



The **HIGHLANDER**

November 2021

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

11:00 am Sun 7 th	Morning Worship Café Church	Kathy McCullough
11:00 am Sun 14 th	Morning Worship Remembrance Sunday Parade	Pastor Steve Mayo
11:00 am Sun 21 st	Morning Worship Communion	Worship Leaders Rev Norman Hooks
11:00 am Sun 28 th	Morning Worship	Sanya Strachan

All of these services are scheduled to be held live in Highlands Church. We recommend facial covering (unless exempt). Also, a section of the church will be set aside for observing distancing. If, as is likely, there are changes, these will be notified by email or on Facebook.



 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**

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From Your Minister



Having moved house twelve times in my adult life, I am still amazed by the amount of 'clutter' we accumulate in a very short space of time. Much of the 'stuff' we moved to our new home seemed to go straight back into the loft, but all seems to be things we once loved, or might, just use again!

This got me thinking about the clutter we carry around in our own lives; thoughts and feelings from past mistakes or failures. We often make new starts in life including times of repentance and forgiveness, yet we often carry baggage forward from our previous situation onto the new one.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says;

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!' [NIV-UK]

So, let us, as a forgiven people, not let the burdens of the past weigh us down in the present and the future. What God has forgiven He has forgotten.

C.S. Lewis once said;

'If God forgives us, we must forgive ourselves, otherwise it's like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.'

If you are struggling with past burdens, then take heart from the words of 553 from our Singing the Faith hymn book;

*I am a new creation,
no more in condemnation,
here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is over-flowing,
my love just keeps on growing,
here in the grace of God I stand.*

[Dave Bilborough]

Every Blessing,

Pastor Steve
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com
01702 483827

A Poem for October

This selection is by Helen Boyd. In choosing it she wondered whether it was actually a poem. I seem to remember that there is such a thing as a prose poem, which is a piece of prose that is not set out in verses but which uses poetic devices such as alliteration, metre and rhyme. I'll stop there lest I become pretension.

Max Ehrmann (1872-1945) who wrote this was an American of German descent. Up to the age of 40 he earned a living as a lawyer, which must prove something, but I do not know what it is. Anyway, here we go.

Desiderata

By Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.



As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

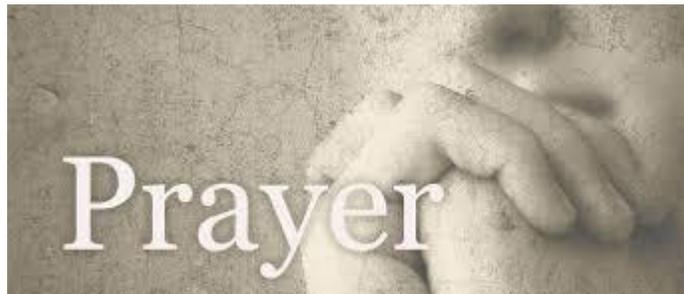
Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself.

Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.



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.

Please note that the prayer box outside the Jubilee Room and the board just inside are both functioning and are checked on a weekly basis.

From the Editor

I cannot do other than write about the shocking death of Sir David Amess MP which took place at our sister church of Belfairs on 15 October. Our deepest condolences go to his family, friends, and colleagues.

It says much of Sir David that (possibly) nobody agreed with each and every one of his opinions and beliefs. His views were often unexpected but always sincere, and he was apt to support them irrespective of his party's line. He was of course a committed Christian, a member of St Peter's Eastwood RC church.



So, to many people Sir David was an opponent. But to nobody was he an enemy. He surely agreed with the late Jo Cox MP:

'We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us.'

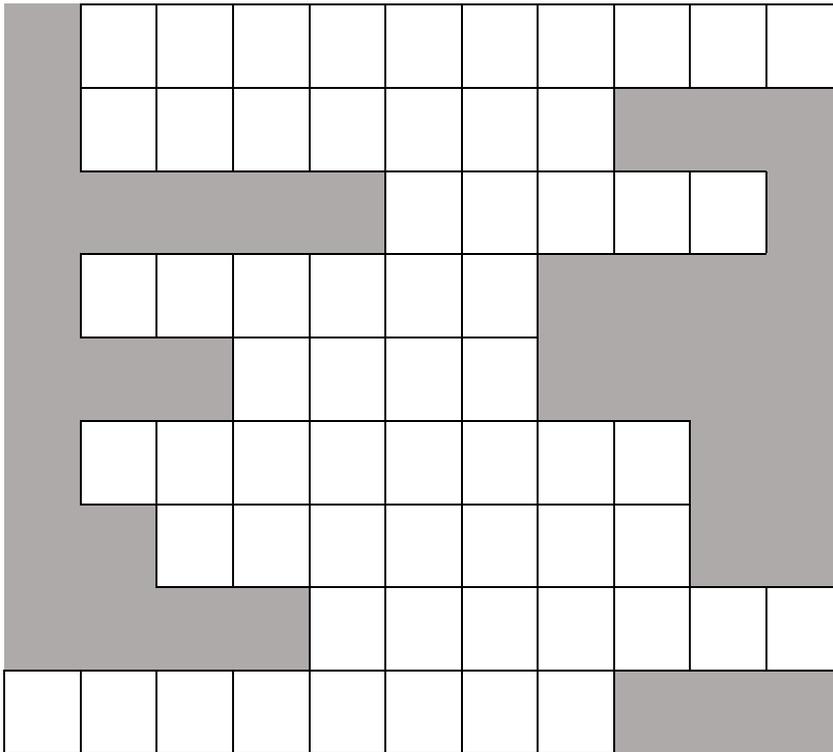
Not only did David appear to agree with that. He also lived it, by supporting a multitude of events and causes. May he rest in peace, and his memory remain forever dear to all who knew him.

Anne



Puzzle of the Month¹

To solve the puzzle, work out the easy anagrams of countries in the panel below. Then, fit them as across solutions into the grid. Be careful to fit the seven- and eight letter clues into the right positions. When all solutions are in the right positions, a further country will be revealed, reading top-to-bottom.



- CIA MAJA
- FEN CAR
- SNAP A KIT
- RAIN
- ERK DAMN
- A GARDA SCAM
- G TYPE
- RAN GUY H
- U PAY AGRA

Humour Corner

Anyone want to buy a vacuum cleaner? I decided today to sell mine. It was just collecting dust.

¹ Solution page 16

Snippets

Crunch Time - Crisp packet recycling at Highlands suspended.



The manpower behind this brilliant recycling initiative has been Mencap Showstoppers volunteer Derek Bill, who writes: 'I am hugely proud to say that with your help we've recycled over 60,000 crisp packets that have been saved from going to landfill². It's a great success due to the efforts and support of Highlands Church and the community.'

Unfortunately, it has grown to a huge amount of work which has become too hard to manage from the Highlands site. Sincere thanks to Derek for three years' single-handed management of this brilliant initiative.

The Good News (for crisp-crunchers) is...

You can still continue to recycle crisp packets. Local Co-op stores are now accepting them, and there is a collection point at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Marguerite Drive, Leigh SS9 1NN.

² Instead, your crisp packets are recycled as other sustainable products including garden benches and playground equipment

Heating

Further to last month's report, the process of commissioning a new boiler is going well, and we should hear shortly that the contract is in place. We now need to ensure that the financing of the project is secure to the last penny, which will involve seeking grants to meet part of the cost. In the meantime, Andrew Saville or David Watson would be glad to hear from anyone desirous of supporting the project by way of a donation.

Serving the Homeless

For those of you who missed out in our Summer Raffle, there is a further chance to win a prize in our Grand Christmas Raffle. You can buy tickets (£1 each) from Frank Edmonds now. Prizes include Christmas hampers, gift boxes and bottles of wines and spirits, toiletries and many more. The draw will take place on Friday 17 December after the screening of the Christmas Concert. Good Luck!

Our Christmas Concert on 17 December will be filmed, as last year, and shown at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

We are sorry that the wine tasting event had to be cancelled in October due to COVID issues.

In the meantime, we are working on dates for future fund-raising events including the popular Sunday lunch at Chalkwell Park Rooms which will be on 30 January.

Now that we are back in church, we are ready to receive any additional gifts at the back of the church for distribution to the various services. Please remember that there can be delay in

collecting donations, so it's best to avoid gifts with a short 'shelf-life'.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during these difficult times.

Frank

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Anne Lane writes:

Thank you to all who came to support the MacM Coffee Morning on Tuesday 28 September at Highlands. We raised £253.13. Thank you all.



Church Flowers for November

- ✝ 14 November: Mary Mapp has donated flowers in memory of her family.
- ✝ 21 November: Dorothy Allen has donated flowers in memory of her parents and her brother.

If you would like to donate flowers for any reason (or indeed no reason other than to enjoy them being displayed in the church) contact Jean ☎525250.

Highlands Hobbies

Our members have been very busy making beautiful cards and tree decorations for Christmas. These will be ready for sale at our Christmas coffee morning on 20 November.

We'll continue to make our cards and decorations on 4 November and on 18 Nov we plan to include making floral Candle arrangements. All are welcome to join our friendly group. Contacts Jean ☎️525250 and Julie ☎️479804

Please come along to support our much-needed church funds whilst enjoying delicious refreshments from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon on Saturday 20 November.

Action for Children (AfC)

Safe and happy childhoods

After a bit of delay – something happened that turned things upside down for a while – I am gathering in the collection boxes people have at home and sending the money off to AfC with the support of Sylvia who has looked after AfC previously (and much more efficiently!)



If you have a box tucked away in a corner if you let me know I will happily collect it, or you could bring it to church or leave it in my porch. And if you haven't but think you might be prepared to have one, I have a few spare...

It seems to be a very important time to make sure that children's voices are heard. AfC protects and support children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support. We ensure their voices are heard, and campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives

Pamela Smith ☎️557702

Another Coffee Morning!

Chalkwell Park Methodist Church, Eastwood Lane South (SS0 9XF) on Friday 5 November 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Expect refreshments, gifts, books and home-made cakes on sale in aid of church funds.

Meanwhile at Hadleigh...

We Methodists are always up for refreshments. Usually involving cake. Perhaps someone will chip in with some slimming ideas soon. While we await that...

- BASOP (Basildon Operatic Society) offers its Christmas Concert on Saturday 4 December 7:30 for 8:00 pm. Tickets £8 (under 16 £4) with refreshments.
- Christmas Fayre, Saturday 20 November 10:30am-3.30pm, including: Stalls, Dancing Display at 2:00 pm, Refreshments, Art Display and Sideshows. (But we recommend the Highlands Hobbies event first!)
- Musical Matinée including light refreshments. Sixties, Ballads, Latin, Country, Rock and Roll. Saturday 11 December 1:30 pm to 4:00pm.

All the above events are at Hadleigh Methodist Church, (SS7 2PQ)
For tickets and information contact Mike ☎551786.

The Methodist Way of Life

Home Group

Just a reminder that The Methodist Way of Life will continue to be studied by our Home Group, meeting on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm at Glenda's. Contact Kathy McCullough ☎714528

HIGHLANDS HOBBIES

CHRISTMAS

COFFEE MORNING

With Christmas cards, tree decorations,
floral candle arrangements
And many gifts



Saturday 20 November
in the church

Refreshments from
10.00 am to 12.00 noon



All are welcome





Jobs for the garden **From our Special Gardening Correspondent**

It's the 'clearing away/washing pots' time of year in many gardens and so there wasn't going to be a gardening report. But I've now heard about the threat of stink bugs – the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) to be precise - from 2 separate sources. So, it needs to be in the Highlander!

Stink bugs are native to Japan, China and Korea but have been spreading into Europe. They have now been found in England and even in Essex so we need to know what to look for and what to do.

So far, only adult beetles have been found and experts believe they have come across in imported goods or travellers' luggage. They're not breeding here yet as far as we know (the bugs not the experts). But at this time of year, they're looking for warm places to overwinter, so we need to look out for them.



They look like our native shield bugs in shape, they're about 1.7cm long, brown in colour with an almost rectangular head. They get their name from the unpleasant smell that they emit when

threatened or injured.

If you do find one of these pests, you should capture it and then get in touch with bmsb@niab.com (that's the National Institute of Agricultural Botany) or via the RHS at rhs.org.uk/myadvice. Don't just squash it as the live bug might be needed for examination.

Try not to persecute our local green shield bugs – mostly green. Like the stink bugs they suck sap from plants, but some of them feed on other pests.

Happy Gardening

Puzzle of the Month Solution

	M	A	D	A	G	A	S	C	A	R
	D	E	N	M	A	R	K			
					E	G	Y	P	T	
	F	R	A	N	C	E				
			I	R	A	N				
	P	A	K	I	S	T	A	N		
		J	A	M	A	I	C	A		
				H	U	N	G	A	R	Y
P	A	R	A	G	U	A	Y			



Dining In

This month, I thought I would share a recipe for pumpkins. I love seeing the bright orange pumpkins used in autumnal displays (I'm less keen on Halloween carvings) and they also taste good, not only in a pumpkin pie. This is a recipe that my daughter-in-law gave me – it was originally published by Rukmini Iyer in her fabulous book, the Green Roasting Tin.



Ingredients:

4 mini pumpkins
16 fresh sage leaves
250g goat's cheese

2 tsp chilli flakes
Large pinch of chilli powder

Method:

- Heat the oven to 200°/180° fan or gas mark 6.
- Slice the top off each pumpkin, keep the 'lids' and cut round the cavity containing the seeds. Scoop out the seeds and set aside.
- Season the cavity of each pumpkin with a little sea salt and place 2 sage leaves inside. Divide the goat's cheese into 4 and put a quarter into each pumpkin. Scatter over some chilli flakes and then replace the lids. Rub each pumpkin with some olive oil and then a little more salt, and then top each one with 2 more sage leaves. Make sure the sage leaves are rubbed with oil.
- Place in the heated oven and roast for 60 minutes.
- While these are cooking, rub the pumpkin seeds with kitchen paper to get rid of any flesh and then toss into some olive oil, the chilli powder and a pinch of salt.
- Ten minutes before the pumpkins finish cooking, add the seeds to the roasting pan and return to the oven.
- Serve with a green salad – and as we've got big appetites, we always serve these with some sweet potato wedges too.

A Grand Day Out

I've taken to going out cycling every week or so with two pals, a neighbour from down the road and a well-known Highlands organist. This takes us to exotic locations such as Barling, Hanningfield Reservoir and Battlebridge, all worth a visit. We sometimes find it thirsty work.

A recent new destination has been Gravesend. You may think that this has two major drawbacks:

1. It sounds like a rather depressing place. Actually it's full of historical interest, for its geographical situation has given it strategic importance throughout the maritime and communications history of South East England. There are some handsome Georgian buildings, not only in the Heritage Quarter but all around the centre. To be fair, there are some clunkers as well.
2. There is a large river in the way. This need not matter because there is a regular pay-and-go ferry, with a shuttle to Tilbury railway station with its direct trains from Leigh. The icing on the cake (for me anyway) was that the ferry accepted my Southend bus pass!

Anyone else got a favourite day out? If so you know what to do...



A Grand Evening Out

For a treat, as we approach Christmas, we love the 'Glow' evenings at RHS Hyde Hall.



After entering you follow a winding route through various garden areas and passing shrubs awash with colourful lights and trees lighting up the night sky. In the Winter Garden are willow structures and leaf sculptures gleaming with colour. Then follow a slight rise to the Australia and New Zealand Garden where a panoramic view (to which this photo does no justice) takes your breath away.

All tickets have to be booked in advance. They are on sale now. The restaurants and cafés are open until the gardens close at 9:00 pm. More detail and tickets from:

[Glow 2021 | RHS Garden Hyde Hall / RHS Gardening](#)

Humour Corner

Teacher:

Who knows what colour mummy's hair is?

Henry (6):

Please miss, it's auburn.

Teacher:

That's a good word, Henry. Where did you hear that?

Henry (6):

I didn't hear it. I read it on the side of the box.

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 December 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 21** November, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.



Beautiful Alum Bay, Isle of Wight.