



The **HIGHLANDER**



January 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 2 nd	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 9 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 16 th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 23 rd	Morning Worship	Archie McDowall ¹
11:00 am Sat 30 th	Morning Worship US at Wesley	Pastor Steve Mayo

Services above are all live, but details may be altered to follow guidance from the government or from Methodist Church UK. We'll love to see you, but please wear a mask unless you



are exempt.  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.

¹ Archie is on trial and will really appreciate a good turnout

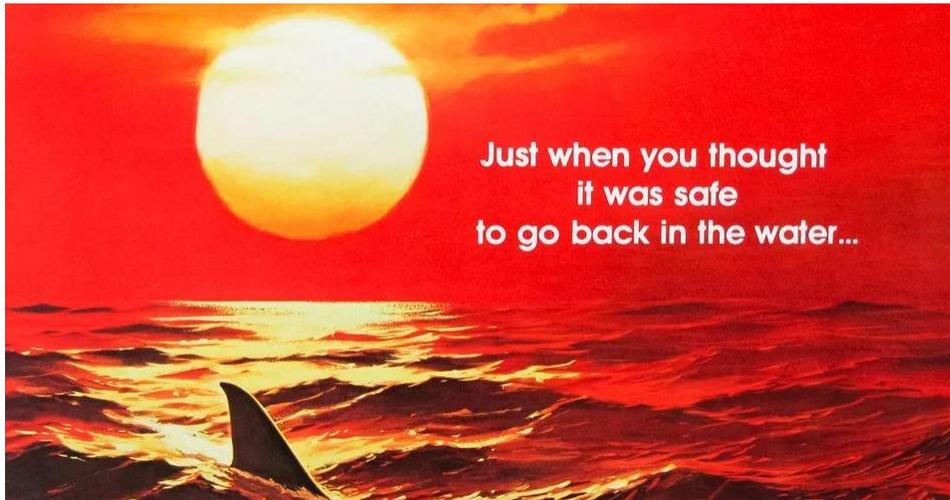


**Highlands Methodist Church
Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

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 Steve Jones Kathy McCullough Donald Mayes Andreas Botzios (also Web Editor)	473111 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	Jean Edmonds	
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	479804

From Your Minister



The above poster was advertising Jaws 2 back in 1978, and contains that famous tagline:

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water...

With the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines and booster jabs, I think most of us were hoping that we had seen the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. But along comes Omicron, and restrictions start to come back into force and will only probably get stricter in the New Year.

So how do we stay positive when the future looks bleak? Well, we focus our thoughts on higher things; we focus on hope. The Bible is full of passages which talk about hope...

At least there is hope for a tree: if it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail.

[Job 14:7 NIVUK]

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

[Psalm 9:18 NIVUK]

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

[Psalm 31:24 NIVUK]

Hope is something which allows us to live our lives with dignity and confidence.

I once had a church member who always lived 'under the circumstances' of life, and because of this, always had a dim view of the future. Often her future looked hopeless.

But we don't need to be living 'under the circumstances' because we have a hope, a hope in Jesus. This world, with its problems and stresses, is only part of our lives and our futures. In this world we will always have difficulties and issues. But Jesus gives us hope through what He tells us:

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
[John 16:33 NIVUK]

When we live lives focusing on hope, it helps us surf over the problems of life. We may still be buffeted, and at times even swamped, but we will not be defeated because we have a hope in Christ.

So, as we look into this New Year, look through the lens of hope, and your future will look so much brighter and full of hope.
Happy New Year to you all!

Every blessing,
Pastor Steve
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
01702 483827

Humour Corner



Patient: *That's outrageous! £150 for an extraction that will only take five minutes!*

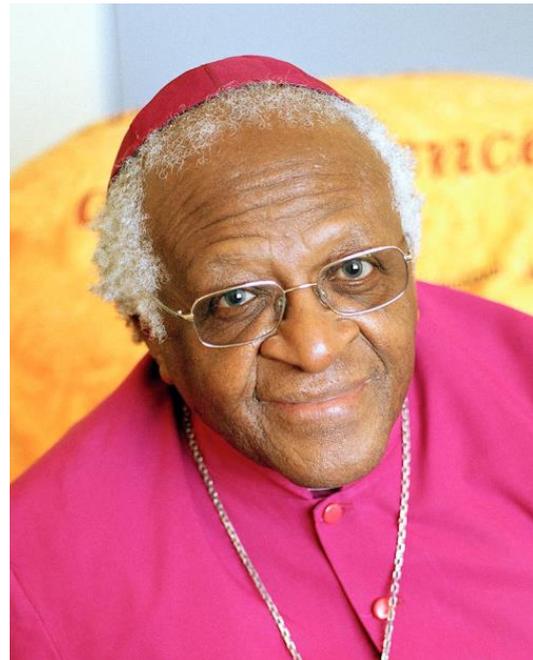
Dentist:
You're absolutely right Mr Brown. I'll pull it out very slowly.



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

From the Editor

I often wonder what to write about here. Usually something pops my head, and the morning of Boxing Day was no exception. As soon as the radio came to life, I was hearing about the death, aged 90, of The Most Reverend Desmond Mpilo Tutu OMSG CH² Emeritus Archbishop of Cape Town. When I was searching just now for an image of him, I was struck forcibly by the fact that every picture shows him smiling or laughing.



As well as being the best-known father (alongside Mandela) of the modern South Africa, he was also a man who joyfully radiated the message of Christ in everything he did. He was deeply committed to tolerance, democracy and inclusiveness. He believed and famously said:

² Order for Meritorious Service and Companion of Honour (but I'm sure you knew that)

If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.

The other think that struck me today was that Boxing Day is more formally know as the Feast of Saint Stephen. The book of Acts records that:

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue...but they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

Acts 6: 8-9-10

The book of Acts goes on to describe how Stephen's listeners became frustrated at their inability to refute or silence him. Their response was to stone him. Despite this, Stephen prayed before he died:

Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

Acts 7:60

So the deaths of Desmond and Stephen are linked not just by a date. Wisdom rooted in faith, and an unquenchable desire to speak truth to power dominated both their lives. We can all try to be their legacy.

Andrew



Humour Corner

Ship's captain, who has just picked a castaway from a desert island:

Welcome aboard, sir, but you seem to be covered in red paint

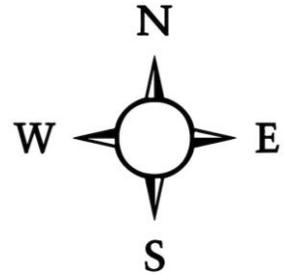
Castaway:

Yes, I was marooned.

Puzzle of the Month³

Getting this right will prove that although you may not flaunt it - you still have it. Doing it without a pencil and paper means you really have it

Add together the number of days in August, September, and October. Divide by the number of cardinal points of the compass. Multiply by the number of zeros in 1 million. Subtract 2 dozen. Add together the digits in your answer. What is the final answer?



- (a) 8 (b) 114 (c) 10 (d) 6



So now you're ready for the January sales. But can you answer this?

Which is the better bargain: (a) Socks marked down 10% from the original price and then reduced an additional 40% or (b) the same socks reduced 50% from the original price?

³ Solution page 13

Snippets

Mencap Showstoppers

Marc McOwens writes:

Dear Anne and Frank,

I am writing to you to express my immense thanks for all the support provided by you and your fantastic team at Highlands Methodist Church in making our Christmas concert on Friday 17 December another truly memorable evening. With everything that has been going on, it was extra special to be able to stage this event and it certainly got me into the festive spirit. This concert wasn't just enjoyed by all, but it was needed by all too and I can certainly count myself in that regard.



I cannot stress enough about Highlands Methodist Church being such a brilliant venue to come to with such a charming and pleasant atmosphere and that was clearly seen by yet another impressive audience who turned up to watch our Music School and Music Man students perform the favourite of not only our concerts of this festive period but probably the favourite concert we do all year. The immense appreciation shown by the audience for the talent of our students was a moving experience for me as well as to David and his team leading the concert.

Please accept my thanks and the thanks of Southend Mencap as a whole for the continued fantastic dedication and support provided by everyone at Highlands Methodist Church to the society and our

students. It really is immensely appreciated.

I wish you and everyone associated with Highlands Methodist Church a very happy and healthy Christmas and may 2022 be peaceful and prosperous for you all.

Warmest regards,

*Marc McOwens
General Manager
Southend Mencap*

Next to Godliness

Another new face will appear at Highlands on Tuesday 4 January, but you'll need to be up early to encounter him. Gary Meddle is starting on a 3-month trial in the really important role of cleaner. Do say 'hello' if you meet him, and especially the first time, tell him who you are. If you have any particular issues around cleaning, do please mention them to any of the stewards or to Anne Lane.



Tuesday Prayer

Did you know that the Prayer Group has continued to meet weekly throughout lockdown? No, it's not another government 'party' scandal; we have been using 'Zoom' for about 45 minutes from 9:00 am on a Tuesday, and greatly enjoying it. At the moment there are about 10 of us, but all are welcome. If you are interested in joining us, either regularly or for a special reason, contact any steward.

Highlands Hobbies

Happy New Year to all our Highlands friends. Why not come and join us in the New Year? Jean 525250 Julie 479804

Highlands Toddlers

Our thanks to all who attended the last session of the current term, and to Santa, for making the party so enjoyable. Thank you also to Les, David, Andrew S and Pauline for all your regular help.

COVID permitting, we shall re-open on 10 January 2022, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Happy New Year!
Ros and Margaret

Humour Corner

Man entering a library:

HADDOCK AND CHIPS TWICE PLEASE. VINEGAR BUT NO SALT.

Librarian:

I'm sorry sir, this is a library

Man (very quietly):

Haddock and chips twice please. Vinegar but no salt.

Serving the Homeless

St Vincent de Paul Society of England and Wales

A report by Andrew Saville

Andrew & Lesley Hyde requested that non-perishable food and provisions should be left by Highlands' members and friends in the Jubilee Room, during the four-week period from mid-November, to

be donated to the local unit in Short Street, Southend of the St. Vincent de Paul Society ('SVP'). These donations were supplemented by a similar quantity of consumables donated at the Highlands morning service on 12 December and transported by car to Southend.



SVP, as it is known, was set up nationally, motivated by the guiding principles of Christian charity. They seek to find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and tackle poverty where resources and volunteer labour make it possible.

The Southend unit is managed by a team of four headed by Daniel Cauchi who not only receive food, provisions, clothing and some furniture, all donated free of charge, but also dispense it via their industrial unit. It's a community support project for vulnerable people. The Southend hub is dedicated to changing lives through practical support, advice and friendship.

The service is tailored to the needs of individuals. They provide foodbank services, hot meals, outreach support, household items, clothing, counselling, dementia support and a befriending service. They also indicate to users where specialist organisations in the locality can be found. SVP Southend does not receive any financial support from the Southend City Council, which surprised and disappointed me.

On their website, they claim to be a busy hub and that was certainly the case when I paid a visit and was shown around. They receive produce from supermarkets, which has reached its sell-by date, and have storerooms containing clothes, shoes, and almost anything you could find in high street shops, labelled, and classified. Before Christmas they also had a present wrapping room.



In a coordinated way they visit the sick, support the homeless, comfort the bereaved, visit prisoners, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and befriend the lonely. At the Kindness Kitchen they provide hot meals in the early evening on five days each week. This all depends on a good level of voluntary support. As you can imagine, the presence and risk of the COVID virus have certainly added to the challenge.

Their website is definitely worth a visit.

<https://www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-southend/what-we-do> .

AS

A Note from Your Treasurer

A quick thanks to everyone who has been able to co-operate by sending less cash – and more electronic transfers – to me over the Christmas season.

Please keep up the good work. If you are handling cash that goes through church accounts and want some advice about how you can do it more efficiently and securely, please contact me.

David Watson

Puzzle of the Month Solution

- $31 \text{ (Aug)} + 30 \text{ (Sep)} + 31 \text{ (Oct)} = 96$
- $92 \div 4 = 23$
- $23 \times 6 = 138$
- $138 - 24 = 114$
- $1 + 1 + 4 = \underline{6}$

So **(d)** is the right answer.

For the socks **(b)** is the right answer. Suppose the socks were originally £10.

£10 dollars minus 10% is £9.00, minus an additional 40% is £5.40. £10 minus 50% is £5.00.

Humour Corner

Lawyer:
I should like to lodge an appeal

Judge:
On what grounds?

Lawyer:
It appears my client still has some money left



Poem of the Month

This is part of a lyric from a song, *Anthem*, by Canadian songwriter Leonard Cohen (1934-2016).

Cohen was raised in Judaism, later explored Buddhism (to the extent of being ordained a Zen priest) but always professed himself Jewish. Also he wrote of Jesus:

He may be the most beautiful guy who walked the face of this earth. Any guy who says 'Blessed are the poor. Blessed are the meek' has got to be a figure of unparalleled generosity and insight and madness ...

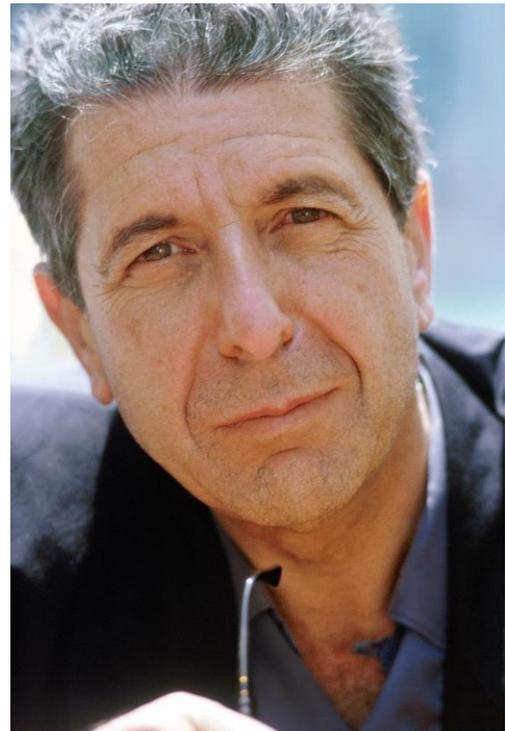
His theme here is that imperfection is natural and should be accepted. Good news for me...

Anthem

The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be.

Ah, the wars they will be fought again
The holy dove, she will be caught again
Bought and sold, and bought again
The dove is never free

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.



**A very healthy and joyful 2022
to all readers of**
The **Highlander**
**your friends, neighbours and relatives,
young, old and somewhere in between**



SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Fellowship Groups

Services to the Community

Social and Recreational

Some of these services are suspended at the moment. We now feel confident 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 2022 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 23** January, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.



The Seven Sisters – chalk cliffs near Eastbourne.