

The Highlander

April 2015



The angels said to them "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; **he has been raised** ." Luke 24:5

Sunday Worship in April 2015

5th Easter Day	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev. Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Jane Fulford
12th	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
19th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
26th	10.30	Morning Worship - Margaret Chipandambira

"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 **May 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 19th April**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 26th April**.



Message from your Minister:-

THE GARDEN: FROM DEATH TO LIFE



I have just come back from Youth Alpha where the task has been to build a church out of Duplo, paying particular attention to symbol and the core task of your church. Joe based his design on Genesis 7 and the story of Noah, placing 2 of every kind of animal that Duplo make, inside his church. His focus was on ecology, stewardship and renewal. Jane's church was on wheels, with a cross for the steering wheel, representing a community on the move always guided by Christ. Jocelyn's was based on a cross that Christ should be at the heart of community & Elise and James parked John Wesley's horse outside theirs, highlighting Wesley's commitment to the whole world being his parish.

Mine was based on a garden with a large indoor pool at its heart, where people sat and shared spiritual conversation. The garden is understood in the ancient world to be a symbol of abundance, with the Genesis account describing God's original paradise for humans as a garden, and the source of the world's 4 rivers, providing plentiful fruit for the animals and humans living there. However in the biblical tradition, even the original paradise is two sided. In the middle of the garden is a mysterious tree, with fruit that brings out the complexity of human consciousness and a serpent who talks the residents into death. Even in paradise trouble is coming!

In the New Testament, in contrast to the synoptic gospels, the gospel of John refers to the Olive Groves in Gethsemane as a garden and to Christ's burial site as one too. Only John uses garden language, if you like, to describe the site of Christ's betrayal and burial. Yet this burial garden becomes the place of resurrection, the new life of Christ springing up for the community. If Eden seemed a paradise in which death is lurking, John's garden is a place of betrayal and death, from which new life is born for the entire world.

P.T.O.

I welcome all this imagery and story that gives the experience of the garden depth and meaning. It can be very easy to sentimentalize the idea of the garden, keeping it flat and one-dimensional. But in the garden from a Christian perspective, the *tree of knowledge of good and evil* stands alongside the *tree of life*. We meet Jesus where he was buried and so we find the gospel. We discover that the cemetery is a garden.

The good news is, that in the place of death, God gives life for everyone to enjoy! Amen

*Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day.*

Wishing you a joyful Easter

Rev Julia



April 2015



Prayer

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

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

Sympathy

We are sorry to hear of the death of a former member of Highlands, Mrs Jean Course (nee Simmonds) who was living in Dawlish. Jean was involved in a number of activities e.g. Brownies, Choir and Sunday School during her time at Highlands.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Garrod who passed away peacefully on 26th March. Our thoughts are with Heather and Duncan especially at this time.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Julie Gerrish who passed away on 27th March after a long illness. Our thoughts are with her daughters Pauline Saville and Jill Davies at this time.

Flower Rota for April 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
5th	The Family	Julie and Harold Gerrish	Jean Edmonds
12th	Bruce Barter	Hazel	Mary Barter
19th	Vanessa Mayes	Parents	Jean Burgess
26th		Church Flowers	



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 7th April at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. Chris Worpole will tell us of the History of Hadleigh School. All are welcome.

On 5th May Jean Nightingale will regale us with the History of Tennis.

Highlands Hobbies

We meet in April on 2nd and 16th 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, 14th April at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.



ABRSM Exams

These will now conclude on Wednesday/Thursday April 1st/2nd mornings and afternoons. Thank you to everyone who offered to assist with the stewarding arrangements.

Midweek Holy Communion

Please note that there will be no Midweek Communion on Wednesday 8th April at Belfairs Methodist Church.



Future Committee Meetings:-

Church Family Committee -
Monday 18th May at 8.00 pm

Property & Finance Committee -
Monday 1st June at 8.00 pm

Church Council - Thursday 4th
June at 8.00 pm

Christian Aid

Thank you for your support at our Soup Lunch when we raised the magnificent sum of £144. Well done.

There will be a Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th May before Christian Aid Week commences on Monday 11th May.



Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 2nd April - Section Maundy Thursday Service 8.00pm
Saturday 30th May - Plants and Cake Sale

Circuit Events

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

Alternative Worship

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

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 28th April 2015 at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings

4th April	Music at Highlands
11th April	Church
18th April	MOTHs
25th April	Barnardos



Smile Lines

Heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

Dial

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now.

You call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers. *Parish Pump*

ITEM FROM 10TH LEIGH BROWNIES

The Brownies would like to thank everyone who supported their Book Sale and Coffee morning in February - we raised £74.57.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides joined the rest of the Southend West Guide Division on the 22nd February to celebrate World Thinking Day. The girls had a great morning learning about the 4 Guide World centres, Zumba dancing, Drumming and playing games from other countries. They all ended the morning by renewing their promises with the rest of the Division.

Congratulations go to Martha, Amelie, Amelia S, Amelia G, Darcie, Poppy, Beth and Milly who represented the unit at the Southend West Guide Division Swimming Gala on Sat 7th March at Clements Hall, Hawkwell. We came a wonderful 2nd. Congratulations also go to the Guides in winning their section.

The Brownies and Rainbows are looking forward to their Easter themed evening at Guideacres and then the leaders will be looking forward to a lovely break before the meetings all start again on the 15th April.

Happy Easter to all at Highlands from the Brownies and Rainbows

Serving the Homeless/HARP

The meal at *EAST* restaurant raised £591. Thank you to all who supported us there.

Our next fundraising event is a *Quiz* at St Margaret's Church Hall on Saturday 18th April. Full details in the Jubilee Room. We need "lucky guessers" as well as "brain boxes" please!

On 17th May at 6.30 pm we celebrate our work of the last year with a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Lourdes. We would love to see you there.

On Thursday 11th June between 2.00 and 4.00 pm you can enjoy Afternoon Tea at *Park View Restaurant* in Chalkwell Park for just £10.00 with gentle keyboard music accompaniment. Tickets are now available for what promises to be a very popular event.

As the weather remains very cold for those living on the streets 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.



Summer Worship At St Peter's Chapel

Many of you will have visited or at least heard of St Peters Chapel. It sits in an isolated location at the end of the Dengie peninsular, near the village of Bradwell on Sea. It is a very simple and yet inspiring place of worship. When you take part in a service at St Peters you are very conscious of a Christian tradition at the site that goes back to the foundation of the chapel by St Cedd in 654 CE.

St Peters holds services every Sunday evening in July and August at 6:30 pm. I would like to organise a Sunday evening visit (or perhaps more than one visit, as numbers are limited) which would include a bring-and-share picnic, a short walk for those interested, and a service at the chapel. I will shortly post a notice in the Jubilee Room asking whether folk are interested, so that I can contact the chaplain to make arrangements.

Meanwhile some FAQ's :-

Are there any loos? No, but I can hopefully arrange for toilets to be available at the Othona Community next to the chapel

What if it tips it down with rain? Again I hope to arrange with Othona for shelter to be available

Is it a long walk? The chapel is about half a mile from the nearest road, but there is a gated track that is opened up about half an hour before services, or other times by arrangement

Where can I find out more about St Peters? It has its own website www.bradwellchapel.org. If you're interested in the history of the chapel go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapel_of_St_Peter-on-the-Wall which also has links to information about Bradwell, Dengie, St Cedd and Othona.

Why would I be interested in Dengie? It's an important wetland bird habitat and Special Protection Area (SPA). A magical and holy place on a summer evening.

Andrew Hyde

Annual Church Meeting

It is obvious from the report made available at the Annual Church Meeting that there is a lot of good work going on at Highlands, both internally and with our outreach to the community. If you have not seen a copy yet we can make sure that one is available to you. It makes very good reading despite the fact that we obviously have a fair way to go in making the premises fit for purpose since the redevelopment was not approved. We will need the support and prayers of you all.

Especial mention is given to our work with the younger people coming through our premises in the Parent and Toddler Group and Highlands Pre School as well as the efforts being made to encourage our older members through MOTHS, Craft Group and Hobbies. In the community our support of the homeless through Serving the Homeless and HARP and the Winter Night Shelter has been much appreciated.

It is good to note that visitors to our premises also avail themselves of the use of the Prayer Board so that we can support them on a regular basis.

I reiterate the words of our Minister in her report to the meeting:-

"So we give thanks to God for another year and look forward with hope, anticipation and joy. And if some things need to change their shape and move from an evening to an afternoon, we remain at ease with our selves, as in Christ we live the heart of our calling, from death to life! Amen"

Heaven

At the pearly gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and a member of parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." The vicar began to protest that this was unfair. "Listen," St. Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

Parish Pump



EASTER

at Highlands

Maundy Thursday - Leigh Section Service
at Highlands at 8.00 pm

Good Friday - Leigh Section Service
at Wesley Methodist Church at 11.00 am

(Meet at Highlands at 9.45 am for
"Walk of Witness" to Wesley for Hot Cross Buns)

Easter Sunday - Holy Communion at 9.00am
led by Rev Julia Monaghan
followed by Breakfast

Easter Morning Worship at 10.30 am
led by Jane Fulford

Easter Prayer and Praise Service at 6.30 pm
at Belfairs Methodist Church

Hallelujah! He IS Risen !

The cross stands empty

Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday 9.30-11.30a.m.
highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

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.

School Term-Time Only

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

Housegroups meet on Wednesdays.

Fellowship Groups

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 : Catalogue available for orders. Various items on sale at rear of church.

Social and Recreational

Craft Group Tuesday 10.00 a.m.-12 noon (*Sept.-July*)

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 (*Oct to April*) 2.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

MOTHs (*Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands*) 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.