



The **HIGHLANDER**

April 2019

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

Worship in April 2019

7 th	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
14 th	10:30	Morning Worship Palm Sunday	Pam Smith
21 st	10:30	Morning Worship Easter Sunday Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
28 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders and 'All We Can' (Visiting Speaker)

'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 norman.hooks@methodist.org.uk	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	David Watson	555702
Property Co-ordinator	Anne Lane annelane8@btinternet.com	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

Spring is really upon us now. It was difficult to recall, as we basked in the March sunshine, that 12 months earlier we were dealing with the 'Beast from the East'. This winter all we got was a 'Pest from the West' – and that was just a couple of days.

So is the strange behaviour of our weather the fault of careless, thoughtless humanity? I think it probably is. But President Trump, Jeremy Clarkson and as many as 3% of the world's scientists disagree. What is beyond dispute is that disasters like Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe are here and now. It's up to us to respond, and to ignore the arguments for the moment.

Major disasters, often due to extreme weather, are part of a regular pattern that is probably here to stay. So we must have a strategy for responding them. The DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee - an umbrella group of UK charities which coordinates and launches collective appeals) has done a wonderful job of collecting money and converting it into practical help. On the first day of its Cyclone Idai appeal the DEC collected £8 million. Before that, reacting to 71 major disasters since 1963, DEC has raised a total (take a deep breath) of £1,561,890,000 through its 14 constituent charities. It's really, really easy to add to that total, online or by post or by visiting any bank.

You may know that DEC includes Christian Aid. Christian Aid Week will run this year from 12-18 May and will give you another chance to contribute to the relief of hundreds of thousands of people in desperate situations.

For a Methodist focus on this, put a date in your diary to take part in morning worship on Sunday 28 April. A representative of All We Can (formerly the Methodist Relief and Development Fund) will be speaking about what the organisation does, and how it does it, in God's name. Working through local partners, All We

Can helps people in the world's poorest communities through long-term development, humanitarian aid, and advocacy and campaigning activities.

We as a nation, people of faith and people of none, are incredibly generous and caring when the worst happens. But we need to do more to prevent the worst, individually, as a society and as a nation. So pray about it. Donate all you can. Collect all you can. And why not tell your MP about it, next time your vote is required? Point out that we, the people who care, are the majority.

God bless all here.

AH

Apology

In the last issue I promised you not only the agenda for the ACM on 12 May, but also the reports. Actually the reports will be a large part of the next issue, and you need to rein in your anticipation for another month. The agenda is on page 7.

Humour Corner

Customer in chemist's shop:

Good Morning. I'd like some vitamins for my little boy please.

Pharmacist:

Well, what vitamins do you want? A, B12, C, D1?

Customer:

Doesn't really matter. He can't read yet.

From your Minister

For some time now, since being involved at Highlands, I have been aware of the charity 'Serving the Homeless' but didn't really know a lot about it, until their Annual Report came my way - WOW!

I was so impressed that I made a point of attending the AGM and again was truly impressed. I saw both the passion and the heart behind all the work that is done to support those who are working to end homelessness in our community! The other thing that really blessed me was the way folks from Highlands Methodist Church have been there from the very beginning, and now continue to keep the fires burning for this vital work!

I know I can be a bit slow, but it just dawned on me why Highlands has constantly played such a vital role in the Circuit's contribution to the Winter Night Shelter! Serving the homeless is clearly part of your DNA! The Winter Night Shelter has now finished for another year - so thanks to everyone who has made this possible!

Something else I would like to mention is the election of Stewards and Church Council Members. This will take place at our General Church Meeting on 12 May. I am aware that a number of people have served in one of these roles for more than the recommended 6 years without a break. This in itself doesn't have to be a problem, but it is helpful for the people concerned to have a break and also for the health of the church that there is a flow of different people taking on these roles within the church.

This year we are going to be issuing 'Nomination Forms' to enable all of us to engage with each other and see if there might just be someone among us who would appreciate being asked and considered for one of these roles. Can I encourage all church

members to prayerfully consider this - chat over coffee time, make a phone call, and importantly if someone suggests you for one of the roles please don't dismiss it out of hand but hold the idea before God and feel free to talk with me if that would help.

Finally I have been approached by someone about the possibility of becoming a member of the church and over the next few weeks will be organising a couple of times for anyone interested to meet together with me. If this could be you please let me know. There will be no pressure and no commitment in expressing your interest.

As always, thanks to everyone for the hundreds of volunteer hours given in the service of God and upkeep of the church and its mission.

God bless,
Norman.

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 Lodge, Jean Burgess in St Martins Care Home and Doll Edwards in The Cedars.* Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Please remember in your prayers the friends and family of Rev Steve Watts, who died on 11 March. Steve had been Minister of Rayleigh, Hockley and Chalkwell Park Methodist churches since 2017, after moving from Aylesbury. Before taking up the ministry Steve had an earlier very successful career in the Metropolitan Police.

**Highlands Methodist Church
Agenda of the General Church Meeting
Sunday 12 May 2019**

1. Opening Prayers and Devotions
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Remembering those who have died
4. Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2018
5. Reports on the life of Highlands Methodist Church 2018/19*
6. Annual Elections of:
 - 6.1 Church Stewards
 - 6.2 Church Council Representatives
 - 6.3 Representatives to Circuit Meeting and their substitutes.
7. Celebration, Reflection and Conversation on the life and future of Highlands Methodist Church.
8. Closing Devotions

Any further items for inclusion need to be notified to Kathy McCullough by 28 April.

*which will feature in the May Highlander.



A Poem for April

The Touch of the Master's Hand

By Myra Brooks Welch

'Twas battered and scarred,
And the auctioneer thought it hardly worth his while
To waste his time on the old violin,
but he held it up with a smile.

*'What am I bid, good people', he cried,
'Who starts the bidding for me?'
'One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?'
'Two dollars, who makes it three?'
'Three dollars once, three dollars twice, going for three,'
But, No.*

From the room far back a grey-bearded man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then wiping the dust from the old violin
And tightening up the strings,
He played a melody, pure and sweet
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said *'What now am I bid for this old violin?'*

As he held it aloft with its bow.
'*One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear two?*'
'*Two thousand, Who makes it three?*'
'*Three thousand once, three thousand twice,*
Going and gone', said he.

The audience cheered,
But some of them cried,
'*We just don't understand.*'
'*What changed its worth?*'
Swift came the reply.
'*The Touch of the Masters Hand.*'

And many a man with life out of tune
All battered and bruised with hardship
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd
Much like that old violin.
A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,
A game and he travels on.
He is going once, he is going twice,
He is going and almost gone.
But the Master comes,
And the foolish crowd never can quite understand,
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the touch of the Masters' Hand.

Myra Brooks Welch (1877 – 1959) was born in Illinois and later lived in Oregon and California. This is her most noted poem published in 1921. John Kramp adapted it as a song that was recorded by Wayne Watson in 1980.

Myra was disabled by arthritis and confined to a wheelchair. Her hands were disabled, meaning that she couldn't write or play the organ; but she wrote poems on a typewriter by pressing the keys with pencil erasers, despite the pain that it caused.

Dates to Remember

Easter Celebrations

Thursday 18 April 7:30 pm United Service and Passover Meal

Friday 19 April 9:45 am Hot X Buns and walk to...
...Wesley for 11:00 am United Service

Sunday 21 April 10:30 Morning Worship

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.

Humour Corner

Barrister:

Please tell the court about your profession

Expert Witness:

I'm a pathologist. I perform autopsies

Barrister:

And how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

Expert Witness:

All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

(Allegedly this was a real court exchange)



The X-Cite meeting on 20 April will be an Easter Special with games and fun – including an Easter Egg hunt – for all ages. Coffee and cake available for parents.

Music

Concerts at Wesley

Da Capo Singers + Southend Band

Saturday 27 April 7:30 pm
'The Memory of All That'.

Tickets are available on the door.



Other Events



The South Essex Youth Symphony Orchestra + Essex Concert Orchestra

Mill Hall Rayleigh
Saturday 20 April 7:30 pm
Details from ☎ 743069 or
207912

Gary Ryan (Guitar) Southend BC Concert Series

Plaza Centre, Southend
Friday 12 April 8:00 pm
Details from ☎ 215624

The Famous Potatoes Free Concert

Southend Bandstand, Priory
Park
Sunday 28 April 3:00 pm to
5:00 pm
Details from ☎ 215624



Arts & Crafts

PinPoint

It will be lovely to welcome new members into PinPoint every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We meet from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. on 10 and 24 April. Come and join us.

'The Hub' provides us with refreshments and helps 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.

Highlands Hobbies

Different dates just for April

For a number of reasons we are having a switch around with dates for April Hobbies.

We'll be meeting on Thursday 11 April at 10:00 am in the Church. Marjorie and Margaret will be guiding us in making Easter cards. Please bring a darning needle if you would like to join us. Lunch will follow for those who wish to stay.

Then on Thursday 25 April we'll be meeting for our usual second meeting in the month. Actually but there will be no crafting as such, but instead we will be having a morning of karaoke, fish and chips following by a Community service with our friends at Showstoppers lead by our minister Rev Norman Hooks. The morning starts at 11am with a Fish and Chip lunch at 12.30. There is a suggested donation of £4 for lunch on 25 April.

If you'd like to try Hobbies - or simply want to find out more about what we do - please do not hesitate to call either Jean or Julie. All are welcome.

Contacts - Julie Peek ☎479804 or 07900 282857; Jean Edmonds 525250; and Ros ☎478631

Serving the Homeless / HARP

'Officially' the numbers of people on the streets are falling but there is strong evidence that there are still many of our brothers and sisters sleeping on the streets. So we continue to remember them in our prayers. Leaflets are available in the Jubilee Room giving details of all sorts of help that is available in the Southend area.

Thanks to all of you who helped during the Churches Winter Night Shelter period that ended on 25 March. Advertising what CWNS does, and asking for volunteers, at the beginning of the season worked really well and several more people became very involved. Some of you – and the Lord knows your names – really put in a huge effort when it was most needed. Thank you.

Our next fundraising event will be a Quiz Night at St Margaret's Church Hall on 11th May from 7:00 pm for a prompt start at 7:30 pm. Tickets at £5.00 per head, tables of 8 (maximum), bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Following that there will be a fundraising meal at the popular EAST restaurant (Alexandra St, a contemporary 'eat as much as you like' Oriental/Malaysian buffet). This has been booked for 3 July and tickets will be available shortly.

2018 was an amazing year, during which Serving the Homeless raised over £17,000 and paid out over £16,000 in donations that included HARP, Southend YMCA, Churches Winter Night Shelter Scheme and Love Southend. Thank you all for your continued support by attending the functions we organise, your continuing contributions at the back of the church and of course your prayers that are always needed.

Dine with the Homeless

I know I've given you this recipe before but we served curry at the final night of the Highlands WNS team on March and various people asked for the recipe again – so here it is.

Our guests really enjoyed it especially as John Weston made home-made naan bread to go with it – he made 40 naans – wow! One of our Polish guests said that the food tasted as if it had been cooked with love – I can't think of a better compliment.



Chicken curry for 8

- 750g boneless chicken, chopped – I use thighs which I de-bone
- 2 or 3 largish onions, chopped
- 1 jar Patak's Korma Spice Paste (290g) (I'm sure other brands are available but this is the one I always use)
- Oil

1. Heat 2 tbsp of oil in pan and fry onions for 10mins until soft. Remove from pan.
2. Add chicken pieces in batches to seal/brown lightly.
3. Add whole jar of curry paste and cook for 1 – 2 minutes.
4. Return onions to pan and add 500 ml of water (ignore what the jar says about coconut milk – water is fine)
5. Cook everything for about 15 mins until chicken is cooked.

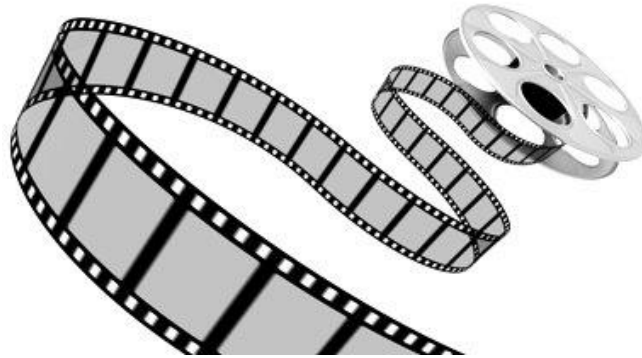
Stir in a couple of tablespoons of crème fraiche, serve with rice, naan, and sides of mango chutney and sliced banana.

Sweet potato, spinach and chick pea curry

To make it vegetarian (or vegan)

Instead of chicken, use 1 large sweet potato, chunked, 1 bag spinach and 1 tin chickpeas.

Method as above but replace chicken with sweet potato and add spinach and chickpeas just before serving. Still better add crème fraiche – but not for vegans.



Movies @ Highlands
A HIGHLANDS FRIDAY* HUB EVENT
Wednesday 17 April 1:30 pm
'Christopher Robin' [PG]



Christopher Robin is a 2018 US comedy-drama film inspired by A A Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books. Starring Ewan McGregor as the title character, and mixing live action with Oscar-nominated CGI animation, the story imagines an adult Christopher Robin as he has lost his sense of imagination. Can Winnie, Tigger and their friends help Robin?

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.

'Sometimes doing nothing leads to the very best something'

*April's 'Friday' event is on Wednesday to avoid a clash with Good Friday!

Kathy's Corner 8

The one big question that remained in my mind while I was training for missionary work, was "Where did God want me to serve Him?"

Each Monday a speaker represented a different part of the world, telling us all about the work and the needs there. Each week my heart was pulled in a different direction. Was it Africa, Asia, South America? No definite call came.



Half way through my final year, Lebanon was the topic. Was this the place? Next day I opened a magazine and emblazoned across the page was the title DESTINATION LEBANON. I pursued this call and was accepted for work there.

Then news came through that the Mission's funds were low. They asked me to pray for God to supply personal financial support. I sent a letter to my friends and after two weeks, promises were given, and the amount was raised.

KMcC



Jobs for the garden

From our Special Gardening Correspondent

The evenings are definitely drawing out now and with the clocks going forward, there's so much more time to spend in the garden. And that's good as there's so many jobs to do.

I scarified the lawn yesterday where the moss had grown and have saved that moss for my hanging baskets. As I hadn't used any weed killer on the lawn, it will be perfect.

Whilst I've been sowing my hardy annuals - poppies, candytuft - outdoors in shallow grooves, I am sowing the tender plants - cosmos and delphiniums - in a propagator. I've planted a new batch of herbs in pots, in a nice sunny spot near the house so you can easily add a pinch of parsley etc in your cooking. Make sure the pots have good drainage. And plant out your chitted potatoes.

The rhubarb is still going strong and I'm enjoying rhubarb crumble every week. Keep harvesting it whilst it's young - those little pink stems are so wonderful. To keep them coming, mulch with nitrogen rich manure.

Whilst talking about feeding, feed any blueberries and if they're in tubs, refresh the ericaceous compost. Weed and mulch the borders. And house plants often need some TLC too – repotting and feeding.

There still might be a frost so protect any strawberry flowers with fleece. It would be a shame to lose your crop now.

I can spend many hours watching the birds on the ground and on the feeders – I've got 2 pairs of goldfinches that dart in and out, robins, tits, starlings, blackbirds, turtle doves. If you are cutting trees or hedges, do look out for any nests. Any bird baths and other water features can benefit from a good clean now.

SGC

Humour Corner

Onboard train announcer (over Tannoy):

Good Morning. You may have noticed that the train has come to a halt, and we are not at a station.

I have some bad news and some good news.

Passengers:

Groan.

Announcer:

The bad news is – we've had a complete engine failure.

Passengers:

Groooooooooooan!!

Announcer:

The good news is – at least we're not cruising at 30,000 feet!

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 14 April 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 11 April at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley

Inspire - Contemporary Worship

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

Informal Service

Tuesday 23 April 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
General Church Meeting	12 May immediately after Morning Service (except for coffee break)



Coffee Mornings in April

Saturday 6 April	Music @ Highlands
Saturday 13 April	Mission
Saturday 20 April	X-Citing Easter Coffee Morning
Saturday 27 April	Church Funds



Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
7 April	Mary Barter	Bruce	Jean
14 April Palm Sunday	Jean Burgess	Syd	Margaret
21 April Easter Sunday	Vanessa Mayes	Parents	Pauline
28 April	Sheila Whitelegg	Ged	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 Hadow	 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 **May 2019 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com **before Sunday 23 April**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.