



The **HIGHLANDER**

March 2019

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

Worship in March 2019

3 rd	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
10 th	10:30	Morning Worship Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
17 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Jill Campbell
24 th	10:30	Morning Worship Parade Service	Rev Norman Hooks
31 st	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders

'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

Minister	Rev Norman Hooks <u>norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk</u>	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	Dave Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane <u>annelane8@btinternet.com</u>	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
Older Persons' Worker	Julie Peek	07900 282857

From the Editor

As we approach the season of Lent, we also look forward to springtime, the season of growth, and a time, for our church, of important decisions.

The Annual Church Meeting (ACM) will take place on Sunday 12 May as part of morning worship. Put this in your diary now. At this meeting we will

- Appoint and re-appoint stewards. Please consider whether you would like to serve in this capacity. Or if not, is there someone you would like to nominate. If you would like to know what is involved, approach one of the serving stewards – we are listed on the previous page.
- Consider the journey the church has taken over the past twelve months, and the path we should follow for the next twelve. This will focus on our worship and evangelism, on our pastoral activities, on our resources and on our relationship to the wider community.

This last aspect, namely our relationship to the wider community, is hugely important to the future of Highlands. The 'wider community' is in fact the large majority of God's people in this area who happen not to be members of, or worshippers at Highlands. The stark truth is that if our relationship with these people withers and dies, then this church can only interact with itself, and will eventually become moribund.

So we must all think about what we can do. Highlands today is full of diversity and vitality, and I doubt whether many people inside or outside Highlands know everything that takes place here. With this in mind, the next (April) edition of The Highlander will include not only the agenda for the ACM, but also the edited reports from every group involved in this church. Those reports will also publish in full on the website – so that literally anyone anywhere can access them. In this way everyone who has an interest in Highlands can find out what has happened, what is happening now and what will be happening across the full range

of the church's activities.

So if you are a person tasked with writing such a report, please do not neglect it. This is Highlands showing off its diversity, its spirit and its pride in a living God. Put your heart and soul, and your prayer, and your talents, into writing your report and delivering it to me and to Andreas on time.

It's really, really important.

God bless all here.

AH

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), Mary Barter in Langley and Jean Burgess in St Martins Care Home*. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

We congratulate Marie Moore on the occasion of her 90th birthday and send love from all her friends at Highlands.

We also congratulate Julie Peek on her appointment as a Worship Leader, and pray for continued success in this further extension of her ministry.

Please remember in your prayers the friends, former pupils and family of Nancy Howard OBE, formerly head of Westcliff HS for Girls who has died at the age of 90.



From your Minister

If I am really honest with myself, I sometimes find it difficult to approach the different seasons of the Christian calendar with a fresh insight into those long established stories and traditions that help us engage with God's timeless truth. The thing is, maybe I try too hard to be relevant, creative and different? After all, the good news of Jesus is surely able to speak for itself.

Then again we know from the Bible that:

"...his compassions never fail. They are new every morning..."
(Lamentations 3:22)

Therefore we need not resist new ways of exploring and communicating the endless wonders of God's Grace!.

I don't know how many of you listen to The Archers on Radio 4? (Confession time - Jan and I started to tune in a couple of years ago.) There is a story line running just now about the Vicar of Ambridge trying to introduce a different approach for Lent, encouraging people to be positive instead of giving something up.

Growing up in Belfast we were never really into Lent, however this year Jan and I want to do something different. We have decided not to use any electric light throughout the whole season.

Our daughter and family did this last year and we were so challenged by the way this helped them to slow down, making it possible to be more reflective in the evening and learning to flow naturally with the rhythm of nature. Even though Easter is later this year we are all organised with our candles and oil lamps ready, trusting that this will be a season of humbling ourselves before God and seeking to quietly listen and be prompted by the light of Jesus shining into any shady areas of our lives. If you choose to do something for Lent this year I trust you find it a season of truly meaningful reflection.

Of course as well as Lent being a time of self-examination it is also the season when we journey with Jesus through his suffering, death and resurrection, never forgetting that this was all for us. As the Apostle Paul reminds us:

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

This has to be the most deeply moving and impactful realisation. My prayer is that this Easter, however we worship, reflect or engage with the message our lives will be impacted in a whole new way by this revelation, responding with the prayer for our own lives –

"Not my will but yours be done!" (Matthew 26:39)

Or as the great missionary pioneer C.T. Studd once said –

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to make for him!"

God bless,
Norman.



Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent, 5 March this year. The word 'shrove' derives from 'to shrive' which is the act of a priest in hearing your confession and granting absolution – a necessary precursor to Lent. In the days of capital punishment, a condemned man or woman at any time of year was given a very quick and cursory session with the priest – hence the expression 'short shrift' (never ever 'short shift'!).

Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) derives its name from the practice of making pancakes to use up luxury goods (eggs, flour and butter) prior to the deprivation of the Lenten fast. In French-speaking communities the same practice resulted in the nickname 'Fat Tuesday' or 'Mardi Gras'. The Italians meanwhile said 'Farewell Meat' or 'Carnevale' (ie 'Carnival').

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants.

Good Friday (19 April 2019) commemorates Jesus Christ's crucifixion. So you may wonder what is so good about it. Some say it is a corruption of 'God's Friday' but the truth is probably that it means 'Holy Friday' due to Christ's sacrifice for the good of all mankind. Danes call it 'Long Friday' and Germans may refer to 'Sorrowful Friday'. In the UK it's a bank holiday.

Lent commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, and Christian tradition demands fasting, or penance. Hot cross buns are however enjoyed as a treat on Good Friday. The original recipe was for plain buns made without dairy products, and they were outlawed (unsuccessfully thank goodness!) in Tudor and Stuart times. Since then we've added sugar, dried fruits and spices to the recipe.

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, culminating in Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday is the last Thursday in Lent. Tradition allows for the Christian rite of foot washing. Maundy is thought to derive from the Latin mandatum – commandment.

Easter Sunday (12 April 2019) celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which the New Testament records on the third day of His burial after his crucifixion. Easter derives from an old English goddess of spring named Eostre. The Latin name for the festival is Pascha.

Most world churches agree that Easter should be the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Northern Hemisphere spring equinox (about 20 March) as determined by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE and by various subsequent small adjustments. So it's different every year.

In the UK we celebrate the end of Easter by overeating chocolate. In particular, hollow chocolate Easter eggs are said to symbolise the empty tomb from which Jesus resurrected.

Easter Monday has no particular religious significance except that if the feast day of a saint falls during Holy Week the saint's day can be celebrated on Easter Monday. However it's also a UK bank holiday, except in Scotland.



Circuit Service

On 3 February it was our great pleasure to welcome Anna Turner to talk about her ministry in Lebanon within a circuit service. Alongside the truly inspirational story of Anna's service with Arab World Ministries (AWM) she shared with us two of her poems. This one is called

Peace will come

Peace is coming
The treaty is signed
The battle is won

One day peace will come
But some days
It doesn't feel like that
Days when I look
And see the world's map
Blossoming with explosions
And gunshot wounds
When face books
Pictures are festooned
With flags of countries

Counting their dead
(But only of course if they're
In the west
If you're anywhere else
You'll be lucky
If you get a solitary report
The last bit on the news
Before the weather and sport)

But anyway
Some days peace
Feels like idealism
Aiming for it
Smacks of a lack of realism.

And I feel like
I am attempting,
Vainly Emptying
The world's seas
With a teaspoon
When I try
And stand up for reason
For peace and reconciliation
I feel like no one can hear me
Like my actions
(Like my generation)
Are wasted
I can't even make a dent
In the hatred
I can't give a home to the
stateless
I can't stop the faithless
From blowing themselves
To pieces

But I will not stop speaking
Until I am finally speechless
I will strive
With every breath left
To speak up for the helpless
To bring peace
For the masses
To love
Everyone regardless
Of faith race or status

To trust there will be peace
Even in the messes
We've forced our restless
world into

Because I live for the One
Who has promised peace will
come
He signed the treaty with his
blood
Did not stay passionless
above
Dove into the messes
That our restless
World was into
Came down and
Lived peace out through
A life very much like the one
He gives you

He died beaten and broken
And rose defeating death's
dominion
Which means there will be
peace

Because of the increase
Of his government and peace
I am promised by
The one on whom I depend
That there will be no end.

A collection for AWM after the service raised a total of £385 to add the Christmas collection of £168. You can learn more about AWM from their website at
<https://www.awm-pioneers.org/start-here/>

Dates to Remember



ABRSM Examinations

The next round of examinations commences on Tuesday 12 March and continues until Saturday 6 April. As usual we need volunteers to steward the sessions. This task is not too demanding. If you haven't done it before, instruction will be given. And you can find out more about it by calling Les Davies ☎558381 or Ros ☎478631.

If you think you could help for a morning or an afternoon, please sign up on the list in the Jubilee Room.

Showstoppers

On 4th April our Showstoppers will hold their annual show at the Genting Club in Westcliff. Some of their friends from Highlands are booking a table. If you wish to join us, tickets are available from Julie Peek or Jean Edmonds (525250)

Tickets £22 for a 3 course meal and a wonderful show.

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.

PinPoint

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We'll meet from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on 13 and 27 March. 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 needleworkers 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. We are now in the process of tidying up our Church banners.

Humour Corner

Patient:

Doctor, I'm really worried. I seem to have lettuces growing out of my ears

Doctor:

Let me have a look...

Hmm. I'm sorry but I have bad news for you. It looks like this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Circuit Events

Below are some details of events in March. Details from

<https://www.tbmchurch.org/>

<http://thundersleymethodistchurch.org.uk/>

or talk to the Circuit Administrator Andreas.

thorpe bay methodist church

**Got
questions?
try Alpha.**



wednesdays 12.30pm
starts march 6th
sign up: [tbmchurch.org](https://www.tbmchurch.org/)

All are welcome to our
**COMMUNITY
COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 16th March
10 am to 12 noon

Thundersley Methodist Church,
Kennington Avenue, Benfleet, SS7 4BS



All proceeds to Church Funds
www.thundersleymethodistchurch.org.uk

LIVING DISCIPLESHIP LENT COURSE

IN THIS COURSE WE WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF LIVING OUT DISCIPLESHIP IN THE WIDER WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF CHAPLAINCY AND OTHER MISSION-BASED MINISTRIES.

THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP YOUR
CONFIDENCE IN SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS THROUGH CONVERSATION AND
SERVICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Lent starts - Wed 6th March Worship academy

week 1- 13th March- Lent course

week 2- 20th March- Lent course

Week 3- 27th March- Lent course

week 4- 3rd April Worship Academy (lent course paused this week)

week 5- 10th April- Lent course

Week 6- 17th April- Lent course

Lent finishes Saturday 20th April

Venue: Highlands Methodist Church 7:30pm - 9:15pm with refreshments

Please sign up by emailing luke.dobson@me.com



Brownies & Guides at Highlands

1929 to 2019

REPORT FROM 10TH LEIGH BROWNIES

A special Church Parade is being arranged for Sunday 24th March at Highlands.

We would like to invite past and present members to join us to celebrate our 90th birthdays. Refreshments will be available at the end of the service. The Brownies will be having a special open day in the autumn as this will nearer our birthday.

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our Jumble Sale this year due to lack of helpers. So on Saturday 30 March the Brownies will be holding a fundraising Coffee morning from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. This is to help subsidise the extra activities we are planning for our Birthday year. We will be having a great bric-a-brac table as well as lovely cakes for you to buy or enjoy with your tea and coffee's. Please come and support the girls

Safeguarding Training

As we follow the current problems of the Roman Catholic church with sexual abuse, we rightly feel sadness and revulsion but we should realise that this could happen in any religious organisation. We must take this seriously at every level.

Anyone who is involved in any way with young or vulnerable people must have appropriate safeguarding training. A basic course will be run on Monday 11 March from 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm. If you think that this affects you, please contact Ros ☎ 478631 if she hasn't already contacted you.

X-Cite

Saturday Morning Children's
Club



Starts 20th Oct

10.30am - 12 O'clock
(3rd Sat of the month)

Puppets * Games * Crafts * Stories * Songs

Highlands Methodist Church
Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea

Sat 16 March

Music

Concerts at Wesley

The Southend Jazz Co-Op

Saturday 9 March 7:30 pm

Tickets are £8 available on the door.



The Southend Woodwind Orchestra with St Bernard's Chamber Choir

Saturday 23 March 7:30 pm

Tickets are £8 (concessions £7) available on the door.

Save the Date

After a foretaste of spring, it's time to look forward to the prospect of sunny summer's days!

Saturday 6 July this year sees the Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering. This is an ecumenical event bringing together a large

range of different churches, and a marvellous venue with all kinds of family activities. It's too varied for me to describe here but I'll recommend visiting www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

Serving the Homeless / HARP

The weather is balmy now but forecast to get colder again. There are still people sleeping on the streets and we continue to remember them in our prayers.

The Churches Winter Night Shelter is going strong and we pray that the weather will not be too bad for those left on the streets. Andrew and Janet are always on the lookout for volunteers, so if you know of anyone who might be suitable, have a quick word with them, or speak to Andrew ☎473111 or Janet ☎555702. The current involvement of Highlands ends on 2 March (though other churches are running shelters until the end of March) so now we are realistically contemplating finding volunteers for next winter.

Our next fundraising events will be a Jazz evening on 2 March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall and on 11 May a Quiz Night at St Margaret's Church Hall.

You are of course all welcome to our Annual General Meeting on 4 March, also at St Margaret's Church Hall, to hear of all our efforts for the past year and our aspirations for the coming year. A copy of the Annual Report is also on the table in the Jubilee Room.

You may well have noticed that a further HARP Charity Shop has opened in the Broadway and is already doing good business. Your support is always appreciated.

Thank you for your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed.



Arts & Crafts

Highlands Hobbies

We will be meeting on Thursday 7 March at 10:00 am in the Church. Marjorie & Margaret will be guiding us with new Easter stitch-craft projects. Please bring any wool and a large eyed darning needle. Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay.

We will also meet on 21 March at 10:00 am in the Church when we will either be continuing with Easter stitch-craft or for those feeling adventurous we will be creating with air-dried clay.

If you wish to try Hobbies why not join us on 7 or 21 March as a taster. All are welcome.

Contacts - Julie Peek ☎479804; Jean Edmonds 525250; and Ros ☎478631



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

Daffodils! Crocuses! Snowdrops! Spring is sprung, the grass is ris...

Don't whip the cover off the barbecue yet. Winter may have a sting in the tail. And besides there is work to do.

It's a good time to plant deciduous trees and shrubs, and to finish pruning those that are established. Be severe on the buddleia – prune it hard back, and don't forget to deadhead the hydrangeas. Both these will repay you handsomely.

As far as fruit trees are concerned, unstoned examples like apples, pears and quince are best done in autumn, to encourage new growth. However if your apple (etc) tree is getting too big for its boots, and you don't want to encourage vigorous growth, prune it now. Show it who's boss.

Stoned fruits may be pruned judiciously now. It's OK to leave it until later, but leave branches on which fruits have started to develop ('set'). However you may find that commercial vineyards are removing poorly developing bunches to allow the vine to

concentrate on the best one, especially if frost has struck.

Herbaceous perennials can also be cut back. Likewise your grasses, but beware of damaging new shoots.

In the flower garden, take root cuttings of poppies and primulas. Give your clematis a treat with a boost of blood, fish and bone meal.

Turning to the veg patch, sow your beetroot seeds along with spinach, winter lettuce and leeks. My tomatoes have germinated, so I have pricked them out as soon as the first leaves appeared.

Lastly it's time to feed your strawberry plants, and to look forward to early summer, enjoying a bowl of fresh English fruits outside on the lawn, or inside watching Wimbledon. Bliss.

SGC

Humour Corner

Two children are sharing a cake. Child 1 cuts the cake, and Child 2 chooses.

Child 1.

Hang on – you've taken the larger piece.

Child 2:

That's your fault. You should have cut it more evenly.

Child 1.

Yes but if I'd had first choice I would've politely taken the smaller piece!

Child 2:

Very good of you. So now you've got the smaller piece.

Food safety at Highlands

Beginning on 1 March 2019 a new system for food safety will come into force in the kitchen. This is following the Safer Food Better Business system.

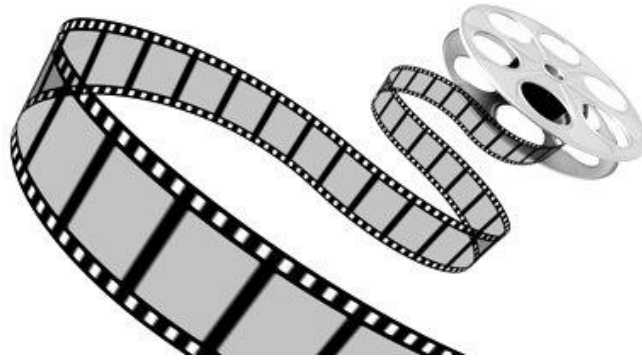
In the kitchen you will find a folder containing instructions to check a few items before you start using the kitchen. When you finish there are some closing checks.

If you find that someone has done that day already, there is no need to fill in another box. There is a box for each day of the week. Please check the starting date at the top of the sheet.

If you have any questions/problems then let me know. Thank you.

Anne Lane.





Movies @ Highlands
A HIGHLANDS FRIDAY HUB EVENT
Friday 29 March 1:30 pm
"Rain Man" [15]



When car dealer Charlie Babbitt (Tom Cruise) learns that his estranged father has died, he returns home to Cincinnati, where he discovers that he has an autistic older brother named Raymond (Dustin Hoffman) and that his father's \$3 million fortune is being left to the mental institution in which Raymond lives. Motivated by his father's money, Charlie checks Raymond out of the facility in order to return with him to Los Angeles. The brothers' cross-country trip ends up changing both their lives. Thirty years on from the release of this classic film, come

along and consider the enormous strides that have been made in society's understanding of the autistic spectrum.

This is a FREE EVENT. Come from 12:00 noon with your picnic and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee and Rossi Ice cream also available.

Kathy's Corner 7

As a teenager God had called me to work for Him overseas. I'd been teaching for two years and the time had come to take a further step. I applied to Redcliff Missionary Training College in Chiswick. Everything was straight forward but the matter of payment needed to be addressed. I had been saving up, but at a missionary meeting God had told me to give that money to a worker who needed it to go to India, which I did.

The college suggested applying for a grant from the Local Authority. They agreed to pay for one year. The second year I would need to trust God for His provision.

That second year was an amazing time of seeing God bring in the finances from different sources, and in unexpected ways; in my pocket, under my pillow, through the post; large gifts and small.

It was a year of learning that God is no man's debtor and that he supplies all our needs. That experience was preparing me for the life ahead.



KMcC

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 10 March 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 14 March at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley

Inspire - Contemporary Worship

A short upbeat worship service, a talk, and then group discussion.
Sunday 17 March at 5:30 pm (third Sunday)

Informal Service

Tuesday 26 March at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday).

Committees

Property & Finance	21 May 2019 at 8:00 pm
Pastoral	24 September 2019 at 10:00 am
Church Council	19 June 2019 at 8:00 pm (but note Gen Church Meeting 12 May)
Family Committee	11 March 2019 at 8:00 pm



Coffee Mornings in March

Saturday 2 March Music @ Highlands

Saturday 9 March Mission

Saturday 16 March Church Funds (X-cite*)

Saturday 23 March Church Funds

Saturday 30 March 10th Leigh on Sea Guides

*We hope to run a coffee morning while X-cite is in progress.



Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
3 March	Frank & Jean	Mum	Jean
10 March	Sylvia Cornwell	Alan	Sylvia & Pauline
17 March	Rosalie Bryant	Parents	Margaret
24 March	Frank & Jean	Mum	Jean
31 March	Church Flowers		Margaret

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

SERVING the COMMUNITY 7 Days a Week

Children and Young People

Highlands Toddlers	Monday 9:30-11:30 am	Margaret Wood	 557512
Rainbows	Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	 557147
Brownies	Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm	Dilys Haddow	 710207
Cub Scouts	Thursday 5:45-7:15 pm	Lesley Bacon lesleykbacon@googlemail.com	
Scouts	Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm	Sally Monk	 558857
Rangers	Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm	Jacqui Hendle	 557147
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 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 ☎902235 or Sophia ☎07796 265676
Hobbies	1 st & 3 rd 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 **April 2019 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com **before Sunday 23 March**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.