



The **HIGHLANDER**


January 2021

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist
Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 3 rd	Café Church Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 10 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 pm Sun 17 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 24 th	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Jane Fulford
11:00 am Sun 31 st	Morning Worship Using ZOOM <i>All are welcome</i>	Susie King

NB As always the above services are subject to possible amendment if pertinent regulations and circumstances change. If they do, we'll try our hardest to let you know

Find more information at: 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	Pastor Steve Mayo pastorstevemayo@gmail.com	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Kathy McCullough/Margaret Wood	714528
Church Stewards	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 annelane8@btinternet.com	01268 755291
Children's Workers	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	[position vacant]	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

A Topical Matter

As I put this truncated version of *Highlander* together, I am



listening to a service on the radio from Canterbury Cathedral, where they are commemorating St Thomas à Becket, the archbishop who was assassinated there on 29 December 1170. You may not know that there is a local connection. One of the knights who carried out the crime was Roger le Breton, who lived at Barton Hall (a corruption of 'Le Breton Hall') near Great Stambridge. Over 850 years since then, Thomas's memory has been faithfully preserved, not only by historians but

also by (for example) poets such as Chaucer and T S Eliot.

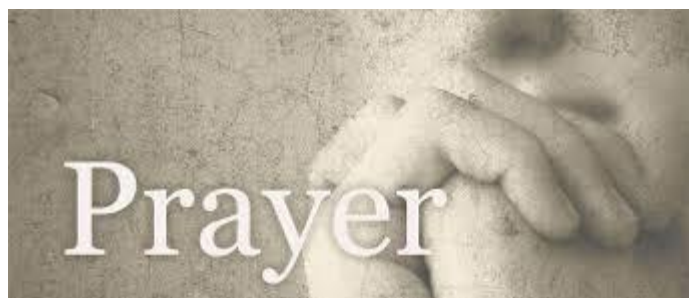
2020 has been a year when new words have come into our vocabulary, new places and new people into prominence. Had I asked you a year ago to

- define a 'furlough',
- identify Ursula von der Leyen or
- point on a map to the city of Wuhan,

you may have struggled. Not now...

But would we still know the answers in 100 years' time? Let alone 850 years. I think that our descendants may have forgotten. Meanwhile the world will still remember the death of Thomas. And even more so the story of Jesus 1,100 years earlier. So, let 2021 be the year that COVID-19 and other disasters of 2020 start to become history. Let the world learn its lessons. Then let us instead focus on peace and reconciliation, the future of our planet, and the enduring example of how to live a life that we find in Jesus Christ.

Anarcan



We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound, or bereaved and for those in residential care: particularly Maureen Kelly at home and *Doll Edwards* in *The Cedars*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Puzzle of the Month

For this month's puzzle, there are 15 surnames of people who were in the news in 2020. They are hidden in the grid on the right, where they can be found in any direction including diagonals.

Just to help you a little bit, you should be able to find

- 6 politicians (3 British, 2 American and 1 French)
- 1 scientist
- 1 political advisor
- The world's richest businessman (US)
- 1 US pop star
- 1 comedian who is also a surprisingly good dancer
- 1 climate change campaigner (young)
- 2 sportsmen (1 a world champion, 1 a campaigning footballer)
- 1 artist (unconventional!)

S	T	U	R	G	E	O	N	J	T	E	S
U	B	S	C	H	N	R	N	I	F	S	Y
G	I	A	B	E	Z	O	S	T	I	L	T
R	D	O	I	R	T	D	S	I	W	S	T
E	E	R	I	L	S	E	T	N	S	N	I
B	N	T	I	H	E	E	A	R	H	R	H
N	E	M	F	V	R	Y	R	X	U	O	W
U	A	C	A	K	S	B	M	W	E	M	J
H	Z	A	R	K	A	N	E	D	R	E	P
T	W	H	N	Y	B	A	R	N	I	E	R
D	E	A	S	G	N	I	M	M	U	C	F
E	B	C	I	D	R	O	F	H	S	A	R

From Your Minister

With another year past and a new one stretching out before us, it seems a natural time to take stock of our lives.

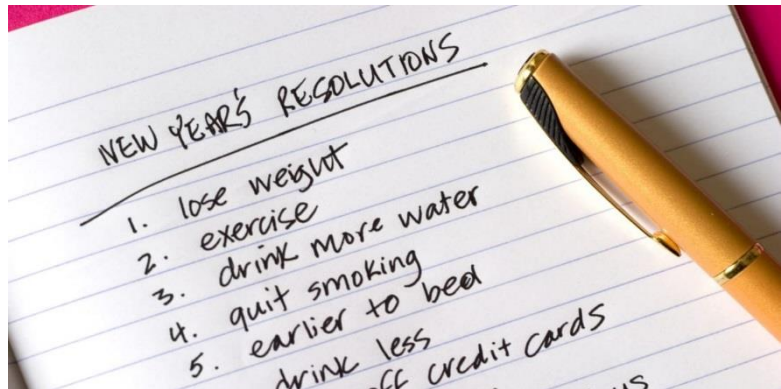
What went well over the last year?

What was disappointing?

Where would we like to be in another year's time?

What would we especially like to do and achieve in the coming year?

With such thoughts in our minds, we perhaps begin to form our New Year resolutions. I wonder what yours might be?



To go on a diet; exercise more; take up a new hobby; seek a new job or a new house; learn a new language?

Depending on when you are reading this you might have already failed to keep your New Year's resolution and feel rather disappointed with yourself!

So many of these promises we make to ourselves are about improving ourselves, and there's nothing wrong with that. But our culture drives us to constantly succeed and achieve. Most of the adverts on TV encourage us to be thinner, faster, wealthier, fitter, more powerful, more intelligent etc. Thus we can easily feel that we have fallen short in some way, that we have failed and so feel guilty and perhaps even slightly useless.

In a culture that values people primarily for what they've got and what they can do, we need to remind ourselves that we believe in a

God who loves us simply for who we are – his children. Here is a reminder of some of the things God has to say about each of us;

'I made you in my own image and likeness, and when I made you, I saw that you are good.'
(Genesis 1:27,31)

'I am silently planning for you in love.'
(Zephaniah 3:17)

'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.'
(Isaiah 43:1)

'I, Christ, loved you, and sacrificed myself for your sake.'
(Galatians 2:20)

As we make, and perhaps break, our New Year resolutions, let's not be too hard on ourselves. Remember God loves you as you are, and that perhaps the best resolution you can make is to begin to love yourself too, rather than listen to the voices of a culture that constantly shouts, 'Could do better!'

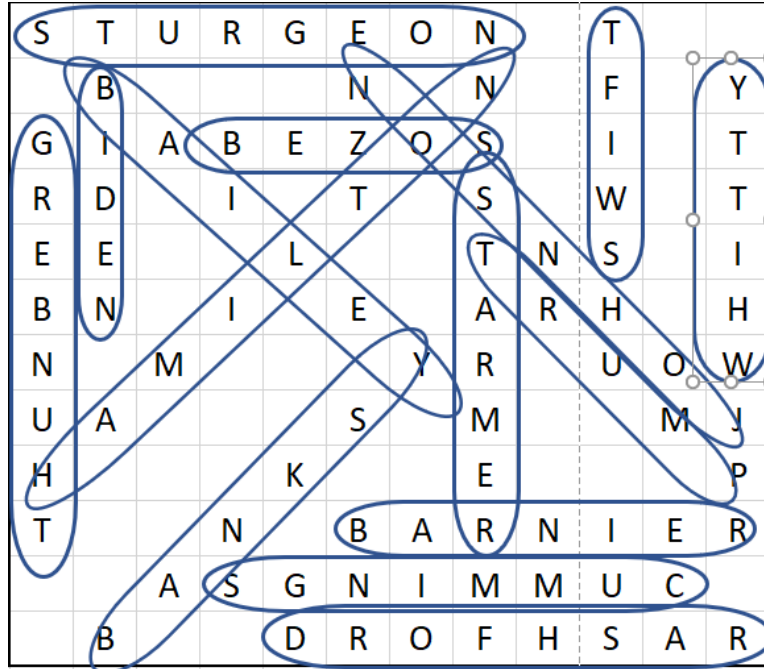
Of course, we also need to remember that although God does love us as we are, he loves us too much to leave us as we are!

Every blessing for 2021

Pastor Steve
Pastor Steve Mayo
Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
Telephone: 01702 483827

Puzzle Solution

You could have found:
 Boris JOHNSON
 Donald TRUMP
 Nicola STURGEON
 Keir STARMER
 Joe BIDEN
 Michel BARNIER
 Chris WHITTY
 Dominic CUMMINGS
 Jeff BEZOS
 Taylor SWIFT
 Bill BAILEY
 Greta THUNBERG
 Lewis HAMILTON
 Marcus RASHFORD
 BANKSY



*A new day dawns at
 Dunstanburgh Castle in
 Northumberland.*

*So will the year 2021
 begin.*

*We wish all our
 friends at Highlands
 a very happy, and above all a very healthy, New Year 2021*



SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Fellowship Groups

Services to the Community

Social and Recreational

These services are suspended at the moment. We hope of course that they can be restored soon.

For updated news keep following

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

or  Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

also www.methodist.org.uk is an excellent source of information and inspiration.

Items for the February 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before Sunday 24 January . No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."
When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

John 11:3-5 NIV