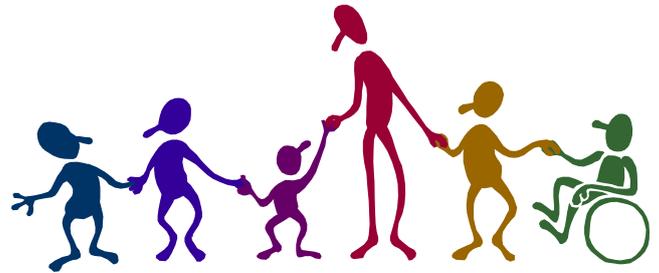


The Highlander

September 2014

For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.

Matthew 18 : 20



Sunday Worship in September 2014

7th	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
14th Racial Justice Sunday	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Bryan Tolhurst
21st	10.30	Holy Communion and Baptism - Rev Julia Monaghan
28th	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Norman Hooks

“S Club” meets at 10.30 am every Sunday
Sunday Club for Children - Crèche available

No. 797 Vol. LXXV



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**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

Minister	Rev. Julia Monaghan	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Credwyn Tolhurst	557070
Church Stewards	Ros Bryant	478631
	Credwyn Tolhurst	557070
	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Janette/Rob Land	477507
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay	556140
	Frank Edmonds	525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane	01268 565644
	e-mail: annelane8@btinternet.com	
S Club Leaders	Jean Edmonds	525250
	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Burgess	556278
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

All items for the **October 2014** issue of the *Highlander* should be handed in writing to **Frank Edmonds** (or put in the "E" section of the pigeon box in Jubilee Room) latest 10.30 a.m. **Sunday 21st September**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 28th September**.



Letter from your Minister:-

The Joy of Being 8 Years Old!

This summer, along with Brigade Camp at Belfairs, we ran 2 children's holiday clubs at Highlands and Wesley. Thanks to Jonathan and his developing community contacts and 2 very able teams at both the churches, we made some new friends and cemented some established ones.

For me, being involved in children's work again was a treat and an opportunity to update my practice. The sticking and gluing remained the same, though now we were using Starbuck Coffee stirrers to make the stars and not cardboard. Some of the team games I was familiar with, but had forgotten. How much children enjoy organised games and how much they facilitate the building of a team.

What was new, were the songs and the technology involved in their presentation. Gone were the song sheets or PowerPoint's and in was a video amplified through the speakers including words and actions that we all sang and danced along to.

One favourite was called "Jesus You're My Superhero", which included comparing Jesus to every superhero that must be on the TV. The children loved being Spider-man; Batman and Frank Edmonds Barbie impersonation was a real highlight!

Then, just when I was thinking how much things had moved on, I was back to my own childhood, as the children engaged in learning memory verses from the bible. I was surprised how readily they engaged with this, with some by Friday able to remember the 4 verses from the previous days along with reference to the text.

I had also come along with a whole set of hesitant perceptions about how children would relate to matters of faith, but found an openness that I didn't expect. One little boy called "Jamie," turned to Credwyn on the Wednesday and asked, ".. so how do you become a Christian then, I've been thinking about it?" Realising a wonderful opportunity for both Jamie and Highlands, Credwyn issued an invitation to S Club on a Sunday morning and I watched as she engaged Jamie's mother at the end of the session exchanging names and addresses.

Later in the week, I talked to Jamie about whether he had been to church before. He said no, but he had been giving a lot of thought as to how the universe began and what was before the Big Bang. He said that his thinking had brought him to the conclusion of God, as he tried to get his head around the beyondness of things. Talking to him I remembered what a joy it was to be 8 years old, holding all sorts of diverse stuff in your head all at once.

He made me recall a memory of sitting at my desk, trying to get my head around infinity and eternity and at the same time considering, what my sister's dolls would look like if I cut their hair into a "Purdy Cut"; Joanna Lumley was big in the "Avengers" at the time.

I did cut my sister's dolls hair and from her response at the time, realised that perhaps my future sadly, would not lay in hairdressing. Now however, I do still try to get my head round eternal things and that nothing is wasted or lost within God's economy; and that can still lead me, like Jamie, to a place of awe and wonder and mystery in equal measure and am thankful

P.T.O.

*Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise forever!
From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time, you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.
You gave us breath and speech
that with all the powers of heaven,
we may find a voice to sing your praise. Amen*

(Patterns of Worship)



Rev Julia August 2014



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care:-

Joan Field in *Merrie Loots Farm*

Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time.

Congratulations

We send our congratulations to Molly Cheney who celebrated her 90th birthday on 24th August.

We send our congratulations to Andreas on his excellent exam results. He will be going to the London School of Theology in September.

Also to Hannah Godden who did very well in her GCSE's.

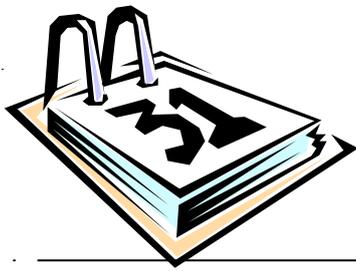
We hope all our young people are pleased with their results.

Thank you

Frank & Jean thank everyone who contributed to a wonderful lunch time on 10th August and for your generous gifts. A total of £287 was raised for Serving the Homeless and a great time was had by all.

Flower Rota for September 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
7th	Les Davis	Margaret	Jean Edmonds & Mary Barter
14th	Maureen Kelly	Parents	Jean Burgess
21st	Rosalie Bryant	Parents	Mary Barter & Jean Edmonds
28th	Teresa Thompson	Auntie Phyllis	Jean Burgess & Teresa Thompson



Dates to Remember

Craft Group

We are a very friendly group and any lady interested in Craft work is always welcome. We meet on Tuesday mornings during term time and are always glad to see new members.

MOTHs

We will reconvene on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. All are welcome and we look forward to an interesting programme of events.

Highlands Hobbies

Our Hobbies mornings continue on Thursdays 4th and 18th September. We would welcome new members. As we only meet twice a month we feel that we should get started on our Christmas Cards and Crafts and we look forward to trying new ideas. Do come and join our friendly group. (Further details from Jean Edmonds or Credwyn Tolhurst)

Table Tennis

If you enjoy a game of table tennis come and have fun on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9th September at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Mega Makers

Up to 27 young children enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Club week. To continue the good work with the young people there will be a Movie Morning on Tuesday 28th October and a Craft & Games on Wednesday 29th October during Half Term. Further details in the Jubilee Room.

ABRSM

We have received glowing feedback from the recent exam sessions at Highlands, both in terms of the venue and facilities provided and the excellence of the stewarding, So many thanks to all who helped to make the events a success. ABRSM have indicated that they would like to use Highlands for the next session which will be the period 3rd November to 6th December, although specific dates have yet to be conformed. Anybody willing to help with stewarding please advise either Ros Bryant or Les Davis.

The Big Brownie Birthday

10th Leigh on Sea Brownies invite you to pop in any time between 2 and 4 pm on Saturday 6th September at the Church Hall to catch up with old friends and celebrate 100 years of the Brownies.

Coffee Morning Rota

There will be a meeting on 1st September at 8.00pm in the Church to agree Saturday Coffee Morning rota for the coming year.

Family Committee

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th September at 8.00pm in the Church, when the main topic for discussion will be the Christmas events. Organisations will also report on their activities.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 noon – Wednesday & Saturday

Sunday 12th October - Harvest Festival

Sunday 19th October - Dedication of Youth Workers

and Pastoral Visitors

Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday

Friday 12th December – Southend Mencap Concert

Circuit Events

*The Circuit website :- " www.southendandleigh.org "
also contains details of Circuit events,
prayers, contacts and the Circuit Plan*

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday

Next date – 11th September at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday

Next date - 23rd September 2014 at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings

6th September TBA

13th September TBA

20th September TBA

27th September TBA

Forthcoming Meetings

Property and Finance - Thursday 11th September at 8.00 pm

Family Committee - Monday 15th September at 8.00 pm

Pastoral Committee - TBA September

Church Council - Monday 13th October at 8.00 pm

Updating Highlands

It was a disappointing turn out for the Property & Finance meeting to discuss the way ahead for Highlands. Nevertheless Rev Julia gave an interesting powerpoint display as to the way she feels that she can lead us forward in the remainder of her term as Minister here. A lively discussion ensued and it was agreed that **H**ighlands **M**ethodist **C**hurch must provide **H**ospitality in the **M**idst of our **C**ommunity. To this end it was agreed that a facelift was required for the front of the site, the provision of children's toilets would enhance facilities for the Parent and Toddlers group as well as the Pre-School and the Lounge was due for a well overdue makeover (maybe transforming it for potential use as a small Sanctuary area during the Winter).

Estimates will be obtained and brought to Church Council before proceeding. This is just the beginning of what we must undertake to ensure the future of Highlands. ***What do you think?***

Serving the Homeless / H.A.R.P.

The next fundraising event for Serving the Homeless is an Indian Meal at *The Shagor Restaurant* in Hamlet Court Road on Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm. Tickets at £15 are available now.

We have also arranged to repeat our Christmas Music Evening at St Barnabas Church on Friday 19th December

Thank you once again for all your supportive prayers and the gifts at the back of the church, which are always appreciated. Please see the list at the back of the church for the most wanted items.

Winter Night Shelter

The Saturday evening facility will this year be provided at Whittingham Avenue Methodist Church. Highlands, Wesley and Belfairs will be jointly responsible for every fourth week in providing food for the evening meal and people to engage with clients in conversation. Some will be required to steward overnight following the pattern of last year. The facility will probably commence in the middle of November and continue until the end of March. Dates have not yet been finalised. If you feel that you would like to help in any way with this desperately needed facility please talk with Credwyn Tolhurst or Janet Watson

*Beds., Essex, Herts. District
Methodist Women in Britain*



You are invited
to share in the

*District Day
for the induction*

of

Jenny Broadbridge

as the District President and
the launch of her Project

Dalit Solidarity

Thursday 18th September 2014

10-30 - 3.30

Trinity Methodist Church

Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. SG18 0AP

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Worship and notices

11.30 *Steve Pearce*

Partnership co-ordinator for the Methodist Church for
Asia

and the Pacific

2pm Induction Service

3pm Tea

Liquid refreshments provided . Please bring your own
lunch

Stalls for:

Bring and Buy, Traidcraft, Cards, Karibuni and CLEM

*The Methodist Church
Beds. Essex, Herts. District
Methodist Women in Britain/Network*



**Autumn Craft
Day 2014**

*Priory Methodist Church
Newnham Avenue, Bedford MK41 9QJ*

Saturday 4th October 2014
9.45a.m - 4.30p.m
£4.00 per half day session



Craft Days

Encourage you to learn a new skill
Enable you to discover hidden talents
Equip you to share together creatively

*This is a day for anyone to participate and have fun
Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.
Craft Materials and equipment sales tables, Bring and Buy and CLEM
For programme and booking forms email ruthmwatkins@aol.com*

Summer Entertainments

The four events arranged throughout the Summer proved to be very popular once again. The Strawberry tea held at the home of Brenda Davis was set in a beautiful garden with plenty of shady corners. Rev Julia provided some huge scones when we met at the Manse and the weather remained kind. The picnic at Hadleigh Castle was also well attended with many taking part in gentle sports on a balmy afternoon. The final event was Tea at Highlands with entertainment. Don, our pianist, played for us as we ate and then we all sang along to snippets of old favourites. It is amazing how the words come flooding back! A wonderful afternoon.

Thank you to the Stewards for arranging these events for us.



Mike Bishop

Interior Decorator
Painter, Paper Hanging etc.
Free Estimates

Mobile: 07967 177598

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Serving the Community 7 Days a Week

