

Harlington Methodist Monthly

**DECEMBER
2025**

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"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:5

Dear friends,

As we enter December, our village begins to glow with small signs of Christmas lights appearing in windows, wreaths on doors, pubs, café and the hum of preparation in homes and halls. Whether or not you celebrate Christmas as a religious festival, this season seems to bring out something we all recognise: a longing for light, warmth, and connection.



For those of us who follow the Christian faith, Christmas is a time to remember the birth of Jesus a story of hope arriving in humble places, of love made visible in the most unexpected way. For others, even if faith isn't their path, the heart of Christmas still speaks in ways we can share together: kindness shown to neighbours, generosity to those in need, and moments of joy in the midst of winter.

This year, many of us are carrying worries about health, about the world, or about loved ones who will be missing from our tables. My prayer is that each of us finds, in some small way, the comfort and peace that light up this

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season. Maybe it will come through a shared meal, a quiet walk, a candle in the window, or the laughter of children.

As a community, may we continue to be people who notice one another, who make room for difference, and who offer care freely. That, in itself, is a reflection of what Christmas is all about: love taking shape among ordinary people.

Whatever this month holds for you, may you know light in your darkness and peace in your heart.

And if you ever need a listening ear of faith or simply of friendship the church door and my door are open.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Claudia

(Taken from an additional piece originally sent for Contact)

OUR NEW MINISTER

The Circuit Stewards are pleased to announce that the Rev Doreen Koffie-Williams will become the Superintendent of our Circuit from September 2026. She will have pastoral charge of The Square, Aley Green and Harlington Churches.

Doreen and her family came to visit us last Saturday. Following the visit, the Circuit Invitations Committee decided to issue an invitation to her to serve here, which she has accepted. This is, of course, subject to Conference. Doreen is a Minister currently serving in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit. We look forward to working with her and welcoming her and family to Dunstable in the summer.

Please do keep them and all involved in the Stationing process in your prayers.

Roger Owers

Senior Circuit Steward

POSTCARDS

I have sorted out my old postcards and I'm planning to send them to Mission Aviation Fellowship who will sort & sell them. If you have any postcards you don't want I could add them to my parcel.

Cathy

HARLINGTON MESSY CHURCH



Our next Merry Church, with a Christmas theme, will be on 20th December 2025 at 4 pm, which will be live/Zoom/Streamed. If you would like to join us, either as a participant or a helper, please feel free. People may well be needed to help small children.

Our normal format is to do activities such as painting, cooking, and making things until 4.45 pm, then have a Celebration which includes singing and further activities, usually ones it is easier to do at home and that are less messy. This is streamed and recorded.

Then at 5.30 pm we have tea. By the way, the past celebrations are still on YouTube, as are the fully recorded sessions we did in lockdown.

Merry Church is always on the third Saturday. If you can help at any of these, please let Clive or Tina know so that we can arrange things most efficiently. If you stay to the end you get tea!

FINANCE & PROPERTY

Are you interested in serving on the Finance & Property Committee. We meet 3 times a year and report to Church Council. We monitor the finances and upkeep of the property. Please speak to Cathy if you are interested

We also still need one or more Property Stewards. A lot of the job involves getting people in to do work, and opening up for them. You don't have to do the actual jobs!

TECH TRAINING

Things are a bit clearer. I will run refresher training for the Sound System and for simplified Zoom if required, from 11 am during the November Coffee Drop-in. If you can't do that let me know and I will try to sort out other sessions.

Clive

THE FOOD BANK

COVID meant we had to stop collecting for the food bank. Should we bring it back? Cathy is willing to take the food to the food bank if enough people are interested. Please let Cathy know if you think we should start collecting again.

DECEMBER DIARY

- 1st 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
- 2nd 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 3rd 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 4th 0900 *Outside Booking—Bumpfit (Lower Hall)*
0930 *Pre-School Carol Service (Sanctuary)*
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
- 5th 1400 *Outside Booking—Western Renegade CW Dancing*
1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 6th
- 7th** 1000 Morning Service led by Tina and Clive Salmon “Come and See”
1500 PBGS
1800 Circuit Service led by Revs Claudia Lupi and Tim Haines
- 8th 1900 TFT Band
2000 *Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley*
- 9th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
2000 *Outside Booking - PBGS*
- 10th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
1930 *Outside Booking—Emily T-G Adult Dance*
- 11th 1430 Thursday Fellowship Group—Zoom—Sermon on the Mount: 10
1445 Bright Hour Fellowship
1830 Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
- 12th 1830 626 Club
2015 TFT
- 13th 1500 Cinema Club
- 14th** 1000 Family Carol Service led by Rev. Claudia Lupi
1500 PBGS
- 15th 1400 Crafternoon Tea
1900 TFT Band
- 16th 1600 *Outside Booking Kristy Dance*
- 17th 1545 *Outside Booking—Emily—Child Singing*
- 18th 1445 Bright Hour Fellowship

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19th 1830 626 Club

2015 TFT

20th 1600 Messy Church

21st 1000 Morning Communion Service led by Rev. Claudia Lupi

22nd 1900 TFT Band

2000 Outside Booking—Scott Hemsley

23rd

24th

25th 1000 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE led by Martin Wallis, Tina Salmon and Sheila Norris

26th

27th

28th 1000 Morning Service led by Peter Baker

29th 1400 Crafternoon Tea

30th

31st

BRIGHT HOUR FELLOWSHIP

Bright Hour meets at 2-45 pm in the Hall nearly every Thursday. They have an interesting variety of speakers who cover a wide range of themes, and you get tea and biscuits. Consider coming along, or if you know anyone who would like to spend some time with us, spread the word. It's not just for Ladies.

Speakers/activities for December are as below.-

4th - Harlington Lower School singing for us

11th - Sheila Norris

18th - Barbara to arrange Christmas programme.

25th - Meeting cancelled for Christmas Day!

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The two Thursday Fellowship groups still meet, every other week.

At 10.30 am. Live. Please contact Helen/Sandra for dates and location.

At 2.30 pm. On Zoom. Contact Tina (874481) for dates and details of the joining link. Next meeting is expected to be on 13th November.

THE NEW PROJECT COMMITTEE (NOT NAMED YET)

This was formed to look at how we can serve our community. We have had three events so far with different levels of success. Workspace, Get to know your village and Holiday Club. If you are interested in joining the team please speak to Cathy

OUTSIDE BOOKINGS—DECEMBER

02nd	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
03rd	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1830	2000	Emily T-G —Adult Dance
04th	0900	1300	Bumpfit—Lower Hall
	0930	1030	Lower School Carols
06th	1930	2030	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
07th	1500	1700	PBGS
08th	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley
09th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
	1945	2200	PBGS
10th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
	1930	2030	Emily T-G—Adult Dance
11th	1830	1930	Gestalt Theatre—Emily T-G
13th	1500	1700	Cinema Club
14th	1500	1700	PBGS
16th	1600	2000	Kristy Burgoine—Dance
17th	1545	1830	Emily H—Child Singing/Drama
20th	1600	1800	Messy Church
22nd	2000	2200	Scott Hemsley



NEW BANK ACCOUNT

The church has now opened a bank account with the Co-op Bank. If you pay money to the church by standing order or other regular means, or make occasional BACS payments, the details are:

Name: Harlington Methodist Church

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 67420034

In the mean time we are keeping the existing account open to allow time for people to make the changes, but will close it by the end of the year.

PRAYER TIME

At the annual church meeting it was proposed that we all try to pray at the same time at 8am and 8pm but from wherever we happen to be at the time.

Here are some suggested topics for prayer at 8.

Sunday services and our preachers

Bright Hour Fellowship

Crafternoon Tea

Messy Church and leaders/helpers

626 Club and leaders/helpers

TFT and leaders/helpers

Those who come into the building for other things

Open the Book

Our Minister

All those unwell

The Village and the other churches

New people moving in to the village, particularly on the new estates

Things we do outside the church building

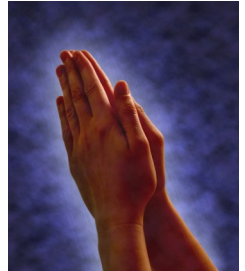
Meet the Village follow up

New Project team

The Circuit

Our new minister

Our ministers looking for new appointments





Christmas Dingbats

ABCDEFGH IJKLMNOPQ RSTUVWX YZ	Y Y MEN Y	MISTLETOE XXX	CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS
1	2	3	4
DONKEY → DONKEY	CE CE CE [!] CE π π	MANAWAYGER	LEFT TURKEY
5	6	7	8
NIGHT	PRES ENTS	W  E S	*JACK*
9	10	11	12
XMAS	GOOD DAY SPRING HI THERE SUMMER HEY AUTUMN HELLO WINTER	PPP 	BLANPIGPIGKETS
13	14	15	16
D NER	DECOR = 8/10	VORDERMAN DANVERS SMILLIE KING	PRESENCE PRESENTS
17	18	19	20

Just for fun—NO prizes. Answers have a general connection to Christmas

POST BOX

We will be putting the post box out for church Christmas cards. It will be opened on the 21st December. Feel free to use it but only for cards that are going to people who normally attend and live in the village, so we can be sure they will get them before Christmas. PS Claudia is preaching on the 21st, although she won't be here on 25th.

Many thanks

Clive



**In lieu of sending or receiving any
Christmas cards, I would like to wish
you all a peaceful Christmas and New
Year. With much love to you all**

Kay.

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH

We held the normal morning services in November, apart from Remembrance Sunday, but moved the evening Communion service to that evening when we held the United Bunyan service. This was led by Claudia, with the new Curate preaching.

Bright Hour has continued to meet. This month the meetings covered the Seafarers' Mission, Remembrance Day, Christmas at Wrest Park and Aley Green's jams and pickles.

626 Club has met each week. You may have seen some of the glitter firework pictures (they took the best ones home!) They have also been making bead animals. We try to have a craft activity every other week. We now have children joined from the Pilgrims Chase estate.



TFT have had a busy month. As well as leading the Remembrance Parade on Remembrance Sunday, they spent part of an evening session learning about the people remembered on our War Memorial. They have also been involved in Masterteam again, and in Table Tennis competitions.



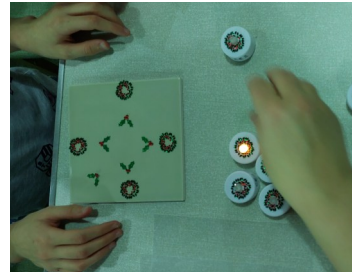
In Messy Church we looked at the story of Elisha and thought about what it was like to take over a job from someone else who had been really good at it. We made axes,



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and two storey houses, and iced biscuits to share, as well as col-



lages for Naaman. We finished by making Advent Wreaths to be ready for the first Sunday of Advent.

Open The Book has continued at Harlington and Sundon. The Harlington Lower School will be visiting us for an Open the Book carol service in December, and Sundon have asked us if we can run a similar thing in their school for our last session this term.

Crafternoon Tea has met fortnightly with old friends dropping in in person or on Zoom.

Fellowship Groups have continue to meet, albeit with small numbers.

The October Coffee Drop-in started quite quietly, but with more people coming in during the last hour.

Film Club showed the K-Pop movie, which includes a number of songs which the children sang along to.

The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial was well attended. We contribute to this parade service in many ways.



ISSUE #60

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly magazine/notices. Deadline for items for the **JANUARY 2026** edition will be **THU 11TH DECEMBER** for things for the diary to Trevor, or general articles and pictures of things being done by our church community to me by Tuesday 23rd December 2025, the Thursday being Christmas Day. It is still possible to send late notices. These will normally be tagged on to the end of the circulated weekly service.

FLOWER ROTA—2026

Doreen has kindly agreed to manage the flower rota again for 2026 and a copy is on the notice board in the hallway.

Regular bookings have already been added BUT please check to see if any have been missed.

PLEASE check the list often to see if you can fill a space. Unable to provide the flowers? No problem—just make a donation to Doreen and she will sort out a flower display on a 'blank' date.



ROOM BOOKINGS

PLEASE can all leaders and secretaries of hirers/users of the premises, keep me fully updated of dates, times, additions, cancellations, variations or any other reason so that I can be sure that the bookings diary is accurate and up to date.

Failure to update could lead to no heating, unplanned double booking or even a lost booking opportunity as examples. Outside hirers have also been requested to ensure their bookings are up to date.

Thank you for your assistance.—Trevor—contacts on page 16

WIFI

WiFi is available in the Hall. Ask Clive for the password. Note that the system keeps information on the type of sites visited.

HOME BAKING—INGREDIENTS

Thank you to those who have already provided ingredients list for home baked items.

If you usually make something – the same something particularly – and can produce a list of the ingredients, I can laminate it, so that you don't have to worry about producing it each month.

If we provide such lists – just the ingredients, not the recipes – they can live in a drawer in the kitchen, and be retrieved when necessary. I have been asked previously by several people if home-baked items were (a) gluten-free, or (b) suitable for vegetarians or vegans.

Bought items have to have a list of ingredients on the packaging, so all we have to do for those things is make sure the packaging is available to read – don't throw it away until after the contents have been consumed!

Tina

ROTAS

DATE	STEWARD	FLOWERS
07 December	Am TBA Pm Tina	Nellie Nichols
14 December	John	Janet and John Rutherford
21 December	Steve TG	{
25 December	TBA	{Caveney's/ {Setterfields
28 December	Madeline	{

Could you be a vestry Steward? Have a word with Tina.
The Flower Rota for 2026 is available. Could you fill any spaces? Speak to Doreen.



REFLECTION

How do you feel when you get a gift? Do you want to keep it for yourself? Of course it depends on the sort of gift; a new tie, or a piece of jewellery, is probably meant just for you. What about a bar of your favourite chocolate? How about a box of biscuits? We regard some things as intended to be shared.

Jesus came as God's gift to us. Do we think of him as a gift to be shared? The problem we have may be that we don't know how. I can share a box of biscuits with someone who comes into the house. Would I go outside to share them more widely?

(The other week we were visiting Tina's mother in the care home. The residents had been making cakes. It turned out that these cakes, together with a cake made by the catering staff, were going to be taken to a charity in Lincoln to be given to the homeless.)

So we may share Jesus with those who come into the church, but we find it difficult to share him with those who don't. I would no more walk down the street trying to tell people at random about Jesus than I would walk out with a big box of biscuits. And, let's be honest, the biscuit would be much more welcome.

There are, however, times and occasions when it is easier to find opportunities, and Christmas is such a time. While there are people who want to take Christ out of Christmas—apparently Quebec is banning public prayer and has a minister for secularization—many people enjoy the celebrations at Christmas, love carols and will listen to the stories.

So let us take this opportunity to share a gift which is even better when shared, not forcing ourselves on others, but taking chances that are offered.

Amen





Beer

&



Carols

Christmas is coming!!

Tuesday 9th December 7.45pm
(charge your glasses from 7.30pm)

The Carpenters Arms,
Harlington

NOTICES Details of items for the Notices should be delivered to Trevor Caveney at the.caveney@ntlworld.com AND t315485@gmail.com
DEADLINE for inclusion in January 2026 edition is THU 11th DEC
CHURCH BOOKING DIARY

PLEASE check with Trevor **before** adding any dates or events.

Prayer Chain number: Dorothy Preston 874841

Church Website: www.harlingtonmethodistchurch.uk

Church YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTMWR_QCxujkh1zHjTFcoJw

FACEBOOK

Don't forget the church has a Facebook page. You can use this for communicating, and it's very good for showing pictures. If you want to join the group, contact Martin. Remember, the more people who use it and who belong to the group, the more useful it becomes.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE CHURCH FAMILY



Pick up your pen, pencil or keyboard and share with us what you are doing in your life and as part of the Church.

Please feel free to send me items of interest, messages, birthdays, anniversaries or anything else you might wish to share for inclusion in future editions of these E-notices. Keep safe.

Trevor & Mary

CONTACT MAGAZINE

The latest edition is available at <https://harlingtonvillagemagazine.org>

Paper copies will also be available.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

'The calling of Harlington Methodist Church is to respond to and celebrate the Gospel of God's presence. In all of our activities we seek to serve Harlington and the wider world. Most of all we aspire to honour and serve the living God.'