



The **HIGHLANDER**

December 2019/January 2020

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


Worship in December 2019

1 st	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
8 th	10:30	Morning Worship Toy & Gift Service	Rev Norman Hooks
15 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Worship Leaders
22 nd	10:30	Morning Worship	Heather Simmons
29 th	10:30	Morning Worship United Service Communion	Pastor Steve Mayo



Children of all ages are welcome at all our services
Come in and FaceTime with Jesus

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

 Highlands (Leigh) Methodist Church



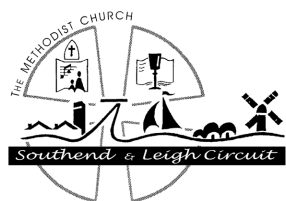
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Worship in January 2020

5 th	10:30	Morning Worship Covenant Service Communion	Rev Norman Hooks
12 th	10:30	Café Church	Kathy McCullough
19 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Norman Hooks
26 th	10:30	Morning Worship	Eileen Simmons



With this edition of the Highlander you'll get a programme of specifically Christmas and Advent services which is the centre fold (pages 13 to 16). Please take the opportunity to pull this out and give it to a friend or neighbour who might be interested. You yourself can easily pick up a replacement at the church



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
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Church Treasurer	David Watson	555702
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Children's Workers	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	479804

From the Editor

Sorry but this is not terribly seasonal, but I'll try to shoehorn a festive reference in at the end.

Lesley and I take part whenever we can in the Gospel Vespers Service at the Fishermen's Chapel. Great atmosphere, great music. Great worship. The latest, in November, certainly lived up to this. It included a song made famous (though not written) by Michael Jackson – 'Man in the Middle'. The choir performed it impeccably but some thought that it was an inappropriate choice, due to the accusations against Jackson of child abuse, mostly made since he died 10 years ago.

I have every possible sympathy with victims of this and any other child abuse, but no problem with the song. The lyrics, written in 1987 by Siedah Garrett, have some strong resonances with 2019 themes. This is the chorus:

*I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you want to make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself, and then make a change*

Now, you surely know that an Election is coming this way on 12 December. Some politicians, and some commentators, would have it that B***** is by far the largest issue, or indeed the only issue that matters. I don't agree. I think that there are problems and debates that are more important. Climate change, the mess we're making of our planet, how we pay for and make use of healthcare, human migration (across the whole world), the futures of various nations and continents in crisis, poverty, conflict, injustice – I could go on...

So what can anyone do about these problems? Does anyone care? If you get the knock on the door ('*May I rely on your support?*') or take part in a meeting, ask about these matters. But I doubt that

any of our politicians has a complete answer. Even if they do, they may be reluctant to share. Frank answers are not always comfortable answers.

The truth is that each one of us has to take ownership of (say) climate change, find out what we can do about it, and then do it. If we can just follow the advice of the song and start with 'the man [or woman] in the mirror' we might make some progress. It would be a great Christmas present for the next generation._

Andrew

From your Minister

I went for a run this morning. This is a big deal since it must be back in May since I last did this form of exercise. The thing is, I can give myself lots of excuses, not least the fact that on three or four occasions whenever I ran prior to this I pulled

something in my leg and was advised to 'take things easy'. Which of course I did, but the trouble is my 'easy' became a 'rut' and it ended up just too easy not to bother. Don't get me wrong, like so many things that are good for you, I love running when I get into it, but it seems to be so much of an effort to just 'do it'!



So then why did I climb out of my rut this morning? I'm not really sure. Yesterday I spent some time thinking about 'righteousness' and decided that instead of being all theological and theoretical,



righteousness is quite simply choosing to do what we know to be 'RIGHT' - no excuses - just do it. So when I woke up this morning and started to think about all the things I needed to do for the weekend, that run was shouting out, 'What about me?' I did take it easy, no injuries, but

now the big question becomes, 'How do I make sure this doesn't just end up as a one off?' The answer is quite simple really; running has to become part of a routine fitting comfortably into the pattern of my life.

Paul tells us that:

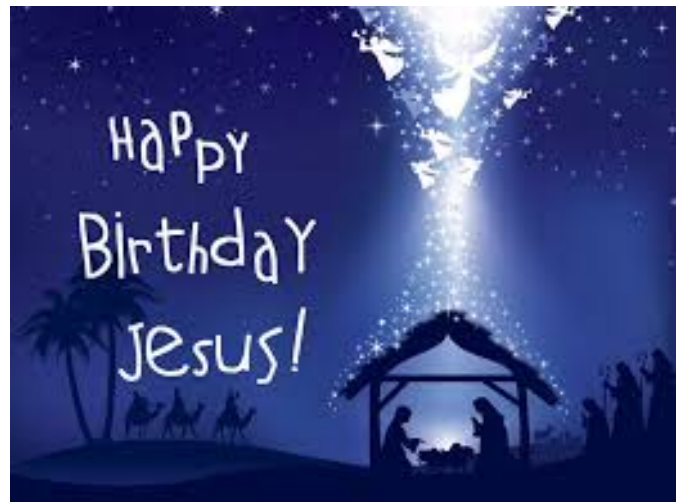
'Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things.' (1Timothy 4:8)

How much more important is it therefore that we all include in our daily routine space and time for 'spiritual' exercise? Time to be still, pray, reflect on God's word and most of all listen to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to faithfully follow Jesus. Surely Advent is the perfect time to restore a fresh, healthy, spiritual routine into our lives. After all:

'Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus and his return at the end of time.'

Now I don't know about you, but I have lots of excuses for not finding the time, space or stillness in my life for this kind of thing through the month of December, but then I ask, 'What is the RIGHT thing to do?'

By the way, did you know that excuses are like sausages? A skin of truth stuffed with a lot of lies. Let us unite in our commitment to carve out some time each day for Jesus, after all 'HE is, the reason for the season!'



God bless, Norman

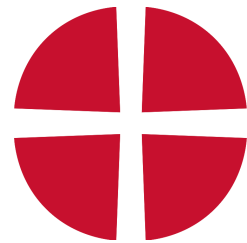


We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: *Pat Gare in Admirals Court, Jean Burgess in St Martins Care Home, Doll Edwards in The Cedars and Marie Moore at Rosedale Court, Rayleigh.* Marie would welcome visitors. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

Now for a Short Commercial Break

Calling anyone who would like to explore what it would mean to become a member at Highlands Methodist Church.

Norman is planning to hold a couple of sessions in January for anyone interested. No pressure, just a relaxed informative time of exploration and sharing. Questions are welcome. Do let him know if you plan to come so that he can organise a time suitable to all who are wanting to take part.



Puzzle of the Month

Do as many of these as you can without looking them up. But if you do have to look them up, take some time to read the stories. There's some gripping stuff in there!

- The name of Jacob's youngest son.
(Genesis 35:18)
- A stone that told what God had done.
(1 Samuel 7:12)
- A saint who showed great unbelief.
(John 20:24)
- One who to God poured out her grief.
(1 Samuel 1:15)
- A man to save his life who fled.
(Genesis 19:18-22)
- A queen who filled another's stead.
(Esther 2:17)
- A king who had God's witness slain.
(Matthew 14:3-11)
- And a man whose prayers stayed the rain.
(1 Kings 17:1)
- He lived the longest here below.
(Genesis 5:25)
- Initials of each answer give a place you know....

Answer p22. Once again thanks to
Anne Jarrett for supplying this



Humour Corner

Man who has just entered a fishmonger's shop:
Can you help me? I keep thinking I'm a moth.

Fishmonger: *No. You want the psychiatrist next door. I'm a fishmonger.*

Man:
Yes I know but your light was on.

HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH WINTER WONDER COMMUNITY DAY



featuring

Southend Mencap "Showstoppers"

Thursday 12th December

11am - 3pm

**including all age Community Service
at 2pm**

Bring your gift

for a local foodbank

ALL ARE WELCOME

**It's a
Boy!**



* SHOWSTOPPING PERFORMANCES * SINGING
* TAP-DANCING * FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS *
* FATHER CHRISTMAS *

Dates to Remember

Highlights at Highlands

You may have noticed that Christmas is approaching, so there are far too many events going on for me to cover all of them. So I have picked out a few that may appeal. Full details of the **Showstoppers** Winter Wonderland event are on page 9, and **Serving the Homeless** events are on page 23.

I Can't Believe It's Another Election

Well I'm sorry but it is, on 12 December.



On Wednesday 4 December at 7:45 pm, Leigh Road Baptist Church have agreed to host a hustings, to which all are welcome. Sir David Amess (Con), Aston Line (Lab) and Nina Stimson (Lib Dem) will spend 2 hours trying to avoid your questions, which should be sent in advance to office@lrbc.org.uk by 12:00 noon on Monday 2 December.

Highlands Church itself will be the polling station as usual – from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. Vote early and avoid the rush!

As in previous elections we'll be running a free coffee service. If you'd like to help, watch the notice board in the Jubilee Room for further information.

Lantern Making and Carols

The Fishermen's Chapel in New Road are making Lanterns which they will then take down to the open-air Carol Service on Strand Wharf. Go with all the family to the Chapel at 3:30 pm on Saturday

14 December. Hot chocolate and other refreshments will be served with a suggested donation of £1.00.

For more info go to www.fishermenschapel.org.uk

MenCap Concert

A few tickets are still available for the annual Christmas Concert on Friday 6 December at Highlands. Please talk with Jean or Frank Edmonds.



Humour Corner

**17 REMAIN DEAD
IN MORGUE
SHOOTING SPREE.**

Some real newspaper headlines that will make you laugh. Some are American:

**Homicide victims
rarely talk to Police**

**One-armed man
applauds the kindness
of strangers**

**Statistics show teen
pregnancy drops off
significantly after age 25**

**Pope marries two flight
attendants at 30,000 feet**

Local Councillor Mugged
By our crime staff

**Big rig carrying fruit crashes on
210 Freeway, creates jam**

Florentines: a Very Sweet Christmas present

This recipe is a winner three ways:

- These little biscuits are utterly irresistible – don't start because you won't finish until they're gone
- They make a very special and personal gift for someone, especially if you invest in some

presentation bags (in Lakeland 50 for £3.99, or elsewhere). It's the effort, not only the thought, that counts.

- They are quick, easy and almost completely idiot-proof to make at home. I know because I am that idiot.



- 50g butter
- 50g demerara sugar
- 50g golden syrup
- 50g plain flour
- 25g dried cranberries or glacé cherries
- 50g candied peel
- 25g almonds, finely chopped
- 25g walnuts, finely chopped
- 200g chocolate

1. Preheat oven to 180C, 350F, gas 4. Line 3 baking trays with parchment or silicon sheets
2. Put the butter, sugar and syrup into a small pan and gently heat until the butter is melted
3. Remove the pan from the heat and add the flour, then all the fruit and nuts. Stir well.
4. Use a teaspoon to put the mixture on the 3 trays in small amounts. You should get about 18 – 20 from the mixture. Space them well apart as they will spread out.
5. Bake for about 7-8 minutes until just golden brown – don't overcook. Cool on the tray and then place onto a rack.
6. Melt the chocolate and spread it over the flat base of each Florentine. Just before the chocolate has set, use a fork to make a zig-zag pattern.

I'm sorry to say I have no idea how long they keep for. They always disappear too quickly to find out.

**Unto us
a child is born..**



Family Services
for Advent and Christmas
2019
at your local
Highlands Methodist Church



**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS**



Our Advent Services

Day	Date	Time	
1 st Sunday of Advent	1 December	10:30 am	Café Church
2 nd Sunday of Advent	8 December	10:30 am	Morning Worship Gift & Parade Service
Thursday	12 December	11:00 am	Highlands Winter Wonder Community Day
3 rd Sunday of Advent	15 December	10:30 am	Morning Worship
4 th Sunday of Advent	22 December	10:30 am	Morning Worship



Day	Date	Time	
Sunday	22 December	4:00 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	24 December	5:00 pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	24 December	11:15 pm	Midnight Communion at <u>Wesley*</u>
Christmas Day	25 December	10:30 am	Christmas Morning Celebration

ALL ARE WELCOME

An informal service of worship led by Kathy McCullough

A service of offering gifts, with our uniformed organisations taking part. Led by Rev Norman Hooks

A joyous musical party with Southend Mencap Showstoppers. Includes seasonal refreshments and a short worship service.

Traditional Sunday worship led by our own worship leaders

Traditional Sunday worship led by Heather Simmons



- **A chance to sing some of your favourite classic carols in candlelight. Plus Singalong 3:30-4:00**
- **A huge favourite with children and their families as we light our own Christingles to celebrate.**
- **Be first to greet the Christ-child with friends from a neighbouring church***
- **Enjoy a relaxed Christmas Day celebration with friends**

***at Leigh Wesley Church, Elm Rd, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1SJ**



Detail from *Rest on the Flight to Egypt*
(Caravaggio 1586)

From the Book of

Isaiah Chapter 9, verse 6

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



Music

At Wesley

Fri 13 Dec 7:30 pm – Gaudeamus Christmas Concert

Tickets £8 on the door or email wesleyconcerts@outlook.com

Sat 14 Dec 7:30 pm – Southend Wind Orchestra with Alumnae, playing some winter music including Christmas standards

Tickets £8 on the door or email wesleyconcerts@outlook.com

Elsewhere

If you'd like to take part in Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 at 08:10 am on Sunday 5 January you need to be at Rayleigh Methodist Church by 7:00 am at the latest. This is to give the sound crew the time to set up and get the levels perfect for broadcast. As you know, the Fishermen's Chapel Gospel Choir are performing but it will also be up to you to raise the roof and show the rest of the UK that Methodism is alive and kicking in SE Essex.

Humour Corner

Pedantic man in café:

Please bring me a cup of coffee with no cream.

Waiter:

I'm sorry sir we've run out of cream

Pedantic man:

Oh dear. Can you bring me coffee without milk?

Waiter: *Yes I can do that.*

The line of melody at the top is from the Queen of the Night aria in Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Don't ask me to sing it though – that Top C is a bit ambitious

Panto

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS...

Treasure Island

FRI 6 DEC 7.30PM **SAT 7 DEC 2PM & 6PM**

Buy Online:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wesley-theatre-group

WESLEY HALL
ELM ROAD
LEIGH-ON-SEA

BOX OFFICE
01702 480968

TICKETS: £7
CHILDREN: £5
FAMILY TICKET
(2A & 2C) £20

LIFT ACCESS AVAILABLE

BY KIND PERMISSION OF
BEN CROCKER PANTOMIMES

A colorful illustration of a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, a large, open treasure chest with gold metal bands and buckles sits on the sand. To its left is a green glass bottle and a seashell. In the background, a tall palm tree with green fronds and brown coconuts stands against a light blue sky with white clouds. The beach is depicted with orange sand and a small patch of green grass near the base of the palm tree.

Oh no they don't! (Sorry, but oh yes they do).

WTG invite you for an extra-large helping of fun and mayhem.
Nominations please for a custard pie in the face...

Tickets £7 or less from 01702 480968 or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wesley-theatre-group

PinPoint

Following our successful Christmas project, we are now back to our normal routine of 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Some of us will be finishing our table mats and stockings, whilst others start something fresh of their choice. All are welcome to join our happy band of needleworkers, whatever your talent, or maybe just to be guided or to do your mending.



We'll be meeting on Wednesday 11 December and then 8 January and 22 from 10:00 am until 12:30 pm.

Singalong Carols



Please note that all are welcome to a singalong that will take place before the Sunday 22 December Carol Service (which starts at 4:00 pm). We'll try to fit in as many favourite carols as possible.

So join us from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm for an ideal opportunity to tune your vocal chords up for the main event. Post your favourites on the sheets up at church.

Autumn Fair feedback

This event raised £489.50, which was reasonable, bearing in mind we were up against the Rugby World Cup final – live from Japan - and a stormy weather forecast.

Four stalls pulled out. The rugby ended up being shown on the television at the fair. Least said about the rugby the better, but congratulations to the South Africa team.

There were not many people to help set up on Friday. This and other aspects of event need to be reviewed more fully.

Walkabout

A quick quiz. Is Walkabout

- a. A chain of Australian themed pubs?
- b. A controversial 1971 movie starring Jenny Agutter?
- c. An experiment in better communication and better matching of our property resources to the needs of the Church family?

The answer is 'all of the above' but it's c. that I want to tell you about - briefly. Walkabout is getting the relevant people together and walking round the building, looking at what is working well and what isn't, and agreeing what should be done. The first iteration of Walkabout did not achieve as much as hoped, but plans are afoot to repeat the exercise in January. People should be more comfortable with the idea by then, so we hope that it will work better.

If you would like to take part in this exercise (and haven't been asked) please contact Norman.



Poem for November

I chose this one as it's seasonal and a total contrast to Kipling, whose work we read last month. The writer was born (in 1958) and raised in Birmingham by West Indian parents. He left school

unable to read or write and severely dyslexic. Hence, he writes in a Jamaican/Brummie patois. Don't be put off by this. Read it out loud and it will make sense. This is intended as a fun poem for children, but it has some points to make about animal cruelty, the ethics of meat-eating and the meaning of Christmas. The poet also has a lifelong devotion to promoting the acceptance of people as they are, without looking down on difference. He is a Rastafarian, an Abrahamic monotheistic faith whose beliefs rely on a specific interpretation of the Bible.

Talking Turkeys

by Benjamin Zephaniah

Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas
Cos' turkeys just wanna hav fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
An every turkey has a Mum.
Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas,
Don't eat it, keep it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on yu plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.

I got lots of friends who are turkeys
An all of dem fear christmas time,
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it
An humans are out of dere mind,
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
Dey all hav a right to a life,
Not to be caged up an genetically made up
By any farmer an his wife.

Turkeys just wanna play reggae
 Turkeys just wanna hip-hop
 Can yu imagine a nice young turkey saying,
 'I cannot wait for de chop',
 Turkeys like getting presents,
 dey wanna watch christmas TV,
 Turkeys hav brains an turkeys feel pain
 In many ways like yu an me.

I once knew a turkey called Turkey
 He said 'Benji explain to me please,
 Who put de turkey in christmas
 An what happens to christmas trees?',
 I said 'I am not too sure turkey
 But it's nothing to do wid Christ Mass.
 Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be
 An business men mek loadsa cash'.

Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
 Invite dem indoors fe sum greens
 Let dem eat cake an let dem partake
 In a plate of organic grown beans,
 Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
 An spare dem de cut of de knife,
 Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted
 An yu will mek new friends 'FOR LIFE'.

Puzzle Solution

Here are the nine solutions...

1. Benjamin
2. Ebenezer
3. Thomas
4. Hannah
5. Lot
6. Esther
7. Herod
8. Elijah
9. Methusaleh

...and the 'place you know' is of
 course BETHLEHEM



Serving the Homeless

In December we celebrate Christmas with our Carols and Readings on Friday 13 December at Our Lady of Lourdes church at 7:30 pm. The church choir will sing the Coventry Carol and the YMCA will also contribute. Mince Pies and seasonal drinks will follow. A retiring collection will be taken for the work of Serving the Homeless.

We will continue to support the work of the Churches Winter Night Shelter Scheme which commences in early December. Please pray for this resource as they look for a venue for the Tuesday evening slot and a full rota of volunteers.

January will see the popular "Lunch in the Park" on Sunday 26 January at the Park View Rooms. Tickets will be available soon, so save the date!

In February will offer a concert by 'Mr Rock and Roll' at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre to include an 'American Supper'. More detail ASAP.

Thank you all for your continued support by attending the functions we organise; also for your continuing contributions at the back of the church, that become even more necessary as the weather worsens; and of course your prayers that are always needed.

Alternative Worship

Gospel@The Fishermen's Chapel

Sunday 8 December and Sunday 12 January at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm (second Sunday). Gospel Music and reflection with tea/coffee and cake before and after the service.

Belfairs

Thirsty For??

Thursday 12 December* and Thursday 9 January at 7:00 pm (second Thursday)

Wesley

Informal Service

Tuesday 28 January at 8:00 pm (fourth Tuesday).

Memory Worship

Worship for those with and without Dementia

Monday 16 December and Monday 20 January at 2:00 pm (third Monday)

*Subject to Election arrangements





Coffee Mornings in December/January

7 December	Music @ Highlands
14 December	Church funds
4 January	Music @ Highlands
11 January	Mission
18 January	Support for Wounds Clinic, Basildon Hospital
25 January	Church funds



Humour Corner

Some more daft newspaper headlines including maybe the craziest of all time:

**RAIN CREATES
WET ROADS**

**Army helicopter missing after
being painted with camouflage**

**Woman in sumo wrestler suit
assaulted her ex-girlfriend in gay
pub after she waved at man
dressed as a Snickers bar**

**Total lunar eclipse will be
live on radio tonight**

**Rally against
apathy
draws small
crowd**

**Death is
nation's top
killer**



Flower Rota

	Donated by	In memory of	Arranged by
1 December	[Café Church]		
8 December	[Church]		Margaret
15 December	Frank & Jean	Family & Friends	Jean
22 December	Jennifer Courtenay	Parents	Pauline
29 December	[Church]		Margaret



5 January	Jill Grove	Parents	Jean
12 January	Elise Thomas	Ralph & Gordon	Pauline
19 January	Keith Carter	Parents	Margaret
26 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.

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.

Social and Recreational

Knit & 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
Pin Point	2 nd /4 th Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Teresa 07704 016391 Glenis 07484 744540
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 2020 issue** should be emailed to andrewghyde@aol.com **before Sunday 25 January**. No email? Don't despair; just telephone 473111 to arrange an alternative.