

# The Highlander

April 2017

**HE IS RISEN**

**HALLELUJAH !**



## Sunday Worship in April 2017

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

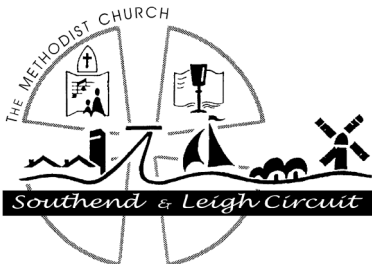
2nd	9.30 <u>11.00</u>	Breakfast Time Fellowship at <b>Highlands</b> <u>Service of Holy Communion at Wesley</u> - Rev Julia Monaghan
9th	10.30	Palm Sunday - Worship Leaders
16th	8.00 10.30 6.30	“Sonrise” Service at <b>Strand Wharf</b> <b>Easter Day</b> - Service of Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan Service of Easter Praise and Prayer at <b>Belfairs</b>
23rd	10.30	Morning Worship - Tony Windsor
30th	10.30	Cafe Church - Kathy McCullough

“Crafty Church” meets at 10.30 am on Sundays  
For young people - meeting Jesus through art and craft

No. 825 Vol. LXVXIV



**Come in and FaceTime with Jesus**



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**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>	
Crafty Church 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 :	<a href="http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk">www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk</a>	

All items for the **May 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 23rd April 2017**. Preferably, items may be emailed to [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto:frank66thecroft@sky.com)

The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 30th April 2017**.



## A Message from your Minister

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Stations of the Cross are a traditional Christian devotion, begun by the Franciscans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, to help pilgrims engage and meditate on the Passion of Christ. There are 14 stations or pictures in total, which begin with Christ being condemned to death and journey through to him taking up his cross; falling; meeting his Mother; being assisted by Simon of Cyrene ; meeting the lamenting women of Jerusalem; being stripped of his clothing; being nailed to the tree; his death; his deposition and finally being laid in the tomb.

Whatever the form they take, whether they are small, plain wooden crosses with numbers on them, or flourishing baroque statues, their intention has always been to enable people to meditate on God's grace. An invitation to people to contemplate their own value in the eyes of God, who would undergo this painful, humiliating, drawn out process, out of love for them.

At different times, faithful people have been asked to engage with the stations in different ways - with gratitude, compassion, penitence or sorrow - but always at the centre, pilgrims have been invited to look at the story of the God who loves us.

If this all sounds too gruesome for you, it's worth remembering that *The Stations* grew out of the same spiritual movement as the *Crib Scene*, which offers another take on the God who loves us and who is divinely generous towards us. The Franciscans wanted to bring a deeply human Jesus into the minds of the people they ministered to and to highlight the reality of political oppression, physical pain, mental anguish, and Jesus sharing in it all.

The form in which we now have the Stations, took a while to settle on. At one point 64 were recorded! But the traditional pattern we now have, comprise solely of Jesus' last day and his walk to the cross and can be undertaken like Him, within a single movement ending with his death. There has been much conversation in the past as to whether a fifteenth station depicting the resurrection should be added, but I think that they have got this right in resisting to do so. His friends all thought he was dead, and endured 3 whole days of waiting, anxiety, sadness and loss. We need to enter into that with them, if we too want to experience a fullness of joy with them. Moving straight to the resurrection feels like we skip over the hard part, as if we want to escape the realities of the world, rather than undergo a profound engagement with it.

**P.T.O.**

This Easter you have two opportunities to engage with this form of Christian devotion. Anne Briant, a gifted abstract artist, is displaying 14 pictures, depicting her own spiritual walk with Christ that has taken her to the foot of the cross. It is thought provoking, heart felt and a deeply spiritual encounter with the Stations, and as you walk the way of Christ with her, she encourages you to reflect on faith, loss, redemption, and hope recovered.

The Stations will be on show at Wesley for Holy Week, beginning on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April to Easter Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, open every morning from 10am - 12 noon, every evening from 6 - 8pm and all day Good Friday.

May God bless you richly this Easter as you invest in walking with Christ. Amen

## *Rev Julia*

***He will walk a little in front of us towards Calvary.***

*He will not be scared; no he will not be scared.*

*He will feel the pain of wood and nails;*

*but more than this he will feel the weight of all the evil*

*all the malice, all the pettiness,*

*all the sin of the world*

*Heaped upon his shoulders*

*He will not throw off that weight, though he could!*

*He will not give back evil for evil,*

*return malice, for malice.*

*Take revenge on the petty minded*

*Or spew out hate*

*On all who have despised or rejected him*

*He will not give back the sin of the world*

*He will take it away...*

*Into death, into hell*

*So that he can lead us into heaven*

*Then he will go on again in faith, towards the resurrection.*

*He will walk a little behind us through the graveyard.*

*He will wait until we realize that he has died and admit our complicity in his life's ending.*

*Then he will come up behind us, and say our name, so that we can stay his forever. Amen*



**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 Betty & Arthur Hall on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4th March.  
 To Brenda & John Westripp on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 9th March

A happy celebration was held for both couples on 12th March when Rev Julia presented them with bouquets.

**Thank You**

We would like to thank Barry from B J Meats for his support in providing meat for the Night Shelter meals.

**Christian Aid**

Donations totalling £171.60 were made to the East Africa Crisis Appeal. Grateful thanks for this.



**Flower Rota for April 2017**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	Arranged by
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2nd	Joint Service at Wesley		
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9th	Bruce Barter	Hazel	Mary
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16th	Vanessa Mayes	Parents	Pauline
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23rd	Jean Burgess	Syd	Margaret
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30th		Len Watson	Jean
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# 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 10.30 am on 6th April to continue 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 20th April we also meet from 10.30 To 12.30 pm. All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

## **MOTHs**

As the second week of April is Holy Week there will be no meeting of MOTHS this month, but we look forward to seeing you all again on 9th May when our speaker will be Jean Nightingale.

We wish you all a Happy Easter.

## **ABRSM Exams**

These continue until 8th April 2017. There are still vacancies on the list in the Jubilee Room for volunteer stewards. Please check to see if you can assist. Thank you.



## **10th Leigh Brownies**



10th Leigh Brownies would like to thank everyone who supported their Jumble Sale and Coffee morning on the 18th March. It was successful and we thank all the parents and friends that helped to run this event. The leaders are looking forward to having a couple of weeks off to recharge their batteries. The Brownies wish everyone at Highlands a very Happy Easter.

## **Spring Fair**

Our Spring Fair on 27th May will take the form of a Plant and Cake Sale with refreshments available throughout the morning from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.



## **Highlands HUB**

Frank and Les, our baristas, are waiting to serve you a special coffee or hot chocolate at our Wednesday Hub morning from 10.00 to 12.30.

Take a break from your busy life, look in for a chat. Find out what happens at Highlands through the week.

Hub for the Children in the Easter holidays will have a craft table and toddler toys ready for busy Mums, Dads or grandparents to share a coffee while the children play.



**Other Highlands dates**

Saturday 27th May - **Highlands Spring Fair**

**Circuit Events**

Saturday 6th May - District Synod at Rayleigh  
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 April at 7.00 pm  
+ + + +  
Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday  
25th April at 8.00 pm

**Coffee Mornings in April**



Saturday 1st	Music at Highlands
Saturday 8th	Knit and Natter
Saturday 15th	Church
Saturday 22nd	Barnardo's
Saturday 29th	Church

**Future Committee Meetings:**

Property & Finance - 15th May at 8.00 pm  
Family - 22nd May at 8.00 pm  
Church Council - 14th June at 8.00 pm  
Pastoral - 26th September at 10.00 am

## Monthly Movies @ Highlands

### A HIGHLANDS WEDNESDAY HUB EVENT

Wednesday 19th April **"The Way (12), 2010"** at 1.30pm

**"The Way"** is a powerful and inspirational story about the challenges faced in this complex unpredictable world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor who comes to France to collect the remains of his adult son (Emilio Estevez), killed in the Pyrenees in a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago, "the way of Saint James". Rather than return home, Tom driven by his grief and wanting to understand his son better, decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage to honour his son's desire to finish the journey.

Inexperienced as a trekker, with only his son's back-pack and guidebook, Tom soon discovers that he will not be alone on his journey.

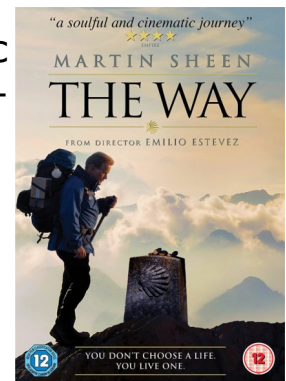
A FREE event (come from 12 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available)

Regards

**Julie Peek**

Mission Enabler for Older People

Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches



### District Synod 6th May 2017

Rayleigh Methodist Church is hosting the Beds. Essex & Herts. District Synod and is looking for help in various capacities. The event is a half day affair and assistance as outdoor or indoor stewards, caterers and audio visual links is required. If you feel that you can help in any way please contact Kathy Burrell, Circuit Secretary, at [kathy@burrellkm.plus.com](mailto:kathy@burrellkm.plus.com). Thank you.

### Easter Parade Family Fun

April 15th 10.00 to 12 noon

Come with your bonnet or hat to join the parade - a prize for every hat.

Come and join the fun

Craft Table for the children followed by an

**Easter Egg Hunt !**



Special coffee and cakes





## *LENT COURSE*



There is a lent course running through March and into April.  
The topic for the course is '**Receiving Christ.**'

The course is held at Wesley Methodist Church  
in the Sanctuary at 2 pm.

April 4<sup>th</sup> – 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1:27)

All are welcome.

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### *Lent and Easter Programme*

A Lent Group is being held on a Tuesday (see above)  
and also during the Tuesday Housegroup

**Maundy Thursday** -A section fish and chip meal at 7.15 for 7.30 pm  
Followed by a Service of Holy Communion  
at Highlands  
Please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room

**Good Friday** - Section Service at Wesley at 11.00 a.m.  
Highlands to meet at 10.00 am to effect a Walk of Witness  
and meet up with Belfairs  
at Wesley for Hot Cross Buns

**Easter Saturday** - Easter Parade - hats - craft — Egg Hunt

**Easter Sunday** - Strand Wharf Section Sunrise Service at **8.00 am**  
With Salvation Army

10.30 Service at Highlands

6.30 pm Service of Praise and Prayer at Belfairs

## **Serving the Homeless / HARP**

Thank you for your support at EAST in March when we raised £780. Our AGM is on Monday 3rd April. All are welcome to hear of our efforts during 2016 and our hopes for 2017.

A Quiz Evening follows on Saturday 6th May, at St Margaret's Church Hall at 7.00pm for a prompt start at 7.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events. Please book your table

Thank you for your support of prayers and items at the back of the church, especially as the cold weather continues.

At HARP the White Heather House facility for female guests is due to be open in mid April, offering another 20 places of refuge.

## **Winter Night Shelters**

As the winter night shelter (WNS) draws to a close we reflect on the season. We have done no more than scratch the surface of the problem. We can do little to help to resolve the crisis of homelessness, either nationally or locally.

But on each occasion that we feed and house a brother or sister in Christ, we do make a difference to that person, rather like the boy in the Starfish Story. If you don't know the story, just Google 'starfish+boy' to read it.

If you like statistics, these are from part way through the programme : -

- This was the 80th night of the programme.
- The whole WNS programme is 121 nights
- At that time WNS had given food and shelter to 87 different people, typically about 20 on a night
- 13 of those 87 people were female
- WNS had served just over 1,500 meals
- the value of the work done by WNS volunteers (at national minimum wage) added up to about £50,000

The seven churches involved were the Southend and Leigh Circuit Methodists, Avenue Baptist Church, Leigh Road Baptist Church, Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church, Belle Vue Baptist Church, Westcliff Free Church and Ferndale Baptist Church.

Big up to all of them, and also to a local supermarket which donated £512 through its green plastic token scheme.

*Andrew Hyde*

## **Why not sign up for HARP's Prittle Brook Spring Walk?**

Taking place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 2pm, it's a 3½ mile Sunday afternoon stroll along the Prittle Brook Greenway from Priory Park to Belfairs Park – raising vital funds for HARP. Every step you take will show you're supporting local homeless people.

What's more, with each entry you will receive a FREE HARP Spring Walk T-shirt and also enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and slice of cake afterwards at the Woodlands Centre at Belfairs Park.

This is a great afternoon out and knowing you are helping Southend's homeless community rebuild their lives and live independently makes it even better !

Entrance fee includes tea & cake and a FREE T-shirt

Adults — £8, Children — £4, Family Ticket - £20

Please sign up by visiting the website :-

*<http://www.harpsouthend.org/spring-walk>*



For well over 25 years, churches up and down the country have supported the MHA Sunday appeal. This will now be known as : -

### **"Best Sunday for Ages" on 11th June 2017**

This year the theme is **"Befriending Age"** to look at ways in which we can help one another support older members of our church and community.

The fundraising income helps to provide life enhancing services such as Chaplaincy, Music Therapy for people with dementia and support services in the Live at Home schemes.

Please support the cause as you feel able. Thank you.



### MEMORY WORSHIP

.....  
Worship for those with  
and without Dementia  
.....

2PM - 4PM  
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

# 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

Highlands Hub : Wednesday from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm 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 10.30 a.m. - 12.30p.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