

The Highlander

November 2014

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



Sunday Worship in November 2014

2nd	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - John Phillips
9th	10.30	Parade Service - Jane Fulford Remembrance Sunday
16th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
23rd	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Peter Perowne
30th Advent 1	10.30	Morning Worship - Lt. Col. Roy Girling

“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	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 **December 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 23rd November**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com *The Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 30th November**.



Letter from your Minister:-

“Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red”



Looking out on the spreading carpet of poppies in the Tower of London moat, it is hard not to fall silent and contemplate the sheer scale and impact of The First World War.

This year, Remembrance Sunday will inevitably have a special poignancy, 100 years on from the first full day of Britain's involvement in that war. And to commemorate this milestone, a major art installation has been commissioned. *"Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red"* at the Tower of London, created by ceramic artist Paul Cummins, comprises 888,246 ceramic poppies, progressively filling the famous moat between 5th August and 11th November 2014. In the moat where so many young men lined up to enlist, each unique poppy represents a British military fatality during the war. Their daily increase is symbolic of the relentless toll and growing magnitude of the war's impact and the importance of this centenary.

The installation was inspired by a line in the will of a Derbyshire man who joined up in the earliest days of the war and died in Flanders. Knowing that everyone was dead and he was surrounded by blood, the man wrote: "The blood swept lands and seas of red, where angels fear to tread."

P.T.O.

Highly evocative of the overwhelming desolation of war - past and present - the line suggests God's absence in war. And perhaps, like other extreme situations, it is a place where doubt is most profound and the quest for divine intervention most sought.

For war is overwhelming and desolate - *"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me - us - this place"*. And whilst there might not be any unifying answers to our inhumanity in such places, what we do know is that God looks down crucified, abandonment captured in Jesus' cry of dereliction. We are not alone in that experience, for Jesus has also inhabited *"blood swept lands and seas of red."*

In a sermon delivered on the 4th August 2014, Dr Mark Butcher also challenges us also to hear something else, beyond the nails driven into the cross and those are the divine words of compassion, *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."* Without lessening the awfulness of what human beings did to each other then and still do to each other now, he is keen for the words to be spoken, that we do have a message of resurrection hope to proclaim, that by God's grace shown to us in Jesus, humanity can be raised to higher things. We can have a choice, if only we would humble ourselves and act out of the grace on offer.

Rev Julia

(All of the poppies that make up the installation are being sold and will be dispatched to their buyers after Remembrance Sunday, raising millions of pounds that will be shared equally amongst six service charities.)

A Letter from the General Secretary of the Methodist Church

On the following page we have printed a letter relative to Safeguarding.

If anyone has any concerns whatsoever please ring Rev. Julia who will be happy to talk with you.

The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins
General Secretary and Secretary of the Conference

September 2014

The Methodist Church Safeguarding Past Cases Review : an open letter to the Methodist people.

As part of the commitment of the Methodist Church to creating safer spaces the Conference agreed to undertake a Past Cases Review across the Connexion. The remit of the Review is to look at any safeguarding cases connected to the Methodist Church over the last 60 years, involving children and/or vulnerable adults.

The Review has two main aims. First, to take any action that may still be necessary to ensure that children or vulnerable adults are protected in particular situations that are brought to the attention of the review team, and second, to ensure that learning from past cases is embedded in good practice across the Church in the future.

All ministers have been required to participate in the Review and with only a very few exceptions they have already responded with great thought and care.

The perspective of lay people within the Church is crucial however. Lay people often carry information in churches that may not be passed on to ministers, particularly in the past when the importance of recording information was not as well understood as it is now. It is vitally important that anyone who has experienced abuse within the Church context has the opportunity to tell their story to the Review.

The purpose of this letter is to remind any person within the Methodist Church of the opportunity to contribute to the Review.

Details of how to participate in the Review and the form to be completed are on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk. If you are not able to use the internet, response forms are available from the Connexional Safeguarding team by ringing 0207 467 5125 and speaking to the Past Cases Review Administrator.

It can be very difficult to relive painful experiences and there is therefore support available to anyone who wants it. Ministers will be more than willing to support members of their congregation in completing response forms for those who feel comfortable doing it this way. Others may not want to discuss it with someone they know or they may need more specialist help. Every Methodist District has a Safeguarding Officer and their names and contact details can be found on the Safeguarding page of the Methodist Church website. If they cannot help directly they can point people to where they might get the support they need. A list of organisations that offer specialist counselling or help with specific forms of abuse is also found on the Safeguarding page of the Methodist Church website.

In order to ensure that the learning can be analysed and properly presented to the Conference in June 2015, we need all responses to the Review to be received by 24th December 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Martyn Atkins

General Secretary of the Methodist Church and Secretary of the Conference



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for Joan Field in residential care at *Merrie Loots Farm*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

Congratulations

To Audrey Dobson who celebrated her 90th birthday on 17th October.

Congratulations

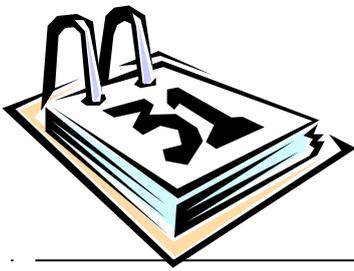
We were pleased to welcome Jonathan Logan and Michelle into membership at Highlands on 19th October. We pray that the family will feel at home at Highlands.

Church Christmas Card

This year there will be an opportunity to sign a card to all your friends at Highlands and make a donation to charity in lieu of sending several cards. This facility will be available from Advent Sunday.

Flower Rota for November 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
2nd			
9th	Mary Mapp	Parents	Mary Barter
16th	Mary Barter	Parents	Mary Barter
23rd	Andrea Ames	Pat & Greta	Jean Burgess
30th	Joan Field	Peggy Hankin	Jean Burgess



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.

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 next meet on Tuesday 4th November at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. when Margaret Butler will show a "Film on Norway". All are welcome and we look forward to another programme of interesting talks.

For the December meeting the Badminton Players will entertain with poetry and reading.

Highlands Hobbies

Our Hobbies mornings this month will be on the 6th and 20th. As we start our Christmas 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)

Highlands Short Mat Bowls

We would welcome new members on a Friday — 2.15 to 4.30.

No experience is necessary and bowls are provided. We are a small group and would like to share our fun afternoon with other people.

Please contact Keith on 01702 559046

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.

ABRSM Exams

The confirmed dates and times for the next exam period are:

November 27th 09.00 - 18.00,

November 28th 09.00 - 13.00,

December 1st - 5th 09.00 - 18.00.

Anybody willing to help as a steward, please see Les Davis or Ros Bryant. The steward's duties include welcoming the candidates when they arrive and showing them to the waiting room, ushering them to the exam room when the examiner is ready for them and providing the examiner with tea/coffee at the intervals.

Family Committee

The next meeting will be on Monday 17th November at 8.00pm to finalise details for the Christmas fair on 29th.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 29th November - Christmas Fair
 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

Saturday 8th November - Christmas Bazaar at Chalkwell Park
 Saturday 15th November - "Wartime Concert" at Hadleigh
 Saturday 29th November - Thursfold Spectacular from Thundersley

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ???" - 2nd Thursday
 Next date — 13th November at 7.00 pm
 + + + +
 Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
 Next date - 25th November at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings

1st November	Music at Highlands
8th November	Save the Children
15th November	World Missions
22nd November	Craft Group
29th November	Christmas Fair

Forthcoming Meetings

Family Committee - Monday 17th November at 8.00 pm
 (When details of the Christmas Fair on the 29th will be finalised)
Property and Finance - Monday 1st December at 8.00 pm

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.



Updating Highlands

The work on the ladies toilets is almost complete and quotes have been received for refurbishment of the gents toilets and the Lounge. We are also looking at the provision of children's toilets at Highlands with the possibility of outside funding.

The two old notice boards have now been removed and the areas re-turfed. We await the removal of the old yew tree to smarten the front and prevent youngsters from climbing inside and breaking the branches.

A development fund has been started to help pay for all the improvements and fund raising events are in the pipeline.

Toy and Gift Service

During our Parade Service on 8th December gifts will be received to be sent to the Women's refuge in Southend to be distributed to less fortunate boys and girls. Any donations of tinned and dried food will be passed on to the Storehouse in Southend as were our Harvest Gifts. Thank you for all your donations.

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

Fund raising continues apace with an Evening of Light Jazz with DBJQ and the opportunity to sample some European cheese and wine at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall on Saturday 15th November. Tickets now available.

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.

As Winter approaches the weather will get colder for those living on the streets and your gifts of food and clothing are warmly welcomed by HARP

Thank you once again for all your supportive prayers and the gifts at the back of the church.

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 and Bake Off

Our Harvest weekend went with a swing. On the Saturday morning there were nineteen entries for our Bake Off, with the Junior Section being won by Rosie and Marcie from our Brownies. Janette Land took first prize with her Carrot Cake, Jill Choppen was successful with her Fruit Pie, Lesley Hyde was the Fruit Crumble winner and Frank Edmonds with his Fruit Cake, Our thanks go to Gill from *Affinity* who came to judge the entries. Some of the entries were sold with proceeds going to HARP and some were saved for the Soup Lunch on Sunday. On Sunday Jonathan led a successful Parade Service and many gifts were received for The Storehouse and HARP. 32 people sat down afterwards to enjoy the Soup Lunch. Cake sales, profit from the lunch and other donations meant that we could send £299.50 to HARP. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful weekend including the organisations who decorated our windows.

The weekend was rounded off on the Tuesday when the Pre-School held their Harvest Concert in the church, bringing their gifts, singing songs and listening to Rev Julia tell the story of the Harvest Mouse.

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. 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.

See poster for details. **Get your tickets early !!**



Christmas at Highlands 2014

Sunday 14th December - Parade and Toy Service
(Toys to Women's Refuge)

Sunday 21st December - Carols by Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve - Christingle Service at 5.00 pm

Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion (at Wesley)

Christmas Day - Morning Service at Highlands

Sunday 28th December - Section Service at Highlands

HIGHLANDS
METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 29th November

10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Gifts

Coffee

Stalls

Cards

Crafts

Cakes

Lunches

from 12 noon

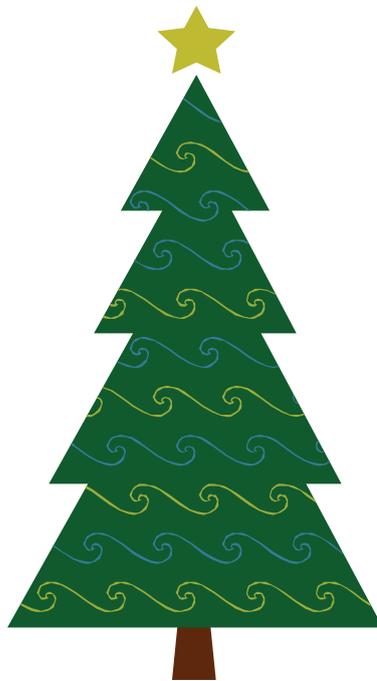
Competitions

Father Christmas

Admission Free

Everyone Welcome

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk



The **Active Christian Trust** provide a variety of programmes for children and young people, families and people with additional needs at the MegaCentre.

The MegaCentre is also the home of the Warehouse Centre Ltd, a trading company which is owned by the Trust. The company operates Megazone, MegaPlay and other income generating activities. Other amenities include a community theatre, a youth club, music practice rooms, conference rooms and a sensory room. The MegaCentre is regarded locally as an important community resource.

The Board are seeking a Chief Executive to oversee the work of the trust and trading company. This new post has three main components:

- to create and maintain a good atmosphere within the MegaCentre community that adheres to Christian standards
- to vastly increase the range of programmes and activities primarily for young people and people with additional needs
- to facilitate the smooth everyday running of the trading company and oversee business development

There is an occupational requirement for candidates to be a practicing Christian. This is full time position. However, anyone who can offer substantial part time hours should also apply.

Salary: Negotiable 34we4

Closing date: Midday Thursday 20th November

Contact: Send Letter of Application by email with a CV to phil.smith@sky.com



Methodist Women in Britain

Circuit Advent Day

Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 10.30 am

Highlands Methodist Church

Craft activities include card making, flower arranging, singing, dance and creative writing.

To be followed by a Soup Lunch and an Advent Service at 2.00



Please join us for all or part the day
MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE WELCOME

West Herts Methodists visit to the Holy Land 2015

Make a pilgrimage with a difference to the Holy Land.

Make a pilgrimage with a difference to the Holy Land.

Meet. Listen. Reflect.

Monday 12 - Wednesday 21 October 2015

Members of the West Herts Circuit of Methodist Churches and local ecumenical partners invite you to join this trip led by Rev. Derek McLean from Abbots Langley Methodist Church and Amos Trust's Director Rev. Chris Rose.



Visit the holy sites, spend time with local communities and local peace-makers and experience something of what life is like today in the Holy Land.

Our 10 day visit is based in Bethlehem and Nazareth, with visits to Jerusalem, Galilee and surrounding area and is ideal for first time visitors to the Holy Land. Visiting the key historic and Biblical sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee & Nazareth.

Meet Palestinian and Israeli peace workers and visit community projects

Spend time with the local Christian community.

Stop and think on the shores of Galilee

In addition your programme will include input from academics and theologians and from peace organisations including ICAHD, Sabeel, Christian Peacemaker teams and Combatants for Peace. (Subject to availability)

The trip will be led by Amos Trust's Director Rev. Chris Rose with Rev. Derek McLean from Abbots Langley Methodist Church, working alongside one of Holy Land Trust's local staff guides.



Cost: **£1,450** - This includes all flights, half board accommodation and all travel within Israel and Palestine.

Booking is open now and places are limited. First deadline for booking is 3rd November 2014: prices may need to be increased after that date.

For more information contact Rev Derek McLean on 01923 261717 or at derek.mclean@methodist.org.uk

HIGHLANDER

Riding Lights Theatre Company
presents

GOOSE CHASE

a feather-flying tale of the first
Christmas

WED 3RD DECEMBER

7.00pm

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PT

Tickets: £6 / £4 (concs) / £18 (group/family of 4)

BOX OFFICE: 01702 711851

Polly Dunbar

written by Antony Dunn
directed by Paul Burbridge

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RIDING
THEATRE
COMPANY
LIGHTS

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.



Quotes :

The best vitamin for making friends is B-1

The two best times to keep your mouth shut are when you're swimming and when you're angry.

John Paton brought Christianity to the people of the Pacific Islands. He taught them about the love of God and faith. Years later some communists arrived and told the people they had been listening to mere fables and lies. "There is no God."

You should thank the God that you do not believe in, the Chief retorted. For if you had arrived before John Paton, we would have eaten you! - From The Link, Seer Green Baptist Church

Mike Bishop

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The Methodist Church in general and Highlands Methodist Church in particular does not endorse the services of any commercial enterprise advertising in this publication

Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.
Brownies Wednesday:	5.30-7.00 p.m.
Cub Scouts Thursday:	5.45-7.15 p.m.
Scouts Thursday:	7.30 p.m.
Rangers Alternate Thursdays	7.30 p.m.
Guides Friday:	7.00 p.m.

School Term-Time Only

Highlands Pre-School Mon - Fri: 9.15 - 12 noon

Fellowship Groups

Housegroups meet on Wednesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion at 9.00 a.m. :-

1st Wednesday	Wesley Methodist Church
2nd Wednesday	Belfairs Methodist Church
4th Wednesday	New Road Methodist Church

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

Coffee mornings: Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Church

Coffee is also available to visitors to the Craft Group on Tuesdays and Hobbies on Thursdays

Traidcraft Stall : Sunday of Parade Service (some goods also available at Coffee Mornings)

Social and Recreational

Craft Group	Tuesday	10.00 a.m.-12 noon (<i>Sept.-July</i>)
Badminton Club	Monday	8.00 p.m.
Hobbies	1st & 3rd Thursday	10.00 a.m. - 12.00p.m.
Ladies Badminton	Friday	10.00 a.m.
Short Mat Bowls	Friday (<i>Oct to April</i>)	2.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
MOTHs (<i>Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands</i>)	1st Tuesday	7.30 p.m.
Table Tennis	2nd Tuesday	7.30 p.m.
Adult Art Classes	Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Children's Art Club	Thursday	4 - 5 p.m.
Brush Strokes Art Group	Saturday	9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

The Badminton Players meet quarterly for play readings.

Contact: David Gare