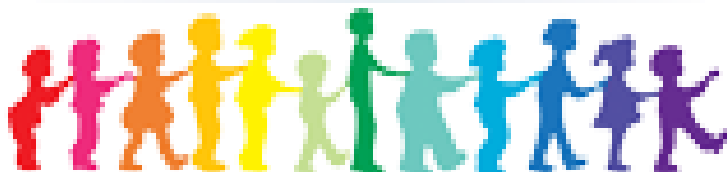


The Highlander

July 2016

"Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Action for Children

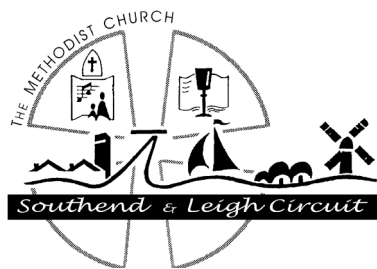


Sunday Worship in July 2016

3rd	9.30	Breakfast Fellowship
	11.00	Holy Communion Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Rev Julia Monaghan
10th	10.30	Parade Service - Sue Hockett Action for Children Sunday
17th	10.30	Morning Worship - Rev Gordon Bates
24th	10.30	Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan
31st	11.00	Section Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Jane Fulford

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

No. 816 Vol. LXVXIII



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	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones	553898
	Kathy McCullough	714528
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
Mission Enabler for Older Persons	Julie Peek	479804
Website :	www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk	

All items for the **August 2016** 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 24th July 2016**. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com
The *Highlander* will be ready for distribution on **Sunday 31st July 2016**.



A Message from your Minister

He Calls Me Friend

*His conversation is sweetness itself,
He is altoogether lovable.
Such is my beloved, such is my friend*

Song of Songs 5: 16



While researching last months sermon on the place of the garden in scripture, I came across these beautiful words about friendship in the Song of Songs, which got me thinking about God as friend. In Genesis we are given a picture of God's intended friendship with us, as we see him walking in companionship with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. But the picture grows cloudy because of their disloyalty to this friendship and in shame they find it necessary to hide away from him. It seems to me that our journey back to the friendship of God involves a choice, a decision if you like, to come out of hiding and into the light.

Maybe the friendship of God is a more tricky picture to get our head round, than that of God being our mother or father. A God who is understood as a parent can still be kept at a safe distance. Where a true friend is a different matter all together, as it's about an intimacy and commitment. If God comes too close what might be exposed.

Sometimes this distancing is part of our human relationships too. We fear that if people come close enough to know us well, they might not want to. This is a challenge of course, because at the same time we long for intimate friendship, to be known as we really are, but we get bruised along the way. Sometimes we wonder and blame ourselves for not being all we think we should be.

What God offers in the Bible are stories where friendship with him touches and heals the darker side of ourselves. There is Isaiah praying in the temple, when one day he sees a vision of God and he feels the terrible weight of his own inadequacy, confronted by such holiness! He says, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips." (Isaiah 6:5). He wants to cut and run. Faith is needed to believe that what God did for Isaiah, he can do for us, but more gradually perhaps, in small steps, for we need time to grow in the experience of his friendship before letting him come really close.

I don't know if any of you have been watching the new BBC 2 comedy on Friday night called *Mum*. It's about a long suffering widow, Cathy and her growing relationship with her son's girlfriend, the most annoying Kelly. Kelly mocks everything including herself and giggles incessantly, keeping everyone at a distance and I wondered whether I could sit through a whole episode of her, let alone a series. However, through Cathy's generosity and kindness, a warmth has grown between the two of them and Kelly's defensive giggling has eased.

P.T.O.

In the last episode of the series we were treated to a line of intimacy and connection from Kelly to Cathy, *"I know that you are 4 times as old as me, but even if Jason does go off to Australia and dumps me and I never leave the house again, can we still be friends?"* Cathy embraced Kelly and said of course they could with such warmth and tenderness and suddenly we all felt that we could be friends with Kelly too!

It is a lesson that we all need to learn on our spiritual journey, that our own human frailties and weaknesses are never ever an obstacle in our relationship with God. He accepts us in true friendship totally as we are. Where we are, and there won't be any surprises.

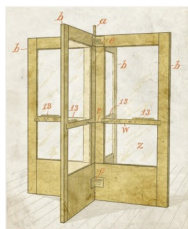
Rev Julia

July 2016

For without words in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations are borne and shared with joy that is unacclaimed. And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and a share of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morn and is refreshed.

Kahil Gibran: *The Prophet*

Come, our friend calls to us. Come, our friend has time for us.
Come, our friend speaks to us. Come to Jesus, our friend.
Jesus, you were a friend to the disciples,
You walked with them and you walk with us today.
As we meet in community, befriend us, guide us, love us. Amen



shutterstock - 183790889

The Revolving Door – Prayer On The Street

Three months gone already and so much has happened on the Street but alas, for many, little has changed – more of that later but first the good news:

The 'dual diagnosis' challenge in Southend which I mentioned in my previous contribution as a focus for prayer, has thankfully been addressed by Southend's drug and alcohol rehabilitation service (STARS) now being able to use a revised referral process to access our local mental health service through their newly appointed consultant. Ironically, South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) describes itself as "one of the most successful Foundation Trusts in the country providing integrated care including mental health" but the reality was the 'challenging' process required to access it!

P. T. O.

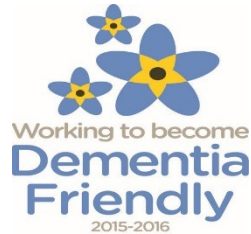
We have not seen Sally - the long standing rough sleeper who I related as having been offered alcohol rehabilitation, so we continue to pray that she is and will continue to receive the support she needs to bring it all to fruition. The update on rough sleeper George is not so optimistic however. Yes the local housing association did place him in accommodation but I found him still begging on the street. Why I ask him? And here is another of the 'revolving door' realities: He is receiving a package of support which will enable him to sustain that accommodation at least in the short term. BUT – and here is a BIG BUT for all of us: He is lonely and feels he must come out to do the things he is used to doing - and all he has known, for a long time, for the company. Since I saw George, I have been praying and trawling my mind for inspiration as to how we as Christians, dispersed as we are amongst multitude small fellowships across the Borough, can come together to offer inclusive fellowship to him and his 'fellows' to meet their needs.

This kind of loneliness may have been a contributory factor to the violence against Jo Wood in Batley: A man living alone with only the sensationalist media to feed a need for a purpose in his life. And he is so typical of many people we meet on the Seafront on a Friday or Saturday night, often drunk and many in despair at the loss of a loved one with nobody having taken the time to offer solace or explanation to that question: "Why has God done this". Oh what joy there would be in Heaven if we could feed LOVE into that kind of void! That the energy so wasted and human resource so destroyed in a moment of anger, could be turned to God's purpose.

Let me finish with another good news prospect; 'Detox Don' – so named he said because he spoke of nothing else. When we met him, he bemoaned in not unusual tones, that nobody was helping him with his addiction. From our conversation, it came to light that he was working with a peer mentor at STARS but was not making progress. I recall suggesting that he sounded rather defeatist and, despite his scepticism, we offered to pray for him. We met him again the last night I was out street pastoring, and his face lit up! He said he was buzzing – and that so should we be, because as a result of our prayer, he was now lined up for a rehabilitation programme – and it was Don who was crediting prayer, not ourselves. We prayed with him this time – that God would bring him through the programme as a beacon guiding and supporting him.

When I started my training as a Street Pastor, I was struck by the way that prayer is invoked both to protect us in our mission but also to intervene in the lives of the people we meet. Hitherto I had been rather sceptical myself about the 'power of prayer' but I am not now! I have seen it happen too often to be – as some people attribute, mere coincidence! Please join me in prayer for the lonely people on our streets.

Street Pastor - *Peter Courtenay*



Did you know Southend-On-Sea is working to becoming a Dementia Friendly town?

Southend-on-Sea is proud to have achieved 'working towards becoming a dementia friendly community' status. A dementia friendly community is a city, town or village where people affected by dementia feel confident knowing they can live their lives with access to the services and support they need to fully participate in community life. The status has been awarded thanks to the partnership work of the Southend Dementia Action Alliance (SDAA) which was launched in March 2015 to help the Borough become a 'Dementia-Friendly' town. The SDAA is made up of local businesses, services and community groups all working in partnership with the council.

www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/8940_southend_dementia_action_alliance

Would you like to help Highlands become a Dementia friendly Church?

"How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Psalm 137: 4

I would love to hear your opinions on this subject.

If you are already a Dementia Friend I would also like to hear from you.

*"Lord, help me to walk alongside people who see the world differently to me.
AMEN"*

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People

Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches

Tel 01702 479804

BRADWELL FESTIVAL

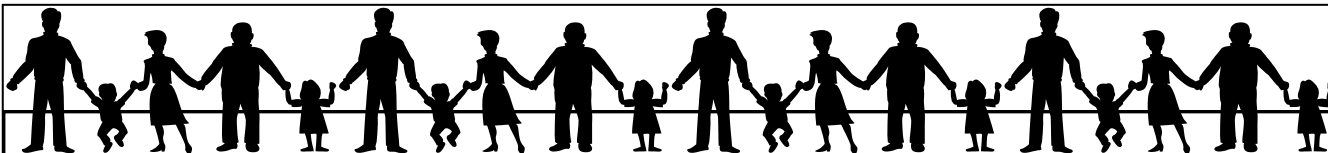
2nd and 3rd July 2016

at

Bradwell - on - Sea

See Poster in the Jubilee Room

{Connect and Celebrate}



Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Audrey Dobson at *St Martins Care Home*, 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.

Welcome

We were very pleased to welcome Donald Mayes into membership of the Methodist Church at Highlands during the morning service on 19th June. His testimony was inspirational.

Congratulations

To Sam Watson, son of Steve and Louise Watson who obtained a First Class Honours Degree (BA Hons.) in Marketing and Advertising Management from Derby University.

Sister Ellie is feeling under pressure!

Midweek Communion

Please note that there will be NO Midweek Communion during July at Belfairs and No Midweek Communion in the Section during August .

Normal Services will resume in September.

Flower Rota for July 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donated by</u>	<u>In memory of</u>	<u>Arranged by</u>
3rd		Joint Service at Wesley	
10th	Maureen Kelly	Michael & Peter	Jean Edmonds
17th	Dorothy Allen	John	Margaret Wood
24th	Sandra Harrison	Ken & Parents	Hobbies
31st		Section Service at Wesley	



Dates to Remember

Knit and Natter Social Group

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on Tuesday morning from 10am to noon during term time. Some of us knit, some crochet and some of us just natter. We enjoy each other's company and a cup of coffee/tea and biscuit. You will be made very welcome if you would like to join us.

Highlands Hobbies

We will meet just once in July on the 21st and follow with our bring and share lunch. We continue using our various talents in card making, flower arranging, needlecraft, knitting, chatting and making coffee. We welcome new faces and new talents to join our happy group.

(Contact : Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros Bryant 478631)

ABRSM Exams

The music exams continue!

The dates are : July 4th - 9th, July 11th, afternoon only, July 12th - 14th and July 16th. As usual any help with stewarding will be much appreciated and a list of dates is in the Jubilee Room giving the dates when help is needed.

Leigh Music Festival

This continues at Highlands during the period 1st -3rd July with the Prize-Winners concert on July 8th.

Fundraising Concert

Saturday 16th July - *Allegro at the Movies* at 7.30 pm.

Allegro was established in November 2013 by a group of friends. All the members are experienced singers; each has sung with some of the other members in various choirs and societies, now they are enjoying singing together as one choir.

The aim of Allegro is to have fun rehearsing a wide repertoire of music and to present high quality concerts which will raise funds for charitable causes. In the first two years they have raised £7,400 for various charities and community groups.

Our summer season 'Allegro at the movies' will be an evening of wonderful music, from traditional choral arrangements to popular modern composers and hit musicals. The concert at Highlands Methodist Church will raise funds for the refurbishment of the sanctuary area at Highlands and The Southend Huntingdon's Disease Society. Please contact Anne (01268 565644 or annelane8@btinternet.com) or Ros (01702 478631) to buy your tickets which are priced £10. Tickets can also be brought on the door.

Circuit Events

Saturday 2nd July - Family Fun Day at Rayleigh
Saturday 9th July - Summer Fayre at Thundersley
Further details in the Jubilee Room

Alternative Worship

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday
Next date — 14th July at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday
Next date - 26th July at 8.00pm

Coffee Mornings

2nd July - Music at Highlands
9th July - World Missions
16th July - Action for Children
23rd July - Church
30th July -



Highlands 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Over the weekend of 22nd/23rd October we will be celebrating 90 years of Highlands. There will be a display of historical events at Highlands & maybe some floral arrangements to portray the decades, together with a guest preacher on the Sunday.

Several things are already being prepared for the weekend but there are two meetings for those who would like to come along who would like to take part, come along to help or are interested on what is happening!

1st meeting – Thursday 30 June at 8 pm

2nd meeting – Monday 19 September at 8 pm

Many people have expressed interest so come along and share.



The 2016 Week of Accompanied Prayer

From Sunday 9th – Sunday 16th October, the Leigh Section will be joining with St Clements to hold a Week of Accompanied Prayer.

Why are we having a Week of Accompanied Prayer (WAP)?

The purpose of such weeks is to encourage people in their prayer lives by providing an opportunity to reflect each day on their prayer, in the company of a prayer guide, or companion. What an individual participant experiences, over the course of the week, will be unique to them. For example, one may learn different ways in which to pray, another be helped to overcome a difficulty they have with prayer and someone else may simply begin to pray regularly for the first time. Often people experience a new or deeper meaning in their prayer and a greater awareness of God's presence in their daily lives.

It sounds like a retreat. If I take part, do I have to go somewhere special for the whole week?

A WAP is like a retreat but it doesn't involve going away for the week. Each day you will meet with your guide for thirty minutes either at one of the section churches or at St Clements. You will be invited to set aside thirty minutes to pray on your own each day. For the rest of the time the activities of your day continue as they would normally whilst feeding into and being fed by prayer.

Who are the Prayer Guides?

The team of prayer guides may include women and men of various denominations, some lay, some ordained and possibly some members of religious orders. All will have received training in helping others in their prayer. The role of the guide is mainly to listen: to accompany the participants during the week, encouraging each person to honour his or her own prayer and to be aware of how it may be developed.

Does the WAP cost anything?

Although the WAP is free to join, the week will cost in the region of £500 to put on and therefore we suggest that you consider making a donation of £5 to £10 to contribute to these costs.

P.T.O.

Where can I get more information?

Between June and the beginning of October more information will be available through:

Leaflets at the back of church

Meetings: 11am 9th July St Clement's

8pm 28th July Wesley Methodist

These meetings will explain how the week works and answer other questions that you may have. You are invited to attend the meeting which is most convenient for you.

If you are uncertain whether the WAP is for you, please feel free to talk with Rev Julia

Some feedback from participants in the WAP last year:

Before the WAP I was nervous and not sure if I was doing the right thing for me. I am grateful to the WAP for making me aware of the benefit of a dedicated time for prayer.

Before the WAP my feelings and expectations were that something suitable for me and my needs was being offered. It helped me to become more aware of the presence of God within and around me.

I am grateful to the WAP because it has cleared my head of unnecessary "gabbling" at prayer and has shown me the value of silence and how God really speaks to me in the silence!

Mapping our Stories

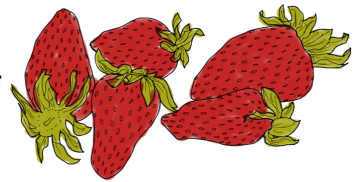
Following the completion of our review it was agreed at Church Council that we would follow up on the conclusions and resolutions as to how we move forward. Rev Julia Monaghan has agreed that at her next preaching dates at Highlands she will base her sermons around our findings.

Please reread her article in the June *Highlander* and consider your position in the Parable of The Good Samaritan.



Holidaying at Home

There will be a Strawberry Tea at the home of Maureen Kelly on the afternoon of 5th July.



HOLIDAYING AT HOME

HIGHLANDS

WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY
10.30AM TIL 2.30PM

COST £7.50 PER PERSON

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE TELEPHONE JULIE ON 01702 479804

This not for profit event has been planned for the older people of Leigh on Sea by the Older peoples worker for Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches

ADVERTISEMENT

SHARE IN A FRENCH VILLA

A 10% share for sale in a luxury villa. £53,000 o.n.o.

Fractional ownership (NOT timeshare)

in Flayosc, in the Var region of Provence.

Heated pool, sleeps up to ten, boules court, games room,
superb views, built in an acre of olive terraces.

Nearest beaches St Raphael/St. Maxine/St. Tropez,
skiing in Gleolier, local golf courses,
water sports and varied walking.

The Company (Flayosc Property Ltd)
is English and owns this one villa.

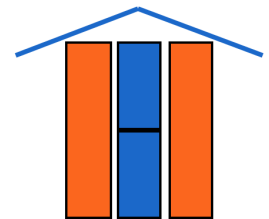
Four of the eight current shareholders are families
living in Southend.

On line brochure from geoffnash99@yahoo.co.uk.

You are welcome to phone us (472521)
if you would like any more details.

Geoff Nash and Eileen Simmons

Serving the Homeless



DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2016

July/August	Summer Raffle: contact the number below for tickets.
July/August	Holiday activity for the children: follow the clues from the Cliffs Pavilion to the Conservation area. Prizes will be awarded for the correct answers.
22nd October	Italian meal in the upper hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre.
16th December	Carols and Poems for Christmas at Our Lady of Lourdes Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre.

For further details contact Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250



**Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
District Policy Committee**

Invite you to a Farewell and Thanksgiving service
for the work of our District Chair

The Revd Anne E Brown

at Marlborough Methodist Church , St Albans
on Saturday 16th July 2016

Full details in the Jubilee Room



**Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire
District Policy Committee**

Invite you to a Welcome Service
for our new District Chair

The Revd Dr David Chapman

at Chelmsford Cathedral
on Wednesday 24th August

Full details in the Jubilee Room



Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit
welcomes

Rev Chris Sandy and his family

Please come and join in the welcome service
at Benfleet Methodist Church
on Saturday 10th September at 3pm

Full details in the Jubilee Room



INVITATION TO A DISTRICT DAY

TO BE HELD AT BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

High Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5LH

on

SATURDAY 30 JULY

INDUCTION OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Linda King

SERVICE at 11.30 am

Including an introduction to the next District Project
Arab Orthodox Society, East Jerusalem

AFTERNOON SESSION at 2 pm

SOUTHEND TOWN CENTRE MINISTRY

Revd Hannah Bucke

Coffee available at Benfleet's regular coffee morning from 10 am

Lunch 1pm – 2pm

Please bring packed lunch, drinks available

Tea and Cake to follow the Afternoon Session

There are some parking spaces at the rear of the church off Hall Farm Road, SS7 5JR
There is limited parking at the front of the church for blue badge holders and those with limited mobility.

There is a large public car park five minutes' walk away off School Lane (SS7 1NS) at the bottom of Essex Way. Parking charge of £2 on Saturday

Smile Lines

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver.'

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Parish Pump

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.	Dan Raven	07982 840145
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

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion :-

1st Wednesday	Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am
2nd Wednesday	Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am
4th Wednesday	New Road Methodist Church at 9.15 am

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

Knit and Natter Group Tuesday	10.00 a.m.-12 noon	(Sept.-July)	
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 (Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands)	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).