
Editorial

Dear Villagers,

As you will see on page 28, we intend to publish a new Directory in August. Please check and let me know of any changes.

Debbie is looking for people to help distribute, both for new houses and existing ones where our previous helper has had to give up. If you can help, particularly if you find a special request slip in your copy, please contact her or me.

We're a nosey lot in Harlington! If you have lived here a while and would like to write about its past, or have recently moved and have a tale of why you chose here, write it up and let me have it. Similarly if your village group is doing or has done something, let us know.

Finally, enjoy summer and look after yourselves.

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.

August 2026 copy by 10th July please.

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A letter from the Methodist Minister

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

These words remind us that God is always with us, guiding us wherever we go. As I prepare to leave Harlington and Bedfordshire at the end of July, I do so with deep gratitude. Though I have not met everyone personally, I have been blessed by the warmth and support shown throughout the village and wider community.

It has been a privilege to share in community life worshipping together, celebrating milestones, supporting one another, and facing challenges while witnessing God’s faithfulness.

Harlington has been a place of generosity, encouragement, and shared purpose. I have seen neighbours helping neighbours, churches working together, and people caring for one another. These moments remind us that hope grows strongest in community.

While farewells are never easy, I trust that God will continue to bless and guide this community.

My prayer is that you will continue to grow in love, care for one another, and serve your neighbours with compassion. Whatever our beliefs, may we value and support one another as one community.

Thank you for your friendship and support. I will always treasure my memories of Harlington.

May God bless you and keep you, and may his peace be with you always.

Amen.

Rev. Claudia Lupi



"Along the river's summer walk,
The withered tufts of asters nod;
And trembles on its arid stalk
the hoar plum of the golden-rod."

- *John Greenleaf Whittier*

John Greenleaf Whittier is also the author of the poem “The Brewing of Soma” from which the hymn “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” is taken.

Wednesday Coffee *plus* Wellbeing Walks



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 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.



"That beautiful season the Summer!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light;
And the landscape
Lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood."

- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Flittabus

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Route FL11

<i>Date</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart CMK</i>
Tue 7 July 2026	9:15 am Bus stop on Station Rd, a few yards down from the cross-roads.	1:00 pm Exit Door 5

FLITTABUS TO FLITWICK TESCO

Route FL6

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Flitwick</i>
Thu 2/9/16/23/30 July 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

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Depart Harlington</i>	<i>Depart Hitchin</i>
Fri 3/10/17/24/31 July 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

"What a beautiful, sunny morning. It makes you happy to be alive, doesn't it?
We can't let the sun outshine us! We have to beam, too!"

- Takayuki Ikkaku

Flit Vale Wildlife Group



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



Wildlife Walks & Talks

Saturday, July 4th, Strawberry Hill Farm, near Knotting Green, Bedford (MK44 1AA), 10.00am

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm lead by Wildlife Trust BCN staff

Two months on from our previous visit, we are hoping to hear a different soundscape of birds at this remarkable 150-hectare site, the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region. A unique habitat and a place which can really inspire people's wonder of nature. We are hoping to see a host of bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora.

£5 per person

Saturday, July 25th, Dunstable Downs' National Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10.30am

Butterfly Walk with Wilf Powell

Another try at a butterfly walk with Wilf Powell, hoping for better weather, join Wilf as we search for some of the lovely butterfly 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 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

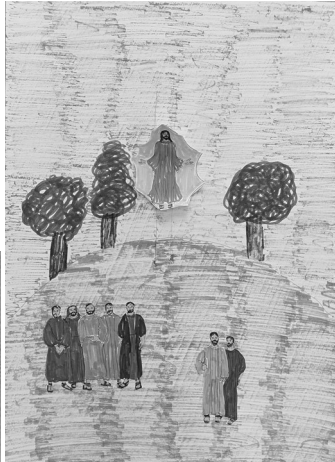
www.wildlifebcn.org/flit-vale-local-group

Messy Church News *plus* Harlington Juniors FC



Ascension and Pentecost were celebrated in May, so these were the theme for our Messy Church.

Pentecost is seen as the birthday of the church, we had candles. We also had



This picture enables you to see Jesus rising into the sky. As



flames of other kinds and wind.

Our July Messy Church will take place on the 18th at 4 pm in the Methodist Church and halls. By then I suspect we will all be thinking about holidays.

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

Harlington Juniors FC



Pearce from the Harlington Juniors adult first team writes:

We have just finished our season. After gaining promotion last year from Division 1 this was our first season in the Beds FA premier division, the highest level the team has played.

We finished in a very respectable 7th in the league having played 28, winning 13, drawing 6 and losing 9. The highlight

of the whole season was winning our first ever Beds FA county cup in March vs Cranfield United who are a team 2 leagues above us! A historic night for the team & club. We already have our sights on going again next year & defending our cup!

Harlington Performs,

**In loving memory of Andra Bishop,
Harlington Performs & Gestalt Theatre presents our**

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**includes classic songs, solos, duets, dances,
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11th July 2026

2.30pm & 7.30pm

TICKETS £10

CONCESSION £8

HARLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

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Brain Tumour Research



**Brain Tumour
Research**

Funding the fight

Thank Heavens it's June!



Or so I thought! It had been a busy May with lots of visitors and support for our fundraising for Brain Tumour Research, which is great, but there was one point in the month when I looked at my depleted plant display and looked at my garden and thought, I have nothing I can split and pot right now, and I don't have that 2 week window to ensure the plant is sufficiently established, to then add it to my display, when lo and behold I received a tray of plants from Steve, plants arrived from Andy, Liz, Rosie, John, Dick, Jenny, Teresa and Judy, and a car full of unusual plants from a group of ladies who visit and donate on a regular basis from Flitwick and Toddington, you are all my life savers. Besides these lovely plants I was offered some amazing pots which a gardener had received from a client who was wishing to reduce their plant pot collection. This collection filled my car and kept me busy for a day washing and preparing them for sale and raised £175 for the charity in less than a week. Thank you everyone.

Then tonight, 8th June, I had waved my daughter and grandsons off home and as I walked down the drive I saw more gaps than plants. So I apologise. I am at the point where I don't seem able to meet the demand but I am doing my best to!!

You are making this an incredible year, we are only halfway through the year and already plants and gardening sundries have raised £1231.34. This has to be a record at this point in the year. Thank you to all our supporters.

I have received a lot of money donations in the past 6 weeks which I have passed on directly to the charity, thank you for these too. Brain Tumour Research charity have become aware of my increased and more regular deposits into their bank account questioning how this has been raised and have offered their appreciation for everyone's generosity and kindness. So, Harlington, thank you for pulling all the stops out and making this an incredible year so far.

On a personal note I would like to thank Kathleen, who I have been exchanging notes and become a pen friend with through this fundraising venture, she too supports and enjoys all the plants on offer, taking them back to Southport and took the time to thank you all for sharing your plants with me. Well, we have finally met over a coffee and a florentine and what a lovely hour it was getting to know each other. I will never know what benefits this fundraising will bring to the charity, those who support or provide or to me for that matter, but I thank you all for your contributions and the love and support that you give.

Yours in thanks, Jane

Harlington Lower School



Last half term was a busy and exciting one at Harlington Lower School, with pupils diving into their curriculum with wonderful energy and enthusiasm. History came to life across the classrooms: Chestnut Class travelled back in time to experience a lively medieval banquet; Hawthorn Class researched the inspiring lives of historical nurses; and

Beech Class had a brilliant hands-on Ancient Egypt Day mummifying tomatoes.

Creativity and environmental awareness have also been at the forefront of the children's learning. Rowan Class turned their talents to art and fashion design, sketching charcoal figures and creating paper clothing inspired by Vivienne Westwood. In English and Science, Chestnut Class wrote insightful texts on the dangers of plastic pollution, while Hawthorn Class took to the school grounds for litter picking. Meanwhile, Beech Class became real-world scientists, heading outside with magnifying glasses on an enthusiastic invertebrate hunt.

The arrival of warmer weather has allowed everyone to thrive outdoors. Oak Class has been building great independence and gross-motor skills in the sunshine, and Chestnut Class has loved climbing trees, building dens, and planting seeds. With Oak Class set to take their turn in the woods for Forest School this June, the outdoor adventures are only set to continue.

We are looking forward to our upcoming school fayre, which is being organised by the FRIENDS of Harlington Lower School. The event will take place on Saturday 27th June, running from 11am until 2pm. It promises to be a wonderful day of fun and festivities, and we are very much looking forward to seeing as many people as possible there to celebrate the local community.

"A lot of parents pack up their troubles and send them off to summer camp."

- *Raymond Duncan*

"The linden, in the fervours of July,
Hums with a louder concert. When the wind
Sweeps the broad forest in its summer prime,
As when some master-hand exulting sweeps
The keys of some great organ, ye give forth
The music of the woodland depths, a hymn
Of gladness and of thanks."

- *William Cullen Bryant, Among the Trees*

Harlington in Bloom



We will welcome 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** and **Green Valley Construction** for the recent splendid donations.

Many thanks to all who turned out for the summer bed planting party on 30 May and planted up the summer bedding including the Village Carpark bed celebrating 40 years of the Harlington Village Show and of Harlington Performs. The scheme incorporates nemesia, geraniums, begonias, salvia and cineraria. We appreciated the lovely comments from passersby and on our Facebook posts. Also lovely to get offers of water and coffee! Stripping the winter planting took place in the heatwave and the week after was the start of the periodic deluges! However, the rain was welcome to get the beds off to a good start. We have recently purchased a first aid kit in case of any minor incidents during the work parties. Hopefully, it will not be seeing much use!

We will be doing kerbside judging from 14 July for **Harlington Awards**. **Please return trophies to Judy Harfield, 126 Goswell End Road.** This is to have them ready for the new inscriptions of this year's winners. No need to enter. Judges will walk around the village and make nominations and selections in categories such as hanging baskets, tubs and containers, dry gardens. Good luck everyone!

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.

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

Week Commencing 11 July Summer Judging of front gardens, containers etc

Sat 18 July Weeding/pruning work party All Welcome. 10 am

Sat 29 August Hosting HiB Gazebo at 40th Village Show

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

Fri 25 September Awards Evening All Welcome 7.30 pm

HiB *ctd.* and Not Quite Wordsworth

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

Not Quite Wordsworth

I floated lonely as a cloud,
that drizzled on a passing crowd,
and I ensured the sun stayed in,
except when on a nudist's skin.



I rained and poured to bring despair,
and soak right through your underwear,
hung around to spoil the day,
then at night just slipped away.



I appeared as you were going out,
so I could hear you scream and shout,
having left you insufficient time,
in which to clear your washing line.



When I took on a violent form,
and shocked you as a thunderstorm,
if not unplugged, then with great glee,
I soon blew up your vast TV.

And oft when on my couch I'm set,
I ponder on my one regret,
I never hailed on yonder hills,
to flatten all those daffodils.



Duncan Willox
© 01.04.26

Hub and Spoke Café



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Harlington Village Show

40th Harlington Village Show

Saturday 29th August 2026



Please could any 2025 winners return their trophies by July 31st at the latest

The schedules should have been delivered along with your Contact Magazine this month, so please keep the booklet with the bright red cover. You'll need it to see what the classes are, plus the instructions for sizes, numbers and how to display your exhibits. If you need any help at all, contact us via harlingtonvillageshow@gmail.com.

The entry forms will be inside the schedule, and you just circle whichever class you're entering, then add your contact details and payment – it's still 20p per entry, but free for children. If a child is entering, please also give their age. Then deliver the form to any of the addresses on the reverse of the entry form *before 5pm* on Thursday 27th August.

Come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 29th August between 8.30am and 10.45am to display your exhibit, where Stewards will be on hand to help. The Show opens at 2pm in the afternoon when you can visit to see whether you've won a rosette or prize card. (Fingers crossed). And it's better NOT to assume your exhibit won't be good enough, because if you've been struggling, then it's certain other folk have as well. How many times have I heard these words from people who haven't entered?.....“Mine are better than those”.....yes, a lot!

We have to have around £1000 in our bank account each year to guarantee having enough income to run the next year's show. So your support via entry fees, raffle and refreshments all count. For Showday itself, we'd love some extra help with setting up and clearing things away at the end. We set up the evening before, meeting on Friday 28th August from 7.30pm at the Village Hall, then empty the hall from 4.15pm on Saturday.

Contact us via harlingtonvillageshow@gmail.com if you can help in any way. Thank you for your support and we'll look forward to seeing you there.

Tricia & the HVS Committee

"No bought potpourri is so pleasant as that made from one's own garden, for the petals of the flowers one has gathered at home hold the sunshine and memories of summer, and of past summers only the sunny days should be remembered."

- Eleanor Sinclair-Rhode

Half Way Up The Hill—More from the Methodists

John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, were both ordained clergy in the Church of England. They considered that the church standards had slipped, with many vicars having multiple parishes and getting money from the livings, while low paid curates did the actual work. In Oxford they founded a group who met for prayer and Bible study and their structured approach to this led the group to be given the nickname of Methodists.

One of their particular complaints was about clergy not preaching in services, and Methodism started with preaching houses. The Wesleys originally expected people to go to these to hear sermons, and to go to the church for Communion. As the Methodists increasingly split away, however, and also developed new preaching houses in the newly forming industrial areas, these were formed into Circuits, groups of churches around which a minister could make a circuit, and the few ordained ministers were supplemented by non-ordained local preachers. Each circuit would have a senior clergyman to superintend.

In recent years with falling numbers of clergy and with church closures, circuits have been joined together, making them geographically larger. Harlington used to be in the Dunstable Circuit, but circuits have been joined together and re-named and we are now in the South Bedfordshire Circuit, which stretches from Aley Green to Gravenhurst and includes Luton, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. From September this will encompass 18 churches, some joint with other denominations, and with 4 Ministers and around 16 active Local Preachers.

One thing about being a Circuit is the times we get together, for worship or other activities. July sees two such occasions. The first is an evening service which will include the accreditation of a new Local Preacher. This will take place on 5th July at 6.30 pm at High Street Methodist Church, Leagrave. The second is a morning service held on Dunstable Downs (weather permitting - at the Square Church if wet) . We have met there for several years now. This is on 19th July at 11 am, and will include the Circuit farewell to Claudia.



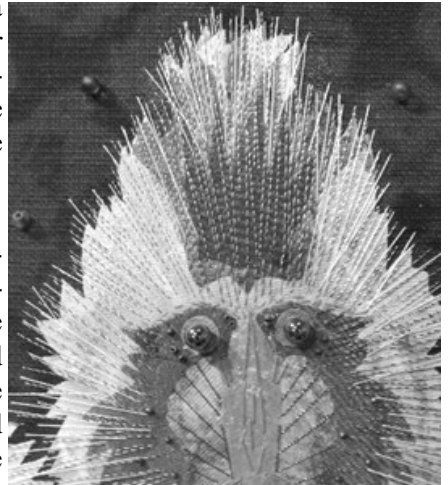
Crafternoon Tea



During our holiday in early June, we visited Forge Mill needle museum. It is very possible that I shall use a number of pictures taken on this occasion in the future! The whole place was fascinating for anyone interested in one of the world's oldest crafts, or in British industry – a hundred years ago, 90% of the sewing needles in use in the world were made in the south west midlands – the Redditch area. The Forge Mill museum lies on the northern outskirts of Redditch itself, and many of the famous needle makers are still around the same area.

When we were there, the exhibition area was in use by a local craftswoman, and her work was as interesting as the main museum. Here is one of her pictures, and some detail on it. I thought I had done some fine embroidery, but I don't want to have to thread the needles she must use!

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 **July** will be **13th** and **27th**. The meeting on 27th 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.

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:

14th July 2026 Full Council Meeting 7.30pm
28th July 2026 Full Council Meeting 7.30pm

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

News!

Tentative plans are being made for a Christmas lights switch on event, Saturday 21st November, more details will follow in due course. We need your help to make this a community event. If you run a group or organisation and would like to be involved, please let us know.

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.

Harlington Dog Show



SUNDAY 20TH SEPT
2026
10AM - 3PM
HARLINGTON FUN
DOG SHOW
DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED!

@SCALEFEATHERSANDFUR

@DOGGYANDDWELLING



HARLINGTON VILLAGE
NEWGROUNDS PLAYING
FIELDS, LU5 6LS



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 Filles at Harlingtondogshow@gmail.com

"The glowing Ruby should adorn
Those who in warm July are born,
Then will they be exempt and free
From love's doubt and anxiety."

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* Gardeners'

Nature provides beautiful examples of the stability we crave, from the intricate safety of a bird's nest to the hidden security of a fox's den. These are places of nurture and retreat, yet in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus offers a striking contrast: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." This serves as a sobering reminder that Jesus lived His earthly life essentially homeless. While animals find refuge in the wild, the bible reminds us that God's care for us is even more profound. Even in times of uncertainty, we are given the enduring promise that we are never truly alone, and that our needs will be provided for by the One who cares for us most.



Harlington Gardeners' Society



Our members' BBQ will take place on August 8th at 118 Goswell End Rd. We have had to increase the entrance fee this year to £10, due to the ever increasing cost of food.

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

"The serene philosophy of the pink rose is steady-ing. Its fragrant, delicate petals open fully and are ready to fall, without regret or disillusion, after only a day in the sun. It is so every summer. One can almost hear their pink, fragrant murmur as they settle down upon the grass: 'Summer, summer, it will always be summer.'"

- Rachel Peden



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

July 2026

5th – Mark Harder

12th – Carol Gibbs

19th – All age Lighthouse Café

26th – Bible Course



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 Lighthouse

Parent & Toddler Group (0–3 years)

Harlington Parish Hall

🕒 9:30 – 11:00 AM

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.



JULY preachers are:

- 5th 10 am “Come and See” led by Cathy Sheehan
12th 10 am The Worship Group
6 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
19th 11 am Open Air Circuit Service—Dunstable Downs
26th 10 am Sheila Norris

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 July 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 (except where shown below). 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 **July 2026** are:

- 2nd – Rev. Joanne Sherwood
9th – Rev. Patrick Kandeh at his manse, 18, Malzeard Rd., LU3 1BD, leaving at 2 pm
16th – Ivor Mitchelmore
23rd – Visit to Clophill Lakes
30th – Sheila Norris + Keiko

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

St Mary's Churchwarden

St Mary's Church



Messy Church: Sunday 12th July is our next relaxed family celebration in the Parish Hall from 9am, with breakfast, stories, song and crafts.

Churchyard: it was exciting to see that some blue tits fledged from one of the nest boxes this year, but sadly the other 2 boxes remained empty. The bee orchids, although small in number, have been beautiful. Unfortunately, our churchyard tidy up in June was cancelled because of torrential rain, but we'll publicise any new dates on the church website and Facebook.

Biscuit wrappers: thank you to everyone who has kindly collected biscuit wrappers and brought them to church for recycling. We have made the decision not to collect them any more, so if you can, please recycle elsewhere. By the way, I'm on a strict biscuit diet.....I see biscuits and eat them!

Easyfundraising: incredibly, we have reached a new milestone of £2,300 raised for the Restoration Fund via easyfundraising. Over 8000 retailers will donate to your 'good cause' when you shop online, and it costs you nothing. Our good cause is St Mary's Church, Harlington, Beds. Just register with easyfundraising, and then shop online! More info via admin@harlingtonchurch.org.

Patronal Festival: this will be on Sunday 20th September at 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.

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.

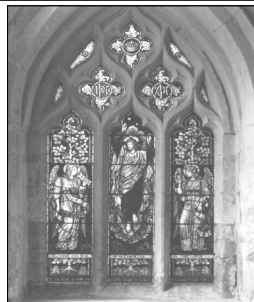
Best wishes, Tricia Churchwarden

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy."

- Anton Chekhov

St. Mary's Church Services

Everyone is welcome to attend Sunday services in our beautiful village church. On the first Sunday of the month, the churches of the Benefice of Harlington, Tingrith and Westoning join together at Tingrith for the first Holy Communion service at which our curate, Rev. Steve Farmer, will preside. This month's services are:



5th 8 am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)
10 am Holy Communion Benefice service at Tingrith

12th 9 am Families' Messy Breakfast in Parish Hall
9.30 am Holy Communion

19th 9.30 am Holy Communion

26th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday 10 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Other times

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

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

Further information and useful links

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

The church Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/stmarysharlington/

A Church Near You at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7667/>

Remember that we are here for you.

Fr Mark Edwards, Dr Robert Johns (Reader), Tricia Murphy and Neil Walter (Church Wardens)

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Village Diary *plus* Village Directory

July

4 th	Wildlife walk	Strawberry Hill Farm 10 am
7 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
9 th	Mini Lighthouse	Parish Hall 9.30 – 11 am
11 th	HP Showcase	Harlington Village Hall 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm
12 th	Messy Breakfast	Parish Hall 9 am
13 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
14 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm
18 th	HiB weeding/pruning	Village Hall Car Park 10 am
18 th	Messy Church	Methodist Church and Halls 4 pm
19 th	Open Air Service	Dunstable Downs 11 am
25 th	Coffee Morning	Methodist Church Hall 10 am – 12 noon
25 th	Wildlife walk	Dunstable Downs 10.30 am
27 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (not Zoom)
28 th	Parish Council	Parish Hall 7.30 pm

August

4 th	Flittabus MK	Station Road bus stop 9.15 am
10 th	Crafternoon Tea	Methodist Church Hall 2 – 4 pm (plus Zoom)
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	Harlington Village Hall 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 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026 DATES TO THE MAGAZINE BY 10TH JULY 2026

Village Directory

I intend to republish the Village Directory in the August edition. Please let me have any changes by 10th July. If you are not sure of what is in, the last published version was included in the January 2026 edition, and, if you have lost your copy, it can be found on line at <https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>