



The

HIGHLANDER

September 2018

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

Sunday Worship in September 2018

2 nd	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
9 th	10:30	Morning Worship Education Sunday	Rev Nana Thomford
16 th	10:30	Morning Worship Communion Service	Rev Norman Hooks
23 rd	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
30 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Norman Hooks

'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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From the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Highlander.

We have the first hints of 'autumnal' weather (come back sunshine, all is forgiven!). As if that wasn't bad enough, at this time of year we see the first mention of the C-word. You know the one; nine letters, anagram of 'SHIRT SCAM'?

I for one have always resented people, more likely businesses, trying to turn my mind to C----- before I'm ready. Even then I need Advent to bring me in to the season, rather in the same way that a Bond movie needs the action sequence before the titles come up, allowing you time to open the popcorn and 'tut' at the latecomers as they squeeze past you. OK I know that's a bit of an irreverent comparison but it makes the point.

So against that background I humbly apologise. Because I am breaking my own rule in this issue. But I felt I had to tell you about some of the events that we're lining up for the period to which I just referred, just because they are *soooo* exciting. You'll find them in the Dates to Remember section.

Meanwhile you can celebrate autumn with some wild blackberries, many which are just approaching perfection as I write this. But beware! Michaelmas (29 September) recalls the legend that St Michael fought the devil and cast him down from heaven to earth. The devil landed painfully in a bramble patch, and thereupon he cursed the fruit of the bramble. So the berries should not be picked and eaten after Michaelmas as they are then tainted.

I hasten to add that this is not official Methodist doctrine. As far as I know anyway.

God bless all here.

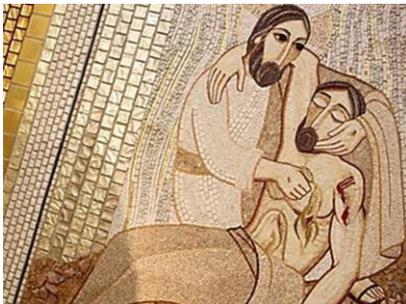
AH

A Message from your Minister

As a teenager in Belfast I was passionate about my faith and truly wanting to love God and follow Jesus. I often recall the way I would, during the troubles, waken up and listen to the news to hear who had been shot through the night. To my shame my inner response would either be one of sadness if it had been a Protestant who had been killed, or relief if someone from the 'other side'.



This has come to me all the more powerfully recently, as I have been reflecting on the story of the Good Samaritan in my devotions. Let's face it, we all belong to a 'tribe'. Some of us call ourselves British, others major on English or Irish, and still others class ourselves as European. Or it may be that we draw the lines closer to home. We are from *Leigh on Sea* rather than Southend; we are not just Christians, we are *Methodist* Christians; and we belong to *Highlands* (for example) rather than to some other part of the Methodist Church. The thing is, once we embrace a 'tribe' we are more easily moved with pity when one of ours is injured, or to celebration when our team wins.



The story of the Good Samaritan deeply challenges this whole way of thinking. In Luke 9, verses 51 onwards we read that Jesus had been refused hospitality from the Samaritans because he was heading to Jerusalem and yet in the next chapter when asked "who is my neighbour" he tells this amazing story, with a Samaritan as the good guy.

All the characters in it had a tribal identity, but Jesus shows us so clearly that the values of the Kingdom of Heaven are blind to class, culture and creed. Basically it is all about our hearts. Are we open enough to be moved with compassion and be the neighbour? Or shall we pass by on the other side?

The more we spend time in the presence of God the more we become blind to our tribal prejudices and find we are touched by those around us, moved by news stories irrespective of who features in them. Of course the real challenge is always those on our doorstep, the people who use our building and cross our path! At Highlands we are good at that, but never let us forget it is not just what we do but where our heart is at as we embrace our neighbours, especially those in need.

God bless, Norman.

Rev Norman Hooks

Humour Corner

Yorkshireman visiting vet:
Would tha be able to neuter my cat?

Vet:
Certainly. Is it a tom?

Customer:
Nay, it's here in t'basket.

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 Julia and Rev Teresa and their families as they both recover from recent surgery.

We pray especially for Sam and Julia as they move out of the area to their new home in Walton on Thames. In fact the very day of the removal – 31 August - sees Julia undergoing further treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital

We wish them peace and every happiness in their new home. From the money raised for their leaving gift we have purchased two pieces of special glass for their garden (see page 12) and some vouchers to assist them in furnishing their new home and garden. Thank you to both of them for all the work that they have done at Highlands and in the Circuit. We shall miss them both very much.

Fundraising Meal at Affinity

Thank you to those who attended. We raised £115 for the Lighting Fund, and Affinity served us well, as always.

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.



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.

Following a first meeting of the steering group on 3 August the project aims to go live on 23 September.

Day Trip to Eastbourne

Wednesday 12th 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.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

We will be holding OUR Coffee Morning on Wednesday 26 September from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and hope that many of you will be able to join with us to support this excellent cause. Any donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated.

It's another Community Day!

Brace yourselves! The date for the next Community Day at Highlands – featuring MenCap Showstoppers – is set for Thursday 22 November.

More details in next month's issue but put that date in your diary now...

Special Christmas 'Music Man' show

This takes place on Friday evening 7 December. Take my word for it, tickets for this Showstoppers gig are like gold dust.

Elvis Christmas Special

This event is so new that it hasn't even got an official title yet. You'll just have to make do with the one above.

On Sunday 9 December at 4:00 at Highlands – a special concert by (probably) the finest Elvis tribute performer in the world.

By popular demand, Highlands is proud to present Michael Glaysher with a one-off special Christmas. The concert is absolutely FREE, but donations will be most welcome. There will be food and drink involved. Details to be advised, so watch this space, and put the date in your diary



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.

More information from

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

Music



Concerts at Wesley

The concert on Saturday 13 October at 19:30 pm. 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.

Humour Corner

Customer in shoe shop:
Do you have any flip-flips?

Assistant:
Do you mean flip-flops?

Customer:
No, flip-flips. My wife says I have two left feet.



Jobs for the garden

The season of mellow fruitfulness – I love the autumn. It's that time of year to keep dead-heading and feeding so that you can continue to gather, to clear away the summer bedding and start preparing for next year.

I've got both summer and autumn fruiting raspberries. I've already cut back the fruited canes of my summer raspberries to ground level and tied in the strongest young canes that have grown during the year. They'll be ready for next year. I'm still enjoying the autumn fruiting raspberries and won't cut these back until February next year. I'm lightly feeding my tomatoes, raspberries and hanging baskets with a high potash feed every couple of weeks.

My strawberries have thrown out many runners and I'm pegging the best of these into pots. Once they've rooted, I'll sever them from the old and plant them out.

It will soon be time to start planting out winter flowering pansies into hanging baskets and tubs so that they'll brighten the garden during the dull winter days.

Good housekeeping is important in so many ways – I'm clearing away the finished summer bedding, cutting back the perennials.

My green bin and compost bins are overflowing!

I'm collecting seeds from my favourite plants as I see them and I'm thinking – still just thinking – about cleaning out the greenhouse. It needs to be ready to start bringing in the tender plants before any cold weather comes but it's a bit of a daunting task.

And finally, don't forget to feed the birds. I feed the birds in my garden all year round as I get such pleasure in watching them swinging from the feeders and fluttering in the birdbath. You have to adjust the quantity of food to demand and never allow uneaten food to accumulate round the feeders as this can do more harm than good.

Julia and Sam



This photo (which probably works better in colour than b&w) shows J&S receiving a gift of garden artworks, created coincidentally by a local artist near their new home.

Dine with the Homeless

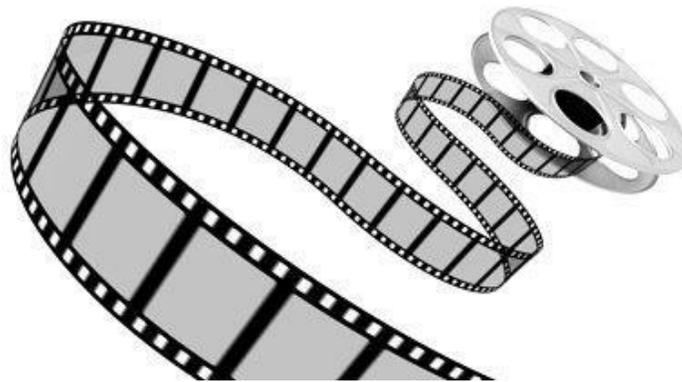
This is a dish we know as Island Rice, though it may have other names. And there are lots of variations with the same name. This serves about four people.

We love this because it's wholesome and tasty, easy to prepare and uses one cooking pot for everything including 2 (at least) of your 5 a day.

- 1½ lamb (neck fillet or boned shoulder), trimmed and cubed
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 onions, fine chopped
- 1 level tsp turmeric
- 1½ pints brown stock

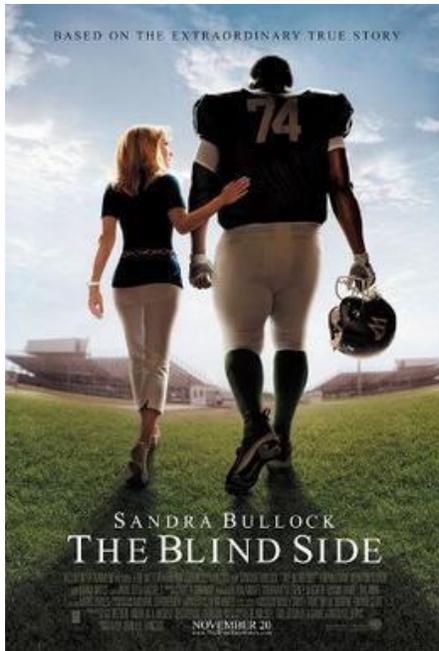
- 10 oz long grain rice
 - 2 medium peppers (red and green) sliced and deseeded
 - 4 fl oz ($\frac{1}{5}$ pint) dry white wine
 - 4 oz peas
1. Brown the lamb on all sides in the oil
 2. Add onions and soften for 10 mins
 3. Add turmeric and cook for 1 min
 4. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of stock, cover and simmer for 30-35 mins
 5. Stir in the rice, peppers, wine and remaining stock and cook for a further 15 minutes
 6. Stir in peas and cook for a further 5 minutes
 7. Check seasoning and serve

*note for keen Methodists: about 25% of the alcohol in 12.5% ABV wine will evaporate during 20 min of cooking, and the amount left in an individual portion will be minimal - about 3.5 ml ($\frac{1}{8}$ of a fl oz, 0.007 pints, $\frac{1}{3}$ of a 'unit').



Movies @ Highlands
A HIGHLANDS WEDS HUB EVENT
Weds 26 September 1.30 pm

"THE BLIND SIDE"



Michael Oher (played by Quinton Aaron) knows little about family, less about sports. What the homeless teen knows are the streets and projects of Memphis.

Well-to-do Leigh Anne Tuohy (an Oscarwinning performance by Sandra Bullock) knows little about his world and yet when she and Michael meet their lives are both changed forever.

Come along and share this remarkable and uplifting real life faith in action story.

This is 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 6 September at 10:00am in the church. We are looking forward to welcoming some new members to join in our activities of flower arranging, card making and various

crafts. Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay. We will also meet on 20 September. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros 478631

PinPoint

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint from September onwards. We begin the new year's meetings on September 12 and 26, then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Come and join us then.

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

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.

Highlands Premises Decorating

Thank you to the stalwarts who have decorated the corridor behind the stage area and done a few repair jobs as well. It all looks very nice now and has saved much of our precious finances. (I wasn't entirely sure if this report belonged in the Arts & Crafts section, but having now seen the outcome I think it does. Ed.)

Humour Corner

Knight reporting to his King:

Sire I've been doing a lot of burning and pillaging and looting on your behalf. With my men I have attacked all your enemies to the North, to the East, to the South and to the West

King:

I don't have any enemies to the South.

Knight:

You do now, sire.

What I'm reading

Time for the editor to chip in as no-one else seems to have been reading anything in August. One of my many guilty pleasures is Robert Goddard. There are three things that mark his books out for me

Firstly they are thrillers, but not the kind of book that has lots of high technology, or an evil axe-murderer on every other page, or the President of the USA being gunned down*. The events tend to be rather less dramatic, but the narration is nevertheless full of psychological insights.

Secondly the main protagonist is usually someone who reminds me of myself. Basically he tries to do the right thing, but his character has flaws in the same way a colander has holes. So his life inevitably goes pear-shaped.

Lastly his stories are typically strong on location, mainly in the UK. For example if two of his characters meet on Hergest Ridge near Kington, Herefordshire, then you will be able to see for yourself that it's a real place. There are limits to this. People might not like their house to be identifiable as a crime scene – albeit a fictional one. So precise locations are sometimes invented.

Robert Goddard has written about 25 books from 1986 to 2018. I'm reading *Borrowed Time* from 1995. You should have no trouble finding his work in the library, bookshop, Amazon or even the local charity shops for older works. Also see <https://www.penguin.co.uk/authors/robert-goddard/1025995/>

*I can guess what you're thinking about this, but I'm not going there

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

The weather is fine at the moment but becoming autumnal. 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 2



I went with all my friends to the village Primary School. The one thing I hated was school dinners.

I started running away at lunch time and hiding on the recreational ground. The only problem was that my older brother was at the same school, and he spotted that I was missing. He came to find me and asked me what I'd had for dinner. My friends had told me, so I had my answer ready. But he couldn't be fooled; he dragged me back to have my dinner with the dinner ladies. They made me eat everything!! That quickly cured me.

I was a typical naughty little girl, but I was learning at Sunday School that God loved me and wanted to help me to be different.

Sunshine Corner was a children's club held every day for a week. Here I heard about Jesus giving His life so that I could be forgiven and have Him as a special friend. At the end of the week, at aged

eight, in my great grandparents' chapel, I asked Jesus to be my Saviour and He's been with me ever since.

KMcC

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 9 September 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 13 September at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley Informal Service

Tuesday 25 September 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 September

Saturday 1 September	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 8 September	Missions
Saturday 15 September	TBA
Saturday 22 September	TBA
Saturday 29 September	Church

Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
2 September	David Porter	Mary	Jean
9 September	Les Davis	Margaret	Pauline
16 September	Ros Bryant	Parents	Margaret
23 September	Teresa Williams	Auntie Phyllis	Teresa
30 September	Church Flowers		Margaret

Humour Corner

A late report from the Biscuit Police:

There's been a fight in the biscuit tin. A bandit called Rocky who was crackers, hit a penguin over the head with a club, tied him to a wagon wheel with a blue riband and made his breakaway in a taxi.

Police say Rocky was last seen just after eight by a viscount from Maryland, hobnobbing with a ginger nut and 2 accomplices, one known as Gary Baldi and the other known only to the police as Rich T but they don't have a crumb of evidence so the jammie dodger might get away with it.

A spokesman, Inspector Dai Jestive, said, 'This was not a nice incident. We will not wafer in our efforts to find this trio, and when we do we'll be down on them like a tunnock of bricks.'

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Highlands	Monday	Margaret Wood ☎557512
Toddlers	9:30-11:30 am	
Rainbows	Wednesday	Jacqui Hendle ☎557147
	4:00-5:00 pm	
Brownies	Wednesday	Dilys Haddow ☎710207
	5:30-7:00 pm	
Cub	Thursday	Lesley Bacon
Scouts	6:00-7:30 pm	lesleykbacon@googlemail.com
Scouts	Thursday	Sally Monk ☎558857
	7:30-9:00 pm	
Rangers	Alternate	Jacqui Hendle ☎557147
	Thursdays	
	7:30-9:00 pm	
Guides	Friday	Jacqui Hendle ☎557147
	7:00-9:00 pm	

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 07875 079739 Thu 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Susan ☎551025 or 07875 079739

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