
Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Spring seems to have arrived, and the ground is starting to dry out. The sound of lawns being mowed is audible above the sound of construction. The sun is shining sometimes for whole days.

Speaking of construction, we have yet another developer wanting to build on land around the village. Watch out for information from the Harlington Village Action Group or other sources.

Easter is coming at the start of April, one of the major celebration of the Christian Church. Come and see the drama at the shops on Good Friday.

On the subject of Drama, Harlington Performs is celebrating 40 years this year. I wonder how many of us who were involved in the first show thought that it would still be going strong in 40 years?

Any new things we should be starting for the next 40? Clive

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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.

May 2026 copy by 10th April please.

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A letter from the Methodist Minister

Dear friends and neighbours of Harlington Village,

As Easter approaches, I am thinking of you all with warmth, gratitude, and hope. It is a real joy and privilege to serve among you here in Harlington, a village where community, kindness, and quiet care for one another are so deeply felt.

This year, Easter arrives at a time when the world feels especially fragile. We hear daily of war, suffering, and uncertainty, and many hearts are understandably anxious and weary. In such times, the longing for peace becomes something we all share, whatever our beliefs, backgrounds, or life experiences. We all desire a world where compassion is stronger than conflict and where human dignity is protected.

As a Christian minister, Easter is at the heart of my faith. Yet I am very aware that in our village there are people of faith, people of different faiths, and people who do not identify with any faith at all. Please know that this message is written with deep respect for every one of you. Easter, at its core, speaks of hope, renewal, and the possibility of new beginnings, values that resonate far beyond the walls of any church.

The Bible says:

“Do not be afraid. He is not here; he has risen.” (Matthew 28:5–6)

For Christians, these words speak of the resurrection of Jesus and the assurance that love, life, and peace are stronger than fear, violence, and death. In a world marked by war and unrest, this message becomes a quiet but powerful reminder that darkness never has the final word.

But even for those who do not share this belief, Easter still invites us to pause and reflect on the enduring human truths of courage, hope, reconciliation, and new life after hardship. After long winters, spring still comes. After sorrow, healing can grow. After conflict, peace can still be sought and built together.

Here in Harlington, we experience these small resurrections in everyday life: in neighbours helping neighbours, in a kind word, in shared conversations, in patience with one another, and in the gentle beauty of our village as it comes into spring. These moments matter deeply. They are signs that goodness is alive among us.

My prayer, and my sincere hope is that this Easter may bring each of you peace in your heart, strength in uncertain times, and moments of quiet joy. Whether you celebrate Easter as a religious festival, a cultural tradition, or simply as a sign of spring and renewal, may it be a season that lifts your spirit.

May we, as a village, continue to be a place of welcome, understanding, and

Letter Ctd., Good Friday Walk, Wellbeing Walks

peace in a world that so often needs these things.

With every blessing and heartfelt good wishes for a peaceful and hopeful Easter,

Revd. Claudia Lupi

Methodist Minister

Churches Together Good Friday Walk



The Good Friday Walk of Witness will start from the Methodist Church at 9.45 am (3rd April). We will walk round some of the main areas of the village, then will present the Good Friday story in dramatized form outside the shops, starting at about 11 am.

We will then go to St. Mary's Church for tea/coffee and Hot Cross buns.

Everyone is welcome to join us on the walk, or gather at the shops then come to St. Mary's.

If you would like to take part in the drama, please let me know.

Clive



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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Route FL6

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FLITTABUS TO HITCHIN

Route FL7

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Hitchin</i>
Fri 3/10/17/24 Apr 2026	9:17 am Upper School Goswell End Rd	12:15 pm St Mary's Square

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – flittabus.co.uk/excursions/

excursion bookings line: 07 563 170 067

<i>Date</i>	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Cost per person</i>
Sat 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

Maulden Walking Football



Maulden Walking Football Club is currently looking to welcome new members to our weekly Sunday session, 6:00–7:00 pm or Tuesday session, 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm on the 3G pitches at Flitwick Leisure Centre. Members can choose one of either session.

Membership is open to players aged 50+, with several recent joiners in their 60s. All abilities are very welcome — some of our members are completely new to football, while others have many years of playing experience behind them.

Our sessions run every week throughout the year, with no seasonal breaks.

For those who wish to take part (entirely optional), we also organise monthly Mini Tournaments on Saturdays between 1:00–3:00 pm, running from February through to October. In addition, we host three Members' Tournaments each year in February, June and October, held on a Friday evening from 8:00–10:00 pm.

There are also occasional additional matches, and every June we treat our members to a FREE coach trip to a seaside location for matches followed by a social get-together. This year's destination is Ramsgate.

We're more than just a football club — we also enjoy a strong social side, with events such as bowls nights, curry nights, pub nights, and more.

If you're interested, or know someone who might be (especially if they don't use social media), please get in touch via OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com. Or message 07496 287 628.

Martin Wright

Chairman of Maulden Walking Football Club - est. 2021

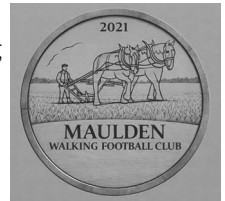
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/252103253269418>

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"April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain."
- T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*, 1922



Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**

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Mystery Delivery of Compost



A thousand thanks to the kind donor who left a big bag of compost beside my garden room at the beginning of March. That was such a lovely surprise and a massive help as the growing season begins.

Having needed to have a new boiler installed I took myself outside and out of the way to my garden room and spent a happy 2 1/2 days sowing seeds, potting on and taking fuschia cuttings. I took a look today, 6 days later, and the Gardener's Delight tomatoes are beginning to shoot as are the zinnias; it is so exciting. I have also sown Moneymaker, Pomodoro and Cocktail Crush tomatoes. I have sown sunflowers, cosmos, marigold, cucumber and marrow seeds to name but a few. My greenhouse and growhouse are both full of trays of plants and Kate's "cute" little round propagators which are homing pepper seeds, thanks Kate. A big thanks to the kind person who donated a brown paper bag with numerous packets of seeds; I shall enjoy sowing and growing them, a big thank you.

By the time you read this our wear a hat event will have happened. If you are reading this and you attended, thank you for your support, if you were part of the team running the show thank you. I will report on this event in the May edition of contact.

As always, thank you to all contributors of plants and those who visit 132 Goswell End Road to purchase and support our fundraising, so far this year we have raised £67.50. Look out for the plastic growhouse outside my house probably sometime in May. I won't be putting out the tender plants until there are no further risks of frosts. So in the meantime prepare your gardens: weed, turn soil and get ready for a beautiful garden and home grown fruit and vegetables, you won't be disappointed!

Happy Gardening

See you in May!

Jane Barltrop

The April 's in her eyes: it is love's spring,

And these the showers to bring it on. Be cheerful.

~William Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra*, c.1606 [III, 2, Antony]

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"Hark, I hear a robin calling!
List, the wind is from the south!
And the orchard-bloom is falling
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches
Fair and faint is woven mist,
And the river's orient reaches
Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing
Of the lure of April days;
Every piney glen is ringing
With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together
Springtime lore of daffodils,
Giving to the golden weather
Greeting on the sun-warm hills."

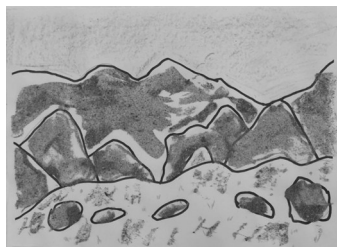
*Lucy Maud Montgomery,
Spring Song*

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



Our April Messy Church will take place on the 18th 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. Our theme will relate to the time after Easter.

February seems like a long time ago now—a peril of the monthly magazine cycle—but it was just after Pancake Day, and we thought about what the beginning of Lent is all about. We made sand pictures, painted stones to look like bread, made word clouds for countries, rock cakes and newspaper towers. We also made boats to remember Jesus calling his first disciples. You can see a video of the celebration on YouTube, and find more about what we did at cliveandтина.co.uk.



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

One group at the church which is both heard and seen is TFT. This three letter abbreviation stand for The Friday Thing which was the working name we used when we join our youth group with the company section of the Boys' Brigade. The full BB title is "The 1st Harlington Boys' Brigade Company with Girls' Association" which is a bit of a mouthful, so TFT stuck. They meet on a Friday evening, usually at the church, unless they are out for any of the various activities they take part in. The band, which you may well have heard or seen on Remembrance Sunday or other occasions, rehearses on Mondays.

TFT takes part in a variety of local and national BB activities. They recently won the Battalion First Aid competition for the fourth year running, and take part in bowling, table tennis and other competitions. The band has joined other BB bands in tours of Scotland and in Europe. The company also had a Summer Camp last year.

For more information contact Martin Wallis on 01525 875850

Harlington Lower School *plus* Wednesday Coffee



The past month has brought even more opportunities for our pupils at Harlington Lower School to shine. The ‘musical momentum’ that we pride ourselves on continued as our school choir performed at the OVO Arena for ‘Voice in a Million’. This was a spectacular opportunity for our children to perform on a world-class stage alongside thousands of other young voices, and we extend a huge thank you to all the parents and staff whose tireless support made this unforgettable experience possible.

This spirit of participation was also evident in the Pyramid Schools Trust dance show. This show, held at Harlington Upper School, was an amazing opportunity for us to perform alongside other schools and older children within the Trust, showcasing the standard of talent across our schools.

We also recently celebrated Mother’s Day with two events where mums, dads, grandmas, and carers came into school to enjoy craft-making with their children. It was wonderful to see families enjoying time together and represented our community spirit. To mark the end of the term, our school community gathered at St. Mary’s Church for our Easter service, providing a wonderful moment for reflection. Thank you to St. Mary’s Church for welcoming us so warmly.

Over the past term we have been looking at our school vision and aims and have decided to revise our vision as we look to the future. Our revised school vision and tagline is: **A place to belong, grow and succeed.** This reflects the emphasis we place on the impact our school environment has on every child. We continue to value our community links and are always looking for volunteers to share their time with us. Whether you are interested 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.

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.



Harlington in Bloom



We held our first committee meeting since the AGM on 4 March. Minutes of the last committee meeting were discussed and approved. Matters Arising were discussed during the meeting. Your current committee are: David Kingham (Chair), Judy Harfield (Hon Treasurer), Rosemary

Tuohy (Hon Secretary), Teresa Glenister (Minutes Secretary), Vivienne Dunlop (Publicity Officer), Jane Barltrop, Anthony Price, Gill Whiting. It's always possible to co-opt people during the year. If you weren't able to attend the AGM or move to the village during the year and are interested, just get in contact with someone on the committee! We are a welcoming lot!

We will be putting forward nominations for the Spring Gardens Awards following kerbside viewing of the village front gardens in from 14 March. So, if you see people peering at your front garden from the path and making the odd note about your daffodils and bluebells, don't panic! The nominations will go to a judge, (independent of HiB) who will do their own viewing in early April.

We will be welcoming sponsors again for our activities to make the village decorative. While Harlington Parish Council pays for the main bedding plants for the village, sometimes we need a little extra for maintenance or capital expenditure on equipment such as the bowser and irrigation systems, extra bulbs, planter renewal etc. Would you like to be a sponsor? Contact Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) 07793 016207 or rosemarypc86@gmail.com for further information.

Dates for your Diary (Some dates may be amended or added nearer the time) All meet at Village Hall Carpark unless otherwise specified

Sat 28 March	Weeding/pruning work party. All Welcome	10 am
Sat 25 April	Weeding/pruning work party. All Welcome	10 am
Sat 30 May	Summer Planting. All Welcome	10 am
Week Commencing 11 July	Summer Judging	
Sat 18 July	Weeding/pruning work party All Welcome.	10 am
Sat 29 August	Hosting HiB Gazebo at 40 th Village Show	
Sat 5 Sept	Weeding/pruning work party. All Welcome	10 am
Fri 25 Sept	Awards Evening All Welcome	7.30 pm
Sat 31 Oct	Winter planting All Welcome	10 am
Sat 7 Nov	War Memorial Tidy Up for Remembrance Sun	10 am

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

Harlington in Bloom



2026 Annual Report

Looking back over 2026 , once again HIB had a reasonably successful year.

Despite the lack of rainfall, the summer bedding performed pretty well .

In July HIB hosted an Open Gardens event which saw 8 villagers opening their gardens to paying visitors for a few hours. Proceeds went to HIB funds. The event was very popular with positive feedback.

The autumn planting went according to plan, and to date everything is looking well.

Following the planting in the autumn, 100 winter aconites were planted under one of the acers on Bury Orchard just behind the war memorial. It is hoped these will proliferate like the ones planted in a previous year

The Awards Evening, held in September, was a great success and the change of format (ie having a speaker after the awards) was well received. It was good to have our new Parish Clerk Alison Doyle with us to present the awards .

In Nov/Dec some members got together to enter the Christmas Tree Festival which took place at the Parish Church.

The parish Clerk has told me that our allowance for 2026 has been increased from £1000 to £1250

As the chairman I would like to thank the team: Rosemary our secretary, Judith our treasurer, Vivienne our publicity Officer and Theresa our minutes secretary, as well as all the team members for their efforts in many different ways.

Also grateful thanks are due to our team of volunteers who help to speed up planting and weeding days, and water some of the containers.

On a lighter note our “Christmas Dinner” took place this January at The Raven in Hexton which proved to be a rather pleasant evening.

April has searched the winter land
And found her petted flowers again;
She kissed them to unfold her leaves,
She coaxed them with her sun and rain,
She coaxed them with her sun and rain,
And filled the grass with green content,
And made the woods and clover vain.

~Hannah R. Hudson, "April," The Atlantic Monthly, April 1868

Hub and Spoke Café



The Hub and Spoke Café, Harlington

It's been a busy few months for us at the Hub & Spoke, and we're always amazed at how many different moments of village life pass through the Café. Yet we still hear often that people do not know we are here, despite five years of trading and 300+ five-star reviews!

The Café is independently owned and run by us, villagers Sue and Rob Whittle, and our team, and recently, despite all the challenges facing hospitality, we have been busier than ever – not just serving the usual breakfast baguettes and baker-made cakes and delivering our lovely sourdough pizzas but also becoming part of many moments in village life.

In recent months, we have catered to seven funeral wakes/end-of-life celebrations, traveling to venues across the area to support families with thoughtful food and a calm, considerate service. Sue remains on site throughout the event, ensuring that all the details are taken care of and everything runs smoothly, on what can often be a difficult day. This is something we feel very privileged to be trusted with.

Alongside that, we've catered for private celebrations, children's parties, corporate lunches and picnics, and delivered treat boxes to some special residents.

And we continue to host a growing mix of creative workshops, art evenings, and community-focused events such as the adoption day and the IRC Cycling day.

We have also been proud to support several fundraisers, for Charlie the Medical Detection Dog, London Marathon entrants, Chums Charity, and several local school initiatives.

Harlington is a place where people turn out for each other, and we love being part of that.

Of course, day to day we're still serving locally baked baguettes, great arabica coffee, a huge range of cakes including GF and Vegan, smoothies and shakes, and the stone baked pizzas (With a fair bit of Rob banter)

Special Offer for Contact Readers

If you haven't discovered us yet, come and see us, we are friendly!

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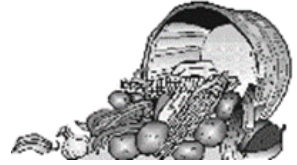
Website: thehubandspokecafe.co.uk

Sue and Rob Whittle, Proud to be the hub of the community in Harlington x

Harlington Village Show plus Gardeners' Society

40th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026



The planning is continuing apace as the Show committee make decisions about what to test and trial you with this year! We have had a real mix of weathers through the previous 39 years of the Show and yet people always come up trumps with their entries. Sunshine naturally brings more visitors on the day, but we hope you'll support us whatever the weather! There's also plenty of time left to grow, make or be creative. Exact information about size, number and measurements will be given in the schedule, so please check these carefully when you receive a copy in July.

We shall be meeting soon to decide further Show classes, but some of the cookery classes will include a light fruit cake recipe from the 1986 schedule. Plus an apple cake; My Signature Bake; 5 cheese scones made in an air fryer plus others yet to be decided. These should be listed in the May Contact magazine. In 1986, there were no photography or craft classes, and yet we might think the Show a bit odd now without them.

Visit our Facebook page for class updates when they become available.

If you'd like any advice about entering the Show or how to display your entries, please do contact us at harlingtonvillageshow@gmail.com. Also send us photos of things you are growing or making – we'd love to see them, and they can be added to our Facebook page or Instagram.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

Harlington Gardeners' Society



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.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

Harlington Village Pre School



Harlington Village Pre School & Wrap Around Care

Childcare
Choices

'Sparking your child's imagination and curiosity to learn through play'

Located behind Harlington Lower School, Harlington Village Pre School offers high-quality sessional care and education for children in the **two academic years before they start school**.

We provide a **safe, friendly and stimulating environment** where children can explore, learn through play, build confidence and make lasting friendships. Our **experienced and caring staff**, all qualified to **Early Years Level 3 or above**, are dedicated to giving your child the very best start to their learning journey.

We offer:

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- Fun, engaging activities that support early development
- Highly qualified and supportive staff
- A strong sense of community

Funding & Payments:

We accept:

- **15 & 30 hours funding** for 2–4-year-olds
- **Tax-Free Childcare & Childcare Vouchers**

Paid sessions are also available for children not yet eligible for funding or needing additional hours.

September 2026 admissions

If your child was born between **01/09/2022 – 31/08/2024** and you would like them to join our Pre School from September, please e-mail staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk with your child's name and date of birth to join our admissions list by **4th May 2026**.

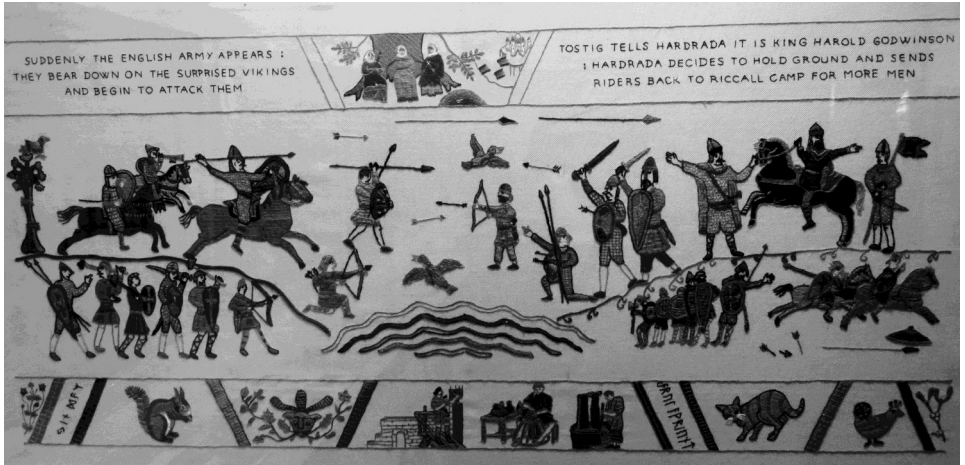
Wrap Around Care

We also offer **Wrap Around Care**, available for children in their **final year of Pre School through to Year 4** at Harlington Lower School.

- ⇒ **Enquiries:** 07963 534038
- ⇒ **Email:** staff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk
- ⇒ **Address:** The Conifers, Westoning Road, Harlington, LU5 6PD
- ⇒ **Website:** www.harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk

Crafternoon Tea

Plans are being made to borrow the Bayeux Tapestry, to put on display in England. For those of us who have never seen it, it might be an exciting outing. However, for those of us without a passport, there is the tapestry of the battle of Stamford Bridge (the one in Yorkshire, not the one in London). That's the battle Harold won, a month before he lost the battle of Hastings.



This tapestry, like the Bayeux Tapestry, was hand made, this time by volunteers from Stamford Bridge, as a project to promote the village. It is made of twelve panels, and is on permanent display in the side room of the pub which used to be the railway station. It is – or at least last summer it was – free to visit, and is beautifully made. For historians, the panels detail the story from the invasion of Yorkshire by the Danes, until, as the English celebrate their victory, they hear of the arrival of William and the Normans on the South coast ...

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 **ONLY** meeting in **April** will be on **20th** (6th April is Easter Monday) and the May meetings will be **4th** and **18th**. All meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

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

Harlington Parish Council

Harlington Parish Council

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Cllr Pete Hughes | 7. Cllr Marcus McNamara |
| 2. Cllr Martin Waldron | 8. Cllr Declan King |
| 3. Cllr Mary Walsh | 9. Cllr David Steel |
| 4. Cllr John Harfield | 10. Cllr Philip Tomlinson |
| 5. Cllr Karen Saunders | 11. VACANT SEAT |
| 6. Cllr Terry Culverhouse | 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@centralbedforshire.gov.uk

All Residents are invited to attend Council meetings:

14th April 2026	Full Council Meeting	7.30pm
28th April 2026	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
12th May 2026	Annual Council Meeting	7.30pm
2nd June 2026	Finance & General Purposes	7.30pm
9th June 2026	Full Council Meeting	7.30pm

All meetings are held at the Parish Hall, Church road, Harlington, LU5 6LE

We have had an enquiry regarding the length of time the wreaths should lay at the War Memorial after the Remembrance Sunday Service.

At present the wreaths remain for 4 weeks and are then displayed in St Mary's Church and returned to the memorial for Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January.

Wg Cdr Martin Waldron has submitted the following statement which he would like to share:



As someone who has relatively recently retired after two decades of military service I feel I am qualified to speak on this issue. During my service I served in two active war zones, Iraq and Afghanistan, and in addition, with my role in Aeromedical Evacuation I was involved in the repatriation of many service personnel that had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

FHLSA, HP *plus* HPC *ctd.*

Friends of
Harlington Lower
School

Quiz
Night

FRIDAY
24TH APRIL | HARLINGTON
VILLAGE HALL

8PM - 10:30PM
£12 PER PERSON

Don't miss FHLSA Quiz Night! Enjoy pizza, drinks,
and a chance to win a cash prize while supporting
Harlington Lower School.

HO in loving memory of Andra Bishop HO
OP Harlington Performs presents OP
EST. 1986 EST. 1986

Mile Die Club
Murder Mystery

WRITTEN BY
NATALIE JEFFS

FRI 17TH APRIL
7:00PM
SAT 18TH APRIL
7:00PM

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Harlington Parish Council *ctd.*

I consider that the Parish Council policy of leaving the wreaths on the War Memorial for 4 weeks after the remembrance service, after which they are transferred to St Mary's Church, is appropriate.

It is my belief that if the wreaths are left on the Memorial for a longer period, it diminishes the special nature of the Remembrance Service.

We must never forget those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom of today.

Some residents feel strongly about the acceptable timescale the wreaths should remain on the War Memorial. Therefore, Harlington Parish Council would like to invite residents, if they have an opinion around timings, to contact us either by phone or email. Your views will then be collated in readiness to take before Full Council.

The final decision will be published in Contact Magazine and on our website.

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)



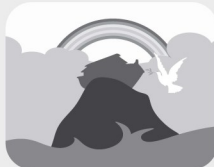
Tuesday

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

From Westoning Baptist Church

Easter is a special time of year for Christians as we particularly remember God's love toward his people. God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place. One very famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, says: ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

It is hard to imagine someone dying in another's place so that they might live. Yet, a mother's or father's love toward their children is naturally very strong. We see this especially at this time of year in nature, as we observe newborn animals in the farms and fields. From protective cows to devoted birds constantly feeding their brood of hatchlings, the instinct to protect is everywhere.

A mother hen, for instance, will hide her young under her wings when danger is present. One farmer told the story of a fire in a barn where a hen gathered her chicks under her wings. Although the farmer later found that the hen had died, the chicks underneath her wings were found alive and well. This powerful imagery is even mentioned in the Bible.



So, this Easter, as we take delight in the new life all around us, let us not forget God's ultimate sacrifice: that he sent his son, the Lord Jesus, to die in our place so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Westoning Baptist Church is a modern spacious and welcoming church in rural Bedfordshire, five minutes from M1 junction 12. People of all ages attend, and everyone is welcome, the building is fully accessible. The bible is central to the

worship and all activities. The aim is to know and serve Jesus Christ. The services are a mixture of bible readings, traditional hymns, prayer and preaching. During term time there is a weekly Sunday School at 9:30 and also the Noah's Ark toddlers group every Friday morning at 9AM, both free of charge. Would you like a bible for yourself? Drop in whenever the church is open, we have a selection of editions to choose from, located just inside the main doors. To find out more visit www.westoningbaptistchurch.org

Westoning Baptist Church  Join us this Easter

Friday
3rd April
6pm

Good Friday Service

Sunday
5th April
11am & 6pm

Easter Sunday Services

Where?
Westoning Baptist Church, Greenfield Road, MK45 5JD

westoningbaptistchurch.org

LIFE Church & Easter Egg Hunt, Mini Lighthouse



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

Sunday services at 10.30 am in The Parish Rooms

Whether you have never been to church or you are a committed Christian,

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

April 2026

5th – Easter Service, Carol Gibbs leading

12th – Mike Oliver

19th – Lighthouse Cafe

26th – to be confirmed



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

LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

To register your place
Email: contact@life-church-harlington.com

Easter Family Treasure Hunt
Sunday March 29th
Harlington Parish Hall
Starting at 10.30

refreshments chocolate fountain
activities Easter Eggs games

'God so loved the world He gave His only Son'

MINI LIGHTHOUSE
FOR 0-3 YRS

craft play
story songs

Thursdays 9th & 23rd April
9.30 - 11.00
Harlington Parish Hall

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.



APRIL preachers are:

- 5th 10 am Rev Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
- 12th 10 am Worship Group
- 19th 10 am Rachel Acquah
- 26th 10 am Roger Owers. This service includes Holy Communion

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 25th April 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 **April 2026** are:

- 2nd - Doreen Gatwood
- 9th - Vicki York
- 16th - Diane Maple
- 23rd - John and Barbara
- 30th - 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

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



Palm Sunday 29th March: in case the Contact arrives in time, you might be able to meet Samson the donkey and pony friend. They will be in the churchyard after the 9.30am service on the 29th at about 10.15am. We will have carrots ready for him and the children will be able to hunt for Easter eggs around the churchyard. Do you know what the egg said after passing a test?.....Omelet smarter than I look!

Messy Church: Sunday 12th April is our next relaxed family celebration in the Parish Hall from 9am, with breakfast, stories, song and crafts. In our March Messy Church, we heard about 'mums' in the Bible who were brave, loving and faithful to God. We created cards and potted flowers in preparation for Mothering Sunday the following week.

Churchyard: As the weather warms up, it's time to look out for the beautiful drifts of primroses in the east corner of the churchyard, next to the play park. Since Victorian times, *April 19th* has been known as 'Primrose Day', commemorating the life of Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Primroses were his favourite flowers, and the date is marked by placing primroses on his statue in Parliament Square and his grave in Hughenden, Buckinghamshire.

Walk of Witness: Good Friday 3rd April. We start at the Methodist Church at about 9.45am to walk around the village, stopping at different places to reflect on the Easter story, finishing at the shops to act out the crucifixion. If unable to walk the route, then do come to the shops (after approx 10.30am), and afterwards to St Mary's to enjoy tea and hot cross buns.

Art Exhibition: June 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th in the church, with free entry. Opening times to be confirmed. Stanley Greening, a talented local artist, will be exhibiting his new work in an exhibition titled 'Echo from the Void'. More information to follow.

St Mary's Friends Group: if you'd like to be a supporter of the church building and churchyard, why not join our Friends Group? Contact us via admin@harlingtonchurch.org.

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.

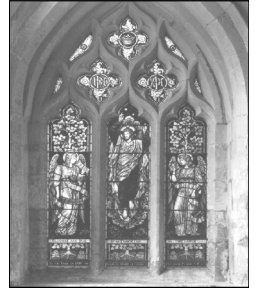
If you'd like to speak to someone about a life event or for prayer, please contact revmarkedwards@outlook.com, or our Lay Reader Robert, robert@harlingtonchurch.org. You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil. Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend the services in our beautiful village church. This month is very special as it includes the highlight of the Christian year, Easter. April's services are:

Sundays and weekdays during Holy Week

- 30th Mar 7.30 pm Monday of Holy Week Compline
2nd 7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
3rd 9.45 am Good Friday Walk of Witness (starts at Methodist Church)
2.00 pm Good Friday Last Hour on the Cross
5th 8.00 am Book of Common Prayer service
9.30 a.m. Easter Day worship
12th 9.00 am Messy Church in the Parish Hall
9.30 am Holy Communion service
19th 9.30 am Holy Communion service
26th 9.30 am Holy Communion 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 Diaries

April

3 rd	Walk of Witness	Starts at the Methodist Church 9.45 am
3 rd	Walk of Witness Drama	Outside the Shops 11 am
7 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
9 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
12 th	Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
14 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
17 th	Murder Mystery	Village Hall 7 pm
18 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
18 th	Murder Mystery	Village Hall 7 pm
20 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
23 rd	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
24 th	FHLSA Quiz Night	Village Hall 8 pm
25 th	HiB Weeding	Village Hall Car Park 10 am
25 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
28 th	Annual Parish Meeting	Parish Hall 7.30 pm

May

4 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
5 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
9 th	HGS Spring Social	Village Hall 7 pm
12 th	Annual Council Meeting	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
18 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
22 nd	Samson's Birthday	East End Stables 2 – 4 pm
30 th	HiB Summer Planting	Village Hall Car Park 10 am

Don't forget the regular weekly things that aren't shown here such as the Wednesday Coffee and the Wellbeing Walks, not to mention the regular church services.

You can send things just to be entered here.

GET YOUR MAY 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH APRIL 2026

Harlington Parish Council Village Diary

Harlington Parish Council are trialling holding a Village Diary of events which will be published via our website and a physical diary in our office. If you would like us to help spread the word, please contact us on 01525 875933 or email enquiries@harlington-pc.gov.uk.