

# The Highlander

January 2016



The star went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

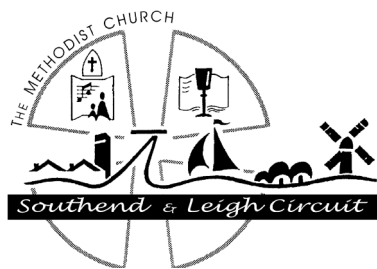
They knelt down to worship him and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## Sunday Worship in January 2016

3rd	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship - Rev Julia Monaghan
	11.00	Covenant Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Rev Julia Monaghan
10th Epiphany	10.30	Parade Service - Rev Julia Monaghan
17th	10.30	Morning Worship - Kathy McCullough
24th Homeless Sunday	10.30	Morning Worship - Eileen Simmons
31st	11.00	Joint Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Rev Dr Pauline Warner

**“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
	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 **February 2016** 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 January**. Preferably, items may be emailed to [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto:frank66thecroft@sky.com) The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 31st January 2016**.



# The 2016 Weather Forecast



Approaching a new year always brings to mind one of the most memorable sermons I ever heard.

1993 had been a difficult year for us and by its end we had moved to a new house and left the church where we had married and spent our 20's. They had struggled to make sense of illness that prayers alone, without the intervention of medics, could not address. It seems naive looking back, but at the time it felt like we no longer fitted with their view of an omnipotent, loving God.

Our daughter, Beth, was 5 and still wanted to go to Sunday School, however, so on the first Sunday of 1994 she took us to the Methodist Church at the top of the road.

The service was lead by a 90 year old former minister and missionary, his body crooked with arthritis. Both of us had prayed that if this was to be our new spiritual home, God would let us know. It did not look auspicious

His sermon began as follows: "This new year, like the weather forecast, I can promise you that life will be full of sunshine, showers, gusting winds, rain, storms, hail and snow, and that at times it will be dull and overcast. And I don't just mean the weather. For that has been my experience of life. Good times, difficult times and times when not a lot seemed to be going on." And told us about some of them, before adding: "But I can also tell you that whatever the weather conditions of life, God is walking with you. No less present in the depths as in the heights when you feel blessed. Weather happens, life happens, but God is steady and present in it all. We cannot, nor can our circumstances put us outside his grace."

We'd found our new home and began a new journey.

So as we enter 2016, remember that whatever the weather of life this year, God's prevenient grace (which means it exists prior to and without reference to anything humans may have done) is with us - we are not alone. The weather is the context in which we walk with him.

*Sam Monaghan*



### **9.30am Breakfast Fellowship**

The first Sunday in the month, come and share good fellowship, pray and praise over breakfast at Highlands Methodist Church.

The coffee will be on, the papers will be out and opinions and views will be shared. Transport will then be provided to Communion service at Wesley 11.00am.

*Rev Julia*

### **A thank you letter from Southend Mencap:-**

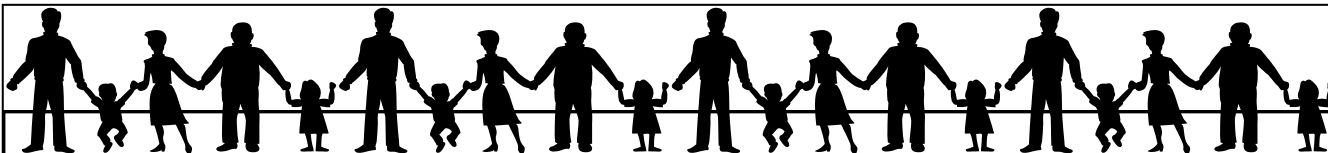
I am writing to you to express my immense thanks for all the support provided by you and your fantastic team at Highlands Methodist Church in making our Christmas Concert on Friday 14th December another truly memorable evening.

I cannot stress enough about Highlands Methodist Church being such a brilliant venue to come to with such a pleasant atmosphere and that was clearly seen by yet another capacity audience who turned up to watch our Music School and Music Man students perform their final concert of this festive period. We actually used up all the seats the church had available so that shows how popular this has become over the years! Their appreciation for the talent of our students was a moving experience for me as well as to David and his team leading the concert.

Please accept my thanks and the thanks of Southend Mencap as a whole for the continued fantastic dedication and support provided by everyone at Highlands Methodist Church.

Marc McOwens, General Manager.

(Well done Highlands! - Ed.)



### 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.

### Cracker Jokes

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

*Parish Pump*

### **Flower Rota for January 2016**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
3rd	Jill Grove	Parents	Jean Edmonds
10th	Mrs. E. Thomas	Ralph & Gordon	Jean Burgess
17th	Keith Carter	Parents	Hobbies
24th	Joan Ford	Gordon	Jean Edmonds
31st	Joint Service at Wesley		



# 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 Rainbows & Brownies**

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

10th Leigh Brownies are having a Book Sale and Coffee Morning on Sat 6th February 2016 - 10 a.m. till 12 noon.

The Brownies Annual Jumble Sale and Coffee morning on Saturday 19th March 2016 - 10 a.m. till 12noon.

Items for either these sales will be gratefully accepted - contact Dilys 710207



## **Highlands Hobbies**

We start the new year on 7th January with flowers, card making and various crafts. We follow with a bring and share lunch for those who wish. We will also meet on 21st January from 10 to 12 noon. Why not look in for coffee and a chat and see what we get up to, all are welcome to join our happy group.

(Contact : Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros Bryant 478631)

## **MOTHs**

There will be no meeting in January 2016.

The meeting on 2nd February will be a lunch at *Affinity Restaurant* at 1.00pm.



## **Christmas Gifts**

The wonderful selection of gifts and toys was warmly received at "Safer Places". The MOTHs presents for the mums was especially appreciated.

## **ABRSM Music Exams**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to assist during the above. Our hospitality was very much appreciated.

## **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to all who contributed to a great event. We raised £1153.53. Well done !

## **Future Committee Meetings:-**

Property & Finance Committee -

Monday 1st February at 8.00 pm

Church Council -

Thursday 11th February at 8.00 pm

Family Committee -

Wednesday 15th March at **noon**

## **Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary**

Saturday 28th May - Plant Sale / Coffee Morning Plus

### **Circuit Events**

*The Circuit website :- " [www.southendandleigh.org](http://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 — 14th January at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday

Next date - 26th January at 8.00pm

### **Coffee Mornings**

2nd January                      Music at Highlands

9th January                      Church

16th January                     Rangers

23rd January                    World Mission

30th January                    Serving the Homeless

### **Serving the Homeless / Winter Night Shelter**

It still seems fairly mild out there, but not if you are sleeping on the street! The showers at Whittingham Avenue have been well received by the night shelter clients. Many thanks to those who cook, talk, listen and care overnight .

Tickets are now available from committee members of Serving the Homeless for the popular lunch at the Park View Suite on 7th February at 12.30pm at £22.00 per head.

Our A.G.M. Will be held on Monday 7th March at St Margaret's Church to which all are invited.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts at the back of the church.

# Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



## **Children and Young People**

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.	Margaret Wood	557512
		e-mail contact :-	
		highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk	
Rainbows Wednesday	4.00-5.00 p.m.	Karen Packer	474151
Brownies Wednesday:	5.30-7.00 p.m.	Dilys Haddow	710207
Cub Scouts Thursday:	5.45-7.15 p.m.	Ros Miller	557399
Scouts Thursday:	7.30 p.m.	Sally Monk	558857
Rangers Alternate Thursdays	7.30 p.m.	Jacqui Hendle	557147
Guides Friday:	7.00 p.m.	Jacqui Hendle	557147
<i>School Term-Time Only</i>			
Highlands Pre-School Mon - Fri:	9.15 - 12 noon	Clara Mintern	715880

## **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 ( <i>Sept.-July</i> )	
Badminton Club	Monday	8.00 p.m.	Sarah 01702 476009
			or Sophia 07796 265676
Hobbies	1st & 3rd Thursday	10.00 a.m. - 12.00p.m.	Jean 01702 525250
Ladies Badminton	Friday	10.00 a.m.	Dilys 01702 710207
MOTHs ( <i>Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands</i> )	1st Tuesday	2.30 p.m.	
Adult Art Classes	Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.	Susan 07875 079739
Children's Art Club	Thursday	4 - 5 p.m.	or 01702 551025
Brush Strokes Art Group	Saturday	9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.	Beverley 01277 627043

The Badminton Players meet quarterly for play readings. Contact: David Gare (711013).