

The Highlander

September 2016

**For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

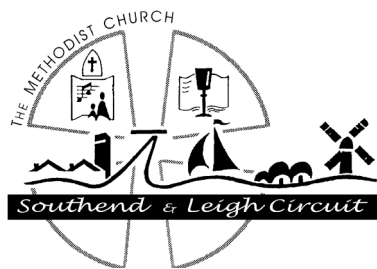


Sunday Worship in September 2016

4th	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship
	11.00	Joint Service of Holy Communion at Wesley Church Rev Julia Monaghan
11th	10.30	Harvest Festival - Rev Gordon Bates
18th	10.30	Holy Communion Service Rev Julia Monaghan Pastoral Visitors Dedication / Youth Workers Dedication
25th	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Brian Gameson

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

No. 818 Vol. LXVXIV



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	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones	553898
	Kathy McCullough	714528
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 **October 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 18th September 2016. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com

The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 25th September 2016.**





The Bible in a Tweet

'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?'

Jesus answered, 'You must love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Matthew 22: 36 – 40

I have been meeting with a young person recently, to begin to talk about faith and the journey of navigating the bible. We came to the conclusion that if you wanted to sum up the bible in one paragraph, then the one above would do nicely. And if Jesus had wanted to tweet, the Old Testament Scriptures could be distilled down to *'You must love.'*

If we look at Matthew 22 closely, we find that although it contains two commands to love, it holds 3 important instructions on love. We should love God, we should love others and equally we should love ourselves. This last one of loving ourselves can often get left out of the equation, but it is inextricably caught up in the other two. If we draw near to God, then we begin to expose ourselves to God's love and we learn to experience and understand that we are loved. It is like the baby receiving their parents loving smiles and gaze, gradually they begin to take in and understand a parent's love.

When, in our walk of faith, we come to experience God's unique love, then we can begin to accept and love ourselves. This is a huge step forward in loving, because then we not only reciprocate God's love, but turn towards others in love. It's an odd thing really, but every time we can accept ourselves, we are freed from preoccupation about ourselves to really turn and see others as they are. We can look at them for the first time to see their struggles and challenges as well as their joys and happiness. The more we can accept ourselves as we are, the more we can accept everyone else. It's all about learning to receive God's love and finding the worth in ourselves that will free us to love others. As Charles Wesley captures it, we are transformed into all that God would have us be, through being *"lost in wonder, love and praise"*- surely a tweet distilling the New Testament to its essence.

P.T.O.

*Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Charles Wesley 1747

Rev Julia Monaghan

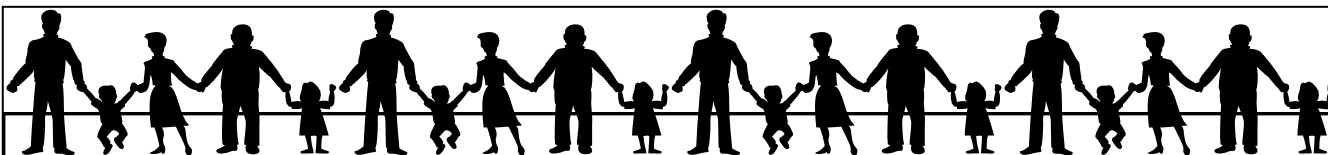


Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit
welcomes
Rev Chris Sandy and his family

Please come and join in the welcome service
at Benfleet Methodist Church
on Saturday 10th September at 3pm
Full details in the Jubilee Room

Flower Rota for September 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
4th		at Wesley	
11th	Les Davis	Margaret	Jean Edmonds
18th	Ros Bryant	Parents	Margaret Wood
25th	Teresa Thompson	Auntie Phyllis	Teresa Thompson



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.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Pat Gare, Alison, Gabrielle, John and all their family and friends on the death of David Gare who passed away on 7th August. David had been a stalwart of Highlands for many years and his input and concern for Highlands will be sadly missed.

Congratulations

To Irene and Tony Downing who celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 3rd September with the renewing of their vows.

Thank You

Jean and Frank Edmonds would like to thank all their dear friends for their good wishes, presents and donations to celebrate their Golden Wedding. The donations will be split between Serving the Homeless, Christian Aid and redecorating the sanctuary.

Church Notices that didn't quite make it...

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

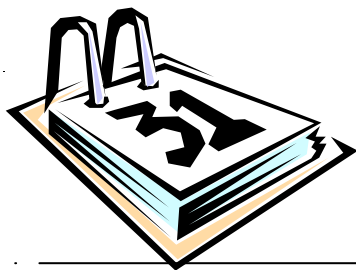
A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

Parish Pump



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. You will be made very welcome if you would like to join us.

Highlands Hobbies

We meet on 1st September for card making, flowers, needlework and anything we fancy doing. We have coffee, tea, cake and plenty of chat.

We follow with lunch for those who wish to stay. We are now the proud owners of a catering trolley for all to use. This was purchased with a donation from Betty Garrood's family in her memory.

It will soon be time to start our Christmas crafts and we look to Marjorie and Pat for ideas.

We will also meet on Thursday 15th September from 10 to 12 noon.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

MOTHs

On Tuesday 13th September at 2.15 there will be afternoon tea and sing-song. Open to anyone who would like to come along and join in.



Gift Day

There will be a Gift Day to support the work of Highlands on Sunday 18th September when Rev Julia will be leading the service. It is also the service for Rededication of Pastoral Visitors and Youth Workers.

There will be special envelopes to use for your Gift Day contribution.

ABRSM Exams

The next set of exams will take place during November and the first part of December. Definitive dates to be advised later.

COFFEE MORNINGS

A list has been put in the Jubilee Room showing vacant slots for Saturday Coffee Mornings from September. If you wish to run any, please indicate on the list the days that you would like. In case of conflict please contact Les Davis.

Committee Meetings

Property & Finance

Monday 12th September at 8.00 pm

90th Anniversary

Monday 19th September at 8.00 pm

Pastoral

Tuesday 27th September at 10 am

Church Council

Tuesday 11th October at 8.00 pm

Other Highlands dates

Sunday 11th September - Harvest Festival

Sunday 18th September - Gift Day

Saturday 23rd October - 90th Anniversary

Sunday 24th October - 90th Anniversary

Saturday 26th November - Christmas Fair

Circuit Events

Saturday 3rd September - Circuit Prayer Breakfast

Monday 5th September - Thundersley Fund Raising Meal at **Affinity**

Saturday 10th September - Circuit Welcome Service

at Whittingham Avenue

Further details in the Jubilee Room

or the Circuit website at

www.southendandleigh.org

Alternative Worship

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

Next date — 8th September at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday

27th September at 8.00 pm

Harvest Festival at Highlands



This year we celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 11th September during our morning service.

The gifts this year will go to HARP (Homeless Action Research Project)

A list of current requirements is posted at the back of the Church but don't forget the other bathroom requirements such as toothbrush and toothpaste, flannels, soap and small sachets of shampoo etc. etc..

As our uniformed organisations are not expected to be present, as they have only just started to meet again after the Summer holidays, we need to make an extra special effort.

Anyone who would like to help in decorating our church for Harvest Festival please come along at 10.00 am on Saturday 10th September. If you have flowers, greenery and berries to donate that would be greatly appreciated. (Jean 525250)



The 2016 Week of Accompanied Prayer

From Sunday 9th – Sunday 16th October, the Leigh Section will be joining with St Clements to hold a Week of Accompanied Prayer.

Why are we having a Week of Accompanied Prayer (WAP)?

The purpose of such weeks is to encourage people in their prayer lives by providing an opportunity to reflect each day on their prayer, in the company of a prayer guide, or companion. What an individual participant experiences, over the course of the week, will be unique to them. For example, one may learn different ways in which to pray, another be helped to overcome a difficulty they have with prayer and someone else may simply begin to pray regularly for the first time. Often people experience a new or deeper meaning in their prayer and a greater awareness of God's presence in their daily lives.

It sounds like a retreat. If I take part, do I have to go somewhere special for the whole week?

A WAP is like a retreat but it doesn't involve going away for the week. Each day you will meet with your guide for thirty minutes either at one of the section churches or at St Clements. You will be invited to set aside thirty minutes to pray on your own each day. For the rest of the time the activities of your day continue as they would normally whilst feeding into and being fed by prayer.

Who are the Prayer Guides?

The team of prayer guides may include women and men of various denominations, some lay, some ordained and possibly some members of religious orders. All will have received training in helping others in their prayer. The role of the guide is mainly to listen: to accompany the participants during the week, encouraging each person to honour his or her own prayer and to be aware of how it may be developed.

Does the WAP cost anything?

Although the WAP is free to join, the week will cost in the region of £500 to put on and therefore we suggest that you consider making a donation of £5 to £10 to contribute to these costs.

P.T.O.

Where can I get more information?

Between June and the beginning of October more information will be available through:

Leaflets at the back of church

Meetings: 11am 9th July St Clement's
8pm 28th July Wesley Methodist

These meetings will explain how the week works and answer other questions that you may have. You are invited to attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

If you are uncertain whether the WAP is for you, please feel free to talk with Rev Julia

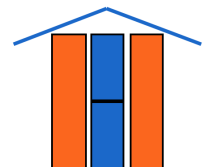
Some feedback from participants in the WAP last year:

Before the WAP I was nervous and not sure if I was doing the right thing for me. I am grateful to the WAP for making me aware of the benefit of a dedicated time for prayer.

Before the WAP my feelings and expectations were that something suitable for me and my needs was being offered. It helped me to become more aware of the presence of God within and around me.

I am grateful to the WAP because it has cleared my head of unnecessary "gabbling" at prayer and has shown me the value of silence and how God really speaks to me in the silence!

Serving the Homeless



September BIG RAFFLE draw.

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 contact Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250

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

MOVIES @ HIGHLANDS

Presents

EDDIE the EAGLE

Friday 23rd September at 1.30 pm

Eddie the Eagle follows the realisation of the childhood dream of Eddie Edwards (Taron Egerton) and his unflinching determination to become Great Britain's first Olympic Ski-jumper. Eddie is unwavering in his quest to reach the 1988 Calgary Winter Games.

Eddie the Eagle is an uplifting, inspirational story that celebrates human spirit, passion and one man's refusal to accept defeat.

A FREE event (come from 12 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available)

Children's understanding of the Bible can have a charm all its own...

A deacon is a mass of inflammable material.

The Pharisees fasted in public but in private they devoured widows' houses.

Today wild beasts are confined to Theological Gardens.

The natives of Macedonia did not believe, so St. Paul got stoned.

A Republican is a sinner mentioned in the Bible.

Iran is the Bible of the Moslems.

Parish Pump

Highlands 90th Anniversary Celebrations

On Saturday 22nd October we commence our celebrations with coffee morning commencing at 10.00 am and a display of memorabilia from the past 90 years.

{If you have anything that you would like to show during the weekend please talk with Ros Bryant to arrange a display.}

There will also be ploughman lunches available, especially for those who may have travelled from afar.

During the afternoon tea and cakes will be served.

At 5.00pm there will be entertainment in the Church Hall, the original Church, including some "Barber Shop" music from *Gaudeamus*, "Songs from the Shows" by the Mencap group that meets on our premises, contribution from our uniformed organisations, monologues and a special "Pantomime" written by Trevor Metcalfe for our "old" pantomimers. This will last about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. You can imagine how difficult it might become to fine tune this, but we hope to be finished by 7.00 pm.

Interest is growing for an old pantomimers reunion on the Saturday, some are happy "to tread the boards", others who would just like to attend. Please contact Jean or Frank at : - frank66thecroft@sky.com and spread the word to your fellow pantomimers to come and celebrate our 90th birthday.

On Sunday 23rd October our morning service of holy communion will be led by Rev Margaret Millar and we will be joined by our friends from Belfairs, New Road and Wesley.

Following the service a buffet lunch will be available in the Church Hall supplied by "Affinity". Please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room if you would like to partake.

We will need much help to make our celebration a success. Please contact Frank and Jean if you can help in any way and come to our meeting on **19th September at 8.00 pm.** Thank you

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

Fellowship Groups

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion :-

1st Wednesday	Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am
2nd Wednesday	Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am

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. Please contact Pamela and Patrick Smith - 557702.

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	2.15 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