

The Highlander

May 2015

Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages.

Acts 2 : 3 - 4

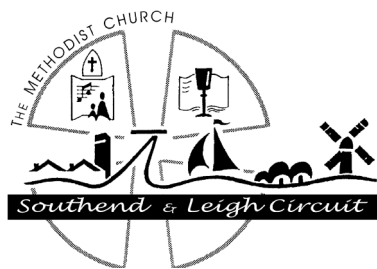


Sunday Worship in May 2015

| | | |
|--|-------|---|
| 3rd | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Lt. Col. Roy Girling |
| 10th Christian Aid Week | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Worship Leaders |
| | 4.00 | Easter Offering Service at Thorpe Bay |
| 17th | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Eileen Simmons |
| 24th Pentecost Aldersgate Sunday | 10.30 | Leigh Section United Service at Highlands Holy Communion with Rev, Julia Monaghan and Rev Teresa Rutterford |
| 31st | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Rev Brian Gameson |

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

No. 804 Vol. LXVI



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 | Patrick Smith | 557702 |
| Church Stewards | Ros Bryant | 478631 |
| | Lesley/Andrew Hyde | 473111 |
| | Janette/Rob Land | 477507 |
| | Jean/Frank Edmonds | 525250 |
| 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 |
| Website : | www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk | |

All items for the **June 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 24th May**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 31st May**.



Message from your Minister:-



When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.....

John 15: 26 -27

As Pentecost is the time when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, we are tempted to read the verses from John's Gospel in chapter 15, far too quickly as if we know their subject already, after all, we have heard these words so often before.

We could easily sit there and say that the Holy Spirit is promised to the followers of Jesus; that the wind that blows through and enlivens the church was given on this day in history; and that this Spirit is promised to all members of the church through all time. And no doubt this is true, but perhaps this is all too much a quick, somewhat superficial reading of the passage from John and perhaps we are in danger of superimposing over the top, the overall New Testament story of the Spirit and thereby missing the individual contribution that this passage could make.

I remember when I was at theological college, one of my tutors saying that it was an oversimplification, to equate the Spirit of truth, the Paraclete, with the Holy Spirit. He said that he had been reading a theologian, Raymond Brown, who stated that the Paraclete is the Holy Spirit in a special personal role. The Paraclete is the presence of Jesus when Jesus is absent.

Jesus said further on in chapter 15 of John, that it would be to our advantage if he went away, "for if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you" (John 16 : 7). Had we been there we might have argued strongly that no, we would much rather have him there, but Jesus is assuring us that he will indeed remain alive in the community, and in us, for the Paraclete will be Jesus' presence in the individual Christian. Jesus is promising to send the Spirit of truth to make a home within us or to become as Brown puts it, "a way of life or something that penetrates our very being."

Jesus is not with us now, but while he is with the Father, he has left us his presence in the person of the Paraclete. It is this Spirit of truth who guides us, to uncover and seek the grace and beauty of life. It is this Spirit of truth who teaches us to find God in the midst of life, to see life as Jesus might see it. It is this Spirit of truth, whom we experience in our heart as the presence of Jesus and through whom we might delight and worship our God. **Amen**

P.T.O.

Let us pray

Come, Holy Spirit, and show us what is true.
In a world of great wealth,
Where many go hungry,
And fortunes are won and lost by trading in money
Come, Spirit of Truth and show us your way

In a world of great knowledge,
Where many die in ignorance,
And every piece of information has a price in the market place
Come, Spirit of Truth and show us your way

In a church that speaks a thousand accents,
Divided over doctrine, creed and ministry,
More anxious for itself than for the Gospel,
Come, Spirit of Truth and show us your way

In a church touched by the flame of Pentecost,
Moved in generous sacrifice and costly love,
Interpreting the will of God with new insight
Come, Spirit of Truth and show us your way

All Your Glorious Names: Prayer Handbook URC 1989

Rev Julia

Changes in Personnel

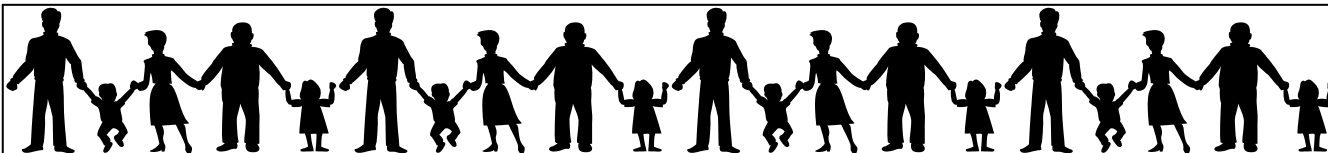
We offer our sincere thanks to Credwyn Tolhurst as she relinquishes her post as Secretary to the Church Council. We thank her also for her work with Methodist Women in Britain, the Toddlers Group, the Craft Group and her services as a Steward,. We will miss her when Rev Bryan retires in August and they move to Kent. The last service at Highlands led by Rev Bryan will be Sunday 5th July at 10.30 am. There will be a Circuit farewell Barn Dance at Hadleigh Methodist Church on the afternoon of Saturday 18th July.

We also thank Ros Bryant for her work as Senior Steward. Ros remains as a Steward but duties will be distributed differently.

Patrick Smith has kindly offered to step up as Church Council Secretary and we welcome him to the team.

We also welcome Jean and Frank Edmonds who join the team of Stewards.

We trust that the whole team under the leadership of Rev Julia will have another rewarding year of service.



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Joan Field at *Merrie Loots Farm*, Marie Moore at *Archers Court* in Hitchin and Margaret Ross at *Memory House*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Phil and Laura Barter on the safe arrival of Peter on 25th March, weighing in at 6lbs 13oz. A grandson for Mary and Bruce and a nephew for Ester.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Jean Edmonds on the death of her brother Michael on 22nd April. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Elaine, sons Roy, Glenn & Barry, brother Peter and all the family.

Thank You

We give a BIG thank you to the Pre-School for providing us with a wonderful Easter Garden in the Jubilee Room for everyone to enjoy.

Flower Rota for May 2015

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Donated by</u> | <u>In memory of</u> | <u>Arranged by</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 3rd | Jean & Frank Edmonds | Jill | Jean Edmonds |
| 10th | | | |
| 17th | Mary Barter | Family | Mary Barter |
| 24th | | | |
| 31st | Joan Ford | Gordon | 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.

MOTHs

We next meet on Tuesday 5th May when Jean Nightingale will regale us with the History of Tennis.

All are welcome at 7.30 pm for a 7.45 start.

On 2nd June Tony Windsor will provide us with a Tour of Classical Music.

Highlands Hobbies

Due to the General Election on 7th May the next meeting will not be until 21st May and then again on 28th May to prepare for the Coffee Morning Plus on 30th May. 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, 12th May at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Action for Children

The total amount collected this year was £308.89. Many thanks to all the box holders. If anyone would like to have a box please let Sylvia know and she will be happy to arrange it.

ABRSM Exams

A big thank you to all who helped with the stewarding during the recent exam period.

The next period will be from June 15th to June 24th, Mondays to Wednesdays only, and from June 29th to July 18th, Mondays to Saturdays. Actual dates will be confirmed before the end of May.

Again, any help with the stewarding will be most welcome.

Christian Aid

There will be a Christian Aid Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th May before Christian Aid Week which commences on Sunday 10th May.

Please check the Notice Boards to see whether you can assist in the door to door collection or speak with Jean Edmonds or Vanessa Mayes.



Leigh Music Festival

The Leigh Music Festival will take place in the Church from June 4th to June 28th, Thursdays to Sundays.

Plant & Cake Sale 30th May

This event will commence at 10.00 am. Jackie Williams will be running the Plant Stall. Donations of cakes will be very welcome. Light refreshments will be available throughout the morning. There will also be a Hobbies Stall.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

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*

Saturday 16th May - Model Railway Exhibition at Hadleigh

Saturday 23rd May - "Music in May" at Thundersley

Alternative Worship

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

Next date — 14th May at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday

Next date - 26th May 2015 at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings

2nd May

Music at Highlands

9th May

Christian Aid

16th May

World Missions

23rd May

Craft Group

30th May

Senior Section
Plant and Cake Sale



Future Committee Meetings:-

Church Family Committee - Monday 18th May at 8.00 pm

The main topic for discussion will be the Plant and Cake Sale on 30th May

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

Church Council - Thursday 4th June at 8.00 pm

Serving the Homeless/HARP

Our Quiz at St Margaret's Church Hall was attended by 13 teams and we raised the magnificent sum of £543.50. Thank you for your support.

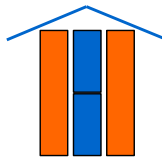
On 17th May at 6.30 pm we celebrate our work of the last year with a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Lourdes. We would love to see you there.

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 still remains cold for those living on the streets your gifts of food and clothing are warmly welcomed by HARP.

Your contributions to the HARP Charity Shop in Hamlet Court are also appreciated to raise funds to support the work of HARP.

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



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week starts on Sunday 10th May and runs until Saturday 16th May. The theme this year is "Delivering Hope". We will be looking for the usual generous support from Highlands of time, money and the courage to knock on doors.

Please help to continue our fantastic contribution of approximately £1,000 annually by signing your name to a road on the list at the back of the church and collecting a badge and envelopes from Jean or Vanessa.



A Topical Smile Line

Political systems

What is the difference between Capitalism and Socialism?

Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man. Socialism is the exact opposite.

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 web-site 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

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MINI-GLYNDEBOURNES WITH THE CHORISTERS AT BENFLEET?

Many people who used to come along have said that they do miss them, so on 14 June 2015 we are going to have another one, but this time with a cast of professional singers - no choristers as performers but hopefully they will be there as part of the audience. A small group from the Choristers – known as the “Friends of the Choristers” - is arranging this and if it works this could become a re-established part of the musical life in Benfleet.

So what are they going to do – **Madam Butterfly by Puccini – sung in English.** The cast includes our old friend Ben Thapa as the heartless Pinkerton and Jeni Bern as Butterfly, plus another five professional singers. The accompanist is Richard Pearce – a truly remarkable musician - and the accompanist for the Royal Choral Society.

The format will be the usual one – arrive from 5.30 pm and have a wander round the garden, then at 6.30 pm go into the marquee for Act one. We break at 7.30 pm for the ‘long interval’ with the main dining session, before returning at 8.30 pm for Act two.

The whole performance ends at about 9.30 pm but there is no hurry to depart and if it’s a beautiful summer’s evening you are welcome to linger before collecting your cars from the free car park on Reeds Hill Farm.

The evening is being heavily subsidised and the tickets will cost only **£10**, so book the date and get up a party to come – we can seat 350 people so there’s plenty of room – and we have garden chairs available for your picnics and you are welcome to bring tables (and candelabras if you wish!). There will be a champagne raffle in aid of Fair Havens Hospice as we have done in the past.

Tickets can be obtained from Marilyn Robinson - 01268 759704
or Richard Reeves - 01268 751393



METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

I have just spent a weekend at the Swanick Conference Centre in Derbyshire with 250 other women. The weekend was entitled 'being one, being whole, being God's'.

The main speaker was Rev Jackie Bellfield, a Methodist Minister from Warrington. During the main session we were asked to define who we are.....mother, wife, etc which was quite challenging. We are all labelled! In the next session Jackie told us about her church and 'The New Song Network' sessions they hold once a month. These sessions embrace the local community and they enjoy fellowship over a cuppa and cakes and sharing worship. The numbers have grown over the last 6 years from 60 to over 200 attending. One project they are involved in is being present at the Crematorium and Graveyard on Mothering Sunday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day providing hot drinks and on one occasion gave out 600 hot drinks. What a Christian witness to the community.

We each attended two different sessions in the afternoon and the one I enjoyed most was 'creating quiet spaces'. With the help of many beautiful fabrics, flowers, baubles, etc we created a display depicting God's arms embracing the world and all that it resembles.

On Saturday evening Jackie organised a 'pub' quiz which was great fun. Our group came second to last out of 25 teams - but it was fun!

The weekend finished with a communion service led by Jackie. She told us to get rid of the Goliaths in our life and rid ourselves of the labels - we hung labels on a cross and put our thumb prints on a cross to show that each of us is unique in God's eyes. When I received the bread from Jackie I felt that we were the only two people in the room and that her words were those of God.

From Jackie - when asked what you do simply respond by saying 'I love the Lord my God with all my heart, my soul, my mind and my strength'. What a challenger. Jackie is an inspiration to all and her love for God showed through all she said and did whether joking or sharing communion with us.

Please keep supporting Methodist Women in Britain when you can, they do a lot of good work both in the country and abroad. Just Google them to find out more.

God bless. Credwyn Tolhurst



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.

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 : 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.