



The **HIGHLANDER**

August 2018

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

Sunday Worship in August 2018

5 th	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
12 th	10:30	Morning Worship United Service Communion Service	Rev Brian Gameson
19 th	11:00	Morning Worship United Service at Wesley	Rev Michael Moon
26 th	11:00	Morning Worship United Service at Belfairs	Rev Hannah Bucke

**'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 Norman Hooks norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk	311900
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Lesley/Andrew Hyde Jean/Frank Edmonds Steve Jones Kathy McCullough Donald Mayes	473111 525250 553898 714528 473787
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane annelane8@btinternet.com	01268 755291
Crafty Church Leaders	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

From the Editor

Welcome to the August edition of the Highlander.

Since I last wrote on these pages I've been out and about. Among the places I visited were the beautiful German city of Trier, and the southern Irish port of Dungarvan. Something these places have in common is that they have rebuilt a vibrant community in a beautiful place after shattering, violent events that took place many years ago.

The British were very much involved in these events. I'm using the word 'involved' here deliberately, because I'm not talking about 'blame' here. We need not beat ourselves up about what our ancestors did, any more that we should claim credit for the positives they achieved. But we should take advantage of the clear hindsight that we have of these events. If we do not learn lessons from history, we risk repeating it.

When we look at the events and arguments that are dominating the news in 2018, it's clear that some of those in high office all across our world are not learning lessons from history.

However, history (Churchill may have said) is written by the victors. So how can we trust history? I can't answer that, but I can say that in our Bible we have an impeccable source of history and of truth. A good place to start learning how to solve the problems and conflicts of 2018.

God bless all here.

AH

A Message from your Minister

It is so funny the way words change their meaning from one generation to another. For example when I recently heard one of my daughters say that something was 'WICKED', I had to look twice since I thought the thing in question was really great. Strangely enough that was what she meant. Wicked no longer meant 'bad', 'horrible', 'evil' but 'wonderful', 'awesome', 'brilliant'!

Another example of this was recently when Jan and I were at a 'Boot Camp' run by and gifted to us by one of our sons - don't ask how we ever agreed to it - it's a long story!

After a particularly gruelling and difficult exercise session which I thought everyone had done really well at I was really shocked to be told that we had all - 'SMASHED IT'! Now when I was a child, if I had smashed something I needed to be sure to duck, especially if I was anywhere near my dad! What I didn't realise was that this was a shortened version of the phrase -

"Smashed it out of the park' - like a cricketer or baseball player does when they don't only score a six, but, way beyond that, they hit the ball right out of the ground! I think this picture illustrates it really well -



This is exactly what I would like to say to the Showstoppers, Julie and the team that ran our Community Day in July -
"NICE WORK TEAM - YOU SMASHED IT!"

Mind you there are some words we need to rediscover!

Like the word - 'charity'. In the King James version of the Bible 'charity' is used to translate the highest form of sacrificial Christian love in 1 Corinthians Ch 13. Today it has taken on some negative overtones, like when we say "I don't need your charity!" Or - "I am not a charity case!" The word 'charity' is beautiful when it is expressed with the heart of God's sacrificial love.

Another word I would love to see recovered is 'Repentance'. Being in the place where we are able to admit when we are wrong before God, with others and to ourselves is one of the most beautiful and liberating things! I don't think Jesus shouts 'REPENT' at us, but he often speaks it tenderly to us as he invites us to step out of our deception and into the light of his love and truth.

Can you think of any other words that have lost or changed their meaning over the generations? Something to think about over the holidays.

God bless, Norman.

Rev Norman Hooks

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.

Rev Teresa steadfastly faces imminent surgery and needs your prayers for herself and her family.

And we hold Rev Julia in our prayers as she undergoes major surgery at Barts on Tuesday 31 July. If you read this before that date, please note that the church will be open for prayer from 09:00 am to 12:00 noon. If you are reading this after 31 July, we hope it will be with the knowledge that the surgery has been successfully carried out, and that prayer can focus on recovery.

Fundraising Meal Targeting Ovarian Cancer

52 people from Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley enjoyed a great evening of food and fellowship in the presence of Sam and Rev Julia on 26 July. The magnificent sum of £510 was raised to fight the cause.

Dates to Remember

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 10.00 am to share a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. You will be made most welcome. We meet in the Church Lounge.

Day Trip to Eastbourne

Wednesday 12 September, cost £15. Coach leaves Highlands at 9:00 am and Thundersley at 9:30 am

Add your name to the list in the Jubilee Room.

Fundraising Meal at Affinity

Sunday 19 August at 6:00 pm price £20 per head. See the list in the Jubilee Room



Café Church

You'll be familiar with the concept of Café Church. You take a church and add 'café'. But does it work the other way round? Can you start with a café and then add 'church'?

Roger Kingston and some friends from other churches want to find out, using the Costa café in Hadleigh. So they are asking your help and support, firstly by contributing ideas.

The first meeting of the steering group is on 3 August, and the project aims to go live on 23 September. Page 12 has more details.

Music



Concerts at Wesley

At Wesley on 21 July the 'Famous Potatoes' in concert gave us an evening of pure enjoyment. You must be sorry if you missed it.

Do not despair. This was just first of a series of concerts of widely differing character celebrating Wesley's 120th birthday. The next is on Saturday 13 October at 19:30 pm.

The concert is by the combined Leigh and Southend Salvation Army Bands, together with the excellent Orpheus Singers. As well as marking Wesley's milestone, the concert will have a second theme of remembrance, as we approach the centenary of the end of World War 1.

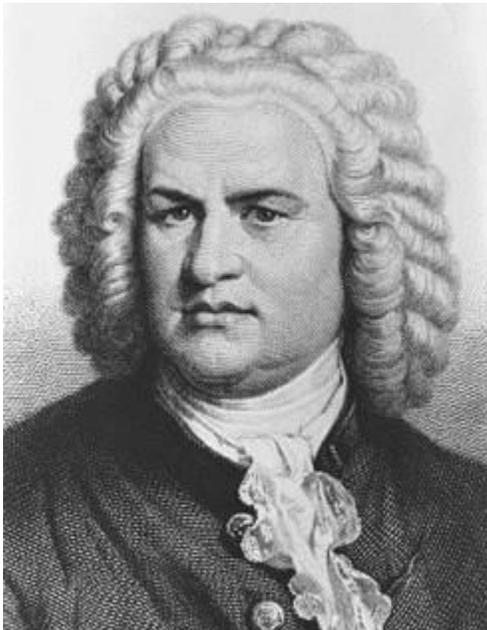
Don't worry if brass and choral are not really your 'cup of tea' (which will incidentally be available with cakes). I find that dipping into a genre of music that I have not previously appreciated can be rewarding and very enjoyable. And tickets are on sale from Wesley, from the SA and on the door, at a ridiculously reasonable £5 – proceeds split between the SA and Wesley.

Dr Tim Francis

My Life in Music – Pt 2

Part 1 was in last month's Highlander. Or you can find the whole article at www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

People often ask musicians what their favourite music is. It is an understandable but exasperating question for a serious musician, as most like different music for different reasons and cannot give a simple answer. I sometimes reflect and wonder why, when we live in what is meant to be a literate age where we all have access to the finest things in life, the vast majority of people still wish to listen only to 'popular' music. Much of it 'designed' for young people seems to be brutal in character and nature.



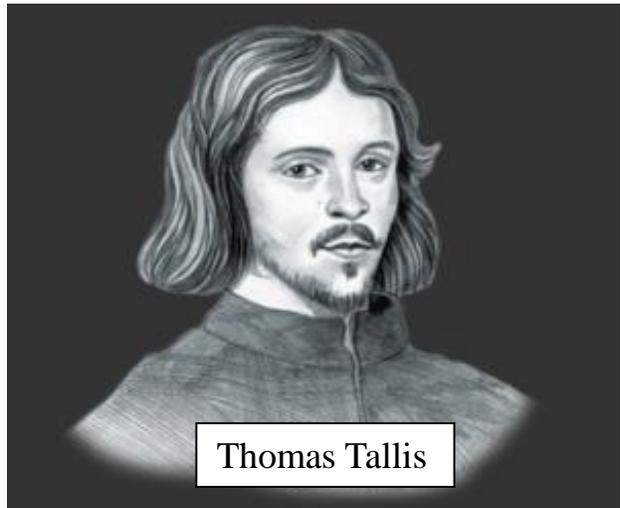
I certainly enjoy playing the organ, the variety of sound, the quality of the music and composers, and, of course, the power it has appeals to megalomaniacs. And there is one composer whom I really cannot avoid playing. It is no surprise: J S Bach. There is no other composer to touch him in organ music. Yes, many other composers such as Händel, Haydn, Mozart and particularly Mendelssohn have all composed for the organ. But their music comes nowhere near the depth of feeling and expression that Bach's music affords the player and listener, and the sheer inventiveness and originality with which he constructed his works.

The other outstanding feature of Bach's works is that there is something for everyone. Even the simplest pieces for the beginner display a profound character, are uplifting and are worth the

attention of even the most skilled player. Many of his pieces are based on hymn tunes (chorale preludes, and so on) and, of course, God has all the best tunes. Perhaps Max Reger comes somewhere near Bach. However, his music is like several wild animals all running through a dense forest in different directions – difficult to get hold of and full of unexpected twists and turns. I wonder whether Reger had twelve fingers.

Of course there is much music we only seldom hear. I was recently introduced to a very old one-manual pipe organ without pedalboard, and I remembered I had a volume of 'Old English Organ Music for Manuals' at home. One of the finest English Renaissance composers, albeit

with a small surviving body of work, is Thomas Tallis (1505-1575). The pedals, already an essential feature of continental organs before Bach, only reached England in the mid-19th century. Therefore all English organ music before this time is written for manuals only. Maurice Greene was roughly contemporary with Bach and knew Händel, who by 1712



had settled in London. William Boyce was prominent in his lifetime (1711 – 1779) but largely forgotten after his death and little-performed today. Likewise J S Bach's many children. The pieces are simpler and rather shallow when compared to the great Master, but still fun to play and easily digested by the listener.

Significant changes have taken place since I started playing the organ in 1982. The organ I played on at St Nicholas, Stevenage was a heavy tracker-action organ with 23 stops. Pipe organs with electric or pneumatic action had already existed for a long time, but a digital organ was unknown. Unlike the older synthesizer-type electric instruments, today's electronic organs, of which the organ at Highlands is a fine example, use recordings of real pipe organs

for each note of each stop. There are naturally purists for whom no digital organ is satisfactory, and I was inclined to take this view until I visited a church some years ago and simply could not work out where the pipes were. Digital organs are a fraction of the cost to buy and maintain. And for this lower cost a greater range of stops can be had. I consider that they are for the average church a very practical solution and enable the organist to play just about anything he wishes.



Jobs for the garden

Our Special Gardening Correspondent is currently enjoying a well-earned rest.

SGC would wish me to recommend saving as much water as possible and being selective about its use in the garden. If you're out and about, a visit to the famous Beth Chatto gardens will give you some excellent ideas on coping with drought conditions.

If you're unlikely to visit, the website is the next best thing. Just go to www.bethchatto.co.uk then follow the link 'Blog' to read an interesting and informative piece about plants that cope well with drought.

Day Trip to **Eastbourne**

Wednesday 12th September
Adults £15

**Take a stroll along the seafront or down
the pier or go to the shops!**

Leaving: Highlands Methodist Church – 9:00 am
Thundersley Methodist church – 9:30 am

**Please book your place or for more information contact
Anne on 01268 755291 or annelane8@btinternet.com**



Dine with the Homeless

Quiche Lorraine

The last meal we served was quiche, new potatoes and salad. Home-made quiches are easy to make and do taste better than shop-bought. This makes enough for a 23cm tin (9in), serves 8.

Pastry – I've always used shop bought but this time made my own in the food processor- so easy!

Tip 200g plain flour and 110 g cold butter (chopped) into the food processor and blitz until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add one small egg and 1tbs cold water and mix again. Add a little more water if necessary.

Roll out, drape into flan dish and chill for 30 minutes in fridge. Line case with baking parchment, add baking beans or dried pulses and blind bake at 200C/fan 180C, gas 6 for 20 mins. Remove paper and beans and bake for another 5–10 minutes or until golden.

Filling

1 large onion; 200g chopped streaky bacon; 100g mature cheddar cheese; 4 eggs; 200ml double cream mixed with either single cream or full fat milk to make up to 400ml.

Gently fry the onions for 10 mins until soft, then remove from pan and fry the bacon until crisp. Mix eggs in large bowl, add cream/milk and season.

Add bacon/onions to pastry case with half the cheese. Add egg/milk mix and then remaining cheese.

Bake for 30 mins until set and golden. Serve warm or cold.



Churches Together at COSTA COFFEE!

We Plan to be Meeting on the
4th Sunday each month in HADLEIGH
5:00 till 6:30 pm. Starting 23 September.
Costa will provide the venue and 2 staff FOC.

This is a very important opportunity to present Christianity to the
community in an inclusive, non-threatening way.

We will be having a meeting to **PLAN the FIRST SESSION** on
Friday 3 August 9:00 am at St. Peter's Church, Thundersley (Pond Room)

What do YOU think?

Would YOU come along and bring a friend (Non-Christian)?

Would YOU be able to help lead?

Would YOU be able to help with **ADMINISTRATION**?

What would be a **GOOD NAME** for the Event?

Do you know a **GROUP/BAND/SINGER** who might perform?

If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact:

Rev. Ruth Cartwright (St James/Barnabas) ruth@cartmann.eclipse.co.uk

Rev. Andy Hudson (St Peters/Michaels)

Michael Collins (Baptist)

or Roger Kingston (Methodist) rogerjtkingston@yahoo.co.uk



Wesley Stories

As part of their 120th birthday celebrations, some of the members of Wesley have got together to create a landmark, in the form of a booklet that documents some of the memories and testimonies of current Wesley members. It makes for interesting reading, and Wesley have kindly given us a copy which is at the back of the church for you to peruse.

Please do not take the copy away. If you would like your own copy to read, please have a word and I'll make that happen.

LH

Humour Corner

Dentist:

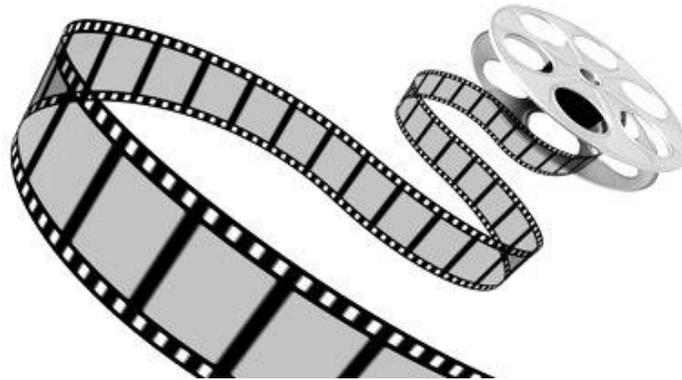
*Open wide please...crikey! That's the biggest cavity I've ever seen!
The biggest cavity I've ever seen!*

Patient:

OK, I heard you the first time. There's no need to repeat it.

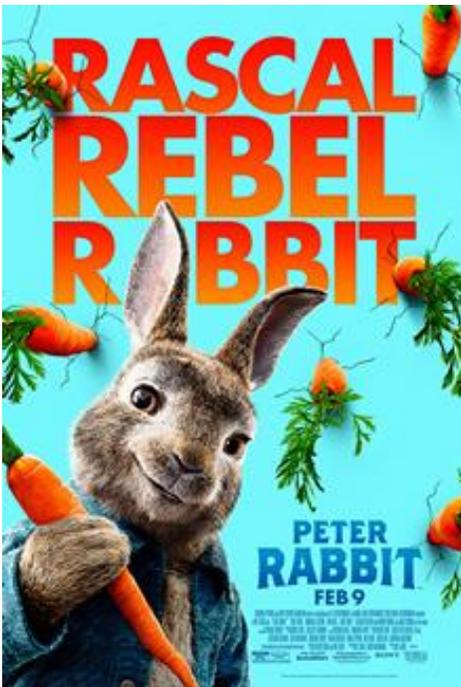
Dentist:

I didn't. That was the echo.



**Movies @ Highlands
A HIGHLANDS WEDS HUB EVENT
Weds 22 August 1.30 pm**

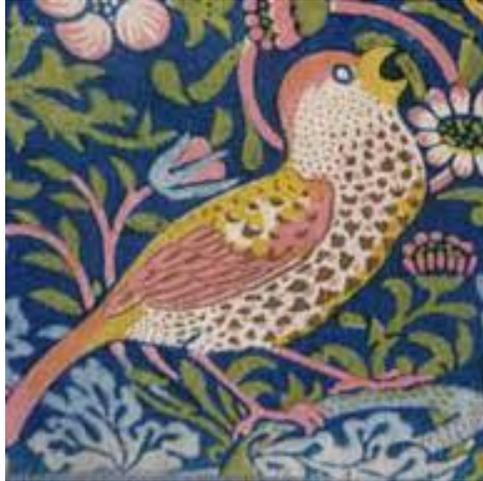
"PETER RABBIT"



Peter Rabbit and his three sisters -- Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-Tail -- enjoy spending their days in Mr McGregor's vegetable garden. When one of McGregor's relatives suddenly moves in, he's less than thrilled to discover a family of rabbits in his new home. A battle of wills soon breaks out as the new owner hatches scheme after scheme to get rid of Peter -- a resourceful rabbit who proves to be a worthy and wily opponent.

Another family film that will entertain all ages.

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



Arts & Crafts

Highlands Hobbies

We will be meeting on Thursday 2 August in the church, following with a lunch for those who wish to stay. We will also meet on 16 August. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds ☎525250 or Ros ☎478631

MoTHs (Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands)

Our next season's MoTHs afternoons begin in September after the summer break.

PinPoint

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.

No PinPoint in August, but it will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint from September onwards. We begin the new year's meetings on September 12th and 26th, then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Come and join us then.

"The Hub" provides us with refreshments and helps 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

Is now under way. Contact - Jean Edmonds ☎525250

Highlands Premises Decorating

We would like to gather a team of people primarily to decorate the lower part of the corridor behind the hall and possibly a few other maintenance jobs. Starting date is Monday 20 August at 9:30 am. Please come along however you can contribute.

☎ Jean / Frank 525250

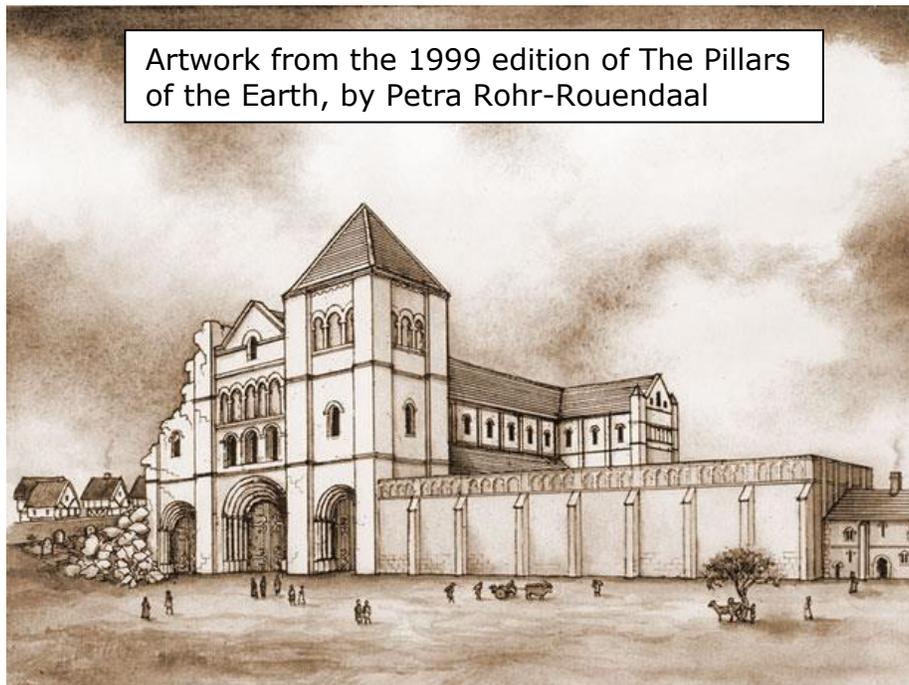
What I'm reading

One of my favourite authors is Ken Follett, and I am sure many of you have already discovered him.

His Century Trilogy is a cracking epic which follows families in Britain, America, Germany and Russia during WW1, WW2 and the Cold War. This recent history is something we are all able to relate to. Absolutely brilliant.

1. 'Fall of Giants'
2. 'Winter of the World'
3. 'Edge of Eternity'

BUT...what I am also going to suggest to you are his three books revolving around life in the fictional English city of Kingsbridge, beginning in the Middle Ages.



1. 'The Pillars of the Earth' – concerning particularly the building of a new cathedral in the 12th century.
2. 'World without End' – concerning trade and particularly the building of a new bridge in the 14th century.
3. 'A Column of Fire' – religion in Tudor times.

The final book sticks in my mind because of the brutality and violence caused by the Catholics against the Protestants and is set in Britain, Spain and France. All the time I kept thinking that they worship the same God and he does not condone murder. How can they do these things in the name of God – what did they think the Ten Commandments were for?

If you ever read any of these books, please let me know if you enjoyed them as much as I did. Happy reading.

Jackie Williams

"Goliath" a Ryan Mitchell thriller by Richard Turner has a good plot with an interesting twist. I should have remembered that Ryan Mitchell novels are very "military". Not really my cup of tea but it managed to keep me reading to the end.

Frank

Humour Corner

Man to neighbour:

Why do you always park your car right outside my house, even when there's a perfectly good space outside your house?

Neighbour:

Simple. I read somewhere that a car is statistically most likely to be stolen when it's parked outside the owner's house.

Serving the Homeless

Just so that you can keep the dates free:

- Indian Meal at *The Yak and Yeti* takes place on Thursday 13 September
- there's a Music Evening and Buffet at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall on Saturday 27 October
- Wine Tasting evening by *Vino Vero* at St Margaret's Church Hall on Friday 16 November
- Service of Carols and Poems on Friday 14 December at Our Lady of Lourdes

During August our Summer Raffle Tickets will be on sale for the draw on 3rd September. We have some magnificent prizes including a first prize of £150 cash, a "French" Hamper and a picnic hamper with champagne.

The weather is fine at the moment but this will not last for ever. There are still people sleeping on the streets and we continue to remember them in our prayers.

Thank you for your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed. With the new White Heather units now up and running for ladies, gifts of toiletries etc, would be warmly welcomed.

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.

Kathy's Corner 1

My two-up and two-down, gas lit, loo-down-the-garden, home in a Lancashire village was nothing to shout about. However, the fact that my great, great grandparents had started a revolution in the village, was something of which to be proud.

Thomas and Anne had lived in a cottage on the main road, weavers by trade. One day some Methodist travelling preachers stood outside their cottage and preached.



Typical 19C Lancashire chapel

Suddenly the heavens opened and the rain poured down. The kindly couple took the preachers inside. This led to them returning week after week. They were threatened by the vicar, 'Either give up this heresy or get out of the village.'

Thomas and Anne stood firm, the group grew, for a time they met in a whitewashed barn. Eventually they built a church which was where I was brought up and it still stands today.

KMcC

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 12 August at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm (second Sunday). All are welcome for this relaxed evening of Gospel Music and reflection with tea/coffee and cake before and after the service. This occasion is not only tuneful and uplifting but a whole lot of fun.

The Fishermen's Chapel was formerly called New Road Church, situated (logically enough) in New Road just north of the railway line.

Belfairs Thirsty For?

Thursday 9 August at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley Informal Service

Tuesday 28 August at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday)

If you would like to take part in any of these but need a lift to get there, contact AH ☎ 473111 and I'll do my best to make it happen.



Future Committee Meetings:

Property & Finance	24 September at 8:00 pm
Church Council	27 September at 8:00 pm
Family Committee	10 September at 8:00 pm
Pastoral	25 September at 10:00 am



Coffee Mornings in August

Saturday 4 August	Church
Saturday 11 August	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 18 August	Church
Saturday 25 August	Missions

Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
5 August	Sandra Harrison	Mum and Dad	Jean
12 August	Church flowers		Margaret
19 August		United service at Wesley	
26 August		United service at Belfairs	



Humour Corner

Bank robber, brandishing a gun:
Give me all the money now, or you're geography!

Bank cashier:
Surely you mean that I'm 'history' don't you?

Bank robber:
Stop trying to change the subject.

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Highlands Toddlers	Monday 9:30-11:30 am	Margaret Wood ☎557512
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 7:00-9:00 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.

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

Social and Recreational

Knit and Natter Group	Tue 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Sylvia ☎556433
Badminton Club	Mon 8:00 pm	Sarah ☎476009 or Sophia ☎07796 265676
Hobbies	1 st & 3 rd Thu 10.00 am – 12:00 noon	Jean ☎525250
Ladies' Badminton	Fri 10.00 am – 12:00 noon	Dilys ☎710207
Adult Art Classes Children's Art Club	Thu 2:00 – 4:00 pm Thu 4:00 –	Susan ☎551025 or 07875

5:00 pm

079739

Items for the **September 2018 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before **Sunday 26 August**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

Concerts at Wesley

Elm Road Leigh-on-Sea

Autumn 2018

Saturday 13th October 2018

19.30

The Leigh and Southend Bands of The
Salvation Army with The Orpheus Singers



A concert commemorating
the 120 years of Wesley
and in the second half
“remembrance” marking
the end of World War I



Proceeds in aid of the work in the community of The
Salvation Army and Wesley.

Tickets £5 available from The Salvation Army, Wesley,
Church or at the door on the night