



# The **HIGHLANDER**

## July 2019

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist  
Church, Leigh on Sea

## Worship in July 2019

7 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
28 <sup>th</sup>	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](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church



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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Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
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Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

## From the Editor



As I put this issue together, I have just returned from the wedding of Ian and Olivia. I was privileged to lead the closing prayers in the sublime 13<sup>th</sup> century church of St Andrew, Meonstoke. Lesley, Brenda, David, Eira and I all stayed at the beautiful Buck's Head Inn, a

relative newcomer to the local scene, built only in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The pub sits close to the church by the sun-kissed River Meon, a bubbling chalk stream that combs long strings of watercress, while cows and sheep graze peacefully in the lush pastures rising from the valley.

I dare say that some of you have never heard of Meonstoke or of its utterly charming, utterly English valley. Nor had I, until recently. It sits firmly in the middle of Hampshire, distant from any large town. It's not really on the way to anywhere, unless you happen to be travelling the A32 from Alton to Gosport; a rather niche itinerary by any standards.



Anyway, enough rambling and let's get to the point. Many of us are only too keen to rush off and sample the delights of Europe and further afield. Clearly this year the impact of the *B-word* (which will never be mentioned here as long as I'm editor) has made us think carefully. I'm not suggesting for a moment that you should rush out and cancel your week on the beach in Bodrum (average July temperature 34.2°C), or your planned city-break in Berlin (do order your street currywurst sliced, and use a

fork for goodness' sake).

But also remember something that doesn't always strike us forcefully here in south-east Essex. We actually don't have to travel very far to find places and landscapes that God has specially blessed for us. As well as the Meon Valley, the Norfolk Broads, the South Downs and the New Forest are all within a couple of hours' travel, and are gobsmackingly beautiful across all four seasons. (Other destinations are of course available on this 'sceptered isle'.)

And if you happen to meet any overseas visitors at these special places, remember to share a few words of greeting and welcome.

AH

## **Humour Corner**

Bob Monkhouse was not everyone's cup of tea as an actor or TV presenter, but his repertoire of jokes, mostly clean, was legendary. He was also tireless in his support of charity, especially cerebral palsy from which his son suffered. He made a video promoting awareness of prostate cancer that was only to be shown after he died of the condition in 2003. You can still find it on YouTube.

Anyway, here are three examples of the one-liners for which he was famous:

- *They laughed when I said I was going to be a comedian. Well, they're not laughing now.*
- *I'd like to die peacefully in my sleep, like my father; not screaming in terror, like the passengers on his bus*
- *Silence is not only golden; it is seldom misquoted*

## **From your Minister**

June has been a truly 'engaging' month and my sincere thanks to everyone who is contributing to this throughout the life of Highlands! We had such a great time at our 'Fathers' Day Extravaganza'. I think it might be the first time we had a motor bike featuring at the front of the church. What has truly blessed me is the enthusiasm with which so many people got involved.

In a sense this was an extension to our 'Community Days' which Julie has pioneered, albeit following a long-time Highlands tradition. This has led on to something really exciting: Highlands' Community Days have been nominated for the Premier "Love Britain and Ireland 2019 Awards". Well done everyone!



Let me now shift to pastoral matters. It has been a real privilege for me over recent weeks to visit people unable to engage with and attend Highlands, and I thank Maureen for the way she has supported me in this. At Church Council in June Maureen made it clear that she no longer wants to be the team leader, although she will continue to visit and be there for people. On your behalf can I just say a massive thanks to her for all she has done and continues to do. Let everyone therefore prayerfully consider who might be the right person to step into Maureen's shoes. Speak to me if you are interested or if you think someone else might be the right person to approach for this role.

Finally - I know many of us hold a special place in our hearts for the building that is Highlands Methodist Church. Sometimes we might get frustrated when we think of something that needs to be changed, or upset at something being altered that we don't think

should be.

One thing is certain; our building and how it is used presents us with many opportunities to engage, reach out and serve other people. I don't believe for one minute that I have all the answers, but what I am going to suggest is that we have what I call a 'Property Walk Around'. What will happen is that anyone interested will be invited to meet at the church. Then as we walk around with a clip board be asked to:

1. Make suggestions and share ideas about any aspect of the church premises, and...
2. Perhaps more importantly, listen to what others are saying.



The conclusions from this exercise will be then brought to the Property and Finance Group to help inform a property development plan to be considered by Church Council. So, if you would like to be involved, please speak to me, ring me, send me a text, email or note over the next couple of weeks and I will try to organise a time when we can get together.

So as I bring this to an end - have a wonderful summer. Find fresh depths of engagement with Jesus, each other and those you meet as you journey through life.

God bless,  
Norman.

## **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), Mary Barter in Langley Lodge, Jean Burgess in St Martins Care Home and Doll Edwards in The Cedars.* Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

AH

## **Some Property News**

At the moment the stewards are looking into replacing the projector. The existing machine suffers with poor definition and colour fidelity, and is too old to be repairable.

The new serving area in the Church was funded in memory of Kay Tipping. The electrics and fridge are still to be put in, and we'll add a discreet plaque.

Some repairs have been made to the heating system. As a result it should be up to the job of keeping the whole building warm, once the need arises.

The soffits, fascias, outside windows and frames need some painting work and this has now been contracted.

## **Note about the Stage**

The stage in the Hall is in need of a tidy-up. If any of the items there are yours, please remove them by the end of July. After this date any items remaining will be disposed of. Thank you.



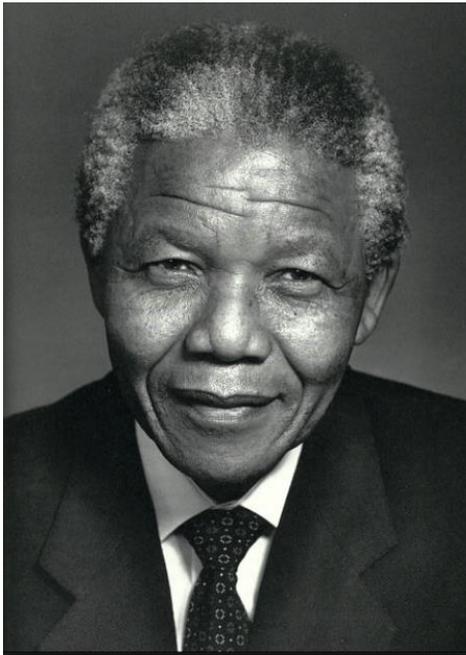
## **A Poem for July**

### **Invictus**

**By William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)**

Many of us have heard of the Invictus Games, an international multi-sport event, envisioned by Prince Harry for wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel. The name comes from this short poem, and you'll quickly see the relevance.

The work is famous not only for this connection but also for the much-quoted last two lines. As Christians we recognise their meaning – we have free will – but we acknowledge that God alone sets the correct course.



*Invictus* means 'unconquered' and Henley himself suffered much with his health, writing this poem during a bout of TB. It has been a source of inspiration and courage for many in times of adversity, famously including Nelson Mandela.

### **Invictus**

Out of the night that covers me,  
    Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
    For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

## **Your favourite poem**

If you have a favourite, let me know and I'll dig it out so that everyone can share it.

Ideally I want to know something more about it – the author, for example, and what it is that you like about the poem.

## **Humour Corner**

Pupil:

*Pardon me sir, but would you ever punish me for something I didn't do?*

Teacher:

*No, of course not.*

Pupil:

*That's good, because I didn't do my homework.*



## **Jobs for the garden**

### **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

It's not been a good month, has it? It may turn out to have been the wettest June on record and it's been cold.

But now is the time to enjoy your garden – don't spend all your time working away – do take time to sit back, relax and take pleasure from God's gift of a garden. Either yours or a garden in a park.



Now is the time to start harvesting new potatoes – don't go in too hard with a fork or you may damage them. And summer raspberries should be ready too – my favourites.

Watering and feeding are top jobs this time of year – those tomatoes, especially ones in pots in a greenhouse need feeding 2 or 3 times a week. Hanging baskets need feeding too. If you have a container that has dried out almost completely, drip feed water into the compost of the middle of the container. That way, the water won't run-off straight away.

Tie in your runner beans. And it's time to prune those hardy geraniums to stop them flopping over and encourage second growth as well as rambling roses. Lupin flower stems should be cut back to base.



This time of year, grass cutting seems to be the most urgent job – warm sun and rainy days makes it grow really fast. But don't cut it too short as lawn grass quickly dries out and will go brown – assuming of course that we do get some hot sunny days in the near future. 😊

Good gardening!

SGC

## **Humour Corner**

Solicitor to client:

*I have some good news and some bad news for you.*

Client:

*What's the bad news?*

Solicitor:

*Your blood is all over the crime scene, proving you did it.*

Client:

*And the good news?*

Solicitor:

*Your cholesterol is really quite low.*

## **Dates to Remember**

### **Music**

#### **Jeremy Blandford**

Jeremy will give a concert on the War Memorial Organ at Southend HS for Boys, including music by Bach, Mozart, Elgar, Whitlock, & Reubke. Included is a chance to view inside the organ with its 1,228 pipes and other mechanisms.

Sat 6 July 2019 - 7:30 pm £8 (£7 conc). More info at [www.osos.org.uk/events](http://www.osos.org.uk/events)

#### **Southend Bandstand, Priory Park**

Sat 6 July 3:00 pm – Thurrock Spectrum Brass

Sun 7 July 3:00 pm – Southend Young Men’s Chorus + Brass Ensemble

Sat 13 July 5:00 pm – Still in the Loop

Sun 14 July 3:00 pm – Gaudeamus

Sat 20 July 3:00 pm – Jackie Wilson Says

Sun 21 July 3:00 pm – Tilbury Band

Sat 27 July 5:00 pm – Soslam Songwriters Showcase

Sun 28 July 3:00 pm – Rayleigh Brass

All of these are free. More info ☎215624

#### **Allegro**

‘Songs for all Seasons’ at

❖ St Nicholas Church Rawreth Sat 6 July 7:30 pm

❖ TBC Sat 20 July 7:30 pm

More info ☎01268 751303

## Southend Bach Choir

Summer Concert  
Trinity Methodist Church Sat 6 July 7:30

## Chanteuses



**CHANTEUSES**

All Female singing Group

Leader/Musical Director: **Pauline Curtis**—Accompanist: **Alan Crosskey**

present

**Popular Songs from the 40's & 50's**

In

**THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THE BROADWAY, THORPE BAY, SS1 3HQ**

On

**SATURDAY 6th JULY 2019 at 7.30 p.m. (doors open 7.00 p.m.)**

**Tickets: £8.00 and £6.00 (concessions) including refreshments plus Programme, and can be obtained from PAULINE CURTIS on 01702 548931 or THE CHURCH.**



## **Other Dates**

### **ABRSM EXAMS**

The ABRSM music exams are with us again, starting on

- Tue 2 July and running to
- Fri 19 July

As usual, we need to provide stewards for them and if you would like to help, please add your name to the list which is on the notice board in the Jubilee Room. If you have never done this before, it is a very easy and pleasant duty and a joy to be able to welcome (mostly young) musicians and help to settle their nerves!

If you can only spare half a day that will be fine. And if you can't get into the church to sign up, just telephone any of the stewards.

The exams do provide a significant income for the church.

### **Fusion**

Youth & Kids Summer Special. At Wesley Thu 4 July from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for children Y1 to Y6. Entry £2 includes all games and refreshments.

More info on Highlands FB page\* or contact Emma ☎07766 588877.

\* <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292156788388014/>

## Highlands Hobbies



We will be meeting on Thursday 4 July at 10:00 am in No 1 room when Marjorie and Margaret will continue to guide us with decoupage (including teabag folding). Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay.

We will also meet on Thursday 18 July at 10:00 am also in No 1 room. Jean will be guiding us with flower arranging.

If you would like to try Hobbies or simply want to find out more about what we do please do not hesitate to call either Jean or Julie - All are welcome.

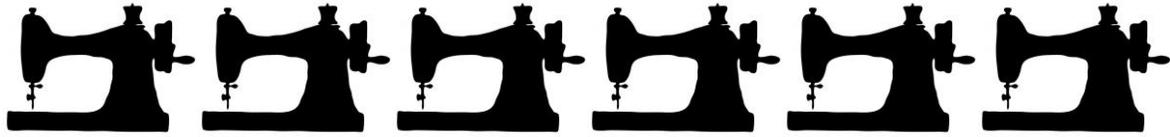
Contacts - Jean Edmonds ☎525250 Julie Peek ☎479804

## PinPoint

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. We meet from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on 10 and 24 July. Come and join us.

'The Hub' provides us with refreshments and helps 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 stitching, quilting etc. We also bring our own mending to do - sewing up hems and replacing buttons. We enjoy helping and encouraging each other.



# PINPOINT PROJECT

## Calling All Needleworkers

An exciting Christmas venture, with a choice of three projects

**A quilted Christmas Advent calendar**



**A pair of quilted placemats**

or

**A quilted Christmas stocking**



Dates: **11, 25 September 2, 16, 23, 30 October**  
Time: **10:15 am to 12.30 pm**

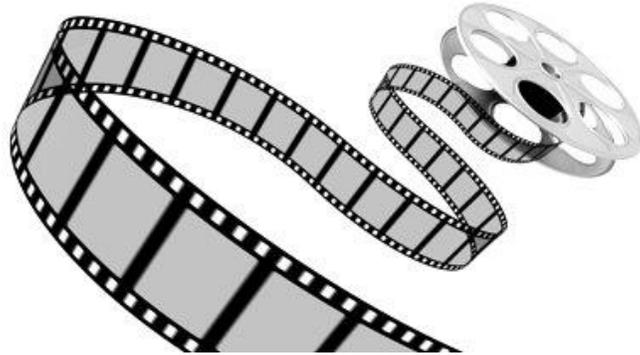
**Non-refundable**

**Like to join us?  
Limited places.**

cost for each project is £18 to include materials & 6 weeks' tuition.

Please contact Jean Edmonds (☎ 525250)  
Please sign up before the end of July





**Movies @ Highlands**  
**A HIGHLANDS FRIDAY HUB EVENT**  
**Wednesday 24 July 1:30 pm**  
**'Mary Poppins Returns' [U]**



The magic returns in Disney's all-new classic as Mary Poppins (Emily Blunt) helps the Banks family remember the joy of what it's like to be a child.

Together with her friend Jack the lamplighter (Lin-Manuel Miranda), fun is brought back to the streets of London in celebration that everything is possible.....even the impossible.

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)

(Please note that Friday has once again become Wednesday for the purposes of this event) ☺



## Summer Evenings at Bradwell

Sunday evening Services scheduled for the beautiful and ancient Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall (AD 654) are as below (all at 6:30 pm)

*'Where the distance between heaven and earth is tissue thin.'*

### **JULY**

- 7 Evening worship with BBQ with the Rev Steven Poss, Chaplain & Priest in Charge 4:30 pm -7:30pm
- 14 Evensong with Benediction with the choir of St Mary's Maldon and with the Rev John Dickens
- 21 Evening worship with the St Lawrence Singers and with the Rev Steven Poss
- 28 Common Worship evensong with the Rev Steven Poss

### **AUGUST**

- 4 Evening worship with Rev Paul Mackay, Priest in Charge of St Marys Prittlewell and church choir
- 11 Taizé worship with the Rev Steven Poss, and St Thomas Bradwell church choir
- 18 Celtic evening worship with the Rev Steven Poss
- 25 BCP Evensong with the Rev Steven Poss, and St Thomas Bradwell church choir

We have in the past organised an evening visit to Bradwell, usually involving a picnic and a walk along the lovely shoreline. If anyone wanted to repeat this (and would perhaps be willing to act as organiser) please get in touch with Andrew or Lesley ☎473111.

## **Cake Me Out**

### **Elderflower and lemon cake**

I've made this cake several times now and I'm sure I've tested it out at church!

I made a larger version for the second tier of my son's wedding cake and it was by far the most popular of the 4 flavours. (The others were chocolate, gin & lime and plain vanilla)

#### **Ingredients (Cake)**

6 medium eggs  
450g butter  
450g golden caster sugar  
450g SR flour  
100g natural yogurt  
50ml milk  
2 lemons – zest and juice  
3 tsb elderflower cordial

#### **(Buttercream)**

250g butter  
700g icing sugar  
300g full fat cream cheese  
1 lemon (zested)

#### **Method**

- Heat oven to 140°C (fan)/160°C/Gas 3.
- Oil and line 3 x 20cm tins.
- Beat sugar and butter together until light and fluffy.
- Whisk eggs, yogurt and milk
- Add eggs/yogurt/milk mixture to sugar and butter, then add flour and zest of 2 lemons. Mix until smooth.
- Divide between 3 tins and bake for 40 mins. Check if done and if necessary, cook a little longer.
- Once cakes are cooked, prod the surface with a skewer. Mix the juice from 2 lemons with the elderflower and drizzle the syrup over the cakes. Leave to cool in tins.
  
- To make buttercream icing, beat butter, then add sugar slowly. Then add cream cheese and lemon zest. Beat until smooth, light and fluffy.

- Stack the 3 cakes with plenty of buttercream icing between them and then spread the rest on the top and sides of the cake.

Serves at least 18 slices. It's very rich so you only need a small slice anyway! (*Speak for yourself – Ed*)

LH

### **Serving the Homeless (StH) / HARP**

Our Summer Raffle tickets are now available. This year the raffle is in the form of a Prize Hamper Bonanza. We have six major prizes of

- ❖ Children's Toys Hamper
- ❖ Gardening Hamper
- ❖ Pampering Hamper
- ❖ Wines and Spirits Hamper
- ❖ Italian Food Hamper
- ❖ Complete set of Colin Dexter ('Inspector Morse') books.

We hope that you will be able to support this venture at £1 per ticket. The draw will take place on 2nd September.

Following that there will be a fundraising meal at the popular EAST restaurant, which has been booked for 3 July at 7:30 pm. Tickets available now.

Thank you all for your continued support by attending the functions we organise, your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed.

## **Alternative Worship**

### **Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel**

Sunday 14 July at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm (second Sunday). Gospel Music and reflection with tea/coffee and cake before and after the service.

### **Belfairs**

#### **Thirsty For?**

Thursday 11 July at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

### **Wesley**

#### **Inspire - Contemporary Worship**

A short upbeat worship service, a talk, and then group discussion.  
Sunday 21 July at 5:30 pm (third Sunday)

#### **Informal Service**

Tuesday 23 July at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday).

#### **Memory Worship**

Worship for those with and without Dementia  
Monday 15 July at 2:00 pm (third Monday)

### **Hadleigh**

**Café Crew** – coffee, chat and prayer.

Sunday 28 July (fourth Sunday) 5:00 – 6:30 pm  
At Costa, 269 London Road

## **Committees**

Pastoral 24 September 2019 at 10:00 am

Church Council 14 October 2019 at 8:00 pm



## **Coffee Mornings in July**

Saturday 6 July	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 13 July	Action for Children
Saturday 20 July	Church funds
Saturday 27 July	TBC



## **Flower Rota**

	<b>Donated by</b>	<b>In memory of</b>	<b>Arranged by</b>
7 July	Maureen Kelly	Michael & Peter	Margaret
14 July	Dorothy Allen	John	Pauline
21 July	Betty Hall	Parents	Jean
28 July	Sandra Harrison	Mum and Dad	Margaret

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**

<b>Highlands Toddlers</b>	Monday 9:30-11:30 am	Margaret Wood	☎ 557512
<b>Rainbows</b>	Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147
<b>Brownies</b>	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow	☎ 710207
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Thursday 5:45-7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon <a href="mailto:lesleykbacon@googlemail.com">lesleykbacon@googlemail.com</a>	
<b>Scouts</b>	Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm	Sally Monk	☎ 558857
<b>Rangers</b>	Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147
<b>Guides</b>	Friday 7:00-9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147

### **Fellowship Groups**

Housegroup meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 **August 2019 issue** should be emailed to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) **before Sunday 28 July** No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.