# Highlander

**April 2016** 

"Then Jesus said to Peter "Follow Me"



John 19:21

# Sunday Worship in April 2016

|      | 3rd                        | 9.30  | Breakfast Fellowship                                                         |
|------|----------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      |                            | 11.00 | Holy Communion Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Rev Julia Monaghan       |
| <br> | 10th                       | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Colin Turner                                               |
|      | 17th<br>Vocation<br>Sunday | 10.30 | Holy Communion - Rev Julia Monaghan followed by <b>Annual Church Meeting</b> |
|      | 24th                       | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Pamela Smith                                               |
|      |                            |       |                                                                              |



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.

## <u>H</u>ighlands <u>M</u>ethodist <u>C</u>hurch <u>H</u>ospitality in the <u>M</u>idst of our <u>C</u>ommunity

| Minister                      | Rev. Julia Monaghan              | 483827     |  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|
| Secretary to Church Council   | Patrick Smith                    | 557702     |  |
| Church Stewards               | Ros Bryant                       | 478631     |  |
|                               | Lesley/Andrew Hyde               | 473111     |  |
|                               | Jean/Frank Edmonds               | 525250     |  |
|                               | Steve Jones                      | 553898     |  |
| Worship Leaders               | Jennifer Courtenay               | 556140     |  |
|                               | Frank Edmonds                    | 525250     |  |
| Church Treasurer              | Janet Watson                     | 555702     |  |
| Property Co-ordinator         | Anne Lane 012                    | 268 565644 |  |
|                               | e-mail: annelane8@btinternet.com |            |  |
| S Club Leaders                | Jean Edmonds                     | 525250     |  |
|                               | Ros Bryant                       | 478631     |  |
| Pastoral Co-ordinator         | Maureen Kelly                    | 556152     |  |
| Church Flowers                | Jean Burgess                     | 556278     |  |
| Lettings/Use of Premises      | Les Davis                        | 558381     |  |
| Mission Enabler for Older Per | rsons Julie Peek                 | 479804     |  |
| Website:                      | www.highlandsmethodist.org.uk    |            |  |
|                               |                                  |            |  |

All items for the May 2016 issue of The Highlander should be handed in writing to

Frank Edmonds (or put in the "E" section of the pigeon box in Jubilee Room) latest 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 23rd April. Preferably, items may be emailed to frank66thecroft@sky.com

The Highlander will be ready for distribution on Sunday 30th April 2016.





I love the festival of Easter, 50 days long, filled with resurrection hymns, music and readings on new life made possible through Christ's resurrection. The psalmist gives us a beautiful picture of the whole of creation as an unfinished symphony, with God's Spirit being sent forth to renew the face of the earth. This life renewing Spirit of God is intimately at work with the spirit of the individual to bring new life and transformation. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, better know as Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus describes this work in simple language. He asks us to imagine an attentive shepherd, whose sheep know the sound of his voice and learn to follow him as they recognise the sound of his call.

The people who live in close proximity to God are those who make a commitment to prayer, and those who know his voice are those who reflect on scripture and in particular the good news of Jesus found in the Gospels. With this deeper familiarity and practice comes a gradual understanding of the message. The wonderful promise found in scriptures is that the call is by name, as even today the shepherds still know their sheep by individual names in the Middle East.

This call however can be a tricky thing, as it's a call to self-knowledge, which we naturally protect ourselves from because it can be so painful. Instinctively, we fall into self-justification, and the bible is full of people whose defaulted practice was this. For example, Eve blaming the serpent and Adam in turn, blaming Eve. The reluctance to perceive the truth about our own shortcomings is pride and this is the first thing that God's Spirit sets to work on.

Delia Smith in her wonderful book, *A Journey into God*, gives a helpful illustration in this respect. She says that the spiritual life is like getting into a lift and contrary to ones natural inclinations, you have to learn to push the *going down* button first. The only way up in the spiritual life, she says is down!

This is a really helpful idea, but how sad that it's not as easy as pushing a button. It can be fearful work and often a sense of shame or a feeling that we won't measure up, gets in the way of us engaging in such work. This is why the imagery and symbols found in scripture and in particularly the Gospels, are so helpful to us. **P.T.O.** 

The good shepherd does stay close by, he does call each one of us by name, and he does lead us in our prayer. His voice will contain us as we wrestle with pride and anxiety and ultimately, reveal the new life of peaceful self-acceptance. After all, the shepherd's promise is, "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

So we look forward to Good Shepherd Sunday on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, with a thankful spirit and a sense of anticipation listening for these words of hope from Jesus, "I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep."

## Rev Julia

#### **FUTURE CHURCH MEETINGS**

#### Annual Church Meeting

#### **Sunday 17th April**

Following Morning Worship

#### **Property & Finance Committee**

Monday 23rd May at 8.00 pm

#### **Church Council**

Thursday 9th June at 8.00 pm

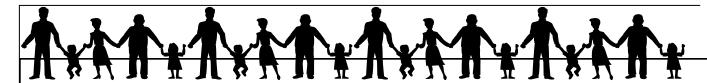
#### **Family Committee**

Date to be re-arranged

## **Highlands 90th Anniversary Celebrations**

Over the weekend of 22nd/23rd October we will be celebrating 90 years of Highlands. We hope to have a display of historical events at Highlands & maybe some floral arrangements to portray the decades, together with a guest preacher on the Sunday.

On Saturday we are proposing a display of talent on the stage:-A Barber Shop Quartet, mini pantomime, sketches, monologues, musical pieces. If you or any of your friends would like to participate please speak with Frank Edmonds who is drawing up the programme.



## <u>Prayer</u>

We pray for our friends who are ill, housebound or bereaved and for those in residential care: Audrey Dobson at *St Martins Care Home*, Joan Field at *Merrie Loots Farm*, Marie Moore at *Archers Court* in Hitchin and Margaret Ross at *Memory House*.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time.

## Thank You

Adrian Gravatt and family would like to thank all who contributed to the magnificent sum of £1,565.79 in memory of Patricia which has been forwarded to Action for Children.

## Flower Rota for April 2016

| <u>Date</u> | Donated by    | In memory of | Arranged by  |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 3rd         | Joint 9       |              |              |
| 10th        | Bruce Barter  | Hazel        | Mary Barter  |
| 17th        | Vanessa Mayes | Parents      | Jean Edmonds |
| 24th        | Jean Burgess  | Syd          | Hobbies      |

#### <u>Mike Bishop</u>

We were sorry to hear recently of the sudden death of Mike Bishop. He advertised his decorating skills in the Highlander and we felt that people should be aware, in case they had arranged a booking with him.



# **Dates to Remember**

#### **Knit and Natter Social Group**

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet on Tuesday morning from 10am to noon during term time. Some of us knit, some crochet and some of us just natter. We enjoy each other's company and a cup of coffee/tea and biscuit. You will be made very welcome if you would like to join us.



#### **MOTHs**

Jean Nightingale will talk at the meeting on Tuesday 5th April and on 3rd May we will think about the work of Action for Children. All are welcome at 2.30 pm.

#### **Fundraising Concerts**

Saturday 30th April -

Original Woodwind Ensemble Saturday 21st May - Gaudeamus (This will perform some music that they will be singing during their tour to Paris including Notre Dame Cathedral)

Saturday 16th July - Allegro Proceeds to Highlands so we need lots of people in the audience please



## **Leigh Music Festival**

This will take place at Highlands during the periods 9-11 June,17-19 June, 23-26 June, 1-3 July and the Prize-Winners concert on July 10.

#### **Highlands Hobbies**

We meet on 7th April for flowers, card making and various crafts. We follow with a bring and share lunch for those who wish. We will also meet on 21st April from 10 to 12 noon. Why not look in for coffee and a chat and see what we get up to, all are welcome to join our happy group.

(Contact: Jean Edmonds 525250 or Ros Bryant 478631)

#### **ABRSM Exams**

A big thank you to all who helped with stewarding during the current series of exams. There was a great response which was very much appreciated. We have just received notification of the nest exam period which will be from 13th June to 16th July working around the Leigh Music Festival dates.

#### **Polling Day Days**

On both 5th May - Polling Day and 23rd June - Referendum Day the Lounge and Room 2 will both be in use from 6.15 am to 10.30 pm.



#### **Other Highlands Dates for Your Diary**

Saturday 28th May - Plant Sale / Coffee Morning Plus Saturday 22nd October - Highlands 90th Anniversary Sunday 23rd October - Highlands 90th Anniversary

#### **Circuit Events**

The Circuit website :- " www.southendandleigh.org " contains details of Circuit events, prayers, contacts and the Circuit Plan

#### **Alternative Worship**

Belfairs Methodist Church - "Thirsty For ??" - 2nd Thursday Next date — 14th April at 7.00 pm

+ + + +

Wesley Methodist Church - Informal Worship - 4th Tuesday Next date - 26th April at 8.00pm

#### **Coffee Mornings**

2nd April - Action for Children

9th April - Music at Highlands

16th April - World Missions

23rd April - Barnardos

30th April - Rangers

#### **Movies @ Highlands presents**

#### THE LADY IN THE VAN

Weds 13th April 1.30pm Highlands Methodist Church Hall

This film tells the true story of the relationship between Alan Bennett and the singular Miss Shepherd, a woman of uncertain origins who 'temporarily' parked her van in Bennett's London driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years.

#### A FREE event

ATRUE STORY BY
ALAN BENNETT
The
LADY
in the
VAN

NOW A MAJOR FILM
STARRING MAGGIE SMITH

{Come from 12 noon with your picnic lunch and enjoy some soup. Tea and coffee also available}

#### **News from the Circuit**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Circuit Meeting was held at Wesley and the minutes will be placed on the notice boards in the respective churches, but below are some edited highlights.

After Easter, Rochford Methodist Church (RMC) will be entering into a church partnership with Community Church Rochford (CCR). They will remain as two separate worshipping communities but CCR will close its shop, and RMC's building will become a community hub, open 5 days a week, staffed by members from both churches. RMC will carry the sign, "Rochford Community Hub: a community partnership initiative Rochford Methodist Church and Community Church Rochford.

The meeting heard from *The Fishermen's Chapel* that their vision to develop the site as a centre for arts and spirituality continues apace. To this end they requested that consideration be given to move the Circuit Office. It was agreed that CLT (Circuit Leadership Team) would oversee this transition.

There will be changes in the western section of the Circuit in September, when probationary minister Chris Sandy will be stationed at Benfleet and one other church yet to be decided. Chris has trained for the ministry part time over the last four years, whilst also continuing employment, training drivers on the London Underground. He is married with 2 adult daughters and a son currently talking his GCSEs.

Circuit Meeting also agreed to form a Circuit Invitation Committee to review the stationing of Revs Norman, Phil and Julia. The meeting was also informed that sabbaticals were due for Norman 2016, Julia 2017 and Peter in 2018.

On a Connexional level, Circuit Meeting approved the sending of 2 memorials to Conference, to be held this summer in London from the 30<sup>th</sup> June. The first concerned improving the working practices of TMCP (Trustees of Methodist Connexional Property); the second recommended the development of a secure online Connexional recording system for Safeguarding. The meeting also heard that Rev Teresa had lead a stimulating discussion on, "whether we should have a conversation about marriage and relationships in light of recent government changes in the law?" It was agreed that a conversation would be timely.

Circuit Meeting was delighted to congratulate Linda King @ Thundersley Methodist, on her appointment as District President for MWiB. Her induction service will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> July at Benfleet MC. This appointment will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 for 2 years.

And finally, Hannah provided a perceptive spiritual reflection, following a visit on New Years Day to Calais and "The Jungle." Living within their make shift tents, people had very little but she experienced generous hospitality and a dignity within poverty that she did not expect. I found her pastoral insights provided an understanding of community that the newspapers omit. Her piece will be placed on the notice boards and it is well worth taking time out to read prayerfully.

## Rev Julia March 2016

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME? ALL ARE WELCOME

Every Sunday our worshipping congregation is made up of regulars, some of whom have a background of being a Roman Catholic, an Anglican, a United Reform church goer, a Methodist church member and so on. Others just know the most important thing is being a Christian and that they belong to the Church. Together we make up our Church family.

After all what's in a name? All are welcome. We also have visitors, some of whom continue to attend and so the church family grows. Others come just every now and then or just for special events in church. Again all are welcome.

Some people decide to commit to this becoming their church, without wishing to become an actual member; others wish to commit and go through the process of being welcomed into membership. If you are one of the latter group please talk to Rev. Julia, who will be pleased to guide you through the process.



Eileen Simmons. 01702 472521. Eileen.Simmons92@yahoo.co.uk

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Leigh Brownies.

10th Leigh Brownie would like to thank everyone that was involved in our Jumble Sale and Coffee morning on the 19th March. The Jumble sale made a profit of £352 and the Coffee morning made £60. So we made our rent money and have a bit spare. Thank you to everyone that supported us.

Congratulations go to 7 of our Brownies who swam in the recent Southend West Swimming Gala. They came 3rd in the Brownie section.

Happy Easter to all at Highlands from 10th Leigh Rainbows and Brownies



#### Camino de Santiago

Andrew Hyde has arranged a meeting at Wesley Methodist Church on Tuesday 10th May at 7pm in the Vestry for interested parties.

The purpose of the meeting is to :-

- explain the costing. If you go to <a href="https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/camino-de-santiago/">https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/camino-de-santiago/</a> you'll find the same holiday quoted at £1,050-£1,150 inc flights. Barring any sudden disasters, such as a huge hike in airport taxes or fuel costs, our cost will be significantly less.
- talk about the route, weather, dates and other arrangements. If some folk have individual preferences (such as staying on in Santiago a few days) we might be able to fix that.
- <u>talk about fitness</u>. If you're finding that at the moment a long walk leaves you a bit stiff the next day, we've got a whole year to work on that.
- explain about how we'll handle the money.
- <u>ask you to make a commitment</u> within the week that follows.

If you have any questions, please do email or telephone 01702 473111.

Andrew Hyde andrewghyde@aol.com





**Patrons:** The Rt. Revd. Alan Williams, Bishop of Brentwood;

The Rt. Revd. Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford;

The Revd. Anne Brown, Chair of the Methodist Beds, Essex & Herts. District



米

米 米 米 米

米

米

米 ※

米

米

米米

\*

米

米米

米 米

米

米 米

尜

米

米 米 米

米

#### **DIARY OF EVENTS FOR 2016**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

不 \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* Quiz Night in St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime

Avenue, commencing at 7.30 pm.

¥ 25th May Meal at East, Alexandra Street, at 7.30 pm.

★ 23rd June Afternoon tea at the Park View Suite, Chalkwell

Park, at 2 pm. Tickets £10 per person.

★ July/August Summer Raffle: contact the number below for

tickets.

米

Holiday activity for the children: follow the clues

from the Cliffs Pavilion to the Conservation area.

Prizes will be awarded for the correct answers.

Italian meal in the upper hall at Our Lady of

Lourdes Parish Centre.

Carols and Poems for Christmas at Our Lady of

Lourdes Church followed by mulled wine and

mince pies in the parish centre.

For further details please contact Linda Wall, Secretary on 01702 558217

or Frank Edmonds on 01702 525250

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### In Memory of Patricia Gravatt

Patricia Rendal Duncanson was the daughter of Eric and Olive, an Australian physicist and his linguist wife, who had both travelled to Europe in 1930 as students, and married in 1936. She was born on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1939, Bangor, the middle one of three, with older brother Peter and younger sister Kay. Many of the wartime years were spent in a big Georgian house overlooking the Menai Straits and Peter's early scientific explorations included rolling Patricia down the sloping grass in front of the house, resulting in a somewhat crunchy landing on the gravel drive. Patricia then stopped calling him Peter altogether, referring to him at all times as 'Drive'.

After the war the family settled in Watford, where they lived a life infused with their parents' loves of science, language, culture and God. The children were creative and inventive and, usually prompted by Patricia, published the Goldfish magazine and curated a museum in the garden shed, both of which they succeeded in persuading long-suffering friends and neighbours to pay for. And singing and giggling whilst stuck in a Whitby guest house room, the girls, determined to write a novel each: Kay succeeded in writing the first sentence, and has been searching for the second ever since, but Patricia did rather better, and continued to write, as well as sing and giggle, throughout her life.

Then, when Patricia was fourteen, her father was appointed to a post in Ghana. While her parents left for Africa and Peter, aged 17, stayed in Watford, Patricia and Kay were sent to board at Queenwood School in Hertfordshire, travelling to Africa for the Christmas holidays.

At Queenwood she wrote short play which was performed, and went on to read English and History at Keele, where she made a lifelong friend in Ann Claydon. After Keele she moved to London and saved up to go to Australia, and set out by ship via India, where her Australian parents now lived.

She had a great time working all over the place in Australia for three years, , and got to know her distant family, later becoming their host when they came to visit England. A pair of watercolours of the tide covering the mudflats at Leigh-on-Sea still hangs on wall in Bega, New South Wales. She considered staying for good but, luckily for all of us, eventually decided that her future was in England, and landed the high-powered job of Bursar at Rhodes House, which was surely impeccably managed during her time there, except perhaps for the occasion on which she paid Bill Clinton his scholarship twice, and had to get it back from him.

It was in Oxford, through the church, that she met the tall, dark and handsome librarian who shared so many of her interests and would become her husband and best friend. She married Adrian in 1970 and became Patricia Gravatt They moved to Essex where Kay and family were also living The rest is the history we see all around us. Patricia and Adrian were joined by sons Alan in 1971 and David in 1973. Her niece Clare and nephew Robert, who was the same age as Alan, spent some of their early childhood in an out of the family home in Eastwood and Leigh, and Clare was always entranced by how many friends, of all ages, were always around, and how much was going on.

Sometimes I was quite dizzy just hearing about it all,' says Kay now. Patricia produced, directed and acted in plays and pantomimes at Highlands, helped the boys build bases in the back garden, remained a handy cricketer, led family renditions of 'Green Grow the Rushes O' in the car and cooked up a storm: her flapjack, chocolate crunch and syrup tart are particularly fondly remembered, along with the roast chicken eaten cold with smash and veg on the first night of every camping holiday, joined by Ann Claydon and other family on many occasions, playing endless card games through the incessant British rain.

She was a wonderful organiser. Today would have been a doddle for her to arrange. At the church she was a steward, a pastoral visitor, a worship leader, ran a Creative Worship group, and initiated coffee and a 'listening ear' being available at the church every day so that people always found support when needed. Once she went along to an Action for Children group at church and two meetings later had been instated as 'Convenor of the Support Group at Wesley Church for Action for Children'. She remained an avid cinema-goer, always going along to plays screened to the local Odeon, and was involved in play readings, poetry group, art group and flower arranging, as well as providing an endless stream of cakes for church events. She regularly held dinner parties, and at Christmas and Easter she made sure that people weren't on their own, welcoming neighbours and fellow-churchgoers to join in with the food and festivities. Once, when the four of them had the table to themselves, Alan recorded the conversation, and Patricia was horrified to discover that she never quite managed to finish a sentence before going on to the next thing. Sometimes they laughed so much it hurt.

Patricia's sociability and supportiveness are amongst the most commonly remembered things about her. But she was also very brave. During one family Christmas, outside Chester Cathedral midnight mass, Patricia almost single handedly broke up a fight that had started.

The boys grew up to make her proud, both warm, generous, funny, sociable and, in their different ways, formidable organisers. Patricia felt blessed by her boys' choice of daughters-in-law for her, as Lisa and Jacky no doubt felt blessed in return. It was wonderful to have both young families so close, and she was a true friend to both her granddaughters. She supported everything that Rhiannon and Natasha did. Natasha remembers her Grandma telling hilarious stories of the many countries she'd lived in, attending all her school plays, making the Christmas pudding with her every November and even bravely agreeing to meet her pet python, despite her fear of snakes. For Rhiannon she was a truly cool, tech savvy Grandma, emailing, ordering online, using a tablet, and being a great text buddy, always showing so much interest in everything she was up to, taking her to see the ballet, chatting to her about her plans for university, and being a source of advice right up to the end.

Illness came suddenly in her last six months, but it didn't change her. She continued regular visits to friends and carried on planning new adventures. On Christmas morning, only days after her terminal diagnosis, she said, 'I should feel miserable, but I feel so blessed.' Patricia once said she felt the support of the congregation 'as a physical thing'.

P.T.O.

The support that Patricia, Adrian, Alan, David and the whole family have felt has definitely been a physical presence, and the family is truly grateful.

Patricia's last organisational feat was, inevitably, a tea party. She never stopped saying how lucky she was and how kind everyone was being, and after Christmas, was absolutely determined to thank the next-door neighbours for all the help they'd given, in the best way she knew. She baked and arranged for it for a week, and had the party on the Sunday before she was admitted to hospital: a typical Patricia day, which she was very pleased with, consisting of food, chatting, laughter and bringing people together.

Her family and friends were around her throughout those last days, and on the day before she died, Patricia opened her eyes and saw Rhiannon right there. 'It's lovely that you are here,' she said, and then went back to sleep.

Patricia leaves us her flapjack recipe and a whole new vocabulary. Smidge. Scrumptious. Wondrous. Bliss. Snazzy. Popsipipkins. Sausage, as a term of endearment for fully grown men generally.

Alan and Lisa think of her as warm and welcoming, accepting and non-judgemental, thoughtful and empathetic, the dispenser of hugs and kisses. David and Jacky remember how interested and supportive she always was of whatever went on their lives – work, family, friends – even if she was sometimes a little worried, for instance by Al's parachute jump. Kay thinks of her as a woman who found her place in the world, with her faith, family, friends, and neighbours in the widest sense of the word, revelling in the cultural aspects of life, and not just as a spectator. After Patricia died, Kay spoke to Jacky recalling another dark time in the family history, when her son, Robert, died, grieved by Patricia and her family as well as her own, and said how she again felt that happy families can remain happy despite losing someone so important.

The final words must go to Adrian. 'The love of my life lived enthusiastically and cheerfully; was always very positive. She had a great grasp of the English language and had a way with words that made us both laugh. I think that laughter and mutual understanding were the key ingredients in our over 45 years together. She liked to be busy and her interests were gardening, painting (recently discovered), poetry reading in a group, acting, directing plays, serving coffee, visiting the sick with kind concern, hosting dinner parties and boxing day breakfasts which were a great hit with friends and family. Never a dull moment! Visiting gardens and feeding wildlife were other favourite hobbies.

'Many cards said the same kind things about Patricia which I would like to share with you and that I will treasure: very special; strong faith; thoughtful with a gentle manner and a gracious presence; infectious laugh and enthusiasm for life, to name but a few. I realise now how much I leant on her. Fond memories help and so do funny stories, but I know I shall miss my love and soul mate.'

"Thank you all very much for the support and care you have shown to me and the family over the past few difficult months. It helps to know how much Patricia was loved by so many. I have been asked for copies of the eulogy, which appears above in this edition of The Highlander.

Adrian Gravatt"

#### **MISSION NOT IMPOSSIBLE**

This was the title penned for me by a lovely friend to describe my new role working for Wesley and Highlands as Mission Enabler for Older People.

Nearly three months in and I would say it is definitely NOT IMPOSSIBLE and I would even go so far as to say it feels as if Gods plan for me is unfolding like a beautiful flower on a daily basis. The full picture isn't instantly revealed but piece by piece the parts of the puzzle drop into place and each week I stand back and say WOW, I didn't see that coming!

Blessings so far have come from a variety of sources:-

From Tesco - a Printer donated will prove invaluable for use in my new role.

From Get Healthy Southend who have booked the canteen room to run STAYING STEADY exercise classes for people aged 65 and over.

Phone 01702 461377 to reserve your place. Starting from 19<sup>th</sup> April.

From www.avanceminibuses.co.uk who sent Ivor the driver to escort us to Movie Starr Cinema to see DADS ARMY in full army uniform.

But lastly, and most importantly to me, a phone call from Patricia Gravatt on January 20<sup>th..</sup> Patricia had heard me speak in Church on the previous Sunday and phoned to congratulate me on my new post. I told her about my first planned trip to see DADS ARMY and that I hoped this would be the first of many. She was delighted and her delight and encouragement in my actions propelled me on that day and will continue to do so always. Thank you Patricia X

JULIE PEEK

#### SOUTH EAST ESSEX ADVOCACY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

On 16<sup>th</sup> of March I visited the offices of SEEAFOP to meet with Ann Davenport.

Ann has been a director of SEEAFOP for the past three years. She is assisted by five Advocates and fifteen Volunteers who go out into the Community and help by speaking on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves. John Collier; a member of Belfairs Methodist Church is a valued Trustee and volunteer at SEEAFOP. Ann said she is incredibly proud that the Charity was able to help 700 clients over the age of 60 over the past year alone.

SEEAFOP offers a unique one to one advocacy service and provides advice and information to their clients either in their own homes or in their offices on West Road. They support clients with tenancy and housing problems, with benefit applications, appeals finance and debt problems and provide information on provision, either domiciliary or in residential care homes of Southend.

There is much we can learn from the service that SEEAFOP provides to support the needs of our older church members. Ann has offered to train and support any volunteer who comes forward from within the circuit churches, to help with advice and form filling for any older person who would benefit from this assistance.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a volunteer please contact Ann on 01702 340566 or email advocacy@ seeafop.org

TULIE PEEK

Mission Enabler for Older People Wesley & Highlands Churches

## Serving the Community 7 Days a Week

#### **Children and Young People**

| Toddlers Group, Monday                    | 9.30-11.30a.m.                   | Margaret Wood e-mail contact:-                    | 557512                              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rainbows Wednesday<br>Brownies Wednesday: | 4.00-5.00 p.m.<br>5.30-7.00 p.m. | highlandstoddlers<br>Karen Packer<br>Dilys Haddow | s@hotmail.co.uk<br>474151<br>710207 |
| Cub Scouts Thursday:                      | 5.45-7.15 p.m.                   | Dan Raven                                         | 07982 840145                        |
| Scouts Thursday:                          | 7.30 p.m.                        | Sally Monk                                        | 558857                              |
| Rangers Alternate Thursdays               | 7.30 p.m.                        | Jacqui Hendle                                     | 557147                              |
| Guides Friday:                            | 7.00 p.m.                        | Jacqui Hendle                                     | 557147                              |
| School Term-Time Only                     |                                  |                                                   |                                     |

### **Fellowship Groups**

Housegroup meets on Tuesdays.

#### **Services to the Community**

Regular Sunday Worship

Midweek Communion:-

1st Wednesday Wesley Methodist Church at 9.00 am
2nd Wednesday Belfairs Methodist Church at 9.00 am
4th Wednesday New Road Methodist Church at 9.15 am

Clara Mintern

715880

Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at 9.00 a.m.

Highlands Pre-School Mon - Fri: 9.15 - 12 noon

Coffee mornings: Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Church

Coffee is also available to visitors to the Craft Group on Tuesdays and Hobbies on Thursdays

Traidcraft: Catalogue available for orders. Various items on sale at rear of church.

#### **Social and Recreational**

Knit and Natter Group Tuesday 10.00 a.m.-12 noon (Sept.-July)

Badminton Club Monday 8.00 p.m. Sarah 01702 476009

or Sophia 07796 265676

Hobbies 1st & 3rd Thursday 10.00 a.m. - 12.00p.m. Jean 01702 525250 Ladies Badminton Friday 10.00 a.m. Dilys 01702 710207

MOTHs (Meet on Tuesdays at Highlands) 1st Tuesday 2.30 p.m.

 Adult Art Classes
 Thursday
 2 - 4 p.m.
 Susan 07875 079739

 Children's Art Club
 Thursday
 4 - 5 p.m.
 or 01702 551025

 Brush Strokes Art Group
 Saturday
 9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.
 Beverley 01277 627043

The Badminton Players meet quarterly for play readings. Contact: David Gare (711013).