



# *The* **HIGHLANDER**

**October 2019**

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

## **Worship in October 2019**

6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Harvest Festival	Rev Norman Hooks
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30*	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders

\*Remember the clocks go back on this day

**Children of all ages are welcome at all our services**  
**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

Minister	Rev Norman Hooks <a href="mailto:norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk">norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk</a>	311900
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Lesley/Andrew Hyde Jean Edmonds Steve Jones Kathy McCullough Donald Mayes	473111 525250 553898 714528 473787
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	David Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane <a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a>	01268 755291
Children's Workers	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

## **From the Editor**

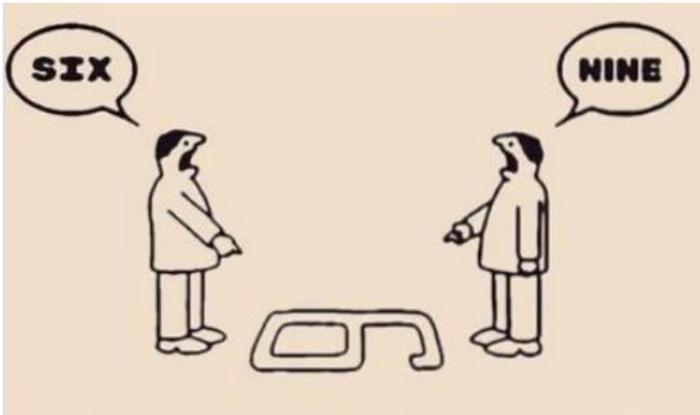
As I write this, Lesley and I are trying to dry out various items of clothing, several large tents and ourselves. This is (of course) a legacy of camping with the Scouts over a very rainy weekend. This partly explains why your Highlander is a little late – sorry about that.

So, last Sunday morning I woke up at Thriftwood near Brentwood in a tent that was mostly warm and dry on the inside. But what actually woke me was the loud impact of heavy rain on the outside of the tent. That morning the main task on my agenda (and that of my co-leaders) was striking camp then packing, transporting and putting away the tents and equipment. These items were by now sodden with rain and sitting in a sea of Essex mud. You can probably imagine the joy with which I contemplated the morning's work.

Yet the hammering of the rain was not the only sound I could hear. Somewhere close by, children were out in the rain, and their shouts suggested enjoyment. The previous evening, a dozen or so wild Canada Geese had taken up a short tenancy on the lake about 40 metres away, and they were signalling their approval of the rain with loud and exuberant honking. The rain, therefore, was a fact. But clearly there were three very different and equally valid opinions about the rain.



I have made a point of not using the B-word in these columns, and most people think that's A Good Thing. But in recent weeks it seems that B\*\*\*\*\* has so dominated the news that each of us is obliged to have an opinion about it. There is nothing wrong of course with having an opinion but we as Christians must not



confuse viewpoint with fact; or make the mistake of condemning another person's opinion out of hand.

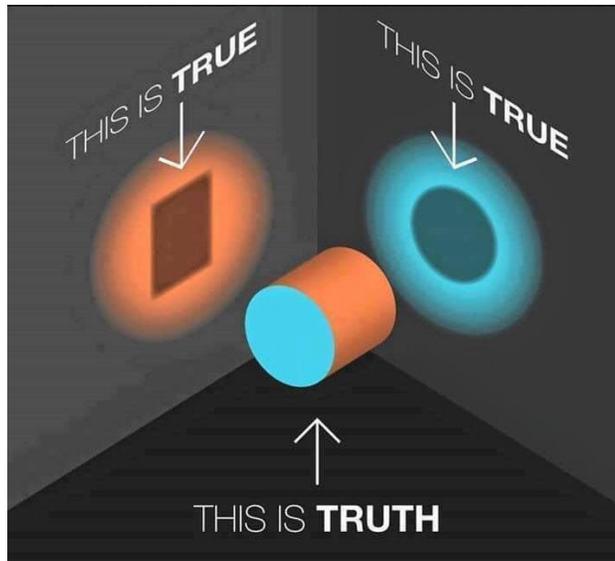
Here is a very simple cartoon that I like. It makes a very simple point. Why not think about how these two figures

(yes, I admit that they appear to be men) might resolve their difference?

Alongside the dialogue about what is fact, we can find a similar debate about truth. They are not quite the same thing, (in my humble opinion!) and I can explain why not by offering another graphic.

If you are observing the cylinder from the left-hand side, you might truly and honestly conclude that it is a sphere. That is the evidence of your own eyes.

However an observer looking from the right-hand side may with equal honesty say that it's a cube. Neither observer can gain access to the truth without listening to the view of the other. As Christians we have access at any time to a view other than our own; it is the view of Jesus, set out in the Bible. Therein is our access to the truth.



Andrew

## **Prayer**

**We pray for** our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: *Pat Gare in Admirals Court, Jean Burgess in St Martins Care Home and Doll Edwards in The Cedars. Marie Moore has moved to Rosedale Court, Rayleigh. She would welcome visitors. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.*

**Good news** is always welcome (even more so than bad news) so it's a pleasure to report that Ros Bryant has now had her operation and is recovering steadily. As I write this she is expected imminently to be discharged from hospital and will then be convalescing at home.

**Also recovering** after breaking her ankle at home is Betty Hall. She also hopes to be discharged this week.

Our prayers of thanks for their recovery and of course for all the dedicated people involved in caring for them.

## **Puzzle of the Month**

Murphy's Law still holds good. I made a mistake in last month's puzzle. I should have said that Old Mother Hubbard has one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the cake left, giving the answer 8. The answer to the puzzle as set was 4. Well done if you got 4.

To make up for this, here is a really easy one. You are in an office block, and you come to a door which is labelled thus:

**CANT EN**

What lies beyond the door? You are by the way nowhere near the canteen. (Answer p15)



## **Jobs for the garden**

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

I'm making sure I look after my lawn now that we've had some rain and the grass is growing again. Rake it vigorously to remove moss and thatch and keep it free of leaves. These weaken the grass and encourage pests and diseases. You can use the leaves to make leaf mould. Aerating the lawn will improve it and then give it an autumn feed.

Climbing roses need hard pruning now – if you haven't done it already. Remove the current season's side shoots to one or two buds and then take out main stems that are old or damaged. Shrub roses need to be trimmed back to a good shape. Don't prune cherries, plums or greengages now or you'll leave them vulnerable to silver leaf fungus.

I've just potted up my strawberry runners – I've got so many that if they all take, I'll be able to supply Wimbledon! Don't cut them off from the mother plant until they're well established in their little pots.

Agapanthus need some care now – it's a fallacy that they thrive on neglect and poor soil. I have the deciduous variety and my plants in the ground have survived the last few winters. Feed until the foliage has died and then cut back and cover with mulch

of 5cm. You could cover with fleece if there's a hard frost forecast. In the spring the new growth will push through – then start feeding again. They need dividing every 4 – 5 years. If you're not sure which variety you have, and you don't want to lose them in a hard winter, lift the tubers, allow to dry and store in cool, dark location.

If you are repotting agapanthus in containers, use a pot just one size larger. It's another misconception that they need to be pot bound. They like to be cosy but they flower poorly if too crowded.

## **SGC**

### **Humour Corner**

Who doesn't love extracts from motor insurance claims? Here are a few that made me smile:

Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I haven't got.

Cow wandered into my car. I was afterwards informed that the cow was half-witted.

I am sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.



I had one eye on a parked car, another on approaching lorries, and another on the woman behind.

## **Dates to Remember**

### **Highlights at Highlands**

#### **Harvest Festival**

Our annual service of thanksgiving for 'all good gifts around us' will be on Sunday 13 October at 10:30 am. Rev Norman Hooks will lead the service, which will be a parade service. As usual, we invite gifts of food which will be donated to local food banks. For this reason, we suggest non-perishables, especially (but not only) tinned foods and cereals. The food banks are typically very well stocked with baked beans, pasta and rice.

#### **Autumn Fair**

This takes place on Saturday 2 November from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. More detail on page 14.



## **Music**

### **At Wesley**

Sat 19 Oct 7:00 to 7:40 pm – Triple H Community Choir  
Tickets on the door or email [wesleyconcerts@outlook.com](mailto:wesleyconcerts@outlook.com)

### **Elsewhere**

URC Kings Road Westcliff  
Sat 12 Oct 7:30 pm  
The Orpheus Singers + Elizabeth Dunlop  
Songs from Stage & Screen – Contact 07518 382390

Westcliff HS for Boys  
Sat 19 Oct 7:30 pm  
Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir  
Concert & Quiz – Contact 07432 456281

Hadleigh SA Temple  
Sat 12 Oct 7:30 pm  
Southend Symphony Orchestra  
Contact 07486 661597

## **Exhibition & Sale**

Zena Goss (whom some will remember as wife of Rev Brian Goss of this circuit) writes:

*As many of you will know, the Revd. Teresa Rutterford is a highly creative and gifted artist – witness her quilted wall hangings at a number of churches, including Wesley, Highlands and Canvey Methodist Churches; not forgetting her Circuit Wall Hanging, and also her wall hanging in Rayleigh Baptist Church.*

*For two weeks, from 21 October to 4 November, a variety of examples of her beautiful and unique work will be on display and on sale in the shop PUDDLE & GOOSE close to St. Clements Church, Leigh on Sea.*

*This will be a wonderful opportunity to buy special and unusual gifts, and a way to start your Christmas shopping! Profits from the sale of items will go to Rethink Mental Illness, Southend Recovery Point, in memory of her late son, Jerome.*



## **Highlands Hobbies**

We will be meeting on Thursday 3 Oct at 10:00 am in No 1 room when we will be creating Christmas craft and cards. Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay.

We will also meet on Thursday 17 Oct at 10:00 am in No 1 room. Christmas craft and cards.

\* **EXTRA HOBBIES** on 31 Oct at 10:00 am for final preparations for Autumn Fair including flower arranging with Jean.

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

## **Serving the Homeless / HARP**

Unfortunately, no one at Highlands was a winner in the raffle. Thank you nevertheless for your generous support which helped us to raise over £700.

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.



## **PinPoint**

We are delighted that all places have been filled for our exciting Christmas project.

Any visitors will be welcome to look in over the next few Wednesday mornings and normal PinPoint activities will start again on 13 November when new members are welcome.

Normal PinPoint days are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

## **Humour Corner**

Some more silly motor insurance claims:

I thought the side window was down but it was up, as I found when I put my head through it.

I saw a slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the roof of my car.



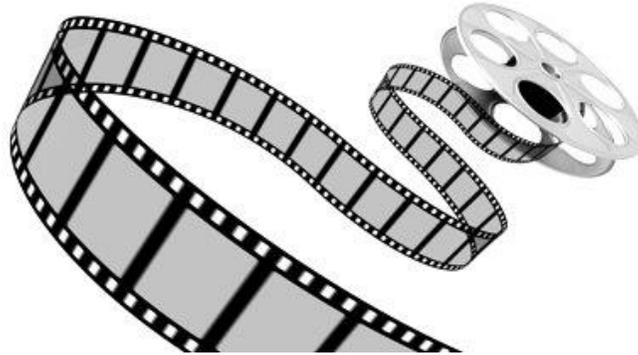
Q: Could either driver have done anything to avoid the accident?  
A: Travelled by bus?



## **Healing and Well-being Services**

For those interested the circuit has a series of holistic healing services of prayers and talks on health and well-being. They are on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm at Benfleet and Shoebury Methodist Churches. Here are some forthcoming dates:

- **23 October 2019 Shoebury.** Jessica Wing from MIND with Jane Fulford
- **27 November 2019 Benfleet.** Service of Well-being with Pastor Steve Mayo
- **22 January 2020 Benfleet.** Service of Well-being with Colin Turner
- **26 February 2020 Benfleet.** Jill Allen-King OBE – National Federation of the Blind with Jane Fulford
- **25 March 2020 Shoebury.** Service of Well-being with Bob Briant
- **22 April 2020 Benfleet.** Service with a speaker with Rev Chris Sandy
- **27th May 2020 Benfleet.** Service of Well-being with Mike Spaul
- **24th June 2020 Shoebury.** Service with a speaker with Rev Pete Moorhouse



**Movies @ Highlands**  
**A HIGHLANDS FRIDAY HUB EVENT**  
**Friday 18 October 1:30 pm**  
**'Wonder' [PG]**



Wonder follows the inspiring story of the Pullman family, whose youngest child Auggie, is a boy born with facial differences. When Auggie enters mainstream school for the first time his extraordinary journey unites his family, his school and his community and proves that you can't blend in when you are born to stand out. Starring Jacob Tremblay as Auggie, and with a fabulous supporting cast including Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts, you won't want to miss this.

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)



# HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

## AUTUMN FAIR

**SATURDAY  
2ND NOV, 2019**

**10.00AM TIL 1.00PM**

CHRISTMAS CARDS

GIFTS & CRAFTS

CAKES

REFRESHMENTS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



## **A Poem for October**

What other poem could I possibly give you but this one by John Keats? Beginning with a well-known salutation to autumn, it continues with a series of captivating pen-pictures of the season. Keats wrote this in the autumn of 1819, already suffering from the tuberculosis that would kill him 17 months later at the age of 25. Every time I read this, I ask myself if I could have written it at the same age. The correct answer I think is 'no'.



### **To Autumn**

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, —  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

## **Sharing**

Just a quick note to say that if you have anything to share, you can always find a way to share it with others in the Highlands family. It doesn't matter whether it's happy or sad, spiritual or not, important or just something you like. It could be an announcement, a quotation, a story, a letter pointing out an error (!), a picture or cartoon or a shout for your favoured charity. And lots more. We'll publish if we possibly can.

Email it to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) for the Highlander, or to [andreas@venusglass.co.uk](mailto:andreas@venusglass.co.uk) for the website. Or use our pigeonholes. Or why not post it yourself on our FaceBook page (especially photos and other graphics)? If you don't know how to post on FB you can (1) ask a teenager to help (2) ask Julie or Andreas or me to help.

## **Humour Corner**

Patient:

*I keep bursting into song for no reason. I don't know what's causing it, but it's driving me mad.*

Doctor:

*What sort of things do you sing?*

Patient:

*'What's New Pussycat' and 'The Green Green Grass of Home' and sometimes 'Delilah'.*

Doctor:

*Aha! I think I recognise this. You've got 'Tom Jones Syndrome'.*

Patient:

*Oh my goodness that sounds awful. Is it very rare?*

Doctor:

*Let's just say 'It's Not Unusual'...*



## **Coffee Mornings in October**

5 October      Music @ Highlands

12 October

19 October      Church funds

26 October



## **Flower Rota**

	<b>Donated by</b>	<b>In memory of</b>	<b>Arranged by</b>
6 October	[Church Flowers]		Jean
13 October	Sylvia Cornwell	Ellie	Jean & Sylvia
20 October	Maureen Kelly	Parents	Margaret
27 October	[Church Anniversary]		Pauline

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.

Puzzle answer: Behind the door is a WC or washroom. What you can see is a partial view of the words **VACANT** and **ENGAGED**.

## **Services to the Community**

### Regular **Sunday Worship**

Tuesday Morning **Prayer Service** at 9:00 am.

## **Social and Recreational**

Knit & 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
Pin Point	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Teresa 07704 016391 Glenis 07484 744540
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 **November 2019 issue** should be emailed to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) **before Sunday 27 October** No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.