

The Highlander

July 2014

Image of the seed as the Word of God

"The seed in the good soil is like those who hear the word of God and understand, and live a good and fruitful life."

Matthew 13 : 23

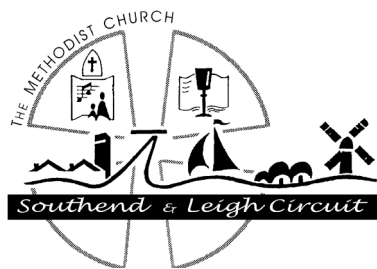


Sunday Worship in July 2014

6th	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Songs of Praise
	3.00	Celebration of Worship and Preaching at Rayleigh Methodist Church
13th	10.30	Parade Service - Colin Turner
20th	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
27th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan

"S Club" meets at 10.30 am every Sunday
Sunday Club for Children - Crèche available

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Our Mission Statement

Sharing Jesus' Love in the Community

Minister	Rev. Julia Monaghan	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Credwyn Tolhurst	557070
Church Stewards	Ros Bryant	478631
	Credwyn Tolhurst	557070
	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Janette/Rob Land	477507
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay	556140
	Frank Edmonds	525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane	01268 565644
	e-mail: annelane8@btinternet.com	
S Club Leaders	Jean Edmonds	525250
	Ros Bryant	478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Burgess	556278
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

All items for the **August 2014** issue of the *Highlander* should be handed in writing to **Frank Edmonds** (or put in the "E" section of the pigeon box in Jubilee Room) latest 10.30 a.m. **Sunday 20th July**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 27th July**.



Not on “*Richard & Judy’s*” List

Whether you are looking at holidaying at home or away, a time of refreshment is in order and I always look forward to the Methodist rule of no meetings in August to catch up with family and friends and read some of those books that have been accumulating by my bedside. I usually have several books on the go at one time from autobiographies that makes me think, to novels that make me feel, to offerings from spiritual gurus that make me pray.

In the autobiography slot, I have been reading 2 books lent to me by my daughter. The first is entitled, *Half the Sky: How to Change the World*, by Sheryl Wudunn & Nicholas Kristof. It takes you on a journey through Africa and Asia to meet an array of extraordinary women who face poverty, disease and conflict and make a difference for themselves and other women who have very little. There is Rath in Cambodia, who escaped from the brothel she had been sold into and now runs a thriving retail business that supports her family. There is Mamitu, who grew up without an education in a remote village in Ethiopia and now trains surgeons in Addis Ababa. There are stories of countless other women who have overcome unimaginable hurdles in order to change the world. The title for the book comes from a Chinese’s proverb, “Women hold up half the sky,” and illustrates that investing in women’s education may well be the highest return investment in the developed world. Though often challenging, it is an inspiring and compassionate read whatever gender you are.

The second book is by Azar Nafisi and is called *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. Set in the late 1990, it records the conversations of a group of educated women who meet every Thursday to read forbidden Western literature. Hesitant to start with, they begin to open up about the novels they are reading and their own personal stories, intertwining *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *The Great Gatsby* with their lives in revolutionary Iran. Painful, witty and perceptive and hugely informative as to what women wear under their burkas, it provides a window into politics, faith and resistance.

Coming under the heading of novel, but with a strong biblical emphasis, I have been reading Anita Diamant’s book, *The Red Tent*. This is the story of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and sister to the more famous Joseph, and is essentially the biblical story of princes and palaces but told from the women’s perspectives. Based on reliable research, it provides interesting insights into the cultural and faith practices of the time, the Red Tent, for example, being the tent the women live in when they are menstruating, and where they form relationships of encouragement and support. All set within a lively story it enables you to reflect on the voices that are missing and increases your understanding of a God at work through chosen-ness.

Letter from your Minister (continued)

Following a similar structure but set 2000 years later is Naomi Alderman's, *Liar's Gospel*. This reimagines the story of Jesus through the experience of 4 people a year after his death. You hear the story from the perspective of his grieving Mother, the High Priest from the Temple, from a rebel called Baravo, and from one of his friends who has lost his faith, Judas. Either something miraculous happened or somebody is lying. Alderman sets the story within the politics of the time, develops the characters from where the biblical story leaves them and leads them in not necessarily the most predictable directions.

Dealing also with themes of forgiveness and redemption, Kate Atkinson's, *Life after Life* was a novel I really enjoyed and just right for a holiday. It's about Ursula who is given an special gift at birth of being able to come back and live life over and over again, putting right some of the things that have gone wrong in previous lives. It begins with her birth in 1910 and spans both world wars. Every time she dies, reality for her friends and family will be slightly rearranged and the story highlights that life can often turn on the smallest of incidents whose significance is only gained in retrospect. There's a theme of parental favouritism running through the story and a hope that things could be redeemed even as we relinquish along the way.

And finally, if you are after a prayer book to slip into your case, *Grain in Winter*, from Methodist Minister and past Chair of Birmingham District, Donald Eadie, will bless you. Donald describes himself as a Saturday person, his theology honed from years as a Spiritual Director deeply listening to where God is at work in people's lives. His prayer book can be picked up and put down but always provides something to chew on.

May you find peace and relaxation over the coming 2 months and let me know what you are reading. I always enjoy a positive recommendation.

Rev Julia

Flower Rota for July 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
6th	Maureen Kelly	Michael and Peter	Jean Burgess
13th	Dorothy Allen	John	Jean Edmonds
20th			
27th	Sandra Harrison	Ken	Jean Burgess



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care:-

Joan Field in *Merrie Loots Farm* and Joan Wornell in *Fairview House*.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these friends and their families at this time.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Alan Collier who died on 23rd May 2014. Alan and his wife were long time members of Highlands until they retired to the South Coast. Following the death of Sheila, Alan moved back to Leigh to be near to the family.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Maisie Peak who died on 8th June 2014, Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Maisie's smiling face was always a joy to behold, behind the tea urn, stapling the Highlander or some other little job at Highlands. She will be missed.

Congratulations

To David and Pat Gare who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 12th June.

To Len and Doris Watson who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 26th June.

To Doll Edwards who celebrated her 90th birthday on 23rd May.

To Matthew and Caroline Williams (son and daughter in law of Jackie and Trefor Williams) on the adoption of Teagan (2 1/2) and Annabelle (1 1/2). After a year and a half of procedures the two sisters are now happily part of the Williams family and Jackie and Trefor are delighted to have two little granddaughters at last.

Thank You

To Teresa Thompson who has been producing the weekly newssheet once a month for some time. Her work load has changed and needs to find more time. If anyone else would feel happy to take up the spare slot please speak with the Stewards.

To Margaret Wood who has been doing the overhead projection for some time and is now retiring from that position. Again, if anyone would like to fill in on a regular or irregular basis with the other members of the team please speak with the Stewards.

Midweek Communion

Please note that there will be no Midweek Communion during August but we will resume our usual pattern in September.



Dates to Remember

Craft Group

We are a very friendly group and any lady interested in Craft work is always welcome. We meet on Tuesday mornings during term time and are always glad to see new members.

MOTHS

Please sign up in the Jubilee Room for our annual coach trip to Canterbury via Rochester on 1st July

Church Family Lunch

Frank & Jean invite all their church family friends to join them for a buffet lunch on Sunday 10th August to celebrate their 70th birthdays. If you wish to come please sign on a list in the Jubilee Room. If some of you wish to bring a dish that would be great, others may wish to make a donation to Serving the Homeless. Most of all just come to "The Croft", 66 Woodside at 12.30. Lifts from the church can be arranged.

Concerts at Highlands

See penultimate page for details of Music@Highlands.

Highlands Hobbies

Our Hobbies mornings continue on Thursdays 3rd and 17th July. We would welcome keen needleworkers to help with our banner or to enjoy cross-stitching. Our card making is going well and they are now being sold for church funds.

Do come and join our friendly group. (Further details from Jean Edmonds or Credwyn Tolhurst)

Table Tennis

If you enjoy a game of table tennis come and have fun on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Christian Aid

Many thanks to the faithful collectors and the generous donations from the church and various groups. Together with the coffee morning we achieved a great total of £945.51 of which £429.75 was gift aided. Well done everybody! Thanks to your help Christian Aid will be able to lift more communities out of the devastation of war so that they can thrive free from fear.

ABRSM

The exams continue through early July. As usual please do your best to make our visitors welcome at these times. Please check the notice board to check whether stewards are still required.

Mega Makers

A Holiday club at Highlands from 11th to 15th August from 10.00 to midday. Further details in Jubilee Room.

NEEDED - Used (clean!) Muller corner yoghurt pots. With thanks.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 noon – Wednesday & Saturday
Thursday 31st July - Picnic at Hadleigh Castle
Tuesday 5th August - Tea at Rev. Julia's
Wednesday 20th August - Tea at Highlands with entertainment

Circuit Events

The Circuit website :- " www.southendandleigh.org "
also contains details of Circuit events,
prayers, contacts and the Circuit Plan

Saturday 5th July - "Trenches to Beaches" 7.30 pm at Wesley
Saturday 12th July - MWIB Strawberry Tea at Thundersley
Monday 28th July - "Summer Fun Day" at Chalkwell Park

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday
Next date — 10th July at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 22nd July 2014 at 8.00pm

Saturday Coffee Mornings

5th July	Music at Highlands
12th July	World Mission
19th July	Church
26th July	Church

Forthcoming Meetings

Property and Finance - Thursday 11th September at 8.00 pm
Family Committee - Monday 15th September at 8.00 pm
Church Council - Monday 13th October at 8.00 pm

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN - CIRCUIT



There will be a Strawberry Cream Tea on Saturday 12th July at Thundersley Methodist church. Proceeds will go to the Zimbabwe Victims Support a Fund. Further details to follow.

PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND SUPPORT THE EVENT. ALL WELCOME, **MEN**, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Serving the Homeless / H.A.R.P.

Thank you for your support as we make sandwiches each third Sunday for the Soup for Southend project.

The next fundraising event for Serving the Homeless is the Annual *Wine Tasting* to be held at St Bernard's School on Friday 4th July at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £16 are now available for what is always a very convivial evening of wine tasting and buffet.

Future events include a *Celtic Barn Dance* on Friday 19th September and our annual *Songs for Christmas* at St Barnabas Church on Friday 19th December.

Thank you once again for all your supportive prayers and the gifts at the back of the church, which are always appreciated.

"HARP FACTS (2013/14)

- HARP assisted over 1,295 people last year at our Day Centre where we find people a safe place for the night to avoid sleeping rough on the street.
- HARP received 12,540 visits last year from people who are homeless or under the threat of becoming homeless.
- HARP can house up to 100 people at one time in supported accommodation (hostels, bed sits and flats).
- HARP provided 38,329 hot meals.
- HARP provides 1,750 food parcels a year.
- HARP's volunteers are crucial to keeping the charity afloat. We have approximately 50 volunteers across sites including our charity retail shop in Westcliff and our kitchens are all run by volunteers.
- All food donated to HARP is used in food parcels, night packs and for meals at the Day Centre, Night Shelter and specialist hostels."

Extracted from HARP web page

Redevelopment at Highlands

In July 2012 we set out to ask for suggestions for redeveloping Highlands Methodist Church so that we can move forward and grow God's presence on the Highlands and Marine estates. It has been quite a big part of what we have been working and praying for over the last two years. After many months, meetings and meanderings we came to show the Church a draft Plan. We asked for responses to the plan, and we received them.

They weren't quite what we had anticipated. We were disappointed.

25 to 5 the responses did not support going ahead with the Plan.

We had had a preliminary meeting with the planners who reinforced one view expressed – we would not be able to build so close to the edge of the site. This means we would have to shrink the building. This would mean a radical pruning and might not make the building viable. At very least it would mean committing a considerable sum to come up with another Plan.

There are real issues around access via the roadway at the back which would need to be sorted in order for the residential plots to be viable...

We have listened to the people who have never been comfortable with this drastic plan, especially those who had concerns about its financial viability. We were clear that it should be cost neutral but, as they stand, the plans at this point did not give us enough financial security...

We are very aware that we have an amazing financial resource in this plot of land. We need to make the best possible use of it. We can't use it twice. We need to make sure that God's work prospers and not a firm of developers. So, after 2 years work and worry, we haven't got the answer we were hoping for. The problems / issues that we are left with and the comments that we have listened to have led us to believe that we should **not** continue with a plan to redevelop the site...

So, is that it then? Have we done this all for nothing? Are we going to settle down and wait for the world to swallow up Highlands Methodist Church?

We are not!! God has work for us to do. Many of the things that we are doing are growing and **we have all the opportunities we had before. None of that has changed.** We have lots to be excited about – and now we can do it knowing that we have explored this option very thoroughly and can agree with those who were doubtful from the beginning, that a new build is not the way to go.

It is a disappointment. Maybe a loss – something exciting, something we were looking forward to has gone. But we cannot always see it at the time, **God will have a better plan than ours!** We have some money, and it is enough to make some things that we might have put on hold start to happen. We can start to make changes. We can work together to raise some more money, to make new things happen, to find what God's Plan really is for Highlands Methodist Church.

We can come together to think again, to plan what really needs to be done **and we can get on with it!** No more waiting for something in the future – the future can begin today. We think that the best way forward is to pass the planning to the Property and Finance committee – but only in so far as we ask them to set up a sub-group, co-opting who ever would like to be involved, to prioritise and plan the things that we really need to get done.

We recognise that we can't ask P&F to do all the work! Rev Julia will join that group. We will need more people to work together to get the buildings at Highlands fit for the purpose we share.

And we hope that some of us, and some of you, and some of the others, will want to be involved.

Another New Year, another New Beginning.



10th LEIGH BROWNIE REPORT June 2014

From January the Brownies have been quite busy with various activities. They started doing different Challenges to gain their Big Brownie Birthday Challenge Badge. Many have completed and gained their badge and the rest will finish by the end of this term.

The Essex South East Guide County organised 3 different Rambles in the county for the Brownies. Our girls – lead by Tawny Owl (Teresa) – went to Hadleigh Country Park. They had to follow a route and make several observations along the way. The weather was kind to them and they did not get lost!!! They all came away with a special badge for taking part. Our Division held their annual Renewal of Promise event on the 11th May at Heycroft Junior School. Eastwood District organised this event for us and had us Zumba dancing, trying Circus skills and icing small cakes with the Brownie Birthday theme among other activities. We all came together to renew our Promise and had a parade with the flags from all the Units. We also had Brownies dressed up in the Brownie uniforms from 1914 to the present day.

The unit is off to the ceramic studio 'Made by You' this month to decorate a plate to commemorate our 100th Birthday. Each Brownie will paint their own design on the plate and the studio will fire the plate for us. This will make a lovely memento for the girls.

The County have arranged a big celebration for Sat July 5th to bring the celebrations for the 100th Birthday to a close. 1,200 Brownies will be descending on Grovewood Primary School in Rayleigh for a day doing activities from the Past, Present and Future. There will be a special concert to end their day.

We will be having our last meeting before the Summer break at Guideacres. We will be saying 'Goodbye' to the older girls and they will be arranging the activities for this special evening.

We are holding on Saturday 6th September an Open afternoon for past and present members of 10th Leigh to join us in celebrating the 100th Birthday of the Brownie and also for us to show what we have been doing over the past years. All are invited to join us for Tea and Cake between 2p.m. and 4p.m. in the Church Hall. We will have various displays for you to see and hope that you may be able to catch up with old friends. Please pass the invite on.

Brown Owl
Dilys Hadow





Music@Highlands



Saturday 5th July 2014

Southend Vox (Conductor Emma Turnbull)

Southend's most vibrant, heart-of-the-community Choir
returns to Highlands to showcase their
wide-ranging repertoire.

Tickets are £8 or £6 for concessions and are available at the door
or can be reserved (£7 / £5) by phone on 07581 390448.

Light refreshments are available during the interval,
concert programmes available on the night
and a retiring collection will be held in aid of the RNLI.

All concerts are held at Highlands Methodist Church,
Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PT

Music@Highlands email: music.highlands@live.com

Mike Bishop

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Serving the Community 7 Days a Week

