



The **HIGHLANDER**

September 2021

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 11:00 am Sun 5 th | Morning Worship Café Church | Kathy McCullough |
| 11:00 am Sun 12 th | Morning Worship Communion | Pastor Steve Mayo |
| 11:00 am Sun 19 th | Morning Worship | Worship Leaders |
| 11:00 am Sun 26 th | Morning Worship | Paul Saunders |

These services are scheduled to be held live in Highlands Church and we recommend facial covering (unless exempt) and observing distancing. If, as is likely, there are changes, these will be notified by email or on Facebook.



Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church

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

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

| | | | |
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From Your Minister

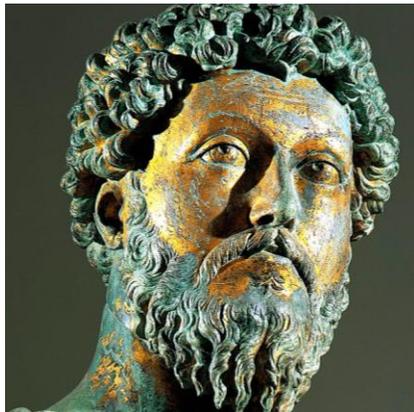
When we are young, we have a sense of awe and wonder at most of the things we see, whether that be an ant running across the pavement or a '99' ice cream with two flakes in it! But as we get older, we sometimes seem to lose that sense of awe and wonder.



We can too easily get caught up in our thoughts, remembering the past or worrying about the future, to notice the many amazing things going on around us. We're too focused on counting all the things we don't have, to notice the beauty, love and abundance that is already ours.

So, what is your first thought upon waking in the morning?

If you're like a lot of people, it will be one of resistance. You don't



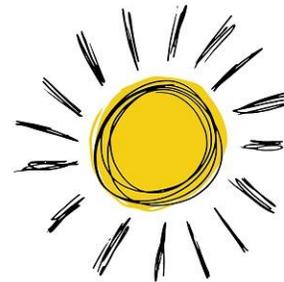
want to get up. You don't feel like facing your to-do list! Your first thoughts in the morning can have a huge impact on the attitude, feelings, and energy you carry around with you for the rest of the day. The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius once famously wrote: *'When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.'*

Imagine how different we would feel if we were to wake up with a similar attitude; if we greeted the day with thoughts like: 'Wow, what a privilege it is to be alive. I'm so lucky to be here now, experiencing the wonders of life. I am blessed with fresh air, the beauty of nature, my loved ones, the ability to laugh, create and dance. I'm blessed with food and shelter, an imagination and the

ability to do kind acts for others. I'm so grateful for today, and I'm going to relish the next 24 hours.'

Are you feeling inspired? It's not easy to train your mind out of old habits, so to give you a helping hand, here are 10 positive morning thoughts that can help get you in the right frame of mind each day.

1. Thank you, God, for this gift of a whole new day.
2. How can I best serve God today?
3. I dedicate today to love and kindness.
4. I am going to give this day my very best, so that I may rest my head with deep satisfaction tonight.
5. I have everything that I need right in this moment.
6. I see the world with grateful eyes, and it fills my soul.
7. I will listen to God's voice today and allow Him to guide me.
8. Let me make the world a better place by shining my light today.
9. My life is a miracle.
10. I carry peace and stillness in my heart as I go about my daily activities.



God's continual goodness to us is recorded in His Word:

Acts 14:17b says;

'...he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.' [NIV]

Lamentations 3:22-23;

'Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' [NIV]

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve September 2021



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.

As we remember the many crises afflicting our world, as well as illnesses of friends and family, we should give thanks for many blessings. Many of us prayed for **Katy Kollasch** (née Saville, and now of Denver Colorado) during her recent illness. She is now recovering after some really tough times, and sends the following to all well-wishers:

We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.

I continue to be in awe of the genuine kindness, generosity, and love I have received since March 2021. Prayers, cards, phone calls, messages, flowers, gift cards, and home-made meals from our neighbours.

The most thoughtful presents and visits have sustained me and provided hope during the most overwhelming days and nights. Now, with a refined perspective on the fragility and unpredictability of life, the importance of appreciating the simplest things and the rich value of quality time with treasured family and friends, my promise is that my full heart will pay forward every beautiful word of encouragement and token of love you have given.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...
Katy x

Many congratulations (Heather writes) to our daughter **Emma**

Stanford on gaining a First-Class Honours Degree in English Literature at Winchester University. We are very proud, and I know that her Grandma (Betty Garrood) would be too.

Congratulations also to **Julie and Robin Peek** who are celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. Child bride, obviously, but it seems to have worked out.

From the Editor

As I write this, the two biggest news stories of the past month have come from distant Asia. They are of course the Tokyo Olympics and events in Afghanistan. No two stories could better represent Kipling's 'triumph and disaster'. And yet there are factors that link them together. Can we therefore follow Kipling's advice and 'treat these two impostors just the same'?

The Olympics always provide a gallery of memorable images. One such image from Tokyo is of diver Tom Daley keeping his nerves at bay - by knitting.

Even as I write this, I almost hear a chorus of: 'What's wrong with that?' The answer is, of course: 'Nothing at all.' Literally millions of people keep themselves busy with knitting and other crafts. For my part, I can only stand by and admire the results. Sadly, I'm not very good at diving either. You certainly wouldn't see me springing off the 10-metre board.



The other image you might remember is that of the same Tom Daley at the award ceremony, unable to stem the tears of joy that



came from winning (with Matty Lee) a gold medal for synchronised diving. It had been a wonderful performance, and surely there were many of us who cried with him, as the Union Flag rose up the central pole. Pride in his country and in his

personal achievement were at the centre of his response. Our applause was richly deserved.

So, to Afghanistan. There are many tears there today, not of joy but of despair, but it's not my place to hand out blame. Surely the Afghan people have pride in their country's achievements over the past twenty years just as we do over Tom Daley's medals. Those achievements are now under threat, along with the lives and freedoms of the achievers. Furthermore, there seems to be nothing that either the USA or our own country can do to alter the course of events in Afghanistan.

The story of the Olympics is one of nations setting aside their differences and celebrating their common humanity. Afghanistan has on 15 occasions sent a team to the Summer Games. Their greatest Olympian (Rohana Nikpai, Taekwondo, Bronze 2008 and



2012) said of his second medal:

'I hope this will send a message of peace to my country after 30 years of war'

Well said. He shows, as Tom Daley did, patriotism of the best kind. We should all join Rohana in hoping and praying that the new regime in Afghanistan can heed that message. That really would be a triumph out of disaster, and the whole world would welcome it.

Anarca

Humour Corner/Puzzle of the Month¹

Sherlock Holmes:

I believe, Watson, that I have solved the mystery. After walking down this street I am absolutely certain that the person responsible for this heinous crime lives in the house with the yellow front door!

Dr Watson:

By Jove, Holmes, that is the smartest piece of detective work I have ever seen. How on earth did you deduce that?

What does Sherlock reply?

¹ Solution page 15

Snippets

Tuesday Chatter
Saturday Coffee Mornings
Monday Toddlers

Everyone is invited to join us on a Tuesday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Come and enjoy others' company, a mug of tea or coffee and sometimes a short talk. Just £1.00.



We are hoping to start our coffee mornings in September. Do look out for the new list, and please sign up to host for as many or as few mornings as you would like.

Monday mornings from 13 September will see the restart of Toddlers. All toddlers and their carers are welcome. £1.50 under 18 months, £2.50 for older, £3.00 per family. Come and enjoy fun and company from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Highlands Hobbies.

We have made a start back to Hobbies and it is good to see everybody. We're still cautious by sanitising our hands and spacing tables with optional face coverings whilst seated. We meet in room 1 from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon.

On 4 September Jean will organise some flower arranging for those who wish to have a go. Also, Marjorie and Margaret will be on hand for card making designs, and if needlecraft interests you, Glenis will keep you company.

16 September will be card making, Mobil colouring if you wish and we'll start to plan Christmas crafts and cards for sale.

Refreshments will be available from the hatch All are welcome , for more details contact Jean ☎525250 or Julie ☎479804

Flowers

We're still looking for flower donors, and as yet no dates booked for September. Jean ☎525250 for more details

Also, the Flower Group restarts on Friday 24 September at 7.30 Demonstrator Jilly Griffin on the theme What Ever Next? Visitors £5. Please contact Karen ☎ 07818 431552.

Heating

Our Boiler Supremo Andrew Saville is heavily engaged with talking to contractors about future plans for the building. Time and care taken now will pay dividends later.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Wesley's Macmillan coffee morning takes place in the Sanctuary Café, Saturday 25 September 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please kindly support this excellent charity by coming. Find out more at www.macmillan.org.uk.



Anyone who wishes to bake a cake please ring or e-mail me.

Eileen Simmons

☎01702 472521 eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Serving the Homeless - LAST CHANCE

Serving the Homeless is holding its Summer Raffle to raise funds so that we can continue to contribute to HARP and YMCA projects. Tickets for our 'Hamper Bonanza' are now on sale, with the draw taking place at the beginning of September. Tickets can be purchased from Frank Edmonds (☎525250)

In the meantime, we are looking to fix dates for future fund-raising events including the popular Sunday lunch at Chalkwell Park Rooms at the end of January. Watch this space.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please remember the HARP charity shops when donating or buying. We also hope to be able to receive donations at the back of church when unrestricted services begin again at Highlands.

Thirsty 4...?

Weekday Cafe worship is back at Belfairs Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on Thursday 19 September, then on every second Thursday of the month at that same time. Tea, coffee, cakes and of course informal worship will be back on the menu.

Come and join us for a relaxing time of fellowship and share this time together with friends you know and perhaps meet new friends too. All are welcome, no costs involved, just your time to share in worship in the middle of the week.

Contact Mike or Sue for further details. (mike.spaul@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 01702 521344)

Pastoral Letter from the District Chair²



Dear Friends,

The start of the Methodist Church year on 1 September provides a natural opportunity for circuits and churches to plan for the year ahead, as we look to the future with a mixture of hope and concern at what the autumn and winter may bring. Although the national vaccination programme has been a great success, it is unclear whether and to what extent future restrictions may still be necessary.

However, one of the most encouraging developments during the past eighteen months has been the way in which members of our District have responded to the situation posed by lockdown and the need for social distancing. Detailed risk assessments have been carried out efficiently and effectively. Sunday services have continued by electronic means whenever restrictions have prevented congregations from meeting in person. Church premises have been suitably adapted to allow safe access. I am immensely grateful to all those who have worked so hard to ensure that worship, fellowship, and mission can continue.

Already there has been much theological, political, and social commentary on the present and future implications of the pandemic for corporate and individual human life on a fragile planet. Clearly, far-reaching changes are presently underway and will likely continue apace. Yet the people of God are well placed to adapt and respond to changing circumstances. Our identity in Jesus Christ gives us an overarching story and a fixed reference

² David Chapman asks me to publish the letter in full and unedited, which I am happy to do.

point in which to assess and prioritise change. Holding fast to him means we need not be anxious when familiar and apparently stable patterns of living, working, and worshipping must be reassessed in the light of changing circumstances. Heb 13:8 *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever'*
Grace and Peace

David Chapman



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

Even if you haven't been away this summer, with all that rain, sun and wind, even usually well-behaved gardens may now seem to be running amok. You look away for a moment and the courgettes, nasturtiums, geraniums etc have taken over. Meanwhile, the sunflowers and taller salvias are drooping everywhere, and I struggle to know where to start.

As my yoga teacher would say, breathe and then maybe make a good cup of tea. Don't panic! But take a proper look all round and make a plan.

With more windy weather expected, the first job is staking anything that needs it. And then dead-leaf anything that is tattered, scorched or rotting. My hollyhocks have got rusty leaves, so I've carefully cut

those leaves off and I've removed the leaves from the courgettes that are on the ground. I've enough slugs and snails already without providing the perfect hiding places for them beneath those leaves.

Now, I can start pruning those plants that have simply grown too much and are smothering their neighbours. With luck, they'll continue flowering for weeks yet. And suddenly, I can see that I've made a difference and it all looks a bit better. I would say that I'm back in control, but I don't think I'm ever really in control of my garden!

Its nearly time to stop dead-heading if you want to collect seeds and also you need to think about leaving some seed heads for the birds in the autumn. Also, it's time to take cuttings from dianthus, penstemons, salvias and choisya to increase your stock and cover any winter losses.

Finally, although it doesn't seem necessary, do keep watering and feeding pots. Whilst I was reading my gardening magazine, I came across a phrase that has stuck in my mind – 'it doesn't rain in pots'. Think about standing under a big tree in the rain to shelter from the rain – that's what happening in your pots. So even when it's rained, your pots may still be dry.

Happy gardening

SGC

Puzzle of the Month Solution

Sherlock Holmes:
A lemon entry, my dear Watson...

(Sorry – Ed)



A Poem for August

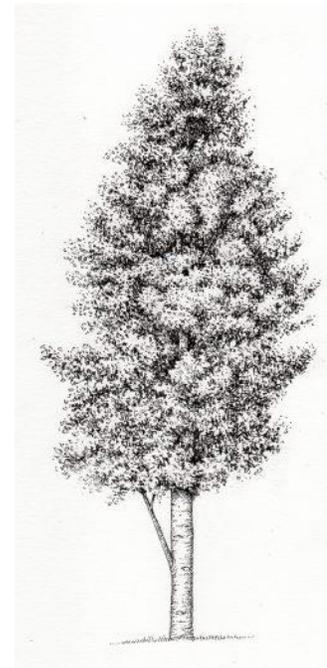
This month an editor selection. Alfred Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918) was a US poet who never achieved his potential. In 1917 the USA entered the First World War. Kilmer enlisted and was killed in France in July 1918, leaving a wife and five children. This is his best-known poem, though *Rouge Bouquet*, a war poem, is also notable. He tends to be known as 'Joyce Kilmer' leading some to the understandable error of assuming he was a woman.



I couldn't resist the temptation to append a parody by the humorous poet Ogden Nash (1902-71). It may seem disrespectful, but I'm certain that Kilmer would have approved its underlying sentiment.

Trees (1913) Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



Song of the Open Road (Ogden Nash)

I think that I shall never see, a billboard lovely as a tree.
Indeed, unless the billboards fall, I'll never see a tree at all.

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 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 October 2021 issue should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before the **deadline of Sunday 26** September, and earlier if possible. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.



Hainault, looking over London. The 'Shard' is easily spotted