



# *The* **HIGHLANDER**

**December 2018 & January 2019**

**The monthly newsletter of Highlands Methodist  
Church, Leigh on Sea**

## CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

- <sup>BE</sup> ~~buy~~ presents
- wrap ~~gifts~~ <sup>SOMEONE  
IN A HUG</sup>
- send ~~gifts~~ <sup>PEACE</sup>
- <sup>DONATE</sup> ~~shop for~~ food
- <sup>BE</sup> ~~see~~ the lights

# Advent & Christmas Worship in December 2018

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30	Café Church Advent Sunday	Kathy McCullough
8 <sup>th</sup>	5:00	Carols on <b>Strand Wharf</b>	[Run by Leigh on Sea Town Council]
9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Gift Sunday	Rev Norman Hooks
16 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Brian Gameson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Peter Perowne
	4:00	Carol Service with Gaudeamus	Rev Norman Hooks
24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00	Christingle Service	Rev Norman Hooks
	11:30 pm	Midnight Service <b>at Wesley</b>	Pr Steve Mayo
25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Christmas Day Celebration	Rev Norman Hooks
30 <sup>th</sup>	11:00	United Service <b>at Rochford</b>	Rev Norman Hooks

## JANUARY 2019

6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship Covenant Service Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship	John Phillips
27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Norman Hooks

**'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](http://www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk)**



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## **Humour Corner**

Restaurant customer:  
*What do you recommend?*

Maitre D:  
*Our snails are renowned*

Restaurant customer:  
*I know, one of them served me last time I was here.*

# **Highlands Methodist Church**

## **Hospitality in the Midst of our Community**

All telephone numbers are '01702' unless stated

Minister	Rev Norman Hooks <a href="mailto:norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk">norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk</a>	311900
Secretary to Church Council	Patrick Smith	557702
Church Stewards	Lesley/Andrew Hyde Jean/Frank Edmonds Steve Jones Kathy McCullough Donald Mayes	473111 525250 553898 714528 473787
Worship Leaders	Jennifer Courtenay Frank Edmonds	556140 525250
Church Treasurer	Janet Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane <a href="mailto:annelane8@btinternet.com">annelane8@btinternet.com</a>	01268 755291
Crafty Church Leaders	Jean Edmonds Ros Bryant	525250 478631
Pastoral Co-ordinator	Maureen Kelly	556152
Church Flowers	Jean Edmonds	525250
Lettings/Use of Premises	Les Davis	558381

## **From the Editor**

Welcome to the December 2018/January 2019 edition of the Highlander. I shall take as my text some well-known words of Roy Wood

*'Well I wish it could be Christmas every day!'*

I suppose I should start with a health warning. Christmas is literally a feast day. If we choose to feast every day, then we will probably become ill sooner or later. So perhaps Mr Wood did not have food and drink in mind (though who knows?) when he penned this.

No, instead I like to think that he had in mind the fact that Christmas is celebrated – not just by Christians I should add – as a time of peace and goodwill. Even the First World War famously paused for a truce on the Western Front on 25 December 1914.

As Christians we don't actually need to wait until Christmas before we show a bit of peace and goodwill. Most of us pray every day of the year to have our trespasses forgiven. And as part of the deal we offer in turn to 'forgive those who trespass against us'. This last bit can be quite tough, but look at it another way – it must be really tough for God to forgive some of the stuff that we do. Just as well, then, that Jesus has taken responsibility for all our sins.

So it seems to me that we can actually have Christmas every day. All it takes is for us to put some time aside to ask in Jesus' name to be forgiven, and to keep our side of the bargain by forgiving others. Peace and goodwill in action!

I leave you with another quote, from John Winston Lennon and Yoko Ono:

*'And so this is Christmas – and what have we done?'*

*Another year over, a new one just begun'*

God bless all here. May He grant you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a 2019 that consists of Christmas every day.

**AH**

### **How Do You Like Your Highlander?**

At the moment most of you are reading this in hard copy. By that I mean that it has been printed, duplicated, collated, (and in some cases) sorted and delivered.

As you can imagine, this takes certain amount of effort (which none of us involved begrudge) and expense.

We could save some of the expense by delivering as many copies as possible electronically, so that you read it on screen. Not only do we save money, we also save a tiny bit of the planet and present the Highlander in full colour on your computer or tablet.

If you would like the Highlander sent to you in electronic format, just let me know by emailing [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com). If you prefer to read it as a hard copy then that's fine. If I don't hear from you then be assured we'll carry on sending a printed copy.

## **From your Minister**

I am writing just after our 'Winter Wonder Community Day' - what an extravaganza! It was inspirational at so many levels. The wonderful Showstoppers, Michael Glaysher as Elvis, Heather and Dave from Daisy Bowlers and so much more. Then, to



round it all off, a special time of worship where we celebrated what it means to be a community with Jesus at our centre. This was a wonderful start to our Christmas activities. (And by the way, the Lavender bags from PinPoint went down a treat!)



Can I just say what a joy it has been to work with Les on planning the Carol Service, and also our newly formed Worship Co-ordinating team to plan all the special services we are putting on, including Toy Parade Service and Christingle? Such creative ideas and willing, passionate volunteers!

The Advent season is very special, and of course our prayer is that we will expand our hearts to make more room for Jesus both personally, as a church and within our wider community. Let us pray that many people will meet with the Christ child in all that we are planning this month.

From a pastoral perspective Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for those who have an empty seat at their table, and so we embrace in the comforting love of Jesus all those who have lost loved ones over the past year in particular, or who will be

remembering people who may have passed away some years ago but are still missed. Our prayers are with you all.

Looking beyond Christmas, to when our festive fare has been consumed and we start to think about the New Year with its resolutions, promises of diets and keep fit programmes, can I encourage us all to turn our focus to the renewal of our Covenant with God on 6th January. This is a very beautiful and challenging point in the Methodist year where we say these words –

*I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you, or brought low for you;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure  
and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in  
heaven.*

But don't just say these words on the day. Reflect on them prayerfully beforehand and take them to your heart.

Finally, what a joy it has been to receive David and Justina into membership at Highlands. Wishing everyone a Jesus-filled Advent and Christmas,

Norman.



## **A Message from Southend Mencap Showstoppers**



Wow what a day!!! The Highlands Methodist Church Winter wonder community day was just incredible.

To see our community come together was what we had also envisaged. Smiley Pre-School kick started proceedings with some fabulous Christmas songs, sang beautifully by all the children. They were then joined by the Thursday Showstoppers for more singing and dancing.

The Aunties at the Pre-School are just so wonderful and we can't thank them enough for connecting with us. The children come and visit for singing and dancing and Showstoppers love to see them. Inclusion at its best!

The incredibly talented and kind hearted Michael Glaysher as Elvis joined us for the day and entertained us with his singing, if you close your eyes you feel like Elvis is standing next to you. The wonderful Heather accompanied by her husband sang Jazz through the times. Her voice is so beautiful and powerful she

doesn't even need a microphone.

Trefor kindly gave up his time to play the organ throughout the day. Our Showstoppers danced, sang, entertained and were joyous as always. Well done to The Catwalk Queens on a great show stopping performance.



Thank you to all that came and joined in with us today, we hope you had fun. And last but never least thank you to the Highlands Church, to Rev Norman Hooks who delivers such an animated and inclusive service, to Jean, Frank and Julie who arrange everything and to their congregation who support us endlessly. We feel very blessed.

[Copied from FaceBook]

## **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 (Hitchin) and Mary Barter in Langley*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

Congratulations to David and Justina on becoming members of Highlands (and therefore of The Methodist Church), at the service on 25 November

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Arthur Hall who died on 31 October, having been ill for some time. Arthur was a member and servant of Highlands for many years.

Arthur's family writes:

*Betty, Ali and Jo would like to thank everyone at Highlands for the wonderful warm welcome you gave to our family and friends at Arthur's funeral. From the welcome at the door to the refreshments*

*provided, we can't thank you enough. And the Reverend Norman Hooks - what can we say? We have had so many comments saying what a lovely service it was. Thank you again Norman. Arthur would have been so thrilled to see so many people there. God bless you all.*

## **A Christmas Poem: Eddi's Service - AD 687**

This poem is by the deeply unfashionable Rudyard Kipling. But read it without prejudice, and see what you think.

EDDI, priest of St. Wilfrid,  
■ In his chapel at Manhood End,  
Ordered a midnight service  
■ For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,  
■ And the night was stormy as well.  
Nobody came to service,  
■ Though Eddi rang the bell.

'Wicked weather for walking,'  
■ Said Eddi of Manhood End.  
'But I must go on with the service  
■ For such as care to attend.'

The altar-lamps were lighted,  
■ An old marsh-donkey came,  
Bold as a guest invited,  
■ And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,  
■ The water splashed on the floor,  
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock  
■ Pushed in through the open door.

'How do I know what is greatest,  
■ How do I know what is least?  
That is My Father's business,'  
■ Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

'But – three are gathered together –  
■ Listen to me and attend.  
I bring good news, my brethren!'  
■ Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger  
■ And a Stall in Bethlehem,  
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,  
■ That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,  
■ They listened and never stirred,  
While, just as though they were Bishops,  
■ Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes  
■ And the windows showed the day,  
And the Ox and the Ass together  
■ Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,  
■ Said Eddi of Manhood End,  
'I dare not shut His chapel  
■ On such as care to attend.'

## **Humour Corner**

Supermarket customer:

*I want to make a complaint – this vinegar's got lumps in it*

Supermarket manager:

*Ah! What you've got there, sir, is a jar of pickled onions*

## **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 10:00 am to share a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. You will be made most welcome. We meet in the Church Lounge.

### **Circuit Event**

Anna Turner (Colin's daughter) will be speaking at Highlands at 4:00pm on 3 February about her work and mission in Lebanon. More details as I receive them.

### **Carols on Strand Wharf**

The annual Carols on Strand Wharf event, run by Leigh-on-Sea Town Council will be taking place in the Old Town, Leigh-on-Sea on Saturday 8 December from 5:00 pm. Come along and sing some of your favourite Christmas Carols with the Salvation Army Band. Hot drinks and free mince pies will be available. This is a free event but any donations taken on the night will be given to the Chairman's Charity - which this year is supporting Southend YMCA.

Families can also visit the Fisherman's Chapel from 3:00 pm to make their own Christmas Lantern for just £1. Refreshments will also be available.

The Carols are a wonderful festive, family event and everyone is welcome. Wrap up warm and bring a torch.

# X-Cite

Saturday Morning Children's  
Club



10.30am - 12 O'clock

**Sat 15 Dec/Sat 19 Jan**

Puppets \* Games \* Crafts \* Stories \* Songs

Highlands Methodist Church  
Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea

## Music

### **Concerts at Wesley**

Sat 1 Dec 7:30

#### **Gaudeamus**

A Christmas Baroque Concert

Sun 2 Dec 5:30

#### **Da Capo Singers**

#### **The Orpheus Singers**

Bob Chilcott – *On Christmas Nigh*



*AND DON'T FORGET THE FABULOUS MICHAEL GLASER  
CHRISTMAS SHOW ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER*



## Drama

Wesley Theatre Group presents

### ***Bazaar & Rummage***

A Comedy by by Sue Townsend

Fri 7 Dec at 7:30 and Sat 8 Dec at 7:30

Gwenda, an ex-agoraphobic social worker, leads a self-help group of three agoraphobia sufferers who leave their house for the first time in years to visit a jumble sale, with comic but insightful results.

Sue Townsend (who died in 2014) was a novelist, playwright, screenwriter and columnist best known for creating *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾* and its several sequels.

(I'm asked by Wesley to point out that it's **not an actual** bazaar and rummage – it's just a play involving a fictional B&R.)





## **From Our Walton on Thames Correspondent**

Dear Highlanders

I hope this finds you well and making your Advent preparations. What a thrill; I have just put together an 'Order of Service,' for Advent Sunday, as I'm preaching on the 2nd, at Weybridge Methodist Church. This will be the first time that I've lead a service since May, and I'm very much looking forward to it.

I'm also pleased to report, that my hair is beginning to grow back. So far it's white with a bit of a 'fuzzy chick look,' according to the children, but at least we are moving in the right direction. Leon, at 6 months, still has more hair than me, but seems to take my changing presentation in his stride, as long as I sing, *The Wheels on the Bus* and *Twinkle, Twinkle*, at regular intervals. I am now increasing my repertoire, to include *Jingle Bells* and *Thou long expected Jesus*, but it's taking some time for these new tunes to bed in with him.

Still, he has a good life. This weekend, we are all visiting Sam's Mum on Tyneside, and Leon is flying up from Heathrow with his Dad, while the rest of us travail for 6 hours on the M1! Hm.....babies, travel arrangements, I might be able to use



that on Christmas Eve. Ah, you see, you can find Jesus in everything!

With all our love, and Sam sends his too, he is well and very busy at MHA.

Julia

## **News from the Brownies**

### **10TH LEIGH BROWNIES**

The Brownies welcomed 7 new girls to their unit in September and they have all settled in very well. Girlguiding has changed the girls' programme and so we are all having a go at trying out the different challenges that have been set out for us. I think the leaders are getting the hang of it which will make it less stressful. The girls seem to enjoy the new activities.

We were very pleased to welcome Rev Norman, Julie Peek and Peter Courtenay (plus puppets) to our meeting in October. We enrolled the new girls that evening and then Rev Norman did a presentation to the girls about Harvest. Several of the Brownies came along on the following Sunday to take part in the service.

Tawny and Barney Owls took some of the Brownies to the Southend West Division Arts & Crafts day in Rayleigh on the 20th October. The girls had a great time trying out different crafts and also gaining a badge. The Brownies ran their 'Jar' Tombola at the Highlands Autumn Fair in November.

The Brownies had a great evening at Kids Kingdom in November. The Guideacres committee take over Kids' Kingdom in the evening for a week and all profits go to the upkeep of our campsite. On 10 November, 5 Brownies represented the unit at the annual Southend West Division Brownies Rose Row! competition. This took place at CJ's Bowling in Hockley. Our team

- Lola, Thea, Maggie, Addison and Ellie came second and were presented with a silver rose bowl to keep for a year.

Two of the Brownies did some readings at the Remembrance service on the 11th November and we were pleased to see many of our parents at this service. We will be having our last meeting before Christmas on the 12th December. This evening will run by the 7 Brownies who will be moving on. We wish them all the best.

When we return on the 9th January we will be welcoming 10 new girls - two of which are coming up from the Rainbows.

The Unit would like to congratulate Sarah Thompson on becoming an adult leader. Sarah has worked hard to do all her training and we are very pleased to have her in our unit. As Brown Owl, I would like to thank all the adults and Young Leaders that help run the 10<sup>th</sup> Leigh Brownies. Every one of them is a very valued member of the unit and the girls certainly wouldn't have such a great time without all your effort and support.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL AT  
HIGHLANDS FROM EVERYONE AT 10<sup>TH</sup> LEIGH BROWNIES

## **Humour Corner**

Post Office customer:

*Can I have twenty-five stamps please? I'm sending Christmas cards to all my friends!*

Counter assistant:

*Which denomination?*

Customer:

*Oh! Err, twelve Anglicans, seven Catholics, four Baptists and a couple of atheists.*

## **Dine with the Homeless**

### **Florentines**

These are a really easy treat and great to give as presents. Literally anyone (including children) can make them and they look special when wrapped in cellophane and tied with a ribbon. You can vary the dried fruits. I've used apricots, glacé cherries and sultanas, but candied peel and cranberries are the best in my opinion. Obviously the recipe above contains nuts, but that's easily avoided.

It's very important to measure precisely and make them small, as they flatten and spread during cooking. Watch the cooking time. I like to use dark chocolate but it's a personal choice – you can use milk or even white.

### **Ingredients**

- 50g each of butter, demerara sugar, golden syrup, plain flour and candied peel
- 25g each of dried cranberries, finely chopped almonds, finely chopped walnuts
- 200g chocolate

### **Method**

- Heat your oven to 180° C, Gas 4. Line 3 baking trays with baking parchment or silicon sheets. (You do need to use 3 trays)
- Put butter, sugar and syrup in a small pan and heat gently until butter is melted. Remove from heat, add flour and fruit/nuts and stir. That's it!
- Put 6 teaspoons of the mixture on each baking tray, with each teaspoonful separate and well-spaced.

- Bake for 8–10 minutes until golden brown. Let them cool a little on the tray and then lift off onto a wire rack to cool completely. They're quite fragile when you first take them from the oven.

Melt the chocolate in the microwave and when cool but still runny, spread a little over each florentine. Allow to cool and then with a fork make a zig-zag pattern in the cooling chocolate.

They don't keep well, and need to be eaten within a few days. Achieving this will not be a problem.

## **Humour Corner**

Customer in Chemist shop  
*Can I have a bar of soap, please?*

Chemist  
*Certainly sir, do you want it scented?*

Customer  
*No thanks, I'll take it with me now.*

## **Southend Food Bank**

You'll recall Andrew Savile's article last month about the Southend Food Bank that received our Harvest Sunday gifts. Below is a note from the Food Bank containing some impressive statistics.

We'll be helping out the Food Bank again in December. On Gift Sunday (Sunday 9 December) we'll collect not just gifts for children, but also toiletries for adults and treats such as chocolates and biscuits that might just make Christmas a little bit special for some Food Bank clients.



Southend Foodbank  
Friendship House  
484 Southchurch Road  
Southend on Sea  
Essex  
SS1 2QA

[www.southend.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.southend.foodbank.org.uk)  
[info@southend.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southend.foodbank.org.uk)

The Reverend Norman Hooks  
Highlands Methodist Church  
1716 A13  
Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS9 2SR

Ref: 18/069

21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

Dear Reverend Hooks

I am writing to thank you for the generous donation of 184.50 kilos of food that was received from Highlands Methodist Church on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Southend Foodbank helps people in food crisis by giving them a food parcel, equivalent to three days' worth of food, when they are no longer able to buy the food they need for themselves and their families. Food poverty can happen because of low income, illness, benefit delays, redundancy, or a large unexpected bill.

The amount of food donated by your church is equivalent to 440 meals for those suffering from food poverty in the Southend Borough and the Rochford District.

Southend Foodbank would simply not exist without the food donations, financial support and volunteer hours that are given to us by people and organisations like yourselves. We very much appreciate this and thank you again for your support of Southend Foodbank.

If there is any further information I can provide you with, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

*Cheryl Reed*

Cheryl Reed  
Foodbank Assistant  
Southend Foodbank



## **Arts & Crafts**

### **Highlands Hobbies**

We will be meeting on Thursday 6 December at 10:00 am in the Coffee Lounge. We will be doing Christmas Crafts, and lunch will follow for those who wish to stay. We will also meet on 13 December for our Christmas Party with games and a buffet throughout the morning, sharing with our Showstoppers at lunchtime.

P.S. Father Christmas will call to collect our gifts for the ladies at the Heather House HARP facility

We have welcomed Joy, Jennifer and Pauline into Hobbies this year. If you wish to try Hobbies why not join us on 3 or 17 January as a taster. All are welcome.

Contacts - Jean Edmonds ☎525250 or Ros ☎478631

## **PinPoint**

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. We meet from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm only on 12 December and then 9 and 23 January 2019. Come and join us. "The Hub" provide us with refreshments and help us to spend an enjoyable morning, chatting, sewing, mending or learning how for the first time.

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.

## **Serving the Homeless**

The Wine Tasting evening, run by Vino Vero at St Margaret's Church Hall on Friday 16 November, was a fantastic success raising £896 for Serving the Homeless. We also received a cheque for £500 from Boyce Hill Golf Club as one of their sponsored charities. Serving the Homeless also supported the YMCA annual awards with a prize to the Resident of the Year.

The weather is really getting colder now. There are still people sleeping on the streets and we continue to remember them in our prayers. The Churches Winter Night Shelter will commence on Saturday 3 December. Anyone interested in volunteering for this or any other night until the end of March can contact AH. ([andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) or ☎473111). Meanwhile we pray that the weather will not be too bad for those left on the streets.

Thank you for your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed. Finally Please join us at our Service of Carols and Poems for Christmas - 7.00 pm Friday 14th December at Our Lady of Lourdes followed by mince pies and a seasonal drink.

## **Night Shelters – the Video**

Some of you may have already seen the video produced on behalf of the Southend Winter Night Shelters.

If not, the best way to see it is on the internet. You need to type this URL into your browser..

(OK here's the non-techy explanation: go to where you usually get Google, and find the box at the very top or bottom where it says <https://www.google.co.uk> or something like, then delete it and type...)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4z9JygD58s>

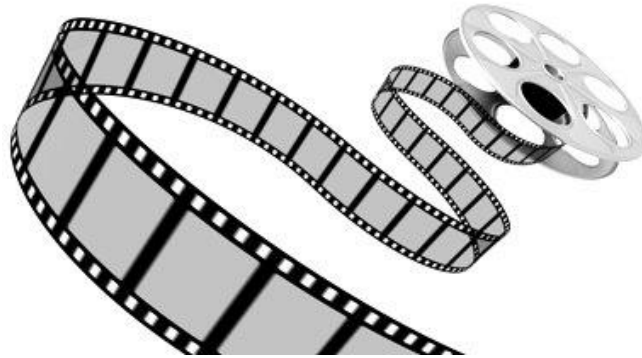
and hit the 'Enter' key.

That's it...

...except that if you like the video, then please, please, please pass it on to someone else, using Facebook or Instagram or whatever, or just writing down the URL\* on a piece of paper and giving it to them.

(\*since you ask, it stands for Uniform Resource Locator, and it's like the postcode of a web page. You're welcome)





**Movies @ Highlands**  
**A HIGHLANDS WEDNESDAY HUB EVENT**  
**Weds 5 December 1.30 pm**  
**"GI Blues"**



A 1960 American musical comedy about a tank crewman serving with the US Army in Germany, who happens also to be a talented singer. If that sounds a bit like Elvis then it's no coincidence, as the movie does indeed star The King in his first movie role in 2 years, during which time the real Elvis also served in the US Army in Germany. Full of classic songs, such as *Wooden Heart* and *Blue Suede Shoes*, the movie was nominated for two Grammy Awards in 1960.

This is a FREE EVENT (come from 12 noon with your picnic and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee and Rossi Ice cream also available)

## **Kathy's Corner 5**

Christmas in 1940s Lancashire was a special time.

A full "Star-card" for attendance at Sunday School meant a book-token for a first prize. A magical trip to the largest bookshop in the town to choose from the wonderful array of children's books. I can still picture the fairy tale book I received at 4 years of age.

Our little hands made crêpe paper chains which were hung across our front room ceiling. We mixed Christmas pudding and cake and cut pastry shapes for mince pies.

In the week before Christmas singers from the chapel went carolling round the village. We sang our favourites under the street gas lights. Our speciality was '*While Shepherds Watched*' to the tune '*Lingham*' with its multi-layered final line. Cold and tired we wended our way to the farm house of chapel friends, where we sat by the roaring fire with hot drinks and mince pies.



Waking on Christmas morning we found lyle stockings full of goodies. Always an orange and chocolate money. Larger presents were few. I remember the year I got a second-hand bike painted orange – what a treat! Christmas dinner was usually a chicken, always sprouts, and a steaming pudding with white sauce. Hugh, our coalman friend, always joined us. Aunt Mary came in the afternoon and we ended with a game of cards, the one time in the year when everyone joined in.

In those post-war years we didn't have a lot, but what we had we appreciated. Our celebrations were centred on the chapel and the faith that we held dear.

**KMcC**

## **Alternative Worship**

### **Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel**

Sunday 9 December and Sunday 13 January at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm (second Sunday). 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.

### **Belfairs Thirsty For?**

Thursday 13 December and Thursday 13 January at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

### **Wesley Informal Service**

Tuesday 22 January at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday). There is no informal service in December.

## **Humour Corner**

Wife:

*What would you like for your dinner, sweetheart? Tasty tuna?  
Hearty beef stew? Tangy chicken? Scrumptious Salmon?*

Husband:

*I quite fancy the beef stew.*

Wife:

*Actually I was talking to the cat.*

## **Committees**

Property & Finance	21 January 2019 at 8:00 pm
Pastoral	22 January 2019 at 10:00 am
Church Council	28 January at 8:00 pm
Family Committee	11 March 2019 at 8:00 pm

## **Coffee Mornings in December/January**

Saturday 1 December	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 8 December	Church
Saturday 15 December	Mission (X-cite*)
Saturday 22 December	Church
Saturday 29 December	No coffee

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 5 January	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 12 January	Church
Saturday 19 January	Mission
Saturday 26 January	TBA

\*We hope to run a coffee morning while X-cite is in progress. If anyone can help – do get in touch with Ros ☎478631.

## **Flower Rota**

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
2 December		Café Church	Margaret
9 December		Church Flowers	Pauline
16 December	Frank & Jean	Family & friends	Jean
23 December	Jennifer Courtenay	Parents	Jean
30 December	[Service at Rochford]		
*****			
6 January	Jill Grove	Parents	Jean
13 January	Elise Thomas	Ralph & Gordon	Pauline
20 January	Keith Carter	Parents	Margaret
27 January	Joan Ford	Gordon	Jean

There are some vacant slots on the flower rota. Please contact Jean if you would like to take one up.

## **Humour Corner**

Vet:

*What seems be the problem with your cat?*

Cat Owner:

*Well, his fur has gone all flat.*

Vet:

*You're right, it's very flat. I think he's had a massive stroke.*

## **SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week**

### **Children and Young People**

<b>Highlands Toddlers</b>	Monday 9:30-11:30 am	Margaret Wood	☎ 557512
<b>Rainbows</b>	Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147
<b>Brownies</b>	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow	☎ 710207
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm	Lesley Bacon <a href="mailto:lesleykbacon@googlemail.com">lesleykbacon@googlemail.com</a>	
<b>Scouts</b>	Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm	Sally Monk	☎ 558857
<b>Rangers</b>	Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147
<b>Guides</b>	Friday 7:00-9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	☎ 557147

### **Fellowship Groups**

Housegroup meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays.

## **Services to the Community**

### Regular **Sunday Worship**

Tuesday Morning **Prayer Service** at 9:00 am.

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

## **Social and Recreational**

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

Items for the **February 2019 issue** should be emailed to [andrewghyde@aol.com](mailto:andrewghyde@aol.com) **before Sunday 27 January**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

All are Welcome to  
Celebration Time with

# MICHAEL GLAYSHER's Christmas Show

(Elvis Tribute Artist)

Sunday 9th December 2018

Show to commence at 4.00 pm

Christmas refreshments will be served from 3.00 pm

Donations to Mission and Community Fund  
after expenses

Further details from Jean/Frank,  
Tel: 01702 525250  
Email: [frank66thecroft@sky.com](mailto:frank66thecroft@sky.com)