

Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Please read the HVAG article and contribute to the CBC consultation which will set the planning for the next half century.

As the weather remains dry, it is now possible to walk the field footpaths without sinking in mud (except where there seems to have been a new spring develop last year). I hope lots of people are taking the opportunity of enjoying the walks around the village. It is possible to find circular walks all around the village and of all lengths.

This is part of the beauty of Harlington. Please remember the Country Code and respect the countryside.

Towards the end of June we are hoping to have an open meeting when those interested can talk about this magazine, what they would like, what they might contribute. Look out for details in the next issue, but start thinking now.

Clive

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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.

May 2026 copy by 10th April please.

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A letter from St. Mary's Church

Dear Friends,

The world is moving at a fast pace, and it is sometimes difficult to keep up with all that is happening. As I write, there is still a lot of tension and uncertainty due to the war in Iran. All that is happening there and in the Middle East is having a knock-on effect around the world. I don't know what the situation will be in a few weeks' time, when you will be reading this in the May edition of Contact, but I do pray that there will be some stability and a degree of hope.

This is part of the challenge today for the church. How do we show that there is hope? No matter what the crisis, or however dark things may seem to be, how can the church shine light into the darkness? At church on Easter Sunday we light a candle, hold it up, and say the words 'The Light of Christ'. This is symbolic of course, but the light of Christ is always shining, always there to be seen as a beacon of hope. In a constantly changing world we all need stability. We all need to hold on to something that will support us. We need a firm foundation. And we can find this in Jesus, who is able to calm the storms around us and give us peace.



The message of the church throughout the ages is that there is hope in Jesus, this message being proclaimed for over two thousand years. On the 24th May, the church will be celebrating Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday comes 50 days after Easter and celebrates the beginning of the church. If you have access to a Bible, turn to the book of Acts and look at chapter two. Here you will be able to read about the events of the first Pentecost. It's an amazing and fascinating story.

From that first Pentecost, the church has now spread throughout world and is keeping the light of Christ shining. The church is helping to establish God's Kingdom, working towards a time when there will be no more wars, no more suffering, but a time of peace and where all will know God's love. When we look at the world today though, this may seem to be an unrealistic dream, a fantasy. But this is the promise God has given to us and is what we in the church hold on to as our hope.

I do pray that in these times of challenge we may all find the peace that we seek. Please know that the church regularly prays for you, the community of Harlington, and is here for you.

Every Blessing

Fr Mark

Vicar

St Mary's

Harlington Village Action Group & HGS

CBC Local Plan Consultation Launch – 6th May to 3rd June 2026.

It is vitally important that residents of Harlington village are aware of the forthcoming consultation launch of CBC's Local Plan for 2028 to 2050.

As the new local plan is developed, it will address areas of proposed new housing as well as potential business and commercial development. Harlington has seen an exponential rise in house building, the loss of green spaces, and the erosion of natural habitats, fauna, and flora in recent months/years, as well as the ever-increasing traffic congestion that has been fuelled by this recent, in many people's view, over-development of our village. It is therefore critical that the residents of Harlington have their say, and have their voice heard during this consultation period.

The Harlington Village Action Group (HVAG), will be evaluating and challenging CBC's Local Plan proposals during the consultation period (**6th May to 3rd June 2026**). However, the HVAG welcome the views and input from our local residents, and residents will also be able to view and comment on proposals directly by following CBC's Facebook page and CBC's newsletter. Please also like and follow HVAG's Facebook page, where we will do our best to keep you up to date with our efforts to maintain our precious village, as just that!

Together, we should utilise this consultation period to fight to protect our village, it's green spaces and natural habitats for the enjoyment of all.

Kind regards

David Jordan

HVAG (Hon Sec)

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

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Date	Depart Harlington	Depart CMK
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FLITTABUS TO FLITWICK TESCO

Route FL6

Dates	Depart Harlington	Depart Flitwick
Thu 7/14/21/28 May 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

FLITTABUS TO HITCHIN

Route FL7

Dates	Depart Harlington	Depart Hitchin
Fri 1/8/15/22/29 May 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

Date	Excursion	Cost per person
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		

Flit Vale Wildlife Group



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**
Flit Vale Local Group



Wildlife walks & talks

Saturday, May 9th, Strawberry Hill Farm, near Knotting Green, Bedford, (MK44 1AA) 10.00am

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm lead by Wildlife Trust BCN staff

We have previously visited this wonderful site which was left to rewild for 25 years. The site of 150 hectares is the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region and has presented a remarkable opportunity for the WLT BCN to protect this unique habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

We are hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora.

£5.00 per person

Saturday, May 16th, National Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10.30am

Butterfly Walk at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders.

£5.00 per person

Booking for outdoor Flit Vale events is essential as places are limited.

Please contact Ann by email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or

Phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 07580 178-889 to reserve your place.

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group

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



Our March Messy Church happened a week before Holy Week, and this was what we focussed on. We started with the Triumphal Entry and made spinners—we tend to fail at Palm Crosses! We did coin rubbing for the Widow’s Mite, For the trial we cut clay hands to symbolize Pilate washing

his hands. Time doesn’t permit making Hot Cross Buns, so we



made spiced cakes. We also started on Easter Day with Happy/Sad faces.



You can see a video of the celebration on YouTube, and find more about what we did at cliveandtina.co.uk.

Our May Messy Church will take place on the 16th 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. As it comes between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this is the time we will look at.

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

Just a note about Bright Hour. It isn’t just for Women. Whilst the Bright Hour started out as a group for ladies who were fund raising for the church, we dropped the “Ladies” bit as most of the meetings are just as suitable for men.

The topics being covered are many and various, some might be described as more “churchy” and others aren’t. The speakers are listed on the Methodist Church page, sometimes with details of the subject. The meetings start with a hymn and finish with tea/coffee and biscuits.

Everyone is welcome, you don’t have to be a Methodist or even a church goer to come.

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"The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh."

- Philip Larkin, *The Trees*



Brain Tumour Research



Wear—A—Hat



The Wear A Hat fundraiser on 21st March was a wonderful, fun and sociable afternoon. It raised £845. My team worked so hard setting up, making drinks, serving cakes, running stalls and games, and whilst it is fun, the underlying reason for this afternoon is sombre, remembering all those who have suffered brain tumours, and to fundraise to ensure research can continue with the intention that one day we will find a cure. Each time we run this event I am congratulated on the love that is felt in the hall and the joy these events bring to those attending, this is nothing to do with me, it is down to all those who support, so, thank you to those who made cakes, provide tombola prizes, plants, home-made cards and crochet and knit hats, big and small! Thank you to those working in the kitchen, those running our stalls and those attending and supporting. Thank you to those who were unable to attend the event but made a donation. Thank you to: Sylvia, Celia, Gwen, Ann, Hillary, Stella, Debbie, Sue, Ruth, Ross, Terry and Corrine. A black cap was left behind at the Wear A Hat event, please get in touch if it is yours.

At this event I was able to reveal that the day before, the mystery of the hanging basket from last summer had at last been solved. And the person who took it admitted they had misunderstood that anything outside the gates at the front of my house was available for raising funds for the charity, but not items attached to my house or used in the care or display for the plants. So the mystery at least is solved, and hopefully this misunderstanding won't be repeated, apparently the hanging basket was really beautiful!!!

3 days later I took some plants to Brain Tumour Research HQ and £115 was raised.

Plant sales from the front of my house have raised £218.71 so far this year and has nicely stepped up in these last 3 weeks. I have worked really hard pricking out plants and sowing seeds so that there will be 9 varieties of tomato plants: Moneymaker, Gardners' Delight, Ailsa Craig, Pomodoro, Cocktail Crush, Shirley, Rosella, Marmande and Super Marmande. A selection of these are ready to donate for and will be under cover in a greenhouse when there is no risk of frost. Similarly Telegraph cucumbers, mini munch cucumbers, chillis, peppers, marrow are ready. There will also be courgettes, marigold, zinnias, lupins and sunflowers later in the season.

Harlington Lower School *plus* BTR *ctd.*



The summer term is officially underway at Harlington Lower School, and we are hitting the ground running with a renewed sense of purpose. As the weather warms up, our classrooms have been buzzing with a wide range of learning experiences.

Last term we enjoyed celebrating Science Week. This was particularly special as it involved Lego workshops for every child in the school, allowing them to build, create, and explore engineering concepts in a fun, collaborative environment.

The excitement continued with our Year 4 residential trip to the Cuffley Active Learning Centre. Our pupils showed incredible courage and perseverance as they tackled crate stacking, rock climbing, and construction. They learned the art of fire lighting and had some high-energy fun with laser tag! As the sun went down, the adventures didn't stop; the children played 'Ambush'—a giant game of hide-and-seek in the dark woods—and spent time bonding around the campfire with delicious, melty s'mores.

Looking ahead, this term remains a vital time for our pupils to build on their progress and prepare for the transitions that the end of the academic year brings. We remain committed to strengthening our community ties and are always looking for volunteers to share their time with us. If 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.

"The world's favourite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May."

- *Edwin Way Teale*



Brain Tumour Research *ctd.*

Thanks for donation of plants to Alex, Frankie, Pat, Kerli, Gwen and Debbie, Elaine and Betty and all those of you who I don't meet or get to know about.

Finally thank you to 2nd Harlington Brownies who at their last meeting decorated Easter bonnets, they were beautiful. I was invited to be there as this coincided with the Wear A Hat day and parents were invited to donate and an amazing £40 was raised for the charity. Thank you so much to Laura, Jane and all the Brownies and their families.

Harlington in Bloom



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. Many thanks to **Harlington Shop** for the recent splendid donation.

We have an additional date for a weeding, pruning party on **2 May from 10.00 am to tackle the bed outside Orchard House**. You will need to bring gloves and ideally tools such as shears, secateurs, spades, trimmers etc. This is a large bed and we could do with plenty of bodies!

We are delighted to announce our **Spring Garden winner** Tricia Murphy 1st 43 Barton Road. Always a picture! 2nd 90 Goswell End Road, Joint 3rd Kanderstag, 1 Foster Road and 18 Glebe Gardens. Congratulations to you all and many thanks to our judges.

We discussed the planting scheme for the summer bedding which will celebrate 40 years of Harlington Village Show, and we learn from April's Contact of the excellent Harlington Performs, also celebrating 40 years! The scheme will incorporate nemesia, geraniums, begonias, salvia and cineraria.

We look forward to meeting you at one of our dates!

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

Sat 2 May Pruning party to tackle bed outside Orchard House 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 Aug Hosting HiB Gazebo at 40th Village Show

Sat 5 Sept Weeding/pruning work party. All Welcome 10 am

Harlington in Bloom, Wellbeing Walks, Wed Coffee

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 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.

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.



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!

If you bring this page in and show the staff and quote the code HUB,2, we will give you 20% off any pizza ordered in April

Call: 01525 752367. Order via our App: The Hub and Spoke Café.

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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

40th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026



What makes a village Show so enjoyable – is it the teas; the joy of winning a prize; displaying YOUR craftwork, baking, photo, painting, vegetable or flower etc? Or do you go for a natter with family and friends, or perhaps to see fellow villagers you haven't seen for a while? Or maybe it's just the raffle? Whatever it is, it's wonderful that so many of you take the trouble to enter, or come to support those who do. Entering for the first time might seem a bit daunting, but someone will be on hand to guide you when you bring your entries on the morning of the Show.

If you have a query about any of the classes listed below, please message us via our Facebook page.

Childrens' classes. Pre School: 3 decorated biscuits; a paper plate decorated as a sea creature; an egg box garden (6 egg size). Ages 5-8: 3 butterfly cakes; a paper plate decorated as a sea creature; an egg box garden. Ages 9-13: 3 butterfly cakes; a friendship bracelet; a wind chime in any medium.

Craft: a 40th celebration card; a lego garden to your own design; a memory bear or cushion made from recycled materials; a winter warmer set, knitted or crocheted (hat, scarf, gloves)

Flower arranging: Novice: a flower arrangement in a champagne glass; an arrangement in a glass container; 'Ruby Red' an arrangement using 3 flowers only, foliage and accessories permitted; 'The Show Must Go On'. Please check maximum sizes in the schedule when published.

Cookery: Light fruit cake to given recipe; 5 cheese scone made in an air fryer; my signature bake, sweet or savoury; 5 Anzac biscuits; 3 individual savoury flans; 5 butterfly cakes.

Look out for Show posters nearer the time. Schedules should be delivered to your home in late June, early July. The schedule will also contain a few tips on showing and preparing for the Show. If anyone out there would also like to help us set up for the Show, or tidy up at the end, please get in touch.

Tricia & HVS Committee

Luton's Heritage: Made and Shaped

The History of George Street,
Luton's Town Centre



Luton Made: Vauxhall - Heritage
Project Funded by the National
Lottery, Celebrating the History of
Vauxhall



The Leigh Family at Luton Hoo and
their Involvement in the Railways to
Luton



The Power of Church Patronage to
Shape the Social History of a Town,
1763-1896



With optional guided tour of St Mary's, a Grade I Listed Building

BLHA

Bedfordshire
Local History
Association

AGM & Conference 2026

Saturday, 6th June at St Mary's Parish Church, LU1 3JF

Tickets including buffet lunch £27.50

www.bedfordshire-lha.org.uk



Crafternoon Tea

Crafternoon Tea meets on alternate Mondays, at Harlington Methodist Church, between 2 and 4 pm. There are likely to be all sorts of different crafts on the go, and we are happy to share what skills we have with others. We have materials,



tools and magazines available, some always on the premises, and some which can be brought in if required, so let me know if there is something you are likely to want.

Our meetings in **May** will be on **4th** (despite it being Bank Holiday) and **18th**.

The first meeting in **June** will be **1st**, and this meeting will be an in person meeting **only**. All other meetings will be on Zoom as well as in-person. Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

I have noticed, as a crafter, that I either leave too much time to get an item done, or I don't leave enough – and I am looking for reasons why that should be so. On at least some occasions, it is because I am trying to do too much – not that that particular item is so time consuming, but I am trying to fit too many chores into the time available.

I know of at least one person who has started working on Christmas presents for members of her family so early that we are seeing that they are likely to be completed before the summer holidays begin. My picture this month is a case in point. This is mosaic crochet again, which seems to be the “in” technique at present. It does make lovely thick blankets, though!

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

"The May-pole is up,
Now give me the cup;
I'll drink to the garlands around it;
But first unto those
Whose hands did compose
The glory of flowers that crown'd it."
- Robert Herrick, *The Maypole*, 1660



Harlington Parish Council

Cllr Terry Culverhouse	7. Cllr Martin Waldron
Cllr John Harfield	8. Cllr Marcus McNamara
Cllr Pete Hughes	9. Cllr David Steel
Cllr Karen Saunders	10. Cllr Declan King
Cllr Mary Walsh	11. VACANT
Cllr Philip Tomlinson	12. VACANT

PARISH CLERK/COUNCIL OFFICE

Alison Doyle	01525 875933	clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk
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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
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All Residents are invited to attend Council meetings at the Parish Hall, Church Road, Harlington, LU5 6LE

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

News!

Save the date – Saturday 21st November – Christmas lights switch on event – with more lights! We are looking for stall holders to register their interest for having a stall in the village hall. Please get in touch.

Looking for a venue to hire?

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

Stay up to date with local events

We run a Village Diary with information about events and regular classes. This is both a physical diary held in our office and online via our e-newsletter which is also sent out to subscribers. Please contact us if you have an event or class you would like to publicise.

Barton Bowls Club, Summer Fayre, Art Exhibition

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HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL

SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY, 27 JUNE HARLINGTON LOWER SCHOOL, WESTONING ROAD
11AM - 2PM

FREE ENTRY

Join us for
Bouncy Castle, Barbecue,
Performances, Stalls & Games
and Grand Raffle

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'Echo From The Void'

an exhibition by

stanley greening



stanleygreening.com

[stanley_greening](https://www.instagram.com/stanley_greening)

St Marys Church
Harlington
Bedfordshire LU5 6LE

Opening times

Thursday/Friday 1pm - 5pm
Sat/Sun 10.30am - 3pm

June 4th to June 7th

*Plus artist's talk, Saturday 2pm.
Stanley will talk about his ideas and
processes - don't miss it.*

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)



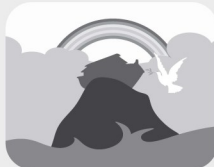
Tuesday

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

Westoning Baptist Church *plus* Poppy Wreaths

From Westoning Baptist Church

This year, as we travel on the roads, it seems there are potholes everywhere. If you are driving, it can sometimes feel like a choice between dodging a crater in the road or risking a near-miss with another car. For some of us, these potholes have already led to frustrating wheel changes in dark laybys, or long waits for roadside recovery. The result is often an expensive new tyre, or sometimes even a new wheel.



These potholes are like the troubles we all encounter in our lives, which can suddenly appear without any warning. When something difficult happens so quickly and beyond our control, it can almost feel dream-like, and we find ourselves saying, “This can’t be happening to me.”

How wonderful it is, as Christians, to know that nothing takes God by surprise. All our ways are known to Him. The Bible assures us that we can trust in God and that He is with us through every trouble.

Psalm 37:23&24; The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.”

Poppy Wreaths Harlington War Memorial

Following the piece from the Parish Council last month, we received this email:

Like me, you may want to see the wreaths left on the War Memorial until after Easter. This was previously agreed in a Harlington Parish Council (HPC) meeting which I attended a few years back.

The wreathes are laid at the British Legion Ceremony each November to honour those people killed and injured in the Two World Wars and more recent wars

This is not on behalf of any other happening or organisation.

If you want the wreaths to be left until after Easter, please contact the HPC clerk on 01525 875933 or email clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk or call into the Parish Office to register your wish.

This may be the last chance to do this in a democratic way involving people of the village. Please don’t hold back.

Peter Thacker

LIFE Church and 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

May 2026

3rd – Nigel Washington

10th – 10am Christian Aid United Service hosted by Life Church

17th – Lighthouse Café with Rebecca Caird

24th – Rose Agnew

31st – TBC



Wednesdays 7.15pm. Prayer meeting on Zoom.

For more information check us out on our website.

You can also contact us through our website if you have any prayer requests or would like to talk to someone

www.life-church-harlington.com

Mini Lighthouse

Parent & Toddler Group (0–3 years)

Harlington Parish Hall

🕒 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Upcoming Dates

April: 2nd, 16th, 30th

May: 14th, 28th

June: 11th, 25th

July: 9th

Join us for a morning of:

🎨 Crafts 📖 Storytime

🎵 Songs 🎮 Play



All parents and carers welcome!

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.



MAY preachers are:

- 3rd 10 am “Come and See” led by Tina and Clive Salmon
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
- 10th 10 am United Service for Christian Aid Week hosted by Life Church
- 17th 10 am Frederick Cole
- 24th 10 am Rev. Claudia Lupi. This service includes Holy Communion
- 31st 10 am TBC

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 30th May 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 **May 2026** are:

- 7th - Peter Baker
- 14th - Cathy Sheehan
- 21st - Harlington Lower School to sing for us
- 28th - Pam Greener
-

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



NB Samson's Party, originally planned for May 23rd at Lower East End Farm, has sadly been cancelled. Samson will be just as disappointed as you are!

Messy Church: Sunday 10th May is our next relaxed family celebration in the church from 9am, with breakfast, stories, song and crafts. In our April Messy Church we celebrated with the story of Jesus's resurrection, and created a garden with an empty tomb, surprise Easter Eggs, bead crosses and Easter cornflake cakes. By the way, don't worry if you drop your cereal bowl.....it's no use crying over spilt milk!

Harlington Manor Tours: Saturday 30th May at 12.30 and 2pm. We're delighted to announce that David Blakeman will be leading 2 tours of this historic building. A chance to 'look behind the scenes' and hear about its fascinating history. Tickets £12 to include a cuppa and cake in the church afterwards. Book via admin@harlingtonchurch.org. Numbers limited.

Art Exhibition: 'Echo From The Void' June 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th in the church, with free entry. Thursday 4th, Friday 5th open 1 -5pm. Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th 10.30am -3pm, with an artist's talk on Saturday at 2pm. Stanley Greening, a talented professional artist, will be exhibiting his latest work. Contact admin@harlingtonchurch.org for more information. Paintings will be on sale and refreshments available.

Churchyard: I keep looking for signs that the nest boxes are in use, but with no joy so far. If you do see any birds 'in residence' please let us know. I do hope some of you saw the primroses and violets in the south east corner of the churchyard as they have been stunning again this year. We're now waiting to see if the bee orchids decide to pop up again.

April Churchyard tidy: A big thank you to everyone who came to help tidy the churchyard, remove weeds, strim or clear the grass. Watch out for further tidying dates - we would love to welcome new volunteers.

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.

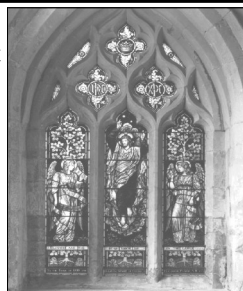
If you'd like to speak to someone about a life event or for prayer, please contact revmarkedwards@outlook.com, or our Lay Reader Robert, robert@harlingtonchurch.org. You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church. This month we celebrate Pentecost and join with the other churches in Harlington for our annual Christian Aid service. The services are:

- 3rd 8 am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am Morning Praise
- 10th 9 am Messy Church in Parish Hall
10 am Churches Together in Harlington Christian Aid service hosted by the Life Church
- 14th 7 pm Ascension Holy Communion at Westoning Church
- 17th 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 24th 9.30 am Holy Communion for Pentecost
- 31st 9.30 am Holy Communion for Trinity Sunday



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)

"You are as welcome as the flowers in May."

- Charles Macklin



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Village Diary

May

2 nd	HiB Pruning	Outside Orchard House 10 am
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	Wildlife walk	Strawberry Hill Farm 10 am
9 th	HGS Spring Social	Village Hall 7 pm
10 th	Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
12 th	Annual Council Meeting	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
14 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
16 th	Wildlife walk	Whipsnade Downs 10.30 am
16 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
18 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
23 rd	Samson's Birthday	Cancelled
28 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
30 th	HiB Summer planting	Village Hall Car Park 10 am
30 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
30 th	Manor Tours	Harlington Manor 12.30 pm and 2 pm

June

1 st	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (not Zoom)
2 nd	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
4 th	Art Exhibition	St. Mary's Church 1 pm – 5 pm
5 th	Art Exhibition	St. Mary's Church 1 pm – 5 pm
6 th	Art Exhibition	St. Mary's Church 10.30 am – 3 pm
6 th	Local History	St. Mary's Parish Church LUTON
7 th	Art Exhibition	St. Mary's Church 10.30 am – 3 pm
9 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
11 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
15 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
18 th	Tree walk	Flitwick Manor Park 7 pm
20 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
25 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
27 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
27 th	Summer Fayre	Harlington Lower School 11 am—2 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 JUNE 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH MAY 2026