

# The Highlander

October 2016

**“COME ON AND CELEBRATE”**  
**Highlands 90th Anniversary**

## Sunday Worship in October 2016

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

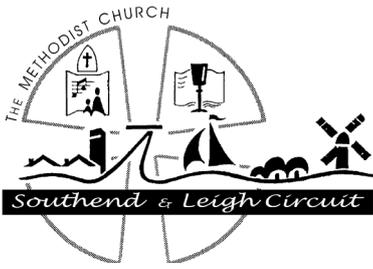
2nd	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship
	11.00	Joint Service of Holy Communion at Wesley Church Rev Julia Monaghan
9th	10.30	Parade Service - Colin Turner
16th	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
23rd	10.30	Leigh Section Service - Church Anniversary Service of Holy Communion Guest Preacher Rev Margaret Millar
30th	10.30	Morning Worship - Cafe Church Kathy McCullough

“S Club” meets at 10.30 am on Sundays

No. 819 Vol. LXVXIV



**Come in and FaceTime with Jesus**



*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: <a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a>	
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 :	<a href="http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk">www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk</a>	

All items for the **November 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 23rd October 2016**. Preferably, items may be emailed to [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto:frank66thecroft@sky.com)  
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 30th October 2016**.



## A Message from your Minister



I have just come in from Highlands Toddler group where we have been exploring the topic of feelings. There is nothing so intimidating as a group of 2 year olds showing you *en masse* their “cross face.” They don’t hold anything back and are totally committed to the course of action. Equally, there is nothing more uplifting than a sea of their smiling faces beaming in one accord at you, while they sing, “*If you’re happy and you know it, stamp your feet!*”

My grandma used to say to me that by the time you are 40, you have the face that you deserve! I was always a bit mystified by this as a child, but I think she meant that if experience had made you doubt other people’s motives, or made you cynical about life, it usually shows in your face. If you have found yourself defensive all the time, stress will be written in the tightness of your mouth and hardness of your eyes. If you have been caught in worry, anxiety will be displayed in a hesitant gaze and still face.

If you have been able to smile in spite of everything; if you have learned to tolerate people, and recognise your own failings in others, it will be seen clearly in your face. So maybe there was something in what she said; that our faces reflect our experience. What the saying implies, however, is that when you are 40, you are stuck with the face that you have.

I am not sure that this is true. I have seen people coming together after years of being at odds with each other and seen how forgiveness transformed their faces, with the bitterness being washed away.

I have seen a marriage; late in life and unexpected, transform a closed face into one of gentle smiling relaxedness. Whether you are 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, or 90, it doesn’t matter. Love or courage, or resilience in suffering, can and does change us at any age.

**P.T.O.**

Prayer also changes us, changes how we think and act. In prayer we draw near to the source of love and courage and call on God to fill us with his Spirit, so that whatever our problems may be, they do not overcome us. Rather we are able to face them, not in weakness, but in the strength of his love and the knowledge that the love of God ultimately overcomes all evil and suffering and even death itself.

So let us pray with confidence this autumn as we say:

*Holy Spirit, come down and enter into our being;  
 To those who are anxious or perplexed, give peace;  
 To those who are weary, give rest;  
 comfort those who mourn;  
 and according to your wisdom and will for us,  
 heal the sick, strengthen those in need,  
 so that your love will live in our hearts,  
 and be reflected in our lives and in our faces!      Amen*

**Rev Julia**

**Flower Rota for October 2016**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	Arranged by
2nd		at Wesley	
9th	Sylvia Cornwell	Ellie	Sylvia Cornwell
16th	Maureen Kelly	Parents	Margaret Wood
23rd	Joan Field	Bernard & Maureen	Hobbies
	Joan Field	Peggy Hankin	Hobbies
30th		Church Flowers	



### Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Joan Field at *Merrie Loots Farm*, Pat Gare in *Admirals Court*, 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

To Jonathan and Heather Pickford on the arrival of Emma May Rose on 27th August weighing in at 6lbs. A first grandchild for Roger and Jill Pickford.

To Jenny (nee Thompson) and Steve Needham on the birth of Harry James, 8lbs 11oz on 10th September. A brother for Emma and a grandson for Teresa

### Thank you

To everyone who contributed to the setting up of the church for Harvest Festival and the bringing of gifts. The contributions of fresh produce, other food and toiletries was received warmly at HARP.

Janet Watson would like to thank everyone who attended her coffee morning and card event when £52.00 was raised for the church refurbishment fund.

## **Christmas at Highlands**



Parade and Toy Service Sunday 11th December 10.30 am

Worship Leaders

Carol Service Sunday 18th December 4.00 pm

Rev Julia Monaghan

Christingle Service Saturday 24th December 5.30 pm

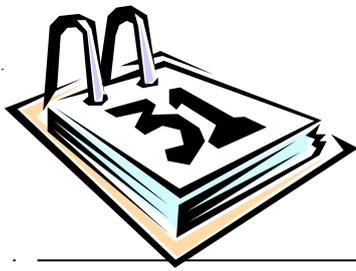
Rev Julia Monaghan

Midnight Communion Saturday 24th December at 11.15 **at Belfairs**

Rev Julia Monaghan

Christmas Morning Sunday 25th December at 10,30 am

T.B.A.



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# Dates to Remember

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## **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 6th October for the making of Christmas Cards and crafts ready for our Christmas Fair, also some flower arranging. We follow with lunch for those who wish to stay. There is always coffee, tea, cake and plenty of chat.

We have Christmas Cards at a very reasonable cost already made. We will make sure that these are soon available.

We will also meet on Thursday 20th October from 10 to 12 noon.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

## **MOTHs**

On Tuesday 11th October at 2.15 there will be the opportunity to bring along one of your favourite photographs and to talk about it. Open to anyone who would like to come along and join in.

## **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**

Please check the list 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.

## **Southend Mencap**

Present their annual concert at Highlands on Friday 9th December. Entry is free but tickets are required as it is such a popular event. If you would like a ticket please speak with Frank Edmonds.

## **Committee Meetings**

### **Church Council**

Tuesday 11th October at 8.00 pm

### **Family Committee**

Monday 17th October at 8.00 pm

### **Property & Finance**

Monday 16th January at 8.00 pm

## **Stage Curtains**

Our beautiful new stage curtains were purchased with a substantial donation and much encouragement and cajoling of the curtain makers in memory of Connie Hann who spent many happy hours performing on our stage some years ago as a member of the "20 to 40Club"

### **Other Highlands dates**

Saturday 23rd October - 90th Anniversary  
Sunday 24th October - 90th Anniversary  
Saturday 26th November - Christmas Fair  
Friday 9th December - Mencap Concert  
Sunday 15th January 2017 - Covenant Service

### **Circuit Events**

Further details in the Jubilee Room  
or the Circuit website at  
[www.southendandleigh.org](http://www.southendandleigh.org)

### **Alternative Worship**

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday  
Next date — 13th October at 7.00 pm  
+ + + +  
Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday  
25th October at 8.00 pm

### **10TH LEIGH BROWNIES**



The Rainbows and Brownies started back on the 14th Sept. The Rainbows welcomed 2 new girls and they all have started a new Roundabout badge - All about Me. They also have lots of other challenges to do between now and Christmas. We are also very pleased to welcome some extra help with the meetings. A Mum has come along and also Jacqui Hendle has come along as a another warranted leader.

The Brownies welcomed 2 girls that have moved up from Rainbows and 8 new girls have also joined us. The older Brownies will be going away for 5 days in October half term. The Unit will also be doing a number of different challenges this term they are also going to take part in the Samaritan's Purse appeal.

The Rainbows and Brownies wish Highlands Methodist Church a very Happy 90th Birthday on the weekend of the 22nd/23rd October.

## Remembering David Gare: A Gentleman and a Gentle Man

This is a tribute to a gentleman and a gentle man, a faithful servant of God, a husband, father and grandpa and is taken from his celebration service at Highlands on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

David spent his early life in North London with his mum, older sister Doris, and younger brothers Freddie and Reggie. His father was mostly absent away in the army. David loved school and football, they lived near the Arsenal and he was a lifelong fan. Later the family moved to Morden where David finished his education in January 1940, with an excellent report, in both grades and character. During this time his much loved little brother Reggie died of meningitis, a tragedy David felt keenly throughout his life.

David had various wartime roles as a boy – fire-watching and working in Signals – where he was given a bike to run messages with, and a map of places he had to advise in the event of an invasion. As a teenager he was sent to train in the army at Scarborough where the Sergeant Major enjoyed marching the lads to the very edge of the cliff before shouting “about turn!” David was extremely thin and soon after arrival he was sent away to be fattened-up! On his return he was called in to see the Commanding Officer and told he was being sent to be fattened-up – “But I've just been!” he said. He was still too thin and had to go back!

After the war he started his career in Insurance working at C E Heath's in the City. Pat also worked there– across a large desk. The boss Mr Priestly called David “that fool Gare” because he used to climb across the desk to get to Pat – and he always got caught. He studied hard at a Correspondence Course for his insurance exams alongside his brother in law Lionel doing banking. David was nick-named “Fred Astaire” as he was slim and always immaculately dressed.

By now Pat's family had moved to Leigh and on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1954 Pat and David married at St Clements Church on an extremely wet day. Their first home was in Bailey Road, which David worked hard to do up with Pat's brother Norman. During this time Gabrielle was born, and then Alison. David's much longed for son, John, arrived 10 years later to the delight of all the family.

David stayed in the Insurance field, specialising in political risk. His friend and colleague Miles Connell – said “I look back with much happiness and satisfaction on the beginnings of Investment Insurance International in the early 1970's. I know that David with his “wise head and good counsel” kept us on an even keel in those early days and we can be rightly proud of what the company became and it was the start of the Lloyds Political Risk and Trade Credit Markets.

I believe that if it had not been for David it might never have happened." The firm won the Queen's award for Export.

After his first official retirement, David was head-hunted by the World Bank as a Political Risk Consultant based in Washington DC. He represented a branch of the World Bank on his return to the UK. Not bad for a boy who left school at 13 and a half! For the last twenty years of his life he was employed as chief sounding-board, adviser and accountant at his son's firm. As David proved to be a particularly valued and essential employee John felt it prudent not to charge him for his services.

David was a wonderful artist. After he retired he enrolled for Art classes but the Landscape Class was full, so he accepted a place in the Life Class where he demonstrated the same commitment and precision to accuracy when faced with a voluptuous female, as he would when painting a landscape! He was a gifted watercolourist and all the family wish he'd found more time to paint.

David adored music and had a meticulously catalogued classical music collection. While at a classical concert with his grand daughter Emma – they turned towards each other – and both had tears in their eyes. David also had a great respect for education and a tremendous thirst for knowledge in all fields right up until his death. His book collection reflects his wide range of interests and faith. David kept his unique sense of humour even during his final illness. Whilst having a scan, the radiologist was having difficulty in locating his pancreas. So David said "you'll find it just to the left of King's Cross"!

So we are left with all the happy memories: bouncing on his knee whilst Dad kicked every ball watching the football; the fund of sayings, jokes and puns that we find ourselves passing on to our own children – and the general demeanour of a father we shall all hope to emulate in the future.

**Pat, Gaye, Alison and John**

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# Highlands Methodist Church



90th Anniversary  
Weekend Celebrations  
22nd - 23rd October 2016

Saturday 22nd October

Church open from 10.00 am for tea/coffee refreshments

Memorabilia on display

Light Lunches

Afternoon Tea

5.00 pm entertainment in the Church Hall

(Advance Tickets £1.00)

Puppets

Gaudeamus Barbershop

Mencap Showstoppers

Other acts....

A new pantomime

by Trevor Metcalfe

(impromptu) "Return to Pantoland"

Sunday 23rd October

Morning Service of Holy Communion at 10.30 am

with Guest Preacher

Rev. Margaret Millar

All proceeds to church refurbishment fund

# **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, 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.

There will be an impromptu old pantomimers reunion on the Saturday, some are happy "to tread the boards" again, others may just like to catch up with old friends.

Please contact Jean or Frank at : - [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto: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.

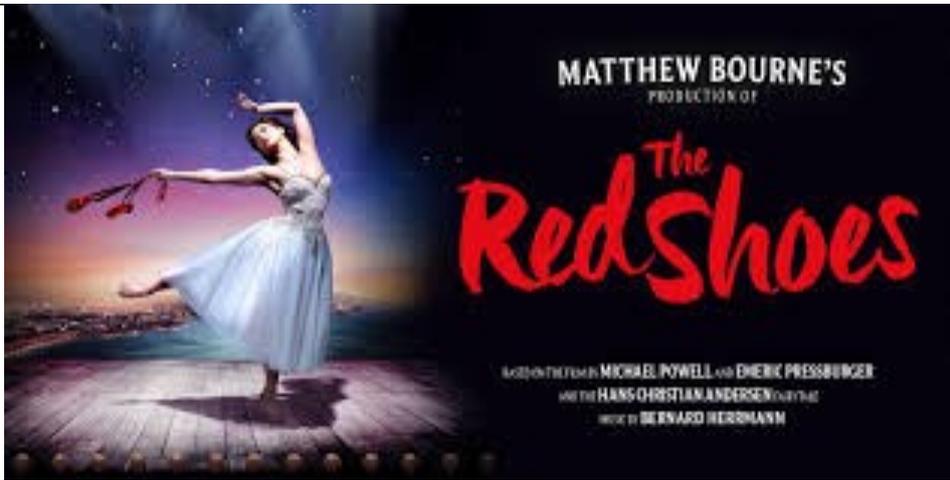
Following the service a buffet lunch will be available in the Church Hall supplied by "Affinity". Please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room if you would like to partake.

We will need much help to make our celebration a success. Please contact Frank and Jean if you can help in any way. Thank you

## **Christian Bookshop**

There will be a Christian bookstall available on the Saturday and Sunday. Come and look at the newest titles and find something uplifting to read.





**A Trip to the Ballet – Sadler’s Wells  
Friday 30 December 2016 – Matinee 2.30pm**

**£35/£58 plus Coach**

Dear Friends. Following the trip last January to see Matthew Bourne’s “Sleeping Beauty”, his ballet “The Red Shoes” is coming to Sadler’s Wells this Christmas. As it is a new ballet the tickets have been trickier to come by, but I have managed to reserve the following:

25 seats @ £35 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle  
20 seats @ £58 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Circle

The tickets are being held until 11 October. If you would like come, please sign the sheet available in each church, stating how many tickets and at what price

Rev Julia Monaghan

**Wesley Methodist Church Redevelopment**

They are now halfway through the construction programme and some pictures have been placed at the back of the church.

The external works are progressing and the structure of the new entrance has proceeded. Internally the work on the main heating and electrical works continues, the floor has been levelled out. Work has now started on high level electrics and the preparation for decoration.

During the last two weeks the mechanical subcontractor has gone into liquidation and Huttons the main contractor are in the progress of appointing a new one. They are working on the basis of completion in time for Christmas. A rededication Service is planned for 28th January 2017 with the Chair of the District.



Please sponsor Sam Monaghan as he takes on the  
**Big Barnardo's Bike Ride: 14-18 October 2016**  
Holyhead to Barkingside, Essex: 362 Miles/5 Days

To mark Barnardo's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and raise funds to support some of the UK's most vulnerable children and young people, Sam will be cycling from Holyhead to Barkingside to follow the tracks of the Charity's founder.

In 1866, aged 21, Thomas Barnardo sailed from Dublin to Holyhead, then travelled over land to London. On seeing the poverty and destitution in Victorian London, he decided to stay to help vulnerable children. Today Barnardo's supports over 250,000 children each year.

Help Sam towards his target to raise £2000 by sponsoring him, either on the forms available at Church, or on his "Just Giving" page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sam-Monaghan>



Thank you

### A Morning Prayer

So far today God, I have done all right.  
I haven't gossiped. I haven't lost my temper  
and haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty,  
selfish, or over-indulgent.

And I haven't told anyone to mind his own business  
and stay out of mine. I'm really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.  
And from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help!



***Jeremiah 29 vs 11 "For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"***

I am Margaret Chipandambira and I am candidating for the Methodist Ministry. I am a member at Trinity Methodist Church which has a multi-cultural congregation, where I serve God as a Steward, and am very involved in the Zimbabwean Fellowship Worship activities i.e. Singing and evangelism. Hence preaching and singing are my passions.

I am a counsellor and work for Summercare as a care manager working with people with leaning and disabilities.

My journey of faith and sense of calling relates to the nature of God. For me God is a God of unconditional love. My journey has been filled with many challenges and different experiences. I thank God, trust in him and I know he has plans for me (Jeremiah 29 vs 11). During my journey I enjoyed the Faith and Worship course as it meant studying in a group with Bob Briant and Sue Hockett alongside with our tutor Jane Fulford.

The Faith and Worship course has challenged me and changed me and motivated me to go on another spiritual level. I am feeling and sensing I am called to become a presbyter ministry. I am called to proclaim the good news and confirming my call by going forward testing my call with God's help. I would like to thank my Superintendent Rev Peter Moorhouse and Rev Julia Monaghan for their spiritual support, giving me a placement in Leigh on Sea section. The placement is a requirement where I am going to witness, reflect and work with Julia. I will be continually praying and reflecting on presbyter ministry responsibilities. This means I will be accompanying Rev Julia for some or all of the following: -

The ministry of word (preaching, evangelism, apologetics, theological and prophetic.)

The ministry of sacrament (in acts of celebration and devotion in baptism)

Funerals

Church council meeting

Property committee

This is an opportunity for me to reflect on what being a presbyter means in a range of situations. If you see me, please introduce yourself and talk to me.

***Our God is with us all the time (Isaiah 41: 10)*** Amen.

## **Mission Enabler for Older People** **Summer update**

### **Monthly Movies**

Interest for these monthly events is growing in momentum. We regularly have between 15 and 30 people at both Highlands and Wesley. Highlands have taken the proactive initiative to offer soup which has been very well received.

### **Holidaying at Home**

Two very successful events took place at Highlands on 27<sup>th</sup> July and Wesley on 4<sup>th</sup> August, bringing a total of 65 people into both churches for a lively nostalgic seaside day that was very well received. You are welcome to read the compiled feedback report which is available in the concourse at Wesley and at the back of the church at Highlands.

### **Age Concern Community Club**

Age Concern are very happy with their new home at Wesley. They book the Wesley concourse for two hours on a Tuesday afternoon; three out of four weeks a month. We work together to find guest speakers and encourage members to join other activities. They are a small independent local charity that struggles to maintain funding, so welcome church collaboration.

### **Staying Steady Exercise Classes for Older People**

This group has become a valued weekly group that meet on a Tuesday morning in Wesley canteen room. I am hoping we can establish a follow on class to Staying Steady at Wesley for the current Staying Steady group to progress on to.

I have also had it agreed to start a Staying Steady class at Highlands but we are currently waiting for a class instructor to become available. There are a number of Highlands members that I hope will really benefit from having this facility so close to home.

### **Objectives Q4**

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June I attended a study day entitled "The Spiritual Needs of the Elderly and those with Dementia"; where I learned the following shocking statistic "1 in 3 people over 65 will go on to develop a form of Dementia" For some elderly people, the church is the only point of contact with the world. As a church we have a tangible ability to reduce isolation and improve people's health and self-worth. The need for positive affirmation is as important in older life as it is to a child.

"I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24)

**P.T.O.**

Julia and I have a meeting shortly with Nancy Smith, Strategy & Commissioning Officer for Dementia at Southend Borough Council in order to establish how Highlands and Wesley can become Dementia friendly churches? The hope is that we can offer Dementia friend training to all church members who would like to support this initiative. Please do come and have a chat if you would like to be involved in supporting this initiative.

Wesley Age Concern Community Club Christmas Lunch and Carol Service - 21<sup>st</sup> December

Age Concern are inviting all local older people to a Christmas lunch and Carol service at Wesley. There is a plan in place which calls for offers of help with catering, waitressing, Christmas cake making, Father Christmas, cracker making. Please speak to me if you are able to offer your support to this event. I really appreciate this is a busy time for all of us but here is the first opportunity to extend practical outreach to people who have come into our churches in 2016.

**JULIE PEEK**

Mission Enabler for Older People  
Wesley and Highlands Methodist Churches

## **MOVIES @ HIGHLANDS**

Presents

### **FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS**

Wednesday 26th October at 1.30 pm

Florence Foster Jenkins is the inspirational true story of a woman who followed her dream and lit up the lives of all who came to know her.

A passionate amateur, Florence aspired to be a great singer. Although she could barely hold a tune, her devoted husband and friends delighted in the joy of her performances and protected her from the ridicule of strangers. But when Florence decided to give a public concert to 3,000 people at Carnegie Hall, her husband knew he faced an impossible challenge.

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

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary we will all have many varied memories. But we have moved on over the years . The world and society has changed much and we must adapt again if we are to remain an important part of the community that is "Highlands".

Pamela Smith found this prayer/poem when she was looking for something else - and it resonated with her. The need for leaves to fall from the tree so that something new can grow.

Thank you Pamela.

*Editor*

### **PRAYER FOR AUTUMN**

Lord of the seasons,  
there is a time for dying  
and a time for new birth;  
a time to speak  
and a time to keep quiet.  
Help us discern your will for us now.



Lord of Autumn leaves and warm berries,  
help us to let go gracefully  
and to rejoice in the colour and fruitfulness of this moment.  
Wrap us in the shawl of eternity  
and teach us to await with wonder  
The new shoots of your love.

Mary Hanrahan.  
(In *Acorns and Archangels*. Ed. Ruth Burgess)



## **The Revolving Door - Mending Broken Relationships**

One of the greatest challenges in the work of Street Pastors is not being judgemental about the circumstances that we find people have got themselves into – whether just messing up through overindulgence in alcohol and food, injury from a bar fight or illness through taking a drug. Paths which we would perhaps complacently believe we would never tread. As we will often be telling the people we speak to: God gives us choices, is never surprised that we make some wrong ones but is always willing to forgive us when in 'Prodigal Son' terms, we return 'Home'. Those most difficult to engage with are the casualties from domestic disagreements such as our having to protect a woman a few weeks ago from a violent drunk partner and another who we saw in the Church Winter Night shelters when homeless last February, found anxious and getting cold whilst wound up about how the man who was now accommodating her had become an overly controlling character. Which was going to be the lesser of the two evils? - we end up asking God in prayer!

When engaging with homeless people, it becomes clear that most are on The Street because of a broken relationship of some kind which reminds us that often we fail to value the relationships we enjoy until we have broken them. And when it is so easy to blame everyone else instead of accepting responsibility, those relationships can collapse so far as to seem beyond repair. Indeed that is the context in which one of our local Christian fellowship-based homelessness hostel providers have set their mission statement as 'Loving people back to life through mending their broken relationships'. Which leads me to ask for your prayer support as we plan the forthcoming season's Church Winter Night Shelter Program. Latest news is that one of our churches still remains uncertain of their capacity to continue and the one to replace the Church which has had to pull out, has yet to confirm. Therefore, in order for the Project to continue this year, there is much left to prepare.

Unfortunately, homelessness as a concern is way down the 'food chain' for government finance so the forthcoming Homelessness Reduction Bill warrants our local MP's attention at the first debate in Parliament on Friday 28th October. If successfully passed through it will stop homeless people being turned away when they approach their council for help but unless 100 or more MPs attend this, parliamentary rules mean that just one MP will be able to kill the bill. And because most MPs work in their constituencies on Fridays, getting more than 100 to stay on at Parliament to attend will be really tough. But, if they know their constituents want them to back this, then they will be more likely to stay in Westminster.

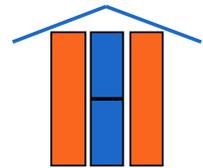
Please email me on [peter@courtenay.org.uk](mailto:peter@courtenay.org.uk) if you would like more information and maybe then e-mail David Amess on [amessd@parliament.uk](mailto:amessd@parliament.uk) to ask him to at least attend the debate. If like me you expect a relationship with your MP, you might ask him to tell us why if he feels he cannot support it.

Within the Leigh Section, plans and expectations are developing about the gathering of past and present fellowships to celebrate Highlands' 90th Year Anniversary on the weekend of 22nd/23rd October. To rekindle past relationships and particularly our relationship with God who facilitated it, after all! As Street pastors we take the mission of sharing this relationship out to the people on Southend's streets in the prayer that our witness will demonstrate that God doesn't just exist inside church buildings on a Sunday morning. And we will take opportunity if presented, to explain that He is open to and indeed yearning to join with them to help them mend their broken relationships where appropriate. Sometimes they will listen and respond, others just nod in appreciation that God is at least out there looking out for them through us. But we know we are sowing the seeds without judging or preaching, for Him to nurture in a time and place of his choosing.

Street Pastor - Peter Courtenay

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## **Serving the Homeless**



- |               |                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.  
The balmy Autumnal days will soon disappear

## **Winter Night Shelter**

This facility will commence in November and Leslie Hyde will soon be looking for volunteers to assist in several ways. The cover that we have been scheduled to do contains Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as well. A difficult time for many people. Please give careful consideration as to what help you can offer.

# 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

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

Midweek Communion :-

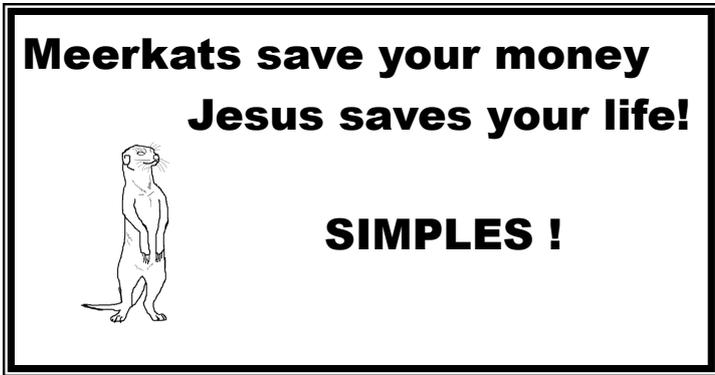
2nd Wednesday Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am

3rd Wednesday Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am

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*) Sylvia 01702 556433

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*) 2nd 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