

# The Highlander

October 2014

**For the fruits of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God.**



## Sunday Worship in October 2014

5th	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Val Windsor
12th Harvest Festival	10.30	Parade Service - Jonathan Logan
19th	10.30	Holy Communion together with Dedication of Pastoral Leaders and Youth Workers - Rev Julia Monaghan
26th	10.30	Morning Worship - Kathleen McCullough

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

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*The Highlander* is published by Highlands Methodist Church, Sutherland Blvd, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3PT. Highlands Methodist Church is a member church of the *Southend and Leigh Circuit*, 34/10, which is part of the Beds., Essex and Herts. District.

**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
	Frank Edmonds	525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane	01268 565644
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a>	
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 November 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 19th October. Preferably, items may be emailed to [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto:frank66thecroft@sky.com) The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on Sunday 26th October.



## Letter from your Minister:-

### **For I am convinced that.... Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.....**

I have been betwixt and between these last few weeks, unsure what topic to choose for this month's editorial. It is after all the season of harvest and mellow fruitfulness, so I was tempted to write about gratitude and generous thanksgiving. I have been encouraged over the last few weeks, to see the food bank collection bins arriving at the back of our churches sitting along side those of H.A.R.P. - all pointing to a positive outworking of our call to generous living.

But then during home and residential care visits, I have noticed the church magazine, resting by the side of the bed or sticking out of the basket attached to a walker. This has reminded me of a growing group of people for whom this magazine is valuable in maintaining connections and keeping up with the news. It's therefore to those people this month, that I want to say a very warm, "Welcome in the name of Jesus." We all remain in Connexion with each other making church not a building, but a web of interconnected relationships all held together through Christ.

I have found that when I am feeling out of the loop in terms of what's going on in the congregation, the best remedy for this is to visit a person at home or in residential care, as they will tell the latest news and what people really thought of your last sermon! The phone, pastoral visiting, the computer and even now the iPad also play a valuable part here.

For some of you who have recently moved to residential care, I know that the last few months have been an unsettling time. You have felt uprooted, transplanted, if not abandoned, in an unfamiliar and radically different environment from your own home. You have had times of questioning as to how you will sing the Lord's song in this strange land, mourning the loss of independence and self-determination.

At times it can be an experience of relief welcoming the opportunity to be cared for and nurtured, making new friends with carers and joining in the rhythm of residential care. But at other times it can feel like the loss of self and a time of spiritual uncertainty, trying to find meaning within the new context. When this disorientation comes, I am always reminded of the Romans 8 reading.....

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depths, nor anything else in all creation **including nursing home**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

We might get very attached to a place to provide us with a sense of security and continuity, but scripture points us to an eternal reference point and source of hope. The Roman Catholic priest Teilhard de Chardin also points to a change of emphasis in the spiritual task. He says that initially we have to use all the forces of growth in life, but then, we need to move to using the forces of what he calls diminishment. He says.....

**P.T.O.**

*“Now that I have found the joy of utilising all forms of growth to make you, or to let you, grow in me, grant that I may willingly consent to this ... phase of communion in the course of which I shall possess you by diminishing in you.*

*When the signs of age begin to mark my body and still more when they touch my mind; ... when the painful moment comes in which I suddenly awake to the fact that I'm ill or growing old ... in all those dark moments, O God, grant that I may understand that it is you, who are painfully penetrating the fibres of my being in order to penetrate the very marrow of my substance and bear me away within yourself.”*

As our outer life slows down our inner life can become enriched. As we cease to be able to do some things, we can learn to do others; develop different kinds of relationships with one another and with God, perhaps in ways that we never thought. Or put more succinctly, as one lady in Birmingham use to say to me ...

I pray every night, “ When I wake tomorrow, make use of me O Lord, a prayer to say, or a call to make, for you still have work for me to do. Amen”

If you spend a significant amount of time in your home or if you are living in residential care, we would welcome a contribution from you for this magazine that your voice might be heard.

*Rev Julia* 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014

### **Coffee Mornings**

Due to the difficulty in finding people prepared to serve at the midweek session it has been agreed to cancel the Wednesday morning event. Visitors will however be very welcome for tea and coffee at the Craft Group meetings on Tuesdays and Hobbies Group when they meet on Thursdays.



### **Midweek Holy Communion**

As the third Wednesday service is not well attended this will be suspended.

The Tuesday morning Prayer and Bible Study meeting is well attended and we would encourage and welcome more members from Highlands and the rest of the section to join with us.





### Prayer

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

Joan Field in *Merrie Loots Farm* and Marie Moore in *Abbeyfield St Margaret's*

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

### Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Paul & Steven Wornell and their families on the death of their mother, Joan Wornell. Joan (together with Arthur) were stalwarts of Highlands undertaking many tasks and duties during their life with us and will be sadly missed.

### Congratulations

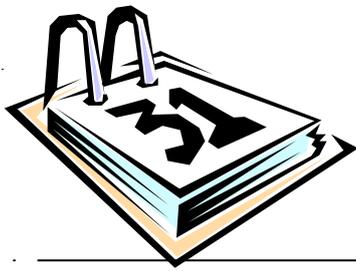
We were pleased to welcome Thomas Poet into the family of Highlands at his Baptism on 21st September

### Congratulations

To Marie Moore's grandson Tom, who is now studying at Oxford University.

## **Flower Rota for October 2014**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
5th	Joan Field	Bernard and Maureen	Jean Burgess
12th <i>Harvest Festival</i>	Jackie Williams	Parents	Mary Barter & Jean Edmonds
19th	Sylvia Cornwell	Ellie	Sylvia Cornwell & Jean Edmonds
26th	Sheila Whitelegg	Ged	Mary Barter & Jean Edmonds



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# Dates to Remember

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## **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.

Once again the Craft Group are collecting suitable gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes which are distributed to under privileged children overseas. A box has been placed at the back of the church for suitable donations (listed on the side) Thank you very much.

## **MOTHs**

We will reconvene on Tuesday 7th October at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. When Rev Julia will be "Sharing the Journey". All are welcome and we look forward to another programme of interesting talks.

## **Table Tennis**

If you enjoy a game of table tennis come and have fun on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 14th October at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

## **Mega Makers**

The good work started with the young people at the Holiday Club will continue at Half Term when there will be a Movie Morning on Tuesday 28th October and a Craft & Games Morning on 29th October. Further details in the Jubilee Room.

## **Highlands Hobbies**

Our Hobbies mornings this month will be on the 2nd, 9th and 16th. The extra date is so that we can do Harvest preparations.

Everyone is welcome to look in for tea/coffee and see how we are doing and to join in if you wish.

(Further details from Jean Edmonds or Credwyn Tolhurst)

## **Church Council**

The next meeting will be on Monday 13th October at 8.00pm in the Church. The meeting is open to all but only Church Council members may vote.

## **Thank You**

Anne Lane would like to thank all those who helped to fill the skip: David, Andreas, Ros, Credwyn, Jean, Frank and Donald (who also took away the chair legs)

### **Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary**

Saturday 11th October - The Great Highlands Bake Off  
Sunday 12th October - Harvest Festival & Soup Lunch  
Sunday 19th October - Dedication of Youth Workers  
and Pastoral Visitors  
Saturday 29th November - Christmas Fair  
Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday  
Friday 12th December — Southend Mencap Concert

### **Circuit Events**

*The Circuit website :- " [www.southendandleigh.org](http://www.southendandleigh.org) "  
also contains details of Circuit events,  
prayers, contacts and the Circuit Plan*

Saturday 18th October - "Come into the Garden" at Benfleet

### **Alternative Worship**

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ???" - 2nd Thursday  
Next date — 9th October at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday  
Next date - 28th October at 8.00pm

### **Saturday Coffee Mornings**

4th October	Music at Highlands
11th October	Craft Group
18th October	World Missions
25th October	Action for Children

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

*Church Council* - Monday 13th October at 8.00 pm  
*Family Committee* - Monday 17th November at 8.00 pm  
*Property and Finance* - Monday 1st December at 8.00 pm

## **Updating Highlands**

We hope that you will have noticed that things they are a changing at Highlands.

A general clear out of broken and non useful items has been done and a "deep clean" was undertaken by our new cleaners before the Pre School started.

Work has begun on upgrading the Ladies toilets and may well be finished by the time we go to print. There was a bright colour going on the walls to lighten the facilities and an electric hand drier has been installed.

New Notice Boards have been installed at the front of the Church and at the Olive Avenue entrance. We await the arrival of some more magnets to hold up the notices. The two original boards will be removed.

Quotations are also in hand for the refurbishment of the Coffee Lounge.

We have a small amount of money in hand to achieve these improvements but we hope that you will be supportive of future fund-raising opportunities to continue the work.

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

Our regular Christmas Music Evening at St Barnabas Church will take place on Friday 19th December.

The popular Lunch at the Park View Suite has been booked for 15th January 2015. get it in the diary. More details later.

The Bradbury Centre is now operating well with the further storage that is available. The principal benefactors to the project are now etched in gold around the top of the wall in the reception area and we are proud to see Serving the Homeless in prime position.

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

## **Harvest Festival**

Our Harvest Festival will be held on 12th October when Jonathan Logan will lead a service of informal worship during a Church Parade. Several groups have already agreed to decorate the church windows. The Harvest goods this year will be donated to The Storehouse in Southend ( we already support them with sandwiches on a third Sunday ) who provide food parcels for those in need. Tins of food and packets of cereal etc. would be very welcome. Any items that are donated that will not be appropriate for food parcels will go to HARP. Following the morning service there will be a Soup Lunch. Please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room. Proceeds will be donated to HARP.



## **The Great Highlands Bake Off**

At the Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th October there will be judging for a cookery competition. Entry forms are already available and entries should be brought in between 9.30 and 10.00am for judging. Head judge will be Richard Harvey from *Affinity*, a very experienced chef. Dig out those aprons and whisks and get cooking! In true Harvest theme, fruit cake, carrot cake, fruit pie and fruit crumble are the classes to be judged. Some entries will be sold after judging, with proceeds going to HARP. The remainder can be sampled at the Harvest Soup Lunch.

## **Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair this year will be on Saturday 29th November. Many of the usual attractions will be there, together with a bouncy castle and a grotto for Father Christmas. Make sure that you have the date in your diary and come along to enjoy yourself.



## **Riding Lights**

On Wednesday 3rd December Riding Lights will present a pantomime entitled "Goose Chase". This is a Leigh Section event and will be performed at Highlands. More details to follow.



## **Congratulations**

To Janet Watson, Jill Grove and Gillian Metcalfe who together with Janet's daughter Julie and Caroline Craze completed the London "Hack", raising nearly £1,000 in support of NSPCC.

*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](mailto:ruthmwatkins@aol.com)*

**Southend & Leigh Circuit—Mission with Youth**

**The Big Event**

Where & When:

Rayleigh Mega-Centre - on Sunday 5th October 2:30pm

Who:

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit are inviting all the youth\* in our circuit, at all our churches to join us for an afternoon at the Megacentre

What:

- Meet the Methodist National Youth President – Megan Thomas
- Meet other young people in our circuit, and enjoy time of games, chat etc.
- Sole use of the S-Kape Youth Centre with Wii/Play Station, Pool, and Table Tennis etc.
- A free game of Laser Quest .
- Refreshments – snacky cakey things, chocolate biscuits, squash, crisps, tea and coffee
- Opportunities to give your opinions on the church and the things they do, say and are. And a chance to discuss whether you want a Circuit Youth council.

**This event is FREE and sponsored by  
Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit**

*Mike Bishop*

Interior Decorator  
Painter, Paper Hanging etc.  
Free Estimates

Mobile: 07967 177598

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# Serving the Community 7 Days a Week

