



The **HIGHLANDER**

May 2018

The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh on Sea

Sunday Worship in May 2018

6 th	11.00 Section Communion Service at Wesley	Rev Julia Monaghan
13 th	10.30 Morning Worship Parade Service Christian Aid Week	Worship Leaders
20 th	10.30 Morning Worship Aldersgate Sunday	Kathy McCullough
27 th	10.30 Morning Worship Trinity Sunday	Local Arrangement

'Crafty Church' meets at 10.30 am on Sundays
For young people - meeting Jesus through art and craft
Come in and FaceTime with Jesus

Find more information at: **www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk**



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

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

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Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Lesley/Andrew Hyde	473111
	Jean/Frank Edmonds	525250
	Steve Jones	553898
	Kathy McCullough	714528
	Donald Mayes	473787
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Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

From the Editor

Welcome to this May 2018 edition of the *Highlander*. This for many of us is our favourite time of the year, with the tree-blossom announcing that summer is coming. It seems particularly spectacular this year, with the Marine Parade a riot of pink. Get down there and see it if you haven't done so already.



The birds are also beginning to tune up. Lesley heard her first cuckoo on 22 April, and for the next two weeks it should be possible in the Belton Hills scrub to marvel as the shrill songs of nightingales pierce the gathering dusk.

As for this publication, you'll see that I am still pursuing my goal of getting other people to write the whole thing. This month sees the inclusion of 'The Road to Aldersgate' an essay by Donald Mayes exploring the founding of Methodism by Charles and John Wesley. Make time to read it properly, perhaps with a cup of tea or coffee, and to respond. You could do this in prayer, or you can respond in writing for the next issue of *Highlander*. (See what I did there?)

God bless all here.

AH

A Message from your Minister

Impressions of God's Spirit at Work

There is a wonderful exhibition currently running at the National Gallery looking at the career of the French Impressionist Monet, through the buildings he painted in Normandy, Rouen, Paris, London and Venice. From buildings in villages and by the coast, to some of Europe's most famous monuments, Monet painted the architecture of his time, and over the holidays I went to jostle with the crowds and queue, to catch a glimpse of some of his 75 paintings on show.



It was a wonderful exhibition, yet I required some stamina to wait my turn to see, for a precious few minutes, without someone else's head or camera phone sneaking in front of me. It's hard to appreciate now that in his day few initially understood his work. Used to highly finished, true to life representations, the general public was slow to accept what they saw as daubs of garish colour.

So what has changed? Clearly not the paintings themselves, but perhaps more people have come to appreciate an art that tries to capture the feeling promoted by the fleeting play of light on a building or landscape, as much if not more than photographic realism.

St Paul speaks to the Corinthians of their need for a similar kind of education:

No one can comprehend what is truly God's, except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

1 Corinthians 2: 9 – 12

If they rely on their old - merely human - ways of perceiving and judging, they will never be able to appreciate the new things that God is doing in Jesus. But if they will open themselves to God's Spirit, the Spirit will show them how to recognise the gifts they have received, by being united to Christ, and how those gifts can best be used for the building up of Jesus' body, the Church.

So how do you look at and judge the world around you? Do you apply human criteria - the kind of criteria that newspapers, TV news and the internet usually reflect? Or does the Spirit of God influence the way that you see the world? Do your faith in Jesus and the continuing work of the Spirit of Jesus both mould and shape your view of the world and everyone in it?

Maybe, for a prayer today, you could take a few moments to look at a painting, a poster or a postcard and notice the kind of feelings that it prompts in you? Or list some of the gifts that God has given you that enable you in different ways to build up the people around you.

May God continue to bless you richly during this wonderful Pentecostal season.

Rev Julia Monaghan

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church on Sunday 20 May 2018 – Aldersgate Sunday

Prayer

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: *Pat Gare in Admirals Court, Marie Moore at Archers Court (in Hitchin) and Mary Barter in Langley Lodge*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

We particularly also remember Rev Teresa Rutterford and husband Peter, together with all their family and friends on the loss of their son Jerome, on 31 March - Easter Saturday. Jerome had suffered some years of ill health, though his death was sudden and unexpected, from a heart attack.

Thanks...

The amount collected from the Home Collection Boxes for Action for Children this year amounted to £272.70. Thank you to all of you. Unfortunately the number of box holders is now getting fewer, so if anyone would like to hold a box for this coming year, please have a word with me and I would be delighted to let you have one.

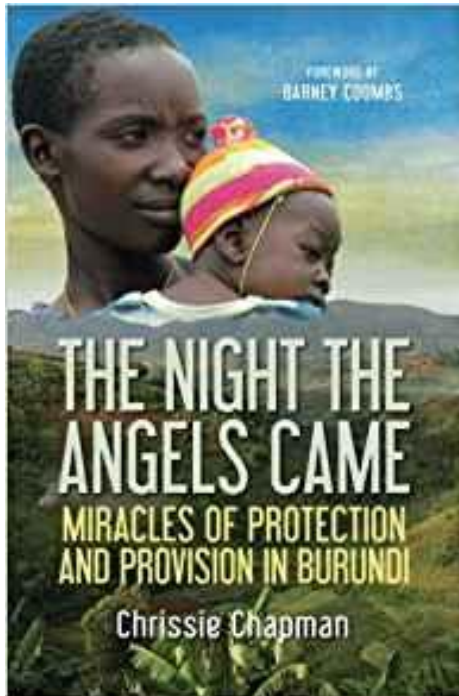
I have also sent a cheque for £65.45, the amount raised at two coffee mornings. Again thanks to all who have supported Action for Children during the past year.

Sylvia

(You can find out more about the excellent work of Action for Children at www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

What I'm Reading

This month we're delighted to have Jennifer Courtenay as our guest literary reviewer. Take it away Jennie...



The Night the Angels Came

by Chrissie Chapman.

I love reading – fact or fiction, historical novels, Christian books but best of all thrillers! I always have several books on the go – in print or on my Kindle. But my choice for this month's review was driven by the title – surely it makes your mouth water too.

It has a sub title that is more long winded – Miracles of Protection and Provision in Burundi. Hope you know where that is, in fact deepest Africa, if still in doubt we will be having a map of the world up in the Church, in May.

Back to the story – this turned out to be a remarkable journey of a young woman who suffered ill-health for many years and dreamt of being first a nurse then a midwife. Maybe in pure literary terms this is not great but in terms of how God can use each one of us – wow! It tells Chrissie's story who has now been in Burundi for over 25 years thinking she was going there for just 2. Through years of civil war in that country she has helped babies and children survive even adopting some herself, just as God must have known when he healed her back in England way before Africa loomed large in her life.

As for the title – well she did see Angels guarding her mud hut on a hill surrounded by war and was overawed by that sight but from that moment on she did not fear for her own life.

As for us we know what it is to feel God's presence in our times of need. But to see Angels must be a bonus - wonderful. So if you would like to read this story, buy a copy* or ask me and borrow my copy.

Happy Reading.

JMC

*Take care if you order this book online, as there are two books out there with exactly the same title. The other one is by Cathy Glass, and is probably an excellent book too!

Now over to you. Many of you will have enjoyed 'a good read' recently. We look forward to hearing about it.

Didn't we have a lovely day...

...the day we went to Highlands Easter Community Day

I just wanted to thank everyone involved. It was a joyful day of Easter craft activities, flower arranging, singing, puppetry and good company culminating in a Community service lead by Rev Julia.

Entertainment was brought to us by the accurately named 'Mencap Showstoppers' with a repertoire we could all sing along to. Joe Peek brought puppets to join in the fun. Brenda - your Simnel cakes were delicious! And thank you to Michael 'Elvis' Glaysher for you wonderful accompaniment to the service.

Sir David Amess wrote after the day 'Many, many congratulations on organising the community day' and confided 'I had always wanted to meet Elvis, he was brilliant'

My personal favourite moment was during the community service when Shane, Sam and Michael beautifully illustrated through their enactment of the Bible story of 'the road to Emmaus' how Jesus walks beside us even if we don't always recognise him.

Thank you all for your generous donations for refreshments, it has meant Highlands have donated £100 to the activities of Mencap Showstoppers.

So Highlands Easter Community Day was our third 'Great Get Together' and we are already checking diaries for the next one. Do check out www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk for all the photos.

Julie Peek
Mission Enabler for Older People
Highlands Methodist Church

Dine with the Homeless

Again this **Bolognaise Sauce** (or 'Ragu') is a recipe much enjoyed by guests at Whittingham Avenue. It's slightly more expensive than most of our recipes, but it goes a long way and can be enjoyed with many different pasta shapes.

In particular it's excellent as a basis for lasagne, when it needs to be layered with the pasta sheets and a béchamel or cheese sauce. Traditionally then you bake the lasagne in an oven ('al forno').

You may wonder which spelling is correct – lasagna or lasagne. Actually they are both right; the first is a *singular* sheet of pasta, the second is plural. So the correct name for the dish is lasagne, unless (I suppose) it were a very small one!

These quantities make quite a lot of portions, but it freezes and reheats very well.

Bolognaise Sauce

(Makes 2½ pints 1.5l)

Ingredients

- 4 tbsp 60ml vegetable oil
- 4 oz 100g streaky bacon, rinded and chopped
- 2lb 1kg minced beef or lamb
- 3 medium onions, peeled and chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 3 sticks of celery, cleaned trimmed and chopped
- 4oz 100g mushrooms, washed and sliced
- 2 tsp 100ml dried mixed Italian herbs
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp 50ml sugar
- 10oz 275g tomato purée
- ¾ pint 450ml beef stock

- ¼ pint 150ml red wine

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the bacon until golden brown. Add the minced beef/lamb, onion and garlic and cook gently, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients, season to taste and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, cover the saucepan and simmer for one hour stirring occasionally.

(Red wine may be omitted in an alcohol-free setting, but in fact 75% of the alcohol in the wine will evaporate during one hour of cooking, so the amount left in an individual portion will be negligible – roughly 0.025ml or one four-hundredth of a unit)

Humour Corner

Wife (on telephone to husband, who is out in car):

I just thought I'd warn you – there's a report on the radio about an idiot driving the wrong way round the M25.

Husband ('hands-free', for safety):

What do mean – 'an idiot'?

There are dozens of them!



The Road to Aldersgate

Donald Mayes

With Aldersgate Sunday coming up soon, Rev. Julia, who knows I am interested in the Wesleys, has invited me to write something suitable for this month's *Highlander*.

The original account of the event we traditionally think about on Aldersgate Sunday appears in John Wesley's journal:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society at Aldersgate Street, where one [person] was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change that God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation. And an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

I first read this extract in **Called by Name**, given to me when I became a member of Highlands. In that booklet it appears in a section about John Wesley wrestling with faith and seeking

assurance. It was something I wanted to know more about. Why did he go *unwillingly*? Who was the *one* preaching? Did he go there with low expectations?

I found reading Luther's preface together with St. Paul's letter to the Romans instructive, because it provided me with confirmation of the context of John Wesley's experience. Then, helpfully, I came across this description of an eventful sea voyage:

"At noon our third storm began. At four it was more violent than before. Now indeed, we could say, "The waves of the sea were mighty and raged horribly. They rose up to the heavens above, and clave down to hell beneath". The winds roared about us and (what I never heard before) whistled distinctly as if it had been a human voice.

The ship not only rocked to and fro with utmost violence but shook and jarred with so unequal grating a motion that one could only with great difficulty keep one's hold of anything, nor stand a moment without it. Every ten minutes came a shock against the stern or side of the ship which one would think should dash the planks in pieces. At this time a child, privately baptised before, was brought to be received into the church...

We spent two or three hours after prayers in conversing suitably to the occasion, confirming one another in calm submission to the wise, holy, gracious will of God. And now a storm did not appear so terrible as before. Blessed be the God of all consolation! "

Here was an account of a passage to the new colony of Georgia which John and his brother Charles Wesley undertook in the winter of 1736. To my mind it marks in a dramatic way the beginning of the road to Aldersgate.

John was an ordained minister of the Church of England, educated at Oxford and a founding member of "The Holy Club"

there. His writings reveal him to be one of the most unsparing self-critics in matters of doctrine, practice and belief, and he discovered in the face of a storm that he was capable of fearing death rather than welcoming it. A challenge to his Christianity.

There was more. Fellow passengers aboard the SV Simmonds¹ included German Christians, the Moravians², whose “seriousness” and “meekness” had already impressed him. *“There was now an opportunity of trying whether they were delivered from the spirit of fear, as well as from pride, anger, and revenge.”*

In the midst of the psalm with which their service began, the sea broke over, split the mainsail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English; the Germans calmly sang on.”

Asked whether they had been afraid, one of the worshippers replied: *“I thank God, no”*. Questioned further, he replied mildly that: *“No, our women and children are not afraid to die”*.

Later, in Georgia, when Wesley took the opportunity to speak frankly about his own fear with one of the pastors of the Germans, the reply was unexpected: *“Have you the witness within yourself? Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit, that you are a child of God? ”*

Wesley wrote in his journal:

I was surprised, and did not know what to answer. He observed it and asked: “Do you know Jesus Christ?” I paused, and said: “I know He is the Saviour of the world.”

¹ The Simmonds sailed from Gravesend to America in October 1735

² Moravia is now part of the Czech Republic. Many Moravians fled to Saxony (now Germany) to escape persecution in their native land

"True" *replied he*: "but do you know He has saved you?" *I answered*: "I hope He has died to save me." *He only added* "Do you know yourself?" *I said* "I do". *But I fear they were vain words.*

There is a clear link here to what Wesley wrote about his experience at Aldersgate.

John and Charles Wesley lived closely with the Moravians while in Georgia and continued their association for some time after returning to England. Today's website of the Moravian Church mentions them as belonging to their earlier *society*. The one that met at Aldersgate Street?

The full story of John Wesley's thoughts and struggles as written in his journal and other papers can only be touched on in a short article like this. What is easier to remember is that what he experienced at Aldersgate Street opened the way to the extraordinary achievements of his subsequent ministry and that, most importantly, he reaffirmed the place of religious experience within the established church.



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

What a change – from not being able to get out in the garden because of the snow, it was then too hot – we gardeners are never happy with the weather!

Runner beans

I love this time of year when everything is springing into life. I have sown my runner beans in small pots – 2 per pot -and they are coming on fast but I won't be planting them in the ground for a couple of weeks. They are tender and don't like a frost.

Salad Vegetables

I've also started to plant out my salad vegetables – lettuce, spinach, beetroot and rocket. I love rocket's spicy, peppery leaves and it's easy to grow – if you sow every couple of weeks you get a continuous supply throughout the summer. Pick young and before it flowers to prolong leaf production. I do plant my rocket in pots as the slugs love it too. Last year, I lost an entire crop in one night – I started to question whether I had planted it

out at all! I've got copper bands around the pots this year and they really seem to help to keep the slugs at bay.

Soft Fruits

I've been looking after my fruit as well – the autumn fruiting raspberries which I cut back in February have had a mulch and my blueberries which I grow in pots (in ericaceous compost) have had a dressing of potash (or you could use sulphate of ammonia).

I've also got gooseberries as these can tolerate some shade and grow in most soils. But I'm watching out for sawfly which can decimate a crop. You need to look out for the pale green caterpillar-like larvae and pick these off by hand. Do check the undersides of leaves as this is where they are often lurking.

SGC

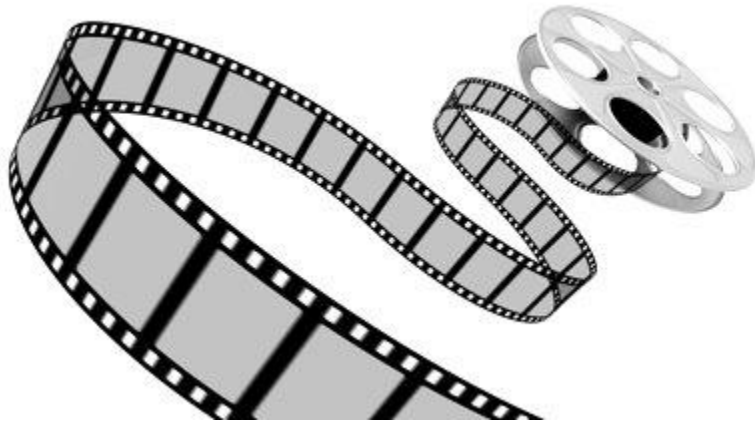
Humour Corner

Rev Rachel:

I'm having terrible trouble with pests in my garden. I've sprayed them, put down slug pellets and prayed for them to go away. Nothing seems to work. Got any ideas?

Rev Rosemary:

Well, yes actually. I just baptise all my snails and bugs. Then I never see them again.



Movies @ Highlands presents...

HIDDEN FIGURES

Wednesday 23 May 1:30 pm

Nominated for three Academy Awards™ including Best Picture, *Hidden Figures* tells the incredible untold story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; brilliant African American women working at NASA who served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John Glenn.

This stunning achievement was responsible for turning around the Space Race and the visionary trio crossed all gender and racial lines and inspired generations.

A FREE event (come from 12:00 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available)

Oh yes and the sun has come out! So maybe a Rossi?

Dates to Remember

Knit and Natter Social Group

Would you like to come and join us? We are a friendly group who enjoy each other's company. Some of us knit or crochet but we all natter and support and care for each other. Just come along on Tuesday at 10.00am to share a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. You will be made most welcome. We meet in the Church Lounge.

Highlands Hobbies

We will be meeting on Thursday 3 May followed by a lunch for those who wish to stay. We plan to make butterfly mobiles. We will also meet on 17 May from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon when we will be preparing for the Spring Fair. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros 478631

MoTHs (Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands)

All are welcome at MOTHS on 1 May at 2:00 pm when Tony Downing will be speaking about the Ambulance Service.

Then on 5 June we will have an afternoon when we ask everyone to bring something to talk about, be it a piece of your own work (written or artistic) or perhaps a family piece which is special to you.

Our next season's MoTHs afternoons begin in September after the summer break. So enjoy your summer break and look out for other summer activities at Highlands. They will be highlighted here in the *Highlander* and in our website which is www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk

Serving the Homeless Events

Just so that you can keep the dates free:

- there will be a meal at *The Regatta* restaurant in Leigh on Thursday 5 July.
- in July/August our Summer Raffle Tickets will be on sale for the draw on 3rd September
- Indian Meal at *The Yak and Yeti* takes place on Thursday 13 September
- there's a Music Evening and Buffet at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall on Saturday 27 October
- Wine Tasting evening by *Vino Vero* at St Margaret's Church Hall on Friday 16 November
- Service of Carols and Poems on Friday 14 December at Our Lady of Lourdes



Christian Aid Week 13 to 19 May

Dear Friends, I am looking to my usual loyal supporters to help raise approximately £1,000 and hoping that others will join the team for our house to house collection. We have found that it works very well to share a road. Please sign your name to a road and collect envelopes and a badge from me.

Jean Edmonds Tel: 01702 525250.

Royal Wedding

Highlands will celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle on Saturday 19 May by showing proceedings on the TV screen in the Church

If you would like to join in with friends to celebrate this joyous occasion, rather than sit at home alone, bring them along too. Refreshments will be available, and the FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Chelsea will follow if anyone would like to continue watching.



Greek Orthodox Church

Rev Teresa has organised a trip to the Greek Orthodox Church in Southend on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 1:45 pm and would like this to be an open invitation to all the circuit. This will be a spiritually stimulating and informative event.

The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Barbara, St. Phanourios and St. Paul is in Salisbury Road Southend SS0 7AU. Greek Orthodox churches are descended from churches which the Apostles founded in the Balkans and the Middle East during the 1st century CE and they maintain many traditions of the ancient Church.

Please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room if you would like to go.

Wednesday Coffee Morning at the HUB

We are waiting to serve you a special coffee at our Wednesday Hub morning from 10:00 to 12:00 every Wednesday

Take a break from your busy life, look in for a chat or information about Highlands through the week.

Spring Fair

This takes place on Saturday 26 May, with plants, cakes, crafts and refreshments including bacon butties etc.

Humour Corner

A cruise ship is sailing past a desert island when the lookout spots a castaway waving on the beach. A boat is sent to pick him up. When he is brought back to the ship he appears to be covered in red paint.

Captain:

Goodness me! Whatever happened to you?

Castaway:

I was marooned.

Highlands PinPoint Group

We meet together on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

We are a friendly, open group and our members are both new and experienced sewers who enjoy embroidery, tapestry, cross stitch, quilting, etc. We also bring our own mending to do - sewing up hems and replacing buttons. We enjoy helping and encouraging each other.

'The Hub' provide us with refreshments and help us to spend an enjoyable morning chatting, sewing, mending, or learning how for the first time.

Quilt as you Go (QAYG) Cushion Cover/Tablemat Classes for All May-July 2018

(all Wednesdays)

9 and 23 May

13 and 27 June

11 and 25 July

Bring your own scissors, pins, needles, etc. if you have them. All materials for the project apart from the cushion pad will be provided and will cost £12.50 for the 6 sessions, payable on booking, non-refundable.

To register contact Win Mann on 01702 559632 - letting her know if you will bring your own sewing machine or Teresa on 01702 523312.

Serving the Homeless / HARP/CWNS

The fundraising event at EAST was really well attended and we raised £822. Thank you for such wonderful support.

By the time you read this we will have finished the next fundraising event, a Quiz Evening on Saturday 28 April in St Margaret's Church Hall. It is usually a fun and light-hearted event.

Our next event is Afternoon Tea at the Park View Suite in Chalkwell Park. Tickets are available now at £12 per head for Thursday 12 June from 2:00 pm. We are hoping that this year we do not clash with an Election or BREXIT vote. We have however expressed an interest in fine weather for the day.

Night Shelters

The Churches Winter Night Shelter programme has ended but a new group has been formed to convert units on the old Greyhound Estate for overnight accommodation. "Off The Streets" is aiming to provide facilities 365 days a year. We thought that this venture should be encouraged and we have contributed towards their start-up costs.

You read the full report and statistics for 2017-18 on our website. Copy this link into your browser:

<http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk/homeless/annual-report-1718.php>

Data Protection

Andrew Hyde

This sounds like a dull subject, and by golly it is. But at the same time it's very important.

You may know that the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018. This has been in the pipeline for some time, but recent events such as the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica scandal have brought it into sharp focus. For example, I think you probably already trust that Highlands Church will not sell your names and addresses to the highest bidder. But we have to actually put down in writing that we will not do that, so that we can be held accountable if we do.

There are certain things we should do by 25 May 2018 to ensure that our handling of personal data is lawful. Nothing bad happens if we don't quite meet that deadline, but we'll give it a try anyway. Here are the four essential steps:

1. Data Mapping

We need to establish what data is held by parts of Highlands Methodist Church. That does not include organisations such as Cubs/Scouts/Guides, AA, Mencap etc who hire our space but are independently controlled.

2. Review

We gather all the data in one place and decide for each category what we need it for. (If we decide that we don't know what we need it for, then we probably don't need it, and hence the solution is fairly obvious!)

3. Policy

We agree a set of simple rules for holding the data. For example, one rule (quite a good one I think) could be that we will never disclose data to a third party unless (1) specific consent is given or (2) overriding legal compulsion applies. Another rule might be that we prominently affirm our adherence to GDPR every time we collect data.

4. Consent

We contact the data subjects, and ask for their permission to hold their data in accordance with our policy. We will need to impose a deadline, after which data will be destroyed if no consent is received.

If you hold any data and have not yet contacted me, please do so as soon as possible. I'll welcome any questions and deal with them as best I can. Meanwhile you can find out more from www.eugdpr.org or any number of other websites.

AH

Humour Corner

999 caller:

Can you help? Someone broke into my car while I was at the shops. My collection of 'rap' music CDs was easily visible.

Operator:

I'm sorry to hear that. Did they take them all?

999 caller:

No they've thrown a load more in.

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 13 May at 7:00 for 7:30 pm. All are welcome for this relaxed evening of Gospel Music and reflection with tea/coffee and cake before and after the service.

This occasion is not only tuneful and uplifting but a whole lot of fun.

The Fishermen's Chapel was formerly called New Road Church, situated (logically enough) in New Road just north of the railway line.

Belfairs Thirsty For?

Thursday 10 May at 7:00 pm

Wesley Informal Service

22 May at 8:00 pm

If you would like to take part in any of these but need a lift to get there, contact AH and I'll do my best to make it happen.

Circuit Events

Easter Offering Appeal

There will be a Circuit Service of Thanksgiving at 4:00 pm on Sunday 6 May at UMC Shoeburyness when the gifts will be presented and blessed. Organised by Methodist Women in Britain, this year's theme is 'Seek Peace and Pursue It.'

All are welcome.

MHA Sunday

Sunday 10 June is MHA Sunday - Methodist Homes for the Aged, for which Sam Monaghan is now the Chief Executive Officer. The theme this year is "Bringing Quality to Later Life". Envelopes will be available for a couple of weeks. Please give as generously as you are able. You never know when you might need their facilities and Marie Moore is very comfortable in Hitchin.

Prayer and Fasting Relay

The Methodist Church is holding a Day of Prayer and Fasting to pray for the future mission of The Methodist Church.

As a Circuit we are holding a Prayer & Fasting Relay on Saturday 12 May. All Churches in the Circuit will take an hour to pray for the future and then 'pass the baton on'. The relay will commence at 8:00 am at Highlands. who will pass on the baton at 9:00 am to Trinity/Canvey and the final church in the relay will be Belfairs from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Full details are on the poster on the next page.

We hope that as many people as possible will join with us and then join in refreshments afterwards.

Southend & Leigh Circuit

Prayer and Fasting Relay



Praying for the future mission of the Methodist Church. Pray at your local church and be part of passing the baton on

8am - 9am	Highlands	2pm - 3pm	Hockley
9am - 10am	Canvey Trinity	3pm - 4pm	Benfleet Chalkwell
10am - 11am	Thorpe Bay	4pm - 5pm	Fishermen's Chapel / UMC
11am - 12	Wesley	5pm - 6pm	Rayleigh
12 - 1pm	Thundersley	6pm - 7pm	Rochford
1pm - 2pm	Hadleigh	7pm - 8pm	Belfairs

Future Committee Meetings:

Family Committee	14 May 2018 at 8:00 pm
Church Council	16 July 2018 at 8:00 pm*
Pastoral Committee	25 September 2018 at 10.00 am

The date for the Annual Church Meeting has moved to 20 May, starting after the Morning Service and including a light lunch of soup and desserts.

Coffee Mornings in May

Saturday 5 May	Music at Highlands
Saturday 12 May	Christian Aid
Saturday 19 May	Missions
Saturday 26 May	Coffee Morning Plus

Church Flowers

Sunday	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
6 May	Jean & Frank	Michael	Jean
13 May	Mary Barter	Family	Jean
20 May	Sheila Whitelegg	Ged	Margaret
27 May	Joan Ford	Gordon	Pauline

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Toddlers Group Monday
9:30-11:30 am Margaret Wood ☎ 557512
highlandstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

Rainbows Wednesday
4:00-5:00 pm Jacqui Hendle ☎ 557147

Brownies Wednesday
5:30-7:00 pm Dilys Haddow ☎ 710207

Cub Scouts Thursday
6:00-7:30 pm Lesley Bacon
lesleykbacon@googlemail.com

Scouts Thursday
7:30-9:00 pm Sally Monk 558857

Rangers Alternate
Thursdays Jacqui Hendle ☎ 557147
7:30-9:00 pm

Guides Friday
7:00-9:00 pm Jacqui Hendle ☎ 557147

Fellowship Groups

Housegroup meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Services to the Community

Regular **Sunday Worship**

Tuesday Morning **Prayer Service** at 9.00 a.m.

Midweek **Communion**:-

2nd Wednesday Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am

3rd Wednesday Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am

Traidcraft: Catalogue available for orders. Please contact Pamela and Patrick Smith - 557702.

Social and Recreational

Knit and Natter Group	Tues 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Sylvia 556433
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Badminton Club	Mon 8:00 p.m	Sarah 476009 or Sophia 07796 265676
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Hobbies	1 st & 3 rd Thu 10.00 am – 12:00 noon	Jean 525250
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Ladies' Badminton	Fri 10.00 am – 12:00 noon	Dilys 710207
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Adult Art Classes	Thu 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Susan 551025 or
Children's Art Club	Thu 4:00 – 5:00 pm	07875 079739

Items for the **June 2018 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com before **Sunday 27 May**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.