

# Editorial

Dear Villagers,  
Happy New Year.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions? Are you likely to keep them? Every now and then I try, but I've not succeeded yet. However, one resolution you could try is to get involved with something new to you in the village, as Robert suggests.

We had another good Panto from Harlington Performs. Next year marks 40 years. It might be illuminating to know how many people have been involved in it over those years. We met a former dame in Tesco's the other day. Perhaps there is something you want to start.

On a different note, it will be a relief to have Toddington Road open again. It must be a good time to run a company that hires out traffic lights.

Every good wish for 2026,  
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 St. Mary's Church	4
Ramblers Wellbeing Walks	5
Inner Wheel Club of Luton Chiltern	5
Flittabus	6
Harlington Surgery and Sundon M C	7
Brain Tumour Research	8
Gestalt Theatre Group	9
Messy Church News	10
Half Way Up The Hill	10
Harlington Lower School	11
ADALHS	12
Crafternoon Tea	13
Directory	14
Harlington Gardeners' Society	16
Flit Vale Wildlife Group	17
Harlington in Bloom	18
Harlington Parish Council Information	21
Life Church	22
Wednesday Coffee and Games	22
Methodist Church	23
Bright Hour Fellowship	23
St. Mary's Churchwarden	24
St. Mary's Church Services	25
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.

**February 2026 copy by 10th January 2026 please.**

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

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

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## A letter from St. Mary's Church

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*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.  
Ring out the old, ring in the new.*

Tennyson's poem reminds us that the start of a new year is an important stage in life where we let go of the old year and welcome new opportunities. So in January 2026, at this pivotal point of the turning of the year, we look back at the year just ended and forward to the new. We can take time to reflect on our past experiences and step towards the new, with perhaps lessons learned from the past to add to our wisdom and hopefully guide our living in 2026.



How was 2025 for you? For many people throughout the world, 2025 was a year they would rather forget, a hard year, possibly a year of loss or fading hopes. For others, the year will have fond memories, possibly the warmth of success — for my family, my sports team, my finances, and so forth. It could, of course, have been a mixture.

As we move forward, it is good to recall the positives with gratitude. As to the negatives, we need to take care not to let them burden us. We can bring to God our anxieties, worries, fears, all that has clouded our hearts and minds. We can bring to God our anger, resentment or bitterness, our guilt, our shame or regret. We can bring to God all the times we have been hurt, wounded, felt vulnerable or lost.

A new year is an opportunity to start afresh. Looking forward, we can give thanks for everything that has opened us to life: our sense of connectedness, meaning and purpose; our experience of beauty, wonder, and peace; our creativity, our gifts and abilities. These can enrich us in the coming year.

What are your plans for 2026? Any of the churches in Harlington would love to welcome you to join them, as would a number of village organisations. Harlington is blessed with a strong sense of community, with several organisations engaged in important work: taking people to hospital appointments, looking after animals, supporting medical research, encouraging gardening and rambling, campaigning to protect green spaces, organising activities for young people, car-

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# Letter Ctd., Wellbeing Walks, Inner Wheel Club

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ing for the village and so on. Why not make 2026 a year of engagement in the community?

*Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.*

Robert Johns  
Reader, St. Mary's Church

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## Harlington Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

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The Harlington walks happen every Friday morning and start from the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30am. They are a great way to stay fit, enjoy the village, and meet fellow residents. It is almost impossible not to feel good when we're walking outdoors – it's a natural mood-booster and a tonic for mind and body.



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



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Our HELPLINE: 07960 388111

This month we include a reminder of some of the regular Flittabus services from Harlington to villages and towns in the surrounding area.

If your bus doesn't turn up as expected, please call us on our

**Helpline: 07960 388111**

### FLITTABUS TO CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

### Route FL11

<i>Date</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart CMK</i>
<b>The first Tuesday of every month</b> e.g. 6 Jan 2026	<b>9:15 am</b> Bus stop on Station Rd, a few yards down from the cross-roads. <b><u>ONLY ONE BUS FROM NOW ON, TILL NEXT CHRISTMAS</u></b>	<b>1:00 pm</b> Exit Door 5

For the route map, see [flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/](http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/)

### FLITTABUS TO FLITWICK TESCO

### Route FL6

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Flitwick</i>
<b>Every Thursday of the month</b> e.g. 8/15/22/29 Jan 2026	<b>9:03 am</b> Westoning Rd <b>9:05 am</b> Wingate Rd <b>9:07 am</b> Lincoln Way Shops <b>9:10 am</b> Bury Close <b>9:12 am</b> opposite Tabor Close	<b>10:50 am</b> Tesco

For the route map, see [flittabus.co.uk/route-fl6-new/](http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl6-new/)

### FLITTABUS TO HITCHIN

### Route FL7

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Hitchin</i>
<b>Every Friday of the month</b> e.g. 2/9/16/23/30 Jan 2026	<b>9:17 am</b> Upper School Goswell End Rd	<b>12:15 pm</b> St Mary's Square

For the route map, see [flittabus.co.uk/route-fl7-new/](http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl7-new/)

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# Harlington Surgery and SMC

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**Sundon**  
Medical centre

## A Warm Thank You from Sundon & Harlington Surgery

We hope you enjoyed a restful, festive Christmas and are stepping into the New Year with good health and a positive mind.

Sundon and Harlington Surgery would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the staff members and patients who joined us for our *Coffee & Conversation Morning* in September. The turnout was truly fantastic, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar—and new—faces engaging with our team.

During the event, patients had the chance to meet and speak directly with all our GPs, along with this year's trainee doctors. There were opportunities to learn about essential health topics including basic CPR, diabetes, the Pharmacy First service, and the support available through the Citizens Advice Bureau. Many attendees also took advantage of free mini health checks. And of course... the pastries and coffee certainly didn't go unnoticed!

We hope to host many more events like this in the future—opportunities to share knowledge, highlight services available to you, and strengthen the connection between our surgery and the community.

As you may be aware, the government has introduced a new appointments system requiring patients to submit health requests online between 8:00am and 6:30pm. This has brought significant changes and increased demand on our team, but our priority remains making the system as smooth and accessible as possible for all our patients.

We will continue striving to be the surgery you trust, rely on, and feel supported by.



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# Brain Tumour Research

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Happy New Year



Well, this feels odd and strange writing this on the 26th November. I'm trying to feel the Christmas spirit, starting my Christmas shopping, beginning to write a few cards, wrapping up the charity work for 2025 when there is still plenty to do. I feel a bit out of sync!

Well, one really good job achieved: the blue sack you have all been helping to fill has been collected today so I now have quite a big space in my dining room and it looks considerably tidier! It will take 6-8 weeks for them to process the contents and then they should hopefully be able to tell us how much this raised. Thank you to all those who contributed to fill the sack. I hope to report on this in the February edition of Contact.

Now I just need to sell the 3 boxes of Christmas cards but with opportunities at the Methodist coffee morning and at St Mary's tree festival and then 3 masses at my church, Holy Family and St John's, I feel quite certain that when you are reading this they will have been bought, written, posted and may now be being used as recycled cards or shopping lists! I'm not wishing this year gone but that is what this feels like. This year seems to have flown by with its highlights and the inevitable lows.

I would like to thank you all for all your support and encouragement this year. You have helped to raise £4,753.31 in 2025. That is £1742.97 for plants, vegetables, pots and sundries out the front of my house; donations including Harlington Methodist Church and Wednesday coffee morning group coffee mornings, Flitwick Rotary Club at Tesco donation, Harlington Lower School summer fayre; Harlington Village Show plants and vegetables; Gwen's books; plants sold at BTR HQ and 2 coffee mornings. Phew! Sounds quite a lot when you read it as a list!

Well, all that remains for me to do now is to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2026 and in keeping with Strictly "Keep Fundraising and supporting"  
THANK YOU

Jane, Emma and Alice

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."

- Hal Borland

# Advertisement *plus* Gestalt Theatre



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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

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\*17+ Dance in Methodist Church LU5 6LR

**Contact Natalie at [Gestalt.theatre@gmail.com](mailto:Gestalt.theatre@gmail.com) to register interest**  
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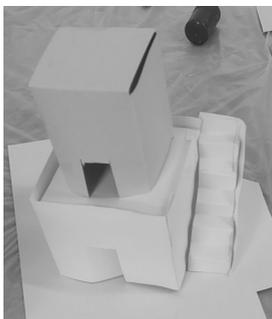
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## Messy Church News *plus* Half Way Up The Hill

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By the time we hold our January session the New Year will seem to have vanished. We will meet on 17th January, the 3rd Saturday of the month 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 November meeting we made all sorts of things connected with the life of Elisha. You may need to look up the story to find out about upstairs rooms, axe heads and food for sharing. We also made Advent Rings ready for the start of Advent.

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

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## Half Way Up The Hill

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*Half way up the hill there's a church where we sit  
There isn't any other church quite like it  
(With apologies to A. A. Milne)*

We do a number of regular things at the Methodist Church which don't have a big entry in Contact. Here's one of them.

**Coffee Mornings** On the last Saturday of the month we hold a Coffee Morning. Drop in for tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments. Arrive at the right time and there may be hot sausage rolls, but they usually go fast (this village seems to like its sausage rolls). All money raised goes to our charity of the year, which this year is the Paynter Home in Sri Lanka. This month's drop-in is on 31st January, from 10 to 12 noon.

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# Harlington Lower School

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December at Harlington Lower School was filled with energy, laughter, and the warmth of the festive season, providing an exciting conclusion to the year. Our commitment to celebrating Christmas was evident across the school, starting with the delightful performances put on by our youngest students. Families were captivated by the enchanting nativity plays presented by our Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils, with their lovely singing contributing greatly to the magic of the stories.

A major highlight was the exciting whole-school trip to the pantomime at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. This annual excursion generated huge amounts of laughter and fun. We are immensely grateful to the FRIENDS of Harlington Lower School, whose dedicated fundraising meant this memorable trip was fully funded, incurring no cost to the school or our families.

Our festive observances included a special whole-school carol service at the Methodist Church to share the Christmas story. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the church later in the year to share the Easter story with St. Mary's Church. The term officially wrapped up with our final, beautiful carol service held in the school hall for all children and staff.

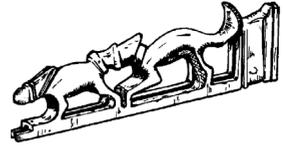
December saw extensive community outreach by our fantastic school choir. They took their festive spirit to several external venues, singing carols at Luton Airport, outside the Hub and Spoke Cafe, performing for the Bright Hour, and participating in a joint concert at Redborne Upper School with the Amptill Town Band and our talented HLS brass players. Their beautiful voices spread joy and a festive mood to all listeners. In addition, our Year 4 pupils demonstrated great responsibility by delivering calendars around the village. We sincerely appreciate these opportunities to partner with the community.

Despite the excitement, our children continued diligently with their learning throughout the final weeks of term. As we settle into the new year, we look back fondly on these moments of unity and innovation that define the spirit of Harlington Lower School. A massive thank you goes out to everyone—staff, parents, and community members—who supported and participated in making these events so successful. We wish you all a wonderful New Year filled with happiness and great opportunities!

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

- *Edith Sitwell*

## **Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society**



**Monday, February 2nd 2026**

## **The de Havilland Aircraft Company**



**DH Comet Racer**



**Hatfield Building © BAE Systems.**

The history and achievements of the de Havilland Aircraft Company, with reference to its founder, Geoffrey de Havilland, who built his own flying machine in 1909. From this, he created one of the largest and most innovative aerospace companies of the 20th Century, based at Hatfield. We examine the work of this remarkable Company formed in 1920 until the Hatfield site was closed by British Aerospace in 1994. We then see how nearly 75 years of aviation history are being commemorated in the company's old Headquarters building.

Speaker – Alistair Hodgson

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.*

The next two meetings are in March:

March 2nd - Luton Works

March 23rd - The Roman Villa and its Surrounding Archaeology at Warkton, Kettering

**[www.adalhs.org.uk](http://www.adalhs.org.uk)**



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# Crafternoon Tea

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Happy New Year!

Our **January 2026** meetings will be on **12<sup>th</sup>**, and **26<sup>th</sup>**, and our first meeting in **February** will be **9<sup>th</sup>**. All meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

Most people who like to craft, find themselves with things they have been given or have acquired for themselves, which they then discover they cannot complete, or do not like, so –

**9<sup>th</sup> February will be a special afternoon** – if you have projects you have started, but feel you will never finish, or that you have been given, and, again, feel you will not complete – we are holding a “Swap or give away” afternoon! Bring those projects, and see if someone else has brought something that you would like to complete – or just leave yours with us, and we will see if someone else would like it.

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.



The picture is a child's blanket. Like the image I put in the October Contact, this is mosaic crochet. If you remember, that image showed the threads left at the edges, caused by each row being worked from one end to the other, and then breaking the yarn. All those ends are worked into the border, rather than having to be darned in!

**Contact: Tina Salmon ([christinasalmon60@gmail.com](mailto:christinasalmon60@gmail.com)), 01525 874481**

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

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# Directory

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## CHURCHES

Parish Church: Dr Robert Johns Reader .email:robert@harlingtonchurch.org .....01525 873214  
St John's Church RC.....parish.holyfamilyandstjohn@northamptondiocese.org  
Methodist Church Senior Steward: Martin Wallis.....01525 875850  
Baptist Church Contact: Sue Yule.....01582 875410  
Life Church Key Leader: Carol Gibbs.....www.lifechurch-beds.co.uk 07890 692574  
Friends of St. Mary's.....friendsofharlingtonchurch@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

Harlington Lower School Head: Mrs V Blunt.....office@harlingtonlower.co.uk 01525 752500  
Friends Of Harlington Lower School..... fhlsa99@gmail.co.uk  
Parkfields Middle School Toddington Head: James Hughes.....parkfields@cbc.beds.sch.uk 01525 872555  
Harlington Upper School, Goswell End Road, Head: Mrs H Jones ..... admin@harlington.org 01525 755100

## HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society,  
Clive Makin@ntlworld.com.....www.adalhs.org.uk 01582 655785  
Local History, Russell Preston, 9 Station Road.....01525 874841  
Local History And Genealogy John Thurston, 2 Shepherds Close.....01525 874683  
Harlington P3 Pete Hughes.....07763 341426  
Wildlife Trust Flit Vale Group.....flitvale.info@gmail.com

## HOBBIES, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Crafternoon Tea, Tina Salmon.....christinasalmon60@gmail.com 01525 874481  
Gestalt Theatre (Adults) Natalie Jeffs...gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621  
Harlington Gardeners' Society, Tony Roberts – Secretary .....01525 753235  
Harlington In Bloom, Rosemary Tuohy ..... rosemarypc86@gmail.com 07793 016207  
Harlington Off-Road Cycling, Ron Simmonds.....harlingtonoffroadcycling@gmail.com  
.....01525 873264  
Harlington Performs Natalie Jeffs, .....gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621  
Harlington Village Show Tricia Murphy .....01525 754241  
Jigsaw Library Tricia Murphy .....01525 754241  
Sewing And Knitting For Charities, Vicky Yorke .....v.yorke@sky.com 01525 872267  
Toddington Rambling Club Tony Roberts.....toddingtonramblingclub.co.uk 01525 753235

## LAW AND ORDER

Amphill And Flitwick Area, ..... www.police.uk/bedfordshire/70 General Enquiries 101  
Bedfordshire Police.....” www.bedfordshire.police.uk 01234 841212  
Street Watch, Harlington..... harlington@street-watch.org

## LIBRARIES

Barton Library Bedford Road, Barton MK45 4PP .....01582 881101  
Flitwick Library Coniston Road, Flitwick MK45 1QJ .....01525 715266  
Toddington Library 9 Market Square Toddington LU5 6BP .....01525 873626

### Barton, and Toddington

Tuesday, 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday, 2pm – 6pm  
Thursday, 9am – 1pm  
Friday, 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm  
Saturday, 9am – 4pm

### Flitwick

Tuesday – Friday, 9am – 6pm  
Saturday, 9am – 4pm

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# Directory *ctd.*

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## LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES:

**Parish Council Clerk:** Alison Doyle, Parish Council Office, Church Road, LU5 6LE  
.....clerk@harlingtonpc.gov.uk ..01525 875933  
Website: <http://www.harlington-pc.gov.uk> Office Open 9.am – 2.00pm daily  
Central Beds Councillor: Mrs M Walsh .....mary.walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk  
.....0300 300 8514  
Member Of Parliament: **Blake Stephenson** (Con) House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.....  
.....[blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk)

## LOCAL SERVICES

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..... [www.thehubandspokecafe.co.uk](http://www.thehubandspokecafe.co.uk) .01525 752367

## MEDICAL

Sundon Medical Centre, 142-144 Sundon Park Road, Luton  
General Enquiries.....01582 571130  
Appointments only.....01582 574142  
Book on line:.....[www.sundonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk](http://www.sundonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk)  
Harlington Surgery Westoning Road (Operates with Sundon Centre).....01525 874066  
Toddington Surgery, The Medical Centre, Luton Road, Toddington.....01525 872222  
Book on Line:.....[www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk](http://www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk)  
Dentist 23 High Street Flitwick.....[www.flitwickhighstreetdental.co.uk](http://www.flitwickhighstreetdental.co.uk) 0715550/717288  
Dentist 19 Dunstable Street, Ampthill..... [www.amphilldentalpractice.co.uk](http://www.amphilldentalpractice.co.uk) 403205  
Physiotherapists 7 Station Square, Flitwick.....[www.chartered-physiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.chartered-physiotherapy.co.uk) 720882

## MEETING PLACES

Harlington Methodist Halls.....[hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com](mailto:hmc.bookings@ntlworld.com) 01525 754527  
Harlington Parish Hall..... <http://www.harlington-pc.gov.uk> 01525 875933  
Harlington Village Hall .....[www.harlingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.harlingtonvillagehall.co.uk)

## MEN & WOMEN'S GROUPS

Bright Hour Fellowship, Helen James ..... 07914 937702

## POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative Party Mid Beds Conservative Pary.....[midbedsconservatives@gmail.com](mailto:midbedsconservatives@gmail.com)  
.....[www.midbedsconservatives.org.uk](http://www.midbedsconservatives.org.uk)  
Labour Party Mid Beds Labour Party..... [www.midbedslabour.org.uk](http://www.midbedslabour.org.uk)  
Liberal Democrats Central Beds Liberal Democrats..... [www.centralbedslibdems.org.uk](http://www.centralbedslibdems.org.uk)

## PRE-SCHOOL

Harlington 0-4 Club (Playgroup) ..  
Harlington Village Pre-School .....[staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk](mailto:staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk) 07963 534038

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICE

Harlington Neighbourhood Help.....07849 835410  
Citizen's Advice Bureau Community House, Court House, Woburn Street, Ampthill MK45 2HX  
Mon –Thurs .....[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) 402742  
Rotary Club Howard Mann ..... 07717 302062  
Royal British Legion –

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# Directory *ctd.* plus Harlington Gardeners' Society

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## TRANSPORT

Flittabus Community Transport.....flittabus.co.uk.....07563 170067  
Helpline.....07960 388111  
Mid-Beds Link-A-Ride Community Transport .http://www.link-a-ride.co.uk 01525 840511 (for people with personal mobility problems)  
Thameslink Trains ..... http://www.thameslinkrailway.com 0345 0264700

## YOUTH

626 Club Clive and Tina Salmon.....01525 874481  
Boys Brigade/The Friday Thing Martin Wallis.....01525 875850 / 07795 642507  
Gestalt Theatre (Children's, and Youth) Natalie Jeffs.....gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621  
Girl Guiding UK:  
Rainbows Claire Livingstone ..... harlingtonrainbows@hotmail.com  
2nd Brownies Laura Davies .....2ndharlingtonbrownies@gmail.com  
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network  
Kate Nippard.....07908168412  
Harlington Lower & Sundon FC .....hlsfootballclub@gmail.com 07578710607  
Harlington Hotshots Netball Club Emily Thornton-Greet.....emilytg@me.com  
Harlington Juniors FC Contacts:  
1st team Phil Tomlinson.....philtomlinson1@gmail.com 07862263140  
Reserve Team Morgan McCarthy.....morganjames29@hotmail.com 07702281845  
Under 18s Andrew Fildes.....andrew\_fildes@hotmail.com 07970775547  
Under 15s Karlos Williams.....karlos122@hotmail.com 07539883301  
Under 13s Pat Clarke.....patclarke813@gmail.com 07855337171  
Under 11s Martin Atkins.....martinatkins1@sky.com 07890691709

If you spot any errors or omissions in this list please let me know as soon as possible. I will publish changes each month and a new full issue will come out in July/August.

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## Harlington Gardeners' Society

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We had a very successful AGM with 36 members attending. We had an interesting talk by Dr Tom Hose on the history of soil and how it has affected our lives from the ice age through the Roman period to the present day.

Our next event will be our New Year Social which will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm in the Village Hall. During the evening we will have a variety of quizzes. Members should bring either a sweet or savoury dish to share.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

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# Flit Vale Wildlife Group

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

## Wildlife walks & talks

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

**Talk by Kate Dimmock of the Harlington Hedgehog Hogspital**

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

Booking for indoor Flit Vale events is optional.

**Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – Maulden Village Hall. 7:00 pm for 7.30 pm start**

**Fundraising quiz for the Wildlife Trust**

Come along to our popular quiz and pit your wits against our fiendish quiz master! There are prizes for the winning team as well as spot prizes. Please note this is a cash only event for entry fee, drinks purchases and raffle. Ticket price includes a *light* fish and chip supper or vegetarian alternative. - Due to licensing restrictions, no drink can be brought into the venue.

Please email details of your team, maximum of six per team, including team name and meal choices to Ann at [Flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:Flitvale.info@gmail.com).

Charge: £15 per person

**Booking for the Quiz is essential.**

Please contact Ann by email: [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

Flit Vale Local Group

[www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)

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# Harlington in Bloom

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In November, there was tidying up at the War Memorial, including trimming of the hedge by Tony P, prior to the Remembrance Sunday ceremonies. Additionally, there was more bulb planting in between some shocking weather! Tulips, aconites, etc etc have been planted at the New Cemetery car park area and planters as well as an energetic tidy up, weeding and pruning at the large Goswell End Bed.

The GER bed has now also had some new shrubs planted to enhance it. Do take a look on your round the village walks!

We hope you enjoyed the Harlington in Bloom tree at the Festival in St Mary's. Our super-crafty ladies Gill, Jane, Judy, Teresa, Rosemary put in a lot of time, talent and ingenuity to make this happen!

Things will be quieter in January with the exception of our fun Committee New Year meal out! Join the committee at the AGM and this could be in your calendar in 2027! The AGM will be in the Parish Hall, West Room. For those new to the village, that's the building adjacent to the Parish Clerk's office, and all villagers will be most welcome to attend. There will be a review of the year's activities and officer reports. We aim for a relaxed, inclusive environment and we really would welcome some new blood.

We wish you a happy, prosperous and *positively blooming* New Year



Thank you so much to our sponsors: *Green Valley Construction, Harlington Shop; Nevilles Funeral Services (Amptill); Wednesday Morning Coffee Group, Gardeners' Society, The Hub and Spoke Cafe.* Your support has been invaluable and is much appreciated. It has particularly supported bulbs, shrubs and equipment in this last year.

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

AGM—Friday 6 Feb 2026 in Parish Hall.

The dates for the rest of 26 will be sorted out at the first committee meeting after the AGM

*Vivienne Dunlop on behalf of HiB Committee <https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> or [judy.harfield@apertech.co.uk](mailto:judy.harfield@apertech.co.uk) (Treasurer); Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207/ [rosemarypc86@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarypc86@gmail.com)*

"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them."

- Vincent A. Simeone

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## Advertisement

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### The Hub and Spoke Café, Harlington

Yes you DO have a Café in Harlington! (We get told every day that we are a surprise!) run by villagers Sue and Rob and our friendly team.

We serve everything from hearty breakfast baguettes and baker-made cakes to very good 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 parties (BYO Pizza and Prosecco?)

♥ Charity fundraisers and village events such as the recent Salvation Army Concert in December and school choir concerts

🚲 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

"January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. At the Roman New Year festival, people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts."

- *New Year's Day*



# 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](http://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](mailto:clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Office, Church Rd, Harlington LU5 6LE

### CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mary Walsh

[Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Cllr Gary Purser

[Gary.Purser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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## LIFE Church *plus* Wednesday Coffee

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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**

### January 2026

4th - Carol Gibbs

11th - Looking Forward  
with Lois Quin

18th - Lighthouse Café

25th - United Service 10am at the Methodist Church



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](http://www.life-church-harlington.com)

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## Wednesday Coffee

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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.



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# Methodist Church *including* Bright Hour Fellowship

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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.



## **JANUARY preachers are:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> 10 am      Come and See, led by Sheila Norris  
          6 pm      Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Joanne Sherwood
- 11<sup>th</sup> 10 am     Worship Group
- 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am     Covenant Service led by Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am     United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (at the Methodist Church)

If you want to join us on Zoom, the Zoom link is normally sent out the day before. Email me, [clivedsalmon@aol.com](mailto: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.

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**COFFEE MORNING** 31st January 2026, from 10 am to 12 noon, in our hall. Proceeds this year go to our charity for the year, the Paynter Home in Nuwara Eliya. Sri Lanka.

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## **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. We look forward to seeing you.



### Speakers for **January 2026** are:

- 8<sup>th</sup>      - Pam Greener talking about the Peasants Revolt
- 15<sup>th</sup>     - John Enejo
- 22<sup>nd</sup>    - Rose Agnew
- 29<sup>th</sup>    - Rev. Claudia Lupi

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## **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](mailto:t315485@gmail.com)

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# St Mary's Churchwarden

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## St Mary's Church

Happy New Year to you all!



**Art Attack:** Well done and thank you to all the children who came to paint and be creative. You made such beautiful pictures and decorations which were then used around the church and on our Christmas tree. If you'd like to collect your art work, email [admin@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:admin@harlingtonchurch.org).

**Christmas Tree Festival:** Thank you to everyone who supported the Festival whether by entering a tree or visiting us over the weekend. It was very special to have so many village groups take part; we really hope you enjoyed the colourful trees, refreshments, and voting for your favourite tree. The winners will be listed in the February Contact. I hope you all enjoyed decorating your Christmas tree, but taking mine down confused me.....it was really disornamenting.

**Salvation Army Christmas Appeal:** Presents you kindly donated for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal were taken to their HQ and delivered to children who wouldn't have many, or possibly any gifts for Christmas. Thank you.

**Messy Church:** after having a break for Christmas, we are back in the Parish Hall at 9am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January, when you can tell us all about your Christmas celebrations.

**Easyfundraising:** this is a website through which you can shop online with 1000s of retailers who then make a donation to the church. A percentage of your spending goes to the church – for free, at no extra cost to you, and it's very simple. If I can do it, anyone can! If you'd like more details, please message me via our Facebook page or email [admin@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:admin@harlingtonchurch.org). We have now raised over £2000 via people's normal online shopping, for free, and it all goes to our Restoration Fund. We are currently in the planning stages of some repair work, and hopefully a scheme to improve the facilities in the church.

For service and event information, see Contact, the noticeboard outside church or our website: [www.harlingtonchurch.org](http://www.harlingtonchurch.org). The website also has photos of recent events and information on upcoming events.

If you'd like to speak to someone about a life event or for prayer, please contact [revmarkedwards@outlook.com](mailto:revmarkedwards@outlook.com), or our Lay Reader Robert, [robert@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:robert@harlingtonchurch.org). You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

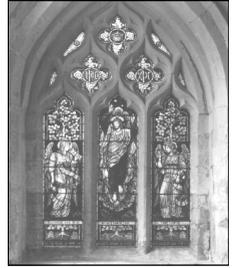
Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

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# St. Mary's Church Services

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To welcome the New Year why not come to one of the services in our beautiful village church? Everyone is most welcome. On 25<sup>th</sup>. January all churches in Harlington meet together for our annual service for Christian unity, a very special occasion.



Our January services are:

- 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Morning Service for the new year
- 11<sup>th</sup> 9 am Families' Messy Church in the Parish Rooms  
9.30 am Holy Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am Churches Together Christian unity service in the Methodist Church (no service at St. Mary's)

## Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

## Other times

The church can be made available for private prayer by arrangement, please contact one of the church wardens, Tricia Murphy [tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com](mailto:tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com) or Neil Walter [neil@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:neil@harlingtonchurch.org), or the Church Reader Dr. Robert Johns [robert@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:robert@harlingtonchurch.org). Alternatively email [admin@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:revmarkedwards@outlook.com) 07305 822186 or Dr. Robert Johns [robert@harlingtonchurch.org](mailto:robert@harlingtonchurch.org) 01525 873214.

## Further information and useful links

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

The church Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/](https://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)**

"January is here, with eyes that keenly glow,  
A frost-mailed warrior  
striding a shadowy steed of snow."  
- *Edgar Fawcett*

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Email: danieljames5@outlook.com



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 kpsewing@outlook.com

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# Village Diary

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## January 2026

6 <sup>th</sup> Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
11 <sup>th</sup> Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
12 <sup>th</sup> Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
12 <sup>th</sup> Wildlife Talk	Malden Church Hall 7.30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> HGS New Year Social	Village Hall 7 pm
26 <sup>th</sup> Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
31 <sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon

## February

2 <sup>nd</sup> ADALHS talk	Flitwick Library Theatre 7.30 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
6 <sup>th</sup> HiB AGM	Parish Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
10 <sup>th</sup> Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Quiz	Maulden Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Beetle Drive	St. Margaret's Parish Centre LU3 4BG 2 – 4.30 pm
28 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert	Barton Village Hall 7.30 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 FEBRUARY 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH JANUARY 2026

"The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour."

- Vita Sackville-West