

# Editorial

Dear Villagers,

As the editor, I often think that the year doesn't really kick off till February. That's probably because the January dates have to be in so early, and it's difficult to think of the New Year even before December. However, the year is now starting to get into its stride, including AGMs for both HiB and HNH, two organisations dedicated to making the community of Harlington better for us all.

Is romance dead in Harlington? No-one is advertising for Valentine's Day. I'm sure things will happen, although I notice that the Carpenters seems to have missed Valentines and gone straight to Mother's Day!

Finally, are we suffering the effects of climate change in Harlington and is anything being done to mitigate it? The water running down Westoning Road seems worse than ever. What happened to drainage? 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 Church	4
Ramblers Wellbeing Walks	5
Inner Wheel Club of Luton Chiltern	5
Flittabus	6
Painting Group	7
Pancake Parlour	7
Brain Tumour Research	8
Gestalt Theatre Group	9
Messy Church News	10
Harlington Lower School	11
Half Way Up The Hill	11
ADALHS	12
Harlington Performs	14
Harlington Neighbourhood Help	15
World Day of Prayer	16
Flit Vale Wildlife Group	17
Crafternoon Tea	18
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
Directory Changes	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.

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

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

## Advertisements



# **GARAGE**

service x repair

My name is Jack Chauhan, I live in Harlington and own a family Garage in Luton  
Beech Hill Garage (Est 1977) 110 Marsh Road Luton LU3 2NL

**Tel 01582 504929/ 07860209098.**

We repair/service **all makes and models** and no job is too big.

We have competitive rates and customer satisfaction is paramount to us.

I have customers who live in the village, who would happily provide a reference  
if requested.

I would appreciate it, if next time you want your car serviced/repared that you  
consider me.

**I can pick-up/return your car/van from the village.**

## **STROBE ELECTRICS**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**NIC APPROVED**

ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS

**House Rewires Part P REG**

**No Job Too Big or Small**

**For a job well done**

**Quality Assured**

**Call Graeme**

**01582 451442**

**or**

**07956 570692**

## **HI Education**

### **Specialist Dyslexia tuition**

- Qualified Specialist Dyslexia Teacher (BDA Member with Accredited Teacher Status)
- 1-1 specialist dyslexia tuition offered for EY, KS1, KS2 and KS3 learners.

### **English and Maths 1-1 tuition**

- 1-1 Phonics, Maths and English Tuition offered for Early Years, KS1 and KS2 learners.
- Fully Qualified Teacher - over 18 years teaching in local schools.
- Home-schooling and after school tuition offered.
- Enhanced DBS checked.

E-mail Helen Ingram on:

E: [helen@hi-education.co.uk](mailto:helen@hi-education.co.uk)

[www.hi-education.co.uk](http://www.hi-education.co.uk)

# Advertisements



**IRONING | LAUNDRY | ALTERATIONS | REPAIRS**

**Your Harlington Laundry and Ironing Service.**

Washing and/or ironing, alterations, repairs, wedding dress cleaning, curtains, duvets, blankets mattress toppers and throws. Curtain linings changed

Private and business customers welcome.

Monday to Friday - 9am to 6pm  
Saturday - 9am to 5pm

Please pop in or we can pick up and deliver to you.

2 Lincoln Way , Harlington, LU56NA 01525  
875980 | 0745 9906412

**darrenmayhew**  
**HANDYMAN** *from* **HARLINGTON**

| flat pack furniture | diy  
| decorating | minor repairs  
| jet washing | garden tidying  
| fence painting... and much more!

*For anything at all, big or small, why not give me a call on*

**07867 918389**

darren@mayhew.biz



**StotenGillam**  
chartered accountants  
chartered tax advisers

Providing an outstanding professional, cost effective and friendly service to our business and personal clients.

**OUR SERVICES**

- Taxation**  
Pay the minimum tax
- Compliance**  
Business administration
- Support**  
Grow your business
- Start-ups**  
Your business a reality
- Get to know you**  
Consultancy & advice

Call now for a free initial consultation  
**01582 608601**

Chartered Tax Advisers ICAEW CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

01582 608601 enquiries@stotengillam.co.uk  
www.stotengillam.co.uk  
Alban House, 99 High Street South, Dunstable, LU6 3SF

**Washing Machines  
Dryers - Dishwashers  
Repairs, Servicing & Sales**

A local family business offering a quality service at a competitive price  
Est. 1981

**Tel:01525 860148  
Or Tim Downing direct on  
07969 545 276**

A member of the  
White Goods Trade Association  
Fully insured

---

# A letter from the Methodist Minister

---

Dear friends of our village,  
those who worship in churches,  
those who do not,  
and everyone in between,  
February is a quiet month.

The excitement of Christmas has faded, the year is still finding its shape, and the days, though slowly lengthening, can feel cold and uncertain. It is often a month when we simply *carry on*. And yet, February holds a quiet kind of hope.

February invites all of us to pay attention to the small but faithful movements of life around us.

The Bible puts it this way:

*“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”*

*(Galatians 6:9)*

These words were written for people living through uncertainty and fatigue, and they still speak into our lives today. They remind us that goodness matters, even when results are not immediate, even when no one applauds.

Look closely and you will see that goodness already at work here.

A neighbour checking in.

A kettle put on for someone else.

A path still walked, even in the cold.

A laugh shared in a shop or at the bus stop.

These are not dramatic acts. They do not make headlines. But they are the threads that hold a village together.

As a Methodist minister, I believe God is often found not in loud declarations but in quiet goodness, in kindness that expects nothing back, in patience that does not keep score, in compassion that does not ask first what someone believes. But even if you do not share that belief, we can surely agree on this: *our lives are better when we choose care over indifference, and hope over cynicism.*

February also reminds us that light returns slowly. Not all at once. Not with fireworks. But steadily, faithfully. Each day by a few minutes more. And that is often how healing, trust, and community grow too, not overnight, but through small, repeated acts of care.

So wherever you stand inside a church, outside it, or firmly convinced you want nothing to do with it, know this: you matter to this village. Your presence, your voice, your way of being human all shape the place we share.

---

# Letter Ctd., Wellbeing Walks, Inner Wheel Club

---

May this month bring you steadiness rather than pressure, warmth rather than hurry, and the quiet confidence that even in the colder seasons, life is still moving towards light.

With good wishes to you all,

Love and peace

*Claudia*

Methodist Minister

---

## 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.

---



**INNER WHEEL CLUB OF LUTON CHILTERN**  
*Charity Concert in aid of*  
**WOMEN'S AID**  
*(& Other Local Charities)*  
*by*  
*The Woburn Sands Band*  
*presenting a*  
CONCERT OF POPULAR LIGHT MUSIC  
*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026*  
at Barton Village Hall  
Hexton Road, Barton Le Clay, MK454JY  
Concert commences 7.30pm  
ADMISSION £10.00

Raffle

Cash only  
PAYABLE AT THE DOOR

Tea & Coffee Available

**INNER WHEEL CLUB OF  
LUTON CHILTERN**



**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**  
**2.00PM – 4.30PM**  
**ST MARGARETS PARISH CENTRE**  
**LUCAS GARDENS – LU3 4BG**  
**REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE**  
**ADULTS £8.00 – CHILDREN £4.00**  
**FOR TICKETS**  
**PHONE VAL 07889 898807**

---

# Flittabus

---

*Flittabus*

Community Transport Ltd.



## Your bus service run by volunteers

Our website: [flittabus.co.uk](http://flittabus.co.uk)

Our excursions: [flittabus.co.uk/excursions/](http://flittabus.co.uk/excursions/) 07563 170067

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. 3 Feb 2026	<b>9:15 am</b> Bus stop on Station Rd, a few yards down from the cross-roads.	<b>1:00 pm</b> Exit Door 5
For the route map, see <a href="http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/">flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/</a>		

### 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. 5/12/19/26 Feb 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 <a href="http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl6-new/">flittabus.co.uk/route-fl6-new/</a>		

### 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. 6/13/20/27 Feb 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 <a href="http://flittabus.co.uk/route-fl7-new/">flittabus.co.uk/route-fl7-new/</a>		

### A Special Note

If you don't have access to the internet, you may be interested to read our piece in the *Oracle* magazine (January 2026, page 52). It's a full-page article, titled *Community Transport*, where we describe all the many services that Flittabus has to offer.

---

## Painting Group *plus* Pancake Parlour

---

Do you enjoy painting, be it your own design or simply painting by numbers?

Then why not join us on a Friday morning at the Parish Hall, to continue or restart an activity that you enjoy.

We meet from 10.00a.m until 12.00a.m. with coffee and biscuits at 11.00a.m.

At present the charge is £4 per session which covers the hire of the hall and cost of refreshments.

If more people come along, we may be able to reduce the cost

There is no commitment to come every week. Pay on the day in cash please.

So, pick up those brushes and canvasses and come and join us.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Pat King 07484 614892



---

## Pancake Parlour

---

The Methodist church is hoping to run Pancake Parlour again this year, in aid of our charity of the year, the Paynter Home in Nuwara Eliya. Sri Lanka.

Pancake Day is 17<sup>th</sup> February and the parlour will run from 3 pm to 6 pm. Drop in and join us for pancakes, toppings and tea.

(Subject to some work being done in the kitchen, so watch out for any breaking news!)



"If apples were pears  
And peaches were plums  
And the rose had a different name.  
If tigers were bears  
And fingers were thumbs  
I'd love you just the same."  
- *Valentine's Day Songs and Poems*



---

# Brain Tumour Research

---



## Blue Sack!



At the last minute ie today, 9th January, I have heard the news that the blue sack has raised £136.20 for Brain Tumour Research. There were lots of interesting items in the bag, so thank you to all of you who contributed to the bag and hopefully cleared out some items that were cluttering you up but have raised vital funds for the charity. However, now I have started my spring cleaning I have only gone and found a camera; how annoying, it could have gone in the blue sack!

I was astounded this year. I received £425 in donations for the charity over the Christmas period. Many thanks to you all for your support and kindness. And many people who bought Christmas cards also made donations not asking for change. Cards raised £636.40 this year. Thank you to all those of you who bought cards which will also have raised awareness of the charity in those who received your card, many thanks.

Plants, pots and sundries from outside my house raised £1798.97 in 2025. Thank you to all those who supported.

Somebody suggested I write a gardening diary. Well, I don't feel an authority on the subject but I can tell you what has been planted. Thank you to Elliot who returned to help with the charity plants. We compared this warm dry gardening session with the wet, rainy, cold first gardening session when the rain dripped off the garage door down our necks; gardening is so much more comfortable now. I tidied up my greenhouse to make room for seed trays. Elliot sowed lupin seeds and Tumbling Tom tomatoes and we put them in the electric propagator. He set some spring bulbs in pots and some sedum house plants. It will soon be time to set chillis, peppers and geraniums. So we are on our way! I was thrilled when Elliot said "I had forgotten how much I enjoyed gardening" so come on Harlington, give it a go. Make it your New Year's resolution to grow your dinner and have colourful gardens that encourage birds, insects and butterflies! Help save the planet and have fun!

Jane Barltrop

"The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within."

- *William C. Bryant*

# Advertisement *plus* Gestalt Theatre



## The Fold Yoga Studio, Harlington

Move • Breathe • Connect

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.

Come and (re)discover the many benefits Yoga brings:

- Stress relief and relaxation
- Improved flexibility and mobility
- Build strength and balance
- Better posture and back care
- Time for self-care and calm
- 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](mailto: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.

**HAVE A CHANCE TO BE IN THE ANNUAL PANTO!**

### 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](mailto:Gestalt.theatre@gmail.com) to register interest**  
[www.gestalttheatre.com](http://www.gestalttheatre.com) [@gestalt.theatre](https://www.instagram.com/gestalt.theatre)

---

# Messy Church News

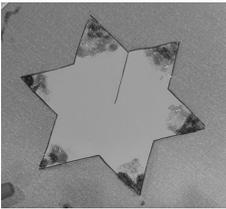
---



February is the shortest month, and this year, the 3rd Saturday of the month is as late a date as it can be, the 21st. We meet 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, and then we finish with tea. Unfortunately

the timing of Contact, combined with the timing of Messy Church, always means I'm telling you what we did 2 months ago.

Do you remember Christmas? That time that seems so long ago now. Our December Messy Church was obviously all about Christmas. There is so much to the Christmas story that, if you try to tell it all you can only scratch the surface, so each year we like to focus on one aspect in particular, and this time we chose the wise men. Traditionally there were three, but that is only because of the three gifts.



Their story starts with a star. We made stars, and strung lights for one in the window behind the blue screen. We also made star shaped biscuits. We represented the travel with



camel faces made from paper



plates, and in Christmas Tree baubles containing miniature dioramas. We also had finger puppets



for the younger ones and story wheels giving the whole story overview.

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

"Why, what's the matter,  
That you have such a February face,  
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?"  
- William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

---

# Harlington Lower School *plus* 1/2 Way Up The Hill

---



At the time of writing, we have just returned to school after the Christmas holidays and are looking forward to an exciting time of learning. At Harlington Lower School, we follow the 'Pathways to Write' programme for our English lessons, which is based on high-quality children's literature. This half term, our classes are exploring a wonderful range of books: Reception is reading *Naughty Bus* by Jan Oke; Year 1 is enjoying *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright; Year 2 is discovering *The Dragon Machine* by Helen Ward; Year 3 is traveling back in time with *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura; and Year 4 is exploring history with *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit.

We have already had a thrilling first week back, filled with special events designed to bring these stories to life. Our Reception class was surprised by a "special delivery" of a big red bus, while the Year 2 children were amazed to find a dragon's nest at school! These experiences are carefully planned to inspire the children's imagination and curiosity, and we are eagerly anticipating the creative writing that will blossom as a result.

We love reading at Harlington Lower School and are always looking for more volunteers to share this passion by reading with individual children. If you would be interested in volunteering your time, please contact us at [office@harlingtonlower.co.uk](mailto:office@harlingtonlower.co.uk).

---

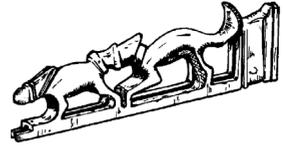
## Half Way Up The Hill—More from the Methodists

---



At the Methodist church we do a lot with children and young people, much of which doesn't get into Contact. 626 Club meets practically every Friday, including during many of the holidays. It is for children from age 6 to school year 6, hence the name. We do a lot of games, some very active, others table games. We also do craft of various kinds, or have Lego or K'nex out. Many years, we invite club members to make puppets to join in our Carol service, and the children also make things for Mother's Day both for their own mothers and for ladies in the church, whether or not they are mothers. One reason we don't publicise 626 is that there is often a waiting list, sometimes more than a year long!





**Monday 2nd February 2026**

## **The de Havilland Aircraft Company**



**DH Comet Racer**



**Hatfield Building © BAE Systems.**

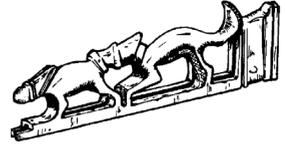
The history and achievements of the de Havilland Aircraft Company, with reference to its founder, Geoffrey de Havilland, who built his own flying machine in 1909. From this, he created one of the largest and most innovative aerospace companies of the 20th Century, based at Hatfield. We examine the work 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.*

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



### **Monday 2nd March 2026 Luton Works**



Coop Cocoa Factory

In this talk, Pamela looks at the development of Luton in the 19th to mid-20th centuries and the transformation of the town from a rural market town to an industrial centre attracting workers from around the world.

**Speaker – Pamela Birch (County Archivist)**



T Balmforth & Co – Boiler Makers

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

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



Harlington Performs

# 40TH ANNIVERSARY

WHATS COMING UP  
THIS YEAR!

**CABARET**  
11/07/2026  
2:30&7:30

**MURDER  
MYSTERY**  
17/04/2026  
18/04/2026

**PANTO**  
4/12/2026  
5/12/2026

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
10/10/2026

# HARLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HELP



## Notice of Annual General Meeting 2026

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm  
at 25 Sundon Road**

### **All interested parties welcome**

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

We currently have 26 volunteers, mostly drivers, but we also have non-drivers as we help with forms, prescription collections, shopping etc.

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

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

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

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

---

# World Day of Prayer Service

---

**Friday 6th March**

**St. Mary Magdalene, Church Road, Westoning, MK45 5JW**

**Begins at 2.00., followed by refreshments.**

The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria. In our village of Harlington, all churches have joined with the churches in Westoning, Toddington, and Chalgrave to prepare and be part of this service. As we take part in this service we join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending 146 countries later in American Samoa. The theme this year is:



**I Will Give You Rest.**

All are welcome. Do come and join us.

Should you require a lift to Westoning church on the 6th March, or would like more information, do contact me.(07501646250)



The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

---

# Flit Vale Wildlife Group

---



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

## Wildlife walks & talks

### Fundraising quiz for the Wildlife Trust

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

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)

"Valentine's Day is thought to have evolved from a spring holiday celebrated in the days of ancient Rome. The feast of Lupercalia was actually celebrated on February 15 and honoured the god Lupercus, who protected the people and their herds from wolves. On this day, dances were held for all the single young men and women. A man would draw his partner's name from a piece of papyrus placed in a bowl. The man not only danced with his partner but was also obligated to protect her throughout the new year, which began in March. In many cases, the partners became sweethearts and were soon married. When the tradition of these dances was later revived in the Middle Ages, a man would wear his sweetheart's name on his sleeve. Even today we refer to someone quick to show feeling as "wearing his heart on his sleeve.""

- Valentine's Day Legends

---

## Crafternoon Tea *plus* Harlington in Bloom

---

Our **February 2026** meetings will be on **9<sup>th</sup>**, and **23<sup>rd</sup>**, and our first meeting in March 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** – we are holding a “Swap or give away” session! If you have projects you have started, but feel you will never finish them, or that you have been given, and, again, feel you will not complete them, bring them, 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.

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

---

## Harlington in Bloom

---



Our AGM will be held on Friday 6 Feb 2026 in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.

The dates for the rest of 2026 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)

---

## Advertisement

---



### 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

"Late February days; and now, at last,  
Might you have thought that  
Winter's woe was past;  
So fair the sky was and so soft the air."  
- *William Morris*

# 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

<b>Alison Doyle</b>	<b>01525 875933</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk">clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk</a>
Parish Office, Church Rd, Harlington LU5 6LE		

### CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

<b>Cllr Mary Walsh</b>	<a href="mailto:Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Mary.Walsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Cllr Gary Purser</b>	<a href="mailto:Gary.Purser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">Gary.Purser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>

## All Residents are invited to attend Council meetings:

<b>All meetings are held at the Parish Hall Church road, Harlington, LU5 6LE</b>	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 *plus* Wednesday Coffee

---



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**

**February 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> – Polly Oliver

8<sup>th</sup> – Vicky Yorke

15<sup>th</sup> – Lighthouse Café

22<sup>nd</sup> – John Doohan



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)

---

## 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.



---

# 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.



## **FEBRUARY preachers** are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 10 am      BB enrolment led by Rev. Claudia Lupi and TFT
- 6 pm      Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi.
- 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am      Local Arrangement
- 15<sup>th</sup> 10 am     Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm    Circuit Ash Wednesday service at The Square, Dunstable
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am     Michael Adams

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.

---

**COFFEE MORNING** 28th February 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.

---

## **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 **February 2026** are:

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Patrick Kandeh
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Joanne Sherwood
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Alan and Christine Parfit
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Claudia Lupi



---

## **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)

---

# St Mary's Churchwarden

---

## St Mary's Church



**Christmas Tree Festival:** Here are the winners of the Christmas Tree Festival weekend in December: Favourite Tree **Adults**

- 1 Harlington Hogspital
- 2 Harlington Village Action Group
- 3 The Hub & Spoke.

### **Children**

- 1 Beavers
- 2 Rainbows
- 3 Pre-School.

Well done everyone.

**Messy Church:** **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February** is our next relaxed family celebration in the Parish Hall from 9am, with breakfast, stories, song and crafts.

In our January Messy Church we heard about the history and meaning of the Christingle. We then made our own using oranges, red ribbon and candles, and sang the song 'He's got the whole world in His hands' – with actions!

**Churchyard:** our most recent tidy up session in January saw a small band of volunteers from the Friends of St Mary's clearing leaves, acorns and beech nuts from the paths and memorials. We shall be there again on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March between 10am -12 if you'd like to join us. New volunteers are always very welcome. And why do trees hate riddles?..... Because they don't like being stumped.

**Save the Date:** our popular **Church Quiz** will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** in the Village Hall. See our posters, noticeboard, or March Contact for more details. We hope the defending champions 'Double Digits' will be there to defend their title.

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

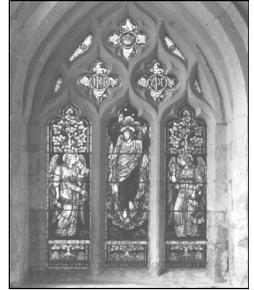
---

# St. Mary's Church Services

---

Everyone is welcome to attend services in our beautiful village church. February sees the start of Lent with special services on Ash Wednesday. February's services are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 8 am Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer  
9.30 am Candlemas Morning Praise Service
- 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am Families' Messy Church in Parish Hall  
9.30 am Holy Communion
- 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes  
7 pm Ash Wednesday service at Westoning Church
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 is 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)**

Women marry men hoping they will change. Men marry women hoping they will not. So each is inevitably disappointed.

- *Albert Einstein*

# Advertisements

## YOUR LOCAL FITTED KITCHEN & BEDROOM SPECIALISTS



**FREE HOME DESIGN SERVICE  
EXPERT INSTALLATION**



The  
**Kitchen & Bedroom**  
STUDIO

Showroom:

Inside The Olde Watermill Shopping Village  
Barton-Le-Clay, MK45 4RF Tel: 01582 882020

[www.kitchenbedroom.studio](http://www.kitchenbedroom.studio)



## Your local builder for over 30 years

All aspects of building work undertaken, including:

- Extensions
- Kitchens
- Plumbing
- Conversions
- Bathrooms
- Electrical
- Alterations
- Loft Conversions
- Carpentry
- Maintenance
- Home Offices
- Decorating

**Please contact us for a free quotation**

2 Hewlett Road, Luton, LU3 2RP  
Tel: 01582 594766 | Email: [whitefensome@aol.com](mailto:whitefensome@aol.com)

# Advertisements



BlueSky Gardens

Fencing - Patios - Turfing  
Decking - Planting  
Garden Design  
Garden Maintenance

*Based in Harlington*  
Call Jack for a free quotation!

07910838810  
blueskygardens2017@yahoo.com

www.the-doghouse.uk

the  G  
house grooming salon

- Bespoke and personalised
- Specialising in S-M sized dogs
- OCN 3 Dog Grooming Diploma
- Fully insured
- Trained in canine first aid
- State of the art equipment
- Professional salon products

 07725 051381 



# James

## Plumbing & Heating

Local, reliable and quality service

-  Boiler servicing
-  Landlord Certificates
-  Boiler and central heating installation
-  Heating breakdowns
-  Heating and boiler upgrades
-  Radiator replacement or relocation
-  General plumbing work

Call for a free no obligation quote.  
Mob: 07970 275358  
Tel: 01582 882245  
Email: danieljames5@outlook.com



225428

## KP Sewing Repairs & Alterations Sewing by hand or machine

Friendly, convenient service  
Pick up & deliver  
Harlington based



Contact Karen:  
 07930 443123  
 kpsewing@outlook.com

---

## Village Diary *plus* Directory Changes

---

### 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 7.30 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
9 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
9 <sup>th</sup>	HNH AGM	25 Sundon Road 7.30 pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wildlife 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
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Parlour	Methodist Church Hall 3 – 6 pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
28 <sup>th</sup>	Band Concert	Barton Village Hall 7.30 pm

### March

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>	World Day of Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Westoning 2 pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tidy-up	St. Mary's Churchyard 10 am – 12 noon
21 <sup>st</sup>	St. Mary's Quiz	Village Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	ADALHS talk	Flitwick Library Theatre 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 MARCH 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH FEBRUARY 2026**

---

## Directory Changes

---

Friday Painting Group

Parish Hall 10 – 12

Pat King

[p.king109@btinternet.com](mailto:p.king109@btinternet.com)

07484 614892