

The Highlander

November 2016

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.



Sunday Worship in November 2016

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

6th	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship
	11.00	Joint Service of Holy Communion at Wesley Church Rev Julia Monaghan
13th	10.30	Remembrance Sunday - Parade Service Rev Julia Monaghan
20th	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Norman Hooks
27th	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
	3.30	Circuit Service at Whittingham Avenue For the launch of the Winter Night Shelters

“S Club” meets at 10.30 am on Sundays

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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**

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	e-mail: annelane8@btinternet.com	
S Club Leaders	Jean Edmonds	525250
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All items for the **December 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 November 2016**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 27th November 2016**.



A Message from your Minister



The radio is on in the background as I write, reporting that the Iraqi army and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters are converging on Iraq's second city, Mosul. It is estimated that 6000 ISIL fighters are trying to hide amongst the 1 million civilians including hundreds of thousand of children. As I listen to the reporting, I'm reminded of my pastoral visit yesterday where we talked about the conflict and I followed on with some wordy prayers. When I finished praying, I looked up to see tears in the eyes of the person I was praying with and they quietly with feeling said, *"Poor devils – the children subject to the bombing – poor devils."*

I could make noise with my lengthy prayers but here was someone who having lived through the London blitz as a child, could immediately walk in the insecure and uncertain shoes of a child in Mosul. He brought them before God in prayer with one heartfelt, compassionate sentence. We went on to talk about the Blitz; the fear of not getting to the shelter in time; and hiding under the kitchen table, waiting for the sinister intermittent buzzing noise of the doodle bugs to cut out. Will it be us? Will it be our house today? No, not this time, as the explosion is heard further down the street. My friend recalled the experience with such immediacy and tension, the event could have been lived yesterday and eventually our discussions led us on to look at peace and in particular a Christian understanding of peace.

Was it the absence of noise, warfare, and terrorism? Or was it peace in terms of silence, or peace in terms of the absence of inner turmoil?

Into this world of violence and inner turmoil, Jesus came to bring peace, bringing a radical understanding built upon the Old Testament idea of "Shalom". This is not so much about the absence of certain factors, being empty or devoid of trouble, but rather about the presence of goodwill, the presence of love, and the encouragement of relationships which build upon forgiveness, reconciliation and unity. For Jesus peace is about the presence of well-being and of wholeness.

In Christian terms, peace is not simply absence, but presence; not simply passive, but active. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed the peacemakers as "blessed", in so far as they were not just to be about preventing **P.T.O.**

(continued)

warfare or stopping fighting, but rather that they have an active role in promoting reconciliation and developing the kind of communities of relationship which build for peace, engender harmony, and establish trust. It is a call to us, through discipleship, to take up that role, wherever we are and whatever situations we find ourselves in.

The peace that Christ offers also concerns inner transformation and renewal. This is not simply a call to engage with those around us, whilst wallpapering over the painful cracks in our own lives. Rather, it involves a process of becoming at peace with ourselves, a journey which calls us to be vulnerable and reconcile our own struggles, flaws and failings. Through this renewal, we not only deepen our own walk with God, but walk in humility with others in seeking to make and build peace.

So as we approach Remembrance Sunday once more, let us not only seek peace for those areas currently striven with conflict, but look for the peace we might build around us, forged out of an understanding of what it is to be at peace with ourselves and God.

Prayers***The Peace for Lent and Passiontide: MWB***

In Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, which is shed on the cross.

*The peace of the Lord be always with you. **Amen***

A Pray for Mosul

O Lord Jesus,

*Stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people, to heal and restore, and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love. **Amen***

A pray for Ourselves

Lord, I am part of the tension and injustice of the world.

Forgive our human selfishness, to which I contribute;

Heal the resentment between people, of which I am part;

And come into the world's conflicts, in which I share by being human.

*Take my unworthiness and sorrow, and use them in your great work of healing and redeeming humanity. **Amen***

Rev Julia



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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.

Highlands 90th Anniversary

What a wonderful weekend we had!

A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make our friends, neighbours and fellow Methodists so welcome throughout the weekend. A special thank you to those who travelled so far to join with us and to **Affinity** who provided such a wonderful lunch on the Sunday. Our thanks to those who offered hospitality, Gaudeamus and Mencap Showstoppers and all those who performed at our Review, and our pantomimers and back room staff. Also to those who made sure that the garden and premises were presentable.

We have received so many thanks for "organising the event and putting together a memorable time for every one...so many memories and so many lives touched by the love of a church family". "Praying that you will be blessed as you continue to serve the local community."

We really did provide **Hospitality in the *Midst of the Community* !**

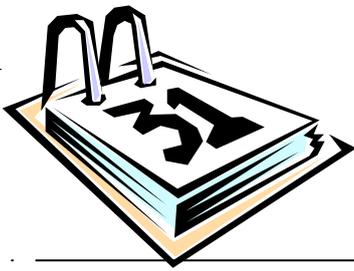
Church Sanctuary Refurbishment.

Our sincere thanks go to Anne Lane for her overseeing of the above work and ensuring that it was completed in time for our 90th Anniversary.

The Stewards and Property & Finance Committee hope that you are all suitably impressed with the final result.

The audio equipment has been moved to the centre of the church so that the operators can feel included in the services. The yellow "fish banners" have been taken down and we will assess as to whether they can be used elsewhere in the building. As agreed with Church Council the pulpit has been removed and it is hoped to dispose of this as a whole unit.

And finally.....we were able to hang the new banner made by Rev Teresa Rutterford and commission it during our anniversary service. What a magnificent piece of work! So many thanks to her for hours of loving work on a beautiful item.



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. At this time of year we will be making boxes for the Samaritans Purse venture. Please see the list at the back of the church for items that will be useful in the shoeboxes. 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 3rd November 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 17th November from 10 to 12 noon.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

MOTHs

There will no meeting in November.

We meet again on 13th December for our Christmas party, with our gifts for the Women's Refuge.

Open to anyone who would like to come along and join in.

COFFEE MORNINGS

There are still a few dates available to run a Saturday Coffee Morning. Please consult the list in the Jubilee Room if you are able to run one.

ABRSM Exams

We now have the dates for the next series of music exams in the church. These are November 23rd, 24th (morning only), 30th. December 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th. If anyone is willing to act as steward on any of these dates, please add your name to the list on the Jubilee Room notice board.

Christmas Fair

Please make sure that you have Saturday 26th November in your diary. We will need volunteers to set up and to run the various stalls together with cakes and items for the raffle. The Family Committee will meet on 14th November to make final arrangements.

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.

Mencap Showstoppers

Thanks for their contribution during our Anniversary Review. They are now rehearsing for another show in the Church Hall on 15th December. Further details from Jean Edmonds.

Other Highlands dates

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 — 10th November at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
22nd November at 8.00 pm

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.



Taizé Service
(Instrumental & Choral)
Christ the King
Sunday 20th November, 4.30pm
at
St Clements Church,
Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea
All Welcome

Committee Meetings

Family Committee

Monday 14th November at 8.00 pm

Property & Finance

Monday 16th January at 8.00 pm

Church Council

Thursday 2nd February at 8.00 pm

Flower Rota for November 2016

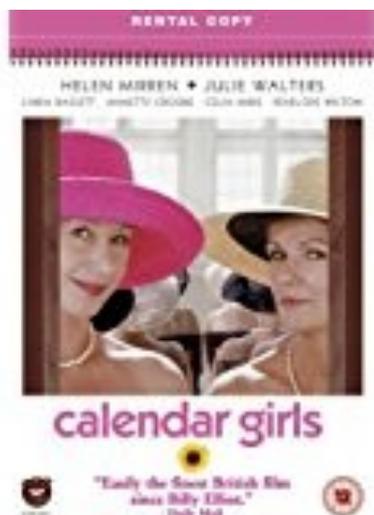
<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
6th		at Wesley	
13th	Mary Mapp	Parents	Jean Edmonds
20th	Mary Barter	Parents	Mary Barter
27th	Andrea Ames	Parents	Hobbies

MOVIES @ HIGHLANDS

Presents

CALENDAR GIRLS

Wednesday 23rd November at 1.30 pm



“Calendar Girls” starring Gold Globe winners Helen Mirren and Julie Walters is the hilariously quirky true story of twelve extraordinary members of Rylstone Women’s Institute who decide they need to find a new way to raise money for a very worthy cause!

These plucky ladies go on to find an ingenious way of raising £2 million for Leukaemia research.

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

A Morning Prayer



So far today God, I have done alright.

I haven’t gossiped. I haven’t lost my temper, and I 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.

Anon.



Serving the Homeless

A very enjoyable Italian evening, together with a magician, was held on 22nd October when over £750 was raised.

On Friday 16th December our Annual Service of Carols and Poems for Christmas will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre. There will be solos and a contribution from members of YMCA together with your favourite carols. We would love to see you there.

For further details contact Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250

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

Winter Night Shelter

This facility will commence at the beginning of November and Leslie Hyde is now 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.

Christian Aid Appeal

Thank you for your generosity in answer to the appeal for help subsequent to the Hurricane in Haiti. Over £190 was forwarded to Christian Aid.

Coffee Mornings in November

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Saturday 5th | Music at Highlands |
| Saturday 12th | Missions |
| Saturday 19th | |
| Saturday 26th | Christmas Fair |



HIGHLANDS
METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 26th November

10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Gifts

Coffee

Stalls

Cards

Crafts

Cakes

Lunches

from 12 noon



Competitions

Father Christmas

Admission Free

Everyone Welcome

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

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.

Meerkats save your money

Jesus saves your life!



SIMPLES !

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