

The Highlander

December 2017



So Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for the census. While they were there the time came for the baby to be born. Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. **They called him Jesus**

Sunday Worship in December 2017

3rd Advent 1	10.30	Cafe Church - Kathy McCullough
10th Advent 2	10.30	Parade Service - Worship Leaders Toy and Gift Service
17th Advent 3	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	5.00	Candlelight Carol Service - Rev Hannah Bucke
24th Advent 4	10.30	Section Service at Highlands - Rev Julia Monaghan
	5.30	Christingle Service - Rev Julia Monaghan
	11.15	Section Service at Wesley - Rev Julia Monaghan

“ Crafty Church ” meets at 10.30 am on Sundays

For young people - meeting Jesus through art and craft

No. 831 Vol. LXVXV



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
	Donald Mayes	473787
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay	556140
	Frank Edmonds	525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane	01268 755291
	e-mail: annelane8@btinternet.com	
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 :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **January 2018** 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 10th December 2017**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 17th December 2017**.



A message from your Minister



Advent

The Christmas rush to get everything organised is on - card's written, gifts decided upon bought, food prepared, plans about whose turn it is to bring the pudding and sprouts. In four weeks it will all be over. In five, we will be making New Year resolutions. And in six weeks all the decorations will be back in the loft. We will move the furniture back to where it used to be and life will go back to how it was before. Or will it? Will we be changed?

If we take Advent seriously, I hope that we will be changed, because we will have opportunity again to reflect upon what it means to say that God came into the world, in the poverty and powerlessness of the birth at Bethlehem. And that God still comes into the world in all its mess and pain and longing and joy, and God longs for us to recognise him at work.

Really, if you think about it, Advent is a Godsend that widens our horizons, and makes us realise we actually hold "*dual citizenship*," of this world and of the kingdom in tension with one and other. It's very tempting for us to say that we aren't part of the commercialisation of Christmas, and to say that Christmas isn't all about that. But in a way it is. It's about God coming into the real world, not the neat and pretty picture of our Christmas cards. God comes into the real world that still needs "*mucking out!*"

Advent reminds us that the church has other themes to add to the celebration, things that we read in scripture, such as be ready; be prepared; repent; be awake; he comes! Advent then is a time of preparation and whatever else we are doing, we are reminded that there are only so many praying days left until Christmas. Prayer of course isn't just what we do in our prayer time, prayer is how we give our relationship with God a chance to flourish and develop. And just like all our other relationships it requires time. **P.T.O.**

A Message from your minister - continued

Advent is the season that says, "Make time!" Find a space so that our understanding of God's love for us in Jesus, and our love for God through Jesus in response can grow. The culture around us might be saying forcefully, "Get on with it, - don't wait for Christmas to hold the celebration." But Advent says, "Wait, reflect, be still, alert and expectant."

Some people find it helpful to have a focal point for their stillness, like a lit candle. Any candle will do. But I remember being given a special candle in my second year here, with the days marked on them, so that I didn't have any excuse for not remembering. And using that candle reminded me that before the invention of chocolate filled advent calendars and clocks, people used candles to measure time. Christmas it seems is bound up with time and eternity. We're celebrating God becoming involved in our world in Jesus, and God invites us to make time for him. Shopping days will eventually come to an end, but the point of the praying days is that we get into the habit of remembering God, who comes to us every day, and longs for us to respond with our love.

Wait! Be alert! Be prepared! Jesus is coming!

Rev Julia

Rev Julia Monaghan - Sabbatical

Welcome back !

Refurbishment of The Vestry

A very big thank you to David Watson, Andreas Botzios and Roger Grove for all their hard work in repainting the vestry. A thank you to Andrew Saville for extra shelves in the cupboard and Lesley and Andrew for the carpet cleaning. The wives need special thanks for encouragement and refreshments, Janet, Jill and Pauline.

The Highlands Editor

A reminder that the next edition will be his last !

We wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year



Advent Prayers

In the places of decision making
And the places of powerlessness:

Come, Lord

In the places of wealth
And the places of poverty:

Come, Lord

Where we are healthy,
Where we are sick:

Come, Lord

In the streets of plenty
And in the dark corners:

Come, Lord

Where people are oppressed
And in the hearts of the oppressors:

Come, Lord

In our places of worship
And where there is no faith:

Come, Lord

In our places of learning
And in the depths of our ignorance:

Come, Lord

In our homes and our welcome
And where people couldn't care less:

Come, Lord

Thy Kingdom Come.

Amen.

From Rev Julia



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Mary Barter in *Fernbrook Nursing Home*, Pat Gare in *Admirals Court*, and Marie Moore at *Archers Court* in Hitchin Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Mary Barter on the death of Bruce, her husband & to Ester and Phil and to all the family & friends.

Bruce had been a stalwart and a strength to Mary since her stroke some ten years ago and it was a shock to us all when he too contracted cancer a short while ago.

We have heard from Vanessa Robinson that her mother Pamela Morton (Roberts) nee Hobbs has passed away on 2nd November. In the 1940's she attended Highlands Church and went on to become a Sunday School Teacher, a member of the Highlands Club and in latter years belonged to MOTHS. We extend our sympathy to all the family



Christmas arrangements for Highlands

Sunday 10th December - Parade and Toy Service

Sunday 17th December Carol Service at 5.00 pm - Rev Hannah Bucke

Sunday 24th December - United Service at Highlands
at 10.30am with Rev Julia Monaghan

Christingle service at 5.30 pm - Rev Julia Monaghan

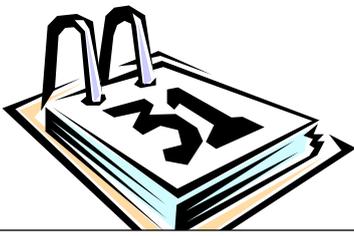
United Service at Wesley at 11.15pm - Rev Julia Monaghan

Christmas Day Service at 10.30 am - Rev Julia Monaghan

Sunday 31st December - United Service at Belfairs

Sunday 14th January at 10.30 am - Covenant Service - Rev Julia





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 7th December from 10.00 am finishing our Christmas crafts and cards. We also meet on 14th December for our big event Community Day Christmas Celebrations from 10.00 until 4.30 pm when we come together with our friends from Showstoppers for craft, buffet lunch and Carol Service. Stay all day or just look in.

All are welcome

Jean 525250 - Ros 478631

MOTHs



There will be no meeting in December as we will join with the Community Day on 14th December. All are welcome.

ABRSM Exams

These commence again between 27th November and 8th December. Please check the notice board in the Jubilee Room to see when you can offer yourself as a Steward



Pin Point -

Teresa and Glenis would welcome all ladies interested in needlecraft to join them on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10.00 to 12.00 in No. 1 Room. They would be happy for you to bring your own work. Maybe even alterations or mending waiting to be done, company may just make that happen. The amazing community window is almost complete, we hope to unveil this on our Christmas Community Day. Coffee and cake will be available through the morning from the HUB team. In the New Year we plan to start a patchwork project.



Wednesday Coffee Morning at the HUB

Take a break from your busy life, look in for a chat or information about Highlands through the week.

Coffee Christmas Crafts Morning

On 9th December we will be holding a Coffee and Christmas Crafts morning from 10,00 am to noon for all the family. All are welcome.

Other Highlands dates

Saturday 9th December - Christmas Crafts Coffee Morning
Thursday 14th December - Community Day

Circuit Events

Friday/Saturday 1st/2nd December - ***Sleeping Beauty*** Pantomime
at Wesley

Saturday 9th December - Christmas Lantern Making
at Fishermen's Chapel

Saturday 9th December - Strand Wharf Community Carols

Saturday 16th December - Energize Puppet Christmas Special
at Belfairs

Saturday 17th March - Thundersley trip to Thriplow

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 — 14th December at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - t.b.a. at 8.00 pm

+ + + +

The Fishermen's Chapel - Gospel Choir Vespers - 2nd Sunday
Next date - 10th December at 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Future Committee Meetings:

Property & Finance - 8th January 2018 at 8.00 pm

Church Council - 15th January 2018 at 8.00 pm

Pastoral - 13th February 2018 at 10.00 am

Family - 12th March 2018 at 8.00 pm

Monthly Movies @ Highlands

A HIGHLANDS WEDNESDAY HUB EVENT

I hope you have all enjoyed my 2017 Movie selection. We have journeyed through "The Hundred Foot Journey" in January through "The Way" "Summer Holiday" and many more super films besides completing the season with the Remembrance film "Testament of Youth". We made a collection in November with £22.90 being donated to British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you all back in January with a full new programme for 2018.

Regards and best wishes

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People

Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches

We look forward to the Community Day on Thursday 14th December when we welcome our friends from the neighbourhood and also enjoy more entertainment, carols and a nativity service with our friends from Mencap Showstoppers.

All are welcome



MEMORY WORSHIP



Worship for those with
and without Dementia



2PM - 4PM

3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Coffee Mornings in November



Saturday 2nd	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 9th	Church Christmas Fair
Saturday 16th	Church
Saturday 23rd	Church
Saturday 30th	Church

 *
 *
 * **Flower Rota for December 2017** *
 * Date Donated by In memory of Arranged by *
 *
 * 3rd Cafe Church Margaret *
 * 10th Frank & Jean Family Jean *
 * 17th Jennifer Courtenay Parents Pauline *
 * 24th Christmas Eve Jean *
 *
 * We now have some vacant dates
 * if you would like to donate flowers in memory of someone. *
 *

"I "before "E"

Except when your fore**ign** ne**ighbour** Ke**ith** rece**ives**
eight counter**feit** be**ige** sle**ighs** from fe**isty** caff**einated**
weightlifters.

Weird !



Serving the Homeless / HARP

An evening of **Songs from the Musicals** presented by Elizabeth Upsher with an Italian Buffet Supper at Our Lady of Lourdes was a roaring success as we all sang along with Elizabeth and raised just over £1,040. Thank you for your support

A **Christmas Wreath Making** event will take place at Highlands on Tuesday 12th December from 10.00 am to midday.

Tickets at £15 must be booked in advance.

Thank you for your continued prayers and items at the back of the church. There is still a need for smaller sizes of clothing, including underwear, together with trainers, jeans, and toiletries.

HARP is currently in desperate need of small cartons of juice, owing to the big increase in rough sleepers recently, they are using up to 100 cartons a day. Also much needed are toothbrushes and roll on deodorant.

Thundersley Methodist Church is again running a trip to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair on Saturday 17th March 2018. The price is £20 which includes the coach and entrance. There will be a pick up at Highlands Methodist Church and then at Thundersley Methodist Church. More details to come.

Please let Anne Lane know if you would like to attend on:-

01268 755291 or at annelane@btinternet.com



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY DAY— CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Thursday 14th December from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Mencap Showstoppers and Highlands Hobbies have come together with Rev Julia to plan an amazing day of celebration. All who meet on our premises are invited, together with our friends and neighbours. The day will commence with tea, coffee and cakes and a chance to join in a Christmas craft. Throughout the day Showstoppers will entertain us in their impromptu style, singing Christmas songs. There will be a buffet lunch followed by a short Carol Service and Nativity.

A day of fun and celebration for all.



Winter Night Shelters

The Night Shelter begins for the Leigh Section on Saturday 2 December. The other nights we are responsible for are all Saturdays 30 December, 27 January and 24 February.

We are always open to offers of help in various roles: dinner cook; befriender; overnight supervisor or assistant; breakfast caterer. Whilst we have cover in most of these roles for most dates, sometimes our people become unavailable through illness and other reasons, so we're glad to have back-up.

In particular we are struggling for breakfast caterers on these Sunday mornings : 10 December; 17 December; 7 January; 14 January; 4 February; 11 February; 4 March; 11 March

The Sunday morning role involves getting out to Southchurch at about 06:30 on a Sunday morning, then serving and clearing away breakfast and helping to tidy away - about 2 hours work.

The first point of contact is Janet Watson from Highlands Church on 01702 555702 email wdjwatson@googlemail.com. Also Andrew Hyde andrewghyde@aol.com 01702 473111. Do get in touch if you can help. Or if not, please remember all the shelter volunteers, and especially all our guests, in your prayers.



'Hope three16' takes serving the Homeless to a new level

'Hope three16' - a relatively new Christian charity which has successfully run a supported housing project in Southchurch for over three years, are launching a Social Impact Enterprise Business to extend their provision into much needed 'supported employment' opportunities for their residents. This will be a both a social enterprise and a training & engagement facility by which to transit their homeless hotel residents onwards into employment with the skills needed to both sustain a tenancy and regain status in the world of work – no matter how limited that may, be according to each individual's capacity.

The 'Hope three16' mission was conceived out of the musings of 3 Christian volunteers when - stirred through experience at a local homelessness support charity about what is commonly referred to as the 'Revolving Door', concluded that: "there must be a better way". Thus was borne an enterprise which established first one shared home and now 4, supporting up to 17 vulnerable homeless men. As Project Director and foundational team member John Hales explains: "We operate under an ethos of 'mending broken lives' because we have engaged many people whose lives have been affected and even defined by never having known a mother or father's love. Homeless can be the result of never having enjoyed that loving relationship – perhaps because of a childhood in care or domestic abuse. Again and again we see major issues of trust because of failed relationships, leaving lots of our guys with no life skills when they become adults themselves. Their own family then falls apart with relationships becoming virtually toxic, and typically the male partner is excluded. Indeed, often part of the homeless hostel experience needs to include 'parenting' within the shared home 'family' – yes 'parenting' of 20 and up to 60 year old year old adults". That's where showing them the love of the Father is key.

But as Peter Moss – fellow founder and Project Team member relates: "a period in homelessness effectively suppresses the ability to participate in or contribute to Society. This presents barriers to employment, leading to boredom and significantly: destruction of self-worth - which is what induces many to resort to 'escape' into alcohol and drugs. So we have realised that keeping our guys 'on the rails' once rehabilitated, requires engagement in fruitful activity with a prospect of rewarding employment. And another benefit which flows from activity in a workshop environment is a team-working fellowship which is very different from that engendered from sharing the facilities in a home. As Steve, one of the supported housemates describes his experience: "This opportunity give us a sense of purpose and a focus for our energy because the wealth we are creating is in the restoration of our people rather than in the furniture we will be selling". **P.T.O.**

The Social Impact Enterprise is based in a small industrial unit in Southchurch with a workshop area where second-hand furniture will be restored and domestic ornaments will be crafted. A house clearance service is also offered by which stock can be sourced. A combined café' and retail outlet is envisaged trading as 'Upcycled With Style' also selling products by other artisans and crafts-people. The workshop site also has two small enclosed yards where building and decorating skills can be taught and a base established for provision of property maintenance services. Clients will also be coached in the associated business management processes.

To bring this all to fruition however, volunteers are needed to physically support the work but also coach in the required skills and it is hoped that retired builders and decorators will be willing to give time to transfer their skills. Donations of unwanted tools and equipment will also be welcomed and perhaps shared used of access equipment in exchange for storage. The offer of part-time use of a van or pick-up would be most welcome. Another venture is on a small-holding in Sutton where fruit and vegetables will be grown and from where a domestic gardening service will be offered. Again gardening and allotment experienced volunteers are sought to advise on scope, design and crop planning.

Hope three16 is unashamedly and overtly a Christian' mission which as Gill Ioannis – another of the House Managers explains, holds the sharing of God's love as a core value: "We know that those who have never been loved are never going to be best placed to love themselves, so our love is our 'investment' in them which through nurturing, life guidance and encouragement will enable them to renew their personalities. And once renewed, our intended 'supported employment' facilities will provide a route back into Society as skilled artisans. Indeed we would dearly love to receive offers of time and expertise from Christian who have a passion to share their artisan skills as well as offers of financial help and the other requested resources."

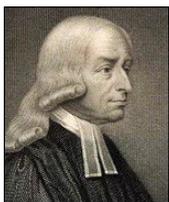
This is intended as a community initiative helped by 'The Community' to bring those on the fringe back into 'Community' as fruitful and contributing members. Opportunities exist for all to contribute whether helping the housemates within the shared homes to adjust back into domestic routine from the unstructured chaos in life on the street; the computer skills required for the challenging but laborious on-line form-filling required to claim 'Universal Credit', housing and other benefits; catering, cooking and domestic house-keeping routines; and equally important: mentoring through the 'shoulder to cry on' when confidence is challenged or the consequences of family break-down surface such as loss of access to chil-

There is even a place for coaching in music and art so as to divert the housemates away from lapsing back on to drink and drugs. And of course the charity's administrative and accountancy burden also needs support.

Offers for volunteering and any of the requested resources to HopeThree16 should please be directed to Peter Courtenay on peter@courtenay.org.uk. Also any requests for house clearances. Further information and opportunity for financial donations using 'Gift Aid' can be accessed on our website: hopethree16.org.uk

HopeThree16

John 3 : 16. "God loved the people of this world so mach that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die"



John Wesley's advice on how to preach

- 1 Always suit your subject to your audience
- 2 Do not preach more than twice a day during the week or three times on Sunday
- 3 Choose the plainest texts from the Bible to preach on.
- 4 Take care not to ramble from your text but to keep close to it.
- 5 Be sure to begin and end at the time appointed People imagine the longer a sermon is, the more good it will do. This is a grand mistake....the Methodist rule is to conclude the sermon within an hour.
- 6 Speak justly, readily, clearly..Clearness in particular is necessary = because we are to instruct people of the lowest understanding.... Constantly use the most common, little. easy words (so they are pure and proper) which our language affords.

To be continued

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

*Tuesday 5th December
at 2.00 pm
Highlands Methodist Church*

Rev Julia Monaghan



all are welcome

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

Christmas Crafts & Coffee Morning

**Saturday 9th December
from 10.00am to 12.00 pm**

**Highlands Methodist Church
Sutherland Boulevard**

Fun for all the family



ALL ARE WELCOME

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Community Day

Thursday 14th December

10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Mencap Showstoppers

and

Highlands Hobbies

present a day of

Christmas Celebration

for all those who meet on our premises

and the local community

Try out Christmas Crafts

Tea/Coffee

Cakes

Entertainment by Showstoppers

Buffet Lunch

Carols & Nativity Service at 2.15pm

All are Welcome — Free admission

Highlands Methodist Church *Sutherland Boulevard*



*Please join us for our
Christmas Services 2017*



Sunday 10th December

*Toy & Gift Service at 10.30 am
(Gifts to Southend Social Services)*

Sunday 17th December

Candlelight Carol Service at 5.00 pm

Christmas Eve 24th December

*Christingle Service at 5.30 pm
at Highlands*

*Midnight Communion at 11.15 pm
at Wesley Methodist Church*

Christmas Day 25th December

*Christmas Celebration at 10.30 am
at Highlands*

Tidings of Comfort and Joy!



Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.	Margaret Wood	557512
Rainbows Wednesday	4.00-5.00 p.m.	Jacqui Hendle	557147
Brownies Wednesday:	5.30-7.00 p.m.	Dilys Haddow	710207
Cub Scouts Thursday:	5.45-7.15 p.m.	Lesley Hyde	473111
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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

**Goodness is the only
investment that never fails**

Henry David Thoreau

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 (when advised)

3rd Wednesday Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am

Highlands Hub : Wednesday from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

Coffee mornings: Wednesday and 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 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

Pin Point 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 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 2.00 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