

The Highlander

September 2015

Peace in our time



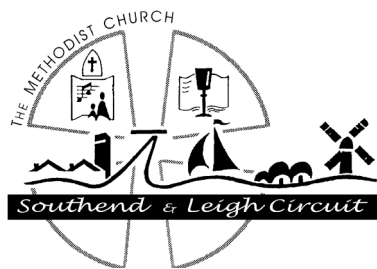
Our Prayer for the World

Sunday Worship in September 2015

6th	9.00	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Worship Leaders
13th	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Norman Hooks
20th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan Dedication of Pastoral Visitors
27th	10.30	Morning Worship - Pamela Smith

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

No. 807 Vol. LXVII



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

Minister	Rev. Julia Monaghan	483827
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Ros Bryant	478631
	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones*	553898
	* Subject to ratification by Church Council	
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
Website :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **November 2015** 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 18th October**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 25th October 2015**.



Message from your Minister:-

Harvest of Righteousness



Autumn is a wonderful time of year as the vibrant greens of summer turn gold and red. There is a feeling of abundance and a warm glow. A walk on Two Tree takes on a new pleasure at this time of year, picking the blackberries as you go, (or in Jean Burgess's garden, if you want to stay nearer to home!) It's good to make the most of this natural harvest.

The Bible has much to say on the topic of harvest. "Peacemakers," James says, "who sow in peace, raise a harvest of righteousness." I often find myself misreading this passage, assuming that being a peacemaker and a peace sower means, simply, that I enjoy peace - which I certainly do. I prefer it most definitely to turmoil and strife.

It's just not what James means. What he means is that we must seek peace even at the cost of turmoil and strife. This is clear from the letter that James writes. He gets straight to the point, telling it as it is. "You foolish man. You adulterous people." "Now listen here you rich people." Nothing here, I can assure you, to lull you into peaceful serenity!

Seeking, making and sowing peace often requires a certain amount of wading in and can call for being clear as much as gentleness. James would say that to seek peace and pursue it, to make it and sow it, means to risk our comfort for the sake of creating real shalom.

And alongside making peace - as opposed to a truce - there comes a promise. People who sow peace reap a harvest of righteousness. They end up looking a lot more like Jesus. Jesus, our Prince of Peace, sought shalom, not by making a truce but by waging a war for us, and won it by losing. Peace was secured, it just took enduring a storm to get there.

Psalm 29 is a similarly lively text, in the form of a hymn to the power of God's voice. "The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightening," it says. "The voice of the Lord, shakes the desertstrips the forest bare." God speaks, and a storm descends, violent, unpredictable, and tumultuous. God speaks and his voice rearranges the landscape. But the psalm ends with, "The Lord blesses his people with peace." Peace was secured, it just took enduring a storm to get there.

P.T.O.

Message from your Minister continued:-

Do you need to seek and pursue and make and sow peace somewhere - your home, your work, at church? It may take enduring a storm to get there and involve you stifling the urge to bolt (which of course can lead to a kind of temporary peace, but just not a harvest!)

As we come to the beginning of the church year and I enter my 4th Year in Leigh, I am struck by the number of challenging decisions that are ahead of us, not only for us individually but for us corporately. At Wesley, for example, God's voice might literally mean rearranging the landscape within which we worship. My prayer therefore, as we embrace September, is that if we can face issues courageously, honestly and in love, we may find a way through that is so much more than a truce, but rather a real harvest of righteousness, where Christ's presence is made real within our midst. This is the name of Jesus I pray. Amen

Rev Julia

**Rob & Janette Land**

We wish Rob and Janette every happiness in their move North to Doncaster. We have been blessed with their talents in so many ways for such a short time it seems and they will be missed.

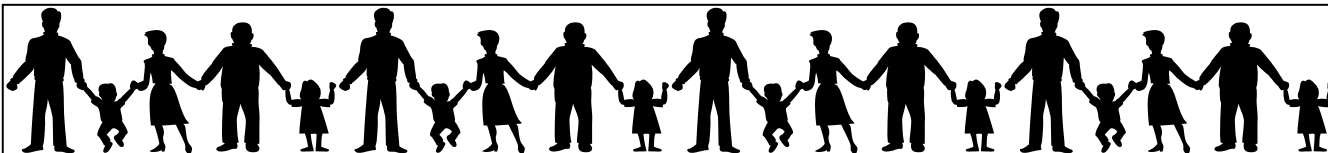
We look forward to seeing them whenever they visit Leigh.

Church Stewards

We thank Steve Jones for his offer to stand as a Church Steward and are confident that his offer will be accepted at the next Church Council in September

Flower Rota for September 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
6th	Les Davis	Margaret	Mary Barter
13th	Maureen Kelly	Parents	Jean Edmonds
20th	Ros Bryant	Parents	Jean Edmonds
27th	Teresa Thompson	Auntie Phyllis	Jean Burgess



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Joan Field at *Merrie Loots Farm*, Marie Moore at *Archers Court* in Hitchin and Margaret Ross at *Memory House*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

Congratulations

We send our best wishes and congratulations to Jonathan Logan and Michele Polley on their marriage at Highlands on 22nd August. We wish them every happiness together with Caleb and Hayden.

Thank You

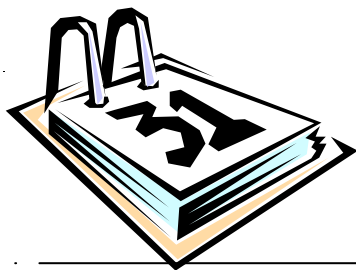
"We would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and gifts given to us on our last Sunday. We will always remember you all at Highlands for your warm welcome and friendship. With love from Rob and Janette"

Highlands Website Updates

Any future updates should be addressed to Andrew Hyde -
Tel : 01702 477507 email : andrewghyde@aol.com

Flower Rota for October 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
4th	Joan Field	Bernard & Maureen	Jean Burgess
11th	HARVEST	Hobbies and Uniformed Organisations	
18th	Sylvia Cornwell	Little Ellie	Sylvia Cornwell
25th	Sheila Whitelegg	Ged	Jean Edmonds



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

With effect from the next session MOTHs will meet in the afternoon at 2.30pm instead of in the evening. The October meeting will offer the opportunity to share holiday experiences and maybe a game or two. Further details to follow. All are welcome.

Harvest Festival/

Church Anniversary

Watch the notice boards in the Jubilee Room for details of events to celebrate our Harvest Festival and Church Anniversary on the weekend 10th - 11th October. The uniformed organisations will assist in decorating the church.

In 2016 we will celebrate 90 years of Highlands Methodist Church at Sutherlands Boulevard. If you have a suggestion as to how we may celebrate this event please talk with the Stewards. What else was going on in 1926?

Church Family Committee

Please note that the meeting on 7th September will concentrate on arrangements for Harvest Festival, the new Coffee Rota and arranging the date for the Christmas Fair.

Highlands Hobbies

Hobbies group has been busy making and selling cards very successfully, also providing lovely flower arrangements for the Church. They really "came up trumps" for the wedding of Michelle and Jonathan. Some have been beavering away producing exquisite needlework crafts. We share our talents and enjoy great fellowship. All are welcome to look in if only to share a cuppa.

We are really missing Credwyn from our team and I need to calm down a little so we are slightly altering arrangements as follows. The meeting on the first Thursday of the month will be as usual and sharing lunch afterwards. On the third Thursday we will meet from 10.00 to noon only. Mainly Christmas crafts led by Margaret and Ros.

Dates: September 3rd and 17th

October 1st and 15th

(Contact : *Jean Edmonds* 525250)

Table Tennis

Once a month at Highlands we have enjoyed many games of table tennis and good fellowship. As numbers have now dwindled and the table is in need of repair we feel it is time to call it a day. Thank you for your support to date.

Southend Mencap

We are pleased to report that the above has made a regular term time booking on our premises for Thursday morning and afternoon.

Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 19th September - Concert with Pauline Curtis
Sunday 11th October - Harvest Festival/Church Anniversary
Friday 11th December - Mencap Concert at 730pm

Circuit Events

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

Saturday 5th September - Welcome Service at Thorpe Bay
for new Superintendent, Rev Peter Moorhouse at 3.00pm

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday
Next dates — 10th September at 7.00 pm
8th October at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Creative Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next dates - 23rd September at 8.00pm
28th October at 8.00pm

Highlands Summer Activities

I am sure that each one of us who went to any of the activities would like to say a big "Thank You" to the Stewards and others involved in the arrangements. We have all had a good time at each of them - Fun, Food (of course) and Fellowship. Even the weather was mostly kind to us. A lot of effort was put in to making each activity run smoothly, especially without the church kitchen being available. Thanks to all of you, Ros, Anne, Betty, Jean and Frank, Lesley and Andrew, not forgetting Rev Julia and all the chauffeurs for the "Fish and Chip" outing to Southend seafront. *Sylvia Cornwell*

Lifts to Church

If you are struggling to get along to church and would like a lift on a regular or one-off basis please let any of the Stewards know and we will arrange a car rota. This may appeal to you as we undertake more united services with Belfairs and Wesley churches. We will of course arrange to get you home again afterwards.

Future Committee Meetings:-

Church Family Committee - Monday 7th September at 8.00 pm
Property & Finance Committee - Monday 14th September at 8.00 pm
Church Council - Thursday 8th October at 8.00 pm

Serving the Homeless/HARP

HARP has recently refurbished the old Night Shelter in York Road as it leads the way to end Rough Sleeping and opens its first specialist 11 bedroom hostel to help those with complex needs.

Vera House, named in memory of the wife of a HARP benefactor Ivan Heath, was officially opened on July 23 following months of transformation from Southend's former Night Shelter for the homeless into a modern, purpose built safe haven for Southend's vulnerable long term rough sleepers. We wish them well in their efforts and offer encouragement for their future work.

Tickets are still available for our Summer Raffle. Tickets are £1 each and prizes include :Odeon Cinema Tickets, Southend United Tickets, 6 Little Steps Gymnastic Sessions, Sealife Centre ticket, Meat Hamper, Mad Hatters Afternoon Tea, Farmer Fred's Sessions, Colchester Zoo Tickets, Michelle's Cake Parlour classes, 12 bottles of Wine, B and Q Vouchers, Tranquillity Spa Voucher and Cakes by Amanda. The draw will take place on **7th September**.

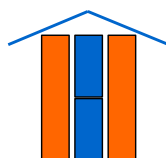
On **16th September** there will be a fundraising Indian Buffet meal at Shagor Restaurant in Hamlet Court Road, Tickets are £15.00 for a 7.30 pm start.

On Saturday **17th October** at The Parish Centre of Our Lady of Lourdes Church there will be an evening of Jazz and Fun with the Daisy Bowlers supported by DBJQ. This is a bring your own snacks and drinks event with tickets at £12.00. Last year's concert was well subscribed and this year promises to be just as good.

In the present economic climate more people are finding the need to use the services of HARP and the local foodbanks. Please check out the deals in the local supermarkets to see whether you are able to make a contribution to stocks. Thank you.

Your contributions to the HARP Charity Shop in Hamlet Court are also appreciated to raise funds to support the work of HARP.

Thank you once again for all your supportive prayers and the gifts at the rear of the church.





On Wings of Song

RECITAL given by
Pauline Curtis — Mezzo Soprano
accompanied by

Andrew Palmer - Piano

On

Saturday 19th September 2015

at **7.30 pm**

in

Highlands Methodist Church

Sutherland Boulevard

Leigh on Sea SS9 3PT

Tickets: £8 and **£6** (concessions) and can be
obtained from **Anne Lane** on **01268 755291**
(or at door on the night if available)



THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY **New!**

DAY-TIME



COURSE

Working through the loss of a loved one takes a long time. This informal course is for anyone who is bereaved whether a few months, or several years ago. It is based on Christian principles but is suitable for those with or without a Christian faith.

Topics covered include

- *Attachment, separation and loss
- *Death in our culture
- *The pain of grief
- *Adjusting to change
- *The faith perspective.

This course was designed by the people who wrote the Alpha Course and we ran a pilot in January which was well received. Not everyone is able to come along in the evening so we are holding the next one on a Thursday afternoon.

Each afternoon begins with refreshments followed by short talks with opportunities for discussion in small groups.

It is held at Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road, Leigh, SS9 1SJ. There will be a friendly face to welcome you in the concourse. It is expected to be a small group.

Starts Thursday 3rd September

Begins at 2pm with refreshments

To book call 01702 557071 Gabrielle Greenway

Runs for six weeks. All very welcome.

Serving the Community 7 Days a Week



Children and Young People

Toddlers Group, Monday	9.30-11.30a.m.	Margaret Wood	557512
		e-mail contact :-	
		highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk	
Rainbows Wednesday	4.00-5.00 p.m.	Karen Packer	474151
Brownies Wednesday:	5.30-7.00 p.m.	Dilys Haddow	710207
Cub Scouts Thursday:	5.45-7.15 p.m.	Ros Miller	557399
Scouts Thursday:	7.30 p.m.	Sally Monk	558857
Rangers Alternate Thursdays	7.30 p.m.	Jacqui Hendle	557147
Guides Friday:	7.00 p.m.	Jacqui Hendle	557147
<i>School Term-Time Only</i>			
Highlands Pre-School Mon - Fri:	9.15 - 12 noon	Clara Mintern	715880

Fellowship Groups

Housegroups meet on Wednesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion at 9.00 a.m. :-

1st Wednesday	Wesley Methodist Church
2nd Wednesday	Belfairs Methodist Church
4th Wednesday	New Road Methodist Church

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

Coffee mornings: Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Church

Coffee is also available to visitors to the Craft Group on Tuesdays and Hobbies on Thursdays

Traidcraft : Catalogue available for orders. Various items on sale at rear of church.

Social and Recreational

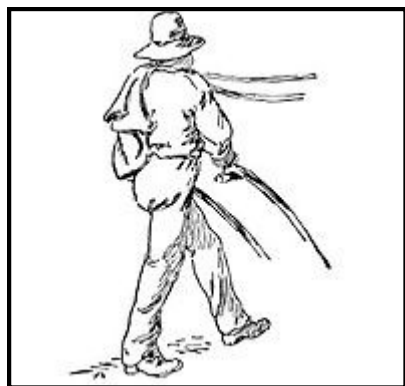
Craft Group	Tuesday	10.00 a.m.-12 noon (<i>Sept.-July</i>)	
Badminton Club	Monday	8.00 p.m.	Sarah 01702 476009
			or Sophia 07796 265676
Hobbies	1st & 3rd Thursday	10.00 a.m. - 12.00p.m.	Jean 01702 525250
Ladies Badminton	Friday	10.00 a.m.	Dilys 01702 710207
MOTHs (<i>Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands</i>)	1st Tuesday	2.30 p.m.	
Adult Art Classes	Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.	Susan 07875 079739
Children's Art Club	Thursday	4 - 5 p.m.	or 01702 551025
Brush Strokes Art Group	Saturday	9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.	Beverley 01277 627043

The Badminton Players meet quarterly for play readings. Contact: David Gare (711013).

Highlands Methodist Church

Hospitality in the Midst of our Community

MINISTER: REV. JULIA MONAGHAN Tel: 483827



We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand.

Singing the Faith 130

Sunday Worship in October 2015

4th	9.00	Holy Communion—Rev Julia Monaghan
	10.30	Morning Worship - Margaret Chipandambira
11th Harvest Festival	10.30	Parade Service - Rev Julia Monaghan Church Anniversary
18th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Tony Windsor
25th	10.30	Morning Worship - Roger Thomas

www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

ALL ARE WELCOME