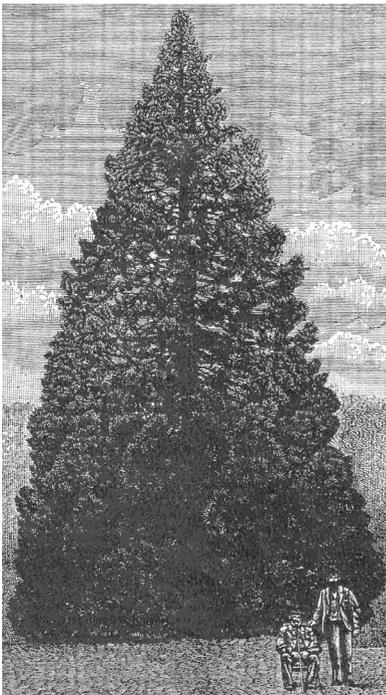


Whether you used to enjoy walking but have lost your fitness or want to get started to improve your wellness, we're all in it together. We're a friendly bunch so you'll get the warmest of welcomes. Everyone walks for their own reasons, whether to ward off illness, manage health conditions or boost their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



Monday 1st December 2025

Christmas at Wrest



Wrest has encapsulated the changing celebrations of Christmas, particularly since their revival in the Victorian era. Feasting, entertainment and the occasional misfortune all played their part. Earl de Grey's Christmas tree, planted in 1856, is now one of the oldest surviving. For World War One hospital patients, Christmas was an essential boost to morale. The Silsoe Research Institute's creative ingenuity made Wrest a place of magic for children, and Santa continues to make an appearance.

Speaker – Richard Luscombe (Wrest Park Volunteer History Research Team)

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

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

Next meeting:

February 2nd – The de Havilland Aircraft Company

www.adalhs.org.uk



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 **December** meetings will be on **1st**, **15th**, and **29th**, and our first meeting in **January 2026** will be **12th**. All meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.



Finished your Christmas shopping yet? Short of ideas for younger children? At the Brain Tumour Coffee afternoon the other week, someone asked about the right age to start teaching a child to knit. Have you tried to remember when you learnt to do things – read, swim, sew, knit, use an electric drill or lawn mower? I couldn't remember how old I was when I started knitting, although I can remember the first time I knitted something “real” – a cardigan for my doll. The problem then was working out how old I was.

The picture is of a nearly finished cushion, made by a nine-year old from a kit – all the pieces (which are felt) come ready cut out, with holes punched to sew through, and thread. A picture shows how it should look when finished. In case you are struggling

with what it is, it is a unicorn. I have looked at felt kits for children on occasions, but this is the first one I have actually seen in progress – sewing is not one of the skills that interest my grandchildren! However, since I was asked the question, and have also supplied simple knitting patterns recently, I thought this sort of thing would make another alternative for a child who wants to DO things.

Happy Christmas to you all

Contact: Tina Salmon (christinasalmon60@gmail.com), 01525 874481

Website: <https://cliveandtina.co.uk>

Little Book Stop, Nativity, Christmas Tree Festival

I hope that by the time you're reading this our Little Book Stop is back and fully weatherproof!

I'll be dropping off two more books: Firstly, *In Praise of Shadows* by Jun'ichi-ro Tanizaki. If you're a fan of Japanese culture I'd highly recommend this - Tanizaki was one of Japan's greatest novelists. Secondly, *Silverview* by John le Carre, for anyone interested in espionage novels.

In other literary news, I was enthralled by Guillermo del Toro's adaptation of *Frankenstein* for Netflix. While the "Hollywoodisation" of the story did rankle me, I enjoyed it nonetheless, and the ChatGPT world that we're now in makes me view the story with yet another layer of meaning. Have a read of *Supremacy: AI, ChatGPT and the Race That Will Change the World* by Parmy Olson - winner of the 2024 FT Book of the Year - the descriptions of the psychology of the founders of modern AI were frighteningly similar to Shelley's characterisation of Victor Frankenstein...

As a reminder, the short story competition for children is still open for entries. Please do help to share the word.

Happy reading, everyone.

Maahwish



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARLINGTON
WITH THE HUB AND SPOKE CAFÉ

**Nativity Tableau
and
Carols with the
Salvation Army**

Wednesday 17th December
6.30pm
The Hub And Spoke Café,
Lincoln Way

**Free
Refreshments**

In association with
SHINEYOURLIGHT.org.uk
across the nation

The poster features a dark background with white stars and a central image of a white tent set up outdoors at night, illuminated from within. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the event title in large, bold letters and the date and time below it.



**Christmas
Tree Festival**
St Mary's Church

Saturday 6th Dec 1-5pm
Sunday 7th Dec 1-5pm

Adult ticket £2.50, children free

Craft stalls, raffle and
refreshments

Festival Finale

5.15pm Sunday 7th December
Stories & songs for all the family

The poster has a white background with a black border. It features a cartoon illustration of three children standing next to a Christmas tree. The text is in a mix of bold, serif and sans-serif fonts, with stars used as decorative elements.

Harlington Surgery and SMC & Wednesday Coffee



News from Karen at Harlington Surgery.

In this chart she gives us details of the surgery's Christmas/New Year closing dates, and the latest date for handing in repeat prescriptions.

The black boxes show the dates when the surgery is closed.

The white boxes show when the surgery is open during normal opening hours. Note that the surgery will close at 1:00pm on 24 December.

The latest date for handing in Repeat Prescriptions to cover the holiday period is Wednesday 17th December.

DECEMBER 2025									
We 17	Th 18	Fr 19	Sa 20	Su 21	Mo 22	Tu 23	We 24	Th 25	Fr 26
			CLOSED					CLOSED	

Last date for repeat scripts →

DECEMBER 2025					JANUARY 2026				
Sa 27	Su 28	Mo 29	Tu 30	We 31	Th 1	Fr 2	Sa 3	Su 4	Mo 5
CLOSED					CLSD		CLOSED		

If you have any queries about these dates (or anything else), please call the surgery on **01 525 874 066** during opening hours.

Wednesday Coffee



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 are 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.



Flit Vale Wildlife Group *plus* Directory Changes



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

Wildlife walks & talks

Monday, December 8th – On-line Zoom meeting. 7.30 pm

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Group AGM

The AGM will take place by Zoom, commencing 7.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Ann and you will receive the link nearer the time.

Monday, January 12th – Maulden Church Hall, 7.30 pm

Talk by Kate Dimmock of the Harlington Hedgehog Hospital

Harlington Hogspital is a small rescue which takes in the sick, injured, abandoned, orphaned or otherwise distressed hedgehogs with the aim of rehabilitation & re-release to the wild. Hedgehogs - the only native spiny mammal, and one which is an indicator species - are currently red listed as vulnerable to extinction, so how can we help this inoffensive creature?

Charge: £5.00 per person

****Our popular quiz will be held on Friday, February 13th.**

Further details will be coming soon, put the date in next year's diary!**

Booking for indoor Flit Vale events is optional.

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.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.uk

Directory Changes

Harlington Juniors FC Contacts:

1st team	Phil Tomlinson	07862263140	philtomlinson1@gmail.com
Reserve Team	Morgan McCarthy	07702281845	morganjames29@hotmail.com
Under 18s	Andrew Fildes	07970775547	andrew_fildes@hotmail.com
Under 15s	Karlos Williams	07539883301	karlos122@hotmail.com
Under 13s	Pat Clarke	07855337171	patclarke813@gmail.com
Under 11s	Martin Atkins	07890691709	martinatkins1@sky.com

Harlington Hogspital

Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release

I'm writing this on November 1st, well aware that the year has another month to go, and admissions will continue! I'll start with a massive THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Hogspital over the last year. Whether with newspapers, donations, food, medicines or things from the Amazon wishlist, it's all deeply appreciated and I couldn't do it without you.



To date the Hogspital has had 176 hogs through its doors this year. They have been everything from tiny day old hoglets to huge adults weighing 1300g. I've treated injuries ranging from broken legs & head injuries, strimmer damage, dog attacks, ones which have been trapped in drains and sheds and disturbed hibernation or nesting mothers. They have come from the village and from as far as St Albans, Hatfield, Milton Keynes & the far side of Bedford. The talks are continuing and I've have once again been privileged to deliver talks to Brownies, Beavers, the WI, schools and other community groups.

It's been a tough year for wildlife - seemingly either very hot & dry, or very wet, meaning a shortage of food and nests being flooded, and I've had a large number of calls about birds, especially pigeons, as canker has been rife & food scarce, and squirrels. As I don't have the facilities or knowledge to treat birds or the required licences for squirrels, all I can do is advise to contact another rescue.

Seeing at first hand the brutal injuries inflicted by humans (strimmer injuries are the worst) can be horrific, and once more, evenings spent with a pair of pointy tweezers picking maggots from wounds have been far too common! However - being able to release a healthy adult that came in as a hoglet with hypothermia, strimmer wounds & flystrike makes all the syringe feeds every 2 hours, maggots & heartbreak worth it.

So once again - THANK YOU.

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

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Kate Dimmock, Harlington Hogspital

Lloyds Bank

Harlington Hogspital

Acc 12408960

S/C 30-54-66

Panto, Harlington Upper School, Beer and Carols



HARLINGTON PERFORMS
EST. 1968

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDRA BISHOP
HARLINGTON PERFORMS PRESENTS OUR 39TH PANTOMIME

OZ

FRIDAY 5TH
DECEMBER 7:30PM

SATURDAY 6TH
DECEMBER 2:30PM & 7:30PM

WRITTEN BY:
CARL BISHOP +
NATALIE JEFFS

HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
TICKETS £10
CONCESSIONS £8

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BRADSHAW'S
FROM 03/11/25 OR ONLINE:
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/HARLINGTON-PANTO



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

2025

TUESDAY **16TH** DECEMBER

AT 4.00PM - 6.00 PM

RSVP NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION

CONTACT US AT RESIDENTS@HARLINGTON.ORG OR
01525 755100

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE SEASONAL JOY WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN!

HARLINGTON UPPER SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

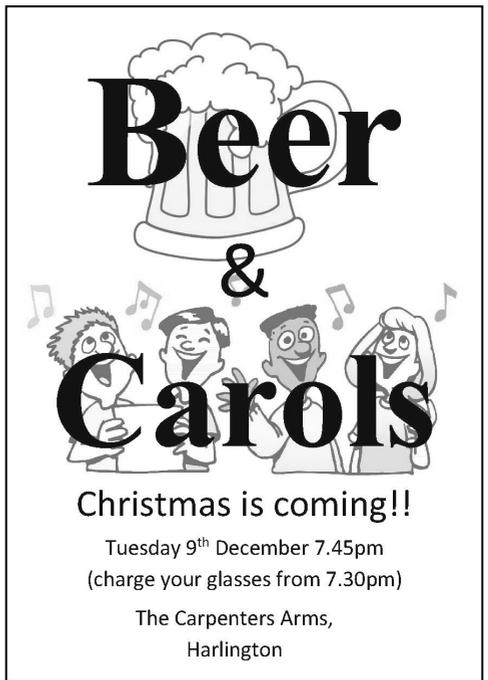
COME AND SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS!

£5 **WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER**
THEATRE 6.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON PARENT PAY AND AT THE DOOR

GOSWELL END ROAD, HARLINGTON

FURTHER INFORMATION
GCAPPELLO@HARLINGTON.ORG



Beer & Carols

Christmas is coming!!

Tuesday 9th December 7.45pm
(charge your glasses from 7.30pm)

The Carpenters Arms,
Harlington

Advertisement



The Hub and Spoke Café, Harlington

Tucked away in the Lincoln Way Parade, The Hub & Spoke Café is proudly run by villagers Sue and Rob and their friendly team

We serve everything from hearty breakfast baguettes and baker-made cakes to stone-based pizzas, milkshakes, and barista coffees — with a helping of local banter!

We also cater for corporate lunches, funeral wakes and private parties and are home to:

- ☺ Creative workshops, art classes and private hire
- ♥ Charity fundraisers and village events such as the Salvation Army Concert in December
- 🚲 A warm welcome for cyclists, walkers and families

Special Offer for Contact Readers

Thursdays – 20% off all pizzas

- Collection orders under £20 (Harlington residents only)
- Free delivery for orders over £20

Fridays – Buy any two pizzas and get a **free brownie**

Simply quote **HUB1** when you call or pop in to claim your offer.

Call: 01525 752367

Order via our App: *The Hub and Spoke Café.*

Follow us: @thehubandspokecafe for updates offers and events

Website: thehubandspokecafe.co.uk

Sue and Rob Whittle xx

Give me the end of the year an' its fun
When most of the plannin' an' toilin' is done;
Bring all the wanderers home to the nest,
Let me sit down with the ones I love best,
Hear the old voices still ringin' with song,
See the old faces unblemished by wrong,
See the old table with all of its chairs
An' I'll put soul in my Thanksgivin' prayers."
- Edgar A. Guest, *Thanksgiving*



Advertisement

Westoning Baptist Church

Christmas Services

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

Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Sunday
21st Dec
6pm

Carol Service

A traditional Carol Service followed by refreshments.

Thursday
25th Dec
10am

Christmas Day

Join us for worship on Christmas morning.



📍 Large free car park on site

✅ Fully accessible

📺 Zoom Meeting ID: 292 960 6969

🌐 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	Cllr Declan King
4	Cllr Karen Saunders	10	Cllr David Steel
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
	2nd December 2025	Finance & General Purposes	7.30pm
	9th December 2025	Full Council	7.30pm
	13th January 2026	Full Council	7.30pm
	10th February 2026	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 *including* Mini Lighthouse



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

Whether you have never been to church or you are a committed Christian
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

December 2025

7th - Carol Gibbs – Communion & Church AGM

14th - Carol Service

21st – Christmas Lighthouse Café for all ages

Croissants, Carols & Crisps



28th – No 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



MINI LIGHTHOUSE
FOR 0-3 YRS



11th December

10.30 – 12.00

PARISH HALL HARLINGTON

Methodist Church *including* Bright Hour Fellowship

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:

- 7th 10 am Come and See, led by Tina and Clive Salmon
 6 pm Circuit Service with Holy Communion led by Revs Claudia Lupi and Tim Haines
- 14th 10 am Family Carol Service led by Rev Claudia Lupi
- 21st 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
- 25th 10 am Christmas Day Service led by Martin Wallis and Tina Salmon
- 28th 10 am Peter Baker

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 Drop-in this month

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The Bright Hour Fellowship meets on Thursday afternoons at 2.45pm at the Methodist church Hall each week. Members have opportunity to hear from a variety of invited speakers, share in the company of others and enjoy a nice cup of tea. 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 for **December** are:

- 4th - Harlington Lower School singing for us
- 11th - Sheila Norris
- 18th - Barbara to arrange Christmas programme.
- 25th - Meeting cancelled for Christmas Day!



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



Come & Try the Organ: **Saturday 29th November** If you get the Contact before the 29th November, why not come and try playing the church organ between 1-5pm? With similar events all across the country, this is your chance to find out what it feels like to play one. And don't worry, experienced organists will be there to help you. Refreshments available.

Art Attack: this popular event is also on the 29th November between 10am – 1pm. With a Christmas theme, come and enjoy being creative with paints, or make Christmas tree decorations and cards. Refreshments available, all welcome.

Christmas Tree Festival: **Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December**, church open to visitors from 1 – 5pm each day. Entry £2.50 for adults, (to include refreshments), children free. Come and enjoy a sparkly start to Christmas, plus raffle and craft stalls with beautiful gifts and cards. And help us to find the naughty elf hiding somewhere in the church. The Festival Finale with Christmas songs and stories for everyone, is at 5.15pm on the Sunday. What do you call an elf who has just won the lottery?.....Welfy!

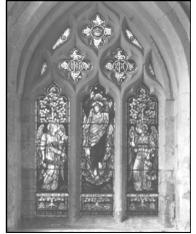
Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal: 'Be a Star' by helping to provide gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present and help them experience the joy of opening a gift. Donations for children should be new, unused and unwrapped. The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need. Want to know more? Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk. Please donate before Monday 8th December, either to the church when open, or drop them off at the Tree Festival or Finale. Thank you so much.

For Christmas 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.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

St. Mary's Church Services

December is such a special month as we continue into the season of Advent leading into Christmas. On the first weekend of December (6th. and 7th.), we have our annual Christmas Tree Festival which concludes with a short service in church. Our Advent and Christmas services are:



- 7th 8 am Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer
- 9.30 am Morning Service for second Sunday of Advent
- 5.15 pm Christmas Tree Festival conclusion service
- 14th 9.30 am Holy Communion for third Sunday of Advent
- 7 pm Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols with Quintet choir
- 21st 9.30 am Holy Communion for last Sunday of Advent
- 24th 1 pm Christmas Eve crib service
- 11 pm Christmas Midnight Mass
- 25th 10 am Christmas Day service
- 28th 9.30 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Please note: there will not be a Messy Breakfast in December

Wednesdays

Wednesdays 3rd. 10th. 17th. 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 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/
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)**

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Village Diary

December 2025

1 st	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
1 st	ADALHS talk	Flitwick Library Theatre 7.30 pm
2 nd	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
5 th	Panto	Harlington Village Hall 7.30 pm
6 th	Panto	Harlington Village Hall 2 pm and 7.30 pm
6 th	Christmas Tree Festival	St. Mary's Church 12 noon – 5 pm
7 th	Christmas Tree Festival	St. Mary's Church 12 noon – 5 pm
8 th	Flit Vale Wildlife AGM	Zoom 7.30 pm
9 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
9 th	Beer and Carols	Carpenters Arms 7.45 pm
11 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 10.30 am – 12 Noon
12 th	Closing date for objections to Development	
14 th	Christmas Fayre	Harlington Village Hall 12 noon – 5 pm
14 th	Traditional Carols	St. Mary's Church 7 pm
15 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
16 th	Senior Residents Party	Harlington Upper School 4 – 6 pm
17 th	Christmas Coffee	Parish Hall 11 am
17 th	Salvation Army Carols	Outside shops in Lincoln Way 6.30 pm
17 th	Christmas Concert	Harlington Upper School Theatre 6.30 pm
20 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
24 th	Crib Service	St. Mary's Church 1 pm
24 th	Midnight Mass	St. Mary's Church 11 pm
25 th	Christmas Day Services	St. Mary's, Methodists, Westoning Baptists 10am
29 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)

January 2026

6 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
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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 JANUARY 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 1ST DECEMBER 2025