

The Highlander

March 2016

**Hallelujah !
He is risen indeed !**



Sunday Worship in March 2016

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 6th Mothering Sunday | 9.30 11.00 | Breakfast Fellowship Morning Worship at Wesley Methodist Church - Bob Briant |
| 13th Lent 5 | 10.30 | Parade Service with Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan |
| 20th Palm Sunday | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Worship Leaders |
| 27th Easter Sunday | 8.00 10.30 6.30 | Beach Service with Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan Morning Worship - Kathy McCullough Circuit Service of Prayer and Praise at Belfairs |

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

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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 |
| | 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 |
| Mission Enabler for Older Persons | Julie Peek | 479804 |
| Website : | www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk | |

All items for the April 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 20th March. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The

Highlander will be ready for distribution on Sunday 27th March 2016.



Foot Washing

When I was a minister in Birmingham, the Section held a meal on Maundy Thursday to symbolically rehearse the Last Supper. There was of course the Matzah, unleavened bread, and wine and other components that went to make for a Passover meal: lamb representing the paschal lamb; horse-radish, to recall the bitterness of slavery; and salt water, the tears. Worshippers would also be greeted at the door by 2 enthusiastic people with towels, wanting to wash their feet and, it



is fair to say, that the anxiety of exposing followed by the risk of someone tickling their feet, caused most people to avoid the beginning of the service. Many would arrive once the eating was under way and the rest would agree to have their hands washed or better still wash their own hands.

All of which made me smile and reflect that, somewhere along the line, we were reducing Jesus' great symbolic action of servant hood, into a healthy community hygiene ritual, usually taught at pre-school. Not of course that there is anything wrong with that but Jesus, I think, was after so much more.

As I make my preparations for this coming Holy Week, however, I've reflected that perhaps their avoidance was far more integral to the story than I initially thought. In the foot washing, Jesus is showing that the method is the message. In washing the disciple's feet, Jesus chooses to empty himself rather than promote himself. His act of humble service is then the church's model of mission into the world – the means by which God's glory will be experienced by all who follow, after Jesus has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

The wonder of this simple strategy is that everyone can do it, whatever role, position, title, gender, race, sexual orientation and even age - all can serve one another. And if we really got hold of it, this strategy could allow God's love to shine into every life. So foot washing becomes a sermon if you like, to the whole world about how to love. It's interesting therefore that echoing the reluctance of Birmingham worshippers to have their feet washed, Peter's response is, "Jesus, you will never wash my feet." Peter, of course, is coming to Jesus after the excitement of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the disciples' anticipation that Jesus will fulfil his mission by putting the world to rights and raising up Israel once more. However, Jesus' actions are anything but kingly and certainly not the glory anticipated by the longed for Messiah. **P.T.O.**

Peter's response suggests that Peter has his own vision and agenda of what Jesus should be and do. After three years of being called, taught and generally put to the test by Jesus, the rewards of glory are just in sight for him. The hour of Jesus' triumph would bring a rise in Peter's standing and status. It was, he hoped, all going to come good!

Peter's protest resembles ours when we are confronted with a Jesus who does not serve our expectations or fulfil what are our hopes. And it caused me to think that within Peter's protest is the seed that will lead to his betrayal. No Lord, not like that, like this!

And so Jesus responds to him, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

We seem to be called to surrender to the service of others, as much as we are called to serve them. To allow ourselves to receive, to not always be in control.

Rev Julia

Lent Course

Rev Julia is leading this year's Lent Course based on Rembrandt's painting of *The Prodigal Son*. Meetings are at Wesley on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. This will be repeated at the Highlands Tuesday evening Housegroup at Glenda's home at 7 Agnes Avenue . Everyone is welcome.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Section Service at Belfairs on 23rd March at 7.30pm.

We will walk to Wesley on Good Friday at 10 o'clock prompt also to meet with Belfairs for Hot Cross Buns and a Service at 11.00 am

There will be a Section Beach Service in Old Leigh at 8.0 am on Easter Morning before Easter Morning Celebration Services at our own churches.

Highlands 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Over the weekend of 22nd/23rd October we will be celebrating 90 years of Highlands. We hope to have a display of historical events at Highlands & maybe some floral arrangements to portray the decades, together with a guest preacher on the Sunday.

On Saturday we are proposing a display of talent on the stage:-
A Barber Shop Quartet, mini pantomime, sketches, monologues, musical pieces. If you or any of your friends would like to participate please speak with Frank Edmonds who is drawing up the programme.



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Audrey Dobson at *St Martins Care Home*, 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.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Adrian and all the family on the death of Patricia Gravatt. The whole family were members at Highlands for many years and filled many posts with sincerity and love. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

We also extend our sympathy to Cecile and family on the death of John Low. John was a much loved Local Preacher and organist,

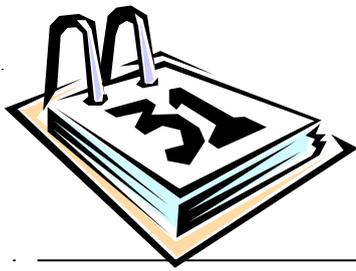
Congratulations

To Andrew & Lesley Hyde on the arrival of grandson Oliver to Andrew's daughter Natalie and Dan.

To Rob and Jeanette Land on the arrival of baby Olivia adopted by their daughter Christine and Al.

Flower Rota for March 2016

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Donated by</u> | <u>In memory of</u> | <u>Arranged by</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 6th | | Joint Service at Wesley | |
| 13th | Sylvia Cornwell | Alan | Sylvia Cornwell |
| 20th | Rosalie Bryant | Parents | Hobbies |
| 27th | Doll Edwards | John | Jean Edmonds |



Dates to Remember

Knit and Natter Social Group

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on Tuesday morning from 10am to noon during term time. Some of us knit, some crochet and some of us just natter. We enjoy each other's company and a cup of coffee/tea and biscuit. We support Serving the Homeless by knitting or crocheting squares for blankets and hats and vests for children overseas. You will be made very welcome if you would like to join us.



MOTHs

At the meeting on Tuesday 1st March Ros Bryant will talk about her Grandma Newton's Family History. All are welcome at 2.30 pm. On 5th April the speaker will be Jean Nightingale.

10th Leigh Rainbows & Brownies

The Brownies Annual Jumble Sale and Coffee morning will be on Saturday 19th March 2016 - 10 a.m. till 12noon. Entry to Jumble Sale is 20p. Coffee and cakes in the Church. Items for the Jumble Sale will be gratefully accepted on Friday 18th in the main hall or contact Dilys 710207 if you wish anything to be collected.

Fundraising Concerts

Saturday 30th April -

Original Woodwind Ensemble

Saturday 21st May - Gaudeamus

Saturday 16th July - Allegro

In aid of Highlands refurbishment.

Highlands Hobbies

We meet on 3rd March for flowers, card making and various crafts, with an emphasis on Easter. We follow with a bring and share lunch for those who wish. We will also meet on 17th March 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)

ABRSM Exams

These will be from 7th to 19th March except for Saturday 12th and Monday 14th. Many thanks to all who have already volunteered as stewards.

Property & Finance Committee -

Monday 23rd May at 8.00 pm

Church Council -

Thursday 9th June at 8.00 pm

Family Committee -

Tuesday 15th March at

Noon in Room 2

Main topics will be Easter arrangements, Coffee Morning Plus and 90th Anniversary programme.

Reports from organisations will also be welcomed.

Midweek Communion

Please note that due to Synod there will be no midweek communion on Wednesday 2nd March at Wesley.

Polling Day 5th May

The Lounge and Room 2 will be used

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 28th May - Plant Sale / Coffee Morning Plus
Saturday 22nd October - Highlands 90th Anniversary
Sunday 23rd October - Highlands 90th Anniversary

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 — 10th March at 7.00 pm
+ + + +
Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 22nd March at 8.00pm

Coffee Mornings

5th March - Music at Highlands
12th March - Craft Group
19th March - Brownies plus Jumble Sale
26th March - Church

Vocations Day

A day of vocational exploration. There will be opportunity to hear from people with a range of vocations both lay and ordained.

You may be considering, or know of individuals who are considering, candidating for diaconal or presbyteral ministry. Equally, this event is for those who would like to explore a journey towards lay ministry or vocational lay employment (eg. as a Pastoral Worker). There will be input on the day from those in ordained ministry and in lay employment, as well as from the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.

Alongside the event that we are running within the region we are also sharing in a Vocations Day with London and Southern & Islands regions. Details for both of these dates and a link to book your place are as follows:

Saturday 5 March, 10:00 – 16:00 - Christchurch, Hitchin [Book Now](#)
Bookings close on Monday 29 February 2016.

Saturday 14 May, 10:30 - 13:00 -Chislehurst Methodist Church, London [Book Now](#)
Bookings close on Monday 9 May 2016.

An alternative perspective on homelessness - The Revolving Door -3 people to rejoice about

When Julia asked me if I could write a quarterly article on local homelessness issues from my perspective as a Street Pastor and Deputy Manager of one of the Church Winter Night Shelters I thought it would be an easy task but during the following week I had difficulty identifying which in the web of interconnected issues to start on. But it did not take long for God to focus me on 3 people who I encountered on our Street Pastor patrol last Saturday night, as causes for rejoicing in their progress towards getting off the Street. For the sake of this discussion, we can know them as George, Sally and Hugh but first: Why did I choose 'The Revolving Door' as a title?

Life for many of us has seemed like a series of revolving doors because, often we have pushed to get into the place we think we want to be but, before we have understood where we are and anchored ourselves, the revolving door has spun us back out again perhaps in a different place but bemused as to where we should move on to next. Homelessness is usually an extreme form of this experience because the underlying causes are seldom addressed adequately and particularly the support needed to get into or sustain a home is often absent or fades away too soon. Consequently, they are soon back on the streets. My three friends demonstrate this well:

- I have regularly encountered George begging on the Street since I began going out as a Street Pastor and his take on a Saturday night has been estimated at perhaps £60 or even £80. One of his friends who deploys a pet dog to engender sympathy, is said to sometimes pick up £160. However, a large proportion of that is spent on alcohol and or a mix with drugs. The rejoicing on Saturday was about the fact that the local housing association contracted by Southend Council to engage with drug and alcohol dependent rough sleepers, is placing him in accommodation next week. However - and here is the potential 'revolving door', he had not been promised any package of support to enable him to sustain that accommodation.
- Sally is another long standing rough sleeper who has been on the streets for 8 years and who I have regularly argued with about why she should engage with HARP to address the issues which have prevented her from sustaining accommodation. We were able to rejoice together about an opportunity presented to her for alcohol rehabilitation but astutely, she is questioning what support and where she will go when the rehabilitation placement finishes because she doesn't want to end up back where she currently is, in an environment where alcohol is the only means of numbing her senses when on the Street.

There is no indication that such support or accommodation will be available. The classic “chicken and egg” situation!

- Hugh’s placement gives the greatest cause for celebration in that, him having been one in a couple who presented as perhaps the most disruptive pair of difficult guests at last year's Church Winter Night Shelters, he is now accommodated in one of two small local Christian-based hostels. There the hosts, whilst not making Christian faith a precondition of entry, do operate an ethos of Christian support within the accommodation they make available and sustain that from within the Fellowship.

A key challenge to/aspect of acceptance into a homelessness hostel is recognition that once a homeless person has been on the Street for more than a few weeks, he or she will relish the freedom to do what they want, when they want and how they want against the discomfort of sleeping rough. This may reinforce an ‘escapist’ mind-set adopted to balance whatever caused the homelessness in the first place - whether marital breakdown or ‘generation gap’ disagreements in a ‘broken’ family home or both. It is not surprising therefore, that the typical rough sleeper - particularly those in their 20’s and early 30’s, are prone to argument and violent rejection of the disciplines required in a shared hostel. And unfortunately, when a client ‘kicks off’ during placement assessment or during their stay in a hostel, they will typically be ‘kicked out’ or excluded. By contrast, the depth of support from within the Christian fellowship offered to Hugh may well enable him to recover his identity, composure and dignity so essential to the individualism we so treasure within the stable family environment most of us enjoy.

The second challenge that rough sleepers typically suffer is that the sense of abandonment which sets in on the street, undermines mental stability and compounds any mental condition which already existed. Indeed it is recognised that a mental health issue is often the causation factor. Resort then to alcohol as Sally and most rough sleepers do, entrenches the problem. Thus there is a growing realisation of a need for specialist mental health diagnosis coupled with the for alcohol and drug rehabilitation services - often referred to as ‘dual diagnosis’. However, whilst these are available separately within Southend the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group do not see the combined provision as a priority. We must hope and pray that the initiatives recently announced by the government for additional funding into mental health will address this deficit.

Peter Courtenay

Comments on any article in the *Highlander* or any of the content are always appreciated. *Editor*

10th Leigh Guides.

10th Leigh Guides are still thriving with 20 members. This term everyone is working on their First Aid badge, and two Guides have almost completed their Baden Powell Award – the highest award a Guide can achieve. After half term the guides will be celebrating World Thinking Day, as will Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world. Our Guides will be inviting the older Brownies to join them. We are looking forward to the Essex World Jamboree in the summer.

**Highlands Senior Section (Rangers)**

The Highlands Ranger Unit continues to grow. A good many of them also give some time to helping in Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Units. This year the Senior Section as a whole celebrates its centenary and there will be lots of interesting things happening.

DON'T PANIC – a good time had by all

On Weds 10th February a number of us from Highlands and Wesley took advantage of a trip to the cinema on Canvey to see *Dad's Army*. The coach duly arrived complete with our driver; Ivor in full Army uniform. 40's songs were being played and some of us were handed flags to wave. Percy was issued with Army issue tin hat to wear. It was quite a noisy group that left the church heading for Canvey. The film was enjoyed by all and many memories of that era were shared. Our thanks go to Julie Peek for organising such a fun afternoon.

Sylvia Cornwell



(Check out the photos on the website - ed.)

Women's World Day of Prayer

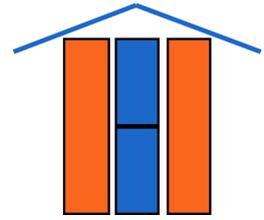
The ladies of St Margaret's Leigh on Sea (Lime Avenue SS9 2PA) invite us to join in a short ecumenical service, based on that designed by the ladies of Cuba for the Women's World Day of Prayer. This year's theme is "*Receive Children, Receive Me*"

It is to take place at St Margaret's on Friday, March 4th at 10.00 am.

There will be a retiring collection to be sent to WWDP funds and coffee will be served after the service.

Serving the Homeless

Patrons: The Rt. Revd. Alan Williams, Bishop of Brentwood;
The Rt. Revd. Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford;
The Revd. Anne Brown, Chair of the Methodist Beds, Essex & Herts. District



DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2016

- 7th March Annual General Meeting
- 9th April Quiz Night in St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, commencing at 7.30 pm.
- 25th May Meal at East, Alexandra Street, at 7.30 pm.
- 23rd June Afternoon tea at the Park View Suite, Chalkwell Park, at 2 pm. Tickets £10 per person.
- July/August Summer Raffle: contact the number below for tickets.
- July/August Holiday activity for the children: follow the clues from the Cliffs Pavilion to the Conservation area. Prizes will be awarded for the correct answers.
- 22nd October Italian meal in the upper hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre.
- 16th December Carols and Poems for Christmas at Our Lady of Lourdes Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre.

For further details please contact
Linda Wall, Secretary on 01702 558217

or Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250

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. | Dan Raven | 07982 840145 |
| 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

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Knit and Natter Group Tuesday | 10.00 a.m.-12 noon | (Sept.-July) | |
| 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 (Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands) | 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).