

The Highlander

January 2017



Loving God, at the turn of another year, we come to you and seek you out, as the Magi sought your earthly Son so many years ago.

We seek your guidance and commit ourselves once again to your service.

Take what we are, and direct what we shall be.

Sunday Worship in January 2017

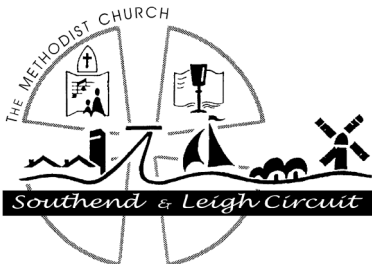
1st	<u>11.00</u>	Section Service at Belfairs - Jane Fulford
8th	10.30	Morning Worship - Lt Col Roy Girling
15th	10.30	<u>Covenant Service</u> of Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
22nd	10.30	Morning Worship - Andrew Thomas (Homelessness Sunday)
29th	10.30	Cafe Church - Kathy McCullough (Holocaust Memorial Sunday)

"S Club" meets at 10.30 am on Sundays

No. 822 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: annelane8@btinternet.com	
S Club Leaders	Jean Edmonds	525250
	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Mission Enabler for Older Persons	Julie Peek	479804
Website :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **February 2017** 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 22nd January 2017**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 29th January 2017**.



A Message from your Minister



1. If you own a Bible, you are abundantly blessed - about 1/3 of the world does not have access to one.
2. If you wake up each morning, you are blessed to shine, to live and to serve in a new day.
3. If you have anyone on the planet, just one person that loves you and listens to you; count this as a blessing.
4. If you can freely attend a church without fear, then you are more blessed than over 1/3 of the world.
5. If you pray today or any day, you are blessed because you believe in God's willingness to hear your prayer.
7. If you pray for someone else, you are blessed because you want to help others.
8. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep; all at the same time; you are rich in this world
9. If you have a friend who will pray with you and for you, you are blessed by compassion.
10. If you have any earthly family that even halfway loves you and supports you, you are blessed beyond measure.
11. If you attend a church with a church family where you can give and receive encouragement, you are blessed with the Holy Spirit of God.
12. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, or some spare change in a dish someplace you are among the world's wealthy.
13. If you can go to bed each night, knowing that God loves you, you are blessed with a sense of your worth.
14. If you try each day to imitate Jesus for even a minute, you are blessed because you show a willingness to grow in faith.
15. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than about 1/3 of the world who cannot read at all.
16. If you have never had to endure the hardship and agony of battle, imprisonment, or torture, you are blessed in indescribable measure.

P.T.O.

17. If you have a voice to sing His praises, a voice to witness God's love, and a voice to share the gospel, you are blessed with the gift of joy.
18. If you can hold someone's hand, hug another person, touch someone on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.
19. If you can share a word of encouragement with someone else, and do it with His love in your heart, you are blessed because you have learned how to give.
20. If you have the conviction to stand fast upon His Word and His promises, you are blessed because you are growing in assurance of faith.
21. If you desire to live a life of gratitude, you are blessed beyond measure with the Grace of God.

May God Bless You in 2017 and may you desire to be his faithful servant. Amen

Rev Julia



Christmas at Highlands

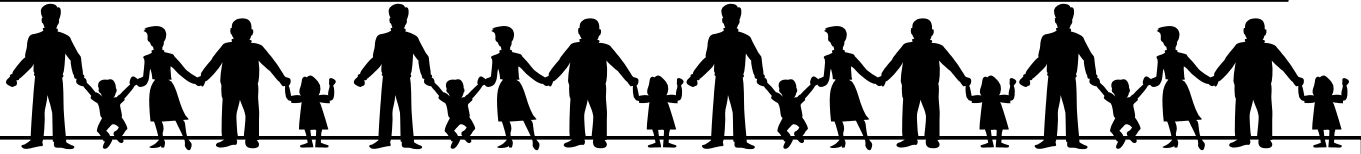


Christingle Service Saturday 24th December 5.30 pm
Rev Julia Monaghan

Midnight Communion Saturday 24th December at 11.15 **at Belfairs**
Rev Julia Monaghan

Christmas Morning Sunday 25th December at 10.30 am
Kathy McCullough.

Christmas



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.

Thank you

We say a very big thank you to Jean Burgess who has handed over the reins of the flower rota after so many years that we cannot remember. It seems for ever that she has organised the rota and arranged flowers with love and care.

Flower Rota for January 2017

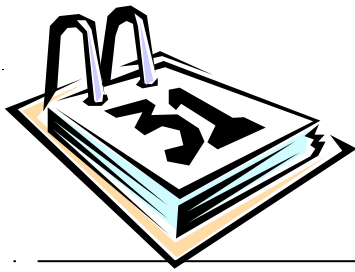
<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
1st		Section Service at Belfairs	
8th	Jill Grove	Parents	Jean
15th	Mrs. E. Thomas	Ralph & Gordon	Jean
22nd	Keith Carter	Parents	Hobbies
29th	Joan Ford	Gordon	Hobbies

One-Liners

The difference between in-laws and outlaws? Outlaws are wanted.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong, A tax is a fine for doing well.

Archaeologist : Someone whose career lies in ruins.



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 from 10.00 am on 5th January to resume our activities in arts and crafts, also some flower arranging. We follow with lunch for those who wish to stay. There is always coffee, tea, cake and plenty of chat.

On 19th January we also meet from 10.00 To 12 noon.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

Wesley Church Reopening Service

The preacher at the reopening on Saturday 28th January at 3.00pm is The Rev'd Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths. Please make sure the date is in your diary to join with our friends at Wesley in their refurbished Sanctuary.

Future Committee Meetings:

Property & Finance - 16th January

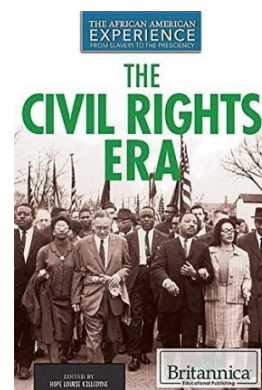
Church Council - 2nd February

Pastoral - 21st February

MOTHS

We meet again on 10th January at 2.15 pm when Geoff Fulford will give a very interesting talk to us about the American Civil Rights Movement, following his recent visit to the "Deep South".

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



Other Highlands dates

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 — 12th January at 7.00 pm
+ + + +
Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
24th January at 8.00 pm

Coffee Mornings in January

Saturday 7th	Music at Highlands
Saturday 14th	Missions
Saturday 21st	Serving the Homeless
Saturday 28th	Church



Highlands Website

I feel sure that you are all aware of our website :-

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

Our "webmaster" Andrew Hyde hopes that you enjoy all the effort that he puts in. There are articles and items there that you will not find in the *Highlander*, together with photos of some of our events.

Please use Andrew as a contact point for comments, complaints and contributions (especially photos)

email : andrewghyde@aol.com
telephone : 07938 536921

WATCH OUT - WE HOPE TO BE ON FACEBOOK SOON!

Serving the Homeless



22nd January is national Homelessness Sunday when there will be a retiring collection at Highlands to support further the work of Serving the Homeless with HARP, Southend YMCA and all young homeless.

On Sunday 29th January 2017 our Annual Sunday Lunch will this year be held at Affinity Restaurant. Tickets are £20.00 per person for a three course meal followed by tea/coffee.

For further details contact Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250

Future fund raising events that are in the planning stage :-

15th March	Meal at "East"
3rd April	Annual General Meeting
6th May	Quiz Night at St Margaret's
8th June	Afternoon Tea at Park View Suite
July/August	Summer Raffle
September	Indian Meal
October	Jazz/Easy Listening Music Evening
15th December	Carols and Poems for Christmas

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

Winter Night Shelter

The Winter Night Shelter began for the Leigh Section on Saturday 3rd December and continues every first Saturday in the month through to March. We have a good selection of volunteers but if you would like to help Janet Watson would like to hear from you in case of sickness etc..

Donations of toiletries and clothes would be very welcome. At present there seem to be more young men who are homeless so their needs are for hard-wearing jeans, track suit bottoms, pants as well as gloves, hats and socks. There is very limited storage space, so this year we are asked each month to take clothing with us.

Please leave any contributions at the back of the church.

Please also remember the volunteers and the clients in your prayers.



A New Venture

There is activity at Highlands on most mornings during the week. On Wednesday mornings however there is no church group meeting and it is felt that a presence should be provided on that day between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

This will not be a full coffee morning, although tea and coffee will be available, but a chance for people to pop in to check the bookings rota, pause for a time of quiet reflection in the church or just to check the mail in the pigeonhole.

It is surprising how many people drop in to check the notice board, pick up some lost property, place a prayer on our prayer board or enquire about what goes on.

Our refurbished premises are drawing attention with our tidy front garden, and smart notice board outside and the Sanctuary, Coffee Lounge, toilets and Hall curtains have all been recently overhauled. We are also able to offer internet service and photocopying facilities.

Help us to improve our outreach to the Community

We will commence on Wednesday 11th January 2017

If you would like to offer some time to this venture, even just an hour, please talk with Jean or Frank Edmonds or any of your Stewards.

Thank you.

Southend MENCAP

There was a fantastic atmosphere for the Annual Christmas Concert on Friday 9th December. What a tremendous group of talented people they are. Southend Mencap has joined with Southend YMCA to make Christmas CD. If you would like a copy of the CD which features their rendition of "Jingle Bells", together with an item by Sacred Heart Catholic Choir School and two songs by YMCA supporters, they are available from Frank Edmonds for £5.00.

The Mencap Showstoppers will be performing *The Willow Pattern* in the Church Hall on 26th January. They would love you to be there.



Monthly Movies @ Highlands

I hope you have all enjoyed my selection of movies through 2016. We have screened an eclectic mix of films; old and new from the *Lady in the Van*, *Brooklyn*, *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Harvey* to mention a few.

Back in November we watched the 2002 classic "*Calendar Girls*". This hilariously quirky true story of twelve plucky members of Rylstone Women's Institute and their now infamous Calendar plan has gone on to raise £2million for Leukaemia research.

I would like to report that as a result of your kind donations after November viewing of "*Calendar Girls*" along with Wesley Methodist Church we donated £40.80 to Cancer Research UK.

First Movie @ Highlands for 2017 takes place on

Friday 27th Jan "The Hundred-Foot Journey" 1.30pm

The Hundred-Foot Journey is an uplifting and feel-good comedy bursting with flavour and heart. When the icy proprietress (Helen Mirren) of a Michelin starred French restaurant in the quaint village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val gets wind of the Kadam family opening an Indian restaurant just 100 feet from her own, her protests escalate to all-out war between the two establishments. But as these two worlds collide, despite their different tastes they find an unlikely source of compromise that will change both sides forever.

As always this is a FREE event (come from 12 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available)

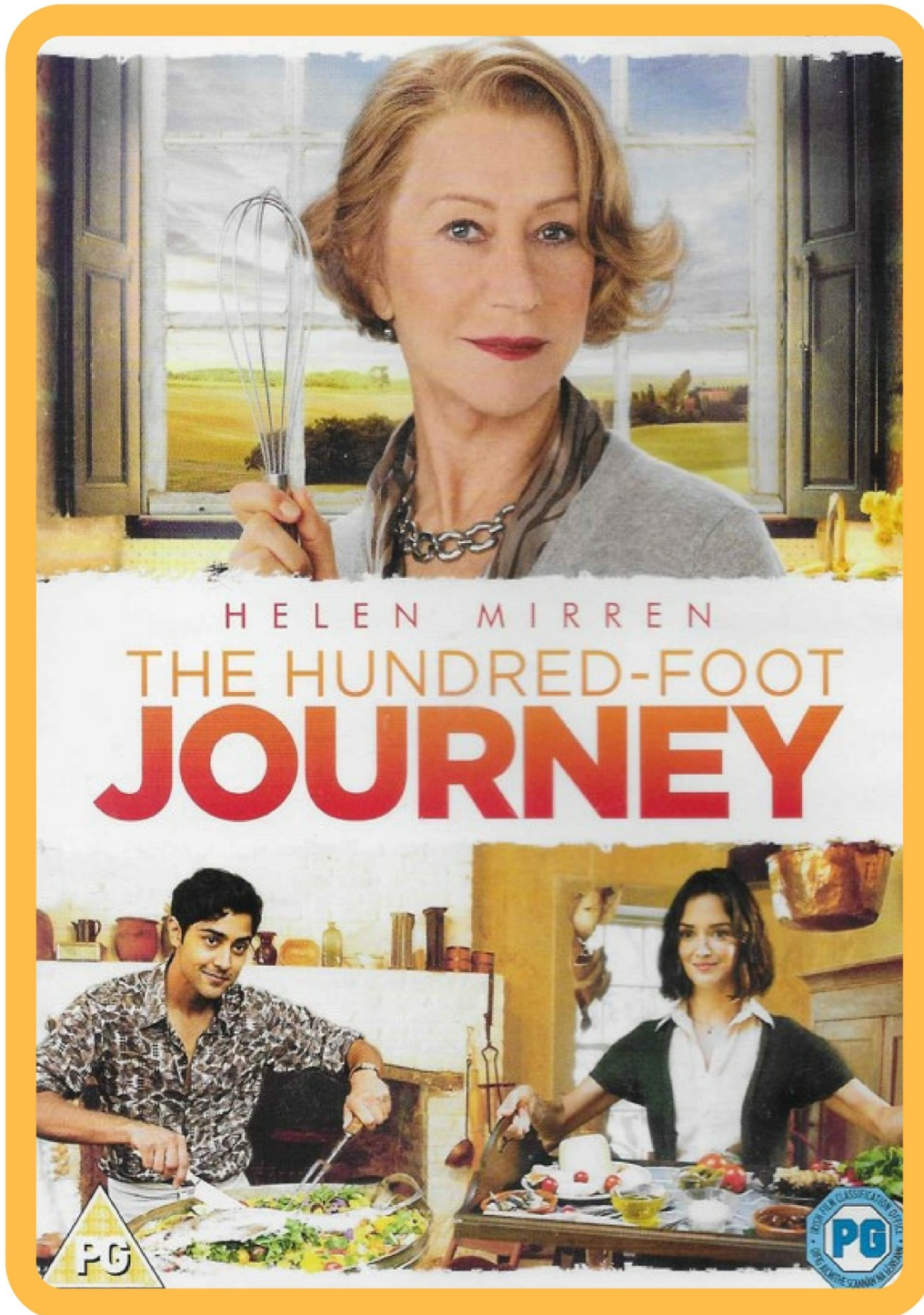
Regards

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People

Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches

Movies @ Highlands



Friday 27th January

1.30pm

Highlands Methodist Church
Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea

Free entry

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

Community Desk : Wednesday from 10.00 am to noon in the Jubilee Room

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