



The **HIGHLANDER**

February 2019

**The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea**

Worship in February 2019

3 rd	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
	4:00 pm	Circuit Service (see page 9)	Anna Turner
10 th	10:30	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
17 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
24 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Eileen Simmons

'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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Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
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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

OK, so who has all their New Year's resolutions still intact? I won't ask for a show of hands. Normally at this time of year I'm just getting over the whole New Year trauma, and then suddenly Lent comes out of nowhere, requiring another gesture of personal sacrifice. I used to be able to get away with giving up something I wouldn't miss – for example Beluga caviar (from about £1,000 a kilo since you ask). Not any more.

Actually we're quite lucky this year. Easter is about as late as it can get (21 April) so Lent doesn't start until 6 March. You can indulge yourself in February just as long as you don't still have those pesky New Year resolutions to keep.

So where do I get all this information about caviar and the church calendar? Well, it's the same place everyone else goes in 2019. The internet of course. What's more, people use the internet not only for trivia, but also for really important stuff, such as where they might be able to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ regularly and reliably.

We want them of course to go to our own favourite website www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk. Not that there's anything wrong with other Christian websites. But there are perhaps some sites that we would not want folk to visit.

Consequently Andreas as our webmaster has an enormously important job. The importance of this job grows month by month. It is up to each of us to make sure that he gets the support he needs. Your first step is to read his report in this issue of *Highlander*. I guarantee that you'll be surprised.

The second step is to visit the website. Go to each and every page. If you find something that is out of date or incorrect, tell Andreas so that he can correct it. If you look at an image and think 'I have a better one than that' – send it to Andreas. If you see an article that cries out for a graphic, why not design one?

And if you come up with a good idea for an article, poem, prayer, quotation, link to a wonderful video clip – well you know what to do. In 2019 this is really important stuff.

God bless all here.

AH

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 (Hitchin) and Mary Barter in Langley*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Brenda Easton who died in mid-January, having been ill for some time. Brenda was a member and steward of Highlands for many years, before moving to Thorpe Bay.

Christmas Services

We thank everyone who helped once again to make Christmas a special time. These are some of the material outcomes.

Toy Service Gifts to Estuary Family Centre, Heather House, Foodstore and HARP were really well received.

Our Christmas collections and donations were as follows:

- * Carol Service: £134.46 to ReThink
- * Christingle Service: £165.03 to Action for Children
- * Christmas Day: £168.22 to Anna Turner for her work in Lebanon

Thank you all for your support and contributions.

From your Minister

In the autumn we were told that this was going to be one of the most severe winters ever with lots of snow and freezing temperatures. So far things have not been too bad, although it has been a bit cold. Did you know, however, that we are more likely to get snow at Easter than at Christmas? To quote the Met Office:

"March... is a 'transition month', where snowfall during spring and Easter is not surprising. Statistically... it has snowed for more days on average in March than it has in December."

I don't know about you but I love spring and summer, so long as it's not too hot! I also know however that the cold winter months are important, a time when some deep work is done in nature. Maybe that should also be true for us in our relationship with God.

In the light of this the next few weeks at Highlands, entering Lent and heading towards Easter, are full of opportunities! I'd like to mention some things that will be happening, and to encourage all of you to get involved as much as you can.

First there is the Circuit Service at Highlands on 3 February at 4:00 pm when Anna Turner (Colin and Cathy's daughter) will be sharing about her work in Lebanon. I follow Anna's newsletters and am so looking forward to this time. I really believe it will be both challenging and inspirational!

Also you may be aware by now that we have started a four week series in our Sunday services where we explore what it means to be a truly pastoral community. Jesus told us *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another!"* (John 13:35)

God has called us to bring his light and hope to the community, and the way we live out our lives as brothers and sisters in Jesus

will have a real impact on that. Come on Sunday mornings with open hearts and a willingness to grow together as God's family.

Then there is the Circuit Lent Course - "Living Discipleship", that Luke Dobson and Hannah Bucke will run. Again it's here at Highlands, starting on 13 March at 7:30 pm. This is going to be truly amazing and an opportunity for each of us to draw closer to God, becoming more focussed as we seek to reach out to those around us.

What a privilege it is for us to be able to host these Circuit events. As we start our journey towards Easter let us be sure that we put ourselves in the place where God can speak to us, encouraged by the verse which says:

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion..." (Colossians 1:10)

God bless,
Norman.

Humour Corner

Elderly wife, on waking:
Oh my goodness, I think I must be dead!

Her equally elderly husband:
What on earth makes you think you're dead?

Elderly wife, on waking:
I just woke up, and nothing hurts.

Church Offerings

Motor Fuel. Council Tax. Rail fares. Newspapers. You'll have noticed that they have all increased recently, along with countless other expenses, including many that Highlands has to pay. So you need to reconsider your church giving regularly. Have you done that recently?

At present our weekly offerings fall far short of our Circuit Assessment. So we rely heavily on lettings income to fill the gap. We provide excellent facilities for all those who use the premises and our Property and Finance Secretary is well "on the ball" for anything that may not be quite up to standard.

If you can increase your giving, your church can offer even more to the community. That includes the best service of all; to spread the word of God.

We offer the facility to use an envelope scheme, as a reminder if you are unable to attend any particular week. If this is of interest please talk with Frank Edmonds.

If you are in the position to 'Gift Aid' your givings[Ⓢ], then Patrick Smith is your man. He can provide you with the necessary information, no one else will be aware of what you are contributing and the church can apply for the tax refund at the end of the year with no further expense to yourself.

Thank you for taking the time to reconsider your position.

Frank

ⓈEssentially this just requires that you pay basic rate or higher tax

October, November and December saw a gradual progression with Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and finally the run up to Christmas being the causes of this.

The early Winter months and Summer months – the so-called Ordinary Time in the Church Calendar – were our low times with an average of 39,000 clicks per month. The graph gives a clear depiction of the rise to Easter, stabilisation across summer and then rise to Christmas.

Andreas Botzios

January	24,808
February	29,571
March	73,863
April	105,156
May	42,947
June	50,676

July	36,737
August	39,351
September	49,652
October	44,132
November	60,249
December	116,146



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.

PinPoint

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We'll meet from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on 13 and 27 February. Come and join us.

"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 needleworkers 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.

Circuit Events



Humour Corner

Man entering restaurant: *Do you have a table for four?*

Maître D' : *No, I'm sorry, we're full tonight.*

Man: *I bet if the Pope, Angela Merkel, Eric Clapton and Richard Branson walked in, you'd find them a table.*

Maître D' : *I daresay I would.*

Man: *Good! Since none of them can make it, we'll have their table*

Living Discipleship

Luke Dobson is running a circuit-wide Lent course – handily located at Highlands! Here are all the details:

**LIVING DISCIPLESHIP
LENT COURSE**

IN THIS COURSE WE WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF LIVING OUT DISCIPLESHIP IN THE WIDER WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF CHAPLAINCY AND OTHER MISSION-BASED MINISTRIES.

THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP YOUR CONFIDENCE IN SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS THROUGH CONVERSATION AND SERVICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Lent starts - Wed 6th March Worship academy
week 1- 13th March- Lent course
week 2- 20th March- Lent course
Week 3- 27th March- Lent course
week 4- 3rd April Worship Academy (lent course paused this week)
week 5- 10th April- Lent course
Week 6- 17th April- Lent course
Lent finishes Saturday 20th April

Venue: Highlands Methodist Church 7:30pm - 9:15pm with refreshments

Please sign up by emailing luke.dobson@me.com

You can also sign up by having a word with the temporary Circuit Administrator – our own Andreas.

'The Night the Music Saved Us'

Many of you will know Dan Crook, perhaps from the Night Shelter where he is a regular volunteer. His day job is a circuit youth

worker, and in that role he runs a weekly music club for 15-21 year olds who struggle with their mental health.

His group are hosting their very first showcase called 'The Night the Music Saved Us' on Saturday 9 February at 6.30pm in the hall at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church. There will be musical performances, dancers and stories about how being creative has helped them. All the performers have made huge progress with their confidence and mental health in the last year and this is entirely their own initiative. It's an incredibly ambitious endeavour and it would be great for them to have as much support as possible. Please share this around.

It's a Facebook event here:

https://www.facebook.com/events/434003730469973/?active_tab=discussion

Humour Corner

Plumber:

What seems be the problem, Dr Smith?

Dr Smith:

My toilet won't flush. Can you fix it please?

Plumber:

You can't be serious! It's three o'clock in the morning...

Dr Smith:

Well as you know, I'm a doctor. If you called me with a problem at this time of night I'd just get on and deal with it like a professional. Why can't you do the same?

Plumber:

I apologise. You're quite right. Please pop two aspirins into it and call me in the morning if it's no better.

Inspire - Contemporary Worship at Wesley

This is a new circuit venture which will be with the regular alternative worship listings in future. For this month it gets its own spot in 'Dates to Remember'.

It will take place every 3rd Sunday of the month, so that's Sunday 17 February at 5:30 pm. It will take the format of a short upbeat worship service, followed by a talk, and then group discussion.

Needless to say, all are welcome.

X-Cite

Saturday Morning Children's
Club



Starts 20th Oct

10.30am - 12 O'clock
(3rd Sat of the month)

Puppets * Games * Crafts * Stories * Songs

Highlands Methodist Church
Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea

Sat 16 February

Music

Concerts at Wesley

Michael Glaysher as Elvis

If you have missed hearing Michael as Elvis you have another chance to see this talented young man in action at Wesley Methodist Church on Saturday 9 February at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are £10 including refreshments.



Save the Date

With the wind and rain (and worse) outside, it's time to look forward to a sunny summer's day!

Saturday 6 July this year sees the Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering. This is an ecumenical event bringing together a large range of different churches, and a marvellous venue with all kinds of family activities. It's too varied for me to describe here but I'll recommend visiting www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

Serving the Homeless / HARP

The weather is really getting colder now, with several nights dipping below zero (Celsius) and more to come. One male rough sleeper was recently admitted to Southend University Hospital

suffering from frostbite. The low temperature, especially combined with wintry showers, makes for extreme discomfort for those luckless people still sleeping on the streets and we continue to remember them in our prayers.

The volunteers who run the Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters are doing their best to provide shelter for up to 25 guests every night, and dinner for as many as 40 on some occasions. We pray that the weather will not be too bad for those left on the streets.

Our next fundraising events will be a Jazz evening on 2 March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall and on 11 May a Quiz Night at St Margaret's Church Hall.

You are of course all welcome to our Annual General Meeting on 4 March, also at St Margaret's Church Hall, to hear of all our efforts for the past year and our aspirations for the coming year. Thank you for your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed.

Humour Corner

Ron, greeting friend in street:

Hello Bill! What are you up to these days?

Bill:

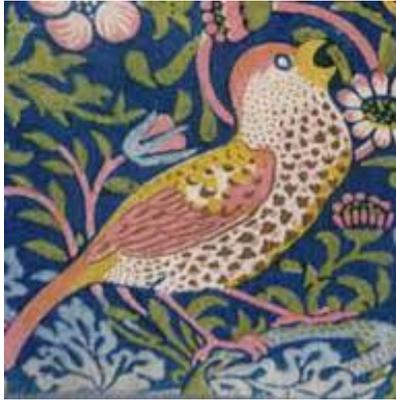
Hello Ron! Good to see you. I'm writing a book.

Ron:

Marvellous. How is it going?

Bill:

Fantastic! I've just finished numbering all the pages.



Arts & Crafts

Highlands Hobbies

We will be meeting on Thursday 7 February at 10:00 am in the Church. Marjorie & Margaret will be guiding us with new Easter stitch-craft projects. Please bring any wool and a large eyed darning needle. Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay.

We will also meet on 21 February at 10:00 am in the Church when we will either be continuing with Easter stitch-craft or for those feeling adventurous we will be creating with air-dried clay.

If you wish to try Hobbies why not join us on 7 or 21 Feb as a taster. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds ☎525250 or Ros ☎478631

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A coffee (+cakes) morning in support of MacMillan Nurses takes place at Thundersley Methodist Church (Kennington Avenue Benfleet SS7 4BS) on Saturday 16 February from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

The days are getting longer – it's really noticeable now. But I sense that the worst of this winter's weather is still to come.

Nevertheless there are jobs to do in the garden and it is good to get out into the fresh air when you can. I do feel so much better when I've managed to get out into the garden for a morning.

I've taken the netting off my pond as all the leaves have fallen and I want to make it easy to ensure that part of my pond remains unfrozen. It's true that the fish can survive low temperatures under a frozen surface, but during any prolonged spells of being frozen the ice will prevent gases from escaping and oxygen from entering the water. Don't bash a hole with a hammer! I find the best way is to pour hot water on a small area to make a hole. Don't forget the birds also need somewhere to drink in icy weather.

Keep checking the greenhouse and only water if it's really necessary. Cover plants with fleece if frost is forecast and you don't have a heater. Brush snow from the roof if we get a heavy fall. And also brush snow from shrubs and bushes to avoid the weight breaking the branches and stems. A good time too to check all your tools and get the mower serviced.

And after the housekeeping jobs, you can start to chit your potatoes in a light, frost free place – it will be about 6 weeks until you can plant them.

I divided my rhubarb plants and replanted them before Christmas and I'm pleased to see that they're showing growth already. I've covered some to force it for early stems.

And then there's the pansies to keep dead-heading and the hellebores to check for dead leaves and brown spot. Plenty to keep busy until spring comes around.

SGC





REPORT FROM 10TH LEIGH BROWNIES

Restarting in January, we welcomed to our unit 9 new girls who are all settling well. We had a morning visit to the Girlguiding screening of Mary Poppins Returns and we had a lovely morning. All who attended were given a special cloth badge for their camp blankets. All of us are getting to grips with our new programme - some activities are working and others need some tweaking!!

This year the Guides and Brownies are celebrating their 90th birthdays. The Guides' birthday is in February and the Brownies' is in December. Both units have a number of activities planned for the girls throughout the year.

A special Church Parade is being arranged for Sunday 24 March at Highlands. We invite past and present members to join us to celebrate our 90th birthdays. Refreshments will be available over the lunchtime and a display will be in the main hall



Food safety at Highlands

Beginning on 1 March 2019 a new system for food safety will come into force in the kitchen. This is following the Safer Food Better Business system.

In the kitchen you will find a folder containing instructions to check a few items before you start using the kitchen. When you finish there are some closing checks.

If you find that someone has done that day already, there is no need to fill in another box. There is a box for each day of the week. Please check the starting date at the top of the sheet.

If you have any questions/problems then let me know. Thank you.

Anne Lane.





Action for Children

I should be grateful if the holders of the above Home Collection Boxes could bring it to the Church this month for the annual opening of them. Any problem please ring me (01702 556433). Thank you.

Sylvia Cornwell

Humour Corner

Human Resources Officer:

What starting salary are you looking for?

Job applicant, straight out of University

About £80,000 a year, depending on the benefits package.

HRO:

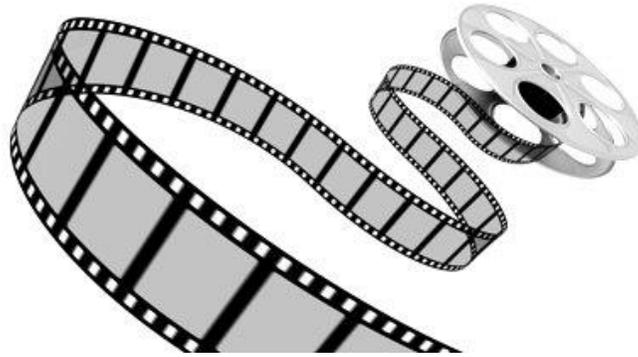
Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks' holiday, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental insurance, a company matching retirement fund to 50% of final salary, and a company car, say a Jaguar, leased every two years?

Applicant

Wow! Are you kidding?

HRO

Yes of course I am, but you started it.

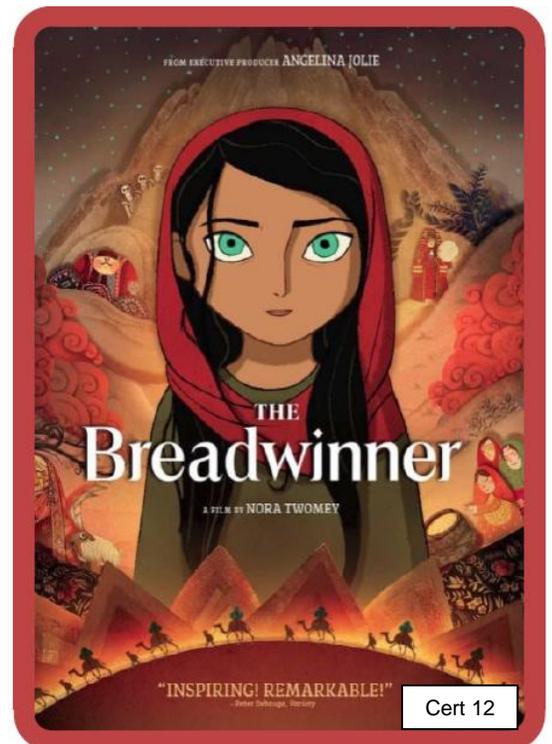


Movies @ Highlands
A HIGHLANDS FRIDAY HUB EVENT
Friday 22 February 1:30 pm
"The Breadwinner" [12]

In equal parts thrilling and enchanting, *The Breadwinner* is an inspiring and luminously animated tale about the power of stories to sustain hope and carry us through dark times.

Parvana is an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses like a boy in order to support her family. With undaunted courage, Parvana draws strength from the fantastical stories she invents, as she embarks on a quest to find her father and reunite her family.

This is a FREE EVENT. Come from 12:00 noon with your picnic and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee and Rossi Ice cream also available.



Kathy's Corner 6

As I celebrated my birthday recently, I thought back to my 21st birthday. (We came of age at 21 in those days). I was at college in Sheffield and my friends gave me £6 to go to the Keswick Convention that summer.

To think that £6 could pay for a week's holiday!!

My college days came to an end and I was then a qualified Maths teacher. My first

position was in a Girls' School in Liverpool. I loved my subject but not many of my pupils were inspired to love it too, no matter how many times I waxed lyrical about its beauty!! I have memories of arriving at school soaking wet, having travelled 30 miles on my second hand scooter. I soon gave that up.

In my spare time, a friend and I opened our village chapel to a street gang who were disturbing the area. They were glad to come in out of the cold and enjoyed the warm drinks and games. However their riotous behaviour did not improve and we suffered broken windows, among other things. One or two showed interest in the Christian Faith. One girl gave her life to Jesus and today is a Worship Leader in that same Chapel. We sow the seed, never knowing where it will take root, and God makes it grow and bear fruit.

KMcC



Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 10 February 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.

Belfairs

Thirsty For?

Thursday 14 February at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley

Inspire - Contemporary Worship

A short upbeat worship service, a talk, and then group discussion.
Sunday 17 February at 5:30 pm (third Sunday)

Informal Service

Tuesday 26 February at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday).

Committees

Property & Finance	21 May 2019 at 8:00 pm
Pastoral	24 September 2019 at 10:00 am
Church Council	25 February 2019 at 8:00 pm
Family Committee	11 March 2019 at 8:00 pm



Coffee Mornings in February

Saturday 2 February	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 9 February	Church Funds (X-cite*)
Saturday 16 February	Church Funds
Saturday 23 February	Knit and Natter

*We hope to run a coffee morning while X-cite is in progress.



Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
3 February		Café Church	Margaret
10 February	Meriel Mallett	Tony	Pauline
17 February	Dilys Haddow	Elsie Bradford	Jean
24 February	Frank & Jean	Mum	Jean

There are some vacant slots on the flower rota. Please contact Jean if you would like to take one up.

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	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 am.

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 ☎902235 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	Thu 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Susan ☎551025 or 07875 079739
Children's Art Club	Thu 4:00 – 5:00 pm	

Items for the **March 2019 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com **before Sunday 23 February**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.