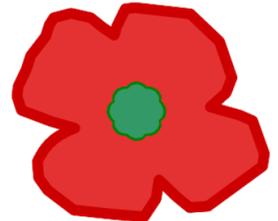


The Highlander

November 2015

*"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."*



Lest We Forget.

Sunday Worship in November 2015

1st All Saints Day	9.00 10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan Morning Worship - Rev Tony Windsor
8th Remembrance Day	10.30	Parade Service - Worship Leaders
15th Prisons Week	10.30	Morning Worship - Eileen Simmons
22nd Women against Violence Sunday	11.00	Section United Service at Wesley Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
29th Advent Sunday	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Julia Monaghan

"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	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Ros Bryant	478631
	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones	553898
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay	556140
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Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane	01268 565644
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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 **December 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 November**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com *The Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 29th November 2015**.



Message from your Minister:-

All Saints

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” **Revelations 21***

Revelation is, at its heart, a book of consolation; a vision of comfort for a group of people in persecution and distress – a life lived in uncertainty and fear, always on the run, always faithful, never sure. It is the kind of life that Emperor Diocletian inflicted on the early Christians who wrote and preserved this book. They were the first saints of the church, risking all they had for the name of Christ, which they knew to be above the name of their emperor. For Diocletian, what was at stake was state control, including control of faith’s imagination. For Christians, what was at stake was control of their inner identity. In being baptized into Christ they were made citizens of a heavenly city, in whose name they could act, rather than an earthly one dictated to by the emperor.

How these early saints suffered, how they died, how they escaped, little is known. But in Revelation 21, we get a glimpse at how they imagined freedom and within it I think we can capture some of our own fear and hopes. These people were amazing, they were Jews who had become Christians, living in a Roman world, and yet they pictured a vision of a universal humanity, a new heaven and a new earth, a holy city coming down, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. “See I am making all things new.” In a world of persecution these words of promise and consolation could be something in which they could stake their trust. **P.T.O.**

Message from your Minister continued:-

To hear this reading at All Saints is to stand with all those who have suffered in their witness to Jesus, wherever they were, at whatever time in history. When one part of the body suffers, their sufferings are ours and so is their hope. We remember them.

“We remember them” – a phrase we will use on Remembrance Sunday, but one as potent in remembering the saints who have gone before us, as we celebrate All Saints in our church calendar. Across the years, like those who served in the Great Wars, they showed ultimate commitment and the importance of their identity in Christ.

This month we will also share together in remembering those whom we love but no longer see. Although they may not have endured persecution or war, they too have shown what it is to walk in commitment and faith. So, with all the saints, with the falling of poppy leaves, we will remember those whose lives and faith have touched and blessed our own.

Rev Julia



Flower Rota for November 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
1st	Joan Field	Peggy Hankin	Jean Burgess
8th	Mary Mapp	Parents	Jean Edmonds
15th	Mary Barter	Parents	Mary Barter
22nd	Section Service at Wesley		
29th	Andrea Ames	Pat and Greta	Hobbies



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

We send our best wishes to John and Becks Davis on the arrival of Theodore Christopher. A brother to Zac and a second grandson for Les Davis.

Welcome

We were pleased to receive Kathy McCullough into membership at Highlands on Sunday 20th September and welcome her into the family.

Thank You

To everyone who assisted with the decoration of the Church for our Harvest Festival with flowers, fruit and other produce. The window displays were beautifully arranged and the vegetable people were most impressive. HARP were very appreciative of our donation.

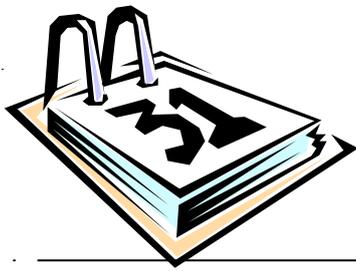
Piano Accompaniment CDs

We have now acquired a complete set of piano accompaniments for all 750 hymns in *Singing the Faith*. We tried these out on 18 October 2015 and they worked very well despite a minor technical hitch.

The stewards would like you to be absolutely clear that these are not intended to replace a live organist or pianist. However, on the odd occasion when we fail, despite our best efforts, to find anyone available, the CDs will fill the gap.

Are you ready boots?

On the more distant horizon, we would like to organise a week of pilgrimage on the famous Camino de Santiago in north west Spain. Probably aiming at the spring of 2017. Again if you would be interested, please get in touch with Andrew on 473111.



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.

10th Leigh Brownies

Will be holding a Cake and Book sale on Saturday 31st October from 10.00 am till 12 noon.

Highlands Hobbies

A big thank you to all the Hobbies ladies for the lovely flowers and produce displays made for our Harvest Festival. Special thanks also to Ros for sourcing the flowers, greenery and produce to be used.

We now turn our talents to supplies for the Christmas Fair; already we have a good supply of lovely cards which will go on sale by 1st November at the back of the church.

Visitors always welcome to look in and join us for coffee and a chat.

We will hold 3 meetings in November
November 5th - 10.00 to 12 noon

Followed by a bring and share lunch for those who wish to stay.

November 19th - 10.00 to 12 noon

November 26th - 10.00 to 12 noon

Especially to produce Christmas table arrangements and finish gifts for the Christmas Fair.

(Contact : *Jean Edmonds* 525250)

MOTHs

MOTHs now meeting at 2.30 in the afternoon will continue on Tuesday 3rd November when Jean Nightingale will relate her acting and cooking disasters in her own inimitable style. This will be preceded by a bring and share lunch at 12.30 if you so wish. All are welcome.

ABRSM Music Exams

ABRSM have indicated that their end-of-year exam period will be Nov 9th to Dec 12th. As soon as we know the specific dates they wish to use Highlands we will be seeking volunteers to act as stewards. We should know any time now and a list will be put up in the Jubilee Room. Any help, even if only for an hour or two will be most welcome.

Christmas Fair

This will take place on Saturday November 28th from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. People willing to provide cakes please see Jean Burgess, bric-a-brac and books see Jacky Hendle.

Please ensure the date is in your diary and encourage your friends along.

Future Committee Meetings:-

Church Family Committee -
Monday 9th November at **1.00 pm**

Property & Finance Committee -
Monday 30th November at 8.00 pm

Church Council -
Thursday 11th February at 8.00 pm

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 31st October - Brownies Cake and Book Sale
Saturday 28th November - Christmas Fair
Friday 11th December - Mencap Concert at 730pm

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 — 12th November at 7.00 pm
+ + + +
Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 24th November at 8.00pm

Christmas at Highlands 2015



Sunday 13th December - Parade and Toy Service
Sunday 20th December - Carols by Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve - Christingle Service at 5.00 pm
Rev Julia Monaghan
Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion (at Wesley)
Christmas Day - Morning Service at Highlands
Rev Julia Monaghan
Sunday 28th December - Section Service at Wesley

Coffee Mornings

7th November	Church
14th November	Save the Children
21st November	Music at Highlands
28th November	Christmas Fair

Serving the Homeless/HARP

HARP has advised us that a large part of their work continues to be with young people. 80% of the people accommodated in their units are under 25. There appears to be a certain amount of rivalry between groups helping the homeless in Southend. HARP has met with several of the soup kitchens and they are going to work together and share *some* information. The prime aim of HARP is to get clients back on track with homes / jobs / training etc..

We wish them well in their efforts and offer encouragement for their future work.

The Summer Raffle raised over £1,000 and two winners bought tickets from Highlands. Sorry you could not all win but thank you for your support!

The fundraising Indian Buffet meal at Shagoor Restaurant in Hamlet Court Road raised £459.

The evening of Jazz and Fun with the Daisy Bowlers supported by DBJQ raised £725. Yet another good evening.

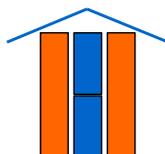
Future events will include our popular *Songs for Christmas*, this year to be held at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Sunday lunch at the Park View Suite in Chalkwell Park has been booked for Sunday 7th February. Further details to follow.

In the present economic climate more people are finding the need to use the services of HARP and the local foodbanks. Please check out the deals in the local supermarkets to see whether you are able to make a contribution to stocks. Thank you.

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 rear of the church.



Winter Night Shelter

As you will know the Circuit runs a Night Shelter for Homeless people in Southend on Saturday evenings throughout the winter months at UMC Whittingham Avenue site. This year the Circuit Meeting has agreed to install showers at UMC. The cost of this will be £17,00 to be spread across all the churches in the Circuit. It is also hoped that some grants may be available to support this work.

Rev Norman Hooks writes "Let us make sure that our focus on this is our guests who will be joining us this winter, I am certain that a nice warm shower on a Saturday evening will be received as an act of genuine care and much appreciated by those who use the facility."

One way of doing this, as part of our contribution at Highlands is to ask people to charge themselves 10p every time they are lucky enough to have a shower or bath at home, and collect the money in a jar. Dark towels together with soap and shampoo would also be useful. Jars and labels are available from the church. They will be collected in on Sunday 29th November.

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;
The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

By Christina Rossetti 1830 -94





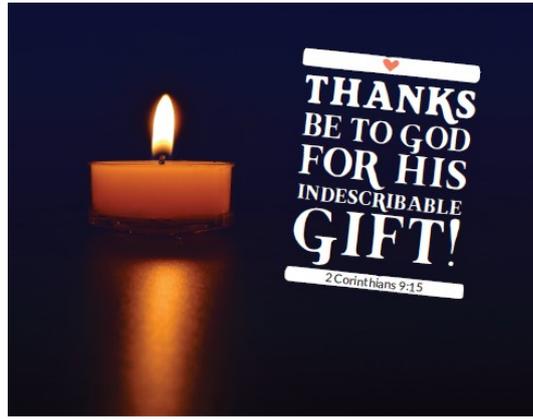
Methodist relief and development

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus, God's extraordinary gift to us. It is a season of thanksgiving, as we reflect on our wonderful God, who loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son. A God who offered a practical response to a broken world in need of restoration.

It is in this spirit that *All We Can* invites us as individuals, groups and as a congregation to consider our response to the broken world that we live in today, and provides us with the opportunity to buy Extraordinary Gifts for our friends and family, which are practical presents that help people in some of the world's poorest communities not just at Christmas but for years to come.

All We Can is the Methodist relief and development partner which helps people to find solutions to poverty and become all that they can. It is inspired by Jesus' command to love our neighbour and is grounded in the Methodist tradition of social justice and going to those who are in greatest need. *All We Can* does this by investing in partnerships with talented local people who hold a vision and a drive to improve quality of life and create positive, long-term change in the communities that they serve.

By buying Extraordinary Gifts this Christmas for our friends and family and as a church, we can respond practically to help people in some of the world's poorest communities and in doing so spread – hope, love, joy and peace – as more people are given a secure future and enjoy an improved quality of life....



Gifts available in the Extraordinary Gifts catalogue:

As a congregation we could raise money over this Christmas period to buy *All We Can's* Extraordinary Gift, 'Living water'. £230 could pay for a water pump, the key part of a shallow well, to be used by a vulnerable community in Uganda. This provides a reliable, safe water source for an entire village, helping people to stay healthy which will reduce the amount people spend on medicines and will help them to spend the valuable time they normally spend on walking to collect water, on their farms and doing other economic activities.

As a Church some of our Christmas offerings will go towards Extraordinary Gifts. As a congregation the catalogue will be available to make your own purchases.

Advent Calendar

We are looking at the feasibility of having a 'live' advent calendar for Highlands, involving 24 window displays in local homes, shops and possibly other locations. If you would be interested in helping, please get in touch with Andrew on 473111.

Kitchen refit

Apart from a couple of items this is finished and we are very pleased with the result. It was formally dedicated by Rev Julia and a ribbon was cut to inaugurate the room after a morning service.

We thank Anne Lane for overseeing this operation.

The Pauline Curtis concert raised £168 towards the Kitchen Fund and a further £100 was received from the Badminton Club.

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.

MOTHs (*Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands*) 1st Tuesday 2.30 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.