

The Highlander

March 2015

“The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout
”Praise to David’s Son! God bless Him who comes in the name of the Lord”.

Matthew 21 : 9



Sunday Worship in March 2015

1st St David’s Day	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev. Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Andrew Thomas
8th	10.30	Parade Service - Kathleen McCullough
15th Mothering Sunday	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
22nd	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Julia Monaghan
29th Palm Sunday	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders

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

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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
	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 April 2015 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 22nd March. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on Sunday 29th March.



Message from your Minister:-

The Way

Back in 1973 when the Rubettes were number 1 with *Sugar Baby Love*, I was 12 and on a Spanish exchange visit with a young girl called Pilar. Her Dad worked for the police and her family lived in Santiago de Compostela. I have some strong memories of the trip; of being away from home; the flavor of Spanish omelets; and the very busy streets. I can remember Pilar trying to explain in broken English, that the cathedral was important and that all the people were there for pilgrimage. I can only wish, seeing how things worked out, that I'd taken more time to visit the church and worried less about trying to pronounce, "*Hola mi nombre es Julia.*"

Santiago de Compostela, situated in Galicia, north western Spain, has been a place of prayer and pilgrimage since the 9th Century, when the bones of the disciple James, brother of John, were allegedly found in a cave in the area. King Alfonso declared James as the patron saint of Spain and a chapel and monastery were founded. This chapel was destroyed in battle but subsequently rebuilt and enlarged, and consecrated as a cathedral in 1211. It has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

It is estimated that ½ million people a year were making the pilgrimage at the height of its popularity in 11th & 12th centuries. The saints closest in time and place to Jesus were held with the highest degree of reverence and James was considered to be part of the inner circle of 3. He was there at the healing of Jairus' daughter; at the Transfiguration; and present with Jesus in Gethsemane. His death is recorded in the book of Acts, as he was beheaded on the orders of Herod Agrippa in AD 44. Legend also has it that, before his death, he travelled to Spain helping to bring the good news of the gospel to the people of Europe. In the middle ages the pilgrimage to Jerusalem was the most important, then the pilgrimage to Rome and the tombs of Peter and Paul and thirdly to Santiago to the tomb of James.

Today people still travel, with the most popular route, starting on the French side of the Pyrenees, and travelling some 474 miles on foot to Santiago, where mass is said every day at 12 noon. Some travel for faith reasons, some for cultural or historical or sporting reasons. Others walk it for healing or discovery. Some walk it, finding it a positive way to enjoy a sabbatical! In the film, *The Way*, which will be the focus of our Lent Groups, we meet Tom.

P.T.O.

He is coming to terms with the death of his son and we watch while he makes a series of relationships with other walkers who also bring their own stories. Together they find their common humanity and understand that it is through community that they will all see the project through to the end. The writer of the Lent course, Tim Heaton, cleverly weaves into their stories the narratives of the people that Jesus met on his journey from the River Jordan to Jerusalem and, as he does, he attempts to ask the questions: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved?

So come along and see the film; enjoy the fellowship and be challenged to explore matters of faith. Who knows we may be so inspired that next year we might want to walk, *The Way!*

Rev Julia 17th February 2015



Flower Rota for March 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
1st	Betty & Arthur Hall	Parents	Jean Edmonds
8th	Sylvia Cornwell	Alan	Sylvia Cornwell
15th	Ros Bryant	Parents	Jean Burgess
22nd	Doll Edwards	John	Jean Burgess
29th	Betty Garrood	Mother	Betty Garrood



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for Joan Field in residential care at *Merrie Loots Farm* and Marie Moore in residential care at *Archers Court* in Hitchin.

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

For those who may have missed it in recent issues:-

Our Mission Statement

Highlands Methodist Church aims to be a
Christian Presence
within the Highlands and Marine estates, with
Worship
central and essential to its life.

We seek to lead others to God in Christ Jesus by being
a *welcoming* and *caring* community, offering God's love
and spiritual refreshment for Life's journey.

The incoming new Superintendent of the Circuit has asked all churches for their Mission Statement'

We need to review it and amend where and if, necessary.

Do you have anything to say regarding our Mission Statement?

Future Committee Meetings:-

Property & Finance Committee - Monday 16th March at 7.30 pm

Annual Church Meeting - Sunday 26th April after Morning Service

Church Council - Thursday 4th June at 8.00 pm



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 next meet on Tuesday 3rd On 3rd March at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. Gordon Parkhill and Friend will tell us of the History of Salvation Army Farm. All are welcome.

On 7th April Chris Worpole will be telling us about Hadleigh School.

Highlands Hobbies

We meet in March on 5th and 19th to pursue our various interests and crafts. Everyone is welcome.

(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, 10th March at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.



Action for Children

At the recent Coffee Morning we raised the sum of £43.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Rainbows and Brownies

The Brownie Jumble Sale is on Saturday 14th March from 10.00 to 12 noon in the Main Hall. Entrance 20p. The Rainbows will be holding a Coffee Morning at the same time in the Church. If you have items for either event please ring Dilys (710207) or deliver to the Hall on Friday 13th after 6pm.

ABRSM Exams

We now have the dates for the ABRSM music exams, as follows: Monday March 9th, afternoon only. Wednesday/Thursday/Friday March 18th/19th/20th, mornings and afternoons, Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday March 23rd/24th/25th, mornings and afternoons, Thursday March 26th afternoon only, Friday March 27th morning and afternoon, Monday/Tuesday March 30th/31st mornings and afternoons, Wednesday/Thursday April 1st/2nd mornings and afternoons. If you are interested in helping as a steward, please add your name to the list in the Jubilee Room.



Pre-School Concert

The end-of-term concert will take place in the Church at 9.30 am on Thursday 26th March. Everyone is invited to attend.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 2nd April - Section Maundy Thursday Service 8.00pm
Sunday 26th April - Annual Church Meeting

Circuit Events

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

Saturday 7th March — Circuit Prayer Breakfast at *The Elms* 8.30am

Tuesday 3rd March - "21st Century Faith for a 21st Century Mind"
Chalkwell Park Methodist Church at 7.30 pm

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ???" - 2nd Thursday
Next date — 12th March at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 24th March 2015 at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings



7th March	Music at Highlands
14th March	Brownies Jumble Sale
21st March	Craft Group
28h March	Rangers



Christian Aid - Souper Lunch

The annual soup lunch will be held on
Tuesday 10th March from 12 noon,
finishing in time for those who wish
to attend the Lent Course at 2.00 pm.

Soup, home made bread, cheese and fruit will be on the menu.

If you wish to come please sign your name on the list in the
Jubilee Room to assist with the catering.

Serving the Homeless/HARP

We have arranged another fundraising meal at the popular **EAST** restaurant in Alexandra Street, Southend. Tickets are available now at £15 per person.

You are also welcome to our Annual General Meeting on 23rd March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall. Your chance to hear all of what we have achieved during the past year and our plans for the future.

All are welcome. Full details of both these events later.

Thanks to your generous support Serving the Homeless has recently been able to give £5,000 to Southend YMCA to assist with the refurbishment of flats in Hamlet Court Road area for young homeless.

As Winter lingers on the weather remains very cold 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.



Foodstore

As mentioned recently at a morning service (and thank you for your magnificent quick response) The Trussel Trust Foodbank has recently opened up distribution centres in Westcliff and Leigh, operating out of the Southchurch Warehouse.

After a bumper crop of donations in December, they are really feeling the winter chill in the warehouse, with more food being distributed than donated.

The following items are URGENTLY NEEDED :

SUGAR PACKET MASH NOODLES CUP A SOUP

SQUASH LONG LIFE JUICE CHOCOLATE TREATS

TINNED PUDDINGS (or cake with a long shelf life)

Please do what you can to alleviate this current shortage.

Thank you

Lent Course March 2015: The Long Road to Heaven

The Long Road to Heaven, is a Lent course based on the film *The Way*. Starring Martin Sheen as a bereaved father, this uplifting film observes a group of pilgrims walking *The Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela*. As it follows their journey of inner transformation, the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation past, present and future and addresses the questions: What are we saved from? What are we saved for? Who can be saved? What do we have to do to be saved? How are we saved? The course will run as a section over 5 weeks. The first being an opportunity to watch the film, the following 3 for group study and discussion, with the 5th session being a reflection on the course at the Section Maundy Thursday Service.

There are a number of ways the course can be accessed :-

Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March 2pm Highlands

Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March 7.30pm Belfairs

(Please note that the evening session at Belfairs on 3rd March will commence at 7.00pm to allow for the showing of the entire film)

and through the Wesley house group system (for details see the Notice Sheet)

The Section Maundy Thursday Service is on 2nd April at 8pm at Highlands Methodist Church

All members of the Leigh Section are welcome at any of the Sessions not just at your own church!

Rev Julia





Traidcraft – time to rethink...

Some 20 years ago a Christian friend told us about a radical new form of Christian action – a chance to make a difference, a chance to change the world. So we accepted a monthly delivery of coffee and toilet rolls and every now and then we would buy special things – at Christmas and Easter... There was almost nothing with the Fairtrade logo for sale in shops and we were definitely 'unusual'...

In 1998 we started selling Traidcraft in Highlands and for many years it was a fun feature of the second Sunday of the month, with regular requests for coffee, yoghurt raisins, ginger biscuits and other 'specials'. But things have changed – and now Fairtrade goods are available in all the supermarkets and at very good prices (although there must still be a fair-trade premium in there). That's the good news. The bad news is that recently the temptation of the goods and cash which we leave in the church has proved too much and we have had money and goods stolen.

So, we have decided, and Church Council supported the decision, not to continue with the Traidcraft 'stall'.

But – we will keep the account open (after all we still need our toilet rolls!)

and we will supply Highlands with any tea, coffee, sugar or anything else Highlands uses

and we have ordered copies of the new catalogue which we will spread about and always be happy to place orders.

So we hope that everyone will continue to support Highlands Traidcraft by ordering through us from the catalogue.

So let's continue to make a difference, to change the world, to work for trade justice, not just in church but every time we shop.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Pamela and Patrick Smith

REVD DR ROGER RAY

EVIDENCE BASED FAITH

21st Century Faith for a 21st Century Mind

- Revd Dr Roger Ray of Community Christian Church, Missouri, USA, will be discussing Christianity in a way that breaks all boundaries. Dr Ray claims Christianity is not about dogma or creeds and advocates an evidence based approach to the Christian Faith.
- A definitive voice in Progressive Christianity, a social activist, and international author and speaker, Dr Ray will be sure not to disappoint. Disagreement welcome, Questions encouraged, Debate likely!
- A must for all who have an interest in the future of faith in our secular society.
- **Tuesday 3rd March 2015 ay Chalkwell Park Methodist Church, 7.30 for 8.00opm. Refreshments available.**
- Copies of Dr Ray's recently released book, ***Progressive Faith and Practice***, will be available.

Noah had problems too

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For forty days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park.

Helping

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

Reflection

Many people will walk in and out of your life. But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Parish Pump

Serving the Community 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.
Rainbows Wednesday	4.00-5.00 p.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.
<i>School Term-Time Only</i>	
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.