
Editorial

Dear Villagers,

Normally we would think of the end of July and of August as the height of summer, but this year the weather has been far from normal. I can't remember if the Village Show has a section for desert plants, but...

Speaking of the Village Show, do get your entries in and come along to see the results. Like Harlington Performs, the show is 40 years old this year. 1986 must have been an exceptional year. We could do with another such. Maybe a return of the Village Carnival, or the development of other cultural things. Who remembers the Harlington Festivals?

August is a quiet month. We all need rest and relaxation (I know I do) but please support the things that are still going on.

All the best

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.

September 2026 copy by 10th August please.

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A letter from St. Mary's Church

Which is your favourite season of the year? Many people would answer — why, summer, of course! Summer for its sunshine and warmth, summer for its holidays, summer for its outdoor sports and walking, summer for its beautiful flowers, summer for its opportunities for rest and relaxation. If it is your favourite season, the bad news is that August is officially, according to the meteorologists, the last month of summer! August heralds the start of autumn with its harvests, its cooler weather and the glorious array of gold-coloured leaves. Not surprisingly, for some people autumn is the season they relish. Personally, I am not that keen on the really hot weather we experienced in June and July, so really appreciate the late summer weather of August. It's also nearly harvest time and time for the gardeners to display their best flowers and vegetables at the 40th. Harlington Village Show on 29th. August.



In the Bible summer is a time of growth, of harvest and abundance, connected to the cycle of sowing and reaping, reflecting the importance of agriculture in ancient Israel. The Bible frequently uses the imagery of summer to convey spiritual truths and lessons. For example, the Book of Proverbs — a section of ‘wisdom literature’ which is part of the Old Testament — tells us in Chapter 10 verse 5 that “A wise youth harvests in the summer, but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.” This verse reminds us that summer is a key part of the cycle of life on this earth, an opportunity to grow and reap a rich harvest, but also an opportunity that can be neglected or missed with dire consequences. Many people believe that our world is a gift from God, a gift which we should cherish, and a gift for which we have a duty of care, a duty to be good stewards. How we care for the environment really matters for pollution has serious consequences, a fact that comes to our attention in August when we are sometimes advised not to swim in the sea or in a river because of, for example, the discharge of raw sewage.

While August is, for some, a time of labour and harvest, it is for many of us a period for rest and relaxation. Rest and relaxation are really important; in Mark's gospel Chapter 6 verse 31 Jesus tells his disciples to come away with him — “let's take a break and get a little rest.” So August is an opportunity on Biblical authority (!) for us to take a break, to rest and reflect and give thanks for this wonderful world in which we live. If you would like to do so with others why not join one of the churches in Harlington; you will find details of services to-

Letter *ctd.* plus Quintet Choir and Wellbeing Walks

wards the end of this magazine. If you are on holiday and want to worship you can find information about the nearest parish church on A Church Near You website (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>).

If you are taking some time for rest and relaxation, may your holiday be blessed and have a great holiday.

Robert Johns

Reader, St. Mary's Church

The Quintet Choir

The Quintet Choir sings a wide range of music at services in several local churches throughout the year. We are a very friendly group and always delighted to welcome new members. This summer, we will be preparing for an evensong at Harlington (20th September) and a Harvest Celebration at Toddington (27th September). Do come along to rehearsals if you would like to get involved. These will take place at St Mary's Church Harlington, 7.30-8.30pm on 13th, 20th, 28th August and 3rd, 10th, 17th September. Please contact Nicholas Hopton (07715 446402) for more details.

And of course, if you cannot make these dates, we will begin preparing for Christmas services in late October/early November. It is always fun to get together and sing carols. Please do consider coming along to enjoy them with us.

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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FLITTABUS TO FLITWICK TESCO

Route FL6

Dates	Depart Harlington	Depart Flitwick
Thu 6/13/20/27 Aug 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 7/14/21/28 Aug 2026	9:17 am Upper School Goswell End Rd	12:15 pm St Mary's Square

FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS – THERE ARE NO FLITTABUS EXCURSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

However it always pays to keep an eye on the [Flittabus Excursions page](http://flittabus.co.uk/excursions/) at flittabus.co.uk/excursions/ or phone the [Excursion bookings line](http://flittabus.co.uk/excursions/) on 07 563 170 067 in case things change at short notice.



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Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**

Funding the fight

What a season!



Thank you to all those who have supported buying plants, growing seeds and digging up their gardens to provide plants to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research so far this year you have all raised £1624.13, that is just incredible, we have just started the 7th month of the year so I feel fairly certain we can make in excess of £2000 on plants from outside my house.

We are also just beginning the garden produce season. I have already had redcurrants, blackcurrants, rhubarb, courgettes, marrow, in my insulated cool box thanks to Duncan, Frankie, Liz and Michael so please do come and look outside 132 Goswell End Road and see if there is something you need for a favourite recipe! I am expecting tomatoes, beans, cabbage, cucumbers, marrows and blackberries, apples and pears. Come and try!

I got very excited last Sunday. It was too hot to do any more gardening, so I took the opportunity to sort all my seeds into my 2 lovely new seed boxes I received as a birthday present this year. So I am excited for next year; all my seeds are organised in month order and I am already planning next year's plants, flowers and veg! I have needed to buy a lot more seed packets this year so if anyone has an excess of vegetable seeds or a subscription to a gardening magazine and seeds you don't plan to sow I would be very grateful to receive them. I have also sorted the seeds I put out to encourage you all to have a go at growing, and was pleased that that it seemed depleted, which means some of you are taking a look, getting inspired and having a go, so I would like to restock this. If any of you have seeds to spare, thank you.

Finally, I have been asked by a number of supporters if I would like any plastic plant pots. I have got here a huge stash and supply of pots and I would rather spend my time growing seeds, pricking out and potting on plants than washing dirty pots. I think I have enough pots for my lifetimes so can I request you find an alternative way to recycle your pots. There are some garden centres that welcome and accept old pots but thank you everyone for thinking about my needs and sharing your resources with me. If I do ever find I am getting short of pots I will make a request using the Contact magazine through my articles.

However, if you have any decorative plastic pots or terracotta, ceramic garden or house plant pots these are always very popular and well received and raise considerable funds for the charity. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at the village show and I would like to thank the

Harlington Lower School



What an incredible year it has been at Harlington Lower School! At the end of the academic year, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some of our achievements and most memorable moments from 2025-26.

It has been a year of fantastic academic growth and provision developments. In our Early Years, enhanced adult interactions and tailored provision have yielded a brilliant increase in outcomes in Early Years, supported by our immensely popular parental 'working together sessions'. To ease the transition into Key Stage 1, we also introduced Year 1 continuous provision. In early reading, our rollout of Twinkl Phonics has been a resounding success, driving great outcomes in the Phonics Screening Check, while our KS2 children demonstrated accelerated progress in their Multiplication Tables Check. We are also incredibly proud of our brand-new sensory room, built with funding from the Inclusion Innovation Fund, which is already having a wonderfully positive impact across the school.

Beyond the classroom, the year has been packed with vibrant experiences. Our Year 4s built brilliant independence during an adventurous residential trip to Cuffley, while history came alive across the school with immersive 'Wow Days'—including a Medieval Banquet, Viking longboat crafting, a Great Fire of London re-enactment, and Ancient Egyptian tomato mummification!

Creativity and community spirit shone brightly during our World Book Day celebrations, and our musical talents took centre stage throughout the year. The school choir performed with the Amptill Town Band at Redborne, joined the Voice in a Million concert at the O2 Arena, and spread festive cheer at Luton Airport. Furthermore, our Year 3s stole the show at the Grove Theatre for 'Something for Summer,' with four amazing children stepping in with just five minutes' rehearsal to perform on their brass instruments when another school couldn't make it.

We are so proud of our pupils' dedication and resilience, and we thank the whole village for your continued support!

Brain Tumour Research *ctd.*

committee for giving me this opportunity to raise the profile of the charity, for offering the money raised from the sale of produce to the charity and encouraging you to donate plants for the cause too. Thank you all, this only works because of the support you give me, and I really appreciate you all. My thanks.

Jane Barltrop

Harlington in Bloom



Many thanks to **Harlington Shop** and **Green Valley Construction**; **Nevilles Funeral Services (Amptill)**; **Wednesday Coffee Group**; **Gwen Gray**; **Ryan Burnham (The Berry Cinema; Hackney Wick)** for the recent donations. We, on the committee, are very touched by the residents and local businesses supporting Harlington in Bloom activities. We are

making plans to use your money wisely. We were concerned about the Old Cemetery Planters collapsing, but with the boost in funds, we will be able to renew these this October before the winter replanting. Steve Jackson and Dave Kingham built these originally. We will remember Steve Jackson, sadly lost to brain tumour, recently. Even now Dave is trying to do it all himself. But the boost in funds will make sure we can hire someone to make the planters with Dave.

Harlington Awards. Please return trophies to Judy Harfield, 126 Goswell End Road asap. If you need them collected; please email **harlingtoninbloom@protonmail.com** or ring Judy (01525 874184).

We look forward to meeting you at one of our dates! **We really do need some extra pairs of hands to keep it all going, including administrative tasks as well as hands-on.** New to the village? Recently retired? Do just turn up and give us a *follow* on FB. We will be losing our awesome Secretary in the near future as she is moving to Devon. Rosemary has been an incredible boon to the Committee; gifted in administrative matters and a keen knowledge of plants and planting; not to mention her husband Paul who has helped out very quietly managing the watering of planters in the New Cemetery.

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

Sat 29 August	Hosting HiB Gazebo at 40 th Village Show	
Sat 5 September	Weeding/pruning work party. All Welcome	10 am
Fri 25 September	Awards Evening All Welcome	7.30 pm
Sat 31 October	Winter planting All Welcome	10 am
Sat 7 November	War Memorial Tidy Up for Remembrance Sunday	10 am

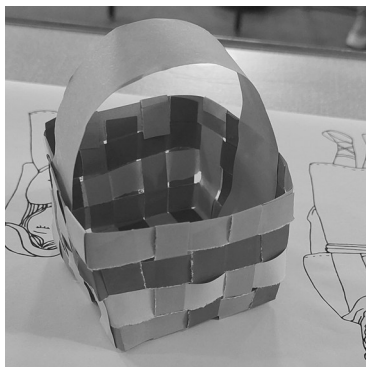
Vivienne Dunlop on behalf of HiB Committee <https://www.facebook.com/HarlingtonInBloom/> or judy.harfield@apertech.co.uk (Treasurer); Rosemary Tuohy (Secretary) rosemarypc86@gmail.com

Messy Church News



In June we thought about sharing. The Bible contains many examples of people sharing, mostly food, with others. In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus talked about people who did (or didn't do) things for others as doing (or not doing) things for him.

When Abraham was visited by people who told him he would have a son, he made them a meal. We cooked cheese pull-aparts—bread cooked with cheese—which you pull apart to share. At



the feeding of the 5,000 a boy shared his lunch and twelve baskets of bits were picked up afterwards. The Good Samaritan shared with the man who had been attacked. And have you tried eating jelly beans with a spoon with a really long handle?

There won't be a Messy Church in August because of holidays. We'll be back on 19th September for the new church year, with more stories and activities. You can also join on Zoom or see the Celebration on YouTube.



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

Hub and Spoke Café



The Hub and Spoke Café, Harlington

MORE THAN A CAFÉ??. THIS MONTH WE'VE..

Fed and watered 300+ cyclists

Catered two funeral wakes

Made afternoon tea for 35 people in a private garden

Catered a 90th birthday party

Supported three charities

Had the Friday Youth Group making their own pizzas

Collected prescriptions and taken people to hospital

Delivered to five local villages

Hosted a 60th party on the lawn

Hosted a private prosecco and pizza evening

Made 20 Afternoon teas in the Café and picnics

And made an awful lot of coffee

We are proud to be part of everyday life in Harlington — from quick coffees to the moments that matter most.

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robandsue@thehubandspokecafe.co.uk

Harlington Village Show *plus* Gardeners' Society

40th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026



Hopefully you're making final decisions about what you can enter in the Show? The schedule has some guidance about how to exhibit in various classes and you'll need the schedule to see what the classes are; instructions for the various sizes; number of items in the class; and how to display your exhibits. If you need any help at all, contact us via harlington-villageshow@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page. If you can't find your schedule or entry form, Sanjeev at Harlington Shop has spare entry forms, plus the children's colouring sheets, and lists of classes. This could be the year you win your first rosette!

It's important that you get your entry forms in by 5pm at the latest on Thursday 27th August, and ideally as early as possible so that exhibitor cards can be written in plenty of time. Details of where to drop your form off are on the reverse of the form. We will again have a super raffle, so please do bring along some change! Refreshments will also include a variety of home made cakes.

If you have problems with mobility, or perhaps use a wheelchair, please come slightly earlier to visit at 1.45pm. The Show officially opens at 2pm for everyone else, and entry is £1 for adults, children are free.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

Harlington Gardeners' Society



We still have a few places on our annual coach outing this year to RHS Hyde Hall in Essex on 5th September with free entry for members. The cost of the coach is £35 per person.

Tony Roberts – HGS Secretary

Directory

CHURCHES

Parish Church: Dr Robert Johns Reader .email:robert@harlingtonchurch.org01525 873214
St John's Church RC.....parish.holyfamilyandstjohn@northamptondiocese.org
Methodist Church Senior Steward: Clive Salmon.....01525 874481
Baptist Church Contact: Sue Yule.....01582 875410
Life Church Key Leader: Carol Gibbs.....www.lifechurch-beds.co.uk 07890 692574
Friends of St. Mary's.....friendsofharlingtonchurch@gmail.com

EDUCATION

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

HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT

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

HOBBIES, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Crafternoon Tea, Tina Salmon.....christinasalmon60@gmail.com 01525 874481
Friday Painting Group Pat King.....p.king109@btinternet.com 07484614892
Gestalt Theatre (Adults) Natalie Jeffs.....gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621
Harlington Gardeners' Society, Tony Roberts – Secretary01525 753235
Harlington In Bloom, Rosemary Tuohy rosemarypc86@gmail.com 07793 016207
Harlington Off-Road Cycling, Ron Simmonds.....harlingtonoffroadcycling@gmail.com
.....01525 873264
Harlington Performs Natalie Jeffs,gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621
Harlington Village Show Tricia Murphy01525 754241
Jigsaw Library Tricia Murphy01525 754241
Sewing And Knitting For Charities, Vicky Yorkev.yorke@sky.com 01525 872267
Toddington Rambling Club Tony Roberts.....toddingtonramblingclub.co.uk 01525 753235

LAW AND ORDER

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

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Directory

LIBRARIES

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Flitwick Library Coniston Road, Flitwick MK45 1QJ01525 715266
Toddington Library 9 Market Square Toddington LU5 6BP01525 873626

Barton, and Toddington

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

Flitwick

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

LOCAL SERVICES

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..... www.thehubandspokecafe.co.uk .01525 752367

MEDICAL

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Book on line:.....www.sundonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk
Harlington Surgery Westoning Road (Operates with Sundon Centre).....01525 874066
Toddington Surgery, The Medical Centre, Luton Road, Toddington.....01525 872222
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Dentist 19 Dunstable Street, Ampthill..... www.amphilldentalpractice.co.uk 403205
Physiotherapists 7 Station Square, Flitwick.....www.chartered-physiotherapy.co.uk 720882

MEETING PLACES

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

MEN & WOMEN'S GROUPS

Bright Hour Fellowship, Helen James 07914 937702

POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative Party Mid Beds Conservative Pary.....midbedsconservatives@gmail.com
.....www.midbedsconservatives.org.uk
Labour Party Mid Beds Labour Party.....www.midbedslabour.org.uk
Liberal Democrats Central Beds Liberal Democrats.....www.centralbedslibdems.org.uk

PRE-SCHOOL

Harlington 0-4 Club (Playgroup) ..
Harlington Village Pre-Schoolstaff@harlingtonvillagepreschool.org.uk 07963 534038

SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICE

Harlington Neighbourhood Help.....07849 835410
Citizen's Advice Bureau Community House, Court House, Woburn Street, Ampthill MK45 2HX
Mon –Thurswww.citizensadvice.org.uk 402742
Rotary Club Howard Mann 07717 302062
Royal British Legion –

Directory *plus* Half Way Up The Hill

TRANSPORT

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

YOUTH

626 Club Clive and Tina Salmon.....01525 874481
Boys Brigade/The Friday Thing Martin Wallis.....01525 875850 / 07795 642507
Gestalt Theatre (Children's, and Youth) Natalie Jeffs.....gestalt.theatre@gmail.com 07793 116621
Girl Guiding UK:
Rainbows Claire Livingstone harlingtonrainbows@hotmail.com
2nd Brownies Laura Davies2ndharlingtonbrownies@gmail.com
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network
Kate Nippard.....07908168412
Harlington Lower & Sundon FChlsfootballclub@gmail.com 07578710607
Harlington Hotshots Netball Club Emily Thornton-Greet.....emilytg@me.com
Harlington Juniors FC Contacts:
1st team Phil Tomlinson.....philtomlinson1@gmail.com 07862263140
Reserve Team Morgan McCarthy.....morganjames29@hotmail.com 07702281845
Under 18s Andrew Fildes.....andrew_fildes@hotmail.com 07970775547
Under 15s Karlos Williams.....karlos122@hotmail.com 07539883301
Under 13s Pat Clarke.....patclarke813@gmail.com 07855337171
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If you spot any errors or omissions in this list please let me know as soon as possible. I will publish changes each month and a new full issue will come out in January 2027.

Half Way Up The Hill—More from the Methodists

Methodism likes committees, although we now often call them teams. One we set up is for New Projects, because change happens, and if it is not to bring decay then we need to change as well to deal with it.

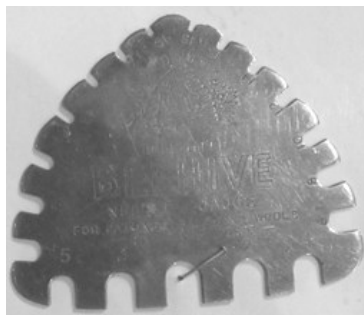
From the New Projects Team we have had a number of initiatives. One is the Holiday Club run for children in the first week of the summer holidays. It is now on its second year.

Another initiative has been “Meet the Village”. As we have a large number of new people moving into new houses, as well as the usual regular moving in the older houses, we invited village groups to come on the same day and invited particularly new villages to come and meet them. It had mixed success, but when more new people are around, we will run it again.

Crafternoon Tea

When visiting my mother in a care home over the last few years, I used to take knitting to do – sometimes she was asleep, and I am very bad at doing nothing, and it gave us a starting point for conversation. I had to take something simple that I could knit without paying more attention to it than I paid to mother! On one occasion, our conversation was interrupted by a gentleman who was visiting his wife. He asked what the difference was between knitting and crochet, and the implements used!

As I said last month, we visited Forge Mill needle museum (I said July, but obviously it was June!). The picture shown is an early knitting needle gauge – but



knitting needles are not counted by the needle-making industry as needles. Needles, technically, have to have a hole in them. What we call knitting needles are, strictly speaking, knitting pins!

The knitting pin gauge was an essential tool as soon as knitting needles became mass-manufactured, rather than made by hand within the household. Bought early needles came wrapped in paper, on which was printed the size

of the needle. Unless one was careful, and kept the paper – and the needles in the paper – there was no clue as to the size of the needle. The first mention of tension in knitting was by a Miss Lambert, published in her “Handbook of Needlework” in 1842. In her later book, “My Knitting Book”, she writes about inventing a knitting needle gauge, with 24 holes sized for the standard British knitting needle gauge. I have the late 20th century plastic version, but the picture is of a 1920s nickel plated gauge, manufactured by Beehive, who also produced yarns for knitting, and patterns.

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 **August** will be **10th** and **24th**. 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

Cllr Terry Culverhouse	Cllr Martin Waldron
Cllr John Harfield	Cllr Marcus McNamara
Cllr Pete Hughes	Cllr David Steel
Cllr Karen Saunders	Cllr John Russell
Cllr Mary Walsh	VACANT
Cllr Phillip Tomlinson	VACANT

PARISH CLERK/COUNCIL OFFICE

Alison Doyle 01525 875933 clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk

Parish Office, Church Road, 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:

August 2026	No Council Meetings
1 st September 2026	Finance & General Purposes 7.30pm
8 th September 2026	Full Council Meeting 7.30pm

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

News!

Grant and funding assistance applications will be considered at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd November 2026. Please submit your applications before the deadline of 12 noon Friday 16th October 2026. For more information on the conditions and how to apply please visit our website: <https://harlington-pc.gov.uk/grants-and-funding-assistance/> or our office.

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.

Harlington Dog Show



**SUNDAY 20TH SEPT
2026**

10AM - 3PM

**HARLINGTON FUN
DOG
SHOW**

DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED!

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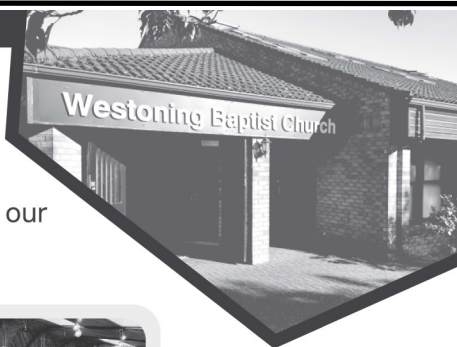
Mark your calendars, get your sun cream, shorts, shirts, and water bottles (for the dogs). The Harlington Fun Dog Show is back for a second year ! Sunday 20th September 10am to 3pm for more information contact Becky Whittle or Becky Fildes at Harlingtondogshow@gmail.com

"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush- bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing
Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn."
- Michelle L. Thieme, August's Crown

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

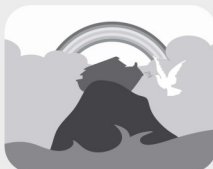


Friday

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**

Harlington Scout Group

The summer months are a brilliant time to enjoy the challenge, adventure and fun Scouting offers. Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have had all sorts of amazing experiences together thanks, of course, to the dedicated volunteers who lead each section. Our group camp to Bromham saw the boys and girls climbing, enjoying archery, driving pedal cars, cooking on fires and sleeping under canvas. The camp provided a great opportunity to say "goodbye and thank you" to our long-serving Lead Volunteer Kate, whose many years of service have seen the group go from strength-to-strength.



At section meetings, there have been fun games, water fights, delicious smores, hikes across the Sundon Hills, scavenger hunts, First Aid training, reptile-handling, gardening and even an opportunity to get locked in a Police vehicle!

Scouting is for everyone so if you think your child would benefit from a welcoming, inclusive and action-packed activity, please do get in touch (07715 446402). Beavers (6-8 years old) meets on Mondays, Scouts (10½-14 years old) on Tuesdays and Cubs (8-10½) on Thursdays.

We are always keen to welcome volunteers too so, if you fancy working with a friendly team to help young people develop skills and values that will stand them in good stead throughout life, please make contact. It is a rich and rewarding way to spend time!

Nicholas Hopton (Lead Volunteer)

"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs."

- *Henry David Thoreau*

LIFE Church and Mini Lighthouse



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

www.life-church-harlington.com

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

August 2026 – a different format this month

On the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd we meet for a relaxed time of ‘Exploring the Bible’.
Opportunity to ask questions and share thoughts.

30th – No service

We begin our usual services again on September 6th

Wednesdays 7.15pm Prayer meeting on Zoom.

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

MINI
LIGHT
HOUSE
FOR 0-3YRS



LIFE CHURCH
HARLINGTON

August 13th 10.00 – 12.00

Harlington Parish Hall



Summer Special
Teddy Bears Picnic

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.



AUGUST preachers are:

- 2nd 10 am Andrea Als-McClean
4 pm Circuit Farewell to Rev Patrick Kandeh at St Margaret's, Luton
9th 10 am Tina and Clive Salmon
16th 10 am Rev. Jenny Spouge. This service includes Holy Communion
23rd 10 am Angie Woodcraft
30th 10 am Takudzwa Chiwade

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 29th August 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 will be taking a summer break and will restart on the 10th September 2026

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. Contact via email t315485@gmail.com OR leave a message on 07704315485

"Last summer I was staying at a house in Hampshire which was famous for the brilliance and the originality of its gardens. There were many of them, but the most beautiful of all was a walled garden in which every flower was blue. There were all the obvious things like delphiniums and acronitums and larkspurs, but the most beautiful blue of all came from the groups of cabbages - the ordinary blue pickling cabbage. Set against the blazing blue of the other flowers, it had a bloom and elegance which made it a thing of the greatest delight."

- Beverly Nichols

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



New toilet and kitchen project: as some of you know, we do not have a toilet, or many kitchen facilities in the church, which limits any community events, and we are hoping to change that! We are currently dedicating all of our fund raising to this project and working on potential plans. We're very excited about improving the church for village use and will let you know how things progress, including having information in the church on Gift Day, September 12th.

Messy Church: We enjoyed our July Messy Church with a theme of 'Holidays' and reflected on the times that Jesus took a break from preaching and teaching. We discussed the importance of rest and spending time with friends and family. Messy Church is 'on holiday' in August. We'll be back on September 13th.

Churchyard: We've enjoyed the various flowers that sprung up this Spring and Summer, but our old box hedge is being removed and a replacement planted. One that hopefully is resilient to viruses and creatures! There's a girl I know who only eats plants.....you probably never heard of herbivore!

Save the dates: Gift Day 12th September. Church tours, refreshments, craft and outdoor activities for children. 10am -4pm.

Patronal Festival: Sunday 20th September 4pm, with refreshments afterwards. This is an opportunity to celebrate this lovely, historic church and it's place in village life for 100s of years.

Toddington Town Band: Sunday 4th October 2.30pm

Christmas Tree Festival: 4th & 5th December. We are also planning our next Festival (sorry for THAT word!). Our theme is 'The Joys of Christmas'. Information will be coming out to village groups, but if you'd like more information, or to enter, please 'book' via booking@harlingtonchurch.org.

More information on all upcoming events to follow. For service and event information, see Contact, the noticeboard outside church or our website: www.harlingtonchurch.org.

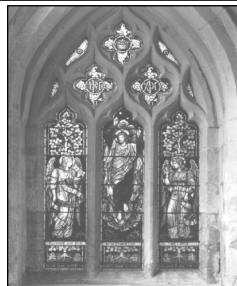
If you'd like to speak to someone about a life event or for prayer, please contact revmarkedwards@outlook.com, or our Lay Reader Robert, robert@harlingtonchurch.org. You can also contact myself or fellow Churchwarden Neil.

Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church which stands at the centre of the village. Our August services are:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------|--|
| 2 nd | 8 am | Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer) |
| | 9.30 am | Morning Praise service |
| 9 th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| 16 th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| 23 rd | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| 30 th | 9.30 am | Holy Communion |



Please note there is no Messy Church in August. Messy Church will be back in September.

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)

"Heat, ma'am! it was so dreadful here, that I found there was nothing left for it but to take off my flesh and sit in my bones."

- Sydney Smith, *Lady Holland's Memoir*

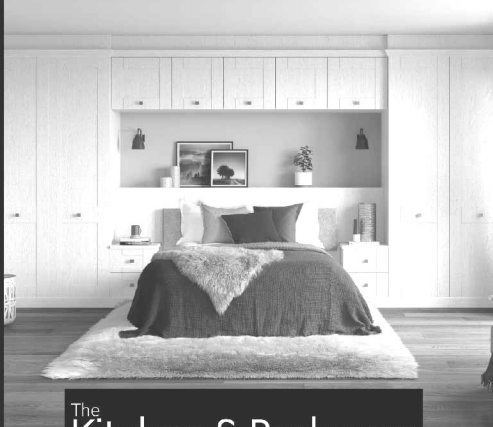
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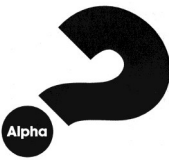
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Is there more to life than this?

Alpha will be coming to Harlington soon.

A Chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment.

Watch this space!

Try Alpha 

contact@life-church-harlington.com

Village Diary *plus* Wednesday Coffee

August

4 th Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
10 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
13 th Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 10 am – 12 noon
24 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
29 th Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
29 th Village Show	Village Hall 2 pm

September

1 st Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
1 st Parish Finance & GP	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
5 th HGS Coach Trip	
5 th HiB weeding/pruning	Village Hall Car Park 10 am
7 th Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
8 th Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
12 th Gift day	St. Mary's 10 am – 4 pm
12 th Westoning Tanker Disaster	Westoning Village Hall 11 am – 5 pm
19 th Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
20 th Dog Show	New Grounds 10 am – 3 pm
20 th Patronal Festival	St. Mary's 4 pm
21 st Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
25 th HiB Awards evening	7.30 pm
26 th Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon

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 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH AUGUST 2026

Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday Coffee is taking a break for August.

Doreen Gatward and Valerie Bates.