



The
HIGHLANDER

March 2018

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

Sunday Worship in March 2018

4 th	11.00	United Service <u>at Wesley</u>	Rev Julia Monaghan
11th	10.30	Morning Worship Mothering Sunday	Rev Julia Monaghan
18th	10.30	Morning Worship	Tony Windsor
25th	10.30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders

` Crafty Church ` meets at 10.30 am on Sundays
For young people - meeting Jesus through art and craft
Come in and FaceTime with Jesus

Find more information at: www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk



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**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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
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	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

Our Easter Celebrations

This year we will commemorate the martyrdom of our Lord Jesus Christ... (WARNING: plot spoiler follows)

...then celebrate His resurrection!

Maundy Thursday 29 th March	7:00 pm	Fish and Chip Supper Followed by informal worship At Highlands (pls sign up)
Good Friday 30 th March	10.00 am	Walk to Wesley (gather at Highlands)
	11:00 am	Section Service <u>at Wesley</u> (preceded by Hot Cross Buns)
	2:30 pm	Reflective Service At Highlands
Saturday 31 st March	10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Easter Family Morning (with Easter bonnets) At Highlands
Sunday 1 st April	8:00 am	He is risen! Sunrise Open Air Service <u>At Strand Wharf</u>
	10:30 am	Easter Service At Highlands
	6:30 pm	Easter Sunday Evening <u>At Belfairs</u> – Prayer & Praise led by the Circuit Worship Band with 'ENERGIZE' puppets

From the New Editor

It's a privilege and honour to be the editor of The Highlander. I won't try to emulate my predecessor. I may as well challenge Mo Farah to a 10,000 metre race. (Thirty years ago I might have beaten Mo - but then again he was only 4 years old).

Mostly it will be the same. Basically you want details of what's happening, and who's who, and how you can contact them. Everything else is a bonus.

I will however change a few things. Perhaps try out a few new things. If I have an overriding target, it is that you get to write more of it and I get to write less. Why is that? Well, first and foremost because I am far too lazy to write the whole thing. But also because I think the Highlander should be a conversation, rather than a mouthpiece. In modern parlance, a two way street rather than a one way street. Or worse, a cul de sac. Enough of that metaphor, I think.

So you'll find a couple of opportunities to contribute. Do take them up if you possibly can!

AH

Promoted to Glory

Give thanks in your prayers for the life of Billy Graham, an American evangelist and an ordained Baptist minister who died on 21 February aged 99. It's estimated that he preached in person to live audiences of nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. He also reached hundreds of millions more through television, video, film and webcasts. If you have a memory of Billy Graham, do share it.

A Message from your Minister

Mother Church



On Sunday 11th March, we will be celebrating Mother's Day. In my research for this piece, I found a helpful website that said, *'Mother's Day is the day to shower your mother with cards, flowers, jewellery and luxurious clothing and to treat your mother to a spa day or a fun outing!'* What a good website, I thought. I must casually put a link to it in the next WhatsApp I send to the children.

In church, of course, we celebrate the far more inclusive day of Mothering Sunday, where traditionally people returned to the church that baptised them. It is an opportunity to give thanks for Mother Church, and for those who nurtured us in discipleship and faith – who fed our roots.

The most obvious model of this is Mary. The New Testament refers to her 20 times and from her story we learn that mothering, at its best, is not smothering. But it fosters strong roots and involves sacrificial love. Doing so enables the child to achieve their potential in life, to fulfil their own calling under God. Mary provides a picture of nurture and relinquishment and letting go. Like her, we too may have to abandon our cherished ambitions for those we love and our own ideas about how their lives will unfold. They and their values may not be quite the mirrors of ourselves that we anticipated.

A second picture of motherhood we're offered, as Christians, is

that of the mother church, which the Oxford English Dictionary defines as 'The Church, considered as a mother in its functions of nourishing and protecting the believer'.

This model of the church as mother ensures that no one is excluded from the task of making disciples, because we're all called to use our gifts to enable the flourishing of others. St Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, '*Some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*' Witnessing to God's great love for creation and us, his creatures, the Church can serve as an example of nurturing, loving service for wider society.

This privilege, however, can be a daunting challenge and to undertake it with integrity, we will need to look forward just one week to Passiontide and the Holy Week liturgies, which lead up to Easter Day.

This short season in the liturgical year reminds us that as repentant sinners, as those acknowledging our need of God, we must die to self and be reborn into the Body of Christ. This process reflects the sacrificial love of Christ on the cross. It is the sacrifice of dying to self, in order to allow others to be reconciled to God, for them to live.

Looking to the church as mother offers us the hope that by following the example of Jesus Christ, by dying to self, we will draw others into the Body of Christ. This is the Good News, that through the Word of God in the Gospels we are nurtured; through his Body on the Cross, we are nourished. His death offers us life, and through the forgiveness of God we, and all his children can be set free. So Mother Church gives us roots, nourishes us for and on our journey, but also, sacrificially relinquishes us to fulfil our calling.

Rev Julia 2018

Can you help?

Videocassettes

You may like me have a dusty collection of old VHS tapes that you do not (and never will) play. Charity shops no longer accept them. However, Janice would like them, as the boxes are ideal for some of her craft projects. If you have any to spare, you are very welcome to leave them in the porch at 94 Thames Drive

ABRSM

ABRSM is the exam board of the Royal Schools of Music, delivering over 650,000 music exams and assessments every year in 93 countries. Some of those exams take place here at Highlands, and we need you to assist by greeting the nervous candidates, directing them to the waiting room and ushering them in when the examiner is ready.

It's really quite straightforward, but very important. Examiners have said that Highlands is one of their favourite places to come and work because we are friendly yet professional.

The dates are **Tue 20 and Wed 21 March, then Tue 27, Wed 28 and Thu 29 March**. If you can help on any of those days, please sign up on the notice board or contact Les Davis on 558381.

Action for Children

Could the holders of the Home Collection Boxes for Action for Children (AfC) please let Sylvia Cornwell have them during March for the annual opening.

If this doesn't apply to you, what about setting up a collection box? Make your small change do something really worthwhile. AfC (formerly National Children's Home since 1869) improved the lives of 370,000 children, teenagers, parents and carers last year. Learn much more at www.actionforchildren.org.uk

What I'm Reading

Many of you out there are keen readers. I know that some enjoy taking part in book groups. So I thought it would be nice to share what you are reading and add some helpful comments. It really isn't necessary for you to be reading something of great theological or literary merit.

It can be fiction or nonfiction, and about anything at all. And we don't need 1,000 words of erudite criticism. Just three or four sentences that say

- The title and author
- A brief summary of what the book is about
- How the book affected you – how did you feel? What did you learn? Will you read more by the same author?

Just to show how simple it can be – here's my own contribution. It covers two books, but you can just do one, or three (if you do more than that, I'll probably split them over two months).

What I'm Reading

1. *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall. What makes nations go to war? We are often happy to lay the blame on a single aggressive leader, possibly mad, definitely evil. Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Hitler, Kim Jong-Un are some of the names in the frame. You'll readily think of others. But Tim Marshall argues persuasively that the principal culprits are in fact mountains, rivers and seas, providing both threats and defences, and constraining every leader. He goes on to analyse 10 key regions of the world, providing a fascinating historical and geopolitical sketch, and drawing out some uncomfortable conclusions.
2. *The Terracotta Dog* by Andrea Camilleri. You may have seen the 'Inspector Montalbano' series on BBC4. This is one of a series of comic novels (translated from the original

Italian) based on a police detective in modern Sicily. Montalbano is a brilliant detective, but prone to several deadly sins, not least gluttony. He tiptoes through the absurdities and conflicts of Sicily, dominated as it is by the Mafia and the Church, and always eventually gets his man or woman. In this tale he tackles a murder that takes him all the way back to the darkest days of WWII. I enjoyed the history, and particularly the wry humour along the way, and will read the whole series as I find them.

AH

Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: *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.

Dates to Remember

Brownie Jumble Sale

Please note that the 10th Leigh Brownie Jumble Sale will be held on the 3rd March at 10:00 am in the hall. Admission is 20p.

10th Leigh Rainbows will be running the Coffee morning on that day. Any queries to Dilys Haddow on 01702 710207.

Knit and Natter Social Group

Would you like to come and join us? We are a friendly group who enjoy each other's company. Some of us knit or crochet but we all natter and support and care for each other. Just come along on Tuesday at 10.00am to share a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. You will be made most welcome. We meet in the Church Lounge.

Highlands Hobbies

We will be meeting on Thursday 1 March following with a lunch for those who wish to stay. We will also meet on 15th March from 10.00am to noon. We will be doing Easter crafts, cards and flowers. All are welcome.

Contacts Jean 525250 & Ros 478631

MOTHS

To enable people to take part in the Lent course at Wesley, we've cancelled the March meeting of MOTHS. To compensate, our April meeting will be our meal at Affinity.

The meal will be at 12:30 pm on Tuesday 10 April. Please sign up using the list in the Jubilee Room, or if that's not possible (due to bad weather, say) call Ros on 478631.

Music

Essex Concert Orchestra (soloist William Knight, clarinet) will perform *Clarinet Concerto in A major* and *Great Mass in C minor* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at St Michael's Church, Leigh Road on Saturday 21 April at 7:30 pm. Tickets £12 (students £6) at the door. Further information 01268 772842 or www.southendbachchoir.org.uk

Wednesday Coffee Morning at the HUB

We are waiting to serve you a special coffee at our Wednesday Hub morning from 10:00 to 12:00 every Wednesday. Take a break from your busy life, look in for a chat or information about Highlands through the week.

Spring Fair

A date will be fixed on 12th March at Family Committee.

Highlands PinPoint Group

We meet together on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

We are a friendly, open group and our members are both new and experienced sewers who enjoy embroidery, tapestry, cross stitch, quilting, etc. We also bring our own mending to do - sewing up hems and replacing buttons. We enjoy helping and encouraging each other.

'The Hub' provide us with refreshments and help us to spend an enjoyable morning chatting, sewing, mending, or learning how for the first time.

All are welcome, especially new members. If you have a talent that you could share with others, then come along and we would love to learn from you! We keep a collection of threads, pins, bits and pieces of all sorts, so if you have something to mend that you don't have the right colour thread for, the chances are that we've got it.

Recently we tackled a group project to create a quilted 'Community Window' which was designed, put together and quilted by Rev Teresa Rutterford. We were amazed at the enthusiasm for this project and the resulting finished work is hanging now in the lounge. Each 'window pane' depicts one of the many groups that meets at Highlands Methodist Church and many different people from the various groups took some part in the project.

Please go and have a look at it and see if you can identify the different groups - the numbers that use the Church premises, and the variety of clubs and regular meetings will surprise you.

You might also be interested to discover that Rev Teresa used the rather worn and tired hangings (in the church for over 20 years) for the backing of this work. So it brings together the old and the new in an excellent example of recycling. We hope that you enjoy seeing it.

Quilt as you Go (QAYG) Cushion Cover/Tablemat Classes for All May-July 2018

With the Community Window project completed, Rev Teresa has agreed to run some quilting classes after Easter. She will be teaching us how to make a **QAYG Cushion Cover or Tablemat**, and there will be opportunity to add appliqué for those who want to include this on their work.

Anyone including beginners can join in. It will run over 6 sessions from 10:30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. on the following dates:

QAYG Cushion Cover / Tablemat Class Dates:

(all Wednesdays)

9 and 23 May

13 and 27 June

11 and 25 July

Rev Teresa, an accomplished needleworker and designer, has led many courses in a number of different areas of craft work including sewing, quilting, and much more. If you have quilting experience, then you will enjoy discovering new techniques during the 6 sessions. If not, you will receive expert tuition and are guaranteed to be delighted with the finished result.

Bring your own scissors, pins, needles, etc. if you have them. All materials for the project (apart from the cushion pad) will be provided and will cost £12.50 for the 6 sessions. This is payable on booking, so that the packs can be prepared in advance, and is therefore non-refundable. The actual sessions cost £12.00 payable at the first session on 25 April. To register contact Win

on 01702 559631 - letting her know if you will bring your own sewing machine

Please Note: that normal PinPoint activities will continue for those not taking the classes.

Serving the Homeless / HARP / CWNS

Thank you for your support at the fund raising lunch at Affinity on Homeless Sunday when we raised over £570.

All are welcome at our **Annual General Meeting** on Monday 12 March at 7:30 pm at St Margaret's Church to hear of our work in the past year and our endeavours for the coming year.

Our next fundraising event is a **meal at East** in Alexandra Street, Southend on Thursday 22 March from 7:30 pm - tickets are available now at £15 per head. This will be followed by a **Quiz** on Saturday 28th April in St Margaret's Church Hall commencing promptly at 7:30 pm. Tables of 8 at £5 per head. Bring your own nibbles and drink.

At HARP the White Heather Hostel for Women is now in use and there will be an official opening in the middle of April. The Winter Night Shelters come to an end in March and we would like to thank everyone who has given help and support during these winter months.

In other news

Andreas Botzios is taking over as Webmaster for the Highlands website with immediate effect. I will still be there to lend support, but he's fine with the technical stuff. No surprise there.

The website is **hugely** important. Imagine if you will the noticeboard outside the church. Imagine that we can put as much material as we want on that noticeboard, giving information about Jesus's message and about who we are, in words and

pictures. Imagine that any of the billions of people all over the world that have an internet connection can effectively walk up Sutherland Boulevard and read our noticeboard. What you're imagining is our website.

Any person, anywhere at any time who wants to know about Highlands, or about churches in this area, is likely to find us on Google and check up on us. We must give them the best impression we can.

Here's how you can (and must) support Andreas in this role. It has a neat little acronym - CPR, which stands for

- **COPY** Each time you write or amend a notice, rota, flyer or anything else connected with Highlands or of interest to Highlands people - copy it to Andreas on andreas@venusglass.co.uk . Especially if it contains a graphic. Every picture tells a story, and images bring a web page alive.
- **PROMOTE** Each time you write something, refer prominently to www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk and say that more information is there. It will be.
- **REVIEW** Read the site frequently. If you think there is anything inaccurate, or anything you could improve - you know what to do.

Andreas will be monitoring the website statistics regularly to see whether he can get the number of hits to increase. It's up to all of us to ensure he succeeds.

Circuit Events

Further details in the Jubilee Room or the Circuit website at www.southendandleigh.org

Alternative Worship
Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 11 March at 7:00 for 7:30 pm. All are welcome for this relaxed evening of Gospel Music and reflection with tea/coffee and cake before and after the service.

The Fishermen's Chapel is the old New Road Church. If you need a lift to get there, contact me and I'll try to make it happen.

AH

Future Committee Meetings:

Family Committee	12 March 2018 at 8:00 pm
General Church Meeting	22 April 2018 following Church Service
Property & Finance Committee	30 April 2018 at 8:00 pm
Church Council	16 May 2018 at 8:00 pm
Church Council	16 July 2018 at 8:00 pm
Pastoral Committee	25 September 2018 at 10.00 am

Monthly Movies @ Highlands

A HIGHLANDS WEDNESDAY HUB EVENT

Weds 14th March '***A DOG'S PURPOSE***' at 1.30pm

A devoted dog discovers the meaning of its own existence through the lives of the humans it teaches to laugh and love. Reincarnated as multiple canines over the course of five decades, the lovable pooch develops an unbreakable bond with a kindred spirit named Ethan (Bryce Gheisar). As the boy grows older and comes to a crossroad, the dog once again comes back into his life to remind him of his true self.

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

Any enquiries to Julie Peek 📞 479804

Dine with the Homeless

As you may know, volunteers from Highlands and Wesley regularly assist with the Southend Winter Night Shelters and the Open House at St Andrews Westcliff. They contribute in a number of ways – none more important than cooking wholesome and economical meals.

I intend every couple of months to give you one of the recipes we have been using, which our guests have greatly appreciated. If you enjoy the meal, why not work out how much it cost you and donate it! This month it's a simple **Hob to Table Moussaka**

Ingredients (for 4)

2 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
500g/1lb2oz minced lamb
400g tin chopped tomatoes
2 tbsp tomato purée
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 aubergine, cut into 1in cubes
200g feta cheese, crumbled
3 tbsp fresh mint, chopped

1. Fry, grill, roast or microwave the aubergine pieces until soft, then set aside
2. Fry the onion until soft. Add garlic for 1 minute then add mince and fry for 3-4 minutes until well browned
3. Stir in the tomatoes, purée and cinnamon, season generously then simmer for 20 mins
4. Add aubergines and simmer for a further 10 mins
5. Sprinkle feta and mint over and serve with rice, green salad and toasted pitta bread as preferred

529kcal per serving (slightly less if mince beef instead of lamb)

Coffee Mornings in March

Saturday 3 March	10 th Leigh Rainbows
Saturday 10 March	Overseas Missions
Saturday 17 March	Music at Highlands
Saturday 24 March	Senior Section
Saturday 31 March	Easter Family Morning

Church Flowers

Sunday	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
4 March	[Service takes place at Wesley]		
11 March	Sylvia Cornwell	Alan	Sylvia and Jean
18 March	Rosalie Bryant	Parents	Margaret
25 March	Doll Edwards	John	Pauline

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Toddlers Group Monday 9:30-11:30 am Margaret Wood ☎557512
highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbows Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm Jacqui Hendle ☎557147

Brownies Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm Dilys Haddow ☎710207

Cub Scouts Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm Lesley Bacon
lesleykbacon@googlemail.com

Scouts Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm Sally Monk 558857

Rangers Alternate Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm Jacqui Hendle ☎557147

Guides Friday 7:00-8:30 pm Jacqui Hendle ☎557147

Fellowship Groups

Housegroup meets on 2nd and 4th 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

Traidcraft: Catalogue available for orders. Please contact Pamela and Patrick Smith - 557702.

Social and Recreational

Knit and Natter Tues 10:00 am-12 noon Sylvia 556433
Group

Badminton Club Mon 8:00 p.m Sarah 476009 or
Sophia
07796 265676

Hobbies 1st & 3rd Thu 10.00 am – Jean 525250
12:00 noon

Ladies' Badminton Fri 10.00 am – 12:00 Dilys 710207
noon

Adult Art Classes Thu 2:00 – 4:00 pm Susan 551025 or
Children's Art Club Thu 4:00 – 5:00 pm 07875 079739

Items for the **April 2018 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before **Sunday 25 March**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.