



The **HIGHLANDER**

April 2018

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

Sunday Worship in April 2018

1st [Easter Sunday – see page 3]

8th 10.30 Morning Worship Stephen Mayo

15th 10.30 Morning Worship Rev Julia Monaghan

22nd 10.30 Café Church Kathy McCullough

29th 11:00 United Service at Wesley Jane Fulford

'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

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Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
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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 (see page 4)
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 Communion with Rev Hannah Bucke
	6:30 pm	Easter Sunday Evening <u>At Belfairs</u> – Prayer & Praise led by the Circuit Worship Band with 'ENERGIZE' puppets

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who gave me their reactions – without exception positive - to my first effort at editing the Highlander. I welcome all criticism whether positive or not, but I have a strong preference for 'constructive'. Remember it's your Highlander not mine – I'm just minding it for you.

On that note, there are more chances to contribute. In this issue there are poems from Gerard Manley Hopkins and Edgar A Guest. If you enjoy reading them, then there is a strong possibility you have another poem that you like. Why not share it as a Poem for May. Please send it in and, if you like, tell us a little about the poet and why you like it. If you can only remember the first line – that will probably be enough.

I also have a first contribution from our special gardening correspondent (SGC). 'Jobs for the Garden' will keep you up to date regularly on what you should be doing. Once again, if you have any tips to share...

AH

Change to Easter Programme

Our Good Friday Reflective Service will now be centred on a live broadcast of *The Passion of Jesus*, a re-enactment of Jesus's final days, from his arrest to his resurrection, featuring 100 performers and animals in London's Trafalgar Square.



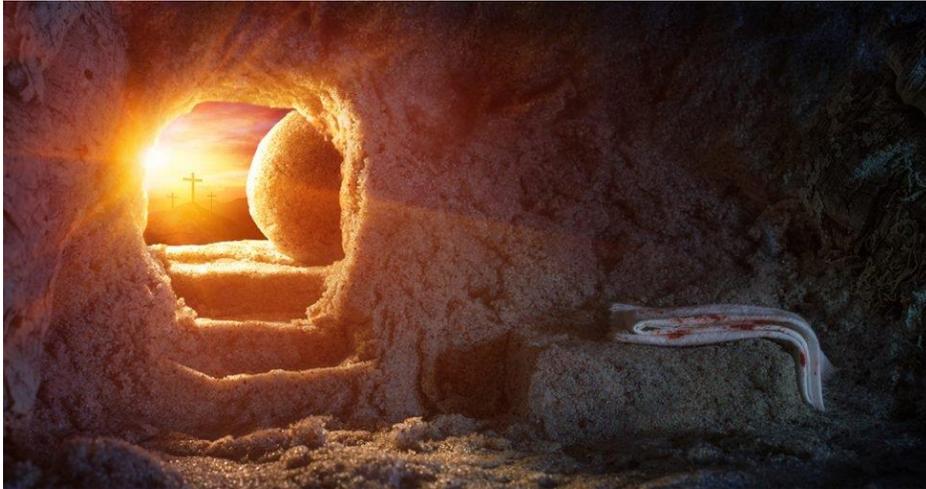
**Highlands
Methodist Church
Easter Community Day**
featuring
Southend Mencap "Showstoppers"

**Thursday 12th April
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Including
all age Easter Community Service
at 2 p.m.**

**All age Easter Craft
Showstopping performances - Singing - Puppets
Refreshments - Cake - Soup & Rolls**

A Message from your Minister

The Resurrection



The story of Jesus' resurrection comes out of an interesting religious and cultural background. It's clear that there was a Jewish belief in resurrection at the time of Jesus. It was pictured as a final physical resurrection at the end of time, an event for the just, on the last day.

However the claims of the first Christians were revolutionary. They were saying that God had done for one single man within history what He was expected to do for all his faithful people at the end of history. So whereas Judaism saw resurrection as a single event at the end of time, Christians saw it as a two-stage event; Jesus first, then the rest of humanity.

And it's also interesting to note, that no one in Judaism believed in a Messiah who would rise from the dead. Rather, their Messiah would be a military leader, who would kick the Romans out and restore Israel's fortunes. Christianity, however, claimed that the resurrection was fundamental; it demonstrated that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

So what were the key factors that bought about this very different thinking – bearing in mind that no one saw the resurrection happen? We have no eyewitness accounts of the resurrection itself and, interestingly, no one at the time tried to make one up. What we do have are strands of evidence that weave together. Of these, the most significant are the empty tomb, the appearances of Jesus and the change in the disciples.

No one at the time seems to have disputed that the tomb was empty. Even the Jewish leaders had no argument with the fact that the tomb was empty. The only rumour of an alternative explanation is the conspiracy to say that disciples had stolen the body at the end of Matthew's Gospel.

I also find it interesting and rather wonderful that the first people to broadcast the news were women – the people in society least likely to be believed. Women in the eastern world at the time of Jesus were not regarded as credible witnesses. So if you were trying to make things up, why give the good news to the very people who would not be believed?

When we think about the appearances of Jesus, I am amazed just how many there were. He was seen at the tomb, in the upper room, on a walk back from Emmaus, by the seashore in Galilee, and on a mountaintop, among other places. He appeared to Mary Magdalene, to Peter, to James, and to other disciples several times. Paul records in his letter to the Corinthians that he appeared to more than 500 witnesses at one time.

I am also struck by the nature of these appearances. Jesus didn't come all robed in heavenly glory, a figure of majesty. Rather, he appeared as his followers had known him, showing his friends his hands, his feet, his side – his body, animated by God's Spirit, seemingly robust and full of life!

And finally the New Testament records the change in the disciples, who quite literally were stopped in their tracks, turned around and sent off in completely different directions. I love the

“before,” and “after” pictures that we read. Before, they were broken, scared, hiding, demoralised, having denied and deserted Jesus. In Acts we find them, forgiven, reconciled to God, fearless, joyful, unstoppable, and prepared to be martyred. They knew that something had happened to Jesus himself and his presence and message needed to be shared – heavenly peace and the birth of a new world.

Rev Julia April 2018

The comfort of the resurrection

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Enough! The Resurrection,
A heart's – clarion! Away grief's gasping, joyless days, dejection.
Across my foundering deck shone
A beacon, an eternal beam. Flesh fade, and mortal trash
Fall to the residuary worm; world's wildfire, leave but ash:
In a flash, at a trumpet crash,
I am all at once what Christ is, since he was what I am, and
This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, patch, matchwood, immortal
diamond,
Is immortal diamond.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844 - 1889) was a Jesuit priest and classical scholar, who achieved recognition as a progressive Victorian poet after his death. Much of his work takes nature and religion as major themes. He was (of course) an Essex boy, born in Stratford, though his working life was in Oxford, London and Dublin.

Prayer

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

Congratulations

Well done to Lesley Hyde on receiving her '75' badge from NHS Blood & Transplant*. She would want me to say that this refers to 75 donations and not 75 years of donating 😊.

*formerly National Blood Transfusion Service

Thanks...

...to everyone who helped out with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) music exams. We had a very positive response from the examiner, who thought the venue was superb and the piano excellent!

The next ABRSM exam period is 4 June to 14 July. Exams will not take place while the Leigh Music Festival is on, nor on 30 June (Brownies Jumble sale). When we know the actual days they wish to use the church, a list will go up for our excellent volunteers.

Easter Offering Appeal

The Easter Offering envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and 8 April. Organised by Methodist Women in Britain, this year's theme is "Seek Peace and Pursue It". Please give as generously as you can.

What I'm Reading

This month Frank Edmonds shares some of his reading with us.

1. At the Going Down of the Sun

2. And in the Morning

3. We Will Remember Them

All by Elizabeth Darrell

This trilogy of books covers the fictional Sheridan family over the period of the First and Second World Wars and then the cold war that followed.

The three Sheridan brothers react in a very different way to the suicide of their father and the management of the family estate in Devon afterwards. Elizabeth Darrell manages dramatically to portray the intensity of the battles and the fears of the three brothers, either on the farm or in the army and air force.

The idyllic early village life is vividly portrayed and the fellowship of the "village friends' brigade" can be imagined. The sight of a German plane buried in the village church with its tail pointing to the stars rallies the village together, as in the old days. The story roams through the trenches and skies of the First World War and then overseas to Singapore with the horrors and torture by the Japanese and the undercover agents in France. A journalist wants to report events to sell papers, sometimes twisting the truth, and the Sheridan sister, who has become a war artist, is troubled and concerned as she tries to portray things as they are, together with a humane element in the painting.

Towards the end of the book, the younger brother stands with his wife on the downs overlooking the ancestral home that was requisitioned during the wars as a hospital and as barracks for the American air force. They meet, scarred and cynical, ideas left by the wayside and a world of pain between them and in front of them surveying the village that has changed so much in their

lifetime.

Whilst volumes one and two were excellent portrayals of ambition, love, disaster and success, nevertheless on a personal note it was interesting to realise, in volume three, the deprivations and hardships that prevailed to the victors after the war when so much was being done, via the Berlin Airlift etc., to help those whom we had so violently defeated. How much did my parents give up to feed and clothe our family in those post war years?

FE

Now over to you. Many of you will have enjoyed 'a good read' recently. We look forward to hearing about it.

Humour Corner

Man with a salmon under his arm:
Good morning, do you sell fishcakes?

Fishmonger:
I certainly do.

Man with a salmon under his arm:
Oh good – it's his birthday.



A Poem for April

I'm obliged to Jennifer for finding this poem. It's by Edgar Guest (1881-1959) who was born in England but moved to the USA at the age of 10, and made his career there as a writer and broadcaster. His verse was light and very popular in the first half of the 20th century, often with an inspirational and optimistic view of everyday life. He has been largely forgotten since he died.

This poem should definitely not be seen as a reference to any of our local preachers!

Sermons We See

Edgar A Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye is a better pupil, more willing than the ear:
Fine counsel is confusing but example's always clear.
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their
creeds,
For to see a good put in action is what everybody needs.

I can soon learn how to do it, if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Dates to Remember

Brownies Jumble Sale

Rearranged for Saturday 30 June, when we are fairly confident that snow will not cause a further postponement.

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 5 April with a lunch afterwards for those who wish to stay. We'll also meet on 19 April from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. We will be doing crafts, cards and flowers. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros 478631

MOTHs

The next MOTHS meeting is at 2:00 on Tuesday 1 May, when Tony Downing will talk about his experiences as a member of the ambulance service.

Not too late to book for the annual meal 12:30 pm on Tuesday 10 April.

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

This takes place on Saturday 26 May, with plants, cakes, crafts and refreshments including bacon butties etc.

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.

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

(all Wednesdays)
9 and 23 May
13 and 27 June
11 and 25 July

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, payable on booking, non-refundable.

To register contact Win Mann on 01702 559632 - letting her know if you will bring your own sewing machine or Teresa 01702 523312.

MHA Sunday

Sunday 10 June is Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) Sunday.

The theme this year is "Bringing Quality to Later Life". Envelopes will be available for a couple of weeks. Please give as generously as you are able. You never know when you might need their facilities and Marie Moore is very comfortable in Hitchin.

The newly installed Chief Executive Officer of MHA is one Sam Monaghan.

Barge Trip



You can enjoy a cruise along the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation on Saturday 2 June from 2:30 to 4:30, aboard the 48-seater barge *Victoria*, starting and finishing at Paper Mill Lock. One of my favourite places in Essex, and excellent home-made cakes in the café!

Places (£19 per person including coach to and from) are obviously limited. So don't delay! Contact Roger Thomas on 01268 750360.

Easter Community Day

There will be a Community day at Highlands from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Thursday 12 April.

There will be crafts, fun and games together with an Easter Bonnet parade and a short service at 2.00 pm. Light refreshments will be available.

All are welcome to join with our friends at Mencap Showstoppers and hopefully our uniformed organisations.

(This note does of course repeat the poster on page 5, but I make no apology for that)



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Garden Correspondent

I've missed not being able to get out in my garden whilst we had all the snow. But even during this time, there were catalogues to look at and plan, begonias, lilies, anemones to get going in trays etc. Now I'm able to get out there, these are the jobs I'm planning to do in the next few weeks:

Snowdrops

I love snowdrops and once they've finished flowering in the next week or so, I'll be dividing them up so that next year, I've got even more. Dividing them must be done whilst the foliage is still green – called 'dividing in the green'. Do make sure that once you've dug them up and separated them, you replant each new clump at the same depth.

Early potatoes

I've had my early potatoes chitting in my conservatory and as soon as the soil has warmed up a little, I'll be planting them out. There is nothing that beats the taste of those first new potatoes. I'll be putting some in tubs as well as in my raised beds.

Rhubarb

I've had my first stems of forced rhubarb all ready but it's not too late to get forcing. The stems of forced rhubarb are so much sweeter than that harvested later.

Cover the crown of your rhubarb using your bucket or large pot and tape over any holes or cracks to prevent all light from reaching the crown. To speed up the process of forcing you can also insulate the pot by covering the outside with straw, bubble wrap or old carpet. In about 6-7 weeks, you should have stems ready for harvesting. (Don't harvest summer stems from the forced crowns as this will weaken them)

SGC



Humour Corner

Gardener 1:

Any idea where I can find a really good weed killer?

Gardener 2:

Have you tried Boots?

Gardener 1:

No I haven't - I want to poison them, not kick them to death



Serving the Homeless / HARP/CWNS

The Chair Report from the Annual General Meeting is available in the Jubilee Room. It makes interesting reading. Once again a small charity has raised over £16,000 in a year and distributed it to HARP, YMCA and the Winter Night Shelter Scheme thanks to your wonderful support and prayers.

Following the meal at EAST on 22 March our next fundraising event is a Quiz Evening on Saturday 28 April in St Margaret's Church Hall commencing promptly at 7.30 pm. Tables of 8 - £5 per head. Bring your own drinks and nibbles and exercise those brains over some relatively easy questions.

The Winter Night Shelters have been stretched during the cold and snowy weather, with extra facilities being opened. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to serve our guests during this inclement period.

Our particular thanks at Highlands go to Janet Watson for masterminding the rota, Lesley Hyde for managing the catering and to Vanessa and Donald Mayes for their work in the shower rooms and washing the towels afterwards; not forgetting Barry Jefferies (BJ Meats) and Richard and Daniel Waddington (Foot Stop) for donating meat and chiropody services respectively.

We still await the exact date for the official opening by HARP of The White Heather Hostel in April, but their new Charity Shop in Eastwood Road North, next to the Woodcutters' Arms, is going

from strength to strength. Much more convenient for us all, rather than having to traipse down to Hamlet Court Road.



If you are feeling really fit or want a drop of fresh air the HARP Prittle Brook Spring Walk on Sunday 22 April is open for entries. A gentle 3½ mile stroll along the Prittle Brook Greenway, from Priory Park to Belfairs Park, starting at 2:00 pm. Every step you take will show your solidarity with local homeless people and help HARP beat homelessness for good. Enjoy free tea and cake at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. The route is pushchair friendly, and dogs on leads are welcome. Come and join the fun!

FE

Highlands Family Committee

The family committee mainly looks after the social and other activities of Highlands outside formal services. They met on 12 March and this is a short summary

1. Review of Christmas

- Christmas Craft Saturday. Poorly attended, possibly there was too much else going on.
- Community Day. Amazing, about 100 Mencap members joined with us.
- Christmas Fair went well and, created a good atmosphere. More children's activities essential, and perhaps an earlier date in order to be first in the area.

2. Organisations' Reports (Young People)

- Rainbows: about 20 members
- Brownies: 40 Brownies involved in a varied programme. Won a recent swimming gala. New date for the Jumble Sale is 30 June
- Guides: 25 Guides, also won their swimming gala. Visit made to Westminster Abbey. Fund raising is in progress for a trip to Disneyland Paris in January.
- Rangers: 15 Rangers have taken part in a night hike, quiz and work towards the Paris trip.
- Scouts: About 12. Andy Steward received his 10 year leader award. Many new boys from a mix of schools. More leaders needed.
- Cubs: 25 cubs have a strong leadership, a good team with good ideas. Beach clean-up on 29 March.
- Toddlers: Lively group of 25-35 needs another leader soon.

3. Organisations' Reports (Not so young)

- MOTHS: attendance is 12-15 and meetings have been

spasmodic recently.

- Homeless: White Heather Hostel for Women opens 18 April - already has some tenants.
- Hobbies: Down in numbers but running well.
- PinPoint: Struggling a little. The 'Community Window' looks great, and Rev Teresa looking for another project
- Knit and Natter: Enjoyable with 12-15 in attendance.
- Lettings: Outside organisations are still interested in hiring rooms, but some difficulties fitting them in.

4. Planned events

- Family Morning. Easter Saturday Members will work on publicising it.
- Good Friday Reflection. Will include live screening of the Trafalgar Square pageant.
- Community Day. 12 April, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, with Mencap Showstoppers and Hobbies; open to all, with a simple lunch. Julia will hold a service at 2:00 pm and invite Michael Glaysher.
- Spring Fair. 26 May to include plants, cakes, crafts, refreshments including bacon butties etc.
- Next meeting. Monday 14 May at 8:00 pm

Circuit Events

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



Possible Circuit Visit to Rome 2019

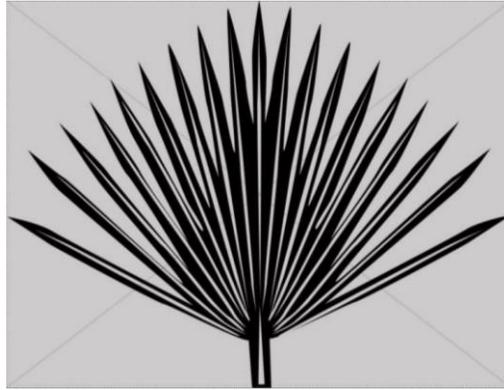
Rev Chris Sandy (Circuit Minister Benfleet & Canvey Island Methodist Churches) writes:

As part of WA extra, I am planning to organise a spiritual and educational trip to Rome in 2019. Although the target group is our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, it is open to anyone interested in the Circuit. I would like your input or suggestions please.

I have initiated contact with the Rev Dr Macquiban, head of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, who will be prepared and honoured to welcome us and assist with whatever we may need or do. I also requested an audience with his Holiness the Pope (did I hear you laughing); although private audience may not be possible on a local level, attendance may be possible at the general Wednesday morning session where the Pope meets with people. He – Dr Macquiban not his Holiness - will also be prepared to lead teaching and reflective sessions if we so desire.

I am also looking at best time to visit when the crowd is less, low cost of hotel/accommodation. I have been thinking of Lent in March but let me know your thoughts please. Every blessing.

Chris (01268 793313 or 07496648631)



Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 8 April 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 AH and I'll try to make it happen.

Belfairs Thirsty For?

Thursday 12 April at 7:00 pm

Wesley Informal Service

25 April at 8:00 pm

All are welcome to any of these events.



Future Committee Meetings:

Family Committee	14 May 2018 at 8:00 pm
Property & Finance Committee	30 April 2018 at 8:00 pm
Church Council	16 July 2018 at 8:00 pm*
Pastoral Committee	25 September 2018 at 10.00 am

The date for the Annual Church Meeting has moved to 20 May, starting after the Morning Service and including a light lunch of soup and desserts.

*In view of the change of date for the ACM, the 16 May Church Council meeting will probably not proceed.



Coffee Mornings in April

Saturday 7 April	Music at Highlands
Saturday 14 April	Knit & Natter
Saturday 21 April	Barnardo's
Saturday 28 April	TBA

Church Flowers

Sunday	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
1 April	Easter Flowers		Hobbies
8 April	Mary & Esther Barter	Bruce	Jean
15 April	Vanessa Mayes	Parents	Margaret
22 April	Jean Burgess	Syd	Pauline
29 April	Church Flowers		Hobbies

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 **May 2018 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before **Sunday 22 April**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.