

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

March is a celebratory month, with St. David's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday, not to mention the Spring Equinox, after which the day time is longer than the night. This marks the start of spring, although the meteorologist use the 1st for the start. I'm looking forward to spring. Cold bright winter days are one thing... Hopefully by St. George's Day in April the weather will have improved.

Having installed smart meters, Anglian Water are now checking on leaks by seeing when there is water running all day. Letters are going out. It could be a good time to be a plumber.

Finally, welcome to all new residents of Harlington. It's a funny place. We hope you will join in the village activities. Most of the other villagers were new once, even if it was a long time ago. We were made welcome.

Clive

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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.

April 2026 copy by 10th March please.

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A letter from the Life Church

Greetings to you all from Life Church.

Over the past few weeks, I have spent time reflecting on the impact of my family on my life and faith. It has been prompted by my husband, Pete and I sorting through hundreds of family photos that we have collected from clearing family homes and others taken by mainly by Pete over the years. We were looking to find some special gems to create a memory book for a sister's special birthday.

I have beautiful memories of spending time with my grandma and going to her little Methodist chapel in Greenfield which, sadly, has now been converted into a house. She spoke about her faith and the impact of a hymn she loved, Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine. This hymn begins with confidence. No doubt. No hesitation. Just certainly.

Fanny J. Crosby, the writer of this hymn, was blind from early childhood. Darkness was her daily companion, but she wrote thousands of hymns, many with light, joy and confidence in her faith. In 1873 Fanny was visiting her friend Phoebe who played a melody on her piano, she turned to Fanny and asked a simple question: "What does this tune say to you?" She smiled and replied "Why, it says 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!'" The lyrics flowed and in a brief time the hymn was complete. Fanny Crosby lived with physical limitations, loss, misunderstandings, and hardship but she did not write about fear. She wrote about confidence.

"Perfect submission,"

"Perfect delight,"

"Visions of rapture"

These were not words of someone defeated by life. They were words of someone who had found something stronger than sight. Blessed Assurance is not about a trouble-free life. It is about a settled soul. A faith that says without seeing:

"This is my story,

This is my song

Praising my saviour all the day long."

Grandma spoke about her strong faith in God and how this hymn was her story too. She had lived a difficult life, living through the war and moving away from her family to work in service prior to marriage, but she found Jesus and he was her story. She shared Jesus throughout her life and I clearly remember her sharing her love for Jesus with me. At her funeral, this hymn was sung alongside another old well-known hymn, "What a friend we have in Jesus."

Do you have anybody or anything that has impacted your life? It could be a

Letter Ctd., plus Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

song, a family member or person you have encountered. As Christians we have meet Jesus and have a real living assurance. Do you have an assurance like Fanny's in a relationship with Jesus? Do you want to explore more about what the Christian believes? Contact one of the local church leaders for an opportunity to discuss and explore more or come to one of the meetings listed in the Contact magazine.

Blessings

Carol Gibbs

Leader Life Church

"St. Patrick's Day is here, you see.
We'll pick some shamrocks, one, two, three.
We'll count the leaves and look them over,
And maybe find a four-leafed clover.
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,
Green for St. Patrick is the best.
I'll wear a green hat, very high,
And dance a jig--at least I'll try!"

Author Unknown

St. Patrick's Day—17th March



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.



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Our excursions: flittabus.co.uk/excursions/ 07563 170067

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FLITTABUS TO CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Route FL11

<i>Date</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart CMK</i>
The <u>first Tuesday</u> of every month e.g. 3 Mar 2026	9:15 am Bus stop on Station Rd, a few yards down from the cross-roads.	1:00 pm Exit Door 5
For the route map, see flittabus.co.uk/route-fl11-new/		

FLITTABUS TO FLITWICK TESCO

Route FL6

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Flitwick</i>
<u>Every Thursday</u> of the month e.g. 5/12/19/26 March 2026	9:03 am Westoning Rd 9:05 am Wingate Rd 9:07 am Lincoln Way Shops 9:10 am Bury Close 9:12 am opposite Tabor Close	10:50 am Tesco
For the route map, see flittabus.co.uk/route-fl6-new/		

FLITTABUS TO HITCHIN

Route FL7

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Hitchin</i>
<u>Every Friday</u> of the month e.g. 6/13/20/27 March 2026	9:17 am Upper School Goswell End Rd	12:15 pm St Mary's Square
For the route map, see flittabus.co.uk/route-fl7-new/		

Flittabus

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – flittabus.co.uk/excursions/

As you may be aware, our excursions organiser Derek very sadly passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of last year. This means we have had to change how we operate our excursions programme.

We will still be running excursions, and details of these will be displayed here in *Contact* (see below), on our website, and on our buses.

For the moment you can make a booking by:

* **phoning the excursion bookings line: 07 563 170 067**

* **paying by bank transfer, cheque or cash**

(At the present time we can't accept payment by credit card or debit card. However we aim to make this option available later in the year. Also we are currently unable to deal with excursion emails).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>
Sat 21 March & Sun 22 March 2026	Thriplow Daffodil Weekend Near Cambridge	£32, including transport & entry to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend & Country Fair
Details at: flittabus.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Thriplow-March26.pdf		

<i>Date</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>
Friday 24 April 2026	Springfields Outlet Shopping & Leisure	£30, transport only
S O L D O U T		

<i>Date</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>
Saturday 23 May 2026	Black Country Living Museum Dudley, W Midlands	£55 pp including transport and admission to the Black Country Living Museum
Details at: flittabus.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Black-Country-May26.pdf		

“Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes, the wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year.”

- *Ogden Nash*

Brain Tumour Research *plus* Wednesday Coffee



**Brain Tumour
Research**
Funding the fight

Passing on the thanks



I attended a cheque presentation evening in January to celebrate all the different organisations who joined forces with Flitwick Vale Rotary Club to fundraise for their senior citizens party and all the other good works that they support in our community and they in return present a cheque for £150 to each organisation who participates. I was approached by a member of the bowls club who was attending this event and explained that she had a brain tumour and she wanted to thank me for my fundraising efforts as she had received treatment and now just returns for annual scans and checks. I would like to pass this very sincere thanks to you all as it is you who support this fundraising enabling those suffering this type of cancer to benefit from the research that is able to take place as a result of your support. Thankyou.

The national “Wear A Hat Day” is planned this year for Friday 27th March. Here in Harlington, there will be a fundraising tea/coffee afternoon on Saturday 21st March in Harlington Village Hall so do hope you will be able to join us as well as refreshments there will be plants, home-made cards, what’s in the box? and a tombola. We do hope you will be able to join us.

If you are unable to join us for this event, please visit 132 Goswell End Road for your garden and house plants. Tumbling Tom plants are coming up and red geraniums are about to be sown. Thank you to Frankie and Steve for fetching bags of compost for sowing seeds. We are on our way, time to tend to our gardens and allotments, have fun!

Best wishes

Jane

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.



Advertisements *plus* Mini Lighthouse



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MINI LIGHTHOUSE

FOR 0-3 YRS



Thursday 5th & 19th March

9.30 - 11.00

Harlington Parish Hall

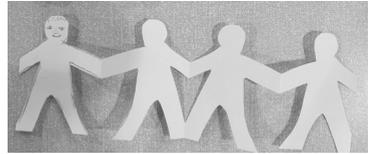
Messy Church News *plus* 1/2 Way Up The Hill



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was very close to our January Messy Church, so we looked at things that Jesus said about being one body. Sometimes even the church has trouble with us all being one, male and female, young and old, different ethnicities. Equality, diversity and inclusion aren't

always popular these days, but think how boring things would be if we were all the same! And sometimes other people have good ideas.

A challenge for this month is to work out where snakes fit into the theme of inclusion—we made some great paper-plate snakes..



Our March Messy Church is on the 21st at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and halls, which gives us the space to have paint and glue and songs and cooking and tea.

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

Half Way Up The Hill—More from the Methodists

Church should be for everyone, but it can be difficult for some. Access to the Methodist Church is flat, and we have a lift to the (otherwise) upstairs hall. We have chairs, some with arms, or we can move them to make extra space anywhere in the church if wanted. On the downside, parking is extremely limited.

We have large print books, and we have a hearing loop in the church and the lower hall. We are about to start experimenting with Auracast, a form of Bluetooth that some modern hearing aids use and which may, according to the RNID, be the technology for the future for Assistive Listening Services. If you can't get out easily, but have access to the internet, our morning services and some of our other activities can be accessed via Zoom or YouTube, with the YouTube version available to look at later as a recording. We try to include our Zoom congregation as fully as possible, you can even talk back to us. If you want to know more, have a word with me.

Clive Salmon

Harlington Lower School



We have had an exciting first half term at Harlington Lower School, with a healthy mix of creative opportunities and academic progress.

A highlight of last half term was our incredible Music Assembly. It was remarkable to see so many of our children showcasing their talents; in fact, there were more children performing than sitting in the audience! The standard of playing and singing was exceptionally high, and it was wonderful to see the progress that the children have made since our last Music Assembly in November. We are proud of the emphasis that we place on Music at Harlington Lower School and the impact that it has on the children.

The musical momentum continues as our school choir prepares for one of the biggest events of the year. They have been working tirelessly, rehearsing their repertoire for the upcoming 'Voice in a Million' performance at the OVO Arena. This is a spectacular opportunity for our children to perform on a world-class stage alongside thousands of other young voices, and the excitement leading up to it is palpable.

In February, we also marked Safer Internet Day. This was an important week where we focused on internet safety, digital wellbeing, and mental health. We believe it is vital to equip our pupils with the tools they need to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. To support this at home, we were pleased to host a parent workshop on internet safety, sharing practical advice and guidance with our families.

Looking ahead, the month of March promises even more excitement with several special events on the horizon. We are particularly looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which allows us to share our love of reading and explore new worlds through literature.

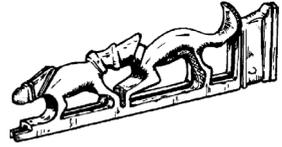
We value our community links and are always looking for more volunteers to share their time with us. Whether you have an interest in reading with our pupils or would like to visit and speak about a specific topic, please get in touch via office@harlingtonlower.co.uk.

"Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty."

William Shakespeare

St. David's Day 1st March





Monday 23rd March 2026

The Roman Villa and its Surrounding Archaeology at Warkton, Kettering



In 2021, after a chance finding, several years of excavations were undertaken in the fields surrounding Kettering. The work showed a multi-period archaeological site, which included a previously undiscovered Roman Villa. This talk will discuss the current ongoing excavations, contextualising the site into the wider landscape, and will present some of the archaeological artefacts that have been uncovered.

Speaker – Dr. David Errickson (Head of Cranfield Forensic Institute)

The talk will be preceded by the society AGM.

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.

An East End Update

The East Enders young and old did their usual fundraising last year including the church garden party.

It was a lovely, sunny afternoon. Barbara and her friends and my dear cousin came and entertained us with their music and lovely singing.

Ruth and Karen did their wonderful cream teas and the kettle was on the go manned by Mary with Lisa and the East End crew acting as waitresses making such wonderful memories. I thank God for that happy day.

Little did we realise how sad things were to become losing our wonderful Brian in September. He so looked forward to days like the garden party, catching up with friends old and new. He was the heart of East End. Always a massive part of the fundraising events, always supporting me to help others in so many ways. I will just end by saying how blessed I was to be married to him for nearly 60 years. I could go on talking about him and what a truly amazing man he was, but I would just like to say Thank You to him.

One special event he loved was Christmas Eve, the crib service. He even dressed up with his dear friend Tony to be wise men. He loved to see the children come to give Samson his carrots although Brian and Tony weren't keen to part with the chocolates!

So, in lovely remembrance of Brian, I thought it would be nice to invite the children to and come and visit Samson in his home as Brian always thought how sad it was that they only had a short time to say hello.



I know Samson would love to meet you all. He is very excited. He says he could get his pony mates to help, play games and even give pony rides and the East End humans have offered to make sandwiches and cake.

They say as I never knew my real birthday we can call it Samson's birthday party so on Saturday May 22nd from 2pm - 4pm come and have a fun afternoon.

We've even invited Paddington Bear so fingers crossed he can make it!

God Bless

Carole Fountain



A Tale of Off-road Cycling

When our family moved to Harlington in 1997, I had already done quite a lot of off-road cycling, having switched from distance running to off-road cycling in about 1988. By 1997 my brother and I had already cycled some of the UK long distance trails like the Ridgeway, the Icknield Way and the Peddars Way, as well as cycling some of the trails in the Lake District.



In Harlington, my neighbour Bryan or I used to get our bike out and leave for an off-road ride around the area, but never both of us on the same day. We kept saying “we must have a ride together sometime” but it never happened.

Then Bryan made an excellent decision. He submitted an article to Contact saying that if anyone was interested in off-road cycling, there would be a meeting down the pub to gauge interest. Surprisingly there were quite a few off-road cyclists in the Harlington area. Therefore in 2003, Harlington Off-Road Cycling started out with weekly evening rides, meeting at the Village Hall car park on Mondays, for a ride of a couple of hours. We had about 18 people on the email distribution list, which meant that we would generally have 9 or 10 people cycling every week.

There are so many highlights over the years but by 2010 some of us were getting keen. We were cycling two evenings a week, Mondays & Thursdays and in June that year, 6 of us entered the Marin Rough Ride, a 48km or 70km ride in Herefordshire. Also in September 2010, 14 of us took a three-day trip to the Lake District. This very rainy long weekend included routes around Coniston Water, Elterwater & Grizedale Forest. Last year one of our Saturday rides was riding the full length of the River Lea.

23 years later and Harlington Off-Road Cycling still exists. Our evening ride season starts when the clocks spring forward in March and it ends when the clocks fall back in October. We meet at the Village Hall car park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We also have ad hoc rides at other times, such as weekends, when we tend to ride longer routes further away from Harlington.

We cater for all skill levels and wait for everyone at the top of hills and junctions along the route. No-one gets left behind. Our group consists of men and women and some now have e-bikes. Evening rides are about 9 or 10 miles at the start of the season. The Tuesday evening rides gradually increase in distance during the season as people get fitter. The Thursday evening rides are held at about 10 miles all season, unless everyone turning up wants to ride for longer. Hopefully that gives people a chance to join in part of the way through the season.

Harlington Village Show *plus* Off-road *ctd.*

40th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026



Having been thorough some difficult times through the years, we are delighted to be reaching our 40th year! It is still a traditional 'Flower' Show, with adults and children exhibiting things they have grown, made, baked, photographed etc. We hope to look back at the classes from the first Show and repeat some of these this year for a trip down memory lane.

Now that signs of Spring are well and truly here, it's time to think about planning for this year. Time to sow seeds, care for your favourite pot plant, or take some lovely photos. The Village Show is for the whole village to enjoy. Entering for the first time might seem a bit daunting, but the committee are a very friendly bunch and you can send any queries via our Facebook page. Here you'll also find updates on this year's Show and classes, plus photos from last year.

We have started to prepare the schedule and classes. You wouldn't believe how much thought and preparation goes into this. Currently, the vegetable, fruit and flower classes will be the same as 2025. The Craft classes confirmed so far are: a 40th celebration card in any medium, and a Lego garden to your own design (maximum size 18" x 12"). Photography classes: Celebrations; Seasons in Harlington and My Favourite.....Preserve classes remain the same as 2025, whilst the cookery classes will all be different. Please note that exact details of exhibit sizes and number of items in a class etc will be in the schedule, and it's really important to check these before you enter. The schedules will be delivered in early July and will also contain a few tips on showing and preparing for the Show. More class details will be in the April Contact magazine.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

A Tale of Off-road Cycling *ctd.*

If you're interested in joining us or if you would like an individual small group taster ride to see if it is for you, then send an email to

HarlingtonOffRoadCycling@gmail.com

or join our FaceBook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HarlingtonOffRoadCycling/>

Ron Simmonds

World Day of Prayer Service *plus* Pre School

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)



Harlington Village Pre School & Wrap Around Care

Childcare
Choices

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

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

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

We also offer Wrap Around Care for children in their final year at Pre School to children in Year 4 at HLS.

Enquires: 07963 534038 staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

The Conifers, Westoning Road, Harlington, LU5 6PD

www.harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

Harlington Village Action Group



As we sit and wait for CBC to pass judgment on the planning application which would destroy the countryside and nature of our village, we on the HVAG feel it's time for an update on everything that has been achieved since September. Yes, it really is only 5 months!

CBC asked for objections and opinions, and oh boy did you respond. The final count was 1239 objections, 3 comments and two in favour. To put that into perspective, it was the 3rd largest number in CBC in recent years, behind only Flitwick and Shefford, and they both had far more warning than we did. A massive thank you to Rob & Sue in The Hub & Spoke, and Sanjeev in The Shop,

for providing space for the forms.

We have also been raising funds to help with leaflets, banners and in case we require future professional services. The Christmas hamper raffle raised an amazing £432. Numerous winners of the Old Sun quiz have kindly donated their prize money, whilst our own quiz in January raised a fantastic £509.02, after a great evening of fun, brain challenges and excellent Hub & Spoke pizzas! A massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in organising and supporting these events.

We have received many private donations, and monthly contributions, from residents, but one action stands out. CaSH. Campaign for Sustainable Harlington, was the forerunner of our own group. They raised funds and challenged the application to build the new football ground and the warehousing around it back in 2007. Their fundraising allowed them to engage professional services to assist their campaign, and ultimately, they were successful. The balance of their fund raising has now kindly been transferred to the HVAG account, so should it be required, we are in a good position to fight this, and future, planning applications, as they arise around the village area.

When CBC report back, there will be fresh action required, though ultimately, we hope it won't be. However, there are parcels of land all around us that are owned by developers, and we know they'll come knocking soon. But the village will be ready to go again.

So, a final THANK YOU, to everyone, for their help and support during this first phase, and rest assured, we'll be ready for the next one.

Crafternoon Tea *plus* Harlington in Bloom

Crafternoon Tea meets on alternate Mondays, at Harlington Methodist Church, between 2 and 4 pm. There are likely to be all sorts of different crafts on the go, and we are happy to share what skills we have with others. We have materials, tools and magazines available, some always on the premises, and some which can be brought in if required, so let me know if there is something you are likely to want.

Our **March 2026** meetings will be on **9th**, and **23rd**, and our **ONLY** meeting in April will be **20th** (6th is Easter Monday, and we will not meet then).

All meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

Our Swap Shop on 9th February went very well. More than 50% of what was brought was taken away, which was excellent. The remainder has gone either to the Keech shop at Flitwick, or to the regular Barnardo's craft fair at Ampthill. I am really glad that so many people wanted what others needed to pass on. We may well do this again.

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



Harlington in Bloom



The AGM for Harlington in Bloom had to be delayed until later in February, so no news yet, but watch out for dates of future working parties.

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

Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207/ rosemarypc86@gmail.com

Gardeners' Society *plus* Centrebus Route E



We had a very successful social with several quizzes enjoyed by members. As usual we also enjoyed the variety of refreshments members had brought.

We will have a Spring Social at 7pm in the Village Hall on May 9th with a talk by George Lockwood who is a full time totally organic passionate gardener, he was taught his trade at Capel Manor College and has been gardening

for the last 15 years.

His talk will be entitled "Perennials in a royal garden (Highgrove)".

As the cost of a speaker has greatly increased recently we have decided to charge an entrance fee of £2 for members & £5 for non-members.

Our annual coach outing this year will be to RHS Hyde Hall in Essex on 5th September with free entry for members. More details later.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

Centrebus Route E

Many of you will have noticed that there is now a bus going along Lincoln Way. This is Centrebus Route E, extended to include Harlington since January this year. A number of people have asked me to put it in Contact to let you know. The bus starts (or finishes, depending on your point of view) in Harlington, and goes through Toddington, Chalton, Houghton Regis, Dunstable and then to Luton.



For the full timetable, go onto the Central Beds Council website under Transport, but basically it is intended to run as an hourly service, Monday to Saturday, leaving the Post Office at 35 mins past the hour or the Station at 39 mins past.

From the number of people who have mentioned it, it sounds like a useful bus service, although, like all buses, it is affected by traffic and similar delays.

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

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 westoningbaptistchurch.org

Harlington Parish Council

Harlington Parish Council

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

PARISH CLERK / COUNCIL OFFICE

Alison Doyle	01525 875933	clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk
Parish Office, Church Rd, Harlington LU5 6LE		

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

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

All Residents are invited to attend Council meetings:

All meetings are held at the Parish Hall Church road, Harlington, LU5 6LE	DATE	MEETING TYPE	TIME
	3rd March 2026	Finance & General Purposes	7.30pm
	10th March 2026	Full Council	7.30pm
	14th April 2026	Full Council	7.30pm
	28th April 2026	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm

Want to keep up to date?

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

Looking for a venue to hire?

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

Stay up to date with local news and events

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

LIFE Church *including* Easter Egg Hunt



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

March 2026

1st – Communion & Sharing

8th – Pioneer Sunday

15th – Rosie Hughes

22nd – Carol

29th – Easter Lighthouse Event



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

Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday March 29th

Starting at 10.30

Harlington Parish Hall

Refreshments and Activities on return



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.



MARCH preachers are:

- 1st 10 am Come and See led by Martin Wallis
 6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Joanne Sherwood.
8th 10 am Tina Salmon
15th 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
22nd 10 am Sheila Norris
29th 10 am Peter Baker

If you want to join us on Zoom, the Zoom link is normally sent out the day before. Email me, clivedsalmon@aol.com, or phone 874481 to be added to the Zoom email list, or if you would like our printed service emailed to you.

COFFEE MORNING 28th March 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 **March 2026** are:

- 5th - Robert Johns talking about the Flittabus
12th - Ivor Mitchelmore
19th - Tim Haines
26th - Sheila Norris



ROOM BOOKINGS

Contact Trevor Caveney if you are interested in booking any of our Halls, Rooms or the Church. The Halls are suitable for meetings, groups, clubs and particularly good for children's parties. Reasonable prices. Tel 01525 754527 or t315485@gmail.com

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



World Day of Prayer: Friday 6th March at 2pm in St Mary Magdalene Church Westoning. This is an opportunity to join with churches around the world as they celebrate using the same order of service, prepared this year by Christian women in Nigeria. The service theme is drawn from Matthew's Gospel, and reflects on the words, *"I will give you rest"*. *All are welcome, and there are refreshments afterwards.*

Messy Church: Sunday 8th March is our next relaxed family celebration in the Parish Hall from 9am, with breakfast, stories, song and crafts. Our theme will be based on mums in the Bible, thinking about Mothering Sunday on March 15th.

In our February Messy Church we heard the parable of the Good Samaritan and what it can teach us about showing care and compassion to each other. We decorated hearts and pebbles, and sang the song 'Love one another, and be kind to each other'.

Churchyard: Saturday 21st March 10am – 12 this is our next tidy up session if you'd like to join us. New volunteers are always very welcome. Bring gloves to wear, and any small garden tools you think could be useful. Once upon a time, I wasn't all that interested in gardening, but I planted a few seeds, and it grew on me.....

QUIZ: on Saturday 21st March, our popular Quiz is back! Entry into the Village Hall is from 7.15pm, with the Quiz starting at 7.30pm. Suggested minimum donation £5 per person, either on booking or on the door. 6 people to a team. Bring your own drinks, nibbles provided. Numbers will be limited so please book if you can via email: admin@harlingtonchurch.org. Or sign the list in the church. All donations go to our Restoration Fund, and there will also be a raffle.

Harlington Lower School Easter service: Friday 27th March. We're really looking forward to welcoming children from the Lower School in their colourfully decorated Easter bonnets, after which we'll all enjoy some hot cross buns.

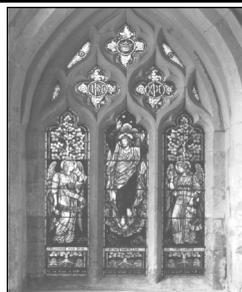
For service and event information, see Contact, the noticeboard outside church or our website: www.harlingtonchurch.org. The website also has photos of recent events and information on upcoming events.

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

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church. This month there are special services for Mothering Sunday and Holy Week in the lead up to Easter, which is on 5th April. March's services are:

- 1st 8 am Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer
9.30 am Morning Praise Service for St. David's Day
- 8th 9 am Families' Messy Church in Parish Hall
9.30 am Holy Communion
- 15th 9.30 am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion with flowers
- 22nd 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 29th 9.30 am Palm Sunday Holy Communion concluding hopefully with greeting Samson the donkey outside church
- 2nd 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion (benefice service)
- 3rd 9.45 am Good Friday Walk of Witness from Methodist Church
2.00 pm Good Friday Last Hour on the Cross
- 5th 9.30 am Easter Day worship service



Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Other times

The church can be made available for private prayer by arrangement, please contact one of the church wardens, Tricia Murphy tricia.murphy5@ntlworld.com or Neil Walter neil@harlingtonchurch.org, or the Church Reader Dr. Robert Johns robert@harlingtonchurch.org. Alternatively email admin@harlingtonchurch.org.

For personal enquiries, for requests for prayer, or for enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Fr. Mark Edwards revmarkedwards@outlook.com 07305 822186 or Dr. Robert Johns robert@harlingtonchurch.org 01525 873214.

Further information and useful links

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

The church Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/
A Church Near You at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667/>

Remember that we are here for you. **Fr Mark Edwards, Dr Robert Johns (Reader), Tricia Murphy and Neil Walter (Church Wardens)**

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Village Diary *plus* Directory Changes

March

2 nd	ADALHS talk	Flitwick Library Theatre 7.30 pm
3 rd	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
3 rd	Finance and Gen. Purposes	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
5 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
6 th	World Day of Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Westoning 2 pm
8 th	Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
9 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
10 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
19 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
21 st	Tidy-up	St. Mary's Churchyard 10 am – 12 noon
21 st	Coffee Afternoon	Village Hall
21 st	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
21 st	St. Mary's Quiz	Village Hall
23 rd	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
23 rd	ADALHS talk	Flitwick Library Theatre 7.30 pm
28 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
29 th	Easter Egg Hunt	Starting at Parish Hall 10.30 am

April

7 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
14 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
17/18 th	Murder Mystery	Harlington Performs
20 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
28 th	Annual Parish Meeting	Parish 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 APRIL 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH MARCH 2026

Directory Changes

Friday Painting Group

Parish Hall 10 – 12

Pat King

p.king109@btinternet.com

07484 614892