



The **HIGHLANDER**

March 2022

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 6 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 13 th	Morning Worship Communion	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 20 th	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
11:00 am Sun 27 th	Morning Worship	Paul Saunders

Services above are all live, but details may be altered to follow guidance from the government or from Methodist Church UK.



 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church
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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Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds		525250
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Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek		479804



From Your Minister



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'lencten', which means "spring." The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up. Over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, desserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities!

I think giving things up *can* be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter. But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for just giving things up, but also for



taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we really look at our lives and the time we spend with our Lord, we can often conclude that we've been fasting all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer; fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our giving?

So, my prayer for all of us, me included, is that this Lenten season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And as we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us;

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [NIVUK]

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve, March 2022

01702 483827

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Humour Corner

This month we have some more examples of 'mistake' humour. We stay with youthful views on religion:

- *One of the opossums was Matthew, who was also a taximan*
- *Solomon was very fond of animals as he had 300 porcupines*
- *The Papal Bull was a mad bull kept by the Pope in the Inquisition to trample on Protestants*
- *Everyone was pleased when Jesus healed the paralytic man, except Simon who had to pay to have the roof mended.*



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.

Congratulations to Doreen Grey on her recent 100th Birthday. Love from all your friends at Highlands.

We wish a **speedy recovery** to Sandra Harrison who has a broken shoulder. However, I don't know how this occurred.

The Highlander is delighted to offer **congratulations** to err... itself! Frank Edmonds reports, on revisiting Kathy McCullough's booklet *The Journey from the Cross to Highlands*, that *The Monthly Newsletter* (now *The Highlander*) was started in 1947 and is therefore 75 years old this year.

We send **condolences** to friends and family of Megan Wright who passed away peacefully on 4 January. Many will remember her as joint owner of the family-run Leigh Tennis Club which once flourished in the triangle behind 131 Highlands Boulevard. She leaves a daughter Anne who now lives in Frinton.

Finally, **we pray for peace** in Ukraine – may all parties reach a fair and just conclusion which respects the rights and wishes of the people of that land.

From the Editor



This looks as if it might be a quiz question, so I might as well ask it. What do you think the people pictured above have in common? You will probably come up with a number of suggestions, some of them perhaps not very flattering. However, I couldn't possibly comment on that.

One thing they¹ do have in common is that they have all met with our current monarch – HM Queen Elizabeth II. This is hardly surprising. At the last count HM has met with 13 US Presidents and 14 British Prime Ministers, including both the present incumbents. In addition, she has met with at least one leader of the majority of the 206 (or so) sovereign states on the planet. Not to mention high-ranking soldiers, superstar entertainers, captains of industry, sporting champions, climate activists, administrators, judges, scientists, health professionals and literally thousands of children, all over the world, tasked with delivery of thousands of floral tributes.

Surely there can be nobody alive or dead who can match this. At the time HM became queen – February 1952 – Winston Churchill was Prime Minister, petrol and sugar were both still rationed, and Britain's most popular car was a Morris Minor, whose 803-cc engine would rocket you from 0-50mph in 28.6 seconds and go on to a maximum 62 mph. Yours for £631 including taxes.

However, the most amazing aspect of the 70-year reign is not just

¹ I'm sure you knew this, but they are Boris Johnson, Donald Trump, Tony Blair, Margaret Thatcher, and Richard Nixon. A rogues' gallery (some would say).



that of longevity (among sovereign monarchs only the 72-year reign of Louis XIV of France has exceeded it). Neither is it simply a matter of adaptation to changes that have almost turned the world on its head. It is much more.

In my opinion, shared by many others, the most remarkable thing is that in the course of attending countless meetings, making hundreds of speeches, acting not only as Head of State but also as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she has never put a foot wrong, never slighted or disappointed anyone she has met, and never shown any sign of discontent at any event she has attended, however tedious it may have seemed, however odious her guest may have turned out. Every item of (polite!) correspondence at Buckingham Palace receives a reply, and everyone celebrating a 100th, 105th (or higher) birthday can get a personal message from HM, as can married couples marking 60th, 65th, 70th (or higher) anniversaries.

This year's 70th (Platinum) Jubilee is therefore a cause for celebration and congratulation – whether you are royalist, republican or somewhere in between. As you would expect, Highlands is celebrating, and you can find details on the very next page.

It is also a time to reflect on how far we as a country have come in the last 70 years. At the same time, we must recognise areas where the journey is unfinished. Mostly in the UK, change has been achieved peacefully and democratically. We must pray for parts of world where change is coming about through force and without consensus – Afghanistan and Ukraine come immediately to mind. Always bear in mind that this is just a phase, since the Bible tells us:



God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21: 3-4 [NIVUK]

Andrew

SAVE THE DATE

**HIGHLANDS METHODIST
CHURCH
PLATINUM JUBILEE
COMMUNITY DAY**

**FEATURING
SOUTHEND MENCAP 'SHOWSTOPPERS'**

THURSDAY 9TH JUNE

11AM - 3PM

INCLUDING ALL AGE
COMMUNITY SERVICE AT
2PM

RSVP Julie Peek 01702 479804



Puzzle of the Month²

Here is a salutary tale about dining out. To make things more palatable, the words in block capitals are anagrams, and they all follow an appropriate theme (If you struggle to get the theme, the first answer is in the footnote):

I went out SOLO for lunch at a café and ordered two PAIRS of kippers. To my surprise one of them WAS RAW. I asked for the manager, Gene, to come over.

'I'm sorry.' said the waiter, 'No can do. Gene, who is my Dad, has a sprained ankle.'

'CAN GENE HOP?' I asked. 'URGE PA to come here! And ask him to HASTEN.' Eventually the manager arranged for my lunch to be cooked.

When I got the bill there was no tax number on it, so I again summoned Gene. 'The bill's wrong!' I said.

'No it isn't. You had kippers followed by MOCK SLOTH soup,' said Gene.

'That's true. But your tax number is incorrect. And I can TELL A VAT number when I see one.'

He called to the waiter: 'Change the BIL, SON.' (He couldn't spell either).

'Good' I said. 'But I think you have a thoroughly BAD SETUP here, and I shan't be coming any MORE.'

With that I left, but after only a few yards I threw up in a LARGE BED of flowers.

² Solution page 16. The first solution is Oslo.

Snippets

Church Flowers...

...on 6 March have been donated by Jean and Frank Edmonds in memory of Mother

...on 13 March by Jean and Frank Edmonds for the Wedding of Petra and Darrin

...on 20 March by Sylvia Cornwell for Ellie and Alan.

And staying with a floral theme...

Leigh Floral Group at Highlands!

When Covid first 'hit', Leigh Floral Group had held just one meeting at Highlands, having moved from a Westcliff location. Throughout lockdowns the Group met via Zoom, with colourful demonstrations and camaraderie to keep us going.



Finally in September 2021 we returned to Highlands for our meetings. It was simply great!

Highlands is a welcoming, happy venue with excellent facilities – and our group was so pleased to be back!



At Christmas the news was so doom-laden that we decided to cancel our planned January meeting and reverted to Zoom.



We did however meet at Highlands on 25 February at 7:30 pm, with an inspiring demonstrator making arrangements on a theme of 'With a song in my heart'. So now we'll meet

on the last Friday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the church.
To raise funds for our club we have some events planned which we hope you might join in with us:

On Saturday 19 March – a coffee morning and cake sale at the Church, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. There will be homemade cakes, a raffle, and a sales table. Tea/Coffee will be £1, and cakes start from 50p. Do come along – we'd love to see you!

On Saturday 9 April - a Fun Quiz Night at Highlands. Doors open at 7:30 for 8:00 pm start. Teams of 6 are welcome – and individuals will find teams to join on the night. Bring your own beverages (non-alcoholic) and nibbles. A fun night is assured and there will be a raffle to top-off the evening. Tickets are £5 per person from Karen Cobb* or on the door.



Our Club supports HARP to whom we donated £159 and seasonally decorated food items in December. These were very well received, and we'll continue to support HARP in 2022/3.

We look forward to a happy and successful year at Highlands – and hope you will join us at our social events and friendly Club – for fun, friendship, and flowers! If you have any questions, contact our Secretary, *Karen Cobb on 01702 478095; 07818 431552 or karenjcoobb@hotmail.com.

Craft at the Fishermen's Chapel

Clear your diary for a Mother's Day Artisan Craft Market and Pamper Evening. 25 March, 7:00 – 9:30pm. The theme will be around items suitable for Mother's Day gifts. It will be an evening

with drinks, food, entertainment, shopping and treatments, exact details to be confirmed.

We're looking for artists and makers who have handmade items suitable for the evening and would like a stall. Please do pass this on to friends you think may be interested.

Further details from <http://fishermenschapel.org.uk/mothers-day-artisan-craft.../>

Circuit News

A Mission Planning Day has been arranged for Saturday 19 March 2022. It will discuss what the Circuit and its churches will be like in the future, and Highlands will be represented. If you have any ideas or views on this please speak to Steve or to any of your stewards.

Extraordinary Church Council Meeting (ECCM)

This is to take place on Monday 7 March 2022 at 6:00 pm on 'Zoom'.



You may have noticed that the church premises do not have 'Break Glass' fire alarms. As such they are not compliant with modern safety standards. Partly this is because the buildings have been added piecemeal, and partly because those standards have been raised considerably over the (almost) 100 years that Highlands has stood where it is.

We must put this right promptly for the sake of everyone who uses Highlands. Naturally it will cost money but the possibility of a loan of £9,000 (repayable over 4 years) is being discussed. The first step is for us to apply, and approval for this will be sought at the ECCM. If you would like to know more, or indeed to take part in the meeting as a member, please contact Steve or any of the stewards

Serving the Homeless

Winter rolls into Spring. March winds do blow...and how, even earlier this year, in February! The weather does not help the plight of those still sleeping outdoors or sofa surfing as they move from place to place.

At Serving the Homeless we continue our contribution to the work of HARP, YMCA, and SVP.

HARP benefits from our monthly payment towards the provision of fresh meat, fruit, and vegetables. We are also looking at the opportunity to assist in the fitting of a defibrillator at the York Road premises.

YMCA benefitted from a further contribution to assist the completion of a new facility in Shoeburyness for 6 – 7 youngsters with a full-time support worker in attendance.

We are beginning to get our fund-raising events back on track. The lunch at Park View Restaurant, Chalkwell Park was enjoyed by all and raised £487. Future events include:

12 March	Quiz Evening	@ St Margaret's Church Hall
11 May	Afternoon Tea	@ Park View Restaurant
10 June	Evening of Jazz	@ Our Lady of Lourdes
20 July	Spring Raffle draw	
10 September	A Floral display with Arts and Crafts	

Fuller details are to follow. Meanwhile our AGM will be held on Monday 7 March at St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue. All are welcome at 7:30 pm, to hear of our efforts last year and our aspirations for the coming year.

Thank you all for your continued support whilst we pray for God's blessing on this work.

Staying Steady

On a Wednesday afternoon, there's a group of about 12 people that meet in church for a session of 'Staying Steady'. As well as gentle exercise, it's a good opportunity for a cup of tea and a natter. The group is led by the experienced instructor, Michael, who gets the best out of everybody.

This progressive programme combines strength, balance and stability exercises which are proven to reduce the risk of falling. At least one of the regular attendees can now walk confidently without her walking stick. The class is full at present but watch out for spaces in the future.



Highlands would like to thank the group for their weekly donation, which Brenda collects and passes to the Treasurer.

Here Comes the Bride

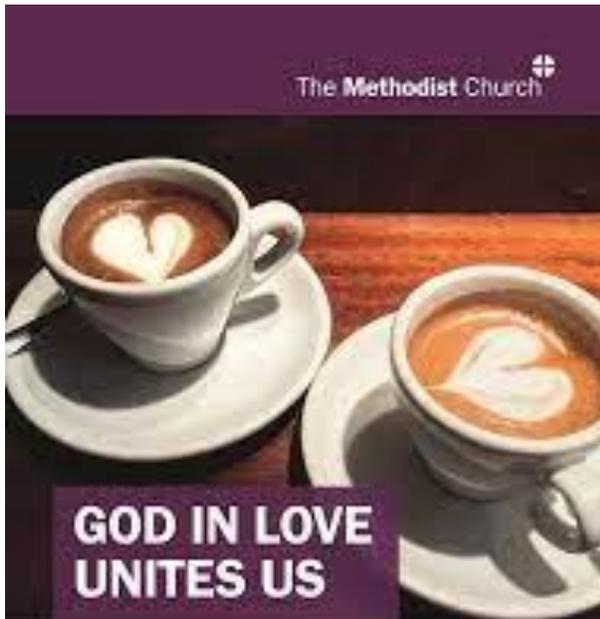
The Wedding of Petra Owen and Darrin Samuels will take place at Highlands church on Saturday 12 March at 3:00 pm. All friends are welcome at the church.

God In Love Unites Us

An Update

You may that the Methodist Connexion formed a group of people to come up with a report on same-sex marriage, divorce, and cohabitation. This group worked on these issues for some years. The report, released in 2019, was called 'God in Love Unites Us'.

Local church leaders were asked to present this report to their church members at an open meeting. The report then went to district synods to be voted on, especially on whether same-sex marriage should be allowed to be performed in Methodist churches. Out of 30 district



synods, 29 voted to allow same-sex marriage in Methodist churches. This result and the report were sent to, and supported by, the Methodist Conference. This was reported in the national newspapers at the time. The decision (to allow same sex marriages) in individual churches was then devolved to each individual church council as per The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

Highlands Methodist Church held a church council meeting on 17 January 2022 and took a vote following the set procedure. In advance we decided that there needed to be a strong consensus (75%) to achieve a result.

The result of the vote was: 75% for, 25% against. So, Highlands Methodist church will be applying for a wedding licence for same-sex marriages. This has been a long, and thorough process, which has been surrounded by much thought and prayer. Not all of you will be happy about this outcome, and if you wish to talk this through with me, I am more than happy to do so.

Every blessing,
Pastor Steve Mayo
February 2022

Puzzle of the Month Solution

You'll have had no problem spotting that the theme was European capitals, which were:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Oslo | 7. Stockholm |
| 2. Paris | 8. Valletta |
| 3. Warsaw | 9. Lisbon |
| 4. Copenhagen | 10. Budapest |
| 5. Prague | 11. Rome |
| 6. Athens | 12. Belgrade |



Jobs for the Garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

With the longer days and hopefully improving weather, now is the time to really get going in the garden. There are lots of things to be cut back – buddleia, the coloured stems of canus, mophead hydrangeas, autumn fruiting raspberries and ornamental grasses to mention just a few.

And when you see new growth in your plants, houseplants included, do start feeding. Rhubarb too needs forcing and



feeding.

Look for seedlings around your hellebores – I've got such pretty double ones out at the moment – and these can be potted up and grown up until big enough to plant out.

Protect the new growth on your hostas from slugs by natural methods – copper rings, eggshells, or grit. Many of the new varieties of hostas are more slug resistant.



It's also the time to look round your garden and see if there are any bare patches that could be improved with spring bulbs. (And most places can be improved with spring bulbs, can't they). Now is the time to get these planted so they settle in. They may not give flowers next year but after that, your bare patches will be a thing of the past. Plant in drifts for the best show. Snowdrops, aconites,

bluebells, wood anemones are planted 'in the green' – that's with their green foliage and active growth. They do best in soil that's rich and a little damp. Snowdrops do better in a drier spot than bluebells and bluebells need to be planted deep – 10 to 20cm. Snowdrops and aconites need to be planted about 5 to 10cm deep.

Finally, hopefully your seeds will be germinating and your plan (from last month) really proving useful.

Happy Gardening

SGC

Poem of the Month

Editor's Selection. Widely regarded as the greatest of modern Israeli poets, Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000) was born in Germany, moved to Mandate Palestine (as it was then) as a child and served in the British and later Israeli armed forces.

Much influenced by his own experience of conflict, this short poem warns us against clinging to our own views and prejudices and recommends listening to others in order to bring about peace.



The Place Where We Are Right by Yehuda Amichai

From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.

The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plough.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined
House once stood.

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Group	Time	Contact
Scouts	Thu 7:30 to 9:00 pm	Carl Mason 07814 226133
Cubs	Thu 5:45 to 7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon 07947 116891
Rainbows	Wed 4:00 to 5:00 pm	Julie Griffiths 07834 321724
Brownies	Wed 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow 710207
Guides	Fri 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Rangers	Thu ³ 7:00 to 9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle 07961 545037
Toddlers	Mon 9:30 am to 11:30	Ros: 478631 Margaret: 557512

Fellowship Groups

Group	Time	Contact
Prayer ⁴	Tue 9:00 to 10:00 am	Andrew Hyde 473111
Chatter	Tue 10:00 am to 12:00 noon	Jean Edmonds 525250

Services to the Community

Group	Time	Contact
Lunch Club	TBA	TBA
Staying Steady	Wed 1:00 pm	TBA

Social and Recreational

Group	Time	Contact
Hobbies	1 st /3 rd Thu 10:00 am to noon	Jean 525250

³ Every fortnight

⁴ on Zoom

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 April 2022 issue should be emailed to
andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 20** March,
and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone
473111 to arrange an alternative.

Humour Corner

Perhaps if our young people are rather unreliable on religion, they
might find Books & Words easier:

- *The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom*
- *Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He was Donkey Hote.*
- *Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, but he mostly lived at Windsor with his merry wives. This is quite usual with actors*
- *Poetry is when every line starts with a capital letter and doesn't reach the right side of the page*
- *Ovid wrote a poem called the 'Medea' which was lost fortunately*
- *Achilles appears in 'The Illiad' by Homer. Homer also wrote the 'Oddity' in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey*
- *John Milton wrote 'Paradise Lost'. Then his wife died, and he wrote 'Paradise Regained'.*

The last one is almost true. Milton had three wives, outliving the first two, but none of the dates quite fit.